

TALK OF THE THEATRE.

Among the Boston Playhouses. When, at the beginning of his too short season, Mr. E. S. Willard announced he would appear as Hamlet, a thrill of pleasurable anticipation permeated the theatrical world of Boston, and the general feeling seemed to be that while we would not see a great Hamlet we would have a portrayal of one that would stand well in the front rank.

Your correspondent did not see the performance till late in the week when the play was running smoothly and there would be no excuse for any poor work or inattention to detail, and still he must confess the performance as a whole was disappointing. To speak of the setting and the minor characters first. The stage setting was all that could be desired, and in his arrangement of the scenes Mr. Willard succeeded in almost eliminating the objectionable front scene, the only cases in which this was used being during the appearances of the Ghost in the beginning of the play, all of the rest of the scenes being produced on a full stage.

The sea was ever present, dashing up at the foot of the cliff when Hamlet and his father's spirit hold their interview, creeping slowly in below the melancholy old graveyard where lovely Ophelia was laid to rest, and indeed dominating the entire representation. Every attention was paid to minor detail; there were courtiers and attendants, soldiers and waiting men and maids, and the King and Queen were regally attired and royally attended.

Of the characters a few words will do. They were as a rule poor, and this can be easily accounted for, for actors nowadays who are accustomed to playing in modern comedies cannot be expected to cope with the difficulties of blank verse. The Ophelia of Miss Burroughs was a good performance, her mad scene having been played in a manner that showed she had studied the part conscientiously, and her rendition placed her among the good Ophelias of the stage.

Mr. Willard as Hamlet, was of course the central figure and on him all thoughts centered and all attention was riveted. His rendition of the Moody Prince was on the whole disappointing, in no one place did he rise to greatness, and unconsciously I compared his performance to those of Davenport, Booth and Fechter, below the standard of any one of whom he felt considerably. The scene with his mother in her closet was his strongest and here he showed abilities of no mean order, in the great soliloquies he was tame, the one so well known, "To be or not to be," falling flat, in the scenes with the Ghost he was not satisfactory, the great scene on the platform giving me the impression that he was not sure of his ground. The entire rendition to me was monotonous and as I said before comparisons were continually rising in my mind.

Of course I am free to say that all criticism is to a certain extent unfair, for the part is one that requires a vast amount of study and a great number of representations before a man begins to grasp the part properly, and I feel assured that with practice Mr. Willard will give to the public a Hamlet that will be a very acceptable one although to my mind he will never attain the height occupied by that greatest of Hamlets who has so recently crossed into that "country from whose bourne no traveller e'er returns."

At the Tremont Theatre we have had Shakespeare this week too, and Mr. Robson has delighted his audiences with his droll performance of Dromio in the "Comedy of Errors" ably supported by Mr. Giles Shive as his twin.

The Columbia Theatre has been the scene of Pauline Hall's first appearance before a regular season's audience, her former appearance here having been in the summer. Her new opera, The Honey-mooners, has made a hit if large houses are an index.

The Park, Boston, and Museum are still running the same bills but Prince Protem will come to an end next week at the Museum and will be followed by the French pantomime L'Enfant Prodigue now running in New York.

At the Globe De Wolf Hopper has made merry the last two weeks with Panjandrum and he will be followed next week by Madame Taviary and her company in the standard operas including the new one I Pagliacci and Mascagnis Cavallena Rusticano.

When the Kaiser is at Sea. It is said that the German Emperor, when on a pleasure trip in his yacht, lays aside the dignity of the war lord and goes in for having a good time with all the zest of a boy. He treats his associates as equals and takes a personal interest in all the members of his crew. The other day, as a visitor happened to overhear, he passed a sailor scrubbing the deck, and said to him—

"Well, my son," (his common form of address to members of the crew), "what are you doing there?" The man replied that he was cleaning. "How many hours service did you have yesterday?" asked the Kaiser.

