

# THE STAGE IN GOTHAM

COMING out of the Empire theater the other evening after a performance of Henry V. Esmond's whimsical romance in four acts, "My Lady's Lord," I heard a lady inquire of her male escort as to how he had been impressed by the play. The gentleman replied substantially as follows: "Well, I think it's rather clever. In fact, it's interesting. don't you think? But if

that he will be close at hand in case she should need him.

Goska arrives, and when Doura learns his purpose she proceeds to ring the bell, but the wire has been cut by the jealous woman already mentioned. Doura is forced to call for help, and Martin arrives upon the scene, where, in a duel between himself and Goska,

of the beautiful writing with which it abounds. There is one speech in particular, in which Martin gives Doura the idea of what a woman should be, that is really worthy to go into any of the books of famous quotations. To sum it all up, it would be a pleasing relief if Mr. Charles Frohman or some of the other prominent managers would give us a few more plays of the same standard of excellence as "My Lady's Lord."

Manager Edwin Knowles of the Fifth Avenue theater is just now offering his patrons his own production of R. A. Barnett's "Three Little Lambs," which is described on the house programme as a musical comedy in two acts, but which is in reality a farce with musical interruptions. Mr. Barnett is the gentleman who used to write the book for the annual entertainment given by the Boston Cadets. One thing for which he and the cadets are jointly responsible is "1492," but he has long

after Harwicke's money and warns her friend, but he is deaf to any suggestion reflecting upon Tooke's honesty. She then learns that Harwicke is about to get the money from the estate and will at once hand it over to Tooke to be used in some mythical railroad scheme. In order to prevent this she induces Harwicke to join her and some ballet girls in a dance, which is once more distinctly Barptelike! Of course, the guardian appears just at this juncture, and the fat is in the fire. And it is learned that Beatrice is the girl to whom the little sum of \$3,000,000 is to revert in case Harwicke should fail to live up to the standard of rectitude prescribed by the last will and testament. What then could possibly follow in a Barnett skit other than the marriage of Harwicke and Beatrice? And that is what does happen, of course, and the play ends.

Mr. Nat C. Goodwin and Miss Maxine Elliott are drawing large audiences at the Knickerbocker theater in Clyde Fitch's play, "The Cowboy and the Lady," which has been seen in various cities of this country as well as in London, England. It is generally thought that, while the play is sufficiently satisfactory for temporary uses, it would not serve the co-stars sufficiently well for a run in this city without the aid of some other vehicle. For that reason it is semi-officially announced that H. V. Esmond's comedy, "When I Was Twenty-one," for which, by the way, Harry Woodruff has been specially engaged, will be produced before the end of their term at the Knickerbocker.

At the close of Mr. Richard Mansfield's run in New York city he will make a hurried tour over the south, where he has not been seen in several years. After a week in Brooklyn and a week in Newark, the celebrated player's itinerary calls for 14 appearances in Philadelphia, 7 in Baltimore, 7 in Washington, 2 in the state of Virginia,

# THE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS.

Big Events of the Year on the Ice Soon to Be Decided by Other Sporting Topics of Interest.

BY LEO ETHERINGTON.

COLD weather and plenty of it is the cry of the skaters just now. All the important skating events of the year are scheduled for the next three or four weeks, and whether they will be successful or not will depend entirely on the weather man.

The National Skating association has been very careful this season in regard to the allotment of the various championships, and it is assured that the contestants will not only have a fair show in every race, but also that the winners will get their prizes. The dates for the different meets have been somewhat changed since they were first arranged, but the schedule as now agreed on seems to be satisfactory to all concerned. The national amateur championships are the first on the list. They will be held Jan. 26 and 27 on the Hudson river under the auspices of the Newburg wheelmen. The events to be run off are at 500 meters, 1,500 meters, 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters. All the crack amateurs of this country and Canada are entered, including the winners of last year's races.

The next date of interest to the ice "speed merchants" will be Feb. 2, when the Canadian championships will be held. The racers will then recross the border and have a few days' fun at the St. Paul ice carnival, at the conclusion of which the western championships will be decided in that city on Feb. 9 and 10.

