DESERET EVENING NEWS: SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1900.



THE BATTLE OF THE PLAYERS. Two Rival Productions of "Quo Vadis" and Their Relative Merits.

AST season we were treated to a | New York was to see first. But the based upon Henryk Sienkiewicz's great follows: novel "Quo Vadis." In order to under- Gilder Play. stand the conditions existing in this city with reference to "Quo Vadis" It E-J. Morgan. is necessary to go back a bit. Some Robert Fischer. Years ago, when the Polish author wrote his story, it attracted much atwrote his story, it attracted much attention in this country, Wilson Barrett was at the time making a great deal of money with his "The Sign of the Cross," which, to say the least, was startlingly like "Quo Vadis," and it was because of this a matter of comment along the Rialte that no enterprising dramatist had made a play out of the Polish writer's book, "Quo Vadis," it must be remembered, was uncopyrighted in this country, and so was free as the air to any one who chose to use It. Everybody, however, seemed to think that the work was one which would not lend itself to stage purposes, and the success of "The Sign of the Cross" was one of the most frequently put forward arguments why a dramatization of "Quo Vadis" would fall to win popular approval, the idea being apparently that Mr. Barrett's drama had exhausted whatever demand there might have been for dramas of that sort.

Stanislaus Stange, a young man who, before he fell to writing comic opera librettos, had given to the stage some really excellent plays, was not in accord with the general opinion concernconcluded to make a play of it, and in

war between rival versions of Du-mas' "The Three Musketeers," and foregone conclusion that it would be now we are in the throes of a life settled, by simultaneous productions. incidental music the advantage was, and death struggle between two plays The casts of the rival plays were as again, all with the Stange play. In

> Stange Play. Characters. .Visicius......Joseph Haworth Petrosius.. Nero Frank J. Currier, ..., Chilo Chilo Marcas Lewis W. V. Bancus, ..., Vitelius, ..., W. T. Molville William Herbert, ..., Lucan, ..., Leonard Walker Little Arthur, ..., Little Aulus, ..., Master Teddy Hattle Russell Poppza..... Allce Fischer Maude Fealy Grayce Scott. Willard Simpson Glaucus Edwin Varrey Harrison Armstrong Ursus Elmer Grandin , Linus,, W. C. Stons Myron Calice Roselle Knott

The most interesting thing about "Quo Vadis" just now is the result of the bitter warfare which has been waged between the Gilder and Stange versions. At the beginning it may be said that, except in a few widely separated spots, the latter is far and away the better play. Mr. Stange has written a drama which becomes interesting soon head is checked out of its natural posiafter the rise of the first curtain and tion, either too high or too low. Violent of the novel. Naturally, she has succeeded only in retaining the shadow, | while the substance has almost entirely escaped her. In some respects the ing the stage value of "Quo Vadis." He pictures at the ends of the acts of her play are better than those in Mr. Stange's work, but an easis here and due course the piece was ready. It is rumored that the young man found it more difficult to place the pizy than to rumored that the young man found it more difficult to place the play than to write it, but, be that as it may, F. C. by Miss Olider through their value is by Miss Glider, though their value Imperceptible. They are certainly not used in the Stange version, which is, in fact, with almost one accord, pronounced superior to the Gilder play. The death of Petronius, which Miss Gilder permits us to see and which is brought about by poison in the presence of Nero, is anything but an impressive spectacle. In the Stange play this is much better managed. Petronius announces to Vinicius and Lygia that he must die, and, after a fond farewell, leaves them presumably for the purpose of obeying Nero's command to open his veins. Miss Gilder's Petronius, by the way, is about the weakest thing in her play. Mr. Stange, familiar with stage artifices and limitations, has contrived to make the arbiter of fashion what Sienkiewicz has painted him, whereas Miss Gilder makes him just an ordinary individual with no marked characteristics. Stange's Vinicius lacks. the brutality and irresistible impetuosity of the Gilder creation, and it is a question whether the latter has not an advantage in that respect. If it has, however, it is more than lost in the subsequent development of the character, where Vinicius is gradually won to Christianity. The greatest criticism that can be made against Stange's play is that he permits Vinicius to becom Christianized entirely too quickly, After that is said, though, there is little

the Stange play, and the other Nero was positively laughable by comparison with him. Lyons managed to give the varying emotions of the conceited monster in a manner which exactly developed Sienkiewicz's idea of the "bad ruler and worse poet.' The Lygia of Miss Bljou Fernandez

was less bad than that of Miss Roselle Knott, who had the part in the Stange play. But both, at the most, were very poor. Of the Ursus of Harrison Armstrong and Elmer Grandin, I liked the Armstrong impersonation better, for, while the first mentioned actor scarcely looked the athlete, his work was more convincing. The other members of both

casts were in the main acceptable. In the matter of the mounting and the fact, it is a signal winner beyond all possibility of doubt., As to receipts,

when I saw the two plays neither was transpire that the game was not worth the candle and that New York has decided to treat both productions of "Quo Vadis" just as it treated "The Sign of the Cross" when that play was produced at the Knickerbocker after a run of two years at the Lyric theater in London.