"From noon till four in the morning," replied the sailor. "Well, my son, you had better go and lie down," said the Kaiser. "The deck will get dirty again, in any case." On the way to Cowes not long back the yacht stopped off a wild spot of shore where there were many seagulls, and the Emperor and several friends rowed ashore. The Kaiser took off shoes, stockings, rolled up the imperial trousers, and paddled about in the water in apparent great delight. He skipped flat stones over the water until there was quite a panic among the hovering seagulls. The Kaiser always tastes the food of the men at dinner, and if beans are served to them he always has a plate reserved for himself, as he is very fond of them. On Sundays he has divine service with the crew, when he reads the Bible and prays with them, afterwards giving a short sermon from a book that he possesses for the purpose.

FURNITURE SALE TRICKS. The Methods of a Runner up in English Auction Rooms.

It's a smart trade, and a man has to know the ropes pretty well to make anything of it; but, you see, as I have been in the furniture line all my life, I'm now a fair hand at the game. Of course, some of the games are genuine enough, and the name of the auctioneer is often sufficient guarantee that the thing is bond-fide; but, for all that, there a host of bogus auctions held every season, and it's been my lot to be mixed up with 'em all my life. The methods employed are very simple, and luck all depends upon whether or not you can hit on a soft-headed customer. Whenever a gent or a lady enters the room, one of us gets alongside them and asks if we can buy any article "on commission," and, as there are a lot of people who don't care about bidding openly before the others, oftener than not we are employed.

Of course they usually fix a price to which we may go, and it is part of our duty in the preliminary conversation with the customer to make this price as high as possible. Directly I start bidding for the chair, or sideboard, or sofa, or whatever it is, the "runnersup" scattered about the room join in cheerily, and the price rapidly goes up by leaps and bounds. Perhaps I have been instructed to go to £6, and when the bidding has reached five guineas, I turn to my customer and say: "You see what a bargain it is. They all want it. May I go to £7 to get it? You can see for yourself it is well worth £10."

More often than not, excited by the competition and deceived by the eager efforts of the other buyers, the customer consents, the price goes higher, when as it reaches £6 10s. by an arranged signal, say, a loud cough or pretending to use my pocket-handkerchief, I intimate that only one more bid is to be made.

"Six fifteen!" calls one.

"Seven pounds!" I respond.

"Seven pounds! Going for seven pounds! No advance on seven pounds? asks the auctioneer; down goes the hammer, and the article is sold. My customer pays the money, and goes off priding herself upon having half-a-dozen other envious bidders, who in reality all "runnersup" like myself.

Years ago, before we came to get tried through being too daring, five of us used to work together, taking it in turns to be auctioneer, and nice little sums we netted till our game was stopped. Once or twice members of the gang got acquainted with young fellows who had saved a bit and were about to get married, and got commissions to pick up bargains in the furniture line for them, and a choice lot of worthless stuff we worked off then, I can tell you.

One man I used to be with had a favorite trick which I have seen played quite a couple of score of times. Somewhere or other he had picked up a really valuable oak chair, and one or two other pieces of first-class old English furniture. When about to hold a sale he invariably had an "inspection day" previous to the auction, and which seldom passed without someone taking a fancy to one or another of these articles. Yet, strange to say, though they were invariably disposed of at one auction, they regularly came to life again at the next.

How was it done? I'll tell you. Round the Old Street district there are dozens of small furniture makers who can turn out anything, provided you give them a pattern; and these men the possessor of the old chair used to employ to make exact copies of his treasures, which sham antiquities were kept at his house to get faded and moth-eaten until wanted for a sale.

Sometimes a disappointed purchaser would return to protest that the article he had bought at the auction was not the one he had inspected the day previous, and then the right of indignation of the auctioneer himself was a treat to behold. Nemesis, however, at last overtook this wicked piece of furniture. After having been sold some forty odd times, it was smashed to atoms one inspection day, when as we were carrying a heavy table, the leg came off, the whole lot toppling over and ruining the deceitful "Windsor,"—Tid Bits.

Cleaning Greasy Cotton-waste.

