Amusements

To-night—"Are You a Mason?"

Saturday, matinee and night—"The Flight of Princess Iris," with Mildred and Rouclere.

Dec. 17th—Black Patti.

Dec. 20th—"Holty Toity."

Dec. 24th—Harry Bulgar in "The Man From Now."

Manager O. V. Keesler, of the Academy of Music, yesterday received the following telegram from Mr. Charles T. Fuller, manager of the Grand Theatre, at Greensboro:

"'Are You a Mason?' is the best comedy that ever played Greensboro."

"Laugh and the world laughs with you" is a saying that well illustrates the wonderful popularity of "Are You a Mason?" which will be seen at the Academy to-night. "All the world loves a lover." It also loves to laugh. What would a newspaper be without a funny column and what would a season be without a big laughing success like this popular farce comedy? If the record of the past means anything "Are You a Mason" will live forever.

Scene From "Are You a Mason?"

AN EXPENSIVE ENTERTAINMENT

As an example of to what extent the matter of magnificent setting and decorating of the stage in modern amusement enterprises has reached and how elaborately the scenes, illusion and bewildering effects are worked out by the aid of stage carpenters, electricians and their assistants, the entertainment offered by Mildred and Rouclere stands foremost. Although the audience during the three hours of brilliant performance sees only Mildred and Rouclere, associate artists, their assistants and pages, there are fairty people in the company. The unseen ones are employed in a mechanical capacity and are the highest priced artisans ever engaged in connection with any nature of entertainment. In the case of three of them their work is really on the lines of professional science. This superb attraction is booked here Saturday.

The Balck Patti Troubadours, which is recognized as one of the most popular and successful stage attractions in the United States, presenting a varied style of entertainment, will be seen at the Academy next Monday.

The company consists of forty Afro-Americans, headed by Mme. Sissieretta Jones, popularly known as the "Black Patti," and considered to be the most accomplished singer of her race, and "Jolly" John Larkins, the giant premier of colored comedians, reputed to be the funniest colored man alive. Black Patti has appeared with great success in Europe, singing in Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, London and other music centres and enjoys the distinction of having sung by command for the present King of Great Britain. Her success in the United States with the Troubadours covers a period of eleven years. During that time she has appeared before the largest audience that ever assembled to pay homage to a diva. At Madison Square Garden, New York City, she attracted an audience numbering over 16,000, and at the great Pittsburg Exposition, 26,000 people assembled to hear her sing.

She has been the stellar attraction of the "Troubadours" for eleven consecutive seasons and the unprecedented success of this company is due, in a large measure, to the remarkable vocal accomplishments of this distinguished artist. There are two score other singers, dancers, comedians, vaudevillians, specialists, refined coon shouters, comprising the "Black Patti Troubadours" who appear in stage show that is as varied as it is entertaining, and the kind that is understood and enjoyed without the aid of a libretto or an interpreter. It is a rapid-fire medley of song story, dance, with negro melody, darky fun, the buck dance, the cake walk, stunning specialties and coon shouts, happily interspersed and climaxed by selections from the standard operas.

The most popular melodies of the day are the creations of these merry singers. They were the first to voice "Under the Bamboo Tree," "Hot Time in the Old Town To-Night," "All Coons Look Alike," the world over. The stage show is given in three parts—first the darky fun skit called "A Royal Coon," which the New York Herald has termed a "blazing sunburst of mirth, melody and action," followed by a condensed version of "The Chimes of Normandy" and a tip-top vaudeville olio.

HOITY TOITY NEXT WEEK.

Weber & Fields' greatest success, "Hoity Toity" is to laugh. There is a tige of "one solid year on Broadway." Hoity Toity is to laugh. There is a plot to be sure, but you don't want to let that worry you, as it is frankly admitted that it is a mere thread on which to hang an unusually good assortment of hilarious comedy and tuneful music. The chorus is one of rare lovliness, and, what is more to the point, is distinctly a singing chorus.

The original scenery and light effects used in the New York production of "Hoity Toity" at Weber & Fields' coxy little Broadway Theatre in New York, will be seen in this production; and no expense has been spared in making this, what the New York press unanimously conceded it to be—the greatest musical "hit" on Broadway in a decade.