New York.

CAUSES OF "HOPPING." Many a trotter will hop when his has evidently attempted to preserve as light shoes for very heavy ones, from mirers who dogged his every footstep much as possible of the literary quality long to short toes and vice versa, will and grew more numerous with every

THE ILLITERACY OF PUGILISTS.

Many of Them Are Rich Men, Yet Can Barely Write Their Own Names,

average of his class.

break and so prefers to keep mum.

of the bulky young fellow.

is just in the position of a small boy

when thrown among a lot of grown

men. By and by he'll get used to it,

and then time will show the real merit

"Among the little fellows I regard Terry McGovern, the champion ban-

tamweight, as one of the most illiterate.

He can hardly sign his own name, and

his grammar is decidedly rocky. Had

he not been a perfect fighting machine

he would probably be engaged in shin-

ing shoes at 5 cents a polish instead of

earning several hundred dollars a week

If one-tenth the mismanagement, cu-

pldity, falsehood and stupidity mani-

fested by those in control of baseball in

this country were exhibited in any oth-

er business enterprise, ruin would result

in very short order. After the fashion

of our friend General Buller at the Tu-

gela river, the magnates thundered

away all winter long trying in vain to

reduce the national circuit to eight

clubs, and at last, with just the same

sort of dumb fuck as that which befell

glad cry of "Play ball!" and the excite-

just how they did it.

ment of the contest.

be more fiercely contested.

fighting or exhibiting on the stage."

NUMBER of sporting men were the crowd that followed him around during the day the slimmer the audi-talk turned upon the intellectual ence was certain to be at night. capacity of the various prominent pugil-"As soon as this fact became impress-Turning to a well known follower ed on his mind Sullivan was always of the fistic art who happened to be driven from the station straight to his

present, somebody said: hotel, and he staid close indoors until "Whom do you consider the best read | time for him to go to the theater. Beand intellectually brightest pugilist now ing thus perforce immured for hours together and, having nothing else to do, "My reply will probably considerably Sullivan read a great deal of miscellaneous literature, and, having a good memory, he has not forgotten what he

surprise you," was the answer, "be-cause the man I shall name is generally regarded as being liliterate to a then learned. degree, I refer to John L. Sullivan, I see you smile. But let me assure you "But," continued the speaker, "Sullithat old John L. is a living mine of invan is en old timer, and I suppose, when you spoke, you were referring to formation upon a very wide variety of subjects. If you don't believe me, drop those who are actually prominent in n to see him some day and start any the ring now. Ninety-nine men out of topic of conversation, and I'll wager he'll hold up his end of it as long as you care to continue. Besides being ent day boxers, and it is a fact that, ell read, Sullivan has all the natural superficially speaking, the ex-pompahrewdness and humor of his race, dour is perhaps the most intellectual of which no amount of dissipation seems the bunch. But Corbett's knowledge and polish are all on the surface; able to eradicate, and this serves to liven up his speech to a great extent.

iving?

BENNY YANGER, A CLEVER BANTAMWEIGHT.

"Sullivan came by his knowledge in this wise: Some years ago, when he was traveling around the country with his Although the Australian probably never theatrical troupe, he found that whenever he entered a town he was immeremains so until the end. Miss Gilder changes in shoeing, such as changing diately surrounded by a band of ad- ties to mix with cultivated men and has sometimes cause hopping. A track per- passing minute. All these men wanted versed on current affairs. former who has never been speeded to | was to see the great John L. Sullivan, anything but sulky will frequently con- champion bruiser of the world. I haptract this habit when speeded to a heavy buggy. Difference in the length of stride of forward feet or other irregularity will cause the horse to go crook- the same path we saw a good deal of cently that it wasn't possible to insult grew wise, for he found that the larger or nothing to say. During the few con-versations I have had with him he has

number of well known players who have retired of their own accord. Of course, a goodly number have been forced out by the reduction in the numher of clubs in the major league, but there has probably never before been a season in which so many prominent players have voluntarily resigned while still in their prime. Some of these have retired because of

dissatisfaction in regard to salaries or unwillingness to play in a minor league, out several have gone out to engage in ore profitable private businesses.