What becomes of the greasy cotton rags which engine-drivers, firemen, and cleaners invariably carry in their hands when working on a locomotive? This is a query which probably nine readers out of ten would fail to answer correctly, the general tendency being to say it is thrown away. This however is by no means the case. Sodden with grease, and black with continuous rubbing of various parts of the engine and being used as a "swab" generally, these rags—originally the waste of cotton mills—are still considered to be of some value, and people even gain a livelihood by cleaning it. Machinery is employed in cleaning. After being torn apart between rollers having spikes in them the waste is placed in a large bath of benzoline and whirled about until the grease has all been extracted, then after various processes of rolling, boiling and wringing, the waste is dried and rolled into bales. It is now ready to be again brought into service by the railway men, to return after many days saturated with grease, having once more done its duty. The wonder is that it pays to employ labour and machinery in cleaning a material the first cost of which is very little. The fact of the matter is, the grease and fat which are extracted return a handsome profit, being used in the manufacture of soap, candles and other articles in general use.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

ORONOTO.

Oct. 23.—This week seems to have been one of weddings, something quite unusual in our little village. On Monday morning Mr. Thos. McElroy had the altar Miss Winifred McNamara, only daughter of Patrick McNamara Esq. The ceremony was performed by Rev. P. Farrell, in the Roman Catholic Church. Miss Mina Brennan attended the bride; Mr. T. J. McCafferty supported the groom. The bride looked lovely in a suit of grey granite cloth with hat to match, Miss Brennan was also attired in grey of lighter shade. After the ceremony the bridal party drove to the wharf and took the steamer for St. John. About one hundred residents were there and showered them with rice and all good wishes.

On Wednesday morning, 25th inst, the residence of Mrs. M. A. Miles was the scene of another interesting event, where about thirty of the immediate relatives of the bride and groom assembled to witness the marriage of Miss Ida A. Miles to Mr. Wm. A. Gibson, of Marysville, York Co. The ceremony was performed at nine o'clock a. m., by the Rev. Geo. Payson, of Fredericton, assisted by Rev. A. C. Dennis. Miss May Whelpley, of Fredericton, acted as bridesmaid and Mr. Arthur M. Gibson, did the honors for the groom. The bride looked charming in a dress of light blue shot silk, with cream chiffon trimming and carried an elegant bouquet of cream roses. The bridesmaid looked equally lovely in a light grey crepon and white elegant trimming and carried a bouquet of pink roses. After the ceremony the guests repaired to the dining room where an elegant breakfast was served, immediately after which the bride attired in a travelling dress of Scotch cheviot, trimmed with brown broad and hat to match, prepared, and after receiving congratulations and good wishes, the bridal party drove to Waasie and took the 11 o'clock train for St. John, whence they will proceed to Boston, Somerville, etc. The large number of handsome and useful presents attested to the popularity of the young and happy pair. The gifts included: a diamond brooch and earrings, diamond settings, and to the bridesmaid an opal ring. The following is an incomplete list of the bride, handsome bedroom set; Mr. L. McLean, uncle of bride, check; Mr. and Mrs. John Gibson, groom's parents, silver salt and spoons; Mr. A. M. Gibson, silver escalone dish; Master Fred Gibson, plush easy chair; Mr. and Mrs. Arch McDermid, Calais, solid silver salt and spoons; Mrs. John McDermid, Boston, silver fruit spoon; Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, Fredericton, two easy chairs; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Loper, Fredericton, pair of Japanese trays; The Misses McAdam, Fredericton, handsome fan; Mr. F. Sherman, Fredericton, wedgewood water pitcher; Mr. and Mrs. Merritt, Fredericton, silver bonnet case; Miss Jane Robinson, Marysville, silver soup ladle; Mr. G. T. Whelpley, elegant silver salver; Miss Whelpley, Mexican pillow shams; Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Whelpley, solid bowl; Miss Morrison, handsome hall lamp; Miss Leelan, hand painted toilet bottles; Miss L. Bent, Bible; Mr. Jas. Bliss, breakfast castor; Mr. and Mrs. R. Brennan, toilet set; Mr. A. J. Miles, walnut table; Mr. and Mrs. I. Miles, Japanese tray; Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Miles, Mrs. Brennan's, silver salt and spoons; Mrs. Geo. Chas. Whelpley, silver salt and spoons; Mrs. Payson and Miss Jennie fancy table; Miss Bessie Clowes, chair; Miss Boone, coffee spoons; Mr. R. Miles, sofa pillow; Mrs. Geo. Chas. Whelpley, silver salt and spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Stecker, silver ink stand and box for photos; Misses Kathleen and Dorothy Stocker, silver pin and handkercher; Rev. A. C. Dennis, silver salt and spoons; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burpee, table linen; Mr. and Mrs. Jas. S. White, elegant parlour lamp; Mrs. J. F. Robinson, silver salt and spoons; Mrs. Spence and the Misses McLean, St. John, china tea set; Mrs. Dunphy, teaspoons; Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Duddy, half dozen coffee spoons; Mrs. Nason, pair cake plates; Miss Maggie Rull-edge, silk handkerchiefs; Mr. George A. Treadwell, silver toast-rack; Mr. Thayer McMonaco, pickle dish; Mrs. S. S. McDonald, war pitcher; Mrs. C. Gilmore, Boston, vase; Mrs. R. D. and Miss Wilmet, cream pitcher and sugar bowl in silver stand; Mr. Arthur St. John, silver pin and handkercher; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. McLean, St. John, silver tea service; Mr. F. Lord, St. John, picture; Mr. John Miles, Gibson, check.

