

## FAIR LILLIAN WINS TRIUMPH

Miss Russell Surprises by Her  
Acting at the Van Ness  
Theater.

LAUGHING HIT AT ALCAZAR.

Plenty of Thrill in the Secret  
Service Show at the  
Central.

By COLGATE BAKER.

Lillian Russell is a clever actress. The shock that I experienced when I ascertained this fact at the Van Ness Theater last night, where she presented for the first time in this city a witty but interminably long comedy by Kellie Chambers, entitled, "The Butterfly," was severe. Hitherto I have known Miss Russell as a lady who was singularly disdainful of the art of acting. I have been one of the few who always proclaimed her singing, and last night she demonstrated that she has all the notes in her middle register, but I have never seen guilty of accusing the beautiful blonde of being the Great White Way of being able to act. It is a pleasure to be able to go on record in this matter, because so many reviews have been so full of grievous mistakes, for it seems to have been the fashion to say, without any good reason, "Once she could sing well, but she never could act and never will be able to." It is time that this halt was called on this kind of talk.

There is a woman on the American stage who could have given a performance of the high comedy role of Miss Russell. Last night in "The Butterfly" that would have equaled her in any respect. She has the correct dramatic conception of the part. She has all the routine stage manager's stage business, and she does it with a large amount of originality and which she delivers with all the subtlety of the musical comedienne. Miss Russell betrays her burlesque experiences after during the course of the play. She strikes a conventional prima donna pose when the other characters are speaking to her, and she is first two acts, and displays the obvious self-consciousness of the musical comedy leading lady. These are acting incontinents, but they count in the summing up.

Miss Russell is still the protagonist of personal pulchritude. In face and form she is quite as fair and alluring as ever. Every movement on the stage is a picture. Every facial expression is a study for the actor. Her light comedy scenes are a study for mummery. Her speaking voice is a beautiful one and last night it sounded all the deep, musical bell tones we love to hear in the voice of any great dramatic artist. Miss Russell was surprisingly strong in the few emotional moments of the play and gave indications of future success in drama of a more serious character.

The production is an excellent one. John Flood shows ease and spontaneity in the role of Teddy. Fred L. Tiden as the fortune-hunting elder displays unusual cleverness. The part of the character of Jasper Mallory is one of the most effectively staged actors in the cast. Isabel Richards gives an effective performance of the role of Madame Abalone. The engagement is for one week only.

NEW ALCAZAR SCORES AGAIN.

Another laughing hit was recorded at the New Alcazar last night when the curtain fell on the last act of "There and Back," the merry farce by George Arliss, which was given its initial local production by the Belasco players. It is an interesting fact that some of the farces which were staged at the Alcazar succeeded better in this city than they did when originally presented in New York. "There and Back" seems to belong in this class. There are plenty cleverly worked-up complications of a humorous nature in this piece. Two husbands, who are being mourned as dead by their devoted wives, because they were supposed to be on board an liner which never returned, take advantage of the situation to go off on a grass-bachelor junket. When they return the prodigious stories they tell their wives as to their doings create the end of the play. There are a few moments of the serious, but the undercurrent of comedy runs through it all to a hilarious finish.

The cast was an admirable one and the manner of the production was staged by Fred J. Butler deserves warm praise. Bertram Lytle as William Waring, Laura Lang in the leading female role, John B. Maher, Adele Belgrade, Daisy Lovell and Ed. D. Brown all scored hits. Other parts were played by Will R. Walling and Ernest Glendinning.

THRILLS AT THE CENTRAL.

"Secret Service Sam," with his astonishing feats, held the small boy in the back seats of the Central Theater spell-bound last night, and scored one of the hits of the week. The drama, at the Market-street playhouse. The play is one which should prove immensely popular with lovers of crude melodrama, for it has situations of the most thrilling character and sensational scenes, most of which are in the nature of surprise. Sam is a hero from the pages of Old Sleuth, with an infinite number of disguises and stratagems for trapping the criminals he hunts. He is a man gifted with magical power and when everything else fails he outwits his enemies by resorting to the black art. One of his feats is his mysterious disappearance from a steel cage which has no outlets. Of course Sam is invincible and triumphs over all obstacles and all the associated villains in the end. Joseph O'Meara plays Sam with vigor and dash. Others who made the success of the play were Maud Lita, James Corrigan and T. C. Henderson.

REPEAT OLD SUCCESSES AT DAVID.

