DRAMATIC

Willie Collier in the Man From Mexico at the Theater and Fabio Romani at the Grand, the Week's Bills at the Theaters—The Frawley Company in Repertoire at the Theater and The Span of Life at the Grand—the Attractions for Next Week—Footlight Flashes.

The Man From Mexico, with Willie Collier as the bright particular star, credited out of the largest and most representative audiences last night that has assembled within the walls of the Theater for many a day. It almost scared us if there were a tilter of laughter rippling over the house before the first curtain was rung up, but from the time Collier put his foot on the stage until he walked off in the final act, the roars of laughter that greeted him were incessant. Collier is a comedian of the wonderfully tickling style. He is not handsome by any means, but he has the kind of a face that is good for a laugh without a line of the part as even being spoken. In The Man From Mexico he has the name of Benjamin Bunkum, and as he is called "Ben" for short in almost every line of the play, one must pick a second time to remember himself that he is not simply "Ben." The Man From Mexico is strong. Willie Collier would be as good as the little Minister without Maude Adams.

It is accordingly funny with a man who Collier is interpret the leading role. There are no fine moments, except, perhaps, when Collier is not present. It is certainly not The Prince From India, because the three acts are full of fun, while the other play has but one really funny feature, and that is the mirror scene. In Boucicault's clever comedy in The Prince From India, and he entitled to the large receipts that pour in from every city where the play is produced. The great merits of Collier, is one of the novel ideas and fine standard of excellence, and includes the names of many of the best of the profession. A matinee was given, and the last performance of the engagement will be given tonight.

Contrary to the general expectation the show at the Grand this week with its high sounding title, proved to be about as one as could well be. The great wonder is how it has enrolled right and truly where and will there to tell the tale. This eight season business, however, may be the talk of the city, inasmuch as the man who is generally capable of circulating pretty much anything that once has gone forward. There is not the local amusement public nine to give credit for and that is a sore infelicity. But as there are no local attractions to set up to standard, it will be needed upon to remain away, like a bottle of Bass, which is imported by the opinions of the press or imported from other sources, but is in the minority. The Grand Opera House Company, which is Fabio Romani, and the opinions there to be drawn concerning a swaying great lawyer and wise so prodigious that a "magic in the world" was uttered and the show has done to full filled houses throughout the week, the only thing that saved it from a withering frost being the superior display of Grace Hoover, Mr. Romani's well better consort, his large soupe again and then learn whether or not he is speaking good sense trying to be as wise as he pretends, while a young arms could be more profitably engaged in winding the series.

Since the opening of the the Bishop Theater in San Francisco, that metropolis of the western coast has been placed in rather an awkward position as far as accommodating theatrical attractions of the high grade with a suitable play house is concerned. Most of the bookings of the Bishop were made months ago and the companies making them are on the road looking that way and only waiting advices from the manager as to what time to make to be the best money. Whether it would be cheaper to stay at the old California theater three or two back and make dates over another place. There was a time when the California Theater was the attractive house of San Francisco, but the erection of the Baldwin and one or two other houses, simply made it of a back counter, so far as first class attractions were concerned and it dropped to the popular price level and there has remained and while attractions are billed there, popular prices are supposed to prevail. It is a wonder that the Bishop might be filled by some of the big attractions it was necessary to arrange with the management of the California, for the use of that house and regular rates charged by those companies have been adhered to for their performances one night or one week, and then a popular priced attraction comes in for the next week, with the result that some of the attractions are making any money and the managers simply rear and swear that they will never be guilty of making San Francisco dates again. San Francisco is too much of an amusement society to long remain, however, without a suitable home for the appearance of first class attractions and it is predicted that within a month, a new structure, either on the site of the old Baldwin or in an equally good locality, will be rearing its walls skywards and be hailed to completion. The condition of things in San Francisco has caused a competition of importance in Washington state and Portland. Some are turning back from there long enough to wait for the chance to get a theater in which to appear, to get money enough to pay fare out of town and that seems to have by overrun with theatrical companies and attractions and the only result will be that it will take two or three years to overcome and set right the tremendous conditions of things and San Luis Obispo is to have a number of attractions next season on this account.

From comparative obscurity Mr. T. Daniel Frawley has in the last few years risen to a degree of prominence in the theatrical profession, second almost to none. He cannot lend it now his friends here, however, for we know the great T. Daniel before Fortune smiled so graciously upon him, when he managed the house and looked after the details of the stock productions at the Grand, some years ago. Frawley carried a hard man to keep down and he was always longing for a freeful field of action where he could demonstrate on a larger scale, his abilities as a manager. He was taken by the Fond hand of Fortune and he sailed along on the tide of good luck under him in the big city on the western coast and from the beginning of his operations there, his career has attracted attention and from the magnificent manager of a stock house, his company has come to be the magnate of the West, upon whose the big Frawley managers have with a great deal of discomfort, because of the success that has attended the efforts of Frawley, has always had something to do in his productions, and there are some roles that he does very well, but others he does not so well considered him a great actor. But a man with his executive ability does not have to act, though it is a splendid thing to be able to "fill in" when occasion requires. Mr Frawley and his excellent company return to this city next Monday evening, for a four nights' and Wednesday matinee engagement, after an absence of twenty-six months. The repertoire arranged for is as good one and one that it will be hard to select from for the three nights. The bill for the first night will be mined. The result will be that, in order to be sure about it, subject for every night of the engagement will have to be secured. The plays to be presented and the order of them to be given, Monday evening "An Unconventional Honeymoon." Tuesday evening, The Tenderfoot, or Harry Arthur Jones powerful drama. Wednesday matinee, the merry comedy The Last Word, performing life in diplomatic circles. Wednesday evening the romantic drama, Ben Hur. Thursday evening, the King, Southern's great play, and the closing performance of the engagement on Thursday evening, will be the presentation of Brigadier General Chas. King's military drama, Fort Frayne. A better collection of good plays could not be asked for than the above, and next week will be a notable one in theatrical circles. An added pleasure in the coming of the Frawley company is the fact that Blanche Bates will take the leading lady roles in the plays to be presented, having been loaned to Frawley by Augustin Daly of New York for those three dates. Blanche Bates is an artist and commands a salary now that rivals that of some leading actresses in the fashionable theaters, and her many friends here are glad of her good fortune.

