

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Munday Knight's Weekly Letter on Theatrical Matters.

BONSTELLE'S SUCCESS.

A Slow Week in Local Play-houses--The Matinee Girl and the Theatre Hog--News of Players Who Are Well Known Here.

The past week was not a particularly lively one in theatrical circles. The only feature of note was perhaps the excellent work done by Miss Helen Ray of the Dailey company in the production of "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" at the Opera House. Miss Ray has proved herself equal to all the demands made upon her during her engagement here, but her work in Tess was a surprise even to those who had the most faith in her capabilities. She is a clever sympathetic actress and has made many friends here. The other members of the company gave good support.

At the York Theatre there was the usual vaudeville bill and it was thoroughly up to the standard. The Dailey company will close on Saturday next for a time, during which they will visit Halifax. They will, however, return before Feb. 1, with a new line of plays.

One of the brightest paragraphs who is before the public today as a writer of things dramatic is "The Matinee Girl" who holds forth in the columns of the New York Dramatic Mirror. The letter from "The Girl's" pen, which finds its way into print every week is always entertaining and though usually of a flippant style contains an underlying strata of good common sense. In this week's Mirror she has the following:

"What can be done to exterminate the theatre hog? There are many kinds of him. The most common is the hog that insists on climbing over people after every act and wiping his feet on all the chiffon and lace laps in the row. But there are others. The hog of both sexes, for example, who talks incessantly through every act. We all break out in occasional exclamations, or interchanges of view, once a moon, but these porkers who come to the theatre for an over the back fence gossip, postpone since morning, ought to be suppressed. The most exasperating of the swine species that infests the theatre is the one who wants to walk over you while you are putting on your wraps, and perhaps, your rubbers, with all the colority with which God has gifted you. I have been looked at by these suddenly in a mad hurry creatures in a way that would have ended my career if I hadn't had the supreme satisfaction of looking back at them in the same way. It saved my life and added to the sum of my human enjoyment. Usually this particular kind travels in pairs, and behind the male who looms above you and waits with awful solemnity in the female, obscured by his broad back, but who can be heard saying:

"Do hurry John. You know we will be late."

"And as you struggle into the heel of your last rubber, and rise red faced and defiant, you say to yourself: 'Why in the region named only in pulpits and at rehearsal don't these creatures buy aisle seats?'"

I am heartily in accord with the Matinee Girl. If she can succeed in exterminating the theatre hog dry will have the gratitude of all right thinking people on both sides of the footlights.

E. S. Willard will open in New York city at the Knickerbocker Theatre, Jan. 23. The play is "Lucky Durham," written by the late Wilson Barrett.

Blanche Walsh is to play her annual engagement in New York in the Herald Square Theatre, beginning Jan. 30. She has a new play by Clyde Fitch, entitled "The Woman in the Case," dealing with New York society.

Madame Melba, who is suffering with bronchitis, is recovering. She is much fatigued as a result of her concert tour. She hoped to be well enough by the end of this week to fulfil the balance of her engagement at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York.

Mrs. James Brown Potter received an exquisite brooch of pearls with the royal crown in red enamel from King Edward and Queen Alexandra, who were present at the Savoy Theatre on Dec. 17, to witness her performance as Columbine in I Pagliacci. The gift was accompanied by a letter saying that their majesties were charmed with Mrs. Potter's acting in A Man's Shadow, at Windsor, a few weeks ago.

During the recent visit of Blanche Bates to Salt Lake City the Belasco star was the guest of honor at several functions planned by Salt Lake society. Mrs. J. R. Walker gave a luncheon Tuesday noon for Miss Bates and Brigadier-General Baldwin, and on Wednesday, following the matinee, an early dinner was given by Mrs. Samuel Newhouse. Miss Bates is an old Salt Lake favorite, having played her first season there with the Frawley company in 1895.

James Sarsfield McCarrey, a resident of Montreal, who has made a close study of the "habitant" dialect made his debut in his native city on Dec. 12, before a large and select audience, giving a programme that included several of the best known poems of Dr. William Henry Drummond, who has written so charmingly of the Canadian habitant.

JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME.

BY JAY BEE.

If you do not let people know how much you know, they will not know how little you know.

Graft, formerly a method or science of improving the fruit of trees; but more recently the art of despoiling the fruit of the labors of others.

Happiness is his who earnestly seeks it.

A Scotchman may be known as "Sandy," but all red-haired men are known as such.

A "flighty" pair of stairs may be reliable, but the same cannot be said of that kind of a man.

One does not have to knock at the door of Misery many times in order to be admitted.

Grief, at Christmas time, is grief greatly intensified.

Advice, is like unto castor oil, only in-so-far as it is so much easier to give than to take, at least that is my boyhood recollection of it.

If any one knows of a more disagreeable disposition in people, than sulksiness, I would like to hear the name of it.

The person who wrote, "I'm saddest when I sing," would probably have been sadder, had he foreseen the effect on the various audience since it was first sung.

Superstition will be prevalent so long as the cent is exacted when presenting a knife as a gift to a friend.

