

MUSIC AND THE STAGE

EDITED BY

LESTER A. WALTON

CRESCENT THEATRE SOLD

MONDAY afternoon the Crescent Theatre, 36 and 38 West 135th street, was sold to Martinson and Nibur. Within an hour after the deal had been consummated the Crescent Theatre Company, composed of Thomas Johnson, president; S. A. Cunningham, secretary and treasurer, and I. Flugelman, general manager, turned over the house to the new owners. Martinson and Nibur stated Monday evening that the policy of the theatre would not be changed, especially at this time.

The present proprietors of the Crescent Theatre are new in the theatrical world. They are engaged in the liquor business at Lenox avenue and 134th street. In the deal made Monday they have secured the business of the theatre and a nineteen-year lease on the property.

The Crescent Theatre is located in the heart of the Negro district in Harlem and is regarded as one of the best paying and most up-to-date motion picture houses in Greater New York. The house's clientele is far above that of the majority of theatres of its kind in New York, and the decorum kept and the seating arrangements are much on the order of the larger playhouses. Messrs. Flugelman and Johnson, who are well known to many of the patrons of the Crescent Theatre, were well liked. They made many friends during the two years the house has been in existence. Mr. Johnson will now devote all his time to his duties in the offices of Klaw and Erlanger, and Mr. Flugelman will manage several large theatres which are being built by a firm of which he is a member.

The sale of the Crescent Theatre to Martinson and Nibur is another instance in which white people possessed more foresight than the colored citizens relative to a business proposition regarded strictly as a colored enterprise. Located in a colored neighborhood and catering to an audience nine-tenths of which is colored, there were no colored business men who thought it worth while investing their money in what is oftentimes referred to as a "small mint." The Crescent Theatre Company did not sell the house on account of bad business, but because two of the members had become connected with several large theatres which demanded their attention.

Martinson and Nibur know little, if anything about the show business, and yet they possessed the business acumen to see that it was a good move to get possession of the Crescent Theatre. The colored business men of New York cannot raise the cry that they knew nothing about the house being for sale, as an effort was made a few months ago to get several of them interested to buy the place. Thomas Johnson, the colored member of the firm, at one time had a plan to secure the theatre for the colored people on a co-operative basis, but his idea did not meet with much favor.

No surprise should be manifested in the announcement that the colored people were luke warm, to be correct, not warm at all, to the plan advanced to form a company and sell stock at so much per share. Not only the Negroes of Greater New York but throughout the country at this time do not view with a friendly eye stock companies and concerns conducted on the co-operative idea. However, it is no their fault that they shake their heads in the negative and keep their hands in their pockets when asked to buy stock at \$5 a share. They were not always so hard-hearted and unimpressible, but have been made so. The recent failures of our large mercantile firms and business departments of our large fraternal orders have done much to lessen the confidence of those who have money to invest, but who are afraid to venture even to the amount of \$1.

Three or four colored business men could have gotten together and purchased the Crescent Theatre, which certainly would have been striking evidence that the Negro was beginning to appreciate his own worth in the commercial world. However, it took two white men who had never been in the theatrical world to see the great possibilities of the Crescent Theatre, due to its location in a colored district; and yet, you will see men and women of color look at the crowds at the Crescent and hear them sadly remark that the white people are getting all of the Negro's money.

What might be termed the colored amusement world is still in an undeveloped state and offers great possibilities. The developing process is not going to be done by white promoters, however, for they are too busy giving their time and money to white theatrical enterprises. As in the case of the two white members of the Crescent Amusement Company, the Crescent Theatre was well worth considering as an experiment on a small scale, but when it came to expending a large sum in enlarging the house which the large crowds demanded, they were unable to regard the proposition with favor and instead invested thousands of dollars erecting large theatres in white residential districts. And yet the Crescent Theatre made money for them.