The fact that a number of these men will enter what are commonly known as the "professions" only goes to show that the average professional baseball player of today is of a higher grade than his predecessor of a few years ago, who, when a back number on the field, looked, as a general rule, for no higher employment for his remaining years than the ownership of a saloon.

Most of the big colleges have had their football players out for exercise this spring, and, although this is not exactly an innovation, this is the first year in which the spring practice has cally amounted to anything more than kicking the ball around in a desultory Fort of fashlon.

This change of plan is the result of a series of experiments by different coleges during the past few seasons. Some years ago it was the general rule at early all the universities for candldates for the football team to assembly at the college or some other designated spot at least two weeks before the be-

ginning of the term and practice assidously, so as to be in good trim by the scratch him and you will find a man as ime the season opened. oarse and illiterate as most of them. During the last year or two, however, No; I consider Bob Fitzsimmons the lmost every team had given up this most gulck witted of the entire bunch reliminary practice, because it was ound that the work was apt to cause had much schooling, since he became the men to become stale before the time champion he has had many opportuni for the big games, and, besides, so many men were hurt in the practice that made good use of his time, so that he eams were often seriously crippled. now both talks well and is pretty fairly But another difficulty arose in conseuence of having no early practicing.

"Possibly the 'thickest' of them all is The new and green players hadn't Tom Sharkey. His actions in the ring enough time during the circumscribed season to properly learn the game and the points necessary for first class play. So at the end of the season last fall it was decided at one or two of the larger universities to have elaborate never suspected anything wrong spring practice, so that any green mateinstructed in the rudiments of the game and the said little beyond 'yes' and 'no.' Neverever, he stopped for a second veterans might at the same time be theless, he seems to be rather above the bled something on a slip of pap kept in good trim. By this means it is hoped that next a few moments afterward the p chops had been set before Mr. E fall the coaches will not have to break in view of the audience. His a "Jeffries, the present champion, is just in a lot of untried players, but will know practically what stuff they have was also pretty good, and he now in what may best be termed the his acting with more than the transitory stage. He really is a pretty LEO ETHERINGTON. on hand. spirit. Two chops were disp well informed young fellow, with a rapidly, and, as there were alway mind of his own. His parents are above on the plate before, he gazed a the average of stock from which prize-

THE HUNGRY ACTOR The touching cating scone is " Relation," now being played by Keenan and the Sol Smith Russe pany, all but ended disastrous an acting standpoint recently, Lackaye was the cause.

It has been the general idea company that Mr. Sol Smith P illness, which necessitated his rary retirement, was due to s trouble brought on by this y



On the way up James disc him to c posed of one of the chops. and eat

hops. He thought well of it Mrs. Keenan travels with th pany, it became her duty to small oil stove back of the see cook the chops. It worked adm until one day the company wa n getting in and had to hurry theater without eating anything can imagine the anguish of the starved players when the savon of broiling chops crept into the de rooms down stairs. It proved to: for Mr. Lackaye, and he forthw

sented himself at the Keenan de Mr. Keenan was on the stage Mrs. Keenan had just turned the chop into the platter that was to t ried up stairs. Mr. Lackaye, wi ice aforethought, volunteered t service, and, of course, Mrs. B the way up James disposed of the chops and had a desperate resist eating the others. Inst

wonder, and there in the grease

The following story is relat

cerning Edgar Gibbes Murphy, th

known sportsman, who relax

frequently disturbed by a qui

gentleman, with his hat over a

Frank em

Whitney, whose fortunes at that particular juncture were at a somewhat low ebb, decided to make a plunge on the Stange play. This he did in Chicago some months ago, and since that time Mr. Whitney has had little to do except count his profits. The play was an enormous success from the box office standpoint, and few performances were given at which the attendance was not limited solely by the capacity of the theater. Immediately after the Whitney production there began to appear divers announcements of forthcoming stagings of "Quo Vadis" in every portion of the country. Many of these were crudely built plays which sought to profit by the reflected glory of the Stange-Whitney experiment. Some of these enterprises managed to make a little money, but most of them were short lived in the extreme.

