Dramatic and Sporting.

THE GOTHAM STAGE
AS VIEWED
BY ARTHUR CRISPIN.

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I saw the new Glen MacDonough play, "Kate Kip, Buyer," in which May Irwin is starring, the other night, out of town, and there can be no doubt that Miss Irwin has the best medium in which she has appeared in many years. The piece turns upon the rivalry existing between two book towns, each of which answer to the designation of permanent capital of the state. Upon this situation Kate the material welfare of the young man who is the gay to Miss Irwin's Kate. Through the mendacity to which Miss Irwin appears to be perpetually condemned on the stage the matter is straightened out satisfactorily, and every one is made happy excepting only the rather negative villain, who has stolen a Japanese uniform and masquerades as the hero of the China-Japanese war.

As usual, Miss Irwin is supported by an excellent company. Her old stand-by, Carlton Miles, not too artistically somewhat of a comedy stock company. The play is for each of them to present a play and they go to the control of the Wilkinsons, then in the west and the west, and so on. During the absence from the home town each of the companies will be rehearsing a new play, so that by the time the starting point is reached it will be ready for presentation. In most of cities it is all revolving. Altogether the play is not a great one for the "young people," but it does that, as perhaps because of it, it is the most wholesome performance of the Irwin.

This theatre has the best stock company in the United States, if not in the world, and John Drew is an actor who is capable of doing great things, but so long as the public will patronize plays of the type of "The Liars" and "The Conquerors" it is able to repeat managers to present those which appeal to the better side of human nature exclusively.

The recent week's revival of Bronson Howard's "Shenandoah," which, by the way, is playing to enormous receipts in nearly every city visited, has served once more to call attention to a young actress who is bound to make her mark in the theatrical world. That she has not already done so is most emphatically unfair is a matter of surprise to those who take pleasure in watching the careers of promising beginners. Not that Miss Mary Hampton, the lady in question, is a beginner. She has had a long and varied stage experience, but she has also been unfortunate in not having been given the opportunity to shine in the only field from which it seems to be the general impression that she is properly considered—the city of New York. I saw Miss Hampton in Viola Allen's part in "Shenandoah" a couple of years ago, and, while she did not in any sense imitate the original, she gave a performance which for strength and "concentration" of interpretation was really remarkable.

It was then predicted that it would be only a matter of a short time before Miss Hampton would be a member of a stock company with the late William Terriss. It is possible that in the time to which she has been mentioned nothing all her life Miss Hampton has not a superior in the world, but it is almost certain that Miss Hampton would more nearly fill the void created by the retirement of Miss Allen from the Drew company.

From time to time during the last few months the newspapers of this city have been publishing statements to the effect that Augustin Daly is to have a new theatre in the neighborhood of Fifth avenue and Forty-fourth street. No one of these writers seemed to know what dependence would be made in that event of the present Daly's theatre, but that, after all, was a small matter to quarrel with athletic imaginations. There is a certain gentleman in the city who knows more of Mr. Daly's plans and purposes than all the newspaper writers of the country put together. He says that there is not a word of truth in the new theatre report, and he knows what he is talking about, too.

Alf Hayman, Charles Frohman's right hand man, told me a few days ago that Maude Adams' success on the road has simply taken his breath away. Everybody connected with the Frohman producing with the late William Terriss. It is possible that in the time to which she has been mentioned nothing all her life Miss Hampton had not a superior in the world, but it is almost certain that Miss Hampton would more nearly fill the void created by the retirement of Miss Allen from the Drew company.

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A TRIO OF SUCCESSFUL STARS.

John C. Sparks, in of course cast for the role of a prosperous and shrewd Irishman, who is able to outwit everybody but the star, and that naturally would never do. Amanda Harlowe, always a capable actor, is well fitted with the role of an anarchist, who, to prove the depth of his devotion for one of the gentler sex, declares to an impoverished mother that he would even go to work for her. The women, who in an Irish farce are mostly stage furniture, for the star, are all pretty and are, besides, able to act.

Miss Tyler-Morin plays a Japanese girl in English, with a very slight French accent. That lady, who has no superior in the world as a pantomimic artiste and who will be remembered as the original exponent of the title role of "L'Enfant Prodigue" in this city at Daly's theatre, is absolutely wasted in "Kate Kip, Buyer." Indeed for little specialty, which ought to well received in an entertainment of a different nature, scarcely gets a hand." The author of the play, Glen MacDonough, seems to have once more struck his gait as a writer of farce.