"Pousse Cafe" with its screamingly funny "contract scene," acted with inimitable drollery by Kolb, Dill and Barney Bernard, revived memories of the halcyon days on lower O'Farrell street, last night at the David, where the famous burlesque company, constituted the double bill offering at the McAllister-street burlesque house. The three popular star comedians struck their old groove in fun-making, and introducing many new and up-to-date witticisms, succeeded in keeping their audience in a continual spasm of laughter. The witticisms, chorus of smiling girls comes forth in many new and bright ensemble numbers, displaying unusual sprightliness and drill. Ben T. Dillon as Mr. McCann was a radiant Irish millionaire of the inimitable type. The play was a hit, and Neva Aymar as the doll was delightful, her dancing being one of the hits of the show. The two productions are staged handsomely and will undoubtedly give a prosperous run.

"MOTHS" AT THE COLONIAL.

The stock production at the Colonial Theater this week is one which is likely to add to the reputation of this popular playhouse and to that of

## ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE TO SPEAK IN THIS CITY

Senator From Wisconsin Has  
Reputation of Graft  
Fighter.

ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE, Senator from Wisconsin, is coming to San Francisco and will lecture under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association at Dreamland Pavilion, Post and Steiner streets, next Saturday evening at 8 o'clock.

The coming of this champion of good government is peculiarly appropriate just when the fight against graft and corruption is at its height, for La Follette, in his rise to national prominence, smashed one of the most powerful political machines the country has ever seen.

He has been a fighter almost from birth, and during long years of battle has learned to speak out frankly. When he speaks, either on the floor of the Senate or the lecture platform, he commands attention. He is described as a man small in stature, but with erect shoulders, and with a brow that would do credit to a man twice his size. As a speaker he has often been compared with Patrick Henry, and he admitted to be one of the foremost orators in the country to-day.

LEASE SIGNED  
FOR CLIFF HOUSE

John Tait Heads a Corporation  
Which Will Improve the  
Resort.

On behalf of a corporation, consisting of prominent San Franciscoans, John Tait yesterday signed a lease for the control of the Cliff House. The corporation which is to handle the world-famous resort is composed of John Tait, Captain Goodall, Captain Bennett, John Rothchild, Harry Smith and three others.

The Cliff House will be thoroughly renovated at an expense of \$50,000, and when refurnished will equal in splendor any resort of similar style. The main floor will be made into an immense dining parlor and foyer; on the second floor will be private dining-rooms, elegantly furnished; and on the third floor will be a magnificent ballroom of large capacity.

Permission has been secured from the Park Commission to widen the great Cliff House drive down the slope to the beach so as to admit of the passing of auto cars, which has been heretofore not only forbidden, but impossible owing to the irregular roadway. The road will be brilliantly lighted and will increase the picturesque quality of the place to a great extent.

It is expected that the improvements will be completed by August 1st.

One of the talented leading lady of the company, Iselta Jewel, whose acting in the strong, emotional role of Verda Herbert in "The Girl of the Year" has won her a reputation as one of the most effectively staged actors in the cast. Isabel Richards gives an effective performance of the role of Madame Abalone. The engagement is for one week only.

"BEAUTIFUL CLOAK MODEL."

If you cannot shudder for the fate of "Nellie, The Beautiful Cloak Model," pursued by a dress with millions at his command, it is only because you know Nellie must win out in the end, or managers of such perpetuity as Harry W. Bishop and Will L. Greenbaum would not submit this latest melodramatic offering as a popular production at the Chutes Theater. It would not be gallant to say that virtue goes utterly invisible in the "Nellie" drama, for it is not uncommon among young women who have to go out and earn their living in the department stores, but few of them are beset with such snares, temptations and pitfalls as the "Nellie" drama. The play is a real Virginia Thornton played the heroine discreetly. Ramsey Wallace was a good-looking hero and always acted well. F. F. Brown was the villain. Ed. Shaw displayed cleverness in the subterfuge role. There is a long cast of principals, among whom are such popular players as Leslie Morosco, Anna Bates, Evelyn Sheible and Joseph Denny.

"TENDERFOOT" DRAWS WELL.

Pretty music and excellent comedy, rarest of elements in a modern musical comedy, sustain the popularity of "The Tenderfoot" at the American Theater, where the San Francisco Opera Company has been playing it since its first performance in Richard Carle's bright piece. Florence Shinnott and Teddy Webb are favorites for the comedy honors of the performance, with George Kunkel a close second in the role of the eccentric professor. Alda Hemmi wins the vocal laurels easily, in the picturesque role of the heroine, and a chorus of pretty girls is much in evidence.

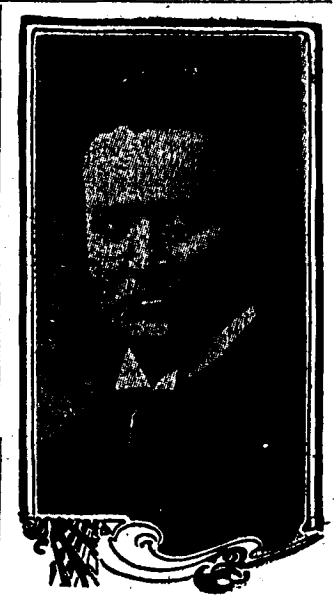
This is to be the last week of the San Francisco Opera Company at the American, as Manager Healey will move his organization into the Novelty and Grand Opera house. By special request it has been decided to give two performances of "The Bohemian Girl" next Sunday.

