## Plays, Players and Playgoers-The Week in London Theatres

Minstrels

Tonight at 8:15 Toronto Rowing Club Minstrels.

Tuesday—"Shadows of a Great City." By oppressions woes and pains,
By oor sons in servile chains, Friday-Imperial Scots Concert Com- We wull drain oor dearest veins, pany, under the auspices of Sons But, we shall be FREE. of Scotland Male Chorus.

## Toronto Rowing Club Minstrels.

afternoon and evening.

is said is far superior than many of no a'. There is a wee Scotch comic

William Laflamme. ment will be a new departure in min- ing less than a full-grown graun plane

strelsy. Along with the vaudeville for Annie McKay an' the Imperial there will be introduced some very novel ideas, depicting negro life in Dixie, with song, dance and story. It for they only appear yince—mairs the norm with song dance and story. It opens with a typical negro sketch, peety—an' then hame tae Bonny Scot-



noon and Evening. wherein the pathetic as well as the of the Honeymoon" is being sung by numorous side of darkey life is shown. two of the principals, the trees sud-During this scene Len Cameron will denly change into four little girls. introduce his "Troubadors," and will render "Sambo" and "Whistle If You feature, which is probably a greater Want Me, Dear." The vaudeville pormystery than either of the two aforetion of the programme will be given mentioned. by Joe Hill, in his original darkey steps; Walter Kennedy, the small boy girl, the prima donna of the company, with the large voice; Laflamme and ascends from the stage, floats over the Strathdee in the funny farce, "Strandand Victor Lewis in impersonations of celebraties.

"Shadows of a Great City."

One of the most elaborate scenic effects ever produced on the local stage is to be seen in the melodrama "Shadows of a Great City," which comes to the Grand Opera House on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

It is a river of real water which will be held in place by an immense tank covering the stage from wall to wall. It is said to have a capacity of 40.000 gallons. Carpenters travel three days in advance of the company in order to prepare for this great effect. To make room for it all of the house scenery will have to be removed from the

The scene is supposed to represent Hell Gate, East River, New York, and pearing in Major DuMaurier's drama from all accounts, is a most perfect reproduction of that famous water-

fighted up in the background, and the characters sailing about the stage in boats. The height of dramatic realism is reached when the young sailor boy dives head-foremost into the real water and saves the life of a little girl. There is no fake about this scene which it is to be given is one of the oldest and best dramas on the Amer- fact that 'An Englishman's Home' does ican stage today. It has been before the public constantly for twenty years, and continues to draw great delicate satirical points of the play crowds everywhere. There was a time when this play could be seen in only the very high-priced theatres. Now it The main points of the satirical seris being given at popular prices by a splendid cast and with great scenic

effects. The fact that the late Joseph Jefferson had a hand in writing the play and that it is still under the management of his heirs is all the indorsement necessary to assure the public of its

Imperial Scottish Concert Company. There's goin' tae be a regular tearin' o' the tartans on Friday nicht at the scitizens, and that if a British army Grand, for a' Jock Tamson's Bairns are gauin' tae assemble tae listen tae about bullying harmless citizens. the sweetest Scottish tenor in the hale universe. Wheest! I dinna require the land, 'but in my country none of the mention his name fur every leal Scot men are harmless." should ken it. Onyway, it's J. M. auld days as "The Scottish Sim well worth seeing. The attack on the

Today at 2:30, Toronto Rowing Club Burns, an' when he pits on his bonny Hielan' costume an sings wi' patriotic fervor hoo yer faythers foucht an' deed for liberty, the place wull no be big enough tae haud yer enthusiasm.

Anither thing ye'll no be forgettin'. A bonny leddy—a rale dainty wee las-sie, frae the land o' cakes an' heather -in fact, the sweetest soprano in all Scotland, wull be wi' him, an' the moth minstrel company will hold the duets they will sing thegither will boards at the Grand Opera House this mak' a lump come in mony a throat. fternoon and evening.

Aye, and she will charm yer ears an' lickle yer senses wi' her sympathetic members, comes direct from a lickle yer senses wi' her sympathetic 15 members, comes direct from a most sangs, an' mak a' the laddies want tae successful engagement at the Grand line the sojers when she sings "Blue line the so Bonnets Ower the Border." An' that's the so-called all-star professional companies now on tour.

During the first part many comedy

and many of no a. There is a wee Scotal children wee comin' tae—a regular clinker, wee comin' tae—a regular clinker and musical numbers will be rendered mony a doctor's bill. Laugh! Wull, yo no? I'll wager yer sides wull ache next Ed. McGrath, Geo. Budway, Roy Mc-Kellar, Strathdee, John T. Fiddes and William Lafiamme. Villiam Laflamme.

