

The Play's the Thing

J. M. Barrie's "Little Minister," which has been awaited by Toronto theatre-goers with considerable interest was produced for the first time in the city, at the Grand, Monday evening. The story of the "Little Minister" is one that found immediate favor with Barrie's admirers, and the romantic Scotch atmosphere of the play makes it one of the most charming and wholesome pieces seen here in a long time.

Although the plot of the story is changed somewhat to suit stage purposes, the same delightful delineation of Scotch life which characterizes all of the writer's stories is brought out ever more forcibly than in the pages of his books.

The most noticeable difference in the dramatization is the prominence given to Babbie rather than to the Little Minister, Gavin Dishart. This step was doubtless necessary since there is more opportunity for dramatic action in the "bonnie" gypsy than in the studious and pious young minister. The change, however, does not interfere with the interest in the play.

In the construction of the piece, Barrie has told the story tersely and has created several scenes which would grace the finest comedies of the present age.

The first act opens with a scene representing Caddum Wood on a moonlight evening in April. Several of the men of Thrum, who have caused a riot on account of low wages in the wooden mills, are presented, discussing the impending trouble and also the good qualities of their youthful pastor. In this discussion the situation is very cleverly told, and prepares the way for the action to follow. Presently the little minister appears and orders the men to disperse. Such is their great respect for his authority that they do so. Upon their departure Babbie appears in the guise of a gypsy. She is not a real gypsy, but is Lady Barbara, daughter of Lord Rintoul. Her sympathy for the poor and oppressed people of Thrum, together with an irresistible yearning for adventure, leads her to adopt the course she has taken. Upon seeing her the little minister becomes immediately infatuated with her. He does not say so, but his actions betray him. During this meeting the soldiers appear, searching for the gypsy. In order to save her, the little minister, at her instigation, states that she is his wife. The minister, however, does not yet confess his love to her. The first scene of the second act shows Nannie's cottage. The two young people make a few more steps in their love-making. In this scene the work of Miss Mary B. Thompson, as Nannie, is bright and refreshing.

Next, the home of Gavin is seen. It is near prayer meeting time, and the elders and others are gathered waiting for the minister. They are, of course, gossiping, and are beginning to hear rumors about their minister. The characters introduced here are very, very interesting, and especially so in the case of Mr. Henry Weaver, jr. as Thomas Whamond.

As Gavin is about to enter the church he learns that the gypsy has been apprehended. At the risk of his reputation he leaves the prayer-meeting to rescue her. He learns that she has escaped, and traces her to Rintoul Castle. Here he sees her as the gypsy. The scene is in a hall in the castle. Upon hearing the approach of Lord Rintoul, who is not aware of his daughter's escapade, Lady Barbara flies to her room. Gavin demands the release of the gypsy. Lord Rintoul denies that she is in the house. Gavin claims that he just saw her enter a certain room. That room was Lady Barbara's. In order to satisfy Gavin, Lord Rintoul opens the door of the room and calls his daughter. She appears—not as the gypsy, but as Lady Barbara. Gavin is naturally surprised. The young people then confess their love to Lord Rintoul. He refuses to listen to their proposition, and in order to prevent Gavin from marrying his daughter, he seeks to make valid the acknowledgment Gavin made in the first act that the gypsy was his wife. This misunderstanding leads to a very delightful little piece of comedy, after which everything is happily settled forever and aye.

The piece possesses an unusually healthy tone, and is refreshing and interesting throughout. Every member of the company does excellent work, and the scenery is very pretty. Miss Adelaide Thurston makes a very winsome Babbie, and gives a delightful portrayal of the elfish little gypsy girl. Mr. Horace Mitchell looks just as we had pictured him, and his work on the whole was very satisfactory.

The production of "The Three Guardsmen" at the Princess this week is the most ambitious effort made by the Cummings Company since their opening here, and it is quite universally agreed that the production is a most successful one. It is no easy task for a stock company to put on such a heavy piece as "The Three Guardsmen" and great credit is due the management for the success of their performance this week.

Harry Glazier, as D'Artagnan is seen to better advantage than in any role he has ever played at this theatre. His work as the

chivalrous adventurer displays an abandon which he has heretofore carefully concealed from Princess audiences.