Meanwhile Miss Jeannette L. Gilder, a literary woman of considerable reputation, had secured from Henryk Sienkiewicz formal permission to dramatize his novel. Backing was found for the venture, time was secured at a New York theater and a company was engaged. Prior to this it had been announced that the Whitney-Stange play would open in this city next fall for a long run. When Mr. Whitney learned that he was to be forestalled by the "authorized" version, he hustled about and succeeded in having his play booked at the New York, a theater which

has hitherto been identified with musical shows, during the performance of which the auditors have been permitted and even encouraged to drink and smoke. Whitney so far certainly had rather the worse of it. To a greater extent still did this seem to be the case when the cast for the Gilder play was announced. Edward Morgan, the leading man of the Daly theater stock company, was given the role of Petronius, while that of Vinicius had been assigned to John Blair, the young/man who earlier in the season had created something of a sensation in a series of modern "literary" plays at the Carnegie lyceum. Mr. Whitney's Petronius was Mr. Arthur Forrest, an actor of some little reputation outside New York, and really fine work he has done from time these things, seemed to have the better theater goers. of li

else with which fault can be found.

An interesting comparison might also be made of the players engaged in the two rival presentations of "Quo Vadis. Again the honors go to the Stange people. Arthur Forrest perhaps has not the reputation of Edward Morgan, who was thought a year or two ago to be the coming great American actor. Yet in this play Mr. Forrest made "the coming American actor" appear almost like an amateur. For this, of course, the superiority of the role in the Stange version is partly responsible, but most of it is due to the fact that Mr. Forrest has evidently given more thought and more study to his impersonation than was possible in the case of Mr. Morgan, who obviously had barely enough time to enable him to get up in the lines. his Vinicius was Joseph Haworth, an Forrest's Petronius is one of the most excellent performer, who, despite the subile and well considered performances seen in New York in recent years. to time, has never been able apparently It is a veritable gem and will go far toto obtain a firm artistic foothold in New | ward securing for this actor a perma-York. The Gilder people, in view of nent place in the affections of New York

As Vinicius Joseph Haworth was On the other hand, Whitney had a vasily superior to John Blair. In fact, company which had been playing for the latter's admirers, among whom I months, and it was therefore to be ex- am proud to enroll myself, had no idea pected that he would be able to give a that this player could give so poor a smoother acting version, at least at the opening performances. The Gilder peo-ple unquestionably had the upper hand ton Slasher." is rapidly forging to the top of his class. His recent victory over Clarence Forbes in the Windy City gave his stock a wonderful boost in pugilwith reference to suitability of theater, of the role, or, if he does, he is unable istic circles. Little was known of Yanger until recently, but he has been meeting everybody who came along and cutting down all opponents with a and a frantic effort was made to get the to express it. Blair's Vinicius is no dispatch and ease only equaled by peerless Terry McGovern. He has a string version on at the earliest possible mo- more the Vinicius of Sienklewicz than ment. In order to do this it became Lawrence Barrett's Othelio was the of victories to his credit as long as a court lady's train. His latest wins were necessary to induce a company which. Othelio of Shakespeare. Blair is really over Sturch, McFadden, Carmer, Forbes, Madden, Noel, Carrol and Carney. Those who have seen Yanger fight say his style is very similar to that of Mchad time at the Herald Square to close a good actor, but his performance of Govern. He rushes in and takes a chance of receiving a stiff punch in order to get an opportunity to administer a knockout. His best weight is 114 to 116 Its engagement. This doubtless cost Vinicius is nevertheless robustuously something. For some days, however, it and aggressively bad. to get a was a toss up as to which "Quo Vadis" Edmund D. Lyons was the Nero of pounds.

THE END OF THE SEASON.

dren. diar's Queen."

The aged mother of the Coghlans has The aged mother of the Cogniants has been formerly belonging to the been kept in ignorance of the deaths of unfortunate hero of her new play, the her son Charles and her daughter Eily, king of Rome. May is to shortly reappear in London the barrie, the author of "The Lit- the papers are taking up the New York the Minister," recently acknowledged story of the alleged heiricoms of fathe latter the favorite of her chil-dren. Mrs. Coghian is more than 30 years old and has heart trouble, so all news of an exciting nature is kept from the latter the favorite of her chil- king of Rome.

Miss Light is a pupil of Hart Conway history. Sara Bernhardt has been presented

Maud Light of Chicago that he immedi- Babbie. For the American publication looms, the gilded youths who have thus but the lapse of time is accidentally inately gave her a position in the New rights to his novel of the same name he Josephine Sabel will star next season | her. Her daughter Rose reads to her in a musical comedy called "The Sol-pretended letters from her absent chil-der. and a graduate of the Chicago Musical Since it was announced that Edna

Benny Yanger, a bantamweight fighter from Chicago known as the "Tip-

May is to shortly reappear in London

leges.

