"THE NANCY HANKS" COMES TO THE GARDEN.

Frank Tannehill, Jr., and Marie Jansen Embellish Farce-Comedy.

MARIE JANSEN and Frank Tannehill, Jr., are old cronies. You were reminded of that as soon as they met in Frank Tannehill's comedy, "The Nancy Hanks," at the Garden Theatre last night. Marie's dark tresses and Frank's golden locks mingled as naturally as they ever did in "Delmonico's at Six" and the other lively little stake productions in which these two figured a few years ago.

Perhaps Mr. Tannehill wrote "The Nancy Hanks" to enable Miss Jansen to sing some saucy songs in chic costumes. Certainly she sings such songs and wears some stunning gowns. Tights? Well, yes—and no. In the second act the audience is gratified with a view of the interior of Pearl Dodo's flat. Marie Jansen plays Miss Dodo, a dashing soubrette. On a screen in the centre of the stage is hung a collection of tights, presumably the property of Miss Jansen. There are black tights, white tights, purple tights and pink tights, and they are all most aggressively in evidence. Miss Jansen refers to them several times in an offhand way, but she does not wear them. Apparently they are offered as exhibits of good faith, in case the play should ever be made over to require their use by the buxom Marie.

The plot of "The Nancy Hanks" is of no particular consequence. It involves a gold mine, a foundling baby, an impecunious actor, a Frenchman with "ne c'est pas" and "pontquoi" vocabulary, a stage-struck girl and a great deal of banging of doors and screams. Therefore it will be understood at once that "The Nancy Hanks" is a farce-comedy.

An actor who cannot pay his board is always a funny individual for stage purposes. He becomes excruciatingly humorous when he places bricks and coal scuttles in the trunk he leaves for security at his boarding house and packs all his effects in another that he expects to take with him.

Frank Tannehill contrives to look very unhappy throughout the performance. It may be his poverty, or it may be his anxiety as he hears the lines of the play that he has written delivered by the people of the company in various styles of elocution. Mr. Tannehill is disposed to philosophize in rather verbose speeches in "The Nancy Hanks." Some of these long speeches he delivers himself, while others are divided among his fellow actors. It is noticeable, however, that Miss Jansen is never called upon to preach. One can fancy her demanding that all extended discourses in her part shall be "cut" forthwith to give her opportunities to be deliciously impudent and breezy. She has many bright things to say and sing, and she delivers them with all her old-time dash and delicacy.

Marie Jansen is not a monopoly of the clever things in the comedy. Mr. Tannehill has not been an actor all his life without knowing a "fat line" when he sees it. So he has reserved some of the best points in the dialogue for himself.

Chandos is about to give a lesson in acting to the stage-struck girl, and she asks him what is the first thing usually taught in a school of acting.

"Payment in advance for tuition."

That is Tannehill's answer, and he waits discreetly for the applause that is bound to come.

"Do you see many society ladies in the theatrical profession?" he asks.

"Yes, and hear them—in the boxes."

Again he pauses for the laughter and applause, and he is not disappointed.

"The Nancy Hanks" is well peppered with these joyous quirks, and most of them were caught by the audience last night.

That he is not unmindful of the value of rough-and-tumble action is proved by an "author's note" in the programme, to the effect that the "shaving scene in Act II" is his absolute property. It is the same thing that is done by Ignacio Martinelli at the Bijou, and is funny in a bizarre way. Harry Beresford, who plays the Frenchman already referred to, shaves himself in the midst of a terrible din by carpenters in the next room, the caterwauling of cats and many other interruptions. He becomes so nervous that the razor shakes in his hand in a most alarming fashion. Just as the spectator expects to see him cut his throat, he finishes shaving successfully, and the incident is over. Then he dresses in woman's clothes and dances a can-can with a gay old stockbroker, played by Mr. Clayton S. White.

One of the really funny bits in "The Nancy Hanks" is a burlesque Spanish dance, with a cigar box for a tamborine, by Mr. White.

A tough New York boy is a character that cannot be safely overlooked by one who would write an up-to-date farce-comedy. The young gentleman is in "The Nancy Hanks." Mr. W. F. Caldwell is the actor who represents him, and save for his distressing way of fixing the audience with a stony, unspeculating gaze as he delivers some long soliloquies he might pass for the real "Jim the Dresser" that he is supposed to be. He should either look into the wings when he has a soliloquy or wear green goggles.

Aunt Betty Evergreen, who is supposed to be worth several million dollars, and who wants to make several of the characters marry against their will, is of course intended as a reminder of a well-known rich woman with a similar name. Except the name there is little to suggest the prototype of the stage character.

The Garden Theatre was well filled last evening. Every one seemed to be friendly to the author and Miss Jansen, and they had a merry and hearty welcome.

"The Nancy Hanks" has had a number of weeks on the road, and it is understood that it now seeks that elusive stamp of success, a "New York indorsement."

Another Casino Decision.

The Appellate Term of the Supreme Court yesterday handed down a decision with reference to the property of the Casino Theatre Company upon an appeal from the Eighth District Court. The District Court awarded Robert F. Bixby, the owner of the property, $18,000 in a suit brought by Franklin Bien, as receiver, to regain possession of the theatre for Rudolph Aronson and others of the original Casino Company.

