

PLAYS AND PLAYERS. MAXWELL THE MAN.

TWO STOCK COMPANIES IN ST. JOHN THIS WEEK

No Scarcity of Amusement of Good Quality--A Word About a Stage Villain--One of Barnum's Stories--Dan Daley's Joke.

St. John theatre goers have had no pecuity of amusement this week. Both the Opera house and the York theatre have been bidding for patronage with stock companies and so far as I can judge the York seems to have had the larger audiences. As to the quality of the performances there has been little to choose between them. On Monday evening the Myrtle-Harder stock company opened the week at the York theatre with My Jim. The Dailey at the opera house, produced "Jim the Westerner." The Jim who held forth at the Carleton street house was a product of the firm and the atmosphere of the play was redolent with the hay field, barn dances, husking bees and the like. The Opera house Jim had the husky and lusty of New York, amid the hustle and bustle of the Wall street, where the last stock quotations is the gospel and the ticker's metallic messages hold men in thrall. There was an excellent opportunity for atmosphere there, too, but it was not taken advantage of as well as it might have been.

On Wednesday night the Myrtle-Harder people changed their tactics and produced *At Risk of His Life*, a melodrama which was rather a novelty in its way but which had sensationalism written all over it and abounded in thrills from curtain raise to curtain fall. I did not like this bill as well as the former. It lacks the wholesome elements of My Jim and was a rather morbid production throughout. It was one of those sort of plays, that is hardly sensational enough to be absurd but has sufficient of crime and intrigue to give one the impression that the world is a pretty bad place. True, there are good characters in the play but the villain has the centre of the stage nearly all the time. He dominates the play from start to finish and he is a particularly despicable villain. His character is a mixture of cowardice and stupidity. He lacks the astute qualities of the ordinary stage villain and if it were not for the suggestions of the adventures who, like an evil spirit, is always at his elbow the dramatist would have had a hard time to keep him out of the toils as long as he does. Now I liked the adventures, even if her character is wholly bad and her tendencies evil she has both nerve and brains and it was not her fault, that the poor villain, who is really her dupe, comes to grief. Left alone he would hardly have sense enough to come in out of the wet, but, figuratively speaking, she always puts him wise to the fact that it threatens rain.

The Daileys, on Thursday night also descended to sensational melodrama in "The King of the Opium Ring." The title tells the story of the play. It deals with the smuggling in San Francisco and Albert Perry assumed the role of the King. And he played it in a manner that suggested he had taken his inspiration from the drug that forms the basis of the ring's operations. "Dope." He has never given a poorer performance in St. John. The honors of the "dope" play fell upon Mr. Robinson, Mr. Borringer and Mr. O'Malley. These gentlemen are always good and have become prime favorites with St. John audiences.

Mr. Mullany had very little to do and the audiences mourned that as the genial Homer has proved his capabilities here and audiences like to see him in a "fat" part.

On Friday evening there was another change at York Theatre when *The Fisherman's Daughter* was produced. It was well staged and well played and a large audience was in attendance.

When it comes to comparing the merits of the two companies several things must be considered. The Myrtle Harder troupe has played together for a long time. It is a road company rather than a stock organization and like most road companies provides a programme of specialties between acts presenting what is practically a continuous performance. The Dailey company is purely a stock organization, formed to play in St. John, during the winter season. Most of its members have never played together before, and are not familiar with their repertoire. It means much work and steady rehearsal for the Dailey company to produce a new play. When the troupe makes a change of bill it simply plays a piece that while new to St. John, has been in the company's repertoire for some time. In this they have a big advantage. As to the specialty programme it is practically impossible for the Daileys, who will probably remain in St. John for some time to offer new specialties every week in addition to preparing a change of their dramatic bill. The company in the York Theatre is now in St. John and is here for a limited engagement. Besides they can carry a small number of specialty people, each doing two or three changes, and, as they play a new town every week their programme is always a novelty. In this respect also the Myrtle-Harder company have the advantage. Consequently it is to be expected they should do good business.