White promoters who build theatres have been prevailed upon to erect a large residential house in Harlem's colored residential district, but they are so chuck full of color prejudice germs that they allow their conscious and unconscious prejudices to get the better of their usually good business judgment. Real estate men predict that 135th street is destined to become an important thoroughfare just as to-day 145th street, 125th street and other crossroads in Harlem and the Bronx, and it is true that the presence

of so many people in one section calls for large theatres (at least one large theatre), as are now on other prominent crossroads streets. The colored business men of Greater New York have an excellent chance to make money by becoming financially interested in colored theatrical enterprises. The same situation exists throughout the country where there are colored people in large numbers. As white theatrical promoters frown on all propositions involving the expenditure of large sums of money in colored localities, although there is a crying demand for the erection of such theatres, it is up to the members of the race who have money to invest to come out of their state of lethargy and take advantage of the many opportunities offered to make money as well as raise the standard of the race several points in the business world.

WHERE THE SHOWS ARE.

BLACK PATRI CO.—Richmond, Ind. August 24; Xenia, O., 25; Springfield, 28. Next week, Cincinnati. SOUTHERN SMART SET CO.—Bristol, Tenn., August 24; Johnson City, 25; Middleboro, 26; Corbin, 28; Jellico, 29; Chattanooga, 30.

CARITA DAY MARRIED.

Carita Day, well known in theatrical circles, was married August 12, to Sigismund T. Mussondon, a native of British Guiana, South America, at the home of the bride, 2715 Wabash avenue, Chicago. The ceremony was performed by Dr. Wilson, pastor of St. Marks Episcopal Church. The couple spent their honeymoon at Benton Harbor.



MRS. SIGISMUND T. MUSSONDON, (formerly Carita Day)

Mich. They will make Chicago their home. The bride has been a member of a number of the colored shows, and during the seasons of 1905-6, 1906-7 and 1907-8, was leading lady for Ernest Hogan. When the Oyster Man Company closed, due to the death of Ernest Hogan, Miss Day entered the vaudeville ranks and appeared in vaudeville until recently.

CARL DITON NOT MARRIED. Carl Diton, the young pianist of Philadelphia, who has been taking a course abroad, writes to The Age to deny the report that he is married. Mr. Diton says he has been studying hard since his residence in Europe and has not given matrimony serious thought. He will return to America in September and begin a tour of the United States.

"SOAPS" AT ATLANTIC CITY. Fitzgerald's Auditorium, Atlantic City, was crowded last Saturday evening with visitors to witness the annual midsummer performance of the Soap Box Minstrels of Philadelphia. Last year many complained of the performance being too long, contending that it did not give them enough time to dance before 12 o'clock Sunday morning arrived. This season, to satisfy the patrons, a very short program was presented, in fact, too short. At least two more numbers should have been put on.

The sextet of the Soap Box Minstrels made its usual hit. Messrs. Cole, Taylor, Warfield, Dorsey and Stevens were compelled to work without "Bill" Allmond who sprained his ankle the day before.

Other numbers on the program were: Opening chorus, "Gee, But It's Great to Meet a Friend From Your Home Town"; solos, "Twilight" and "Jessemine," by Oscar Capps; monologue and solo, "Cease, Sweetheart, Cease," by E. B. Webster, and a talking, singing and dancing sketch by Warefield and Snowden. Some of the jokes used by Mr. Snowden should have been first given a good bath in a strong solution of alkaline soap as they were too strong for polite society.

The Soap Box Minstrels are carrying with them a young piano player whose work won for him much praise.

THEATRICAL NOTINGS

The Brinkleys are at the American Theatre, Cincinnati.

Copeland and Payton are at the Olympic Theatre, Brooklyn.

The Chicken Trust is at the Lyceum Theatre, Schenectady, N. Y.

John L. Eaton is playing at the Linden Square Theatre, St. George, N. B.

The Roys are at the Bijou Theatre, Pawtucket, R. I. Next week, Boston.

James Reese Europe is now musical director of the Aida Overton and Company act.

Willie Vodery has signed to go with the Smart Set Company as musical director.

