



THE present theatrical season brings us once more an old friend in Mr. Russell Bassett, who has been visiting the Salt Lake theater ever since the days of "Jimmy Harris" management. Mr. Bassett comes in one of the Orpheum sketches next week, and is already here in advance of the principal lady, Miss Felice Morris. He is taking advantage of his rest to visit old-time haunts, and what he can tell about the days of Lawrence Barrett, the Walker Opera House, and the less prosperous times he lit upon at the Grand Theater, would fill a most interesting volume. Perhaps one of the best remembered of the many roles Mr. Bassett has filled here is Mr. Hobbs, the grocer, in "Little Lord Fauntleroy."

Mr. Bassett's first visit to Salt Lake was made in 1889, when he came here with his partner, Fitzgerald, as manager of Lawrence Barrett. They struck the town in midsummer, opened to a \$500 house, and closed to one that counted up \$126, showing that the venture of playing in opposition to the lake, even a quarter of a century ago, was an expensive one.

Mr. Bassett loves to narrate how he and Fitzgerald organized the Barrett company in San Francisco, guaranteeing the star \$200 a night, and found after purchasing their railroad tickets from San Francisco to Portland, that their joint capital was just \$130. If Barrett had had the least glimmering of an idea as to the condition of his managers' exchequer, the chances are that he would have never taken the boat out from San Francisco. When they reached Portland, the two put their heads together, trying to solve how they could best raise a few dollars before registering at a hotel, and Mr. Bassett solved the problem by stepping into the drug store where the advance sale was going on, nonchalantly introducing himself as manager of the attraction, and carelessly asking about the weather and the advance sale; this he found to be very good, and he tossed the clerk an I O U for \$25, with a request that it be cashed. The clerk politely told him that he wanted it, but his answer was that \$25 would do for the present, and pocketing the bills, he walked around the corner where the anxious Fitzgerald was waiting for him, and they literally fell into each other's arms. The whole town turned out en masse to welcome Barrett, and the managers divided up the sum of \$3,200 as the result of their venture.

Salt Lake theater-goers who have been wondering whether or not William Gillette had retired from the stage, will be informed by a report that he reappeared in Rochester last week in conjunction with a new English actress named Miss Constance Collier. The play was "Samson," a modern drama written by the author of "The Thief." "Samson" is the name bestowed on a modern copper king and the play is based on domestic complications. Judging by the fact that Gillette and Miss Collier both made decided successes.

Everyone remembers the famous minstrel tenor, Joe, who, a few years ago, made his first hit in "Silver Threads Among the Gold." Joe's voice has made him the feature of the minstrel companies with which he has been associated for many years, but this is the first time he has visited Salt Lake as one of the actors in a play. The title of his production is "Don't Tell My Wife," and while little is known of the story or Mr. Joe's part, it can well be taken as certain that the author has given him ample opportunity for the display of his vocal gifts. His opening at the Salt Lake theater occurs Thursday evening next.

A special dispatch to the "News" from Portland, dated the 15th, in regard to the production of the widely debated play of "The Clansman," runs as follows:

"The largest audience of the season attended the play of 'The Clansman' tonight at the Nellig theater. A great interest had been aroused in the coming of Thomas Dixon's play on account of a report having been made to the mayor to prevent its presentation, but he declined to interfere and the theater was packed, many having been turned away who could not obtain seats. There was great enthusiasm and many demonstrations of approval during the entire evening. The house is practically sold out for the rest of the engagement."

"The Clansman" is due at the Salt Lake theater week after next. Its Kluklux and negro episodes have made it the most talked-of play of recent seasons.

One of the most promising bills of the season is what Manager Finch of the Orpheum announces for next week. The bill is headed by one of Jesse L. Lasky's acts entitled "The Military Octette," and "The Girl with the Baton." Salt Lake has always been very partial to Mr. Lasky's productions, and if advance notices are to be relied upon, this is his most popular offering; it is a military spectacle, soldiers of various nations are represented and glimpses are obtained of beautiful landscapes of different countries.