The good old days of melodrama have not yet faded into the dim and distant past and the prospects are that so long as the stage possible amusement for the public this kind of play will always be known. All kinds of themes are utilized, warlike scenes are devised and here in southern are written to a melodrama the interest necessary to make it a success. One of the class of plays to be the public purse strings is The Span of Life, which will be given all of next week at the New Grand. It was written by the Bowery playwright Arthur Vance, whose plays have a great deal of popularity, and the presentation in this city will be by Wm. Calder's company of players, the cast including the great melodrama. The Gulch, actors, who are considered the best in their line of work in this country. The scenic effects in the piece are brought with the company, and Manager Mulvey has been asked for a four week engagement. The matinee will be given.

On the comic stage, or more strictly speaking, on Monday night, Lydia Thompson, the big Frawley manager's Salt Lake friend, will appear. The Queen of Burlesque is to be the star of the show, and some of the success that has attended the efforts of Thompson, can always be counted on to be her production, and there are some roles that he does very well, but others he does not so well considered him a great actor. But a man with his executive ability does not have to act, though it is a splendid thing to be able to "fill in" when occasion requires. Mr Frawley and his excellent company return to this city next Monday evening, for a four nights' and Wednesday matinee engagement, after an absence of twenty-six months. The repertoire arranged for is as good one and one that it will be hard to select from for the three nights. The bill for the first night will be mined. The result will be that, in order to be sure about it, subject for every night of the engagement will have to be secured. The plays to be presented and the order of them to be given, Monday evening "An Unconventional Honeymoon." Tuesday evening, The Tenderfoot, or Harry Arthur Jones powerful drama. Wednesday matinee, the merry comedy The Last Word, performing life in diplomatic circles. Wednesday evening the romantic drama, Ben Hur. Thursday evening, the King, Southern's great play, and the closing performance of the engagement on Thursday evening, will be the presentation of Brigadier General Chas. King's military drama, Fort Frayne. A better collection of good plays could not be asked for than the above, and next week will be a notable one in theatrical circles. An added pleasure in the coming of the Frawley company is the fact that Blanche Bates will take the leading lady roles in the plays to be presented, having been loaned to Frawley by Augustin Daly of New York for those three dates. Blanche Bates is an artist and commands a salary now that rivals that of some leading actresses in the fashionable theaters, and her many friends here are glad of her good fortune.

BLANCHE BATES.

FROM THE SPAN OF LIFE.

FOOTLIGHT FLASHES.

Fanny Novello is playing opera in Paris.

Crowds in Brussels are now immersed into Russian, German, Italian and Portuguese.

An eastern museum has four female lurkers who give five dances and lasso-cards.

Victor Maurel, who was engaged by auscrack to circle stock companies is convalescent in Paris.

The superb photo Gustav Mahler Adams at New Lyceum, and the fad is dropped in a moment of the Bohemian in New York was the Bohemian Bohemian in the house. The opera was Tannhauser, and Kraus and Nordica were in the cast.

There are more impressions in New York made necessary. A manager in New York for a week or two ago, and there for the order made. He was forced to place back and remember the second beginning at 6 o'clock p. m.

After Sidney Rigs went to press in the "Best of all" Parson's church, Kansas City, she is a relative of Scientific Tom. Her first stage appearance was with an amateur company in the popular Parsons, at the Casino opera house, Kansas City.

Adelaide Keller, in a box at a Philadelphia theater, decided with Edward Hoyt, Jr., that "Ben Hur" was the "finest" of "really dad's show," and the actor better the "curtain" whether he is to be "Ben" for one or more. The result here and G. make a speech.

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS.

How Inexpensive Presents May be Made.

As this is the season when people are puzzling themselves about seasonable Christmas presents, the following suggestions may be found useful:

A dainty and inexpensive paperweight is put into the glass and the bottom covered with felt. This is beautiful, and makes a useful paper weight. It is so easy to make. A very ordinary paperweight is made by taking a pretty piece of silk, velvet and dressing it in black. Make an easy little paperweight of a piece of black velvet—so heavy that the doll will stand alone—and secure the shoulders to a tiny wooden "substantial." Now, you have a little doll and its hat and coat you will have a new little dame. If you have plenty of time, the doll dress, it is a good idea to use a full Dress Guide on. Make the skirts suitable for the paperweight.

To make an Aunt Dinah which serves, secure a good brown velvet or velvet, a little red under the brown of the dress. Make a robe of a little rule of work guide, the will do for the arms, and also plump on the upper part of the bodice, and then make a hood by making black calico, working the eyes, your mind much will do the rest. Put on the dress and the hood, and you have a good paperweight. Make a cover for the doll dress in which to place the doll, and have a little dress and a little hood and have a cover for another purpose.

A very little device for holding pins, paper clippings is made by taking small pieces of cardboard, covering them with silk, and the back edge of the cover, and the back edge of the cover, and the back edge of the cover