CWKS

A Harvard dramatic society has taken up the Elizabethan drama and lately

made a success in one of the plays of rett's company at the close of this sea-Beaumont and Fletcher. Son. She has been his leading woman Joe Ott played a train boy years and for nine years. years ago in a Pullman palace car in "The Tourists" of Mestayer fame. In "Broadway to Tokio" the comedian Eleanora Duse and Richard Wagner "Broadway to Tokio" the comedian

CALVE AND THE TENORS.

fighters usually spring, and from them Unhappy is the Don Jose who sings he inherits a certain amount of intelliwith Calve, Calve's bewitching realism, gence as well as the ability to talk so delightful to the public, is calculated without murdering the king's English. to set her tenor wild. On one occasion But just at present he is very young she playfully plucked the wig off Jean and has not become accustomed to his de Reszke's head and left that someexalted position. He is afraid to assert what bald hero in confusion before his himself for fear of making a bad He



hind an apple cart.

braced, the lady eluded his grasp and left him fatuously embracing space. During Alvarez's best scene Calve tossed her back hair down, and while that few minutes," said Mr. Murph gentleman imputed the breathless silence to the excellence of his notes the droll and femininely fascinating rear-

the British general in South Africa, they accomplished their object and recomfiture. This is the hour when Don lieved the situation without knowing Jose rushes at his faithless sweetheart and slays her. Calve dodged and rau But now spring has arrived, the game behind an apple cart. And round and has been called and all is forgotten, for round that unfortunately funny "prop" your baseball fan is the most forgiving they flew until the audience roared with of mortals. When once on the bleachlaughter and the dignity of Don Jose ers, with the diamond in view, he for-gets all the worries of winter in the

SARA BERNHARDT'S HAIR CUT.

The following story is illustrative of Old time followers of the game pre-Sara's devotion to her art. When her wig dict that this will be the greatest year for the part of L'Algion was brought in the history of basebail, and present to her, she was much displeased with Indications bear out their opinions. The it and described it as "horrible." The reduction of the circuit has weeded out hairdresser asserted that it could not be the perpetual tail enders and enabled improved upon, and that, in his opinion the remaining clubs to strengthen as a specialist, it was an absolutely perthemselves. As a result, the games will fect wig. Mme. Bernhardt, however, was not convinced. She handed a pair The increased interest that will nat- of scissors to the barber and said in

urally ensue will be reflected right down the line and will be felt not only then; cut my hair off." At first the in the Eastern. American and the va- hairdresser would not consent to comrious state leagues, but will materially mit such sacrilege, but the tragedienne help amateur baseball in clubs and col- was inexorable, and now her hair is not her forchead is a tuft such as the Duc Cruickshank in the ever fi A remarkable feature of the present de Reichstadt used to woar. The whole

elder with a harvest of wives.



Alvarez to his green chips, placing one only on t wits' end. When This player never said a word. the lines of the

casionally refreshed himself from Calve dodged and ran be that Carmen and often called for "time" to read of the carmen and often called for "time" to read the carmen and the car should be em-

you will tell me about the size winnings, I will give him a c

money in Florida if you keep goin Mr. Murphy responded by the

many as you like to pay you for a time, but don't 'pike' into the s with your one chip bets until I get of it.

The soft voiced dealer explained "I am sorry you are disturbed. Murphy, but the gentleman is pik under a special arrangement house. The brown chips are the light green ones are \$1,000 c As he left the game Mr. Murphy ed. "What's the man's name?"

"That's John W. Gates, prethe steel trust," said the man door. That is why Edgar Gibbs phy bought steel. He had be enamored of Mr. Gates' methods.

"There's my Babble!" This " exclamation of J. M. Barrie, the d guished Scotch novelist and auth "The Little Minister," when h saw Miss Moude Adams as 1 "Rosemary" during her last season John Drew's leading lady.

of the endeavors of Duse and his adorned Miss May are likely to have thus but the lapse of time is accidentally in-the family lawyers after them." In we gayety is first shown as a Mormon Marie George will play a promise A Harvard dramatic society has tak part in "An American Beauty" is Les Maud Jeffries will leave Wilson Bar-

The newest play by John Olive Hobbes is called "The Wisdom of the Wise." It is a very light, semiments comedy of a purely social and domestic description The present theatrical season in .

baseball season to date has been the effect is ideal.

was irrevocably impaired.



little note which read "I O U or James Lackaye." grunt that seemed as if he had go of his food down the wrong way that is why the scene came near e ing disastrously. HIS CHIPS WERE VALUABLE admirers. De Reszke was furious. Mme.



spectators were engrossed in Calve's stacks to stay out for a deal or t rangement of her colffure. In the last act she crowned his dis-

his bets. Finally Mr. Murphy, irg irritated, appealed to the de "This 'piker' worries me with chip bets and his call for 'time

"Don't be so irritable, my man," said the small player. got plenty of time to lose or win

"Help yourself," he said. "Take