

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



FISKE O'HARA.

The Irish Tenor, who comes to the Grand for two nights, Friday and Saturday of next week, in "Dion O'Dare."

## AT THE GRAND.

This Afternoon .....  
This Evening .....  
..... John Griffith, in "Othello."  
..... John Griffith, in "Faust."  
Monday (matinee and night) .....  
Thos. Jefferson in "Rip Van Winkle."  
Thursday ..... "Messenger Boy 42."  
Friday .....  
..... Fiske O'Hara, in "Dion O'Dare."  
Saturday (matinee and night) .....  
..... Fiske O'Hara, in "Dion O'Dare."

## BENNETT'S.

All Week ..... First-Class Vaudeville.

## JOHN GRIFFITH TODAY.

John Griffith, the eminent Canadian actor, will give two performances at the Grand today, under the auspices of the Eureka Lodge, No. 30, I. O. O. F. Shakespeare's love tragedy "Othello" will be presented at the matinee, and Goethe's enduring drama of "Faust" will be given in the evening. Although Shakespeare's plays do not appeal to certain tastes, and are fully appreciated only by the more intellectually inclined, the poetic genius and true literary greatness of his works is seldom disputed even by those unable to grasp it. The mere fact that the popularity of his plays has endured from the earliest portion of the seventeenth century down through the subsequent generations to the present, surviving the works of all other authors of past centuries, defies contradiction of their genuine literary value. And second only to the plays of the bard of Avon, from a literary point of view is Goethe's masterpiece, "Faust." Mr. Griffith has appeared here a number of times during previous seasons in the character of Mephisto, and his impersonation has always proven a source of delight to local theatre patrons of the classic drama. His masterful acting last season of King Richard is still fresh in the public mind, and will doubtless create a keen desire to witness his reputed splendid performance of "Othello."

Mr. Griffith's supporting company this season is said to be stronger than he has had in the past, and elaborate scenic and electric accessories have been supplied for the production of both plays.

## THOMAS JEFFERSON.

The attraction at the Grand Monday afternoon and evening will be Thomas Jefferson in his delightful rendition of "Rip Van Winkle." This will be Thomas Jefferson's third engagement here in the famous old romance of the Catskills. The play is one in which the human heart is deliciously involved, and the laugh and tear are the jolly companions that lead from scene to scene to the end of the very last act. It is clean, happy, and wholesome, but with the quaint humor and splendid art of Thomas Jefferson. This act is the quintessence of years of conscientious and skillful stage work, during which Mr. Jefferson devoted his genius. Now, as Rip Van Winkle, he represents the very finest and most effective touches of histrionism, a compendium of every phase of the heart and skill which he applied in all the characters in which he has appeared during his career. Local theatregoers, who will again have an opportunity of seeing Thomas Jefferson as Rip during his engagement at the Grand, will witness the magnificence and beauties of his acting, and will understand and appreciate it all. His has been a brilliant career behind the footlights. Success not only crowns it, but he has the rare satisfaction of knowing that he is perpetuating the work of his father, Joseph Jefferson, who added to the gladness and gaiety of the nation without the shadow of offence to the purest-minded person among the millions of people to whom he played. And it is no exaggeration to say the piece has been seen by millions. For many years crowded houses have laughed until tears rolled down their cheeks over jovial, sunny-hearted Rip. Those are unprecedented runs, and all goes to show that the term "millions" used in this connection is perfectly correct. It is a pleasure to be one of those who has seen Mr. Jefferson's Rip for the mere remembrance of the enjoyment which this inimitable characterization gave is sufficient to make one feel happy and delighted with life. Mr. Jefferson's production is said to be the most elaborate this season ever given of the play. His supporting company will be headed by Miss Rosalie DeVaux.

## BENNETT'S BIG BILL.

One of the very best bills of the

season is said to be booked for Bennett's next week. The chief attraction will be Kelley and Barrett, in their clever comedy burlesque on war entitled "The Battle of Too Soon." This act is this week at Hamilton, and the Hamilton papers say that it is one of the very finest comedy acts ever seen. At Bennett's, in that city. Laughs from start to the finish of the act, situations that are sensational, and yet extremely funny, and in addition to all their comedy, they carry a complete set of special scenery, and effects to work their act with.

The special extra attraction will be the greatest of all colored organizations called "The Sunny South." This act includes ten colored comedians, singers, and dancers, and in Ottawa, this week is making a very big hit.

Emma Partridge, formerly leading contralto with Sousa's Band, will also be on the bill, and will offer some very fine singing.

Robert and Berg are not unknown to London audiences, as they played here last season, and they will return by request, with the same pretty little piano, and singing act, entitled "The Land of Two Moons," which they were last season seen in.