Everything about "Hoity Toity" contains that which appeals to lovers of high class musical comedy. The book is by Edgar Smith, the music by the late John Stromberg, and the dances and ensemble movements by Julian Mitchell—a trio of names which speak volumes to those who are up-to-date in things theatrical. There is s adito be an effulgent array of chorus girls and a glittering show of gorgeous costumes.

The company numbers fifty people.

WHERE HE GOT HIS TRAINING.

Oscar L. Figman, the star of "The Tenderfoot," owes much of his great success as a comedian to the thorough training he got in the old stock companies in the East. Dramatic writers all over the country have deplored the passing of the stock companies, and with reason. There is no school wherein the actor may learn so many of the fine points of his profession as in a permanent organization of this kind. Figman started on the stage playing utility parts, as they were called, and played villians. The change of comedy roles was a big one, but was made at the request of W. P. Cullen, who saw the possibilities in the young actor five years ago and put him under a long term contract. He first gave him the part of the actor in "The Burgomaster," and then during the Philadelphia run of the piece made him play the part of the Burgomaster. Figman was such a hit in this part that he was featured in it for two esasons, and now he is starred with "The Tenderfoot." Figman is declared by the Chicago critics to be a revelation as Professor Pettibone in "The Tenderfoot," with his quiet but screamingly funny methods.

Charles Klein's American play, "The Lion and the Mouse," which Henry B. Harris will produce here in January, has won from audiences in all the larger cities the most cordial demonstrations of approval and it has certainly taken rank as the notable success of the new century. Deservedly is this so, for it is a finely effective dramatic presentation of a subject that is at present of paramount interest with the American people—the corruption of the civil government by the power of concentrated wealth.

VICTIM OF UNLOADED GUN.

Floyd Lucas, Six-Year-Old Negro Boy, Killed by Chase Wheeler, Who Thought Gun Was Not Loaded—Wheeler Not Held by Coroner.

Floyd Lucas, the six-year-old son of Frank Lucas, colored, who lives in Long Creek township, was shot and instantly killed yesterday afternoon by Chase Wheeler, a 12-year-old colored boy. Wheeler was hunting rabbits and had his gun loaded and cocked. He met the Lucas child in the woods near his home and, in a bantering way, said: "Look out, I'll shoot you!" As he said this he pulled the trigger and shot the top of the little boy's head off.

Wheeler had evidently believed the gun not loaded, or at least thought that the trigger was down, for he at once run to the child's home and told about it and was badly frightened and shocked at what he had done. He declared then, and later to the officers, that he thought the gun was empty and the trigger down.

Sheriff N. W. Wallace and Coroner W. A. Gresham heard of the shooting late in the afternoon and drove out to the scene of the shooting. Coroner Gresham selected a jury, which, after hearing the statement of Wheeler and others, returned a verdict to the effect that the child came to his death by a gunshot wound unintentionally inflicted by Chase Wheeler. In the light of this verdict, Sheriff Wallace did not arrest Wheeler.

BOTH SIDES LOADING.

Anti-Extensionists and Township Extentionists Getting Ready to Fight it Out Before the Board of Aldermen Monday Night—Some Arguments.

There is much interest in the special meeting of the board of aldermen to be held at the county court house for the purpose of hearing the arguments of those who are opposed to the extension of the city limits and those who are in favor of incorporating the entire township. Both sides are loading for the fray, while the 2 1-2 extensionists are sitting by and enjoying the situation, being confident that they are safe.

Mr. T. C. Guthrie, at the request of whose clients the board postponed action on the report of the general committee on extension, has said that the antis will produce evidence at the meeting Monday night that will show that any extension at all will be detrimental to the city and the business interests of the community.

The township extensionists are even more active than the antis. They are talking their convictions and making no few converts. Among their most convincing arguments are: Any extension less than to the towship lines will leave out North Charlotte and Chadwick, with a total population of 5,000 or more. The city of Charlotte now furnishes approximately two-thirds of the township road-building fund. With this fund considerably increased by any extension of the limits and the territory remaining in the township outside of the city reduced by probably half, the township trustees would have enough money to make a veritable park of the rest of the township.