The rest of the company are all well cast and the scenery is the best seen at the Princess this season. The following is the cast of characters:—King Louis XIII of France, Mr. Geo. Eddinger; Cardinal Richelieu, Mr. Ernest Willis; George Villiers, (Duke of Buckingham), Mr. Barry O'Neill; Athos, Porthos, Aramis (Three Soldiers of the Musketeer Guards), Mr. Clifford Pembroke, Mr. Bartley McCullum, Mr. James Durkin; D'Artagnan (an adventurer), Mr. Harry Glazier; Boucieaux (a spy of Richelieu's, and husband of Constance), Mr. Henry Shumer; DeTreville (Captain of the King's Musketeers), Mr. Joseph Cleworth; Count De Rochfort (an emissary of Cardinal Richelieu), Mr. H. Collins; Sadrift (Captain of the "True Briton"), Mr. J. Speeze; Ponchet (Host of the "Jolly Miller"), Mr. Geo. Wilson; Anne of Austria (Consort of King Louis), Miss Nettie Marshall; Lady De Winter (an agent of Richelieu's), Miss Lillian Andrews; Constance (a founding), Miss Eleanor Browning.

ST. MICHAEL'S COLLEGE

The "Alumni" fever, so prevalent in the declining days of '98, mention of which was made in these columns at that time, has again invaded the corridors and rooms of the higher classes. At that time no mention was made of the existence of a former Alumni, of which many pleasurable incidents are still being recalled by the old students of the house. For some untold reason it gradually fell out of existence, and the enthusiasm now displayed among the students tends to its reorganization. For this purpose, then, there will be a meeting called in the near future of the presidents of the Theological and Philosophical departments to discuss the matter, and as this is one of the many associations of which every grateful student of College or University may be justly proud, there remains but little doubt of its formation. This social circle, without which no institution can be properly supported, has found its way into almost every School, College and University in the land. Why should we be without it? How many are the privileges and pleasures afforded those within the compass of such an organization? They are untold. For who among us can adequately describe the felicity an "Alumnus" experiences who, years after quitting his "Alma Mater," is again recalled at the invitation of the "Alumni" to spend a day in grand reunion with the associates of his College days. Here he renews old acquaintanceships which time and circumstances have almost completely severed. He forms new acquaintances whose friendship he no less esteems. Year after year this society takes within its folds the graduates of the institution, and in this way it grows and expands itself to all parts of the continent. The boys are asked then to talk the matter over among themselves and fix a date for this meeting whose record will be handed down to posterity as one of great importance.

Mr. Geo. Roach, who has been down with "la grippe" the past week, is able to be about again. The boys miss George very much on account of his important position on the Hockey team. The study hall took on a new radiance when he made his appearance on Monday.

Pointers that might be noted by our Hockey boys.—That McAllister practice up on shooting. That McKenna loosen up a bit, and shake off a few more pounds of flesh. That Snyder play cleaner Hockey. That the Captain should call the game earlier. That all keep a sharper eye on the puck. That more attention be paid to combination. That all do more skating, thereby to acquire better staying powers.

Mr. Scott, Principal of the Normal School, will give the second of his series of Pedagogical lectures during the early part of the week.

Mr. G. C. Driscoll, of the University of Rochester, N.Y., brother of William Driscoll, who was one of the most brilliant, gentlemanly and popular students in the College, paid us a visit on Sunday last. He informs us that Billy has made a practice at the bar, and is climbing the ladder of prosperity with marked progress. It was with feelings akin to ecstasy that the older students of the house listened to these glad tidings, and although he has now been absent nearly seven years, there are yet many who say from their hearts "Well done, Billy."

Right Rev. Dennis O'Connor, D.D., C. S. B., of London, Ontario, spent an afternoon at the College during the week.

Rev. Francis O'Sullivan, '90, of Peterboro, who has been staying in the city the past few weeks, called at his Alma Mater and spent a few happy hours with his professors.

'98 pretty nearly own the whole flat, now.

I came very near combing a man for fair yesterday—Amzy.

There will be a meeting of the senior students on Thursday, 7 p.m., to re-organize the Dramatic Society.

