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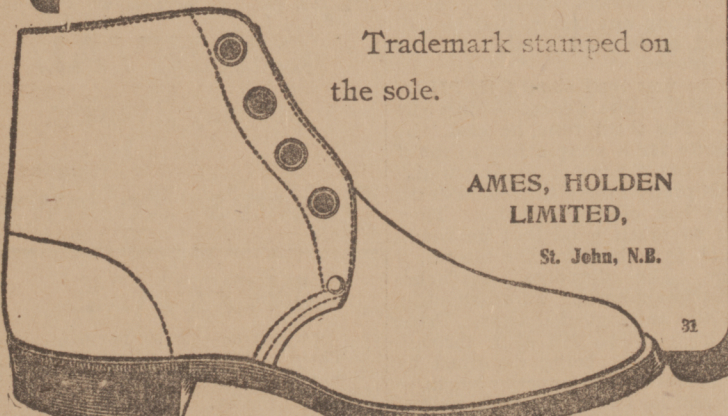
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PLAYS AND PLAYERS

ETHEL BARRYMORE'S NEW PLAY.

The Court theatre in London is the laboratory and the forcing house of the younger and more unconventional English playwrights. Shaw's pieces flourish perennially there, and under his protecting boughs the "new" men put forth their tender shoots. Until last Monday night none of their plays had been acted in America. Then for the first time Ethel Barrymore appeared at the Empire theatre in New York in the Silver Box, by John Galsworthy, originally played at the Court theatre last autumn. Miss Barrymore's part, moreover, was that of a much-enduring charwoman, and such a character is far from her usual range. The play was described at length in the Transcript when it was first acted in London, and the review of the performance Monday night in the New York Times suffices to recall it as "a grim story of life set forth in the simple narrative of reality." In respect to old conventions, the reviewer continues, The Silver Box is not a well-made play. But it is a deal more interesting than most of those that are well made. That is because Mr. Galsworthy has a story to tell that is worth the telling. One feels the tug of observant cynicism behind the tale, but in itself it is the outgrowth of the cold, hard unrelenting fatality of fact. Mrs. Jones, charwoman, honest, long-suffering, decent as circumstances will allow, goes down to misfortune through the force of circumstances beyond her control and outside of her understanding. A night of dissipation on the part of young Jack Barthwick, son

of John Barthwick, M. P., provides a beginning for the sorry tale. Jack has been visiting a young woman—not of his class—and in a moment of high duce has carried away her reticule. Unable to find the keyhole of his own domicile, he is aided into the house by Mr. Jones, a vagrant, who has a habit of hanging around the neighborhood, as his wife is charwoman in the Barthwick house. The youth tells the man how he has "scored off" his female acquaintance, which prompts Jones to "score" on his own account after Jack is asleep and he is properly maddened with liquor. A still ver cigarette case first tempts him; then he happens to see a silk purse that has fallen from the reticule unperceived by Jack.

Morning brings a visit from Jack's "friend," who encounters the elder Barthwick, and is reimbursed after she has hinted at a newspaper scandal. The son, mystified as to the circumstances surrounding the purse, is further confused when the servant brings news of the missing box. Suspicion points to Mrs. Jones, the charwoman, as she has been the only servant alone in the room. This much is told in three or four short scenes comprising the first act.

The second act shows the bare and squalid lodgings of the Joneses. Mr. Jones, aroused from sleeping, rails against the world in general, and announces his own particular intention of giving up the hunt for work. The story of the purse comes out, and a moment later Mrs. Jones discovers the silver box. She insists on taking it back to the owner, and while the pair quarrel a detective enters, perceives the box, and is convinced of the woman's guilt. Here Jones' latent spark of man-

hood flares up; he insists that he is the culprit, and springs at the detective's throat as he is about to put handcuffs on the wife. Result, a charge of assault for Jones, in addition to one of robbery for his luckless wife. A third act reveals the plans of the Barthwicks to keep their own escutcheon clean, and in the fourth, with the scene of a courtroom that object is accomplished. Mrs. Jones is acquitted, but her husband is sentenced to hard labor for a month. The young cub's offense, however, has been entirely hushed up.