The second part of the entertainbent will be a part december of the entertainlent will be a part december of the entertainaboot yer ticket at yince an' remember yer mithers, sweethearts an' wives hae as much right as ye tae hear the fam-

## "A Broken Idol."

ous singers. Dinna forget.

Among the many spectacular surprises in "A Broken Idol," the latest success at the Whitney Opera House, in Chicago, there are probably none more startling than the human dragon and the animated apple trees, both of which are creations of the fertile brain of Gus Sohlke, Mr. Whitney's general stage director. In the former, Mr. Sohlke has so arranged and costumed a group of twelve little dancing girls that they come on in the finale of the first act in the form of a huge green dragon, emitting flames and sulphuric fumes, after the most approved manner of the dragon of tradition. As the scene where it is introduced is Chinatown, Los Angeles, during the Oriental New Year celebration, and the dragon chances to be a national emblem of the Chinese, the appropriateness of this arrangement will readily be seen, At a given signal from Otis Harlan, the dragon suddenly transforms into a group of clever miniature maidens.

The second surprise consists of four dwarf apple-trees, profusely laden with blossoms, which stand in full view of the audience for eighteen minutes after Conductor of the Toronto Rowing Club the curtain goes up on the second act, Ministrels at the Grand This After- with no indication that they are any thing but a part of the landscape representation. As the refrain of

> There is still another spectacular This is the balloon, in which Miss Alice Yorke, a Toronto heads of the audience, and makes a complet circuit of the atmospheric space of the theatre auditorium, singing the refrains of two of the great song hits of the production. So far as the audience can see, the balloon has no mechanical support, and it conveys the impression of being an ordinary white silk gas bag. "A Broken Idol" comes to the Grand

on May 20 for one performance.

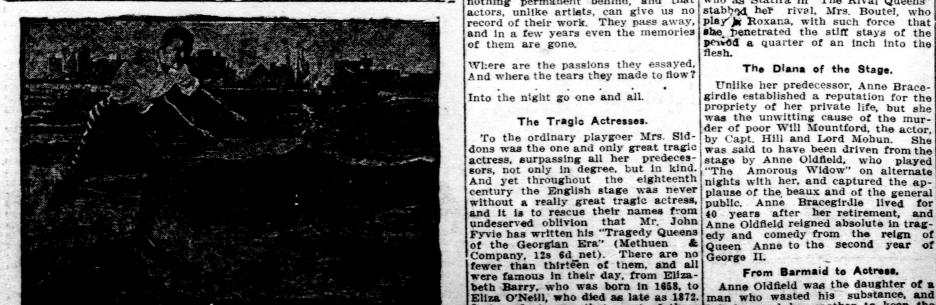
"An Englishman's Home." No play announced for presentation in this city in recent years has aroused more interest than "An Englishman's which will be Home," Grand Opera House on May 21 and 22, for three performances, under the direction of Charles Frohman, who will offer this much-discussed play with the same company which has been apfor the last eight weeks at the Criterion Theatre in New York, and which has just concluded record-breaking en-It is a beautiful scene, with the city gagements at Toronto and Montreal. The Toronto Evening News, in commenting upon the first performance of the play in that city, says: "An Englishman's Home,' the war play that has aroused all Britain to a fighting mood, stirred a big audience at the

Princess Theatre last night to noisy s the real thing, and the play in outbursts of patriotic enthusiasm. There is no getting away from the stir the fighting blood of the average Briton, even though some of the most seemed to pass over the heads o large number of people last evening mon were not missed, however. The helplessness of the untrained, undisciplined volunteers, incompetently officered, was painfully apparent. There were hearty cheers, too, for the play- 0 wright's shafts of satire at those civilians who declaim against making every

> "One light-headed, sporty youth, when the house was in the hands of the enemy, tells Prince Yoland, their commander, that he is but a harmless went into his country, it would not go theatre? The seventeenth was the one the faitnest knowledge. Elizabeth Barry "'Perhaps not,' sallied Prince Yo-

able man a soldier-for a time, at

"The last act, considered as an dred years. The age of great players actresses. She was the beloved of Ot-Hamilton, wha ye used tae ken in the achievement of stage realism, is alone



SCENE FROM "SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY." At the Grand on Monday and Tuesday Evenings.

results he has attained from the boys. Panton,

COMING ATTRACTIONS AT THE Reeves." He will gar ye greet aricht, house and its destruction by shells and Charley. Martin as Little Eva, Ed as he lilts awa' about "Bonnie Doon," flames and bullets, is splendidly done. Johnson as Uncle Tom, James McKen
Today at 2:30 Toronto Rowing Club.

