

THE EVENING TIMES, ST. JOHN, N. B., TUESDAY, MAY 14, 1907.

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PLAYS AND PLAYERS**THE ETERNAL CITY IS A SPLENDID PRODUCTION****Kirk Brown's Company Does Its Best Work Yet in Hall Caine Play.**

St. John theatre-goers, or as many of them as could crowd into the Opera House, saw the Eternal City last night for the first time; saw it, liked it, became enthusiastic, and went away practically unanimous in the opinion that they had witnessed the very best effort of a sterling actor, backed by a leading woman of wonderful ability and supported by a company as near perfect as a company can be.

Mr. Kirk Brown, who has so ably entertained us for the past week, has done excellent work here; work that would stamp him anywhere as a player of merit, but until the curtain rose on last night's production we had not seen him at his best.

In the character of David Rossi his triumph was more complete than even his friends had expected, and whatever he may do in the characters he will present to us before his all too brief engagement in St. John terminates he will undoubtedly be best remembered for his Rossi. Even his justly famous Othello, in which he scored the success of his last season's engagement, and in which he will, by the way, be seen next week, cannot surpass his conception of the humanitarian and whole man David Rossi which comes to us as one of the most picturesque and most human types in the whole realm of modern drama.

A popular price production is a difficult one to criticize, even when it merits any detailed treatment. Always the saving grace of "popular price" comes largely as a barrier to the critic and a safeguard to the actor. The theatre-goer says "at popular price we cannot expect perfection," and criticism in such cases to be just must be kind. Kirk Brown's company has seldom, if ever, required that safeguard. Last night, it certainly did not need it for the production of "The Eternal City" was unreservedly one of the very best dramatic presentations ever seen on the Opera House stage, regardless of price. A broad statement you will say? Perhaps, but not one worth broader than it is intended to be. And even at that it will in all sincerity bear repetition.

Previous to last night it had been my privilege to see two productions of "The Eternal City." One, in which Viola Allen was starred as Donna Roma, and was supported by Edward Morgan featured as David Rossi, and the other, the following season, when Miss Allan had retired and Mr. Morgan was starred in his part. Frankly, then, I was prepared to be disappointed in Mr. Brown's production. True, he has shown great capability, but that he and Miss Fields could compare with Mr. Morgan and Miss Allan was hardly to be expected.

At the end of the second act, however, the comparison did not seem at all improbable; at the end of the last act it was a reality.

Mr. Brown, in his work, is strongly reminiscent of Morgan, and in addition to being Morgan's equal in ability he has the great advantage of freedom from that eminent actor's handicaps—handicaps, shall we say, which were of Morgan's own creation and which undoubtedly hastened his death.

Kirk Brown presents to us a Rossi of extremely human type. The few frailties as well as the many virtues are brought out with striking fidelity and the various components moulded into one harmonious whole, every note of which rings true.

In the second act, his scene with Donna Roma was exquisitely done and beautifully shaded. In this he was admirably aided by Miss Fields, who by her graceful, artistic and ingenious treatment of a very delicate bit of dramatic art shared the honors with the star and made the little scene, a veritable gem.

The strongest scene in the whole play

comes in Act V where Rossi returns to Rome to find that Donna Roma has denounced him to the authorities. This is the most difficult scene in the drama and has been the rock on which many other wise meritorious productions of "The Eternal City" have gone to pieces. In the language of the stage it is a "tricky" scene. There is an ever present temptation to over act, to rant; an improper reflection an injudicious tone of voice and pathos becomes bathos and the carefully erected structure falls to pieces and the whole scene is lost. But Mr. Brown and Miss Fields avoided the snare and pitfalls with consummate art. Every word, every action was as it should be and the result was a signal triumph which the large audience received with enthusiasm.

What was true of the two scenes mentioned was equally true of the whole production. It was artistic to the most minute detail and better than anything else served to show the merit of the splendid company with which Mr. Brown has surrounded himself.