The College seven had their first chance to show their ability as stick handlers last Wednesday, in an exhibition game with Knox on the brawny Caledonian's ice. The game was fast throughout, the interest at times rising to the highest pitch of intensity. Ambrose played centre in a way to satisfy the most ardent admirer. The boys overcame the awe inspired at first sight by their heavy opponents, when in five minutes after the whistle blew, Regan scored from a neat little combination play. This acted like a spur on Knox, who scored two goals in quick

succession, making the score 2—1 in their favor. This remained unchanged at half time. By this time the College representatives had accustomed themselves to breathing the Scotch oxygen, as was evinced all through the last half. It was simply a matter of clock-work combination, scoring with clock-work regularity, though at one stage Captain — did manage to shoot one through by way of chance. The final score stood 7—3 in College favor.

Everyone seemed satisfied with the game, which was entirely devoid of roughness.

Looking for more worlds to conquer, St. Michael's septet picked on the Britannias of the Lacrosse-Hockey League. This time the wearers of the light and dark blue had the advantage of home ice, although their practice was very limited. To say that they surprised their supporters, is hardly to express it. "Doc" Cassidy in his capacity as referee, blew the whistle at 4.45. Contrary to the expectation of all, our combination worked like a charm. During the first half it was all College. Wherever the disk went, there was a man ready. The forward line scored at their pleasure. They were satisfied with blanking the visitors and summing a half dozen themselves. Fast championship hockey was displayed during this half. The pace was very fast. During the interval of rest, old Sol had decided not to wait for the finish. On account of this pardonable lack of interest in such a winter sport, on resuming play it was rather dark. The fast pace of the first half and the lack of training combined with the darkness to help out the Britons. They forced the umpire to raise his hand five times. Snider made the last score for the College, leaving final score, College 7, Britannias 5.

In the game it would be almost impossible to particularize any of our boys. Miller played a wonderful game, going through his novice with flying colors.

SHOTS ON GOAL

Snider was the hardest check on the ice. Regan played in his usual form.

The shot of the day was McAllister's.

The McKenna brothers play well together. Miller with a capital M.

A pair of pads for Kernahan.

"Mac" was so completely outdone by the responsibility consequent to the important position he played in Saturday's hockey match that he was confined to his bed Sunday morning.

WYCLIFFE COLLEGE

Mr. Robert P. Wilder, of the Student Volunteer Movement for Foreign Missions, visited the College on Wednesday last and addressed the students upon the work of the movement which he represented.

The Rev. W. L. Armitage, of Peterboro, paid a flying visit to the College on Saturday afternoon of last week.

We are pleased to state that Mr. W. Simpson, who had been ill for a short time last week, has now fully recovered.

Mr. E. A. Langfeldt visited his friends in Orillia last week.

A number of the students attended the At Home given by the Lady Principal of Haverhill College on Monday evening, January 30th.

The Rev. J. A. Richardson, B.A., of Winnipeg, gave a very earnest and heart searching address to the students at the Chapel service last Friday evening.

Everybody is looking forward with pleasant anticipations to Friday evening, Feb. 3rd, the date of the Wycliffe annual "At Home." It is expected that the event this year will be larger and grander than ever. An excellent programme has been arranged for and will begin at eight o'clock sharp.

The Czar's disarmament proposal was discussed and disapproved at the twenty-eighth annual public debate of the students of Wycliffe College, Thursday evening. The event was patronized by the students and friends of the College in large numbers. The chairman for the evening was Dr. Parkin, C.M.G., who also decided the merits of the debate. The subject was:—"Resolved, that the present condition of the world's affairs warrants disarmament." Both sides maintained their argument with much ability, and each speaker showed that he possessed a calm, logical mind.

Preliminary to the debate an interesting program was rendered, in which the following took part:—Quartet, Messrs. Adams, Taylor, Covert and Kinder; vocal solos, Miss Marian Chapin; readings, Miss Temple Dixon; violin solo, Mr. W. W. Beardmore.

