

# DRAMATIC

Lorimer is recovering from a threatened attack of pneumonia.

Maud Adams will appear for the first time in London next July in a play which she is writing for her. Her heats will take place in America, and the company will be American.

George Alexander has received the new play which has been written for him by Alice Surov and is reported to believe that it contains the best work which this dramatist has achieved thus far.

Marguerite St. John, who has played the leading feminine role in the original "Lion and the Mouse" company

George Bernard Shaw's satirical comedy-drama, "Caesar and Cleopatra."

On Saturday, March 9, occurred the one hundred and first anniversary of the birth of the great English tragedian, whose distinguished career embodies one of the proudest records in the history of the theater of America and of his time.

Lotte Fuller, whose birthplace was France, has remained popular with her spectacular dances for 30 years, making occasional short visits to her native land. She has been held a special favorite in France, but now is considering an appearance in this country

in a special production, with a salary inducement which is said to be \$2,000 a week. There are those who remember the time when \$100 a week would have seemed a fortune to her.

It is an odd coincidence that in the musical comedy "The Umpire" with which James K. Hackett has been associated successfully the title has been composed of four words, generally with the position "of" as the third word, as evidenced by the following list: "The Tree of Knowledge"; "The Prisoner of Zenda"; "The Merchant of Leonie"; "The Pride of Jenkins"; "Fortunes of the King"; "John Ermine of the Yellowstone"; "Mr. Barnes of New York"; "The House of Silence"; "Rupert of Hentzau"; "The First Gentleman of Europe"; and "The Walls of Jericho".

The announcement that Marie Doro is to be "starred" in "The Morals of Marcus" recalls the fact that this was the play produced by Mr. Bourchier at the Garrick theater in London from which the critics were debated over the merits of the production.

As a matter of fact, the demonstration is truthful only on the surface.

Mr. Great's company includes several women, and women did not appear on the stage in England until long after the death of the great French character, who was assumed to be dead,

which," says Symonds, "often led to great confusion." Once again I observe, "Small wonder!" There is confusion enough in the Greek performances where no lowering of the curtain or change of scene marks off scenes of war or scenes of love. In doors and outdoors, Belmont and Venice look all alike, and the dramatic persons walk off the stage one minute and return the next to tell of stirring events that have occurred in their absence. It may be true that this is the case in England, but it is not so here, and that the absence of scenery prevents the distraction of the audience, but Shakespeare "intended" his plays to be acted that way only because he knew no other, and proper scenery distracts me a great deal less than the absence of it.

George Bernard Shaw's comedy, "Widowers' Houses," was offered by Herbert Kelcey and Effie Shannon at a special matinee last Thursday at the Herald Square. I didn't see it. I am a great deal too busy to spend evenings with either, and therefore am myself in a state of rebellion against the special matinee. With a degree of patience that does me credit, I have matineed through two plays by Browning, two plays by Ibsen, one play by Wilde, and a dozen plays by lesser-knowns who can't get me out of the theater. Every night of my life I go to the theater, and I'm going to have my afternoons off.

If "Widowers' Houses" makes a great hit it will eventually reach the dignified regular evening performances, in which event I may have my opinion, and welcome. If it doesn't, no harm's done. Meanwhile, by spending a dollar eight you can read "Widowers' Houses" in its entirety, with "Mrs. Warren's Profession" thrown in for good measure.

Everybody remembers Maurice Barrymore's retort to the gentleman whose resentment at being called a thief took the form of a remark that "if we were in Texas I'd blow your head off!" "Well," returned Barrymore, "your honor is a matter of geography, not of chronology. New York's morals seem not only to be a matter of geography, but of chronology. Mme. Pilar Morin once got into trouble here for going to bed on the stage in "Orange Blossoms," though the same very commendable thing had been done for her in Paris. I avow, One woman undressing in "The Turtle" was stigmatized as indecent in 1898; a dozen women undressed hardly draws attention to "A Parisian Model" in 1907. Two years ago "Mrs. Warren's Profession" called for police protection; now the Shaw play is being presented at the Manhattan theater in peace and quiet. Manager A. H. Woods and Samuel Gumpertz have even announced a matinee especially for clergymen. "Mrs. Warren" is being acted by Mary Shinn, Katharine Cornell, Edward J. Radcliffe and others, and I shall tell you more about it next week.

Here is a story that is being told of Richard Mansfield:

"An actor had been engaged for Mr. Mansfield's company at a salary of \$75 a week. He said 'good' in the part, and promptly insisted that his stipend be increased to \$100.

"Why?" inquired Mr. Mansfield.

"Because I've achieved a big success in the role."

"Ah," returned Peer Gynt, "what do you suppose I gave you \$75 for to fail?"

## THE LEIGHTON PLAYERS.

Will Come to the Grand for Stock Engagement and Open in "Friends."