In the charwoman one still sees traces of youth and good looks which years of brutal living have not effaced, but Mrs. Jones is, on the whole, a poor, broken creature, taking life not exactly, in patience, but as a matter "of course," with a whine of self-pity as her only solace. Her hands are grimy, her hair matted, and anaemia is written in the dull, leaden pallor of her cheeks. A blow given her by her husband has left a permanent ailment, and to add to the general misery there are children who cannot be fed. All this in dumb pathos is conveyed by Miss Barrymore, who becomes for the time being the embodiment of this miserable playing of fate. The woman has little imagination, but is able to see the utter futility of her own protests once suspicion has been aroused. In the trial scene she has the wistful, hunted look of an animal unreasoning, uncomprehending. And at the end with a mute appeal for aid to inflexible authority she stirs the imagination.

Miss Barrymore has in her supporting company some actors well known to St. John audiences. Among them are Bruce McRae, who appeared here with Harkins and Eugene Jepson, who played characters in the well remembered Fawley Stock Company.



MISS ETHEL BARRYMORE in "THE SILVER BOX" made by WILL

AT KEITH'S THEATRE

The vaudeville at Keith's theatre this week on the whole is no up to the usual standard although there are two or three numbers that are in themselves really excellent.

Humes and Lewis in their comedy acrobatic and singing sketch gave a very good exhibition and performed feats that were very entertaining.

The chief number is that given by Kitty Stevens. She is the European transformation dancer and her quick changes of costume and pretty dancing were much appreciated. Miss Stevens goes through a series of dances from the days of our grandmothers to the present time.

Percy Harney's two songs were much enjoyed.

The other numbers on the programme are passable.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE

The world-famed English cinematograph moving picture company are to give three nights and one matinee entertainments in the Opera House opening Thursday, April 4, of Easter week.

The company have a whole lot of new moving picture subjects to show. The Race for a Wife, A California Hold-up,

The Trial Marriage, Insurance Solicitor, A Desperate Chance, The Subpoena Server and 100 others.

NOTES.

A reading of Dr. Louis Kamp's suppressed play, On the Eve, was given by Edith Ellis Baker before the Women's Century club at the Hotel Astor on March 9.

The next comedy to be presented by the Rogers Brothers will be called The Rogers Brothers in Spain. The book is being written by Edgar Smith, and the score by Max Hoffmann.

Puccini, composer of La Boheme, Madam Butterfly and other successes, the great Italian master, has returned to Europe to write a new opera and Henry W. Savage has a contract for the American rights.

Miss Josephine Cohan and her husband, Fred Niblo, sailed for a tour of the world on the steamship Majestic on March 20. Miss Cohan will play her sketch, A Friend of the Family, in seven different languages while abroad.

The English Rockers, the latest imported novelty girl act, is one of the largest in vaudeville. It carries four sets of scenery and 14 trunks full of costumes and properties. The costumes worn by the Rockers girls cost \$500 apiece.

Clyde Fitch sailed for Europe on March 9 to arrange for the production of several of his plays in London and the continent. He will spend the greater part of the summer in the country near Munich.

The long run of The Lion and the Mouse at the Lyceum theatre will end on April 6. The 600th performance of the play will occur on April 2. Contracts calling for the presentation of the play in Washington and other cities, with the original company, is given as the cause of its being withdrawn.

Residents of Paterson, N. J., were surprised one snowy day, recently, to see a smooth faced truck which was stalled in the mire, and push it out with all the ease of a young Hercules. Inquiry brought out the fact that the athlete was Maximus, the 29-year-old Russian strong boy.