Mr. G. H. Wilson in opening for the affirmative spoke of moral and economic desires for disarmament. He referred to the cordial relations in Anglo-Saxon circles as a good sign of the times. Arbitration was now becoming a more and more recognized form of settling international disputes. Mr. Wilson then considered how disarmament would work to the advantage of the nations of Europe. Germany wanted industrial progress, unhampered by heavy taxes and conscription; Spain was ruined; the Russians were poor, and she secured more by diplomacy than by war, while France was burdened by the greatest national debt in the world.

Mr. R. A. Hiltz, for the negative, first threw cold water on the scheme by casting doubts upon Russia's sincerity. He gave the Czar credit for personal sincerity, but said he was the tool of his Ministers. As a matter of fact, Russia was now exerting herself feverishly in her naval yards. The speaker then enumerated numerous points at which there was at present a danger of war,

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including the Czechs and Germans, the Alsace-Lorraine question, and the Musselmans and Christians. As matters now stood, the armaments kept the nations at bay and made for peace. He would even go so far as to say that war was not an unmixed evil. In any event the nations of to-day would not arbitrate any real vital questions. As to the economic side, Mr. Hiltz remarked that wealth did not always bring happiness and virtue to the individual.

Mr. R. L. Roy, for the affirmative, went fully into the economic side of the question, saying that the present system violated all the laws of production and distribution. There were three million men in the armies of Europe, and the armament cost £180,000,000 a year. On the basis of a weekly wage of 12 shillings per week, this expenditure was employing six million men. There were thus in all about ten million men in Europe who were wholly withdrawn from all productive and remunerative labor. Of the revenues of France 27 per cent. went to the armament, in England 38 per cent., and in Germany 62 per cent. Mr. Roy contended, at length, that the present condition made for the benefit of the nation which was not heavily armed, and that nation was the United States. He regarded the great progress of that nation in the last forty years as largely due to the absence there of heavy armament and conscription.

Mr. E. L. Howe, closing the subject for the negative, said no nation was safe which does not make it clear to the powers that it could not be safely attacked. The proposed disarmament would need to be unanimous, or its success would be impossible. Disarmament, he continued, would be a deathblow to England's empire beyond the seas, which is now maintained by her navy.

After a brief reply from the leader of the affirmative, Dr. Parkin summed up the arguments in a concise and impartial manner, pointing out the desirability of and difficulties facing a disarmament proposal. He pointed out the economic question involved by throwing the millions of soldiers and naval artizans into the industrial world, which was now overcrowded, and noted the necessity of navies for the preservation of colonial empires. He concluded by awarding the debate to the negative.

The following excellent program was given at the Wycliffe public debate, Thursday evening: Quartet, "Victoria our Queen" (Barby), Messrs. Adams, Taylor, Covert, Kinder; Vocal Solo, "Could I" (Tosti), Miss Marion Chapin; Reading, "My Sunday at Home" (Kipling), Miss Temple Dixon; Violin Solo, "La Cavatina" (Bach),

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Mr. W. W. Beardmore; Vocal solo, "Si Tu Savais" (Balle), Miss Marion Chapin; Reading, selected, Miss Temple Dixon. Debate: "Resolved: That the present condition of the world's affairs warrants disarmament." Affirmative, G. H. Wilson, H. L. Roy, B.A. Negative, R. A. Hiltz, B.A., E. L. Howe. Censors, E. A. Langfeldt, A. P. C. Covert, W. Rushbrooke, G. A. Armstrong, A. S. White, W. E. Gilbert.

Friday evening's proceedings at the Dental College were enlivened by an entirely new and distinctive feature in the form of a German Band, who were engaged at heavy expense and imported direct from the Fatherland, to assist Dr. Clark in providing a program from five to six. Their appearance on the stage was so startling that the Doctor found it necessary to retire for a stimulant to restore his nervous system to its even tenor, while "The Band played on." The room rang with applause while bouquets and banknotes were showered at the feet of the blushing but grateful musicians. During a short intermission, Dr. Clark reappeared, but as this was taken for a sign to renew the program, he conceived the idea that it was his night off and retreated ignominiously. Later reports say that he is semi-conscious but suffers no pain. It is proposed to make these entertainments a regular feature during this hour. The Dean's consent has been obtained and the Faculty have guaranteed their support for the future.

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