The Down in Dixie Minstrels open Saturday evening at the Opera House, Chester, Pa.

Selma Lawrence is taking a short vacation at Asbury Park, the guest of Mrs. M. Cleary.

Carlisle and Wellmon are at the Hippodrome, Halifax. Next week, Pavilion, Liverpool, England.

Madison Vance, song writer and comedian, is entertaining at the Belmont, Atlantic City, and is quite a favorite.

James Burris, Hattie Christian and Ida Bluford signed this week to go with the Smart Set Company this season.

The Watermelon Trust with Grundy and Patterson, is at the Pantages Theatre, Vancouver, B. C. Next week, Tacoma, Wash.

There is still some talk of Hurtig and Seamon taking out a colored show this season, but there are no evidences to substantiate the rumor afloat.

There are letters in The Age office for Frank Montgomery, A. G. Moss, Andrew A. Copeland, Abbie Mitchell, Ella Jones and R. Henri Strange.

Go and Hear "LOVIE DEAR"

FEATURED AT HAMMERSTEIN'S THEATRE BY

LYRIC BY FRED BONNY



MUSIC BY TOM LEMONIER

AIDA OVERTON WALKER

& COMPANY with BOBBY KEMP who is also singing about his "ADOPTED CHILD"

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WILLIAM-GRUNDY & LAZZO-JOSEPHINE

IN VAUDEVILLE

Presenting their Original Comedy, Singing and Dancing Act

"The Chauffeur and the Maid"



JAMES BURRIS

Who will be "straight man" in The Smart Set Co. this season.

bill, playing such acts as Abbie Mitchell, Kelley and Catlin, John W. Cooper, ventriloquist, Gillan and Williams, and Jean Armstead Kelley.

IN THE WORLD OF SPORT

American Giants vs. Cuban Stars. At American League Park, 168th street and Broadway Saturday afternoon, Rube Foster and his American Leland Giants, champions of the West, will look up with the champion Cuban Stars in one of the games for the independent professional championship of the West. Last year Foster brought his club, which was then named the Leland Giants, to the East and cleaned up everything, going home without losing a game and trimming all the Tri-State League clubs and clubs in this section with ease. This season he has defeated the big minor league teams of the West as well as the St. Louis Giants four out of five and all of the big teams throughout the western states. Foster is known as one of the best generals in independent circles, having played in the East for many seasons. The same prices as last Saturday's game will be adhered to throughout the series between these teams and the crowd on Saturday, it is expected, will be still larger than last week. The Cuban Stars will have Mendez again on the slab with Gonzales doing the receiving, while Rube Foster will have either Wickware, Lindsey, Dougherty or himself on the slab and Petway, the greatest colored catcher in the country, behind the bat. The game will be called at 4 p. m. sharp.

Mendez was in the box for the Cuban Stars and Redding started off to pitch for the Lincoln Giants. Lloyd A. Francis made great catches and st. for the Giants, while Mendez and Valdez were the stars for the Cubans. The Stars made their first run in the first inning. Five more were made in the next and in the third McClelland was substituted for Redding, who puzzled the Stars until the eighth inning when they made three more runs.

John McGraw, manager of the New York Giants, who has seen Mendez work, claims that if the "Black Diamond" was white he would pay \$30,000 for his release. It was Mendez who shut out the Detroit last winter without a hit.

Last Saturday's score: CUBAN STARS, LINCOLN GIANTS. H. D. O. A. E. H. O. A. E. Mendez, 2 2 0 1 0; Foster, 1 2 0 0 0; Morris, 2 2 0 1 0; Petway, 1 1 1 0 0; O'Neal, 1 3 12 0 2; Ber, 1 0 0 8 1 1; C'illo, 1 0 8 0 0; Lord, 1 3 4 3 2; H'glo, 1 3 0 0; Padon, 1 0 2 2 1; Con, 3 1 2 1 2; Santop, 0 1 8 2 2; Padon, 3 4 2 0 0; W'ght, 2 3 1 1 0; Valdez, 1 3 4 0 0; G'ass, 2 1 3 1 0; M'exp., 1 0 0 4 0; D'ing, 0 0 0 2 1; M'Camp, 1 2 0 2 0.

