

AT THE THEATRES.

Knickerbocker—A Virginia Courtship. Romantic comedy by Eugene W. Presbrey. Produced Jan. 31.

- Major Richard Fairfax, Captain Tom Fairfax, Jack Neville, Amos Kendall, Berkeley, Squire Fenwick, Neal, Sam, Juniper, Madame Constance Robert, Prudence Robert, Betty Fairfax, Laura Fenwick, Grace Jefferson, Marie.

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Let this be not plain enough, we might explain in behalf of the author that A Virginia Courtship, which was seen for the first time in New York at the Knickerbocker Theatre last evening, is a sort of dramatic mosaic from various old comedies.

Lady Gay Spanker's famous description of the hunt in London Assurance has served as another fountain source of dramatic inspiration.

We learn at the outset that Major Richard Fairfax, a descendant of Lord Fairfax, who was one of the early settlers of Virginia, has an estate which adjoins that of a French widow, Madame Constance Robert.

At the outbreak of the war the Major espoused the cause of England, while Mme. Robert, as a French woman was bound to do, sided with France.

At the opening of the play Captain Tom Fairfax, the Major's son, returns home, meets Prudence Robert, the widow's daughter, falls in love with her, and the two have clandestine meetings.

It is doubtful if A Virginia Courtship would have ever reached New York but for the histrionic cleverness of William H. Crane and his associates in the cast.

There was not much of the Virginian in Mr. Crane's Major Fairfax, but it was a most entertaining characterization for all that.

Walter Hale as Tom Fairfax and Percy Haswell as Prudence Robert enacted the roles of the youthful lovers most delightfully.

Annie Irish proved a charming widow, and her scenes with Mr. Crane were acted with the true comedy spirit.

Fifth Avenue Joan.

Play in five acts by Frances Aymar Matthews. Produced Jan. 31.

- Joan Darc, Charles VII, Nicholas l'Osseyen, Guy de Laval, Jacques Darc, Earl of Warwick, Bishop Beauvais, Duke d'Alencon, Count Dunois, Pasquier, First Jailer, Second Jailer, Third Jailer, Brother Martin, English Envoy, French Herald, Messenger, Raymond, Louis, Agnes Sorel, Isabeau Darc, Harvett, Menegere, Catherine, Dame, Clichet.

Fanny Davenport and her company, including Melbourne MacDowell, presented last evening, for the first time in this city, Frances Aymar Matthews' romantic play in five acts, Joan, which was shown originally on Oct. 29, at Boston, under the title of A Soldier of France, and which has had other names since.

had not been disclosed. The main incidents in the life of Joan of Arc are introduced, and about them is woven a conventional tale of romance.

Fanny Davenport as "Joan Darc"—so the programme had it—was picturesque, and beautifully dressed, and she contrived frequently to impart dramatic force to the uninspired lines.

Charles W. Stokes was capable in the heavy role; Cunningham Deane was a manly and effective young officer; Dorothy Rosemore made an acceptable Agnes Sorel; and Mrs. W. G. Jones was, of course, delightful as Joan's mother.

The mounting was elaborate and handsome, and the costuming, while not always beautiful, was, no doubt, archaeologically correct, and was seldom what might have been wished, and in one or two instances the outcries of super-numeraries, doubtless meant to be enthusiastic, very seriously imperiled important scenes.

Joan will be repeated this (Tuesday) evening and Wednesday. Fedora will be revived on Thursday and at the Saturday matinee. On Friday La Tosca will be presented, and on Saturday evening Cleopatra. Next Monday Madame Helena Modjeska will appear at this theatre as Mary Stuart.

Daly's.—Twelfth Night.

Comedy in four acts by William Shakespeare. Revived Jan. 25.

- Viola, Olivia, Maria, Orsino, Sebastian, Antonio, A Sea Captain, Valentine, Curio, Sir Toby Belch, Sir Andrew Aguecheek, Fabian, Feste, Captain of the Duke's Guard, An Officer, A Priest, Malvolio.

Augustin Daly revived last Tuesday, at Daly's Theatre, Shakespeare's comedy, Twelfth Night. No more enjoyable entertainment has been provided in many a day, and the very large audience heartily expressed its delight.

Ada Rehan's Viola was, as ever, a most charming, winning impersonation, admirably conceived, brilliantly executed, and worthy to rank among her finest characterizations.

The familiar mounting was, of course, superb and the several choruses were well sung. Two pretty dances, arranged by Carl Marwig, were introduced effectively.

People's—The Man in the Iron Mask.

Romantic drama in four acts by W. J. Lucas. Produced Jan. 31.

- Louis XIV, Gaston D'Orville, D'Aubigne, Marquis de St. Mars, Baron D'Ostanges, Father Andoigne, Captain, Sergeant Evrard, Pompiann, Launay, Tony, Marie Theresa, Aubrey, Mlle. Tonny-Charante, Mlle. Montalais, Madame Landry, Marie D'Ostanges.

