

# AMUSEMENTS

## "A DAUGHTER OF AMERICA"

"A Daughter of America" was written and composed by John Saunders and N. Harris Ware especially for the Countess Olga Von Harnfeld. The beautiful lyric comedy has been sumptuously mounted and costumed. Its beauty is vastly enhanced by a bewildering display of new and novel electrical effects. The book and music are in a class by itself. While it is practically a comic opera it is intensely dramatic, at times uproariously funny and in its entirety teaches a splendid moral lesson. A most carefully selected cast and a competent knowing chorus of thirty-six voices have been engaged to support the Countess. The principal singers and comedians are artists of national reputation, including such well-known names as Laura Milard, mezzo soprano; Irving Brooks, comedian; John Saunders, comedian; Al Sykes, comedian; Ward Clark, tenor; Kok Schilling, baritone; Nina Sramans, lyric soprano; Carrol Bartlett, ingenue comedienne, and Ira Remonde, character comedian. Of the musical numbers, the most pronounced hits are "Down De Ole Yazo," "The Pink and the Butterfly," "Goody Woody," "Curiosity," "The Broad Majestic Hudson," "Heroes" and "Rita." The first act opens at West Point with the cadets and their girls on "Filtration walk." The cadets in their uniforms and the beautiful whirly whirly American girls backed by a full stage view of the Hudson river make a most attractive opening, pleasing both eye and ear. The story of "A Daughter of America" concerns the ambition of Mrs. Otto Schmidt to storm the citadel of exclusive society by marrying her daughter Evalina to a titled foreigner. Tom Lovejoy, a West Point cadet, is rejected because of this and goes away heart-broken. He finally meets Frederick Du Rant, an impetuous actor whose company has stranded and who is fleeing from

the story know the plot. "Monty" Brewster is left a million dollars by his grandfather. With the first realization of his good fortune Brewster learns that a forgotten uncle has died and left him \$7,000,000 on condition that he spend the million left by his grandfather in a year. He can't give it away—just has to spend it—and with the further condition that no one must know of this second will until the year is up. Of course Brewster has his troubles. To get rid of about \$2,000 in every twenty-four hours (save the dexterity of even a farce writer who doesn't want to stage too improbable a story. And in the efforts of the man with too much money, to land penniless in 365 days, lies the many golden opportunities for fun. He does succeed, of course, in spite of such "reverses" as winning \$40,000 on a "sure loser" at the race track, and "amazing" \$75,000 in Monte Carlo. His acquaintances all think him insane, and much amusement is caused by the cross purposes of Brewster, anxious to spend and his friends who are equally anxious to see him keep some of his money.

**KID BURNS—SCOTT WELCH.**  
No more capable or better equipped theatrical organization has been sent on tour this season than the large company which the noted managerial firm of Cohan & Harris is presenting in the brilliant New York, Chicago and Boston success "Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway." George M. Cohan's original play with music, and Scott Welch as "Kid Burns," the ex-slavery prize fighter, and Frances Gordon as "Plain Mary," the housemaid, and the original cast, led by many to be the most pretentious effort this industrious and ambitious young actor-author has yet evolved, and which comes to the Academy of Music Friday night.



Rosemary Glosz, as Sonia, and George Damerel, as Prince Danilo, in "The Merry Widow."

elephant which in each other have found affinities. This queer attachment was formed without the aid of man. Before the trainers knew of the friendship the elephant was caught stealing oats and bran from another pachyderm to give to the pig.

Of course the animal men did not use any violence with either elephant or his unusual companion. But to protect the smaller elephant from being persistently and consistently robbed of his food the tricky pachyderm was chained away from the main herd at feeding time. Even then he shared his daily portion of oats and bran with the hog.

The Gentry Bros.' shows are unique in that they foster such friendships. They show are the largest trained animals' exhibition in the world and anything that is unusual among animals is the cause of study from the men with the show.

By fostering one strange affiliation the Gentry Bros. developed an animal act that is indeed odd. A monkey, a dog, a cat, an Arkansas razor back hog and a sheep make up the cast. What they do with each other is amazing.

The monkeys, however, are the stellar attractions. It is monkey nature to mimic other animals. Knowing this the men around the Gentry show secured a toy for the department. They worked with it, always driving the monkeys away. Of course that

Unlike the pig the monkey dislikes elephants. He has a habit of throwing things at them, and using their tails for a swinging rope. The Gentry Bros.' shows are united this year and are larger than ever before. They will visit Charlotte Thursday, September 10th. At 10 o'clock in the morning the parade will pass through the principal thoroughfares.