Totals, 14 16 27 7 5; Totals, 8 13 27 14 7. Cuban Stars, 1 5 3 2 0 0 3 0-14. Lincoln Giants, 0 3 3 0 0 1-8.

Royal Giants, 14; Cuban Stars, 6. At Meyerrose Park Sunday the Royal Giants defeated the Cuban Stars in a one-sided contest, 14 to 6. Two pitchers were used by the Cuban Stars, Padron and Perez. In the second game between the Royal Giants and the Ridgewoods the home team won, 4 to 0. Lindemann was in great form, allowing but three hits. The score: Cuban Stars, 0 0 8 0 0 1 0 0-2 6. Royal Giants, 0 2 3 0 0 1 2 0-14.

Cuban Stars Win First of Series. Before an excited crowd of 8,000 fans, the Lincoln Giants and the Cuban Stars played their first of a series of five games at American League Park last Saturday afternoon, which resulted in a victory for the Cuban Stars. Score: Cuban Stars, 14; Lincoln Giants, 7. Each side had its favorites and the rooters were in evidence throughout the entire game.

CRESCENT THEATRE 36-38 West 135th Street VAUDEVILLE MOVING PICTURES Box Office open from 1 to 11 P. M. every day. All seats reserved. Tickets can be secured eight days in advance. Telephone Harlem 632.

BASEBALL OLYMPIC FIELD 136th Street and Fifth Avenue ONE GAME SUNDAY AT 3.30 LINCOLN GIANTS vs. CUBAN STARS

BASEBALL AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK BROADWAY and 167th STREET RUBE FOSTER'S AMERICAN GIANTS vs. CUBAN STARS THIS SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1911 GAME CALLED 4 P. M. GENERAL ADMISSION, FIFTY CENTS GRAND STAND, SEVENTY-FIVE CENTS BOX SEATS, ONE DOLLAR

Picnic and Entertainment OF EQUITY CONGRESS OF GREATER NEW YORK For the Purpose of Raising Funds to Continue the Work of Securing Colored Policemen and Firemen for the City of New York and a Colored Regiment for New York State AT MANHATTAN CASINO 155th Street & 8th Ave. NEW YORK Monday Evening, August 28, 1911 Music by the Popular New Amsterdam Orchestra ADMISSION 35 CENTS OFFICERS OF THE CONGRESS: Counselor J. FRANK WHEATON, Pres. G. E. WIBECAN, Jr., 1st Vice-Pres. H. ANDERSON, 2nd Vice-Pres. A. J. DOYLE, Treasurer. D. E. TOBIAS, Secretary. WILLIAM H. BARRELL, Asst. Sec'y. JAMES C. THOMAS, Sergeant-at-Arms. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Hon. EDWARD E. LEE, Chairman. W. T. R. RICHARDSON, Sec'y. C. A. BROWN, Rec. Sec'y. J. D. HADWIN, Treas. Rev. P. C. James, R. H. Smythe, George J. DeBunieri, Louis A. Leavelle, R. T. Brown, E. A. Brown, J. M. Givens, James L. Curtis, Capt. H. Blount, Lee Pollard, W. A. Boyd, A. J. Doyle, Archie B. Roberts, Major Charles W. Filmore, Bert A. Williams, J. Watts, Sgt-at Arms. FLOOR COMMITTEE: Charles A. Brown, J. M. Givens, John J. Bell, Jr.

