

## THE STAGE AND ITS PEOPLE: MANY WELL REMEMBERED

JESSIE BONSTELLE PLAYS  
PART OF PORTIA IN REAL LIFE

Conducts Defence of Suit Against Her in  
Detroit Court—Mr. Keith Buys Another  
Theatre—Grace George to London—  
Late New York Plays

Jessie Bonstelle appeared in a Detroit, Mich., court recently as her own attorney in a suit brought against her by William Harcourt King, an actor playing in her company when she toured the country last season. The plaintiff alleged that \$187.50 is still due him.

In reply Miss Bonstelle declared that the action should have been brought against William A. Brady, who owned the company in question; also that the work for which King claims salary was Holy Week, and therefore, in conformity to custom of actors to work for half pay at that season, she paid him only half salary.

**Keith Buys Another**

More than a million dollars is said to have passed last week when E. F. Keith purchased Chase's Theatre, Washington. The deal signifies other activities on Mr. Keith's part, the rumor being current that Kerensky, Washington, may be the next house that Mr. Keith will add to his stupendous circuit of vaudeville houses. E. F. Keith will take personal interest in the management of the house and is now occupying himself specifically in opening the house for the season. The house which Mr. Keith has just purchased is the structure which Mr. Chase erected. Something like 30 theatres now comprise the Keith chain, extending from the Atlantic Coast to Chicago.

Present indications are that the baseball play written by Christie Matheson and Rida Johnson Young will be taken to New York with the title originally chosen, "The Double Cross". It is to open in Atlantic City on Sept. 22 and will be taken to New York three weeks later. The play which is in four acts will require a big scenic production and sixty people in support of the principals. The third act is just off the baseball diamond when a big game is in progress.

There is a pretty general impression about the theatrical business in New York that "under world" plays will be in the ascendant for the current season, but that the bottom will drop out of the craze for plays on that subject as quickly as it sprang up. Those having successful pieces of that nature propose to get all out of them possible as quickly as they can, by the organization of duplicate organizations to "grab off" all the easy money in sight before the "blow off".

The Shuberts will send out several companies of "The Lure," A. H. Woods is going right after "Within the Law," George Broadbent is working assiduously to complete his "white slave" piece for William A. Brady (who always duplicates successes with facility).

In addition, "The Traffic" is headed for New York. "The Fight" opens Monday at the Hudson. "The Double Cross" is on its way. W. C. Lambert has Monday "The Girl of the Underworld" and Joseph Bryon Totten has completed a dramatization of Bezaud Wright Kaufman's novel, "The House of Bondage," which will probably be produced by Lee Morrison.

Looks like the feature film market would be inundated with white slave films. The Digos-Cammetti trial, the Thaw story with promised intimate revelations of the delicious phases of that nasty tale, plans of film makers to copy the theme and spirit of the season's two white slave plays on regular stages, "The Lure," and "The Traffic" are but a few signs of the coming influx.

Edward Lynch, who played a stock engagement here a couple of seasons ago will try the road this year without Rose King, with whom his name was coupled in the company as the King-Lynch players. There will be a new company under his management.

It has been about settled by H. R. Marshall that Comstock & Gert will secure Evelyn Nesbit Thaw in America, to head a vaudeville road show. The weekly salary for Miss Nesbit is said to be \$8,200. She will go on the road in November, perhaps, after a return visit to Paris, following the end of her engagement at Hammerstein's, New York.

Dallas Wolford, who played here as Theophilus in Madame Sherry, was in Montreal last week in the opening of "Adele." He scored a big hit.

Lillian Lorraine having established the anklet watch, it remained for May Daly, one of the Winter Garden players, to devise the "anklet," a wrist watch strapped around the leg above the knee and made visible, together with a generous sketch of history, by an extremely daring skirt.

Bruce MacRae opened this week in "Nearly Married," a new farce comedy with John Westley, another former Harkins player in St. John in his support.

Madame X, and with Paul Gilmore, is being starred by Sydney R. Ellis this season in "A Butterfly on the Wheel." Thomas A. Wise is releasing a one-act play called "Like Father Like Son," which will be seen on the vaudeville stage soon. The cast contains four characters and will play about eighteen minutes. It tells a good story of a conflict between a rich father and a young son who is determined to marry a professional dancer. Contrary to expectations, the sketch is humorous and laughter-provoking. Mr. Wise himself is staging it. Mr. Wise is under the management of Max Hart and Guy F. Bragdon.

In the opinion of the show people Jack Johnson is now the biggest drawing card in England, made so by the protests in the dailies against his music hall appearance.

Johnson will probably open in a London hall at \$2,500 weekly salary, with a complete tour booked for later through the Variety Controlling Co.

Alice Lloyd road show, under the management of William Morris, planned for vaudeville. With the return of Tom McNaughton (Miss Lloyd's husband) to New York, he and Morris got together on the road show proposition.

One of the season's new plays is by Albert Lee, and starts off with a fire

the New Theatre, New York, where "Paid in Full" is the regular evening bill.

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