

AMUSEMENTS

A GREAT MUSICAL PLAY.

"Merry Widow" Made His—Performance in the City Witnessed by Thousands of People—Many Visitors in the City Friday and Yesterday to See the Production Over Which New York World-Wide Fame—A Company of Stars That Rivet the Attention of the Audience From Beginning to End—Costuming and Scenery Above Par and Acting Good.

It is through a double appeal to eye and ear that "The Merry Widow" secures its hold upon its audiences, stimulates their emotional beings, and weaves around them bonds of charm which they would not break if they could and could not if they would. Further than this the secret of its charm defies a logical or critical analysis. It is the rare and happy combination of sweet voices, pretty faces, graceful dancers, brilliant costuming, high class orchestral music

many a woman's heart sighed with half-confessed longing for the ownership of one, though she would not have dared to appear on Tryon street wearing it.

The stars, Rosemary Gloss, as Sonia, the "Merry Widow," and George Damer, as Prince Danilo, embassy attaché, between whom a case of mutual love exists, were the stars indeed, though not far behind rank Charles A. Pusey as Popoff, Marsovan ambassador and his wife, Natalie, Francesca Kaspar.

The part of the prince is the longest and hardest, but he rises to his opportunities in the most effective fashion. It would be hard to find one better fitted temperamentally for the role, demanding at times the nonchalant of a thoroughbred and at others the impassioned ardor of deep emotions suppressed by an iron effort of will. While his throat, like those of several other members, was not in the best of condition, he pleased his hearers greatly with his renditions.

high class play of this rank. Made up after the fashion of the frivolous old maid of low comedy, mistaking amorous words on a fan to be aimed at her responsive heart by the prince, she at once succumbs and throws herself precipitately on his paper collar. This feature adds nothing to the production, but rather detracts.

The closing scene at Maxim's cafe, while very unusual, has nothing objectionable about it and made in fact one of the hits of the company's stay here. The place is one where "wine, women and song" unchallenged and uninterrupted reign. It is here that Zo-zo, and Pi-Fi, and Lo-Lo, and Do-Do, and Jou-Jou, and Frou-Frou, and Clo-Clo, and Margot, and Zu-Zu, frivolous beauties out for a good time, appear in their singing and dancing, wine and dining, richly rigged out. Curiously enough and yet not unnatural, the criticism was confined to the men. Nine-tenths of the women saw nothing wrong with it.

The play had the biggest run by far of any this season and, left behind only pleasant memories. It plays at Salisbury to-morrow night, going thence to Columbia, S. C.

It is having a successful trip all along the line. Scores of out-of-town people witnessed the performance in the city and thousands in all. The show which set New York wild with its musical cadences and which set a hemisphere to humming, "I love you so," came up to expectations. The crowds it commanded constituted a fine tribute to the virtue of advertising not the least efficacious of which was the naming of the Merry Widow hat.

"ON THE BRIDGE AT MIDNIGHT."

A remarkable union of a fine play with brilliant scenic achievements. "On the Bridge at Midnight," is to be seen here soon. Klimt and Gazzolo spent a fortune on the famous reproduction of the Chicago Jack-knife bridge scene and the rest of the play is dressed out as exquisite. But they were well aware that the play is the thing and the result is that the scenery with all its excellence is only a fine detail of a story of deep interest, originality and plenty of romance, humor and pathos. In order to present the production as it should be Klimt and Gazzolo have secured an unusually competent company, including clever comedians. The marked success of the play gives it the stamp of unquestionable merit and will undoubtedly be one of the best attractions of the season. There is certainly nothing on the road like the bridge scene in striking interest and perfection of detail. "On the Bridge at Midnight" will be seen at the Academy of Music, Thursday matinee and night.

ADELAIDE THURSTON.

The annual starring tour of Adelaide Thurston in her new play, "The Woman's Hour," by Frederick Paulding, has thus far this season exceeded those of the past. The play is an American comedy of modern life by Mr. Paulding, who will also be seen in the leading male part. The play was staged by the actor-author and the following well-known players will be seen in the star's support: Martha Lawrence Davidson, Pauline Eckart, Carlone Newcombe, Frank Dawson, Edmond Ford, and J. Archibald Cur-

Dr. Francis X. Hope continues in the management of the company.

BLACK PATTI.

The Black 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 of Music, to-morrow matinee and night. The company consists of forty



ADELAIDE THURSTON.