I had a talk the other day with Mr. Albert Mellon, the secretary of the James H. Waite Amusement company, about the theory that the repertory and stock companies will shortly cease to exist as influential phases of the amusement entering business of the country. Of course this is the opinion of scarcely any one except the few managers who find that these organizations are interfering with their travelling parties of reading but plays and with star casts, but the points have given so much space to the subject lately that the views of "the other side," so to speak, ought to be of interest.

Mr. Mellon informs me that the Waite company has been organized with a capital of $200,000 and that it is its purpose to put on the road a number of companies in addition to those which are now successfully carrying the banner. Only the best of the attractions now will be presented, and as the prices will continue to be from 10 to 50 cents and the companies are to be made up as at present, of capable artists he believes that the success attained will be not a step in the market to that which the future holds.

A chance of the Waite company which will be a novelty is the introduction in this arrangement there will be several weeks devoted to the rehearsal of each play instead of one week only, as is the rule at present with best stock organizations, and the productions will of necessity be correspondingly improved.

Waite has already made a beginning in the presentation of plays and scenes at cheap prices in need of the amusement, and so he is so emphatically showing work it is quite probable that there is something in this latest development of his pet hobby. At any rate, there are several imitators already in New York, which would seem to indicate that there are those who see in the opinion that "repertory" and "stock" are very far from being dead issues.

Henry Arthur Jones, perhaps the most crafty of the British playwrights from the standpoint of stage effects after an absence of a couple of years is again prominently represented at the Empire theatre in this city, where John Drew is presenting his latest editorial comedy, "The Liars." The Empire has always been a lucky house for Jones and none of his work has there received better treatment than, in the opinion of many good judges, is deserved. If there is the slightest excuse for a problem, Jones is certain to run one into his play. All sorts of diseases which are supposed to be tabooed in polite society are made to be boldly treated by the shrewd stage parvenu, who realizes that there are certain people who seem to imagine that percentages of plays in which some serious hypocrisy are introduced is an evidence of "knowing the world." They like to be considered "knowing" and there is, aside from the undoubted ability of Mr. Jones as a dramatist, this will be found the secret of the author partiality on the success which has come to him since he adopted play writing as a profession.

The "problem" in "The Liars" appears to be the question of the extent of the responsibility of a wife and her mother, who have not actually lapsed, with the man society duly forgave the adultery. They are not ashamed of their conduct, however, and yet insist that circumstances have compelled them to conceal the fact of their sin, and that, in view of the fact that the husband is "The Liars" is quite and happy. There are numerous comedy points in which the author of the type of "The Liars" and "The Conquerors" is able to repeat managers to present those which appeal to the better side of human nature exclusively.

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MARY HAMPTON.

The star of the prominent stock companies of this city, indeed when Miss Allen withdrew from the Empire theatre to enter the author temporarily it is probable that one of every six either in this city thought that her successor would be Mrs. Hampton. Indeed, Mr. Charles Frohman seemed to be so fond of the idea that Miss Allen's (the lady who was so long associated in metropolitan forces was of the opinion that Miss Adams' star would prove satisfactory in a financial as well as in an artistic sense, but so she had the clinched idea that she would be completely take the country by storm. At the Wednesday matinee at the Hollis Street theatre, in Boston, she played to more than $1,300, and the takings for a week have seldom been less than $11,000. Her success in Boston was greater than those of either Bernhardt or Irving, both of whom attracted the prices of admission, while Miss Adams did not.

Mr. Hayman further informed me that the price on Miss Adams' season in New York city last year were in the neighborhood of $15,000. These are big figures, of course, not mine, but she certainly was a phenomenal success and they have made a lot of money.

And, when one stops to think of it, this is not so bad for a girl who a little more than half a dozen years ago would probably have been delighted to accept an offer of a job position on the stage at very much less than $100 a week.

It is doubtful whether New York has ever had a season in which there were so many early successes as the present one. There has not yet been a single completed failure in this city, and there have been many complete successes. In addition to "The Little Corporal," in which Francis Wilson is delighting large audiences at the Broadway theatre, one of the best comedy stars in Miss Maude Adams, the latest comic opera star, who is doing wonders at Wallack's in "The Fortune Teller," the book of which is by Harry B. Smith, who is also responsible for the words of the piece.