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JUDGE BOYD ON PEONAGE

FEDERAL COURT IN SESSION

Peonage a Status or Condition of Compulsory Service—South & Western Railway Cases to Come Up Last of the Week—Suits of Wells vs. Gastonia and Avon Cotton Mills to be Tried To-Morrow—Pleadings in Cases Against Cotton Mill Men to be Made To-Day—The Queen of the Moonshiners a Visitor at Court—Something of Her Remarkable Past.

The December term of the United States District Court convened in this city yesterday and will continue in session throughout the week, Judge James E. Boyd is presiding. District Attorney A. E. Holton, of Winston; Assistant District Attorney A. L. Coble, of Statesville; Clerk H. C. Cowles, of Statesville; Marshal J. M. Millikan, of Greensboro, and others are in attendance. Yesterday morning's session was consumed with the transaction of much routine work prelimanry in the opening of court. The grand jury was selected, a foreman appointed, and the charge delivered.

The feature of Judge Boyd's charge which was delivered in his usual clear and forceful manner, was his definition of the peonage law. He made special reference to peonage in view of the fact that a case against the South & Western Railway Company may be tried at this term of court for an alleged violation of this statute. This is the most interesting case on the docket.

"The peonage statute," Judge Boyd stated, "was enacted under a provision of the thirteenth amendment of the constitution of the United States. It is a statute or condition of compulsory service. Any one violates it who forces or coerces another person into servitude. If A, who is a poor unlettered man, owes B the sum of $50, and B, with C and D, forces A to work for the payment of that debt, B, C, and D are guilty of peonage." The law, he added, is founded upon the old doctrine of placing a man in prison for debt.

Judge Boyd after instructing the members as to their duties, outlined the jurisdiction of the Federal Court, and concluded with a brief resume of the conditions now prevalent in the State, declaring that North Carolina citizenship is the best and most thoroughly American in the United States, because little immigration has adulterated the original and primitive stock.

The afternoon session, which convened at 3 o'clock, lasted but an hour and a half. Three cases were taken up and disposed of. Will Russell, Betty Sims, and Bob Connor, of Polk county, all charged with retailing, were adjudged guilty and judgment suspended, it being shown that they had already been tried and convicted in the State courts and had served out their sentences. There being no further business, the court adjourned for the evening.

The famous cotton mill suits, The W. L. Wells Company vs. the Gastonia Cotton Mills and The W. L. Wells Company vs. the Avon Cotton Mills, will be called to-morrow. These cases were tried some time ago in the District Court. Judgments were rendered in favor of the plaintiff for $39,313 and $29,987, respectively. The suits were carried to the Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., and is again back in the District Court.

It is highly probable that the pleadings in the suit of the United States against Messrs. E. A. Smith, E. C. Dwelle, S. B. Sargent and T. M. Costello, for violations of the contract labor laws will be made to-day. Should these suits come to trial, it has been estimated that a two-weeks' term would be required to hear all of the evidence and afford the lawyers on either side time to argue the cases.

The peonage cases against the South & Western Railway Company will probably be called the latter part of the week. The defendants have not yet arrived. They are expected on any train.

THE QUEEN OF THE MOONSHINERS.

The sessions of the Federal Court in Charlotte are not now attended by the characters who used to tarong the halls and ante-rooms of the post-office building. Amos Owens was the last of the barons who, for the time being, filled the stage with his striking garb and personality and then passed into oblivion. There was a time when long, lean, lank, mountaineers flocked to Charlotte and the hotels boarding houses and restaurants were filled with them so long as court lasted. In their corduroy trousers and baggy coats strange manners, and un-city-like ways, they presented interesting figures to Charlotte residents. They are still to be seen in Asheville and Wilkesboro, but Charlotte is too far away.

The Queen of the Moonshiners, however, was a visitor at court yesterday. Her name is Elizabeth or Betty Sims and she hails from Polk county. She has the reputation of being one of the shrewdest blockaders in the business. Her most notable achievment was the burning of the Polk county jail last spring, and her fight with Jailer Newman. She appeared in court yesterday charged with retailing. A verdict of guilty was returned, but judgment was suspended in view of the fact that she had already been tried in the State courts, found guilty and sentenced to six months in jail.