Reeves." He will gar ye greet aricht, house and its destruction by shells and Charley. Martin as Little Eva, Ed Johnson as Uncle Tom, James McKen
Today at 2:30 Toronto Rowing Club. St. John's A. C. Minstrels.

The hum of activity prevails at the St. John's Club, corner of Waterloo and Oxford streets. Painters are putting the finishing touches to the scenery, and carpenters are just completing the orchestra pit, and when the doors are opened on Tuesday night next the club will be in readiness for the large audience that will welcome

Johnson as Uncle Tom, James McKen-zie as Topsy, and Simon Legree portrayed by Harry Milligan, promise to be very funny, as nearly everyone is familiar with "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and as this sketch is a burlesque, one may imagine the situations. Tickets are on sale at the popular price of 25 cents, and the boys no doubt will be greeted by large houses on Tuesday, who took her into the theatre at a salary of fifteen shillings a week. She was only 16 years of age, and her be made up of the following well-story reads like that of an actress of the large audience that will welcome be made up of the following well-the St. John's boys in their ninth am-known musicians: A. Eldon Westman, today. She was the original of Pope's ateur minstrel show. Mr. A. Eldon Maurice Poure, Clarence Robinson, Narcissa, who, it will be remembered Westman has charge of the large Fred Wilkinson, Arthur Robinson, C. had such a horror of being buried, accherus, and he is delighted with the Reed, Frank Rutledge and Chester cording to the law, in woollen: "Odi-

Old Age in the Abstract. crooked morals.' "Paws" and "Pause." A wit as well as an actress.

"An Honest Actress." How they go into the night! Elizabeth Pope is quite forgotten now, but we are assured that she was the rival of Mrs. Siddons in tragedy and of Miss Farren in comedy. Mrs. Inchbald is better known, for she was a writer as Thackeray's Miss Fotheringay. their day; but what shadows they all are now! A few blographies, frequently spiteful, and a portrait or two, is all duce a new play by Eugene Walter. that is left of the tragedy queens.

Joseph Kane will star next season, probably in "In Panama," in which atraction he is now playing with Mr Max Rogers.

The Shuberts will take Bertha season, when they will present her in tricals, in Los Angeles, was \$14,000. new emotional American drama.

Hattie Williams is to end her seapiece will be taken out next season, but will have another star, as Miss Williams will appear in a new play,

Andrew Mack will play a few more weeks in vaudeville and will then rest another season of legitimate Irish

duced last week in New York. Indigirdle established a reputation for the vidual hits were made by Thomas propriety of her private life, but she Thorne, Katherine DeBarry and Consuelo Bailey. Cathrine Counties, who is now appearing with her own stock company stage by Anne Oldfield, who played

Bohemia, "The Gay Life," was pro-

duced by A. H. Woods next season. who was called the Henry Irving of

Edward Breeze and Helen Ware will

ous! in woollen! It would a saint pro-But little is known of Mrs. Porter,

of whom in her latter days Dr. John son said she was so wrinkled that a picture of old age in the abstract might have been taken from her coun tenance. As no breath of scandal had ever tainted her fame, Grub Street did not consider her worthy of one of its characteristic biographies, and it is perhaps owing to the plainness of her face that no painter or engraver ever attempted her portrait. Mrs. Cibber is well known because she was not only a great actress, but married the son of Colley Cibber, Theophilus, "a little, ugly, ungainly man, with a peculiarly shrill voice, features which Bates de scribes as 'rather disgusting,' a pair of crooked eyes, and a set of equally

What can we say of the rest? There was Hannah Pritchard, who equalled Mrs. Siddons as a blameless wife and mother and a tragedienne, and surpassed her in versatility and range of power. There was Mrs. Yates, whose charming and roguish face looks more suited to comedy than to tragedy, but who, we are told, acted in the "highest style of sublime tragedy." There was Anne Crawford, who for the first fourteen years of her career on the stage was known as Mrs. Dancer, for the next ten years as Mrs. Barry, and for the last twenty-three years as Mrs. Crawford. Unlike modern actresses, she did not think it necessary to keep a stage name for life, but like her compeers of the eighteenth century changed her name on the bills whenever she married again. She it was who said that "the Garrick school was all rapidity and action, while the Kem- says the venture is an individual one, ble school was full of paws and pause.

is the best known of all, too well known for extended notice here. Of herself she said with modesty and truth that she was "an honest actress," and at all times and in all things endeavored to s and in all things endeavored to said in all things endeavored to be said to and the beautiful Miss O'Neill, who be- day of the dress rehearsal in New came Lady Becher, quite in the modern York City. style, is said to be the original of were handsome and accomplished wo- his novel "Corrie Who?" which will be men, and held audiences spellbound in produced by the Wagenhais & Kemper

THEATRICAL NOTES.

principal roles in "The Travelling Salesman," was formerly a civil engineer in railroad employ.