MISS ROBERTS IN "SAPHO."

"Sapho" was revived by Florence Roberts last night at the Novelty Theater and the talented tragedienne won a distinct triumph by her powerful interpretation of "Sapho." The production is a creditable one in every respect, and notable for much good acting on the part of the principals. Miss Roberts' performance of the character of Sapho was excellent. She gave an impressive performance of Jean Gauslain. Charles Kent as Caudal did some effective character acting. Florence Robinson was excellent in the character of Lucius Henderson as Flamant. The requirements of the part were excellently met.

See auction column for information of the great sale to be held at 2 M. Tuesday, April 23d, at the Western Horse Market, 204 Valencia st., S. F.

MARRIAGE. April 20, the wife of Martin Maaden, of a daughter.



SENATOR ROBERT M. LA FOLLETTE OF WISCONSIN.

## MUSICAL BY THE CALIFORNIA CLUB

Pleasing Matinee Programme  
Is Promised for Next  
Friday.

The California Club, well known for its artistic pursuits, is to the front in a worthy movement. The Music Section, under the direction of Mrs. Marjorie Campbell, is to give a matinee musicale at Lyric Hall, Larkin street, April 26th, at 3 o'clock. The purpose of the concert is to raise a fund for paying the artists who will entertain the club the coming year.

The musicians, many of whom lost in the fire all their musical treasures, have been lavishly generous to the club, giving their time and talent to this purpose, and that Case left her. After waiting some time she, as Case did not return, went in search of him. Up to a late hour last night, however, she had not been heard from. Inquiry at the photographer's failed to produce results, and all further search has produced nothing beyond the information that the Cases were seen with the club in Oakland. Mrs. Nichols made complaint to the police and the police have been detailed on the case, but up to a late hour no further trace has been found.

RUNAWAYS ARE CAUGHT.

Earl Boullier and Harry Bessy, two boys who ran away from this city, were arrested in Los Angeles yesterday. A telegram had been sent to the police of the city asking them to hold the youngsters when they arrived. As the dispatch did not relate the offense the boys were thrown into jail. The police here declare that they are only runaway boys whose parents have asked that they be brought back.

ARRESTED AS SNEAK THIEF.—Thomas Larkin was arrested last night by Detectives Egan and O'Connell and booked for petty larceny. A coat which had been stolen from B. F. Dewey in the Mosbach building was found in his possession.

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June 30, 1906—Serial No. 332

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There are two sizes—8-oz. and 16-oz. Bottles. The Formula is printed in 7 languages on each.

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You might just as well join a personally conducted Judson Tourist Car Party when you go East, and travel with more select company than you usually find on the average train. It does not cost any more and our special attractions count for a great deal. Kindly call or drop me a postal for information.

J. R. JONES, Agent,  
No. 6 East Street, San Francisco.

**SWORD TELLS THE VERDICT.**

There is an interesting point connected with the trial of naval officers in England. After the verdict to the verdict, the officer who is being tried is brought into the room, and a glance tells him his fate. His sword was placed on the table at the beginning of the proceedings, with the point toward him and the hilt toward the president of the court. If, now, the sword is reversed, the hilt toward the prisoner, he knows that he is honorably acquitted, but if the weapon's point is still toward him the accused knows that he has to await sentence.

## ADOPTED CHILD TAKEN BY RUSE

Woman Tells Strange Story to  
Police of How She Lost  
Child.

Mrs. Stillwell Nicholls, who resides with her husband at 2438 San Bruno avenue, yesterday reported to the police at the Mission station, Seventeenth street, that an adopted child which has been in her care for some years had been taken from her yesterday by a ruse.

It appears from the story told by her to the police that Stillwell Nicholls and his wife, who came to San Francisco some five years ago, brought with them two little girls from South Dakota, the children of a man named Case and his wife.

Case is said to have been a resident of South Dakota, who had at that time just lost his wife by death, and he at the request of Mrs. Nicholls willingly handed over the children to them on the understanding that the Nicholls should adopt them. One of the children, the elder, has since died, and the other child is now reported as having been abducted yesterday by Case and his second wife.

Mrs. Nicholls is stated to have been recently in indifferent health, and her husband communicated with Case and requested him to resume control of the child and relieve Mrs. Nicholls of the responsibility.

Case, with his wife, arrived in San Francisco yesterday and paid a courtesy call on Mrs. Nicholls, who was at home alone with the child. Mrs. Nicholls states that Case and his wife were friendly and kind, and by these means Case succeeded in winning the confidence of the child to a photographer's, at 2232 Mission street for the purpose of having the child's picture taken.