The indoor skating championships will be held during February at Pittsburgh. The Duquesne Garden rink has been secured for these events. This rink is said to be the largest in the world and is capable of accommodating 5,000 skaters at one time. A week's carnival is being arranged for, and in addition to the indoor championships at all standard distances handicap and scholastic events will be run off.

The figure skating championship will also be held during February under the auspices of the St. Nicholas Skating club of New York. The event will this year be international in character, as the N. S. A. officials have received word that Bissbarth, an Austrian, who last season won the European championship, intends to come over to try his skill against Arthur J. Keane, the American champion. Keane is diligent practicing and has great hopes of retaining his title, though several Americans are expected to give him a good tussle for premier honors. Keane will possibly go to Europe later in the season and enter in the figure skating championship to be held at Vienna.

A wholesale exodus of the fast professional bicycle riders will occur next spring and summer. Nearly all the cracks intend to enter the international races scheduled to take place during the Paris exposition, at which many thousands of dollars will be distributed among the successful competitors. Arthur Zimmerman, who was so popular on the French tracks some years ago, has been induced to sign a contract to ride in France during the exposition. Last summer it will be remembered that the "Skeeter" made a match with Eddie Bald for a series of races and was beaten. It is very likely that Bald will be one of the party of Americans who will race at Paris during the fair, as "the Blean" is alleged to have lost

a good deal of money during the past few months while following the horses, and, if that be true, he is doubtless quite ready to return to his old love, the wheel.

If Bald will only settle down to hard work and train faithfully, there are many who believe that he can beat any man in the world in a mile race.

It would be intensely interesting if Bald and Zimmerman were to meet in France next summer and settle beyond all doubt who is the faster man. The races last summer were hardly a fair test in many respects, for "Zimmy" had not competed for several seasons and could hardly be expected to do well on his first appearance. Besides, he had not then learned the modern "jump" which wins nearly all the races now and at which Bald is an expert. Now, however, Bald has also had a period of loafing and high living, and consequently if both train conscientiously and race under favorable conditions their meeting should be worth going a long way to witness.

Some of the "pros" who intend to compete in France next summer are going to run no risk in the matter of getting acclimated, but intend to be in perfect condition when the time comes for the big prizes to be raced for. A party has been formed the members of which will leave this country early in the spring and go to Italy. There they will take part in the Italian circuit, and then, by slow stages, work their way up to Paris, taking in all the events they can in the south of the republic.

Harry Elkes, the one hour champion, and "Major" Taylor, the L. A. W. "speed merchant," will also strive for gold and records in France during 1900. At present there seems to be no middle distance rider who can "hold" the Glen Falls lead, but it must be remembered that he will be riding in a foreign country next summer, where the audience, climate and everything else will be in favor of his opponents. The French tracks are among the finest in the world, however, and if he gets properly acclimated and has good pacemaking there is no doubt that Elkes will give a good account of himself.

Cycling will not be the only sport in Paris during the exposition to attract American competitors. The second series of the revived Olympian games will take place, and several American colleges have decided to send teams over.

The strongest team of track and field athletes to leave our shores will probably be the one that will represent the University of Pennsylvania. The majority of the members will include those who won so many points for Pennsy at the intercollegiate games last spring. These are some of the cracks:

A. G. Kraenzlein, the champion hurdler and broad jumper; J. N. Tewkesbury, the short distance intercollegiate champion runner; J. C. McCracken, the champion shot thrower and hammer expert; Alexander Grant, the distance runner; I. K. Baxter, champion high jumper; T. T. Hare, E. A. McElhing, T. B. McClain and other good men will also go over.

This team of athletes should be able to defeat almost any combination they may run up against; consequently there are strong hopes that several prizes will be landed in this country, especially as several of the other colleges which

will send teams have splendid men included in their numbers.

A suggestion has been made that a team of American polo experts, picked from the different clubs, should go over next summer and enter the tournament to be held during the Paris fair. There has never been a polo contest between this country and England, and the players on this side are very anxious to try their skill with the Englishmen. Some differences exist in the rules of the two countries, but these are slight and the matter could easily be arranged.

The American Polo association has as yet taken no action in the matter, but may do so shortly. The Western tour four is the team most likely to make the trip, and as soon as the matter is officially broached there are very likely to be found several other players who will be willing to go.

