

JOKERS AT LANERGAN'S.

PRICE WEBBER CONTINUES HIS TALKS ABOUT OLD DAYS.

Popular Plays at the Old Lyceum and Who Took Part in Them—The Irresponsible Property Man has his little joke with a Furious Actor.

I said in my last article I would refer to the dramas written by Mr. J. B. Buckstone, some of which have always had a strong hold on the patrons of the theatre, and two of which—the Flowers of the Forest and the Green Bushes—are still favorites.

It should be understood that Mr. Buckstone wrote principally for the Haymarket Theatre, London, and suited the pieces to the capacities and peculiarities of the stock company occupying that noted house; consequently it is very hard for an ordinary troupe to be able to give a perfect performance.

The first "Cynthia" I remember at the Lyceum was Miss Lucille Western, then in the zenith of her powers, and she certainly was a most fascinating woman.

Miss Western's appearance as the Queen of the Gypsies was magnificent, and undoubtedly helped her a great deal. Mr. Whalley was a great favorite in St. John, and at that time was the leading man at the Bowers Theatre, New York, and was Mr. Lanergan's principal actor for several seasons.

In connection with this piece, I recollect a rather amusing incident, when my company were playing it, a few years ago. The actor who was doing "shmael," the leading male character forgot to have the dagger which he gives "Cynthia" in the last act, and which she stabs herself with. It is very essential, and cannot be done without.

"Cynthia, you see this knife—placing his hand to draw it from his belt, when to his horror he found it was not there. He backed up the stage to the upper entrance and called to the property-man. "Harvey, give me a knife, for goodness sake!"

The property-man, John Harvey, dearly loved a joke, and he placed in the actor's hand what the latter supposed was the necessary article, and so he went on with the speech: "Let your eye rest upon the point, and you will see a spot of rust. He had got this far, producing what he supposed was the knife, when, to his utter astonishment, he found it was a massive barn door hinge, and instead of saying the rest of his lines, he made a rush for Harvey, shouting: "I'll kill that fellow, sure!"

The Green Bushes; or a Hundred Years Ago, was placed on the boards of the Lyceum during the same engagement of Miss Western, and interpreted as follows: C. Annor O'Kennedy, W. H. Whalley, George O'Kennedy, J. Taylor, Wild Murrain, J. J. Wallace, Master O'Connell, M. W. Frost, Jack Goring, W. F. Cutler, Capt. Daulton, George Becks, Little Boat, H. B. Lamper, Paddy Kelly, J. S. DeBour, Miss, Lucille Western, Geraldine, Annie Hyatt, Nellie O'Sullivan, Susan Flood, Tig rail, Susan Flood.

The Green Bushes is different from the Flowers of the Forest, having a great many difficult mechanical effects, notably the boat set in the first act and the raft floating on the Mississippi river in the second. I met the stage carpenter of Mr. Lanergan's theatre while playing in Amherst, last week, Mr. Fred Dorman, now employed in the new St. John Opera house, and we were speaking of how Mr. Lanergan never spared expense in having his stage set correctly, and the Green Bushes naturally came in as a case in point.

Many of the old theatre-goers will recall with pleasure the laughable comedy of the Serious Family, but, perhaps, are not aware that it was written by Mr. Buckstone. It abounds in pure fun,—bright, crisp and sparkling. What a packed house it always drew at the Lyceum, and what a fine "Capt. Murphy Maguire" Mr. Lanergan was. The last time I saw it played under his management, it had the following cast: Charles Torrens, N. T. Davenport, Aminadab Sleek, J. B. Fuller, Capt. Murphy Maguire, W. Lanergan, Frank Vincent, W. H. Danvers, Lady Sawyer Creamly, Louisa Morse, Mrs. Ormaly Delamare, Mrs. Lanergan, Mrs. Torrens, Mary Sherlock, Emma Torrens, Madeleine Hardy.

CANADA! A Monthly Magazine for Canadians at Home and Abroad. SECOND YEAR OF PUBLICATION. CONTENTS OF JANUARY NUMBER. Early Canadian History. By J. M. LeMoine, F. R. S. C. A very interesting communication, containing two letters translated from the French, never before published, throwing light on events culminating in the Siege of Quebec.

NEWS NOTES FROM THE HUB. What a New Brunswicker Sees and Hears in Boston. BOSTON, Dec. 16.—Business is in a quiescent state. The failure of the Maverick bank made bad work among business men. Its effects will be seriously felt for some time to come. Money is scarce and speculators are shy. A visit to the new stock exchange is interesting and one unaccustomed to the mode of doing business in such a place is simply bewildered and amazed to know how it is done.

clever device on the part of Editor Stewart to boom his circulation? If you did but love me, sweet, I'd lay the World at your little feet. Gentlemen of the jury, have you agreed upon your verdict? We have. Then what do you find? We find him not guilty, with a strong recommendation to mercy. BILDAD.

Still in Its Infancy. On Monday morning the Halifax Creamery Co. made us a present of four glass jars of milk, each holding one imperial quart of a splendid quality of the lactical fluid. The staff of The Critic took kindly to the contents of the jars, and only one was left to set for cream.—Halifax Critic, Vol. viii., No. 50.

No, We are Working for Love. St. John Progress came to us last week as a twenty page paper, which we presume may be taken as a sign of prosperity.—Halifax Critic.

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