On arrival at the photographer's, Case suggested that his wife should take the child up stairs and wait, while he and Mrs. Nicholls went to a nearby dry goods store, and purchased some new clothing in which to have the child's picture taken.

While in the store Case is said to have made another suggestion that, while she was choosing the apparel he would go along and buy a new baby carriage and buggy for the child. Case suggested that his wife should take the child up stairs and wait, while he and Mrs. Nicholls went to a nearby dry goods store, and purchased some new clothing in which to have the child's picture taken.

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## IS NO LONGER BRYSON'S NURSE

Mrs. Lambertson Is Discharged  
by the Los Angeles  
Capitalist.

"To show the world and the Court that I am competent to manage my own affairs, and manage them well, I have dispensed with the services of my friend, Mrs. Gladys L. Lambertson, who the ingrates that are plotting against me, claim in their suit is influencing me to will her my estate." Such is the reason advanced by "Uncle John" Bryson, ex-Mayor of Los Angeles, president of the Loan and Trust Company of that city, for dismissing from his employ the woman who it is alleged by the eighty-eight-year-old millionaire's wife and eldest son, is seeking to win away his vast fortune.

Mrs. Lambertson has not been in attendance upon Bryson since Saturday, and her place has been usurped by a man. She is now in Oakland and will proceed to Los Angeles to appear at the hearing of the suit which has been brought to have the old man declared incompetent.

Charles F. Hanlon, attorney for Bryson, will go to Los Angeles to-morrow and ask the court to have the trial set for an early date. Bryson has already engaged rooms at the Alexandria Hotel in that city and will leave for there in a few weeks. He is now at the home of Hanlon, 1783 Bush street.

Bryson is in good health and is not worrying about the outcome of the suit to have him adjudged incapable of controlling his affairs. He attends the theaters, where he thoroughly enjoys himself, eats heartily and sleeps well. He was examined by physicians a few days ago, who declare that his mind is as clear as that of any man scores of years younger.

TRoubles WITH HIS WIFE.

The trouble in which the ex-Mayor of Los Angeles is now involved dates back to 1894, when his wife, Evalyn Bryson, sued him for divorce, naming as co-respondent Lella Latta, a servant employed in his \$100,000 mansion at Flower and Fourteenth streets, Los Angeles. The suit was settled, and it is said that Bryson gave to his wife \$57,000 and the Flower-street residence.

It was after his separation from his wife that Bryson became acquainted

with Mrs. Lambertson, who had been divorced from her husband. Accompanied by Mrs. Lambertson, her little daughter and William, his youngest son, Bryson made a season's tour of Europe. Upon his return he took up his residence at Mrs. Lambertson's home on Bonniebrae street. Here it is alleged his son Isaac came one night and threatened to break in the door. Mrs. Lambertson appeared and demanded that he depart, but it is said he struck her with his flat before going on his way. Later, it is alleged, he said he was going to buy a dirk with which to kill Mrs. Lambertson. Bryson admits that he has given his fair nurse presents of intrinsic value, but asserts vehemently that she never had or never will have any of his estate. The gifts he made were purchased from his income, and he says it had not been necessary for him to make any inroads on his wealth, as is claimed by his wife and son.

DIAMOND CASE CONTINUED.

OAKLAND, April 22.—Denying that she had anything to do with the stealing of the Edna Goodrich jewels from the residence at Mrs. Lambertson's home, Mrs. Lambertson, who is charged with the theft, was before Judge Samuels in the Police Court this morning. Her case was continued until to-morrow, when she will be arraigned.

Opera seating, folding chairs and church furniture. The Whitaker & Ray Co., 141 Grove st.

## Special Purchase of Embroidered Doilies and Lace Scarfs at Very Low Prices



White Linen Doilies. Regular 25c Values

Made of white linen, embroidered in floral and fancy designs, scalloped edges, 7 and 8 inch sizes.

12-Inch Doilies Regular 50c Values

White linen, in a variety of floral and fancy designs, scalloped and drawn-work edges—very pretty and serviceable doilies, 29c.

## Emporium Playing Cards 10c Per Pack

On Sale in Special Sales Section Tuesday Only. The famous Emporium Playing Cards, fine enamel finish, thin and smooth, equal to any 25c card; 10c per pack.

Kodak Supplies—Hammocks and Croquet Sets

Second Floor, Sutter-street Annex. (Take Elevator.) Full lines of these goods now ready for the warm season. Our prices will save you money in every instance.

## Handkerchief Sale 20c Handkerchiefs at 10c

400 Dozen Women's Handkerchiefs at About Half—Divided as Follows:

300 dozen plain hemstitched Shamrock, Linen and Lawn Handkerchiefs, very fine and sheer, full round thread. Regular