"The Old, Old Story," by Miss Frances Willson, is what Miss Elsie Morris offers. To give a synopsis of the "Old, Old Story" would be robbing Orpheum patrons of some of the pleasure of seeing this act, and it will be enough to say that the plot is unique and that a photograph plays a new and humorous part in the playlet. Miss Morris is the talented daughter of the late Felix Morris, one of America's most renowned character actors, and she will be assisted by the veteran actor, Russell Bassett, and a new actor, Mr. Charles Silk.

"Motoring in Mid-Air" is something decidedly new either in vaudeville or anywhere else, but that is the way the Tom Davies trio introduce their act. Davis is one of America's favorite comed men, having played that position with the best minstrel aggregations in the land.

Rice & Elmer present their three-



THE TOM DAVIES TRIO OF SENSATIONAL MOTOR CYCLISTS AT THE ORPHEUM.

act bar comedy act which is said to be one of the best aerial acrobatic acts on the stage.

Miss Wallace's popular orchestra promises to furnish a delightful part of the program with new selections and overtures, while the kinodrome will give its favorite exhibition.

"The Grand next week will make a plunge into a new field, presenting the first half of the week 'Faust,' and the second the famous old play of 'The Three Musketeers.' The central figure in both plays will be Mr. Stanford Dodge, who has a good standing as a player of romantic roles. He will, of course, have the part of Mephisto in the first piece and the role of the d'Artagnan in the second. He will be assisted by Miss Louise Marshall, who will render the role of Marguerite in 'Faust,' and Anne of Austria in the other play. The management claim that in Mr. Dodge's visit, they are presenting a \$1.50 attraction for 50 cents to their Salt Lake patrons.

The Lyric bill next week, opening this afternoon, is an especially attractive one. Besides the cameraphone attraction, the other feature will be 'Wild West,' a comedy sketch, 'A Modest Manicure,' detailing the experiences of a country gentleman in a city barber shop, a singing and dancing sketch, called 'Baseball,' and winding up with the third act of 'The Chimes of Normandy,' which is claimed will be superior to the two which have preceded it. 'Amateur Night' will be another laughable act thrown upon the screen.

#### THEATER GOSSIP

Louis James and a splendid production of 'Peer Gynt' are promised for this city soon.

William H. Thompson gave out an interview the other day to the effect that this is his last year in vaudeville.

Ned Harrigan has come to life again, and is playing an Irish servant in 'The Wife's Family,' at Wallace's theater.

Denman Thompson, who was 75 years old October 15, and who began his professional engagement at the Academy of Music, New York, in 'The Old Homestead.'

Miss Olga Nethersole will make her annual tour of the United States during January and February. She is planning a spring season in Paris after a short tour of Germany.

The opening by Maxine Elliott of her theater, the Elliott, will take place December 1, when that actress will appear in a new play by Clyde Fitch. It will be the first New York playhouse to have a marble front.

Miss Margaret Anglin made her first appearance as Katherine in 'The Taming of the Shrew' at Melbourne, Australia, on Sept. 26. This is the first Shakespearean role she has played since she appeared as Ophelia with the same company.

#### Jerome K. Jerome Winning Wealth.

Special Correspondence.

LONDON, Oct. 7.—Everybody is talking about the success which has come so suddenly to Jerome K. Jerome. Two London plays—both big money makers—have fallen to the lot of the British humorist. Perhaps there is nobody in the play-writing line more worthy to win out after so many years of struggle. It is estimated that his "takings" must be something like \$2,000 a week, although failure was freely predicted for his "Passing of the Third Floor Back" and the London critics mostly roasted it.

I met Jerome in the Strand the other day and asked him how he felt to be making all that money. He gave me one of his most beaming smiles and said he "could do with it," which is an English way of expressing the idea that too much money would not prove a burden. Jerome is not one of the men, however, to abuse his good luck. Despite his humorous predilections, he takes a very serious view of life. He knows a lot about social problems and devotes much of his time to studying the conditions of the "submerged." In fact, his two last plays, particularly "The Passing of the Third Floor Back" are really studies of "social tendencies."

