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WANTS TO BE AN ACTOR. SOME EXPERIENCES OF OWEN T. CARROLL WITH AMATEURS,

2

16 Pages.

Who Seek His Advice Preparatory to Embarking on Their Theatrical Voyage-He Gives It to Them Plainly, With Some News.

To whatever cause it may be due, quite a theatrical spirit is apparent amongst us. Our people have heretofore given a few, not many, disciples to the stage; but, from appearances, it will not be long before the list is supplemented by many more. Within a short time we have had a society lady leaving her home for the purpose of wooing the fickle goddess who reigns supreme behind the footlights; two or three amateurs, with more courage than discretion, have not feared to invite comparisons between their histrionic abilities and that of even stars; and now I daily hear of others who are actually considering the advisability of adopting the stage for a living.

Two of these honored me with a call last week, and intimated that I had some influence which could be used in their behalf to obtain for them engagements with some good standing New York stock theatre. Their ideas of my importance were, no doubt, flattering, even if they were slightly astray. One of these embryo histrions was a lady, tall and thin as a whipping-post, with angular jaw bones, and wearing the skittish expression of somewhat-passedtwenty-you-know. I had never seen the person before, but she introduced herself and was soon hard at work explaining the object of her visit. I listened to her in a most grave and becoming manner, but I must confess that when she confidentially informed me that of all known characters she preferred Juliet; yet, as Mary Anderson and several other successful lights had made their respective debuts as Julia, in The Hunchback, she supposed she'd have to do the same, I could not repress the rude smile that stole over my dignified and otherwise placid countenance. Great Jupiter ! here was a woman that, in the ordinary course of affairs, ought to be nurs- him \$150 per week, but he wanted more, ing her grand-children, with a face like a | and he got it. salamander, a figure like a ship's mainmast and a voice like an old cracked bell, proclaiming her ability to do the balcony scene as Capulet's beautiful daughter, or speak the tender notes of passion Sheridan Knowles put into the mouth of his charming heroine. I talked to her about Brown-Sequard's elixer of life, Ponce de Leon's search for the fountain of perpetual youth, and a dozen like subjects, but she was too obtuse to take a hint. As a last resort, I advised her to write to A. M. Palmer or J. M. Hill, and if either or both of these gentlemen receive a characteristic letter from this part of the world, I trust they will pardon me on the ground that charity begins at home, and my regard for myself is even greater than my admiration for them. The other visitor belonged to the sterner sex. He had a voice that sounded like a stag boat whistle and hadn't been with me more than two minutes before he launched out, for my edification, into Richard's Solilloquy. The misshapen Duke of Gloucester was what he wanted to do-to star in if you please. Oh, yes, he had seen Keen in the part and be knew just where Keen was www.g; lacked force, voice, and tragic style. He left me with a promise to call again, but inasmuch as that I made bold enough to hint to him that it might be possible, he did not always fully comprehend Shakspere's lines, I do not think he willat least I trust that he will not No; our city contains as much ability, energy, and push to the square inch as any on the Globe; it has adorned with bright geniuses all the other learned professions and there is no reason why it should not give to this one some first class material. I know amateurs whose presence would be an addition to any ordinary regular company, but unfortunately-or fortunatelythey are better situated and have no aspirations in that direction. And I have seen and heard other amateurs who, "not to speak it profanely, that, neither having the ascent of christians, nor the gait of christians, pagan, nor man have strutted and bellowed, that I have thought some of nature's journeymen had made men, and not made them well"; and these, for sooth, have an ardent desire to tread the mimic boards. True, they are not always so much to blame as the injudicious friends who fill their simple noddles with false notions, and swell their bumps of self-esteem with undeserved praise. The requirements for successful acting are many. Some must be the priceless birth-gift of nature; years of patient toil, study and hardship will supply the balance. If any one imagines for one

and such is the story the great majority of successful stars will tell you-then do not attempt it, for if you do you will entangle yourself in a manner from which it will be almost impossible to extricate yourself, for there is much truth in the old saying, 'once you rub your back against the scenery you can never take it away."

. . .

In turning over, the other day, some old theatrical souvenirs, I unearthed a small but excellent engraving, in steel, of Sir Joshua Reynold's famous picture of Mrs. Siddons as The Tragic Muse. It at once reminded me of the excellent anecdote connected with the painting of the original. The picture being finished, the artist wrought his name on the border of Mrs. Siddons' robe. The actress, conceiving it to be a piece of classic embroidery, went near to examine, and, seeing the words, smiled. Sir Joshua bowed and said, "I could not lose this opportunity of sending my name to posterity on the hem of your garment." Besides being an exquisite compliment to the greatness of the lady, it was a happy union of the twin arts-the poetry of action and the action of poetry.

Cn August 29th, after a few days illness, George Fawcett Rowe died at the Glen-George Fawcett Rowe died at the Glen-ham Hotel, New York. He was 60 years MOUNT of age, and arrived from England only three weeks ago to make preparation for his coming season, which was to open at Toronto on the 16th inst. Among the JAMES R. INCH, LL.D., - - - President. company he had engaged were several people well known in this city. Mr. Rowe made his reputation, as an actor, in the character of Wilkins Micawber, which was the best rendition of the part ever done on the stage. He was also quite successful as a dramatist, having written The Genera Cross and adapted several other pieces.

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. . . A. P. Burbank goes with The Sweet Lavender Co. Our little friend Sterner says he is not going with Charles Bowser. George Fawcett has signed to do leading work with Salvini; it was a question of salary, before he left here they had offered



OWEN T. CARROLL.

RELIGIOUS RIVALRY.

An Amusing Incident Connected With Father Connolly's Residence.

Rev. Father Connolly's residence in Lower Cove already gives promise of being a fine structure-a credit to the people who are building it and to the city. The same building has had two contractors and the story of the change from one to the other is quite amusing, and is a good illustration of the rivalry yet existing between persons opposed in religion.

The first contractors, the Messrs. Mc-Arthur, had just finished a house for Ald. John Connors of the North end, and that gentleman was so well satisfied with their work that at his suggestion they tendered for the residence of Father Connolly, and by a queer and unexplainable stroke of luck they obtained the contract. The contractors belonging to Father Connolly's church were astonished at the result, and perhaps a trifle indignant. At any rate remonstrances poured in on that worthy gentleman. Some of them of so urgent a character that in despair he told the contractors one day that he wished he had never seen their faces, as they had brought him the ill will of every parishioner. Soon after that the contractors gave up the contract. The amusing part of the affair was the mixture of names, which, it is claimed, misled Father Connolly. McArthur and Mc-Car hy are wonderfully alike, and it is said -though PROGRESS will not vouch for the truth of the the statement, that the reverend gentleman was as much astonished as any one when he found he had given the contract to a firm, the members of which, if they are not Orangemen, are decidedly in sympathy with that order.

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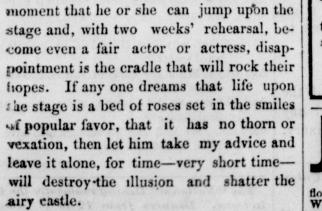
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