The Flying Martins will offer their daring aerial act, which is something similar to the three Renards, which are this week at this popular theatre, and who are making such a big hit.

One of the most classic attractions ever seen at this theatre will be Charles Leonard Fletcher in his famous impersonations of great actors of the past and present. He will give impersonations of Richard Mansfield, Sir Henry Irving, William Gillette, and other well-known actors.

## VAUDEVILLE NOTES.

Johnson and Wells, the prominent colored stars of the American and European stage, will head the large colored organization under the title of "The Sunny South," which will be the special added attraction at Bennett's Theatre next week. There are ten people with Johnson and Wells, and this should help to make the bill at Bennett's Theatre next week one of the best of the season.

Charles Leonard Fletcher will be on the Big Bennett Bill next week.

Burt and Stanford are booked to appear at Bennett's the week of Nov. 23.

The following acts will soon appear at Bennett's: La Veola, Donovan, and Arnold, the "Cadi" Sisters, Belle White and Simmonds, Mable Hite and Mike Donlan, Sabel Johnson, Ryan and White, Junie McCree, Ed. Scott, E. F. Hawley in "The Bandit," The Blonde Typewriters and many others.

Bennett's excellent orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Makins, will offer selections from "The Gay Musicians" next week.

The Ottawa Citizen says of Burt and Stanford, formerly stars with "The Walls of Jericho," who is playing the Grand Opera House last New Year's Day, and who will be seen in a sketch entitled "The Order of the Bath" at Bennett's in a few weeks: Laura Burt and Henry Stanford, whom Ottawans saw starred last season at the Russell in "The Walls of Jericho," put on a comedy playlet, "The Order of the Bath," which is a gem in every way, in fact, it would be hard to imagine anything more refined and dainty. It is a clever little play well staged, and the acting is admirable. Miss Burt in the emotional lines, shows marked dramatic ability, and in the lighter scenes brings to bear a charming personality and refreshing vivacity. Mr. Stanford is splendid throughout, and his acting is intelligent and finished. Miss Olive Walker, a captivating little lady, as the maid, has little to do, but she does it well. The Order of the Bath sketches seen at the Bennett Theatre, and the audience gave the stars a very cordial reception.

## FISKE O'HARA LOSES BET.

Fiske O'Hara, who will be seen at the Grand Opera House the latter part of next week, is like a great many of his countrymen, an ardent Democrat. Every time Mr. Blaney, his manager, and he meet, they get very warm under the collar, in discussing politics, Mr. Blaney being a dyed-in-the-wool Republican. A few nights before the election they happened to be in a party together, and the conversation finally drifted towards politics. Mr. O'Hara, after being badgered by everyone in the party, in regard to the coming presidential election, he being the only Democrat present, finally conceded that Taft would be elected. Mr. Blaney, in a laughing way, said, "Well, how about New York State for governor? That's as soft for Hughes as Taft is for president." O'Hara, jumping up, said, "I'll bet you it isn't." Blaney immediately replied, "All right, you're on. How much?" Taft O'Hara pondered for a while, and finally said, "All right, Charlie." If Hughes is elected you pay me ten dollars. If Hughes is elected you name the street, and I will sing a couple of songs, and pass the hat. If I don't collect enough to make up the ten, I will make it up out of my pocket." The bet was made and Wednesday evening Mr. O'Hara stood at the corner of Forty-fifth and Longacre Square at 6 o'clock and sang. He fooled his manager, for after passing the hat he found he had \$21.98, just eleven dollars and nine cents over the bet. The entire sum was devoted to charity, and he is willing to make the same bet four years from now, no matter who runs.

## MESSINGER BOY 42.

The first production here of the new massive melodrama entitled, "Messenger Boy 42," will be given at the Grand on Thursday evening next. The play is particularly rich in intense dramatic situations, the scenes of the play being laid in and around a large city, affording ample opportunity for splendid effects, all of which have been used to the full extent.

A feature of the production is the introduction of a number of high grade vaudeville specialties. In one of the scenes there is a chance to in-

terpolate these without delaying the action of the piece, and all the people engaged for these specialties are of the best class. Another feature is the introduction of a group of dog actors, who play parts in a manner that will convince anyone that they are almost human. They are of the Landseer breed, and were educated and developed by William T. Stephens, who, with them made such a remarkable record in England, playing a twelve weeks' engagement in London. They are truly canine Thespians, and will amuse people who do not know how highly a dog can be educated.