W. S. Hart, the young romantic actor, made his first appearance in New York as a star last evening, and achieved a success of which any player might feel proud.

The plot of the play is too well known to need repetition. In the third act, however, some changes have been made which add greatly to the strength of the drama.

Of Mr. Hart's acting in the principal part, or rather parts, nothing but words of praise can be said. In the first act he was the boy, tender and passionate by turns.

Mr. Hart must have felt highly gratified that his earnest work met with such hearty recognition. He avoided all tendency to overact, and his performance was characterized throughout by refinement and intelligence.

cellent company, chief of whom is Constance Williams, who is specially featured. She is a pretty young woman, and displayed considerable talent for serious work in the role of Marie, the proper portrayal of which is necessary to the success of the play.

Irving Place.—La Belle Helene.

Operetta in three acts by J. Offenbach. Revived Jan. 27.

- Paris, Menelaus, Helena, Agamemnon, Clytemnestra, Orestes, Pylades, Calchas, Achilles, Ajax I, Ajax II, Philocomus, Enthyclus, Bacehis, Leena, Parthenis.

Offenbach's bright operetta, La Belle Helene, was given at the Irving Place Theatre on January 27 with a full cast.

Hanno and Seyffertitz are two sterling actors whose performances may always be anticipated with pleasure. Their burlesque rendering of Calchas and Menelaus was notable for the pronounced comedy element involved without any of the horse play so frequently brought into farce.

A packed house was present and generous applause was extended by the audience.

American—Paul Jones.

The revival of Planquette's melodious opera comique, Paul Jones, by the Castle Square company, last evening, brought back recollections of Agnes Huntington, whose delightful performance of the heroic Admiral is a pleasing memory.

It is surprising that the opera has not been done for so long here. Possibly the difficulty of securing a contralto who could do justice to the leading role has stood in the way of its more frequent presentation.

Lizzie Macnicol gave a thoroughly delightful performance of the gallant hero. She sang and acted the part with spirit and splendid effect.

The Yvonne of Amy Hartley was a pleasing characterization, and Joseph F. Sheehan as Rufino de Martinez was excellent. William Wolf played the role of Bouillabaise with good effect, and Raymond Hitchcock was a good Bicoquet.

Martha is announced to follow Paul Jones next week.

Third Avenue—Chimmie Fadden.

Under different management, but with nearly the same cast as was seen at the Star Theatre recently, Chimmie Fadden appeared at the Third Avenue Theatre last night.

Charles E. Grapewin was accurately "tough" as Chimmie, J. Cooper did good work as Mr. Paul, and Francis Brooke was a Ducher worthy of the name.

May Donohue's work as Mrs. Murphy was remarkably effective. She was natural in action and in make-up, and her success in the part was complete. The rest of the cast was in competent hands.

Star—The Silver King.

Carl A. Haswin in The Silver King attracted a good audience to the Star Theatre last evening.

Mr. Haswin's work in this play is too well known to require comment. His methods are effective and striking, and he is always popular. The supporting company was well cast throughout. Scenically the production was entirely adequate.

At Other Houses.

BROADWAY.—The Highwayman continues the comic opera success of the season. Souvenirs were distributed last evening.

BIJOU.—May Irwin and her clever company in The Swell Miss Fitzwell are unabatedly popular.

HERALD SQUARE.—The French Maid will have its one hundred and fiftieth performance Saturday night, when the inevitable souvenir clocks will be given away.

MANHATTAN.—The Ballet Girl entered on its final week here last night.

HARLEM OPERA HOUSE.—Augustin Daly's company will present The Geisha this week.

IRVING PLACE.—Die Brueder, by Paul Lindau, will be produced Feb. 7.

DALY'S.—Twelfth Night is the bill this evening. To-morrow The Country Girl will be revived, preceded by a new comediotta by Pailleron. Subtleties of Jealousy, in both of which Miss Rehan will appear.

Other bills: Empire, The Conquerors; Lyceum, The Tree of Knowledge; Garrick, The Little Minister; Metropolitan Opera House, Faust; Garden, The Royal Box; Hoyt's, A New Yorker; Fourteenth Street, Sweet Inniscarra; Wallack's, The Girl from Paris; Metropolitan, The White Slave; Academy, The White Heather; Columbus, The Sporting Duchess; Grand, Cumberland '61; Casino, The Telephone Girl.

UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.

A Southern Romance, under the management of Colonel Doris, will open at Worcester, Mass., Feb. 4 and 5, and will play other New England cities. The new company, which includes Isabelle Evesson, Cora Tinnie, Emma Brennan, J. W. Thompson, Franklin Hill, Edward Wade, Edward A. White, Charles Diehl, and A. S. Lipman, gives promise of a fine performance of this play.