W. S. Harkins was in the city for a few hours on Friday. I did not see him, but I learn that he may play in St. John before the winter is over. At present he is playing in Halifax and reports good business.

theatrical manager of New

York was talking the other day at the Players' club about the late Dan Daley.

"No man," he said, "ever had a stronger, finer sense of humor than Daley. To this sense of humor his success was due. He made his parts always. His alterations and additions to the playwrights' work were what gave his parts their unique note."

But Daley sometimes allowed his sense of humor to carry him too far. Thus, at the beginning of his career, he nearly spoiled a melodrama in which he played a minor role. "In the second act of this melodrama Daley, in the role of a poacher, was supposed to be killed. A rival poacher, after shooting him, ran off, and the curtain descended on the dead man lying alone in the centre of the stage."

"This piece was playing in a small Indiana town. At the end of the second act Daley was duly shot, and the murderer duly made his escape. Something, however, went wrong with the curtain, and it did not descend."

"It came down to within seven feet or so of the stage, and there it stuck. Then hoarse whispers, and frantic orders, given in a low, hoarse voice sounded in the wings. The audience tittered."

"Suddenly the dead man rose. He rose wearily. He advanced to the footlights."

"No rest, even in the grave," he said in a sepulchral tone.

"Then with his long, thin arm he reached up and pulled the curtain down."

In the January delineator Gustav Kobbe has an extremely interesting article on the development of costume in its relation to the drama. It is strikingly illustrated from photographs of stage favorites in their most distinctive gowns. A paragraph of special interest describes the coming and passing of the "show girl."

It had been the custom of comic opera managers to distribute among the chorus six young women above the usual height and of unusual beauty. It chanced that at a dress rehearsal a few years ago one of the evolutions brought the most striking-looking girls of the chorus together into the front row. The manager's keen eye at once detected the effect--and, by the merest chance, the "show girl" had arrived. After a while it became a favorite plan to have at least one scene in which the six show girls appeared in gowns not only in the height of the fashion, but actually in advance of it. The extreme was reached about two years ago with *The Runaways*, in which the costumes were so advanced in style that they would be considered in vogue today, and in fact, still are used in the production. It seemed as if the acme of extravagance had been reached with these gowns, and, at all events, it resulted in the eclipse of the show girl. In fact, she dropped herself, and no longer is considered an essential feature of comic opera productions. Her vogue has, however, resulted in great care being bestowed upon the dressing of modern roles in comic opera."

The late P. T. Barnum was a keen student of human nature, as well as a natural humorist, and nothing which set forth human traits that were odd or amusing escaped his attention. He was very fond of telling stories of incidents that brought out features of human character--one of which, that delighted him immensely, was connected with the Sumner twins.

When he was exhibiting those oriental freaks, the press of the country made them widely known, and they became very soon one of his best drawing cards.

One day there came to see them a back-country rustic, who was perfectly absorbed in them, and inquisitive enough in regard to them to require almost a bureau of information to answer his innumerable questions. Mr. Barnum happened to be the one questioned, and he was asked their age, occupation, original home, whether they were single or married, their weight and stature, and their religious belief. Nothing, at any rate, was too trivial or irrelevant which the rustic thought of, all of which interested the showman intensely.

Finally the bucolic visitor started slowly but reluctantly to leave; but after walking away a few steps, he returned and said, with the most solemn simplicity:

"They are brothers, I presume."

with Viola Allen, appeared in the title role of the play, which endured a briefly prosperous tour of several weeks through the South, but died of public neglect when it was taken to the more staid but less romantic atmosphere of Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

DeWolf Hopper, in "Wang," is making more money with the opera this season than the piece made when it was first produced. Reference to the books of the music firm that controlled the opera in the old days show that the largest receipts during the first run of the piece in the Broadway Theatre, New York, was between \$9,000 and \$10,000. The only time that the opera played to more than \$10,000 was in Philadelphia, where it ran for two weeks just after its New York engagement. This season the average business of the company has been more than the largest week's receipts when the "Wang" was in the hey-day of its popularity.