ELGIN, A. C.

Oct. 26.—Mrs. H. Webster and Master Willie, returned from Havelock on Saturday.

Mrs. J. D. Steeves entertained some of her lady friends to a duck supper on Thursday evening, including Mrs. and Miss W. F. Robinson, Mrs. Ramsay, Mrs. Milton, Mrs. King, Mrs. Kane (Hall-fax), Miss Marr (Moncton), Miss Coates and Miss Cribb.

Mr. A. C. Keith, representing S. Hayward & Co., was in town on Saturday.

Mr. T. R. Constantine and two children are visiting Mrs. Barnes at Truro.

Mrs. R. McCready and Miss Violet, are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. Beck.

Miss Coates and Miss Cribb spent Sunday with Mrs. R. H. Goggin.

Mr. H. P. Steeves, School Inspector, was in town on Saturday.

Mrs. W. P. Robinson entertained a few friends on Wednesday evening.

Mr. Marr and Miss Marr, who have been Mrs. King's guests, returned to their home in Moncton on Saturday.

Mr. Charles Goggin returned from P. nobisquis on Saturday.

Rev. D. H. Lodge and Rev. A. C. Thompson, are the guests of Rev. E. Ramsay on Monday.

Mr. H. H. Leakey and Mr. C. Robinson returned on Thursday from Moncton, he is the guest of Mr. L. Bleakney, at "Pine Grove Farm."

Mr. N. W. Coates was in town on Monday.

On Sunday evening Rev. H. H. Saunders, pastor of the baptist church, preached a temperance sermon to a large congregation. The sermon was much appreciated and much needed.

The methodists held a missionary meeting on Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Bradshaw, Hampton, Mrs. S. C. Perry and Mrs. W. W. Kilham, arrived Tuesday evening on the excursion train.

Mr. Robinson, of Toronto, arrived on Wednesday's train.

Miss Birdie Killam, of Havelock, was here, the guest of Miss Cribb.

PORT MULGRAVE.

Oct. 25.—"Old Prob" has been favoring us with a good supply of fine weather. These glorious autumn days are truly delightful to a lover of nature. Nothing could be more beautiful than the "Mill Pond," with the surrounding trees in their autumn garb. The grey-colored leaves reflected in the placid waters could indeed form the subject of an artist's dream.

Mrs. Wallace returned from Arichat on Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bain, and Miss Laura, left on Friday, for an extended vacation. They go to the Fair, thence to Texas, and other Southern states. Their many friends wish them bon voyage.

Mr. D. J. Patrick, of the Dominion Coal Co., Glace Bay, was here on Saturday, on his way to his home at Maccan, N. S.

