

## Dramatic Notes

### Ravinia Theatre to be Opened.

The beautiful theatre at Ravinia Park, which heretofore has had little use, will on Monday evening Sept. 7, embark on a regular theatrical season. This means that North Shore people will have an opportunity to witness the best plays, in a beautiful, well ventilated and comfortably seated theatre, and without the discomfort of late travel.

Ravinia has a stage larger and better equipped than most city theatres, and Mr. A. M. Lowrie, who will assume the managerial responsibility says that he has long been of the opinion that the large and growing population of the North Shore is entitled to a theatre and theatrical offerings of its own. The standard set by the Park will be kept in the theatre and during the winter Mr. Lowrie will offer his patrons the best operas, dramas and comedies to be obtained. One course of lectures and a few concerts will also be given. The theatre will still be rented to societies and churches for benefits as Mr. Lowrie desires that the North Shore consider "Ravinia Theatre" as its own.

The first attraction, as announced on another page, will be the Donald Robertson company of players. Mr. Robertson has increased his circle of admirers and with a large and more experienced company will, this season, give North Shore drama lovers a feast of standard plays, such as can be heard in no other city.

Among the plays announced will be Dr. Richard Burton's "Rahab" which will have its first production on any stage Wednesday evening. Monday, "The Chaplet of Pan," the beautiful poetic fantasy by Wallace Rice and Thos. Wood Stevens. Tuesday a comedy, "The Curious Mishap" by Carlo Goldoni. Wednesday afternoon, "The Chaplet of Pan." Thursday, Milton's beautiful masque "Comus". Friday, "A Curious Mishap." For Saturday afternoon a repetition of Browning's "Blot on the Scutcheon," is announced and the engagement closes with another performance of "Rahab" Saturday evening.

"The Chaplet of Pan" is cited as the most fetching presentation the Robertson club has been offered this year. A masque of May Day will describe the drama which, set in the XVth Century, brings Medievalism and Italy to Ravinia and Chicagoans.

"A Curious Mishap" was founded on an episode of real life that happened in Holland; the intrigue amusing, plausible, and happily conceived. Indeed, it is worthy of Moliere. By many it has been likened to a rare bit of old China.

**Donald Robertson in the Chaplet of Pan at Ravinia:** The proceeds of last Saturday at beautiful Ravinia were devoted to the Gad's Hill settlement. The occasion (an annual affair) was signalized by special programs by the Theodore Thomas Orchestra and by another appearance of the celebrated Donald Robertson Stock Company in the evening. The play selected by these roving Theatians was a poetic fantasy entitled "The Chaplet of Pan" by Wallace Rice and Thos Wood Stevens. The incidental music for the play was written by Director Stock of the Orchestra. Of the structure of the play little can be said. The speeches like Comus are boring in their length and have not the interior beauty which "makes Comus" a classic. The plot is poorly developed and the play as a whole is wearisome. Alice John as the heroine of the play was good save at times when her voice failed her. Manon Redlich as always was the bright, particular star of the evening. Her excellent voice and wonderful beauty created a picture such as seldom been seen on the outdoor stage at Ravinia. Herman Lieb,

Francis Lieb, J. Ralph Bradley and Vida Sutton were fair. They all played minor parts and did the best possible with a bad play. It is to be hoped Mr. Robertson will not include "The Chaplet of Pan" in his repertoire for next week's engagement.

**Ravinia Park's Swan Song:**— August 30th marked the close of the summer concert season at sylvan Ravinia. The occasion brought out a crowd estimated at 5,000. The program for the final concert was one of unrivalled excellence. It opened with Brahm's beautiful overture "Academic Festival". The conclusion of this piece is the ever popular student song "Gaudeamus igitur". The first half of the program was concluded by an exquisite cello solo Fantasy "Le Desir" by Bruno Steindel. The writer sat directly behind two hard working, care worn but patriotic Germans. It was intensely interesting to watch how the wrinkles in their care worn faces were smoothed out and how quickly a rapt faraway expression took possession of them as the music proceeded. The event for which all the audience had been waiting was the rendition of Tschai-kowsky's Overture 1812 with cannon, written in description of Napoleon's retreat from Moscow, and with the booming of the cannon, the roar of the drums and the clanging of the bells was thrilling. As an ante-climax the orchestra played "America" which was enthusiastically sung by the audience. Mr. Stock made a brief speech and left a message of four words with Ravinia's devotees. It was "Auf wiedersehen nachsten sommer."

**GARRICK:**—In the musical play "Behind the Counter," Mr. Fields has surrounding him such players as Miss Connie Ediss, the famous English comedienne, with her typical British dialect, who was brought to this country especially to create the role of Mrs. Henry Schiff, the socially ambitious wife of the newly-made millionaire. Miss Ediss is a revelation on eccentric comedy with her songs and acting. Little Miss Pearl Lund (remembered to Chicago theatre patrons as "Baby Lund," of a few years ago) sings and acts the title role of "The Girl Behind the Counter." Two of her songs are especially fetching, "The Flower Song" and "Glow Worm." Miss Daisy Dumont, one of the handsomest girls ever seen on the local stage, has scored a tremendous hit with her "I Want to be Loved Like a Leadin' Lady" and "Passing By" while the chic Lotta Faust, recalled affectionately as the Trixie of the original "Wizard of Oz," has renewed her popularity with her dancing and her song "When You Steal a Kiss or Two." Topsy Siegrist, formerly of Weber and Fields, dances gracefully and sings delightfully, while the original English Pony Ballet,—the best group of dancers who ever graced a stage,—are to be seen to the best advantage. Miss Lottie Fremont does some clever character work, while the men of the cast more than fulfill the requirements of a typical Lew Fields cast. They include Denman Maley; Joseph Ratliff, Charles Judels, Vernon Castle, Herbert Neville, Charles Mitchell and a dozen others.

At the Moraine Hotel, September 10th 8:30 P. M. a Vaudeville performance by professional talent only, will be given for the benefit of Gad's Hill encampment. This Vaudeville performance is being looked forward to with the greatest interest. Judging from the great demand for tickets it bids fair to be one of the most successful events of the season. After the performance an informal dance will take place. Many dinner parties will be given, and September 10th is being looked forward to with the greatest pleasure by everyone at the Moraine and in Highland Park.

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