

AMUSEMENTS.

ST. CHARLES THEATRE.—True to promise the management of the St. Charles last night brought out a strong piece new to this city. It was the drama called "Blow for Blow" is a protegee and three acts written by Henry J. Byron, of London. The play was given last night with the following distribution of parts:

CHARACTERS IN PROLOGUE.
 Josiah Craddock.....Baron Hill
 John Drummond.....Dorinda Ferris
 Harry Linden.....Miss Martin
 Mr. Spragg.....W. A. Whitecar
 Mr. Gildred.....Edgar Gordon
 Mr. Kenward.....James H. Booth
 Mrs. Kenward.....Miss G. Fletcher
 Miss Kenward.....Miss Conway
 Kitty Wobber.....Emma Madden

CHARACTERS IN THE DRAMA.
 John Drummond.....Dorinda Ferris
 Harry Linden.....W. A. Whitecar
 Harry Spragg.....Miss Martin
 Mr. Gildred.....Chas. Westcott
 Josiah Craddock.....Baron Hill
 John.....H. C. Hinkley
 Miss Kenward.....Miss Gordon
 Miss Kitty Wobber.....Emma Madden
 Mrs. Kenward.....Miss Conway

The story of this play is simple enough. It is thoroughly English. The prologue shows a country lawyer, Craddock, surrounded by his clerks, Drummond and Spragg. The former clerk is a deep sea, in love with the lawyer's daughter, Miss Martin, who is engaged to be married to John, who has a quarrel with Drummond, and gives him a blow for mistaking her for his sister. This blow and the loss of his position for revenge and future action. Chance gives him a check, which he becomes possessed of the knowledge that his father has to go to a check, for which he is transported. There is also the circumstance that a twin sister of Miss Martin, her sister Alice, is living in London, and escaped from her family. Miss Martin in the play is not seen after the prologue. Five years have elapsed. She is dead, and Linden has become a farmer and married another wife. There is some mystery about the death of Miss Martin, her husband was at sea when it occurred. This mystery is solved by Spragg, who finds the living sister, and conceives the unphilosophical notion of making her appear to be his first wife. This she consents to do, urged by Drummond's lies to the effect that her sister had been neglected and deserted and should be revenged. This powerful scene ends the second act of the drama. The third act shows Drummond under the influence of liquor, bargaining for money for his secret, which he almost reveals. It also shows Lady Linden appealing to Alice, who returns the part she has played, and confesses and also shows the return of the correct father, who explains all, and happiness is restored. Incidental to this motive for the play are the two comely characters who furnish the fun. Spragg is a clerk who takes to sport; he is a comical case who puts himself forward on the turf, having secured some money, which he doubts. Alice is his sweetheart. If Mr. Byron had measured Luke Martin for the part of Spragg he could not have fitted him better. Spragg is a slang fellow, coveting to be a swell, and ambitions to be a swell. He comes down to earth and wanders back in search of Alice, playing the German flute. Miss Emma Madden has a comical subterfuge part, which she plays with a dash and vim. These two sing duets and do dances that are neatly applauded. Mr. Gordon Ferris made a hit in a new line. Drummond is not at all agreeable being, and his sympathy from the audience, and yet Mr. Ferris makes him a stonier character, full of force, precisely as he made his original part, *Julius Caesar*, in the "Silver King" as Wallace's. Mr. Whitecar looked and acted his part perfectly, and Mr. Linden is to be congratulated upon looking like a peasant, and Mr. Booth upon looking like a pauper in the bits they do. The part of Alice is a particular one, requiring a good actress to play it, and it need not be said it finds a fitting representative in Miss Conway. Miss May Grouse has the pretty part as the young Lady Linden, and won the favor of all who saw her. "Blow for Blow" is a strong drama, written by a master, and being fluently acted by the Star dramatic company, should draw well during the week.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—Mr. Roland Reed, the popular comedian, made his first appearance this season at the Academy last night to a full house. He appeared in "Hansbac," the farce comedy written for him by Fred Madden, which was given with the following cast:
 Jack Lester, a burlesque.....Roland Reed
 Ned Bonney.....E. F. Weber
 Ned Jackson.....Fred Hark
 Albert Worth.....W. A. Andrew
 Dick Poole.....John Reed
 Judge Shaw.....Joseph Gony
 Jacob Bate.....W. M. Plum
 A servant.....Frank Tyler
 Mrs. Amanda Bestman.....Miss Alice Hastings
 Nettie Shaw.....Miss Carrie Jackson
 Miss Julie Shaw.....Miss Jennie Hunter

This play was done here last season, and its plot is remembered. The burlesque is trying to be what he is not, meets a woman who is playing the same game. They harangue each other, and the fun is fast and furious until the explosive comes. Mr. Reed is very happy in his part. It is touch and go, and he makes it go. He has a comical well fitted for his work, and a good subterfuge in Miss Jackson. He also has some new and taking songs, which were endorsed again last night. He will do a fine week's business here.

Notes.—Yesterday the comic opera artists and the chorists had a hard day's work, singing at noon and again at night at the French Opera House. On both occasions the house was crowded and the performances well received. "Miss Louisa" was given at the matinee, and "Les Monseignatres au Convent" in the evening. Miss Wenus had the leading part at the day performance, appearing as the attractive and frisky young spouse of the confessor. In the "Monseignatres" she took a sinner character, but looked lovely and won favor even in that. The orchestra is by a Louisiana composer, and is bright, pleasing and taking, if it does not possess any special claim to distinction as a musical composition. The brunt of the work fell upon Delpach, Darnon and Alexander, and they were excellent all the time. The drunken sermonist look delivered from the organ went pulpit by Delpach, was the cleverest bit of acting of the performance, and was encored three times. An exceptional program is preparing for the week, and "Galathea" and "Roméo et Juliette" are promised in the way of novelties.

Henry Christian, continuing at the Avenue Theatre, will produce the "Octobon" this evening, and on this occasion Miss Bertie Willis, sister of Grace Hawthorn, will make her first appearance with this company and assume the title role. The Avenue was full to overflowing last night.

The Grand Opera House will be opened next Sunday night by the Carleton English opera company in "Norman," Baint's Minstrels continue at Faran's Theatre, and are doing big.

Robinson's Dime Museum presents a fine circus and very many novelties today.

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