Miss Violet Hilson, who is well-known here, heads the cast, and among the supporting company will be found: Miss Grace Young, Miss Bessie Ring, Miss Hattie Fisher, Mr. Howard Sydney, Mr. George W. Mitchell, Mr. Lorraine Westford, Mr. W. Flave Ryan, Mr. Billy Williams, Mr. John J. MacGee, Mr. Joseph Clark, Mr. John J. Farrell, Mr. William A. Peacock, Mr. Edward Knudson, Mr. Bert Tilford, go to make up one of the strongest casts that has ever appeared in a production of this kind.

## FISKE O'HARA.

"Dion O'Dare" the new Irish comedy, which will introduce Fiske O'Hara at the Grand on Friday and Saturday of next week, is a work of a well-known newspaper man of Newark. The piece is distinctly Irish and is also of an historical character. "Dion O'Dare" is a young Irish peasant lad who takes up the art of sculpture, and after travelling for a number of years he is called upon by the lieutenant of Ireland to make a statue of him. O'Dare does as he is ordered, and in the last act, just as the unveiling is about to take place, a great singer, who has been commanded to appear, disappoints the assembled guests. O'Dare asks permission to make the singer's place, which is granted, and he sings an old love song that he used to sing to his sweetheart long ago. She recognizes it and after a lot of complications are cleared up, O'Dare comes in to his own and the curtain goes down on a happy boy.

The piece is in four acts and takes place entirely in Ireland, giving both the scenic artist and the costumer a chance to spread themselves. Mr. O'Hara has written several new songs which he will sing, among which are "The See-Saw," "Nora McNamara," and "The new waltz song." This is Mr. O'Hara's fourth season as a star, and he has more than gratified his man-



JOHN GRIFFITH.

At the Grand This Afternoon and Evening.

## Alan Dale on Vaudeville

Vaudeville, says Alan Dale has received the indorsement, favor and patronage of the best and most cultured classes of the leading cities of the world. It has been declared the ideal theatrical entertainment by those whose prominence, education and experience makes him pre-eminently the most competent judges, and it far exceeds in popularity and actual merit a vast majority of the operas, dramas and other plays of the day. The best talent is employed, and the most elaborate stage settings and costumes are used, and the highest salaries are paid.

Commenting on the above article, Manager Driscoll of Bennett's, said today: "The trouble with vaudeville in such a small city as London is, that the theatre-going people do not give to this popular form of amusement the real credit it deserves. They do not show their appreciation of vaudeville in the same demonstrative manner with which the patrons of other large Canadian cities do. When we bring a bill of seven picked acts to London, a bill which I can state with all frankness and truthfulness, rarely, if ever, this present season, costs us less than \$1,200, and often up to \$1,400 for the performers alone, the London people do not seem to 'warm' up to the efforts of the performers, as much as they should do.

"This fact prevails, in fact, all through Canada. If the theatre-going people could only be convinced that when they are liberal with their hand-clapping, they get a much better performance from those on the stage than they otherwise do, for the reason that the artist readily sees that his efforts to entertain are being appreciated by his audience, and he or she work with renewed efforts.

"There is always an 'off' week with any theatre. Some weeks we find that our bill runs smoothly, and each act harmonizes beautifully with the other; then again, another week, while the show may consist of standard acts, such as play the violin, Detroit, or Shea's, Toronto, it does not run so smoothly. The audience in London at once conclude it is a bad show. Let me tell you, that the hardest position in the United book offices in New York

ager, Mr. Blaney. The support for Mr. O'Hara has been carefully picked, and the greatest pains have been taken in casting the piece. The scenic embellishments are masterpieces of stage mechanic's skill.

The usual matinee will be given on Saturday, when all children will be admitted to any seat for 25 cents.

Following the policy adopted last season by Al. H. Wilson's manager of not repeating a play the second year, this talented comedian will be seen in "When Old New York Was Dutch," when he visits this city this season.

Six little dancers in "Comin' Thro' the Rye" were brought to this country a year ago direct from the ballet of the Gaiety Theatre, London. They have been leased to the management of "Comin' Thro' the Rye" for two years, after which they will have to return to the Gaiety, London.

"Ragged Robin," the new piece in which Chauncey Olcott is appearing this season, and in which he will be seen very shortly, is the most characteristic Irish play that has been given in this country in years. The Celtic element is strong in the incidental folk-lore abounding in the piece; an Irish life during the early part of last century is depicted with amazing fidelity. Mr. Augustus Pitou personally superintended every detail of the production of "Ragged Robin," and has spared neither money nor pains to make it noteworthy in the annals of his many successes. It will be given here with a wealth of scenic effects, and a cast of great excellence.