The Grand theater management has been most fortunate in that they have succeeded in securing the strongest popular priced stock company in New York City, the Leighton Players. The company is headed by Mr. Harry Leighton, well known in New York theatrical circles, and his success and popularity shown by the fact that he belongs to the most exclusive Bohemian clubs of that city, "The Lamb," Brooklyn Club, and the Eccentric club of London, England. Among the players are Miss Emily Davis, last seen in leading lady for Robert Mantell, Miss Alice Scott, Miss Jane Fernley, and Miss Marjorie Fletcher, making a quartet of the handsomest women that ever left New York in one company, so say the trade agents.

Mr. Leighton, having a heavy royalty, has secured the right to produce several of the late Belasco successes, all of which have had runs in New York of from one to two years—"The Darling of the Gods," "Sweet Kitty Bellairs," "Heart of Maryland," "Leah Karpis," "Fiske's great success," "Friends," on March 31, will be of particular interest to Salt Lake theater-goers, as it was written by Edwin Milton Royle, a Salt Lake author.

Of course there had to be a climax, both to the blackmail and to the play. At the end of act III, Catherine was seized with an irresistible impulse to visit Jim's room at midnight. This is the ninth time since August that a play has yielded to that impulse, and, by a singular coincidence, all of them have been done for the benefit of the third act. Any way, Payton caught Catherine, and held the visit over the head of his victim. Whereupon the woman turned, and for three minutes, while the two men were struggling about the stage, we had something approaching a drama. Then an act after that, and, at 10:30, as if on cue, James made a clean break of it. Mr. Marcus and everything ended happily.

Good plays are not to be got from an author quite as regularly as eggs from a hen, and it would be too much to expect a second rate season from Mr. Broadhurst.

The most annotated convention of literature is the fallacy that any man who has been in prison is condemned to shame and disappointment for the remainder of his life. In dramatic literature you will find this notion employed as the theme of "Faust," "The Mill of the Gods," the ordinary literature the most conspicuous example is "Les Misérables." When these works were produced it is probable that an ex-convict had what is called "hard rots to hoe," and so each night a popular appeal Right now and here we meet a man at his present value, nobody can make seriously such wretched as those of James Clarke in "The Mill of the Gods."

Roger Project is seen at the Astor in the role of Jim Clark. His performance is serious to the point of being funeral. Edgar Selwyn does much to save Payton from being impossible villainous, his characterization being intelligently modified by admiring tact and humor. Florence Rockwell is pretty and satisfactory as Catherine, and considerable credit may be given to Harrison Armstrong, Joseph Tonby, Troy Lyons and Louise Closser, Frank Sheridan "doubles" the roles of an attorney and Marcus with distinction, authority and finesse. There is a "star" in Anna Queenie Phillips. I have always thought that would not judge her too harshly for his misfortune of the babes until we make sure that none of them was a "stage child."

The Great Players, a mistake of the type in the "Evening Telegram" made that "The Great Players" and they aren't—appeared at the Garden Theater last Monday in "The Merchant of Venice." Ben Greet is the head of the organization, and it is his give "Shakespeare's plays as Shakespeare wrote them." An excellent idea it is, too, from the manager's

## "Madam Butterfly's" Tragic Story.

LEUTENANT B. F. PINKERTON, of the U. S. Navy, is about to contract a Japanese marriage with Cho-Cho-San (*Madam Butterfly*).

When the curtain rises, he is being shown over the little house with his Japanese wife, Goro, the marriage broker, has found him in the house and is enjoying Pinkerton's surprise at the ingenious contrivance of the building. Pinkerton is introduced to three Japanese servants, one of whom is Susuki, Butterfly's faithful maid. His friend Sharpless, the American consul, arrives, and the two men engage in an intimate chat. Sharpless looks upon Pinkerton's projected alliance with disfavor, and begs him to reflect before taking the step.

He urges that what is a mere pastime to Pinkerton may be a very serious matter—a matter of life or death. The discussion is interrupted by the arrival of the bride, and her friends.

That Sharpless' misgivings are not groundless is soon proved, for in a pretty interview with Pinkerton, Butterfly confides to him that she has secretly

and quite unknown to her relations, renounced the faith of her forefathers, a step which means cutting herself adrift from all her old associations, and entrusting her future entirely to her husband. The relations arrive with the Japanese officials and the marriage contract is signed. While the guests are enjoying the celebration which follows the marriage, a weird figure suddenly appears on the scene, shouting and crying out, "Butterfly! Susuki! Susuki!" The Japanese priest, who has discovered her renunciation of faith and has come to curse her for it. Pinkerton annoyed at the disturbance, turns the whole lot out of his house. Butterfly is left weeping bitterly and Pinkerton proceeds to comfort her. He takes her back home and happiness and a passionate love scene follows.

