

PLAYS & PLAYERS

Attractions at the Grand.
Today, Matinee and Night
..... "Uncle Tom's Cabin"
All Next Week Phil
Maher and Company, in Repertory
March 21, 22, 23 "Ben Hur"

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" Today.
If all the good things said of Al. W. Martin's "Uncle Tom's Cabin" by the press of other cities are true the Grand today will have an attraction that will draw universal patronage. In point of size and equipment the Martin Company is said to be one of the grandest of the offering.

Repertoire All Next Week.
In speaking of the Phil Maher Stock Company during a recent engagement in North Adams, Mass., the Daily Transcript of that city had the following to say of the opening performance:

"The Maher Stock Company played matinee and night performances yesterday at the Empire Theatre and were greeted by good houses both times. The matinee offering, 'A Fool for Luck' was brimful of comedy, and the audience was well pleased. Mr. Maher is one of the most versatile comedians who has ever visited North Adams. There seems to be no limit to his range of funny characters. The comedy drama, 'Thorns and Orange Blossoms' was presented last night to a packed house and gave members of the company an opportunity to do their best work. Vaudeville acts given at the matinee and night performances were fully up to the standard set on their first appearance here. Mlle. Christie, the premier electric dancer, received hearty applause, and the rest of the acts were good. 'Thorns and Orange Blossoms' will be the offering for the opening at the Grand on next Monday evening, and ladies' tickets have been issued entitling ladies to the best seats in the house for fifteen cents, providing they are reserved at the box office prior to 7 o'clock on Monday."

"Ben Hur."
Spectacular magnificence, dramatic splendor and religious ecstasy are the notable concomitants of Klaw & Erlanger's production of "Ben Hur." During the eleven years which have passed since the original presentation of this noble drama—it was first presented at the Broadway Theatre in New York on Nov. 29, 1899—its owners have not only kept it up to its original grandeur but have even elaborated and developed the possibilities of the production until today it stands unrivaled in beauty of embellishment, unsurpassed in dramatic significance and

power. It was the "last word" of the stagecraft of the nineteenth century and into the new age it brought a bigness and perfection which will remain the standard for decades to come. Dealing with the earth life of Jesus, the most important period in history, "Ben-Hur" was the world at its most wonderful point in magnificence and wealth, for Rome ruled the world, and Caesar Augustus was emperor of the mightiest realm the earth had known. Into this time of display and pomp came the lowly Nazarene, the Christ for whom the nations had longed, and it is this personality of Jesus that, permeating the fabric of the Wallace-Young drama, makes it a sermon as well as a drama of tremendous significance. The reverence with which the immensity of Christ is indicated has made "Ben-Hur" a religious pageant, while the sweep of the story of Ben-Hur and Messala, Esther and Iras, carries audiences off their feet, the culmination of the dramatic plot being the chariot race, wherein Ben-Hur conquers and regains his Roman enemy. Nothing more realistic than this scene in the arena of the Circus of Antioch with Ben-Hur and Messala contending for supremacy, has ever been imagined by a dramatist or executed by a producer. The race enthralled, because on its outcome depend life, love, honor, riches to the victor, and when Ben-Hur receives the victor's crown of wild oregano, audiences applaud with the greatest enthusiasm. During the engagement here horses will be seen in the race.

The religious feeling of the play, beginning with the adoration of the Wise Men, reaches its height in the final scene, where the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem fills the stage with men and women and little children, singing in praise and throwing palm-branches in His pathway. The Christ does not actually appear on the scene, but the ineffable presence is suggested by a great white light, which fills the air with silvery beams as the curtain falls. The scene is even more impressive, because of the healing of the lepers, among them the mother and sister of Ben-Hur, and the ultimate reunion of this long-separated family.

Klaw & Erlanger have given "Ben-Hur" an even mightier equipment this season than heretofore, for it is the eleventh year of the drama, and all the wealth of resource at the command of this great theatrical firm has been called upon to make this wonderful play more real than ever. "Ben-Hur" will make its first visit to London on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and Wednesday matinee, March 21, 22 and 23. Theatregoers are reminded that the

curtain rises promptly on the evening performances at 8 and at 2 o'clock on the matinees. In order that the beauty and harmony of the prelude, showing the star of Bethlehem, may not be marred by late arrivals, the management announces that no one will be seated during his impressive feature. The seat sale will open on Thursday, March 17.

The Shuberts have made definite announcement that they have placed Fritz Schert under contract for a period of three years.

Dockstader is said to be considering a summer tour of the south under canvas.

Sam Bernard, while in Baltimore recently, recalled the fact that he was on the bill the opening night of the Auditorium Theatre in that city, and played with Jimmie Russell (of the Russell Brothers), in a sketch called "Clarice."