Blanche Walsh made her last appearance in "Resurrection" on Saturday night, December 5th. Her new play, "The Kreuzer Sonata," which was produced November 28th, in Dayton, Ohio, will it is believed, be her greatest success. Miss Walsh is now playing at McVickers Theatre, Chicago, an engagement of several weeks. George Fawcett, who has been managing stock companies in Baltimore for the past four years, has the principal male role in Miss Walsh's support.

Joseph Hart and Carrie DeMar will appear in their new play "The Country Club" in January. Mr. Hart has written the book in collaboration with a well known newspaper man, and has composed most of the musical numbers. "Foxy Grandpa," in which Mr. Hart and Miss DeMar have been appearing with so much success for the past four years, has been sold together with the production of the play and all the costumes and properties.

The first play based on Thomas W. Lawson's story of "Frenzied Finance," was produced in Toledo last Monday, December 7th, by the Dearborn Amusement Company. The title is "An American Princess," and it is based on the pen of Henry Bieder. The cast includes John E. Kellard, Mary Ryan, James E. Wilson, Ada Gilman, Mabel Aylward, George E. Probert, Norval McGregor, and a dozen others.

"Cape Cod Folk," a new England pastoral, written by the Rev. John Snyder, a Congregational minister, will be produced in Boston early in the new year by William A. Brady. As the title suggests, the play deals with the "every-day" life of the picturesque inhabitants of the quaint old hamlet.

"The Pitt," in which Wilton Lackey is coining money this season, which is said to be one of the greatest financial successes on the road, this season, is the first play portraying the evils that spring from speculation, that has ever achieved a success on the American stage.

MUNDAY KNIGHT.

COLONIES AND EMPIRE.

The Question which Time and Events is Pressing Upon the Self-Governing Colonies.

A London cable of Dec. 14th says:-- "In the preferential resolution in the Federal House of Australia, Premier Reid said he foresaw the difficulty of extending their exchanges with the Motherland and at the same time protecting their own productions. British statesmen at one time taught that the welfare of the Empire laid in the extension of colonial trade, yet, in spite of the great liberty given the self-governing colonies, the feeling of loyalty was worth many armies. He did not wonder that Mr. Balfour and the Labor members were showing horror at the idea of taxing food. He must not forget that the only thing between us and invasion is the British flag. We should not, however mix such feeling with the desire of making a bargain. The question is what we are prepared to give in exchange for the British market; if nothing, we are face to face with a spectacle which doesn't command admiration." The motion authorized the government to offer preference for preference but this was impossible in the present state of politics in Great Britain. The debate was adjourned.

Young Ladies, Read This

If you are bothered with pimples, rashes or ugly blotches on your face, if your complexion is sallow, it's an evidence that you require Ferrozone. To tone up your blood. One Ferrozone Tablet taken at meals makes the complexion like peach bloom, cheeks soon become rosy, eyes bright, you'll be the picture of health. Thousands of ladies keep up their youthful appearance with Ferrozone, why not you? Price 50c. at druggists.

ROTHESAY COLLEGE.

The Rothesay College for Boys, will close for the Christmas holidays next Wednesday. The past term has been very successful, and Isaac Moore, the principal, is pleased to report, that no sickness has visited the school. There are 58 boarding students, and 20 day students attending the college at present. This makes a total of 78, the largest attendance in the record of the school. Rothesay college is well represented in sports, and will put a fine hockey team in the league this winter.

"The reason we have no sickness in our school," said Mr. Moore, "is because we feed the boys on a good healthy diet, give them lots of healthy exercise, put them to bed early, and get them to rise early. There is now a very competent teaching staff at the college, which is composed of, Isaac Moore, principal R. W. Allan, J. St. John Freeze, W. H. Patterson and Chas. M. Lawson."

MAXWELL THE MAN. Alderman for Prince Will Oppose A. O. Skinner For the Local House.

At the convention of the local opposition party in the assembly rooms of the York Theatre last night, Ald. Robert Maxwell was unanimously chosen as the standard bearer of the party in the by-election on December 30.

The only other men mentioned--L. P. D. Tilley and John E. Wilson--withdrew their names before the balloting commenced. There were about 200 present.

Speeches were made by J. D. Hazen and the candidate.