"The Parisian Model."

Joseph Howard is to star next season in a play called "The Wearing of

the Green,"

MISS MADGE VOE

From T. P.'s Weekly.

hold in the history of the English tragic queens of whom he has even

of great dramatists, the eighteenth of really belongs to the Carolina days.

great players, and the nineteeth of but she dominated the stage for twenty

great producers, so that there does not years, and her manner and methods

is now almost forgotten, for it is the way and Rochester, and created over

dons was the one and only great tragic was said to have been driven from the

century the English stage was never plause of the beaux and of the general

without a really great tragic actress, public. Anne Bracegirdle lived

Where are the passions they essayed,

And where the tears they made to flow?

The Tragle Actresses.

To the ordinary playgoer Mrs. Sid-

actress, surpassing all her predeces-

sors, not only in degree, but in kind.

And yet throughout the eighteenth

fewer than thirteen of them, and all

were famous in their day, from Eliza-

beth Barry, who was born in 1658, to

seem to be much left for the next hun- profoundly influenced succeeding tragic

THE QUEENS OF TRAGEDY

Idol," at Grand Opera House, on Thursday, May 20.

in B. C. Whitney's Mammoth Musical Production, "A Broker

ON THE ENGLISH STAGE

The Diana of the Stage.

was the unwitting cause of the mur-

der of poor Will Mountford, the actor.

by Capt. Hill and Lord Mohun. She

"The Amorous Widow" on alternate

nights with her, and captured the ap-

From Barmaid to Actress.

Unlike her predecessor, Anne Brace-

Cyril Scott heads a company that of the "Brass Bowl," a drama of New time begins. York life by Winchell Smith and Louis

Joseph Vance.

Marie Cahill is to take up her perhave her new plays produced in that new play which Klaw & Erlanger have city. In private life Miss Cahill is the obtained for Maclyn Arbuckle for next wife of her late manager, Daniel V. season, entitled, "The Circus Man."

Arthur What place will the present century Sarah Siddons being probably the only wife of her late manager, Daniel Arthur.

> "Idols." a dramatization of William T. Locke's story by Roy Homiman, which has met with success in England, has been secured for production next season by later N. Lawrence.

misfortune of the stage that it leaves one hundred characters. She it was nothing permanent behind, and that who as Statira in "The Rival Queens" at Buzzards' Bay, where he has a sumactors, unlike artists, can give us no stabled her rival, Mrs. Boutel, who record of their work. They pass away, and in a few years even the memories she penetrated the stiff stays of the mer home. In the fall he will comedy. period a quarter of an inch into the Roy McCardell's play of Broadway

> at Grand Rapids, Mich., has been engaged to play the role of a chorus girl

in a play called "Estelle," to be pro-

Hedwig Reicher, who is to play the leading role in "On the Eve," when Henry B. Harris makes its production Fyvie has written his "Tragedy Queens edy and comedy from the reign of of the Georgian Era" (Methuen & Queen Anne to the second year of Company, 12s 6d net). There are no George II. next season, was leading lady for the famous German actor. Sonnenthal,

Anne Oldfield was the daughter of a Eliza O'Neill, who died as late as 1872. man who wasted his substance, and It is safe to say that most of these left her and her mother to keep the names are unknown to the fairly well-latter's sister at the Mitre Tavern in read men of today, Anne Bracegirdle, St. James' Market. It was owing to Anne Oldfield, Elizabeth Inchbald and Captain Farquhar that Mrs. Oldfield York Theatre on the afternoon of May.



J. M. HAMILTON,

Scotland's Famous Tenor, Who Will Appear With the Imperial Scots Concert Company, under the auspices of the Sons of Scotland Male Chorus, at the Grand on Friday Evening.

Butler Davenport is to have a theatre in New York next door to the New Theatre, only of more modest Circus Man." There are thirty-five proportions, but with much the same speaking parts in the play, which will plane. Mr. Davenport will install a be on the same big order as Klaw & stock company to present modern plays | Erlanger's "The Round-Up" and "Ben by American authors. Mr. Davenport Hur. and is not associated with any of the managers.