The fact that Jerome has "struck it" proves that there are plenty of fortunes to be made from writing drama despite the recent failure of one or two comedies. Among the most successful money makers in the play-writing line today are J. M. Barrie and Hall Caine. After one week's production of Barrie's latest play, "What Every Woman Knows" at the Duke of York's Theater, the box office had seat orders in hand for \$50,000. Out of his earlier play, "The Little Minister," Barrie had made the neat little sum of \$10,000 a week, while "Peter Pan," "Quality Street," and "The Admirable Crichton" brought to the author \$2,500 each weekly for quite a considerable time. Hall Caine has been netting \$3,000 a week from his play for a long time now, while the recent Gilbert and Sullivan opera revival has brought Gilbert nearly \$200,000.

Among other London playwrights

who have amassed fortunes might be mentioned Arthur Pinero, who cleared \$300,000 out of one play alone—"Sweet Lavender." Pinero is actually the highest paid dramatist in England. He gets \$100 for each performance of a play irrespective of a fixed sum paid in advance. By this arrangement, he made another \$300,000 out of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray," and is now adding to his income by the production of his plays in Paris.

It is really remarkable how the element of luck enters into wealth-winning in the matter of play-writing. The best made plays—like "The Little Minister"—do not always pan out. There is no earthly reason why the recent well written "Laid in Full" should not have made a fortune for its author in England as it doubtless did in America. Here again, the vicissitudes of chance must be borne in mind. In this case, bad luck came in the form of a pretty actress who was not suited to the heroine's part. Even "Charles's Aunt," which earned nearly a million for Penelope, was refused several times, and was announced in our last letter, he will produce "Macbeth." People don't always hawked it about from manager to manager for a long time. He finally interested a man who put \$5,000 into it as a venture and had out of it within a few weeks \$185,000.

Gordon Craig has again broken out in a fresh place. He is on his way to Moscow to study native Russian dramatic art in its lair. After that, as announced in our last letter, he will return to London to help Tree produce "Macbeth." People don't always hawked it about from manager to manager for a long time. He finally interested a man who put \$5,000 into it as a venture and had out of it within a few weeks \$185,000.

an amusing swindle, a thrilling swindle or merely a tickling swindle like Bernard Shaw's plays, but it is not a drama." Thus said "Gordon the Only" as his father called him, when he was asked to express wholly on the individual viewpoint.

All sorts of schemes are being discussed in London coping with the big nuisance. Managers at the theaters do not wish to resort to draconian methods in dealing with the fair sex who visit matinees with hats four or five feet in circumference—or is it diameter? The law on the subject seems to be rather vague and the subject badly a special act of parliament will have to be passed before the atmosphere is sufficiently clear to see through the fog—or, rather, the hat.

A well known king's counsel who was consulted with reference to the two ladies who recently visited the Garrick theater in these frobbidennian costumes, has given a legal opinion on the subject, as follows: "The wearing of a hat of such proportions is an invasion of the property laws, and if the hat extend over the

seat on either side of the wearer—or should we say, occupant—of the hat, then the person or persons on either side of the said hat, or its occupant, is entitled to cut off as much of the hat on either side of the said wearer as constitutes a trespass on the property of the adjoining seats."

This is certainly satisfactory to the man theater-goer and seems to solve the problem. If he objects to a big hat on either side of the said wearer, he is to take with him a pair of shears or an axe if preferable, and chop off as much of the headgear of the offender as is desired.

CURTIS BROWN.

#### SALT LAKERS IN GOTHAM.

Special Correspondence.

NEW YORK, Oct. 11.—The autumn continues so warm and delightful that parties from the city are keeping up their week end visits to friends in the country. Friday afternoon saw a half dozen Utah people assemble at the Thirty-fourth street ferry awaiting the Long Island train to Douglass L. I., where Mr. and Mrs. Stuart M. Kohn have a home for a second year.