**AFRAID HE'D OVERSLEEP AGAIN.**  
A good story is told of an experience of Joe Jefferson. A number of years ago he played a one night engagement in a small town and appeared in his favorite part of Rip Van Winkle in the hotel at which he stopped. An Irishman "recently landed" was acting as porter and general assistant. Judged by the deep and serious expression which he took in the house, he might have been clerk, lessee and proprietor rolled into one.

At 6 o'clock in the morning Mr. Jefferson was startled by a violent knocking on his door. When he struggled into consciousness and realized that he had left no "call" order at the office he was naturally very indignant. His sleep was spoiled for that morning, so he arose and soon after appeared before the clerk.

"See here," he demanded of that individual, "why was I called at this unearthly hour?"

"I don't know, sir," answered the clerk. "I'll ask Mike."

The Irishman was summoned, and the clerk:

"Mike, there was no call for Mr. Jefferson. Why did you disturb him?"

Taking the clerk by the lapel of his coat, the Irishman led him to one side and said in a mysterious whisper: "He was snoring like a horse, and he'd heard the b'y's saying as he was he were once after shapling for twenty years, so O! see to meself, as 'Molke, it's a coming on to him again, and it's yer duty to git the crayther o'er yer house instantly!"

**YARMOUTH'S STAGE NAME.**

Probably the Earl of Yarmouth, who is now a full blown professional on the American stage, had better reason for his selection of a stage name, without which no actor would seem to be complete, than is the case with most players. In speaking of the land of the stars and stripes he said recently: "My title has no place in this country and is a nuisance in business, and so I have taken the stage name of Eric Hope. The origin of the name is this: I was in Cannes last season with a party of English people and was in a small field of which the Marchioness of Lorne, Princess Louise, was the patroness. A souvenir of the occasion she gave me this scarfpin. You see, it is an opal, the stone of my birth month, October. The opal, you know, is the symbol of hope. There you have the name Hope. And here is where I got the name Eric. He drew from his pocket a small silver box, which he opened and showed a branch of white heather. 'This,' he said, 'has its association. It is the erica, or white heather, and is the symbol of good luck. From it took the name Eric, and so you have my stage name, 'Eric Hope.' Now am superstitious to a degree, and I believe in the good omens suggested by my names."

Rostand's "Le Theatre," which is to be acted by Bernhardt, will make an attempt to portray the principal defects in the life of Mme. Bernhardt. The play, it is alleged, is especially intended for America.



SCENE FROM  
"THREE LITTLE LAMBS"

"THE COWBOY  
AND THE LADY"

MAXINE  
ELLIOTT

JESSIE  
MILLWARD

"MY  
LADY'S  
LORD"

WILLIAM  
FAVERSHAM

N. C.  
GOODWIN

you want to know what it's all about, I give up."

He was not the only man who had to give up in this case. As a delicate work of art, he understood, "My Lady's Lord" richly deserves to succeed. If it should not do so, however, it will be simply because the average theater goer is possessed of about the same quantity of gray matter as the gentleman just quoted. It is to be feared that there will be many persons who will stop to ask the same question, and if that should prove to be the case there will be little chance for a long run for "My Lady's Lord" in this city.

There is, nevertheless, another side to the question. As soon as it is discovered that it requires a certain amount of cleverness to appreciate "My Lady's Lord" it is more than likely that everybody will be telling everybody else what an exceptionally bright play it is and hinting how he had gone to the bottom of its mysteries at the very first performance, while his friend Jones or Smith or Brown had failed utterly to fathom its significance. If such a contingency should arise, the box office success of the piece will be assured, for fade pay enormously in New York.

Yet of the artistic side of "My Lady's Lord" there can be no two opinions. It is a delightful piece of satire, so thoroughly sugar coated as to afford unlimited amusement while its wit barbed shafts are flying about in every direction.