REICHEMBERG'S RETIREMENT.

"La petite doyenne," as Susanne Reichemberg is called, has left the Comedie Francaise. Her career has been one of continuous success. Though not a great actress, she was wonderfully well equipped. Her acting was subtle and always refined, if at times a little affected.



SUSANNE REICHEMBERG.

The parts that she made her own at the Francaise were young girls or young women—not the conventional ingenue, but parts that demanded, besides a sweet voice and a fine face, intelligence, good humor, vivacity and life.

Susanne Brohan, the mother of the famous Brohan sisters, was Reichemberg's first teacher of elocution. At the age of thirteen she entered the Conservatoire. That was in 1867. Sarcey did not fail to recognize in the slip of a girl at the end of her first year the budding ability which made Reichemberg famous throughout Europe.

To a reporter who asked her recently whether she was firm in her resolve to leave the stage, Reichemberg answered in these words of wisdom: "I have experienced all that the most glorious success can give. The future could not give me anything better. I leave the stage without much éclat. I believe that it is nobler and wiser to close a career before it has been completely exhausted. The remembrance of my friends' kindness and the sympathy of those who applauded my efforts will follow me into my retreat and will be my best recompense. This is the only recompense I have ever striven for."

REFLECTIONS.

Mr. Proteons does not replace Tom Ricketts in The Ballet Girl, as has been announced. Mr. Ricketts has made a hit, and will remain during the run of the piece.

Frank Dietz has assumed the management of W. S. Hart.

Enid Mayo mourns the loss of her father, who has died at the New Haven, Conn., General Hospital, of blood poisoning. Miss Mayo will rest for the remainder of this season.

J. J. Spies has been fighting pirate repertoire companies successfully, having in two instances recovered royalties due.

Blue Jeans will have its first production in England on Feb. 14, at Northampton, and will be seen in London on Feb. 28.

Henry Lowenfeld, owner of the rights to La Poupée, has taken legal steps to prevent Augustin Daly's production of the opera by arrangement with Oscar Hammerstein.

Jessie MacAdam, of the Stanhope-Wheatcroft school, will not enter the professional ranks at once, as has been announced by a daily paper. Mrs. Wheatcroft has added several new pupils to her already large class.

McSorley's Twins closed last Saturday.

On the Klondike will close on Feb. 6.

MATIERS OF FACT.

That Lynn Pratt has scored an artistic success as Pisanio in Margaret Mather's presentation of Cymbeline is manifested by the unanimity with which the press have applauded his characterization.

E. C. Wilson, manager of the Wilson Theatre company, wishes to secure a strong emotional actress, or a singing, dancing, and acting soubrette, to head his company. Good plays with paper are also sought. Mr. Wilson may be permanently addressed 1145 Maria Anna Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

Ray's Opera House, Greenwich, Conn., has the week of Feb. 21 open to a repertoire company with band and orchestra as a side card.

The scenery for the Kismet production is offered for sale at bargain prices by W. A. Worden, Richmond, Va.

Cyclone, a Western sensational comedy-drama, will be produced at the Bijou Theatre, Chicago, week of March 6. Special scenery will be used for the entire play.

What Happened to Jones is breaking records in the South for business. The capacity of the theatres is being tested everywhere. In New Orleans last week "Jones" turned people away from the Academy of Music every night.

May Donohue has scored an emphatic hit as Mrs. Murphy in Chimmie Fadden.

"Stock Manager," care this office, is organizing a permanent stock company in a large city, and will engage only experienced people.

J. A. Bartholomew, ventriloquist, is open to offers. His address is Meriden, Conn.

The Sheboygan (Wis.) Opera House has been renovated and improved, the stage enlarged, and the scenery carried by any company can now be set up. The business has been a paying one. Some open time in February and March may be had of Manager J. M. Kohler.

Raymond Finlay, who received several offers the past week, has concluded to go with A Baggage Check.

J. K. Roberts has been associated with the Eastern Side Tracked for three seasons in a business capacity, and has a thorough knowledge of booking and routing attractions.

CLIFFORD AND HUTH WILL STAR.

Clifford and Huth, pleasingly known to vaudeville, and who were the strongest feature with Courtied Into Court early in the season, will next season head a company of their own in a farce written especially for them by Herbert Hall Winslow. The piece is entitled A High-Born Lady, and abundant opportunity will be provided these clever comedians to show off their well-known capabilities. William H. Barry, of the Alhambra, Chicago, will direct the tour.

THE AMERICAN EXCHANGE.

The American Theatrical Exchange is now better equipped and has better facilities to transact business than ever before. The control of all the theatres in New Orleans gives a clean sweep from Richmond to San Francisco below the Southern border. The list of houses represented by this exchange in the Eastern, Middle and Western States numbers more than three hundred, and includes a first-class theatre in all of the principal cities, excepting two. Among the attractions they are booking for next season are many leading companies.