Maud Granger, who is playing with Florence Roberts under the management of the Shuberts, was a member of the original "Two Orphans" company. Miss Granger is said to have discovered Ada Rehan—or at that time Crehan—in a stock company in Albany, N. Y.

The cast selected by the Shuberts for "The Motor Girl" includes Emma Carus, Gertrude Darrell, Louise Brunell, Norma Brown, Edgar Atchison, Ely, Billy Gaston, D. L. Don, George Pauncetote, Robert O'Connor, Evan Baldwin, Harry Morey, Eugene Herbert, and Armand Kalisz.

At a dinner recently given by Mr. Lee Shubert, the composer, Victor Herbert, propounded this conundrum: "Have you ever heard Lew Fields sing? No? Well, neither have I. And yet he is one of the greatest producers of musical comedy in the world today."

Following the policy of the Shuberts, only girls will be employed in the renamed Lyric Theatre, Chicago. They will be known as "usherettes."

The story that Sam Bernard was to essay a serious role has, like the proverbial lamb, turned up, bringing its tail behind. Mr. Bernard declares that it is mostly "tale." "Copying Warfield? Well, well!" says Mr. Bernard. "I had pathetic scenes before Warfield was on the stage." "A comedian I always have been and always will be. There never was a greater demand for comedy than today; and believe, too, that the German comedian has the call, in

"The Girl and the Wizard" I have two serious scenes, but they terminate in a laugh. It is the contrast which makes the laugh all the more enjoyable."

After a brief engagement at the New Theatre, John Mason, George Fawcett, and the players associated, will be seen at a downtown Shubert theatre in "A Son of the People," the play of the French Revolution, by Sophus Michaelis. The play, which was produced Monday evening, Feb. 25, was to have been called "A Revo-

order to marry Elaine. He is arrested on his wedding night. Elaine appeals to Colonel Marc-Aron, offering the greatest sacrifice she can make in return for the safety of her husband. Marc-Aron changes clothes with the Revolutionist, allowing him to flee. Gradually the girl comes to love the colonel, the unholy bargain is set aside and the denouement is as unusual as it is sad.

George Nash, the brilliant player whom Charles Frohman cast as Professor Vavin



PHIL MAHER, Comedian With the Maher Stock Company at the Grand All Next Week.

In "The Harvest Moon," began his career as an amateur in the Wheatleigh Dramatic Association of Philadelphia. His debut was recalled to him by some old friends during his recent visit to his home city, where "The Harvest Moon" has been playing. This organization of amateurs produced a number of successful actors, among whom were Victor E. Bateman, Elvia Croix, Sidney Drew and Joseph Jefferson's nephew, Charles Jackson.

When the right honorable gentleman comes face to face he dare not deny these statements. (Ministerial cheers.) I advise the right honorable gentleman to stick to the methods we are very familiar with of challenging me on the platform and refusing to face me in this House. (Renewed Ministerial cheers.) Our shipping is 11,541,000 tons, and the German shipping to us is 2,800,000 tons.

HOT SHOT FROM LLOYD GEORGE

His Reply to Austen Chamberlain On the Tariff Question—Great Britain Still Leads the World in Commerce—Germany's Black Bread and Horseflesh.

A smashing reply to Mr. Austen Chamberlain's attack on the previous day was made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on Feb. 25 in a brilliant and forceful debate in the House of Commons.

Following the speeches by Mr. Balfour, Mr. Runciman, and others, Mr. Lloyd George, who was received with loud cheers, said: "It was not my intention to take any part in this debate, and I should not have done so had it not been for the direct challenge directed to me by Mr. Chamberlain yesterday. He charged me with having made statements which were purely the creation of my own imagination with regard to the fiscal question, and he specially charged me to justify any of the statements I made during the course of the general election."

"I will proceed to do so. I laid down during the election four general propositions. The first was this, that this country with its free trade system still possesses the largest international trade in the world. (Ministerial cheers.) Now the right honorable gentleman denies that. Is it true or not? The right honorable gentleman knows perfectly well that our international trade for the last few years is something like 1,000 millions as against the 700 millions of Germany, the 427 millions of France, and the 626 millions of the United States."

"The second thing I said was that we have the largest export of manufactured goods in the world. Is that denied? Well, that is not challenged, but if it were I could give the figures. Our exports of manufactured goods were 83 millions above Germany. We are 296 millions, France only 118 millions, the United States 136 millions; so that our export of manufactured goods is greater than that of France and the United States put together. That is the second statement which is not even challenged."

"The third statement is that we have the greatest international carrying trade in the world. Not only that, but our international shipping was almost as great as that of the rest of the world put together. (Ministerial cheers.) Is that denied? That is the statement which is not challenged."