The story of "My Lady's Lord" reads almost like the "argument" of a comic opera libretto. The Archduke of Vasungia has a charming but violent tempered daughter, the Lady Doura. This damsel, on a visit to London, has been seen and admired by a poor barister, Jack Martin, who was so infatuated that he has followed her all the way to the mythical land of Vasungia. There she meets him, and there, to escape a marriage with the hated ruler of a neighboring country, she takes advantage of a certain marriage making holy day peculiar to the country and weds Jack, whom she then tells to go about his business. The young Englishman has no idea of doing anything so foolish and at once "declares himself." The Lady Doura resents the authority of her new made husband and endeavors first to ridicule and then to browbeat him into leaving her, but without avail. When the former lover, Goska, learns that Doura is already a wife, he swears to carry her off by force. In this plan he is aided by a jealous woman with a penchant for falling in love with every man she meets. Martin has refused to make love to her, and therefore she "would fain get even with him." Martin, of course, overhears the plot and proceeds at midnight to Doura's chamber to save her from the villain. She laughs at his fears and warnings and declines his offer of assistance. Finally she orders him to leave. He goes, but warns her

the latter is severely wounded. Martin is sentenced to be shot the next morning at dawn in the presence of the Cardinal Guzzelli, a queer sort of creature, who is forever running errands for others and, as a melancholy result, missing his meals.

Doura meanwhile has come to her senses, and at the same time has arrived at a realization of the fact that the suave young Englishman is adamant when his rights as a husband are involved. She concludes also, incidentally, that she has at last met the one man in all the world who is able to rule her, and so, as women usually do in similar circumstances, she surrenders unconditionally. But now she finds that her husband's life is forfeit to the law. She devises a plan to permit him to escape. The law prescribes that the execution must take place in the presence of the cardinal, and she and a friend at once find the prelate asleep and proceed to lock him in the plate closet, where he continues to slumber until after the hour set for the execution has passed. Then Martin and Lady Doura start away, and the play ends.

Doesn't all that read like a crazy and hopelessly jumbled potpourri of farce, comedy drama, melodrama, comic opera, extravaganza and burlesque? Well, it ought to, anyway, for that is precisely what "My Lady's Lord" is—in a Pickwickian sense, of course. It is an entertainment, but instead of presenting us with a lot of senseless caricatures the author, Mr. Esmond, has sensibly and boldly determined to give us instead a play made up entirely of the old friends whom we have been seeing on the stage for the last 30 years. True, he has transplanted some of the pillars of melodrama into farce, and he has also taken liberties with many others whose age would seem to have entitled them to more respectful treatment, but they are all there, and all are easily recognized.

In short, Mr. Esmond evidently determined to take a fling at the methods of the modern playwright, himself included, and to expose to the vulgar gaze the conventional methods followed by contemporary dramatists. He has done his work magnificently, and it is to be hoped that "My Lady's Lord" will long remain the attraction at the Empire. It is really an artistic treat, and the success of such a work would reflect more credit upon this community than the enormous takings generally attributed to some of the libidinous French farces with which we have been afflicted during the past few years. It would be unjust to drop "My Lady's Lord" without calling attention to some

since been forgiven for that, for it was amusing even though it was absurd. In fact, it appears to be Mr. Barnett's special mission in life to amuse, no matter how extreme his methods adopted for bringing about that commendable result may be.

In a stage vehicle like "Three Little Lambs" the opinion of a critic is usually of little value, and the ultimate test, perhaps, its reception by an audience. Judged by that standard, "Three Little Lambs" would appear to be an unqualified success. In fact, if applause be a safe criterion, the piece should long continue the attraction at the Fifth Avenue theater. Another strong point in favor of "Three Little Lambs" is that it was to have been produced by that king of managers, Augustin Daly. The untimely demise of that estimable and thoroughly artistic manager, however, made this impossible.

The story of "Three Little Lambs" is simplicity itself, and it is as typical of Barnett as anything could possibly be.

Tooke is the president of the bank of Harwicke & Tooke, which has a board of women directors. A certain Hungry Jim and a certain Phyllis, who are man and wife constitute, with Tooke, the "Three Little Lambs." The sole aim in life of this precious trio appears to be to get hold of the money which Harwicke is to receive under certain conditions as a legacy. The amount, by the way, is distinctly Barptelike. It is a mere \$3,000,000. Harwicke will receive this trifle if during a period which is stated he shall refrain from all suspicion of fast living. Tooke naturally is anxious to keep his women directors in ignorance of his real purpose. Harwicke meanwhile has fallen desperately in love with a lady named Beatrice, a dancer, whom he has made secretary of the bank. He is unaware of the particular clause in the will which acts as a sort of silent censor of his conduct. Beatrice discovers that the Lambs are

In Norfolk and Richmond; 1 in the state of Georgia, at Atlanta; 3 in the state of Alabama, 7 in the city of New Orleans, 6 in the state of Texas, 1 in Arkansas, 2 in Tennessee, 3 in Kentucky, 7 in the city of Cincinnati, 1 in the state of Indiana, 3 in the city of Detroit, 3 in the city of Buffalo and 1 appearance each in Ithaca, Troy and Albany. Mr. Mansfield is most careful of his health and physical resources. He finds matinee too taxing, and he prefers the less involved in cutting them to loss of energy and menace to his health. After leaving New York he will give only five matinees during the balance of the season.