For Miss Fields it is only necessary to repeat more emphatically what I said of her work in "The Christian" that she is one of the very best actresses who has visited St. John for many seasons. She is always natural, always artistic, and her red in a new production season after next. Mr. Brown has gone to London with Robert Edeson's company to play his original role in "Strongheart."

Richard Mansfield has entirely recovered from his recent illness and will sail soon for England.

R. C. Carlton's farce, Public Opinion, was produced in Toronto on May 2 by James K. Hackett's Mr. Hopkinson company.

Austin Brereton has signed a five-year contract with Henry B. Harris to be starred in a new production season after next. Mr. Brereton has gone to London with Robert Edeson's company to play his original role in "Strongheart."

Chauncey Olcott will close his season in Brooklyn on May 18, and sail for Europe to-day. He is to join Mrs. Olcott, who will spend the summer automobiling through Ireland.

Asserting that he has lost more than \$200,000 during the two years he has been financial backer of the Will J. Block amusement company, M. S. Large, Montana millionaire, had a temporary appointment for the organization, which is now playing in Boston. Among the ventures of the Block company are As Told in the Hills, The Near Home, Mills of the Gods, The Land of Nod, and Comin' Tho' the Rye.

Mike Donlin, formerly of the New York National baseball team is now manager of the Whitney opera house, Chicago, where Mrs. Donlin (Mabel Hite) is playing. He has abandoned professional baseball.

Frank Howe, the bass violinist of the orchestra at the Theatre, London, Canada, was accidentally killed on March 21 at the factory in which he was employed in the morning.

Beethoven Tree, with the stock company from his London theatre, brought his cycle of Shakespearean plays to a close in Berlin on April 18. Although the performances have been well received and drawn large houses the German critics deal harshly with Mr. Tree's interpretation, objecting chiefly to the interpolation and addition of pantomimes not belonging to the text.

Tyrone Power has been engaged as leading man for Miss Henrietta Crossman, who is to open early next October in a dramatization of "Pilgrim's Progress," which will be produced under the title of "The Christian Pilgrim."

Cyril Scott, who has played in "The Prince of Wales" for two seasons, will be seen in New York next autumn in a new play now being written for him by Messrs. William and Cecil de Mille.

Margaret Anglin will spend her vacation abroad, returning to America early in August in order to open her season in William Van der Meer's play "The Great Divide" at Daly's Theatre, August 25. The play was presented continuously for 22 weeks at the Princess, only being taken off when the lease ran out.

BARK OSBERGA REACHES BOSTON

Badly Battered and With Her Crew Exhausted She Limped Into Port Last Night.

Boston, May 13.—Shorn of her top hamper and with her crew practically exhausted from hard work and meagre provisions the British bark Osberga, of Maitland (N. S.), Capt. Hatfield, arrived in the harbor tonight from Turk's Island, after a tempestuous passage of fifty-nine days. The usual passage by vessels of the Osberga type is from twenty to twenty-five days. Almost from the time that the bark left Turk's Island until she finally reached the Nantucket lightship she was subjected to a continuous series of gales which wrenched all her upper spars and left her but few sails with which to reach port.

The Osberga left Turk's Island with a large cargo of salt on March 15. Three days later she was struck by a squall, which carried away her main top gallant mast and tore her sails. The vessel was sent off before the wind and the repairs were made when she was again headed on her course.

This experience was repeated no less than eleven times in the course of the next six weeks, until nothing remained above the lower masts. At one time the vessel sprang a leak and all hands, including the captain's wife, were obliged to man the pumps for more than six hours before she was finally freed. The salt reached her tanks of drinking water and since the first of April she has been obliged to drink brackish water.

The provisions also ran out, but fortunately a friendly vessel furnished a meagre supply and when the tug Palace picked the Osberga up today there was very little left on board in the eating line. The bark presented a decidedly battered appearance as she came into the bay. All the standing rigging above the masts were hanging in three great tangles from her masts, her

"A MIDNIGHT MARRIAGE"**W. E. Corey and Mabelle Gillman Wedded Just After Midnight This Morning.**

New York, May 14.—To avoid the unlucky thirteenth of the month, William Corey, president of the United States Steel Corporation and Mabelle Gillman, the former actress, were not married until after midnight this morning. The ceremony took place in the presence of a small party of friends at the home of the bride.