"Dare Not Deny." When the right honorable gentleman comes face to face he dare not deny these statements. (Ministerial cheers.) I advise the right honorable gentleman to stick to the methods we are very familiar with of challenging me on the platform and refusing to face me in this House. (Renewed Ministerial cheers.) Our shipping is 11,541,000 tons, and the German shipping to us is 2,800,000 tons."

"The fourth statement I made is that we in this free trade country pay higher wages than any other country in Europe. Is that denied? (A Voice: "Yes.") Who denies it? There is a gentleman who shakes his head, but is there anyone who can say that that is not correct? Germany, which I suppose is the next nearest approach to us, pays per hour 75 per cent of our wages, whilst the hours of labor are higher. Is that denied? (Ministerial cheers.)"

Another statement I made was that the price of food and of the necessities of life is less in this country than in any country in the world. Is that denied? Very well, then (laughter and cheers) I do not know that I need carry it any further. (Renewed Ministerial cheers.)—How about black bread and offal?"

Mr. Lloyd George—I am coming to black bread and offal, and justify it by official statements. The honorable member need not be afraid that I am going to run away. (Ministerial cheers.) The charge was made that I resorted entirely to my imagination, and that no single statement I made in the course of the election could be substantiated. I have pointed out the five propositions which I laid down, and the right honorable gentleman dared not contradict any of them. (Ministerial cheers.)"

The right honorable gentleman referred to the cost of living in Germany, and quoted the Birmingham brass workers. However, forget one very important fact. There were three Birmingham brass workers who went to Germany. Two out of the three were protectionists when they went there, but they came back free traders. (Ministerial cheers), and they are still free traders."

The board of trade inquiry proved that wages in Germany were 25 per cent less than in this country, and the cost of living 11 per cent more. The right honorable gentleman (Mr. Chamberlain) says it is the foreigner who pays. (Laughter.) He does not pay in Germany; it is the workman himself. When Bismarck put on the duty on corn he used exactly the same argument. If anything we can buy wheat cheaper and better in this country than any country in the world. Who pays the 12s. difference between the price in Berlin and this country? Not the American or the Russian, but the German, and where Bismarck has failed the right hon. gentleman is not likely to succeed. (Loud laughter.)"

The hon. member for Clapham (Mr. G. D. Faber) is very concerned about horseflesh, black bread and offal. I will give him as much offal as he can stand. (Laughter.)"

Mr. W. Redmond (N. East Clare, to the Opposition): Bear it like men. (Loud laughter.)"

Mr. Lloyd George: Does he or anyone deny that horseflesh is consumed in Germany by the working population? Is it denied that they eat black bread?"

Mr. Faber: Rye bread. Color-Blind Tories. Mr. Lloyd George: Is it not black? (Cries of "Yes" and "No.") Really hon. gentlemen, amongst their other defects are even color-blind. (Laughter.) The Germans themselves call it black bread. That is how you order it; of course it is black bread. (Cries of "No" and "Yes.") What is its color? I should not have thought there was the slightest doubt about it. Some hon. members say it is excellent stuff—excellent stuff for the workmen. (Laughter.) The hon. gentleman charged me with having said it was good, but I would not give it to my tramps. In Devonshire I advised them to test it. I said, "Have you any tramps?" and they said, "Yes." I then said, "The next time any tramps come round you give them a good chunk of German black bread and you will get rid of them as effectively as if you gave them rat poison." (Loud laughter.)"

That is all I said. (Renewed laughter.) Let them try it!—(Mean on horseflesh. (Laughter.) Now I come to carriage. Is it denied there is a very large consumption of horseflesh in Germany? (Cries of "Yes.") Very well, I will give the figures. I have the figures of a town in Germany, Kemnitz, supplied by the slaughtermen in the municipal slaughterhouses in connection with the food supply, and they show that last year 646,000 pounds in weight of horseflesh was used for the consumption of the prosperous inhabitants of Kemnitz. (Laughter.) That is a pretty considerable quantity. (Ministerial cries of "Hear, hear")—a very great deal more than we have in Clapham. (Laughter.) For the same year for food 15,000 pounds of dog was consumed. I should call dog offal, but hon. members opposite would probably regard it as a delicacy. (Loud laughter and Opposition cries of "Oh, oh.")"

When I refer to France I find that besides the slaughter of horses we arrive at another fact—donkeys. (Laughter.) Let hon. members opposite reflect upon some of the perils of tariff reform. (Loud laughter and cheers.) Meat in Germany is "dog" cheap, and that is about the only cheapness there is about German meat. ("Oh, oh.")"