W. H. Thorne then introduced the following resolution, which was carried unanimously.

Resolved, that we strongly condemn the course of the government which after ten months inexcusable delay has brought on this election at the very end of the year and only three days before the new electoral lists come into operation, thereby disfranchising many hundreds of young men who would be entitled to cast their first vote on the second day of January next. This cannot be regarded as other than a cowardly political expedient which should be indignantly resented by the young men whose franchise has been denied them further.

Resolved, that the action of the government is deserving of censure in bringing on this election during the Christmas holiday season, when good will and no political controversy should prevail and when free and fair public discussion is impossible on account of the treatment requiring, as it does at this season, the constant attention of those engaged in the commercial activities of the community.

B. R. Emmerson followed with a resolution which he introduced with a few words and which was also carried without a dissenting voice.

Resolved, that under our system of representative responsible government, all vacancies in the representation should be filled as speedily as convenient after they take place, and any departure from this policy, especially as in the case of St. John, where nearly a year has elapsed, is contrary to the spirit and purpose of our system of government, and is deserving of strong condemnation.

J. E. Wilson followed with the next resolution as follows:

Resolved, that the action of the government in leaving St. John unrepresented in the executive of the province, where so many important interests are involved and needing careful consideration is regrettable and a cause for condemnation of the government.

The other three resolutions were introduced by W. Baskin, J. B. M. Baxter and E. R. Chapman respectively and were also carried unanimously, as follows:

Resolved, that in the opinion of this meeting, the large and continuing increase in the public debt of the province and the extravagance which characterizes the management of affairs by the present government, is a cause for serious concern, and that the principle in the imposition of new forms of direct taxation should be condemned by the people of the province and especially by the people of such taxation is in a large measure borne.

Resolved, that this meeting heartily approves of the action of the local opposition in persistently agitating in the legislature and in the election campaign for a change in the election law with such successful results that legislation was enacted at the last session which provides for a secret ballot and will allow electors to exercise their franchise without fear of coercion or intimidation and according to the dictates in their own conscience.

Resolved, that this meeting views with satisfaction the action of the local opposition in securing the adoption of the metric system of measurement and the consequent abolition of the non-resident vote but condemns in the strongest possible terms the action of the government in refusing to accept the principle in full to St. John, thus declaring in effect that the electors in two St. John constituencies are not so well qualified as those of other countries in New Brunswick to be trusted with the control of their own affairs.

After the passing of the resolutions the meeting closed with cheers for the king and the candidate.

Liberals Prepare.

The liberal ward workers met last evening and organized for the campaign. The chairman and secretaries of the various wards were chosen as follows:--

- Wollington--Francis McCafferty, chairman; Arthur Mudge, secretary.
- Prince--Denis McCarthy, chairman; Charles Knodell, secretary.
- Queens--D. J. Brown, chairman; Percy W. Thomson, secretary.
- Sydney--William Kee, chairman; Fredk. Roderick, secretary.
- Dukes--C. B. Allen, chairman; N. E. Shaw, secretary.
- Kings--Edward Lantulum, M. P. P. chairman.
- Dufferin--H. E. Codner, chairman; Francis F. Kerr, secretary.
- Victoria--Robert O'Shaughnessy, chairman; Oscar Peterson, secretary.
- Lansdowne--G. R. Craigie, chairman; John Hillis, secretary.
- Lorne--Jas. S. Gregory, chairman; W. S. Shaw, secretary.
- Stanley--H. W. Stackhouse, chairman; James Jeffrey, secretary.
- Green--J. B. Stubbs, chairman; M. F. Mooney and Frank Bolyea, district chairmen; J. F. Donohoe, secretary.
- Brooks--Auld. Brannan, chairman; W. E. Scully, district chairman; W. Haslam, secretary.

A SONG OF THE SEASON.