Afro-Americans, headed by Sissieretta Jones, popularly known as the "Black Patti" and considered to be the most accomplished singer of her race, and "Tutt" Whitney, the unexcelled droll comedian, 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



BLACK PATTI.

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 audiences that ever assembled to pay homage to a diva. At the Madison Square Garden, New York City, she attracted

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trayed themselves—flouting their ancient sovereignty for the satisfaction it gives some of them to see the State's liquor monopoly writhing under the lash of courts and creditors? Does the immediate personal interest so overshadow mighty dogmas? Or is it that our Southern brethren are no more disturbed than the rest of the country by decisions which tend to define the spheres of both State and nation, keeping each within its restricted bounds? Of a certainty more ready acquiescence in the decision of a Federal court could have been expected of so State north of Mason and Dixon's line.

NATIONAL DEGENERACY.

Some Indications of It Noted by a Famous Alienist. Dr. Allan MacLane Hamilton, in Philadelphia Public Ledger. "I take New York as a fair example of general standards. Our Bohemianism is brutal, vulgar; it has no fellowship or camaraderie in it. It is a region of cafes and restaurants, where men and women prey upon one another. Our society is imitative without originality, with absurd exhibitions of loud taste and ill-proportioned artistry. We are free to the verge of open revolt against the laws of Moses, that are needed, but ignored. We have all the license of foreign decadence, with a unique degeneracy of our own that no foreign city would endure, because of its cruelty, its savagery. We read chiefly false exaggerations of science and outrageous exposes of forbidden crimes. Of course, press censorship is impossible in the present state of political conflict, but I consider that a large part of the so-called emotional insanity that leads to crime in New York is due to these sensational false and blatant exposures that we never heard of before and would never hear of again, except for their impression upon half-formed minds and young people.

"National degeneracy," says Doctor Hamilton, is our chief menace, and he asks what meaning is attached to the word "home" in New York. The word has been "demoralized by the modern standards of living." Doctor Hamilton is impressed with the "brutality of conditions," with the absence of contentment and of placidity, and with the feverish emulation that lays the seeds of insanity. "Over here if a Newport society woman gives a pink tea the woman who is married to a man living on \$900 a year must have her pink tea, too. The effect of that pink tea in a cheap flat is demoralizing, to say the least. There is a good sign in the recent exodus of people to the country, but there is not half as much of that as there ought to be. The trouble is that there is no standard, there is no definite appreciation of right and wrong; we none of us know where we are in our professional capacities or in our moral outlook."

[For The Observer, OCTOBER.

ACADEMY

MONDAY-MATINEE AND NIGHT.

BLACK PATTI TROUBADOURS

Headed by the Original

BLACK PATTI

Everything New, Including

TUTT WHITNEY

AND SLIM HENDERSON

and a big company.

Seats now on sale. Prices—Matinee, 25 and 50c. Night, 25, 50, 75c., and \$1. SEATS NOW ON SALE.

CHARLOTTE'S LATEST AND GREATEST ATTRACTION

Monday Night, October 5th, is the Opening Date of the Finest Skating Rink in North Carolina and Equal to the Best in the South at the

AUDITORIUM

This handsome new building has the finest maple flooring, perfectly fitted up for the lovers of the skating sport, all iron columns in the building have been padded to prevent damaging collisions.

SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

The management will present without extra charge from time to time sensational specialty acts of the very highest order, the opening specialty being a

Troupe of Japanese Performers

This troupe comes to us with the highest recommendation and we have no hesitancy in commending it to the public as an excellent attraction. In their tumbling, balancing wire, aerial stunts, they are first class presenting a high class performance that is extremely interesting. In addition to other attractive features which will be pulled of at the Auditorium for the entertainment of the public, there has been erected in the center of the Auditorium, a band stand. This will be occupied by musicians and will continually furnish music, adding to the general entertained.

PALM GARDEN

Under the direction of Mr. J. H. Hahn, Charlotte's foremost candy and ice cream maker, the large stage will be converted into a Palm Garden, where everything in the refreshment line will be served in a most pleasing manner.

ADMISSION 10 CENTS

Skates 15 cents additional. There will be ample and comfortable accommodations not only for all visitors but for the skaters. Don't fail to attend on the opening night.

CHARLOTTE AUDITORIUM COMPANY