

# Dramatic

**S**ALT LAKEERS who have been expectantly awaiting the arrival of the Ebon Holden company at the Theater, and there were very many, because this company was almost like a Salt Lake colony—will regret to learn that the dates in January have been cancelled and that the organization has turned back from Denver to retrace its steps eastward. Manager Poyer is without any details, but surmises that the company, which is largely owned by Frank Eldredge, formerly of this city, had heard of the ill success of much more pretentious attractions in the west, and had wisely decided to stay where "grass was not so short." Mr. Poyer says the company has been doing extremely well in the east and south, where, contrary to the general rule, theatrical business has been surprisingly good all this season. In the west and northwest the lethargy of the public towards the theaters has been of the most surprising kind. The Ebon Holden company included Mr. Eldredge, manager, Chas. W. Meakin, as advance man, and Blanche Kendall Thomas and Ruth Eldredge as leading ladies.

A close friend of Maude Adams in New York writes to the editor of this column that it would have done Maude's Salt Lake friends good, could they have seen the welcome accorded her on her reappearance at the Empire theater last Monday night. The letter says that Miss Adams and Mr. Frohman had quite a discussion as to the play in which she should make her re-entry on Broadway, but that the decision being left to Miss Adams herself, she said, "why not 'The Little Minister'?" This is the theater where it was first produced. It will be on the stage where they first welcomed me as a star," so Babbie was decided on, and the original cast was selected as near as possible. All the originals could not be brought together, however, as Robert Edson, the first Gavin Dismart, is now starring, and W. H. Thompson, the original Elder Tarnas, is also at the head of his own company. Arthur Byron and Chas. Walcott were secured for these two parts, but most of the other roles, including Mr. Jones in the part of Nannie, were in the same hands that played them the first night. It is expected that the run of "The Little Minister" will be limited to four weeks, but the crush and jam at the box office are such as to render that uncertain.

"The Winter's Tale" one of Shakespeare's plays seldom seen in Salt Lake is selected for Frederick Ward's last engagement here. He will be seen in it Monday afternoon and night and Tuesday night, in company with Miss Kathryn Kidder, and his final bow for good and all will be made Wednesday with a revival of "Salambo."

"The Winter's Tale" is the play chosen by Miss Mary Anderson, in which to make her last appearance, and the roles she portrayed—the widely varying characters of Hermione and Perdita—will be essayed by Miss Kidder. Mr. Ward's part will be that of Leontes, the king of Sicilia, the monarch who, craved by jealousy, and deaf to the reasoning of his faithful subjects, condemns his queen to death by the strength only of his own unsupported suspicion. A big company and a big scenic production is looked for.

"Salambo" has been done so recently that it needs no description, but as it will witness Mr. Ward's last appearance it ought to be greeted by a royal turnout on the part of his many Salt Lake friends.

The Emperor Wilhelm of Germany is reported to have stated, Dec. 13: "I do not think many Germans know that I spent last year out of my private income \$1,000,000 on operas and theaters." This is outside of the \$25,000 which His Majesty is understood to have spent on the present production of Leoncavallo's new opera, Der Roland von Berlin.

## LYDIA THOMPSON RETURNS.



LYDIA THOMPSON

Lydia Thompson, the famous queen of burlesque, is returning to this country. Miss Thompson was the acknowledged leader of burlesque in this country twenty years ago. The future she created when in her prime will be recalled by old-time theater-goers. Miss Thompson comes to visit her daughter, who is playing in this country.

is assisted by a male accomplice in her dire work of securing a wife from her husband and children in order that she may marry him and gain his fortune. Her program is interrupted, however, by the comedians of the play, a Frenchman and the Irish servant who brought about is detailed in the story.

Harry Corson Clarke and his stock company have been booked for a five weeks comedy season at the Grand commencing Feb. 21. Mr. Clarke has lately been appearing in Texas in a round of comedies and is said to have a strong organization.

The latter half of next week will be occupied at the Grand by something unique. The attraction consists of nothing less than the famous Frank James, brother of the not less famous Jesse, formerly of the Confederate army and still later famous in Missouri in the industry of holding up trains. As history records, Frank James served the greater part of his term as the guest of his state, and then being pardoned, he took to the stage, a play having been written for him entitled "The Fatal Scar." Those who like this sort of hero and that sort of play will find in Mr. James and "The Fatal Scar," a hero and a play very much to their liking.