Denominationalism is that part of

MORNING NEWS IN BRIEF.

Local.

Shortly after the firemen had returned home from the Sewell street fire yesterday afternoon they were called out for a chimney fire on Erin street. Their services, however, were not required as the blaze was easily extinguished.

Owing to a typographical error in last night's paper the insurance on M. V. Paddock's house and furniture read \$15,500. It should have been \$3,500.

The inquiry into the death of Fred Galbraith was resumed in the city hall, Carleton, last night before Coroner D. E. Barryman. Dr. F. L. Kenny, James R. Gilliland, Wm. S. Hammond and Ernest Whelpley, gave evidence. The inquiry was adjourned until next Tuesday evening at 7.30 o'clock.

The shipping of game from Quebec to the United States, continues. It is reported that Officer Grady of the special service branch of the dominion customs, recently seized four barrels of partridges, which were being exported to the United States.

A. W. Bartlett, of Charlottetown, is in the city, and will leave tomorrow morning by steamer Ionian for England. Mr. Bartlett is the representative of an English firm, and his trip is in connection with his business. He expects to be absent about five weeks.

Victoria Section, J. T. of H. & T. had a successful meeting last evening. The birthday reception in celebration of the anniversary of the section was fixed for Friday, January 13. It was also decided to start a paper to record matters of interest within the society and it will be called The Section Times.

Among the bequests made by the late Mrs. Eleanor Hamilton, who died in Sackville, was one to the superannuated fund of the Methodist church and a second to the Woman's Missionary Society. The executor of her will was her son, Rev. C. W. Hamilton, of this city. Both the bequests have been paid.

Rev. P. J. Stackhouse, on behalf of the members of the Tabernacle church, has presented to Miss Maggie Wilson a purse containing \$25, as an expression of appreciation of her services as church organist.

Provincial.

The Globe shoe store in Calais was totally destroyed by fire last night.

The Bank of Nova Scotia has decided to increase its capital stock \$500,000, making a total capital of \$2,500,000.

During the year just closing, 48,873 tons of sugar were landed at Halifax an increase of 3,377 tons over 1903, mainly from the British West Indies.

The minister of marine at Ottawa, yesterday made contracts with the Marconi company for the establishment of two new wireless stations, one to be located at Whittle Rocks, on the coast of Labrador, and the other at Point Rich (Nfld.)

It is said that the probable cost of the majority campaign at Toronto will reach \$32,220.

Twenty passengers were injured yesterday afternoon in a wreck on the Central Vermont railway, near Granby, Que. Ten minutes after leaving Granby, one of the trucks on the rear passenger coach broke. This overturned the car which was dragged almost 100 yards.

An entertainment under the auspices of the Seamen's Mission was held last evening in the school room of the congregational church. R. M. Smith occupied the chair. The following programme was carried out: Piano solo, Miss McGaffigan, solo, Mr. Ross; reading, Miss De Cue; banjo solo, Miss Carré Ballie; solos by Messrs. Geo. Miller, H. Bunting, A. Dwyer, H. Dunbar and Jack Metcalf and a cornet solo by P. M. Atcock, all of whom are from the Ionian; bag pipe selection; Roy Willet; mandolin solo, Miss Bessie McGaffigan; reading Mr. Crowsby; club swinging, Miss Irvine, solo Mrs. H. Cole, reading Mr.

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religion which makes it possible for man to worship God in the most congenial manner.

Bigotry consists of the ability to detect all the good points of one's church to the exclusion of all others.

There is evidently a slight "Rhea" of hope for St. John yet.

The ideal fountain pen would naturally be the "Inkerman."

The late election in Nova Scotia is like unto a new broom, because it made a clean sweep.

There would be no hen-pecked husbands if the men were as "manly" as their wives.

Tax bills appear larger to the man who is taxed than they do to the other fellow.

Spendall--Aunt, dear, can you let me have some money? I am very hard up.

Aunt--We aunts never borrow, we aunts never lend. Go to your "uncle."

Spendall--I have just been there. He had my overcoat.

Only a piece of metal, Known by the name of gold; Some others are who get it; While others, get it "cold."

You should not expect a man to respect your opinion, whose opinion you do not respect.

Idleness is that quality in a man which is antagonistic to the order given in the garden of Eden respecting the "Sweat of the Brow."

General.

At Rome yesterday the Pope received in private audience Baroness Earncliffe, widow of the late Sir John Macdonald.

The British steamer Dalmally, Captain Ward, which arrived at Liverpool yesterday from Port Arthur, Texas, and Newport News, landed the crew of the British schooner Utility, (Captain King, from Dalhousie (N. B.)), Nov. 17, for Barbados, which was abandoned in December.

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No. 10--Express for Halifax and Sydney 17.10

No. 18--Express for Quebec and Montreal 18.00

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No. 10--Express from Halifax, Pictou, Pt. du Chene and Campbellton 18.40

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- 764B Sharp J. A., residence, Duke west St. John.
- 362 Thistle curling rink, Golding.
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