Miss Bertha Leland of Salt Lake) also have a beautiful home in this fertile spot, and it is here that Mrs. Kohn spent the year round. Mr. and Mrs. Kohn rent by the season, and the end of every week sees some of their many friends gathered around their hospitable table. The country is an ideal location—at Westmoreland—that Mr. Kohn, Mr. Clyde Squires and Geo. Barratt have property with which they are interested. He being attorney for the Ithaca Street Railway company appeared before the public service board on Oct. 8, to fight the constitutionality of the law creating this commission. This attack had been expected daily, but not until the last of the week was the foundation of the act named had been brought up.

The Associated Press printed several columns on the stand taken by Mr. Kohn, and yesterday's papers announced that other companies would follow the example of Lawyer Kohn. Today he leaves for Auburn, N. Y., to try a case against the middle valley railroad, returning the middle of the week to New York.

The Gaston Millinery establishment owned by Mrs. Helen Davis, has moved from 50 West Thirty-sixth to 37 West Thirty-sixth, a little nearer Fifth avenue, and the entire week has been a grand opening with a big display of the latest in millinery. Mr. Clark, makes a showing equal to any smart shop in the city, and her trade is rapidly growing among the well residents of the principal avenue of the city.

The indefatigable worker for music, Mr. Willard Christy, has resigned out of choir this month, with all the old members included, and the addition of several new ones, Miss Amy Lyman, leading the soprano, Miss Borg is now installed as organist, and several tenors and basses recruited from the resident elders. Mr. Christy is a host in himself, and his enthusiasm everyone with his own enthusiasm.

Mr. Hal Clawson, who is dividing his time between Washington and New York, trying to get a satisfactory settlement with the government in relation to his South American claims, occupied his time this week with the old members included, and the addition of several new ones, Miss Amy Lyman, leading the soprano, Miss Borg is now installed as organist, and several tenors and basses recruited from the resident elders. Mr. Christy is a host in himself, and his enthusiasm everyone with his own enthusiasm.

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CURTIS BROWN.

casualties makes brief calls upon his Utah friends, and last week took dinner and spent the evening with Mr. and Mrs. Kohn. He expects to leave for South America very soon, to settle up the business of his partner, Mr. Wood, who, with his daughter, was supposedly made away with while crossing the sea from one of the small republics to another, last winter.

Last week, Miss Clara Woolley left Kansas City, to join her father, who will locate there for the winter.

Prof. Edmund Severn's studio on West Fifty-sixth street, has the addition of a Utah young lady, Miss Louise Holt, who will continue her violin studies with Mr. Severn, one of the first teachers in the city of the violin, he being a composer as well as soloist. He and his wife, Mrs. Severn, are well known musicians throughout the country, and their reputations are patronized by lovers of classical music from all parts of the city.

At the Plaza, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Prosser, have been located for a few days prior to their departure for Europe, which occurs Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Prosser expect to make New York their home on their return to America. Mrs. Prosser was formerly Mrs. Winifred Sprague Walker of Salt Lake.

Mrs. J. H. Spargo and daughter, Margaret, of Ogden, arrived in the city last Wednesday on their way to Pelham Manor where Miss Spargo will enter Mrs. Hazen's young ladies' seminary for the year which in the city Mrs. Spargo and daughter were guests at the Belmont hotel on West Forty-second street, and on Saturday they left for a two days' visit in Philadelphia. The coming week will see the departure of Mrs. Spargo for her home in Ogden.

At today's Latter-day Saints' services, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Thomstorf arrived in the city from Europe, where they have been for several months. Mr. Thomstorf's business taking him there a few months of each year.

Mrs. Cullimore of Baltimore, a cousin of Mr. Wesley Early of West One Hundred and Thirty-sixth street has been visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Early for a week, leaving for her home Friday and staying a day in Philadelphia to attend the founders' day exercises.

A number of Salt Lake girls are in and around New York this season attending different schools. Miss Alice Wall is at Miss Finch's, also the Misses Houston, Miss Mary Wall who came with her sister having left for a short visit in Washington. Miss Irma Brown is at Miss Bennett's on the Hudson, and Miss Margaret Walker is at Miss Spargo's school on lower Fifth avenue. Utah is well represented all through the east by students this year.

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