At the Utahna theater next week the bill will be "The Two Orphans," rendered by the John S. Lindsay company, which includes not only Mr. Lindsay himself, but his two daughters, Edith and Ruby. Popular prices of admission will prevail.

## THEATRE GOSSIP.

Maude Adams is rehearsing "As You Like It," and this charming comedy will likely be brought out in New York ere her present engagement there terminates.

"Taps" has been acted in Paris at Antoine's under the title "Discipline." The audience did not murmur at seeing German uniforms on the stage for the first time since the Franco-Prussian war.

Willie Collier, who has never before acted outside of America, will play in London next spring and summer. Kyrie

Bellew in "Raffles," and William Gillette in a new piece of his own, will also play in London next summer.

Lucius Henderson, an actor who has for several seasons been the leading man of Florence Roberts' company, has collaborated with a Seattle woman in writing a "problem" play for Miss Roberts. It is to be produced in Seattle next month.

Oscar Wilde's play, "The Duchess of Padua," is being given for the first time in Germany at the Hamburg City theater, Berlin. Carl Hagemann, the German biographer, says that the play was produced in New York in 1891.

Forbes Robertson, the distinguished English actor, and his American wife, Gertrude Elliott, sailed yesterday for London for this country. In a short time they open their second American tour at Toronto, Canada, presenting several important plays in Mr. Robertson's repertoire.

Toiletot has written a letter to Queen Elizabeth of Roumania (Carmen Sylva), saying that owing to circumstances over which he has no control he cannot visit her as promised. From this his friends surmise that he is a prisoner of the czar in his own house, subject to administrative surveillance.

Blanche Ring has been engaged to



MISS KATHRYN KIDDER, In "The Winter's Tale," at the Theater Next Week.

support Frank Daniels in the American production of "Sergeant Brue," a musical comedy now enjoying a long run in London. Miss Ring sails this week for London to witness the performance there, and has taken occasion to again deny the report that she is to marry Frederick Edward McKay, a theatrical business manager and writer.

The holiday number of the Dramatic Mirror is at hand, and as usual, is crammed from cover to cover with the stances of the editor's taste and the publisher's skill. The Mirror, which was the first publication in America to issue a holiday number, lives up to its own standard, and higher praise could hardly be uttered.

The death of Mrs. Gilbert narrows down the number of elderly actresses to three: Mrs. W. G. Jones, Mrs. Sol Smith and "Aunt Louisa" Eldridge. Each of these old ladies has passed the three-score and ten which is considered the allotted time for usefulness, but each of them is still hale and hearty and apparently able to entertain us for many years to come.

Blanche Walsh has not been able to make "The Krutzy Sonata" a success and will soon bring out the new play by Clyde Fitch, to be known as "The Woman in the Case." Much secrecy concerning the story is manifested, as it is claimed that Mr. Fitch insisted that no publicity be given to the details of the plot until the play had been produced.

Gilbert Miller, son of Henry Miller, as the result of his father's vigorous opposition to his desire to be an actor, is now serving as a private in the marine corps on the cruiser Denver. Young Miller secured an engagement with Amelia Bingham and did well, but his father refused to approve of it. So eight months ago Gilbert Miller joined the marine corps at the recruiting office in New York.

Klaw and Erlanger's new policy in the management of the New York theater, presenting big productions at popular prices, the scale ranging from 25 cents to \$1, was inaugurated at the Christmas day matinee. This departure makes the New York the only "popular price house" on Broadway, the great capacity of the theater rendering this plan possible.

Wyndham, like most men who have

## NO STARDOM FOR HER.



MARIE L. LAGUNA Photo by KNEP

Miss Marie L. Laguna's ambition to become a theatrical star has come to an end. Miss Laguna is a Cuban and said to be an heiress to a great fortune. According to the young lady a considerable portion of her income has gone in ways unknown in the efforts of certain people to make a star of her. Miss Laguna has taken her troubles to court, where there are likely to be some sensational developments.

had experience with untitled and unpractised playwrights, is inclined to believe that they get their deserts. "For twenty years," he said not long ago, "I have been reading their manuscripts at the rate of three a week, and I have never found even one that I could put in rehearsal. There have been good things in the plays, but from a technical point of view they have been impossible."