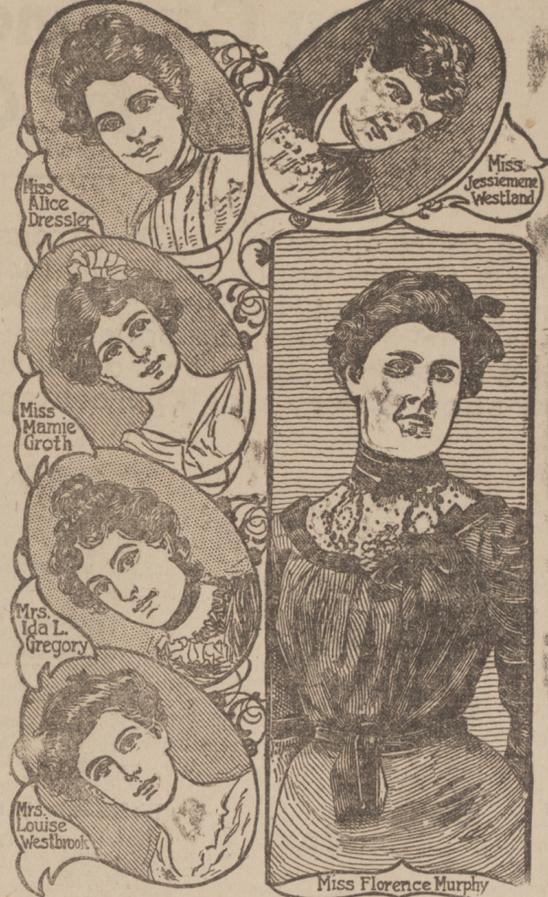
A song for the holly bough For the Yule-tide betoken now And our harvest-garland sphere. Soweth the white of the year. Brightly the berries here and there Like the embers in the urn Of the day ere it declines Behind the crest of the pines Green a glory of berries here Are the leaves of vernal sheen None of their shimmer lost Under the touch of the frost. Burnished berry and leaf In the leafless love of Him Who sitteth in heaven above The saints and the seraphim One right glory the throne of Love Centre our faith and hope-- We who yearn and grope In the love they typify. (Glisten the garland's now) Be under the Yule-tide song, Green a glory of berries here A song for the holly bough! The right of the throne of Love. Clinton Scollard.

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VERY TRYING TO WOMEN

Are the Peculiar Ills Brought on by Catarrh of the Pelvic Organs. (Pe-ru-na is a Tonic Especially Adapted to Their Peculiar Diseases.)



Catarrh is a very frequent cause of that class of diseases popularly known as female weakness. Catarrh of the pelvic organs produces such a variety of disagreeable and irritating symptoms that many people--in fact, the majority of people--have no idea that they are caused by catarrh.

A great proportion of women have some catarrhal weakness which has been called by the various doctors she has consulted by as many different names. These women have been treated and have taken medicines, with no relief, simply because the remedies are not adapted to catarrh. It is through a mistaken notion as to the real nature of the diseases that these medicines have been recommended to them.

If all the women who are suffering with any form of female weakness would write to Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio, and give him a complete description of their symptoms and the peculiarities of their troubles, he will immediately reply, with complete directions for treatment, free of charge. "Health and Beauty," a book written especially for women, sent free by Dr. Hartman, Columbus, Ohio.

Miss Alice Dressler, of No. 1313 North Bryant Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., writes as follows concerning Peruna:

"I was suffering from catarrh of the throat and head. One of my college friends, who was visiting me, asked me to try Peruna and I did so and found it all and more than I had expected. It not only cured me of the catarrh, but restored me to perfect health."--Alice Dressler.

Miss Mamie Groth, Plattville, Wis., writes: "I have for several years suffered with frequent backache and would for several days have splitting headaches. Several of my friends advised me to take Peruna and I asked my physician what he thought of it. He recommended it and so I took it and am entirely without pain of any kind now."--Mamie Groth.

In a recent letter from No. 2 Grant Ave., Denver, Col., Mrs. Ida L. Gregory writes:

"Some six years ago my husband suffered with nervous prostration, and advising with a friendly druggist he bought a bottle of Peruna. His appetite was restored from its use, his

capacities were revived, and his health came to him."--Ida L. Gregory. Miss Florence Murphy, No. 2703 Second Ave., Seattle, Wash., writes: "I suffered for over a year with female trouble, and although I tried several physicians none of them seemed to be able to help me permanently. "It only took a little over three bottles of Peruna to make me well and strong. I never have backache, headache or bearing down pains any more."--Florence Murphy.