The annual benefit of the Actors' Society, to be held at the Hudson theatre, Philadelphia, on April 9, will include the yacht scene from Brewster's Millions, Rose Stahl in a sketch, William Moore, a new sketch by Paul Armstrong, Victor Herbert in a cello solo, and members of the Professional Women's League in a sketch by Mary Shaw.

David Warfield, Belasco's star in The Music Master, today holds the record of

any actor in America, past or present, in the matter of receipts. The greatest engagement ever played at the Academy of Music, New York, was by Edwin Booth. This record stood until superseded by Mr. Warfield's for the same period during his recent engagement.

The unqualified success which has attended the admirable production of the second company, headed by Mary Hall, presenting The Girl of the Golden West in territory not touched by Blanche Bates, has decided the Belasco management to send out next season a number of companies to play The Rose of the Rancho, The Music Master, Sweet Kitty Bellairs, and The Heart of Maryland in the one-night stands of the circuit of the independent forces, which are constantly being increased.

It is said that when George Ade attended Purdue college in Indiana the height of his ambition was to become a large baseball pitcher because he understood that baseball twirlers received more salary than a bank president. Three years ago Mr. Ade condensed the story of his life in college into a three-act play and called it The Chicago Widow. That year Henry W. Savage paid him in royalties three times as much as any baseball pitcher ever received in one year, and the past two years Mr. Ade's royalties have exceeded the salary of President Roosevelt.

MYRKLE-HARDER CO.

The Myrkle-Harder Company will be seen again at the Opera House Friday, March 29th, at both matinee and night in The Fisherman's Daughter, a comedy drama in four acts, depicting life on the Cape Cod coast. Miss Hilda Thomas, the famous actress starred in this play for a number of seasons in all the larger cities in Canada and the United States. Mr. Harder was able to secure all the scenery properties and effects used by Miss Thomas and it is undoubtedly the strongest play in the Myrkle-Harder repertoire. The principal parts are in the hands of Mr. Harder and Miss Myrkle. As "Billy" Mr. Harder is exceptionally funny and as "Georgia" Captain Jack's ward, Miss Myrkle captivates the audience. New specialties will be introduced between the acts.

UNCLE JOSH SPRUCEBY

Recognizing the tendency of the times to cheapen prices for sensible, healthy amusements, the managers of the "Uncle Josh Spruceby" company, which appears at the Opera House on Easter Monday, have decided to appear this season at popular prices. The wisdom of this move appears to have been justified by the packed houses that greet the company everywhere. The play is an enjoyable New England comedy-drama, and for the past nine years has appeared only at regular prices all over the country. Special scenery, the great saw-mill scene, the big operatic orchestra, and a first-class company are still carried, and no attempt has been made to cheapen the attraction on account of playing at popular prices.

A bazaar will be held in Union Hall, north end, the week commencing April 1. Mayor Sears will formally open the affair, and the Carleton Cornet Band will provide music. The Sons of England and the Ladies of the L. O. B. A. are in charge of the project.

PUBLIC NOTICE.

This is to notify the public that A. Paul Keith, Edward F. Albee, and James I. Moore withdrew from the York Theatre in Saint John after a trial of Vaudeville there for three weeks, beginning Christmas week of 1906, and have had no connection therewith since such withdrawal. Any person or persons connecting the names of the above persons with the management of said Theatre will be prosecuted.

Use of the name of "Keith" or "Keith's Circuit" in connection with said Theatre is hereby forbidden.

MACRAE & SINCLAIR,
Solicitors for A. Paul Keith,
Edward F. Albee and James I. Moore.

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MONCTON NEWS

**Breach of Promise Case Settled
Out of Court—J. C. R. Fire-
man Hurt—The Memram-
cook Bridge.**

MONCTON, March 25—A breach of promise case brought by a Miss Charters of this city against Sherman Steves, an I. C. R. brakeman, has been settled without taking the matter before the courts.

The Stratton Babbitt Metal and Car Bearing Co. are preparing to move their factory to Moncton. It will probably be two months before the company will get to work manufacturing in Montreal.