Mrs. Patrick Campbell, who is now appearing in "The Sorceress," has had a play made from "Cavalleria Rusticana," with the intention of appearing as Santuzza. Mme. Duse made a powerful impression in Mascagni's story done in play form. There is said to be a strong probability that Mrs. Campbell will produce an American play by an American author on her return to London. She has several pieces of native workmanship now under consideration.

Diaby Bell has finally been selected to play the title part in Augustus Thomas' new play, "The Education of Mr. Pipp." This play is inspired by Charles Dana Gibson's series of interesting drawings under the same title, and it appears that the selection of this polished comedian is a managerial move in the right direction. Mr. Bell will cancel his vaudeville engagements and begin this week rehearsals of the new part, as it is hoped by Manager La Shell to give it an early production.

The success of "Leah Kleschna," O. M. S. McLellan's powerful and strikingly original drama, in the hands of Mrs. Fluke and the Manhattan company, at the Manhattan theater, New York, phenomenal from the first night, seems to grow amazingly. The New York press, which for almost the first

time within memory was enthusiastically unanious in its favorable treatment of "Leah Kleschna," has continued its attention almost daily to what is now on all sides acknowledged to be one of the most pronounced all round successes in that city in years.

Literary Boston is simply chuckling with glee, according to a dispatch from there, as Nance O'Neil has come out with a newspaper statement in which she gives the New York dramatic critics a terrific exhortation. She says that she "will triumph in New York in spite of the critics," and adds:

"It is truly much to please an intelligent New York audience, but by 'intelligent audience' I do not mean the first-night crowd of wine agents, book-makers and divorcees. My mail is packed with New Yorkers' letters telling me not to heed the New York critical snail in his shell, but to be acclaimed on Broadway."

Edward Terry, the eminent London comedian, who is about to be seen with his company at the Princess theater, New York, has been in almost every part of the world except America.

While his professional appearances have been confined to England and Australia, he has traveled for pleasure in Russia, Poland, Finland, Lapland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria and Africa. A. W. Pinero once suggested to him that he bring "Sweet Lavender," which had just been produced, to the United States, but Mr. Terry replied: "The play is too essentially English to appeal to any but Englishmen." The actor's mistake was a costly one. "Sweet Lavender" was a big hit here, and made thousands upon thousands of dollars.

In the way of classic drama we have Viola Allen in "The Twelfth Night," at the Knickerbocker theater—a very fine and sumptuous revival in which the star is advantageously placed. In her supporting cast we find Henry Jewett, Frank Vernon, James L. Carhart, Zerk Tully, Boyd Putnam, C. Leslie Allen, Frank Currier and a great many more, of whom nearly all are quite competent for the tasks assigned to them.

The noted English comedian, Edwin Terry, with his farcical comedy, "The House of Durnside," is received with some cordiality at the Princess theater. Mr. Terry's methods are essentially British and he is somewhat lacking in warmth and that quality sometimes described as animal spirits. "The House of Durnside" is a mildly amusing but not violently so the whole performance may be termed pleasant if not exhilarating. The members of the company best known here, by name at least, are William H. Denny, Cynthia Brooke and Beatrice Terry.

The new Klaw & Erlanger musical farce called "In Newport," at the Liberty Theater, serves to pass a most enjoyable evening. It is a concoction of funny incidents, lively tunes, smart "gags," pretty costumes, prettier girls and clever comedians. Fay Templeton, of course, shines brightest among the players, for she is quite the best artist of this type that we have known in recent years. She has made a great hit with her new imitations of Marie Dressler and Anna Held, both of which are delightfully droll and quite photographic. But Miss Temple is not the only one in the organization to command favorable attention. Peter F. Dalley, Joseph Coyne, Lee Harrison, Virginia Earle and others help to keep the fun at boiling point and the slightly and melodious chorus "does the rest."

Henry W. Savage has made his second experiment in rural comedy. Introducing Richard Golden at the Fourteenth Street theater in "Common Sense Brackett," a play depicting life in a small Maine village, where Bruce

Brackett is the proprietor of the local hotel. A young woman comes to town and everything goes well with her until the fact leaks out that earlier in life she was an actress. Then there is her assistance, tendering her the shelter of his house. There are riotous times in that little Maine village until the end of the story, which may be readily guessed. Golden's performance of the Yankee hotel man is exceedingly clever, and in fact, the entire company is worthy of high commendation. It contains Theodore Lubbock, Charles H. Hawkins, Florence Rockwell, Albert Lyon, Minnie Milne, Louise Jalloway, Spader Johnson and an extensive number of minor players.