Mr. Frank L. Perley, the manager of Miss Nielsen, believes that if he can make the necessary arrangements he may will not leave for home New York for some months. Miss Julia Arthur is to follow Miss Nielsen at Wallack's and at the time it seems of the other first class houses is fully backed to be difficult to see how he can hope to accomplish this result.

Arthur Crispin

New York.

Took the Best Odds.

Corrigan, the well known horseman, had a jockey of whom he was very careful. The boy fell ill, and Corrigan told him to go to his own physician. Unfortunately the youngster forgot the address, but he remembered the office. He entered the "office boy" room, observing aloud to keep the words "11 to 5," which "2 to 1." A third door was marked "11 to 5." "I guess these are the best odds on the street," said the jockey, "and I'll try this fellow."

Edna Wallace Hopper will star next season in a comic opera that is now being written for her.

THE BOSTON TEAM;
HOW IT WON
THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The baseball season of 1898 is over. In spite of the disgusting outcome of the late war it has been one of the most interesting races for the National league pennant in recent years. For one thing, it was the longest schedule in the history of the association, and, really, the leading clubs have been within a few points of each other most of the time and the winner was not positively known until the last week of the race. Consequently great interest in the games was not allowed to flag, but remained on the edge up to the very last.

On the 15th of April the opening games were played, so that for six months the fans were had opportunities to witness their favorite sport.

The season had its ups and downs for all the clubs. Each started in with unlimited hope and confident that the pennant of "championship the years" would at last land within sight at least of the promised land when the autumn leaves began to fall. Last year Boston managed to get the pennant away from the Baltimores by the narrow margin of 41 points, having won 102 games to the Orioles' 90 and lost 36 as against 48 defeats for the Baltimore nine. Boston's team had held the pennant for three seasons previous to this, and Boston had also won the flag the same number of times since 1891, when the present National league agreement was signed. Thus this year there was a sort of rubber between them for the famous trophy.

The Boston team did not start out very brilliantly this season, and on April 24 were eighth on the list, with a record of three games won and four lost. From that point, however, they began steadily to climb, with varying fortune, worry and scurry the top of the list. On the 1st of May they had reached the first division, being sixth, with a record of six games won and five lost and a percentage of .545.

Cincinnati, the club which badly wanted the pennant this year, was leading at this time, with Baltimore second. The Queen City team ably defended its position at the top of the heap for the greater part of the season, but at last succumbed to the inevitable strain of a long season and of being pitted against teams containing players who could let to stand the racket.

By the 1st of June the standing of the clubs had greatly changed. Cincinnati was still in the lead, being over ten points ahead of Cleveland, which was in second place. Boston had slumbered into the third notch, more than 16 points behind the leaders, while the fourth place was held by the champion team from Baltimore. In the middle of the month the four leading teams were still holding the same positions, but the positions were greatly changed. Cincinnati fell, with 30 points; Cleveland and Boston were tied for second place, with 48 and Baltimore was fourth, with 34 points.

When the first day of August rolled around the four leading teams stood as follows: Cincinnati, won 68, lost 28, percentage .621; Boston, won 64, lost 32, percentage .667; Cleveland, won 56, lost 31, percentage .664; Baltimore, won 52, lost 28, percentage .650. From May 15 until Wednesday, Aug. 17, the Cincinnatis had maintained their lead, although by that time Boston had climbed the bulwark to a practical tie, as on that date these clubs stood: Cincinnati, won 81, lost 36, percentage .692. Boston, won 81, lost 36, percentage .692. As it was on the 11th of June that the champions jumped into second place, it took them exactly one month to wrest the pennant from the Cincinnatis.

Just about this time the stock dealer which the Cincinnati players had been to maintain the lead began to cut down them. They were playing a series with the New Yorks, and the slump in betting shown by them was plotted to set, now. It helped the Boss Reiters to check their hold on the first place, despite—a fact of which they were not slow to avail themselves. Baltimore was also making a desperate struggle to redeem her lost laurels and from this point on was a very prominent factor in the struggle.

On the 25th of August the Baltimores administered a defeat to the Cincinnatis and at the same time deprived them of second place. The next day Cincinnati administered the Orioles and regained her position.

On the first day of September the three leading clubs were within five points of each other, the score being as follows: Boston, .631; Baltimore, .629; Cincinnati, .625. They were now on the home stretch, and the winner seemed certain to be one of them, though Cleveland, with a score of .536 was still in the running.

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[President and manager of the Boston Baseball club]

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