Mr. Ernest Lodge, who has been spending the summer at Charlton has returned.

Mr. J. F. Webb visited his home in Harbor au Bouche on Sunday.

Miss Annie Gibson, of Port Hastings, was in town last week, on her way to Antigonish.

The Misses Richardson, of Truro, are the guests of their sister, Mrs. Wm. A. Miles.

Mrs. Keating of "Spruce Grove" and Miss M. honey, spent Sunday in Truro.

Miss Emma Lawrence, of Port Hastings, was the guest of Miss Trites for a few days last week.

Rev. T. R. Gwillim, who has been spending a few weeks in the Annapolis Valley, has returned. Mr. Enlay McDonald is now a resident of Mulgrave. He is performing the duties of station master, in the absence of Mr. Bain.

The friends of Mr. Hartley Cook, who formerly lived here, regret very much to hear of his death in California. FRANK.

BOULTON, ME.

Oct. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Putnam have returned from a visit to the world's fair.

San Boothby, G. M. Richards and H. J. Hathaway, are now on a hunting trip in the northern Aroostook woods. Rev. W. J. Cole is visiting relatives in Chisopee, Mass. He will return next week. W. S. Perks has returned from a business trip to Boston and New York. Ira G. Hersey delivered an address in Carleton Sunday evening, under the auspices of the W. C. T. U. Mr. Hersey is one of Heulton's able attorneys, and a very fine speaker. He was greeted with a full house. PLEASURE.