Hon. members opposite say, "Why don't you follow the great example of Germany? There is plenty of work in Germany." (Ministerial laughter.) Let me remind the House what the greatest German commercial newspaper said on that subject just before the war. The "Christen" described the condition of things as one of the saddest Christmases they had ever had in the history of the empire. (Loud Ministerial cheers.) That is the condition of things which we are asked now to repeat over here. (Loud Opposition cries of "No, no.") We had black bread in this country in the days of the old corn laws, in the black days of protection, and I earnestly hope this country will not commit the folly of re-creating that era. (Loud Ministerial cheers.)"

AUNT BRYCE'S ROCKING CHAIR

I'm not one of the kind that works until every last thing is done. I don't believe in working to get a thing until you have no time to enjoy being alive. It doesn't pay to try to do too much, nor to keep at it too long, so when I've done a good job, I quit, and if the stove isn't backened I leave it."

That's the reason I have this old-fashioned rocking chair with its crazy-patchwork cushions here in my study. I like to sit down sometimes and think things out, and I can do it better in this old chair than in any other. It's in harmony—my father gave it to my mother when their first little backwoods baby came to them, and to me it seems to keep the old-time spirit of the olden days—plain, an' simple, an' comfortable—not a bit better than its neighbors, but just as good an' independent of all the world an' its opinions."

Then, when I sit in it, I have a warm sort of feeling of being in touch with them I love; not one of all them patches but belongs to someone that's twisted about my heartstring or Bryce's, and nearly every patch has its story."

I've thought out a good deal of Bryce's education as a husband these two, for, like most men, that part of his education had been a good deal overlooked. Anyway Providence seemed to have laid that out as part of my duty and I haven't shirked—not often anyway. I had to learn to live with Bryce's "women's sphere." I found Bryce, like most men again, a little vague when it comes to close definitions, but pretty well summed up in a couple of lines he used to quote feebly: "Man works from sun to sun; women's work is never done." Not that he was altogether to blame for it; his mother was a famous housekeeper—the neighbor used to say she didn't think the house was fit to be seen until the cat could use the back windowed windows to curl his whiskers by. "And signs on it," says I, "she died years before her time." So I tried to do a good deal of what should have been her work in the education of Bryce. But I just poked the work question square. "Bryce," I said, "it takes as much gumption to know when to stop working as it does to know when to begin. Do you remember Danny Maloney? Yes," says he wonderin', "what about him?" "Do you remember Danny and the sugar-makin'?" To be sure I do. What eddies some of them story lines was. "An' he grinnin' all over at the memory of it."

"Not a bit worse than some of us women," answered feebly, for I wanted him to see the point, "but it was a story. But maybe I'd better tell the story: Danny was an Irishman who came out when Bryce and I were first married, and he rented fifty acres, mostly bush, from Bryce's Uncle Jake. Do you know, he wanted to learn about sugar-making, and so Uncle Jake stayed long enough one day he was passing to take a piece of a tree-trunk and bore it out into the shape of a sugar trough. In the morning he had made sugar-troughs by the hundred, then tapped the trees—as many as he had troughs for. A few days later Uncle Jake took a walk over to see how things were going."

"Well, Danny, how's the sugar-makin' comin' on?" "Oh, baccor, some trees is runnin' fine, but others won't run a drop at all at all. Just look there, now. What aile that plant?"

"How many did you tap, Danny?" "Sore, sore, I jest went straight ahead and tapped all that looked big enough till me rounghs was used up. There's nothing like bein' thorough in a person's work."

"An' how long are you going to keep on sugar-makin'?" asked Uncle Jake soberly.

"Oh, be jabbers," said Danny joyously, "I'll keep at it all summer if it pays."

"Danny, me son," said Uncle Jake seriously, "in Canada a man kin be too thorough. Jest tap the maple next time, and leave the beeches, an' elms, an' basswoods be. And a man can work too long in Canada, too," says he, "Just you stop makin' sugar when the can come round." Bryce knew the story as well as I. He said he saw the point, too. "There's some things to do an' some to leave undone for a woman as well as a man. I never believed in them lines of the poet: 'He for God only, she for God in him.' Them's awful lines to write. They wasn't ever true to me. I never felt that way. It's puttin' limitations to a woman's life that oughtn't to be there if she's goin' to be the willin' force she ought to be. I MIGHT like it if they was: 'She for God AND him.'"

SCENES AND CHARACTERS

In Lew Wallace's BEN-HUR A Tale of the Christ

THE PRE-EMINENT OFFERING OF THE AMERICAN STAGE



- No. 1. Messala
- No. 2. Iras
- No. 3. Ben Hur
- No. 4. Amrah informs the mother and sister of Ben Hur of the wonderful miracles of the Nazarene.
- No. 5. Ben Hur informs his mother of the anger and quarrel of Messala.