The Shuberts have secured the American rights to a new German comedy called "Gretchen." It will be founded upon two books, "Rebecca of produced in its English version next Sunnybrook Farm" and "The Chronproduced in its English version next season. The Shuberts have also secured "The Prima Ballerino," a new Wiggin. A clever young actress will comic opera which the German critics be engaged for the title role.

nonest actress, and at an all things endeavored to all things endeavored to London next season. A copyright per-

Maximilian Foster is dramatizing Company about the first of the year. moment to the theatrical world brings At the same time this firm will pro-

Eily Barnato, a former prima donna of the Aborn Grand Opera Company. has been engaged to sing at the Metro- Both have written many great plays, Daniel Jarrett, who plays one of the politan Opera House, New York, next and have placed them before the public season.

> Frances Starr will soon reach her 150th New York performance in "The a question there are no two names Easiest Way," at the Belasco Stuy-spoken so universally in connection vesant Theatre.

Blanche Bates is in her second and last week at the Lyric Theatre, Phila- brought together these two geniuses Grace Hazard, who has been star-delphia, where the Belasco star is of the theatre—that is, fate missed the ring for the last two years upon the appearing in her latest great success, opportunity until quite recently, when vaudeville stage, will return next sea- "The Fighting Hope." Miss Bates made they were unexpectedly companion son to the regular theatrical field in the trip to New York to Philadelphia guests at a dinner party. It needed but in her automobile.

Lillian Russell's receipts for Holy Kalich under their management next Week, the dullest of the year in thea-Her success on the Pacific coast has been remarkable. When her season produce one of my plays, Mr. Belasco.' Walter Jones and Herbert Cothell closes in June Miss Russell will make Walter Jones and Herbert Council as Short visit abroad, returning in the opportunity, Mr. Fitch, and I will formance of "A Comedy of Errors," in August to begin her rehearsals of her the opportunity, Mr. Fitch, and I will new play. "The Widow's Might," by ing the next season."

"The Right of Way," has had by Theodore Burt Sayre, good season on the Pacific coast. Guy Standing and Theodore Roberts, the was drawn up, and in less who wrote "Thomas Moore" for Anco-stars of the attraction, will appear ogether next season in a play which Klaw & Erlanger will have ready for last week made the first presentation them before the summer rehearsal

"Little Nemo," Klaw & Erlanger's big musical comedy, will go to London next year if a theatre can be ob- with that masterly care and son this week in "Fluffy Ruffles." The tained. Meantime, it is making a which distinguish the Belasco offerlings, prosperous stay in Chicago. Joe Caw- will prove one of the most memorable thorn, Billy Van and Harry Kelly re- achievements in the history of main with Klaw & Erlanger for an- American stage. To bring together two other season.

Mr. Presbrey read the play to Mr. Ar-

4. Mr. Edward Peple's playlet, "The buckle last week and he is delighted Littlest Rebel," will also be in the bill. with it. Meantime, while he is playing the fat sheriff in "The Round-Up" he is looking for an elephant, not for a

> Klaw & Erlanger has acquired for production early next season a play entitled "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," by Kate Douglas Wiggin and Charlotte Thompson. The Sunnybrook Farm" and icles of Rebecca," written by Miss

David Warfield is presenting his same enthusiasm and large attendance it is impossible for the famous Relasco star to say which is the more popular.

An announcement of considerable together the distinguished names of Clyde Fitch and David Belasco. For years both these men have been doing the great work of the American drama. with a perfection that others have seemed unable to master. Without with the highest type of dramatic art as those of Belasco and Fitch. Yet, strangely enough, fate has never

this meeting, under such happy and sympathetic conditions, to lead the minds of Mr. Fitch and Mr. Belasco to their one great topic, the theatre. New plays were spoken of. "I ways have been ambitious to have you The author-manager was right there

ing the next season.'

The immediate result was that a meeting was arranged for the very next day at Mr. Belasco's studio, a contract hours Clyde Fitch and David Belasco signed their names to the agreement. Mr. Belasco has been wearing a smile ever since. He always has been a great admirer of the Fitch style of dramatic writing, and it is a pretty safe prediction that any work from the brilliant pen of Mr. Fitch produced such minds, in such an artistic partnership, means more to the native Eugene Presbrey has completed the drama than appears on the surface. It



THE SOLDIER KIDDIES, In B. C. Whitney's Big Musical Comedy, "A Broken Idol," Which Comes to the Grand Opera House, May 20.