### ACT II.

Three years have past, and the weeny night is passed, and the baby fast asleep while Butterfly still stands waiting and watching. Susuki awakes and Sharpless appears. Susuki wakes up and Sharpless decorates the home with flowers until it is a very bower. When Butterfly and the baby and Susuki enter, Sharpless makes one of three shots, then goes to watch for Pinkerton's arrival. As night falls on the pathosless waiting and watching in unshaken faith for the return of the husband who has forsaken her.

The harbor cannons announce the arrival of a man of war. It is Pinkerton's ship. Now Butterfly's constituents know no bounds. Her faith is rewarded, her husband is returning to her. She and Susuki decorate the home with flowers until it is a very bower, when Butterfly and the baby and Susuki enter, Sharpless makes one of three shots, then goes to watch for Pinkerton's arrival. As night falls on the pathosless waiting and watching in unshaken faith for the return of the husband who has forsaken her.

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### ACT V.

To die with honor  
When one can no longer live with honor.



A GROUP OF DANCING GIRLS, IN THE MUSICAL COMEDY, "THE UMPIRE."

for 500 times, has been engaged to support Margaret Illington when she comes a star next season.

Dickens appears to be coming forward in a dramatic way. Nat Goodwin is thinking of playing an adaptation of "Little Dorrit" and Beerbohm Tree will present a dramatization of "Edwin Drood" in London.

A star has at last been found to play the leading part in the new play "Parted on Her Bridal Tour." She is Victory Bateman, who may almost give her own experience in the drama. She has been parted from two husbands.

Ellen Terry was asked, "What is the secret of success?" She replied, "I am told, in answer after the manner of the Itinerary, 'Work' always has been the secret of success, is now and will be, stage without end."

Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott, supported by a London company, will begin an engagement at Powers' theater, Chicago, Monday, April 29. They will present a repertoire consisting of "Hamlet," "The Merchant of Venice," "Mice and Men" and

## THE PLAY IN NEW YORK.

BY CHANNING POLLOCK.

Special Correspondence.

**N**EWS from New York, March 11.—Some literary young authors again reading: "for," said he, "you read in the books rather than of the people in the world." But for the fact that a dramatist must know certain mechanics of the trade, I should borrow this argument and use it with those playwrights who spend most of their time at the theater. George Broadhurst's latest work, "The Mills of the Gods," presented last Monday at the Astor, failed chiefly because its characters are actuated by thoughts, emotions and conditions that exist nowhere outside of itself.

Our drama is humorously littered with rules of conduct indubitably copied from what once was real life. Then must have been a time, for example, when ruined girls actually did dress in black and become governesses. Nowadays they are simple girls in limousines and are much favored upon by respectable folk who cannot afford cars and expensive apartments. "We will stone these women, but the stones come from Tiffany's." The observant dramatist would soon be satisfied of this fact if he glanced into Redfern & Shapero's butchers' shop into County Old Bailey and accepts the law of supply and demand.

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## THEATER GOSSIP

Ben Greet is planning a revival of Charles Reade's "Masks and Faces," in which he has appeared as Triple more than a thousand times.

Maurice Mastinlock has purchased the abbey of St. Wandrille in Normandy, which dates back to the seventh century, for a summer home.

The tour of Maude Fealy in "The Flamingo" has been extended to May 12. When she will conclude her first season as a star under the management of John Cort.

A new play which Mme. Rejane will produce at her Paris theater is called "London-Paris-New York," and will deal with phases of life in each of the three cities.

Another Yiddish actress, Mrs. Loretta, is in favor with her own people, a plump, full-figured woman, the footstool of Bertha Kalisch, and will appear shortly in English plays.

There is a theater conducted under a tent in Houston, Tex., where a stock company has been in operation for 11 weeks. Every time it rains the audience is provided with umbrellas.

Ortia Johnson has been taking Wright Lorimer's place in "The Sheik" for a couple of weeks while



BEDOUIN ARABS.

Part of the Troupe Appearing at the Orpheum Next Week.

## Orpheum MODERN VAUDEVILLE.

ALL NEXT WEEK.

### 8-BEDOUIN ARABS-8

Whirling Acrobats of the Sahara.

### NELLIE BEAUMONT

And Company, in "My Busy Day."

### ELEANOR FALKE

The Dainty Singing Comedienne.

### VAN ALSTYNE & HENRY

In "Sal Skinner."

### SHIELDS & ROGERS

Kings of the Lariat.

### FRED LASERE

Aerial Contortionist.

### KINODROME

Motion Pictures.

Every evening (except Sunday) 7:30, 8:30, 9:30. Box seats, \$1. Matinee, 2:30 p.m. and Monday 8:30 p.m. 25c and 15 cents. Box seats 75c.

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With Its Wealth of Startling and Realistic Scene and Mechanical Effects.

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