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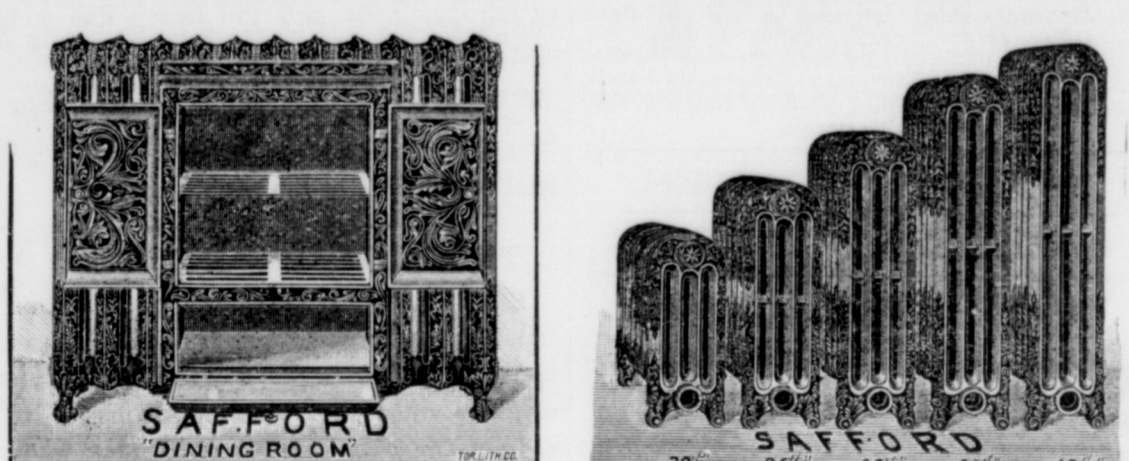
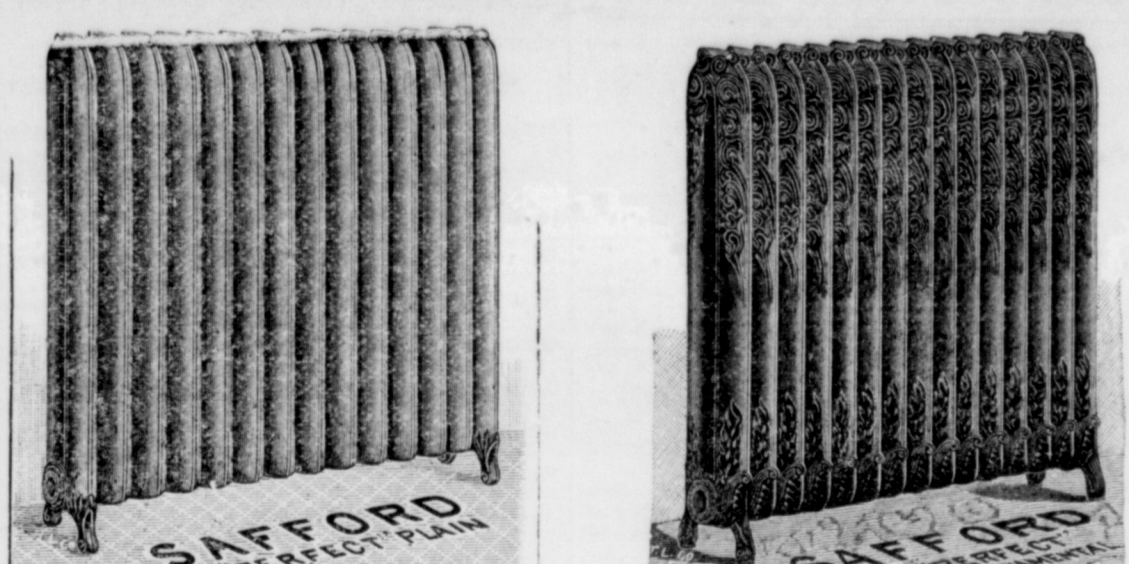
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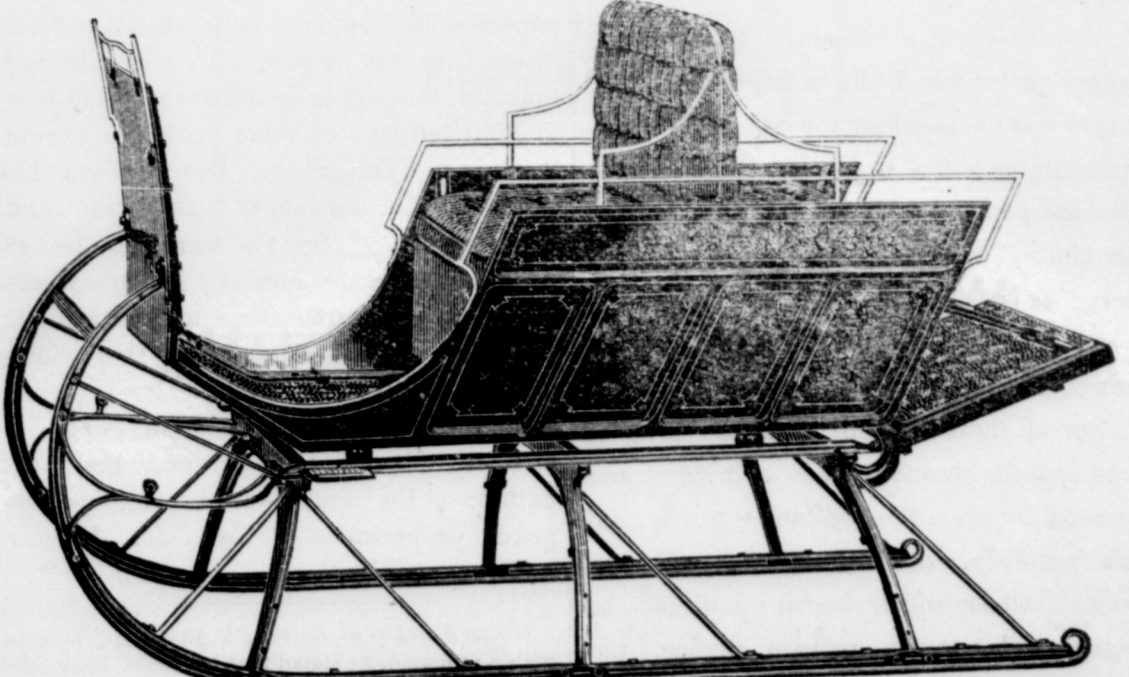
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