Fritz Schell's revival of "Pantalon" at the Broadway theater, will be very widely popular. The piece is handsomely staged and well played, and the role of Viandir, padded to some extent for the occasion, suits Mme. Schell as closely as possible. She makes a mighty pretty picture as the young lioness and she sings and acts with the utmost charm. She is capably supported by Louis Harrison, Richie Lang, Albert Hart, Elaine DeSalem and a first rate company with a large and well chosen chorus in the background.

At the Weber Music hall they have announced their first burlesque of the season, "Hagledy Piggedy," having long outlasted any of its predecessors as a whole evening's entertainment. The new bill will travesty George Ade's "College Widow," which is still running at the Garden theater. As the piece itself is brimming over with fun it will tax the Weber & Ziegfeld comedians to make a still funnier burlesque out of it, but they will no doubt be equal to the occasion, as their resources seem practically endless.

The "welcome home" matinee to Eleanor Robson at the Amsterdam theater last Friday afternoon, was eminently successful in every way. The large auditorium was completely filled, the reception accorded the popular American actress on her return from her London triumph was an earnest tribute to her personality, there were at least a carload of flowers, and in fact there was no feature wanting to make the occasion triumphal. Miss Robson reached New York on Thursday, and rehearsed until 8 o'clock Friday morning, but showed no trace of the ordeal. On Friday evening the company started for St. Louis to take up its season's travels.

George M. Cohan, with his "Little Johnny Jones," quite the most novel musical farce of the season, is drawing tremendous crowds this week to the Grand Opera House, where it seems likely that all records of receipts will be outdistanced. There is no doubt at all that this young author-composer-man is drawing the attention of the large audiences from the beginning of the season. Up to date its run is the longest of any in town since the opening of the amusement term, and it might have been retained indefinitely.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" is in its last nights at the Savoy theater, where it has held the attention of large audiences from the beginning of the season. Up to date its run is the longest of any in town since the opening of the amusement term, and it might have been retained indefinitely.

The scenery to be used upon the stage of the new Hippodrome is so very heavy that it must be shifted by the use of great traveling cranes of steel. Yet the shifting is accomplished by the mere pressing of a button. Some of the pieces weigh as much as eight tons each. The stage itself, without any encumbrances, weighs 400,000 pounds, and it can be hoisted and lowered 10 feet. The four steel trusses for the roof weigh 40,000 pounds each, and are the largest ever used in building construction in New York. These few figures will serve to show the importance and magnitude of the Thompson & Dundy undertaking.

David Warfield has only one more week at the Belasco theater, but it will be a busy week, with two extra matinees. There is not a seat to be had at any price and the advance sale at the Bijou is already very large indeed. Warfield will still be at the Bijou "when the robins nest again."

Charles Frohman shifts things about with almost lightning rapidity in the city. The "Wife Without a Smile," although the first night audience seemed to fully enjoy it, so Mr. Frohman takes the piece off after a single fortnight and substitutes Francis Wilson in a new comedy called "Cousin Billy," beginning next Monday.

Low Dockstader's little daughter is quite the most favored by Santa Claus of any young lady of my acquaintance. With Mr. Dockstader as his agent, the patron saint of Christmas has given Miss Dockstader a holiday present in the shape of a brownstone house on Washington Heights, to be actually delivered when she attains her majority. In the meantime little Miss Dockstader's mansion will be held in trust and the income from it—for it is leased for a round sum annually—will be passed to her credit.

Mrs. Carter's production of "Adrea" has cost in the direct neighborhood of \$100,000. This is some \$20,000 above the amount invested in "Dulberry" and it makes "Adrea" by far the costliest dramatic presentation upon our stage.

LEANDER RICHARDSON.

## HOLIDAY EXCURSIONS.

Dec. 23, 24, 25 and 31, and Jan. 1, to all points on Salt Lake Route, one fare for round trip. See agents.

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Matinee Daily ..... 3 p.m.

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