Edwin Stevens' interesting face with the "pleasant rascal" expression that he wears as "The Devil" is pictured with wonderful effect in colors on the cover of the November Theatre magazine. There is none of the obvious Satan's imp "get-up" about Mr. Stevens' portrayal of Molnar's devilish character as clearly shown in this excellent photograph. Mr. Stevens, same as Mr. Dixey, Mr. Abington and Mr. Gollan, all of whom are playing the Devil in Henry W. Savage companies, follow the author's conception of this great role and give the audience a good breeding and irreproachable manners, whose pleasure is to act the Devil, rather than to look like the Devil. It is this conception of the role that accounts for the instantaneous success of Mr. Stevens' sole authorized version of the fascinating comedy.

"The Devil," with Edwin Stevens and the company now playing at the Garden Theatre, New York, will have a local presentation on Jan. 2.

Lina Abarbanell as "The Merry Widow," and Donald Brian, who dances like everything as the Prince Danilo, together with the host of favorites in the whirling Viennese operetta, are now in their tenth week at the Tremont Theatre, Boston, with no sign of a falling-off in the wonderful box office receipts which this famous word draws everywhere. Not long ago we heard of "The Merry Widow" having a run of 26 weeks in Chicago. The success of this record-breaking opera as long even in the small cities as any of the musical comedies heretofore heard in America.

"The Merry Widow" company, now playing Boston, is the original one, and will be seen at the Grand in the near future.

"Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway," with Scott Welsh and Frances Gordon, the musical play that scored such a hit here last season, will return to the Grand after the holidays.

"The Wizard of Oz," Hamlin &



KELLY AND BARRETT, AT BENNETT'S, NEXT WEEK.

Mitchell's musical extravaganza, is among the early bookings at the Grand Opera House.

The Boston Post says of Annette Kellerman, who will shortly be seen at Bennett's: Annette Kellerman yesterday at Keith's danced, diabolized and dived herself into popularity as a vaudeville star of the first quality. Of course Annette is by no means a stranger to Boston, because she was around these parts all last summer. But ever since the plucky girl essayed her wonderful swim to Boston Light she has been a good deal of a popular idol. Therefore it would almost seem that Boston was sending forth one of her own daughters to take precedence in the vaudeville world. Miss Kellerman's act includes a little dancing, an exhibition of diabolism, at which she is an acknowledged champion, and a fine exhibition of fancy diving. The latter part of her performance is, of course, the one that arouses the most enthusiasm.

The management of Bennett's report that their business shows an increase over last season of 65 per cent. This shows what the proper attractions will do, and the attractions offered this season at Bennett's are beyond doubt the very finest ever seen at this popular playhouse.

Word has been received by Manager Driscoll, that Watson's Barnyard Circus, one of the greatest animal acts in America, is an early booking at Bennett's.

Kelly and Barrett, the great burlesque comedians, and popular actors, will be seen next week in "The Battle of Too Soon" at Bennett's.

Chas. Leonard Fletcher, the great impersonator, will hold a spot on the Bennett bill next week.

Great is the interest over the series of death gown matinees which Bennett's are giving, and Manager Driscoll is receiving numerous requests for information about this affair. Matinees begin next Monday. Coupons will be given at the door to everyone entering, at the daily matinee, and after each matinee a preliminary drawing will be held, and five members drawn, and on Saturday the grand final drawing will take place when the person holding the fortunate number will receive an order on Smallman & Ingram for a \$40 sheath or ordinary gown, Saturday, Nov. 21, is the day of the final drawing. More information can be had at the box office of the theatre.

Professor Schelling, in his story of the "Elizabethan Drama," shows that "The Devil" is no invention of the modern playwright, as shown by the following titles of old English plays cited from the Elizabethan period: "The Devil and His Dame," "The Devil Is an Ass," "The Merry Devil of Dowgate," "The Devil's Charter," "The Devil's Law Case."

See what the postman left: "When 'Top o' th' World' company went en tour one of its members—Miss Marion Garfield Brown, daughter of the late Capt. William H. Brown, of Boston, Mass.—remained in Chicago, and is now with 'The Broken Idol.' Miss Brown is an accomplished young woman and her friends predict a bright future if Dan Cupid does not interfere, as he many times has tried his aim, but has yet to force her into private life."



THOMAS JEFFERSON AS RIP VAN WINKLE AT THE GRAND, THANKSGIVING DAY, MATINEE AND NIGHT.



CASTRO, SIGN OF NO LIVING MAN WILL EVER HEAR YOUR VOICE AGAIN. JACK: I'LL SEE YOU DAMNED FIRST.

SCENE FROM "MESSENGER BOY, NO. 42" AT GRAND OPERA HOUSE, THURSDAY, NOV. 12.