## TO FURNISH FREE BOOKS.

**Lenoir School Board Will Introduce This Novelty This Year—The Faculty of the School.**  
Special to The Observer.

Lenoir, Sept. 5.—The Lenoir graded schools will open Monday. The following named will compose the faculty: J. L. Harris, superintendent; J. T. Jones, principal; Mrs. G. F. Harper, Miss Mary Coffey, Miss Callie McNairy, Miss Alice Wilson, Miss Celeste Henkel, Miss Laura Faucette, Mrs. Susie Fuller, Miss Pries Hall, Miss Pansy Green and Miss Nettie McNairy. Miss Maude England will have charge of the music again. Misses Callie and Nettie McNairy attended the summer school at Knoxville, Tenn., and Miss Laura Faucette attended the summer school at the Uni-



Scott Welch, who takes the part of Kid Burns in Cohan's "Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway."

a Sherlock Holmes deputy sheriff, same shade, who seeks to arrest him for an unpaid board bill. Lovejoy assists the unfortunate Thespian and introduces him into the Schmidt family as Count Ferdinand de Laxe, a titled foreigner. The gushing antics and behavior of Mrs. Schmidt and her satellites so disgust Rita, a ladies' maid in the Schmidt house, that she exposes Du Rant and teaches Mrs. Schmidt a severe lesson. Du Rant is saved from prison by Lovejoy paying his board bill. Mrs. Schmidt consents to the union of her daughter with Lovejoy. Mr. Otto Schmidt is made happy by being allowed to be his natural self; Rita marries Gzip, the butler, who has been greatly worried over Du Rant's attentions to her and the final ensemble chorus is rendered with all sad hearts both on the stage and in the audience being made light by "A Daughter of America," who proved deserving by the production of all titles. "A Daughter of America" will be seen at the Academy of Music Wednesday, matinee and night.

## "BREWSTER'S MILLIONS"

"Brewster's Millions," the greatest comedy hit of the past year in both New York and Chicago, will be presented at the Academy of Music Thursday night, by the Cohan & Harris comedians, headed by Robert Ober. It is a dramatization of George Barr McCutcheon's story of the same title.

It is the purely farcical scenes that give "Brewster's Millions" its claim to popularity. Those who have read

way" is in three acts, all of the scenes being laid in different parts of the suburban town of New Rochelle, which is three-quarters of an hour from Broadway, New York City, hence the title. While it is in no sense a musical comedy some of the most popular songs that have yet come from the pen of that prolific, tireless composer, such as "Mary is a Grand Old Name," and "So Long, Mary," "I Want to Be a Popular Millionaire" and several others are rendered during the progress of the action of the play, and what is unusually termed the "chorus" in this style of entertainment consists in this production of eight young women who in personal beauty, clever dancing and vocal accomplishments atone for any possible lack of numbers.

As is known to some persons interested in the theatre Mr. Cohan followed no set lines in the writing of "Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway" but departed radically from conventional lines by combining most effectively in this instance drama, comedy, farce, melo-drama and music, with the result of achieving an entertainment as interesting and enjoyable as it is unique and original. The unfolding of the plot requires more novel characters than Mr. Cohan has yet introduced in any of his plays and many of these are types not hitherto presented behind the footlights.

## GENTRY BROTHERS.

It is queer what attachments dumb animals will form. With the Gentry Bros.' shows, which will be here September 10th, are a pig and an



The Gentry Brothers.

made the monkeys more anxious to work. The result is that the troupe of monkeys now presents its own first department and rehearses in fine detail the actual work of human firemen.

The monkeys also are supplied with a miniature railroad train. The engine is less than five feet long and three feet high. Yet it is constructed along the lines of a regular locomotive. When steam is up the delight of the engineer is to make all the noise possible with the steam siren.

One would think the monkeys would become spontaneous around the show. But the more seen of the simians the more the trainers become attached to them. Archlem Archie, the monkey named for the president's son, is always having trouble with

versity of Virginia. During vacation the school building has been thoroughly renovated, the woodwork painted, walls retined, floors oiled and many new desks and other fixtures put in. This session the school board will furnish all text books to pupils absolutely free of charge, the books to be returned to it in good condition as possible at the close of school. This is the first school in the State, and so far as known the first in the South, to have free books. Many pupils are coming in from the country to take advantage of the public school and everything seems propitious for a good opening.

**Joseph V. Rodgers Disappears.**  
Special to The Observer.  
Mooreville, Sept. 5.—Joseph V. Rodgers, an employe in Mooreville Cotton Mill No. 1, left home last Saturday for Salisbury with an understanding that he was to return Monday. He was seen on the streets of Salisbury Monday afternoon, but since then nothing has been heard from him. His wife and brother, who live here, are very uneasy for fear something has befallen him. He has at times used whiskey, but the party who saw him on the street in Salisbury Monday said he was not drinking then but was complaining of a severe headache.

## Mayor Wrenn Buys Stock of Goods at Auction.

High Point, Sept. 5.—Yesterday afternoon the stock of goods of Mattocks Bros. was sold at public auction by Receiver J. E. Kirkman. Mr. M. H. Shillett was the auctioneer and Mayor M. Wrenn was the purchaser, paying \$9,790 for same. The stock of goods inventoried about \$18,000. Mattocks will handle the stock for the purchaser.

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## ACADEMY OF MUSIC THURSDAY NIGHT

The Cohan and Harris Comedians  
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**Brewster's Millions**  
A Dramatization by Winchell Smith and Byron Ongley  
of Geo. Barr McCutcheon's Famous Novel.  
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The Thrilling Yacht Scene From Act II of "Brewster's Millions"