The ceremony was performed by Rev. J. L. Clark, pastor of the Bushwick avenue Congregational church, of Brooklyn.

The royal suite in the Hotel Gotham is on the third floor of the Fifth avenue side and consists of eight rooms. It is secluded, the salon and the dining room were decorated with roses. The management of the hotel and those in charge of the decorations were given carte blanche and the wedding is said to have cost \$5,000.

The banquet is said to have been one of the most sumptuous ever served in this city. The guests assembled in a small reception room in the suite and at 11 o'clock entered the dining room where the wedding supper was served.

After the supper the party, led by Mr. Corey and his bride, passed down the hall between the rows of palms to the double salon, which was decorated to represent a small church. Broad white ribbons attached to small white posts formed an aisle, down the centre of the room on either side of which were the chairs for those invited to witness the ceremony.

At the head of the aisle was a small white altar before which was a prie dieu covered with white silk and white flowers. The altar rose a white canopy of white crepe de chene, trimmed with garlands of embroidered wild roses.

There was no music during the evening and there were no bridesmaids. Miss Gillman was attended only by Miss Frances Erskine Shaw, of London.

Mr. Corey was unattended. Miss Gillman wore an empire gown of white crepe de chene, trimmed with garlands of embroidered wild roses.

After the nuptials, Mr. Corey and his

Free Samples of "Preventive" and a booklet on Colds will be gladly mailed you, on request by Dr. Shoop, Racine, Wis., simply to give you a preventive are little Candy Cold Cure Tablets. No Quinine, No Laxative, nothing harmful whatever. Preventives prevent colds—as the name implies—when taken early or at the "Sneeze Stage." For a sealed cold or La Grippe, break it up safely and quickly with Preventive. Sold by all Druggists.

Rev. Silas Anthony, pastor of the Congregational church at Milboro, N. S., has been invited to accept the pastorate of the Congregational church here, in succession to Rev. W. S. Pritchard.

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At \$12 Equal

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crew being unable to cut away the wire ropes. There was very little standing rigging forward and about the only effective sail was her spanker. This is the second time that the Osberga has been nearly dismantled and overhauled in the port.

A MINISTER DROWNED

North Portal, Sask., May 13.—(Special)—Rev. E. R. Hine, a Methodist missionary, while driving to his appointment Sunday afternoon was drowned crossing a slough near Roche Perce. The horse was also lost. Hine came from England last summer and was much respected in the district. He was twenty years of age.

RECEPTION TO NEW RECTOR

Rev. R. A. Armstrong, the new rector of Trinity, was tendered an informal reception and luncheon at Stannell's cafe, by the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, yesterday evening.

The reverend gentleman was warmly welcomed to the city by Allan H. Wetmore, on behalf of the brotherhood, and Rev. Dr. W. O. Raymond for the clergy, while L. P. D. Tilley represented the "unattached men of the city."

Rev. Mr. Armstrong made a suitable reply.

ARRESTED FOR THEFT

William Mahoney, who works in Sch field Bros. warehouse, was arrested yesterday on suspicion of stealing a stove valued at \$32 from the McClary Manufacturing Company.

The stolen stove was found by Patrolman Hamm in the house of Frederick Wilson, corner of Delhi street and City road.

The arrest was made by Sergt. Kilpatrick and Patrolman Green.

The police exonerate Mr. Wilson if whose house the stove was found, from all suspicion. They say that he bargained for the stove in good faith the day before it was stolen, believing he was getting a second-hand article. Mr. Wilcox handed to the police a receipt for \$18 signed by Mahoney.

The stove was taken to central police station. The police say the McClary warehouse was entered by means of a key.

Hon. C. H. LaBillico, chief commissioner of public works, was in the city, yesterday on his way to Fredericton. He stated that arrangements had been made for a caretaker to be constantly on hand at the Nerepis bridge, to avoid delays as in the past. Arrangements have been made for repairs to the roads in this vicinity.