Betty is an interesting character. She is the typical mountain belle. Her love of gay colors is marked and they are in evidence everywhere. She was sitting in the window on the steps leading from the first to the second floors of the postoffice building yesteday morning when an Observer reporter stepped up. She wore a blue and red plaid shirt waist, dark red skirt, and a red hat with black plumes. A chain of beads were about her neck, and on her fingers were several large gold rings. Her collar was red and her hair was done up on the back of her neck. Her eyes are as bright as sparks of fire and her voice surprisingly soft. She speaks well and talks with great animation. In her lap she held a big red apple and an orange.

"What are you doing down here," asked the newspaper man.

"Court," was her locanic answer.

"What are you charged with?"

"Selling a jug of corn," she answered with a nopen, frank, smile that was catching.

"Are you guilty?" was the next query. Betty looked sharp at the reporter and said "I don't believe I know who you are?"

"A friend," was the answer.

"Well, since you are a friend I will tell you that I am not guilty." This she said with sparkling eyes, as if she enjoyed the joke immensely. Her laugh was easy, free and infectious.

And then came the question of questions, "What about your burning the Polk county jail last spring, breaking loose and almost killing the the jailer and a half dozen others before your re-capture?"

This seemed to awake pleasant memories in Betty's mind for her eyes fairly danced and she smiled a great broad smile.

After thinking for a minute, however, her face changed. "I didn't set fire to the jail. No, I didn't. The old man fired it. I dididn' see taat I was in there to fight fires and so I let her burn. When it began to get hot I pushed down the door and walked down into the hall. I met old man Walker Newman, the jailer, and he wanted to stop me. Yes, he did. I didn't want to stop and so we had it out right there. Just as he was about to go out others came up and I decided to stay. But I didn't set fire to the jail."

All this Betty tells with even tone as if it were an everyday happening. The men attending court declare that she is as strong as ten men and as fierce as a tiger when mad. She heard the case read out against her with unmoved countenance and when judgment was suspended left the room without a word. She left last night for her mountain home in Polk county.

What Adam ate, not what he drank,
Was he from Eden's garden driven.
O, what a difference there now would be,
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The Seaboard announces account of the Christmas holidays they will sell round trip tickets at rate of one and one-third first-class fares, plus 25 cents for the round trip (minimum rate 50 cents), between all points east of the Mississippi and South of the Ohio and Potomac rivers.

Tickets will be sold December 20 to 25, inclusive, December 30 and 31, 1906, and January 1st, 1907, final return January 7th, 1907.

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There is nothing more revolting than a dyspeptic stomach—a very vat for the putrefaction, sending forth its poison throughout the entire system, depressing the brain, defouling the breath, souring the taste, deadening the muscles, incapacitating the liver and kidneys for their work, debilitating the heart, choking the lungs and clogging the bowels.

All of these disagreeable and dangerous conditions are due to the improper digestion of food and the consequent assimilation of poison. What else can be expected. If the food lies in the stomach, if the system is constipated, fermentation is the natural outcome. It shows itself in sour, watery risings, belchings, heartburn and painful breathing.

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Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are absolutely pure. There is nothing harmful in them, as shown in their endorsement by 40,000 physicians in the United States and Canada.

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Act to-day and begin to end your suffering. A free trial package will be sent to your address upon request. The 50-cent size packages are for sale at your druggist's. F. A. Stuart Co., 67 Stuart Bldg., Marshall, Mich.

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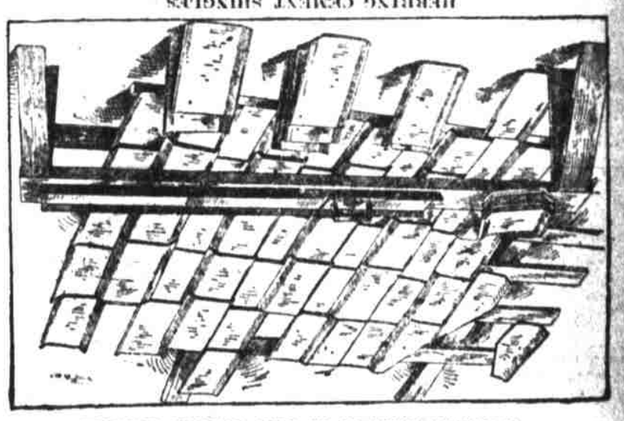

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