ARTHUR CRISPIN.

New York.

**MANSFIELD'S PREDICAMENT.**

It happened during the rehearsals of "The Devil's Disciple." In the last act Mr. Mansfield, as Dick Dudgeon, the impudent patriot, stands upon the seat of a wagon and under the crossbeam of the barn door with a short rope around his neck, all ready for a necktie party. The supers grasp the tongue of the wagon and draw it out from under the condemned man to leave him broken necked and executed, but "the poetic justice" of the play arrives at this timely moment, and the supers are stopped in the act.

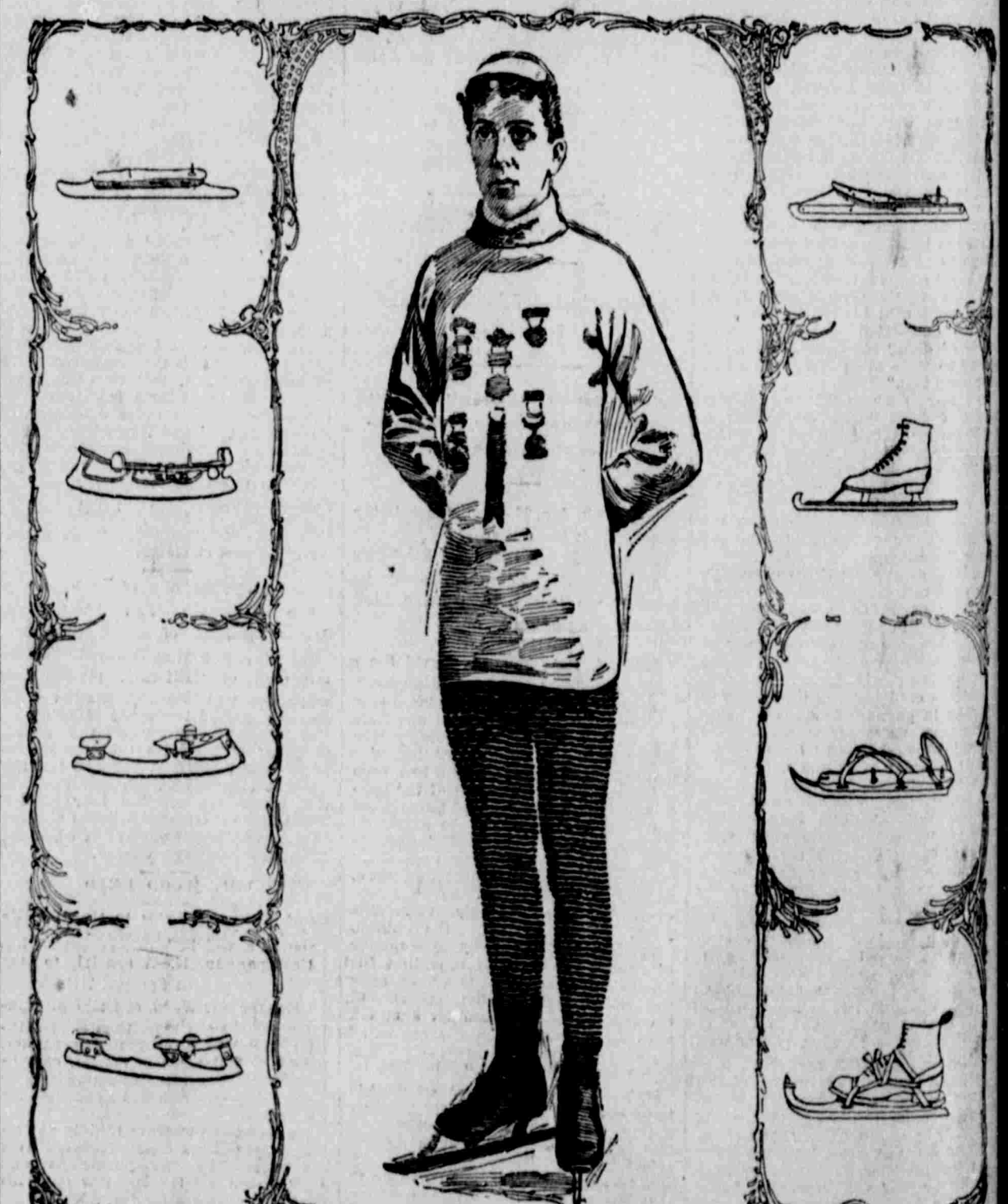
At one of the early rehearsals Mr. Mansfield mounted the wagon seat and stood noosed, ready for poetic justice which didn't arrive. The green supers grasped the wagon tongue and were tardily stopped before Mr. Mansfield strangled to death. Did he rave? Did he scold? No. As the wagon drew him on his heels he reached up and grabbed the rope over his head to prevent strangling, when he exclaimed:

"Who has braved you to hang me? What have they paid you? I double it! I don't care how much they have offered you, I double it!"

**CHOYNSKI WOULD RETIRE.**

Joe Choyinski is doing more than his share of fighting these days. Inside of the last ten months Choyinski has met at least nine men in contests ranging from six to 20 rounds each. Joe wants to quit the business. The heavyweight married four or five years ago, and ever since that time has been saving his earnings in an attempt to get up a "pile" large enough to warrant him retiring from active ring work.

Just before Choyinski fought McCoy at Chicago, for which he received the neat sum of \$1,400, he remarked to a friend: "I only hope that I will last one year longer and have my luck with me. I know I am not as young as I used to be and that, but I am still far from being a back number. Few know what has bothered me for the last two or three years. I have suffered not a little with my hands. But with just a little ordinary luck I'll be satisfied to retire at the end of the present season."



CHARLES L. MCLAVE, AMATEUR CHAMPION SKATER.

## IN THE AMUSEMENT WORLD.

The authors of "At the White Horse Tavern" have written a sequel to it, "As We Come Again."

Henry Clay Barnabee of Bostonians fame is 68 years of age, 45 of them having been spent on the stage.

As a novelty for their contemplated joint tour in America at a future date, Sara Bernhardt and Coquelin will pre-

sent the new Mureau drama which Mansfield is to give us in the English version. It presents the infamous Judge Jeffreys as the center and pivot of the action.

The French comedian Coquelin is now about 53 years old, and Mme. Bernhardt's age is 55 years.

Arrangements are being made by

Manager J. H. Decker of the Primrose and Dockstar minstrels to present this attraction in London next June, and after the English engagement they propose to visit Australia and South Africa.

"Lord Byron," a romantic drama based upon the life of the poet, will shortly be presented for the first time. Adeline Patti comes of a very musical family. Her father, Salvatore Patti, and

his wife were both well known singers of their time. They had four daughters—all remarkable for their beautiful voices—and a son, Carlo, who became a proficient violinist.

Paderevsky's last concert in London before he sailed for America, the proceeds of which were devoted to charity, netted \$5,000.

Made Adams is to venture further this season into the Shakespearean

field. It is announced that she will appear as Rosalind before her New York season ends. She also will be seen again as Juliet.

Mrs. Strakosch, once famous in the musical world as Clara Louise Kellogg, is now making her permanent home in New Hartford, Conn.

Low Dockstar may star in a comic opera next season.

Miss Angie Russell has been selected

to create the principal part in America in "The Royal Family" when that London success is put on in this country next September.

Nat Goodwin has had a play written called "When We Were Twenty-one."

Eleanor Duse is said to be in earnest this time in announcing her retirement from the stage.

George Elliot's "Adam Bede" has been made into a play. Heretofore "Daniel

Druce," adapted from "Silas Marner," has been the only play from that author known in this country.

France is not always first in utilizing good stage ideas. Two French plays, "The Robbers" and "The Robbers," have just been dramatized by "Robbers" for a spectacular extravaganza.

Mrs. John Wood has announced in London her intent to retire permanently from the stage.