The local government has commenced to replace the highway bridge blown down at Memramcook during the storm last week. A contract has been let for a temporary wooden crossing until the steel structure is built. The bridge consisted of one span about one hundred feet long.

Mrs. McCullough, of St. John, is spending a few days in the city with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. J. Quinn.

Miss Hannigan, daughter of the late Andrew Hannigan, of Buctouche was brought to the Moncton hospital this morning to be operated upon for appendicitis.

Horace Somers, an I. C. R. fireman, was brought to his home in Moncton from Campbellton this afternoon, suffering with a badly injured leg. While in the Campbellton round house this morning, Mr. Somers accidentally fell into a pit. He will be laid up some time.

Mrs. (Capt.) Ernest Seal, who has been spending the past three months in Cumberland county and Moncton, left tonight for her home in Buctouche, N. B., on her return home to Buctouche, N. B. Sprout, of Hampton, and was recently married on the coast.

The police court was busy today with assault cases. Joseph Price, a former Moncton policeman, was charged with assault by James Harris, a blacksmith, both parties live at Gallagher Ridge. After hearing all parties to the trouble Magistrate Kay dismissed the action against the ex-guardian of the peace.

George Milne, I. C. R. driver, will remove his family to St. John in the very near future.

Flaedic Richard, who has been serving a term in jail at Dorchester, in default of paying a \$200 Scott Act fine, has been released under a habeas corpus obtained by C. L. Hanington from the supreme court of Canada last week. In view of the recent decision of the court, it is not probable that other outstanding \$200 fines against Moncton liquor dealers will be pressed.

REXTON HAS BAD STORM

REXTON, N. B., Mar. 21—The worst storm that the oldest inhabitant can remember, visited this section yesterday. Snow began to fall during Tuesday night, and the wind sprang up, which increased to a gale towards morning. The hurricane continued during the day and only moderated coming on morning. At the beginning of the storm the wind blew from the northeast and continued to do so until evening when it moved around to the northwest before it moderated. With snow falling and drifting with such a gale, it was impossible to see five yards ahead and many of our citizens who had occasion to go short distances narrowly escaped being smothered. Three barns in this vicinity were blown down, several shed roofs removed and shingles and saddle boards blown off the roofs of some of the houses. Porches and outside windows were removed and a number of chimneys blew down, including one on the public hall, one on the Methodist church, one on the school building and one on J. & W. Brait's office. J. & T. Jardine's schooner Hazelwood, lying at their wharf, which arrived too late in the season to have her sails unbuttoned, had her head sails torn out of the gaskets, and pieces of them were found in a garden four hundred yards away.

Electric light, telephone and telegraph wires are down, and communication with the outside world is entirely cut off, as the K. N. R. has not reached the junction since Tuesday. The stage mail which went up to Harcourt Tuesday, has not yet returned, but it is expected will get down tomorrow as the roads have been shovelled to day. In some places along the highway the drifts were as high as ten feet.

Capt. Geo. Irving, Al. Fraser, Allison Hutchinson, Dan. O'Leary and Frank Gould, left Tuesday for Gloucester, Mass., to take a schooner which was purchased at that place by Mr. Young of Carquet, to Newfoundland, where she will be registered. She will then proceed to Halifax where she will be fitted out as a fishing vessel.

Edmund Gaudet and Arcade Landry are visiting friends in Memramcook.

Mrs. John Irving, who has been visiting her daughter, Mrs. G. F. Atkinson, at Dorchester, returned home Tuesday.

Mrs. E. McInerney, of Richibucto, is visiting friends here.

Miss Annie Palmer is on the sick list. A. B. Carson is improving.

R. J. Lennox has sold his farm and residence "Fingrove Cottage," to a Mr. Savoy.

A combination sale, supper and concert was held last evening in the Fairville Baptist church. The concert was given by the Chinese of Brussels street Baptist church, under the direction of Mrs. John N. Golding, sr., and was much enjoyed.

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