Mrs. Louise Westbrook, No. 9 East Columbia St., Detroit, Mich., Secretary of the West Side Lotus Club, writes:

"For several years I suffered with leucorrhoea and painful menstruation, which was followed by general debility, until I was but a wreck of myself. Thanks to Peruna I am a well woman today."--Louise Westbrook.

Miss Jessie Westland, No. 757 Beaubien Ave., Detroit, Mich., District

Deputy of Detroit Independent Order of Good Templars, writes as follows:

"Peruna has been a blessing to me and gladly do I endorse it. For two years I suffered with catarrh of the stomach. I lost flesh and grew thin and emaciated, nervous and exhausted, so that I could neither work or enjoy life. I began taking Peruna and can now eat and enjoy everything I eat. I have been well over a year now."--Miss Jessie Westland.

SOME CELEBRATED NAVAL BLUNDERS.

The North Sea Outrage Not the Only Case Where Lives Have Been Lost Through Stupidity.

(Mail and Empire.) In the discussion of the Russian outrage in the North Sea, which still continues, other catastrophes of the same kind have been recalled. That which comes most readily to mind is the sinking of the Maine in Havana harbor. The mystery of the destruction of this fine ship, which carried to the bottom her 254 men, remains inscrutable. Spain has always warily reproduced any connection with this outrage and American opinion is gradually coming round to the same point of view. There can be no doubt, however, that at the time the general conviction in the United States was that the sinking of the Maine had been deliberately planned by the Spanish government. The greatest calamity which ever befell the British navy, was inflicted, strangely enough, in times of peace. This was the ramming of the Victoria, the magnificent flagship of the Mediterranean fleet, by the Camperdown. Thousands were spectators of this terrible disaster, as it occurred on a gala occasion, while the ships were manoeuvring. Three hundred and twenty lives were sacrificed in this awful blunder, the ship turning turtle and sinking ten minutes after the collision. Twenty-six years ago, in the English Channel, the Germans suffered the loss of the ironclad Groeser Kurfurst, which was rammed by the Koenig Wilhelm, as the result of naval mishandling. Not five minutes elapsed before this fine battleship disappeared beneath the waves, carrying with her 800 of her crew. Each of these disasters created a profound sensation at the time, and as regards material damage and loss of life, the misadventure with the Hull fleet is not to be compared with them. Yet, if we except the case of the Maine, neither produced such a deep effect on the mind of the public as has the case of the Hull trawlers, for the simple reason that in the Victoria disaster Englishmen were to blame, and in that of the Groeser Kurfurst Germans were the blunders. It is a different matter when a country is made to suffer for their stupidity or carelessness of a foreign power. Then it is that the national honor is touched, and the danger is too potent to be resisted. Whether it is a question on which there is difference of opinion. The outcome of the investigation must be awaited before one can pronounce on this matter too confidently. In the meantime, there can be no difference of opinion that a serious crisis was averted by a narrow margin, and that to the present consideration of the affair the British public brings a mind purged of the passion which not long ago possessed it.

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CANADIAN PEAT BEATS THE IRISH

Successful Demonstration of Its Utility in Progress at Y. M. C. A.

(Winnipeg Free Press.) A practical demonstration of the utility of Canadian peat was given through the activity of the radiator in the Y. M. C. A. yesterday afternoon. A crate of peat from the Beaverton bog was sent to the city and a fire was started in the fireplace of the reception hall. It burned beautifully and was a source of interest to a great many. When first put on the fire the peat burns with a pretty flame, and as the briquettes lose their volatile matter there remains a dense mass of glowing charcoal which will hold the fire and throw off heat for a considerable time. The main difference between the Canadian and the Irish peat is in color. The Canadian being much lighter, and analyses show that it possesses a great number of heat units. There is but little difference in component parts between the Fort Frances and Beaverton peat deposits, and it is the intention to work them both along the same lines.

"Don't give up," said Brother Williams to a despondent brother of his, "The work has left you, but you ain't all left."--Winnipeg Free Press.

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