Big Time in August for Old Fellows ANNUAL Joint Summernight Festival and Picnic OF THE G. U. O. OF O. F. BUILDING ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY AT MANHATTAN CASINO, 155th St. & Eighth Ave. Tuesday Evening, August 29, 1911 All Lodges, Households and other Branches of the Order will be present. Grand Exhibition Drill by the New York Patriarch under command of Capt. Dave Lewis. ADMISSION 35 Cents Continuous Music by two Orchestras of the New Amsterdam

"FOR SWEET CHARITY'S SAKE" Annual Picnic and Autumn Festival FOR THE BENEFIT OF HOPE : DAY : NURSERY FOR COLORED CHILDREN MANHATTAN CASINO, 155th St. & Eighth Ave. Friday Evening, September 15, 1911 Music by the New Amsterdam Orchestra Officers of the Picnic Committee—Mrs. John W. Lias, Chairman; Mrs. A. M. Robinson, Asst. Chairman; Mrs. A. S. Reed, Secretary; Miss Fanny J. Murray, Treasurer. Admission 50 Cents

The Twenty-fourth Annual PICNIC AND OUTING OF Mt. Calvary Commandery, No. 1 Knights Templar TENDERED TO THE SCHOOL CHILDREN OF THE CITY AND VICINITY AT Manhattan Casino, 155th St. & Eighth Ave. THURSDAY AFTERNOON & EVENING, AUGUST 31, 1911 Music by Prof. Sir W. F. Craig's Orchestra Music for Parade and Afternoon Excelsior Brass Band and Drum Corps. Officers—Robert H. Hucless, E. C. Samuel G. Craig, Generalissimo; Wm. H. Vaughn, Capt. General; Edward T. Matthews, Treasurer; Wm. O. Payne, Recorder. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Major R. Peckle, Chairman; H. D. McClaughlin, Julius W. Harris, E. T. Matthews, Aug. Richardson, W. O. Payne, Peter Banks. TICKETS of Admission, Adults, 35 Cents Children under 12 years, 15 Cents

Spend Labor Day at CHAS. H. ANDERSON'S Afternoon and Evening Dances NEW CENTRAL HALL 114 West 53rd Street, New York Monday, September 4th ADMISSION: Afternoon 25 Cents Evening 35 Cents

MISS PATYS DORSEY'S BIRTHDAY PARTY Will be held at HOTEL LINCOLN, ARVERNE, L. I., on LABOR DAY. A solid gold prize will be given to the one who draws the lucky number. Engage rooms ahead.

Ne MANH. ALL AD. In the Tuesday. To insure issue LOC reach the Tuesday. Telep NOTICE ALL COR. IN "THE. THAN I EACH V. CATION. NOTICE CELLANE WILL BE OFFICE LATER T OF EACH. For bun 589 14th Eugene vertising. Mr. L. f. represent extended 1. Age on bershop, 4. Mrs. M. with a lac Miss Il. visiting 1. 418 West 1. Mrs. La. street, N. few days. Mrs. L. 13th street day, note Miss Al. Norwich. Wilson fo. Mrs. D. boro, N. 4. S. M. Da. Miss L. street has two weeks. W. B. left last where the Mrs. Gr. trude The day yet. The St. will give hattan C. tember 22. Mrs. C. 40th street. Buckingh. rize of 1. Mr. an. West 361 for a stu relatives. The Ag. shop, De. nue.—adv. Frank left for take a fev. Mrs. M. the lardie. "Sunny J. Mrs. J. 84th street after a fl and siste. Arrival Dages of of Mrs. Bowles of Mr. an. merly of taken a 1 133d street. Mrs. F. Walker, New York and Mrs. THE N. Lewis' b street.— Mr. a have be the Herl the first hor. Mrs. V. J. and 1 York ha way hor. ington, 1. Dr. All. tember street, N. Telephon. The E. the race Olivet E. at his n street. Miss 1 of the 2 turned 1 her sta ange, N. Wm. left the Johnson to Calli the Wil turns. Mrs. Ohio, h. vention Mrs. S. street v. Atten which one with. Mrs. G. tion in joined and M. ton, D. Miss Mrs. A. be ma 31 at t street. Lizzie. The wife 1. C'nyng. No. 1 time Churel. The had el. yasin. and a the m. dered.