The Appellate Term modifies this decision by placing $2,123.50 to the credit of the landlord and awards possession to the receiver on payment of the full amount.

Upon the occasion of the District Court decision Mr. Aronson said the money would be forthcoming within the time specified; but the receiver believed the amount was too high, hence the appeal, which increases the same, as indicated. What action the receivers will now take is not known.

Melba Sings "Rosina."

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—The largest and most brilliant house of the local season of grand opera under the management of Messrs. Damrosch and Ellis, greeted Mme. Melba to-night on the occasion of her first appearance in the role of "Rosina" in Rossini's "Barber of Seville."

The great prima donna was at her best and sang the light music of the part with perfect art. In the lesson scene Melba sang Massenet's "Sevillana," and she gave Arditi's waltz song as a finale.

Although the role of "Rosina" is entirely new to her, the diva sang and acted with ease, and her personal success was most pronounced. Campanari as "Figaro" fairly divided the honors of the night with the star.

Kopacsy in "The Model."

"Das Modell" (the Model), the new play at the Irving Place Theatre, proves to be one of Manager Conried's best ventures of the season. Madame Kopacsy's exuberant rendering of her role enthused the audience last night to such a degree that after every act she was called before the curtain.

The pretty operetta is amusing from beginning to end. Its author, Franz Von Suppe, pays no more heed to a consecutive narrative in this than he did in his "Boccaccio," and in his "Fatinitza." Like the latter, "Das Modell" is an incoherent love story, in which the narrative is treated as much less important than the quaint situations and droll witticisms.

No "Girl from Ireland."

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 27.—"The Girl from Ireland" was booked for the Hartford Opera House for the first two days of this week, but failed to appear. Late this evening Manager Jennings received a letter saying that the financial backer of the company is in Montreal, and that no money could be procured to take the company on of New York. The advertised star of the company was Katie Rooney, the "Irish Soubrette."

"Miss Philadelphia" and Others.

"Miss Manhattan" by Another Name at the Star.

"MISS PHILADELPHIA," the musical comedy by Edgar Smith, Herman Perlet and Frederick Gazel, the original version of which had a successful run at the Chestnut Street Theatre, Philadelphia, two years ago, and a localized edition being "The Miss Manhattan" given at Wallack's last season, was presented at the Star Theatre last night, with the following cast:

Ruth Springgarden, a Quaker bud.....Elvia Croix Seabrooke
Daisy Walker, that rara avis, a sensible girl.....Queenie Vassar
Miss Jane Brownsmith, Ruth's aunt.....Jessie Villars
Vera Gray } Capt. Bullitt, of the City Troop } ...Georgia Stewart
Etta Candee, a real sweet thing.....Olga Lambert
Lulu Temple, a favorite with the boys.....Nelly McNulty
William Penn, a visitor from spirit land.....Wm. H. West
Dodge Trolleys, a young man-about-town.....O. S. Fitz-Gerald
Butsey, a bootblack.....Harry Robinson
Shimes, Butsey's pal.....Arthur Connelly
Nipit, Penn, Jr.'s, valet.....Frank Lynden
Bilke, a waiter at Drinkwater Inn.....Robert Boyd
Willie Treat, a practitioner of the bar.Arthur Newell
Owing Taylor, a social highwayman.....Owen McCormack
Girard Coolidge, a barnacle on papa's fence.....Edmund Mulkay
Rhoda Wheel... } Getta Wheel.... } Iona Wheel..... } three racers, ...Nelly McNulty ...Lily Collins ...Regina Collins
William Penn, Jr., an up-to-date Philadelphian.....Joe Cawthorn

Elvia Croix Seabrooke, as Ruth Springgarden, a Quaker bud, was amusing. Her changing from a coy maiden and a real, sweet thing to a friend of William Penn, Jr., an up-to-date Philadelphian, tickled the audience, and her new songs proved effective.

William Penn, a visitor from the spirit land, was played by William West. He was led astray by his nephew and namesake, and displayed an appreciation of humor so Philadelphian and quaint that he afforded much of the pleasure of the performance.

Daisy Walker, a sensible girl, played by Queenie Vassar, was a clever imitation of the new woman and of the old, and Jessie Villars, as Miss Jane Brownsmith, an aunt and guardian to Ruth, was kept in constant trouble by her versatile niece.

Many of the songs in "Miss Philadelphia" have not been heard here before. Most of them were written by Frederick Gagel, and they seemed to please the audience.

DOG SET COLISEUM AFIRE.

His Coat Ignited from a Gasoline Explosion and He Spread the Flames.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The Coliseum, which burned Christmas Eve, was set on fire by a pet dog. An explosion of gasoline set the dog on fire. Lolita, a dancer in the Cuban village, says Frank Murphy, an employe in the X ray booth, confessed to her that he caused the explosion. She says he told this to her and her mother when he called on them about the benefit to be given the exhibitors. Lolita said:

"There was a little pet dog in the place, connected with the exhibit, and when the gasoline exploded the dog was covered with the burning oil. The poor beast ran around in terror and set fire to the drapery of the booth, which hung to the floor. Quicker than a flash the whole trimming of the booth was on fire and the blaze was rising to the balcony, where our show was located. The men about the booths near by ran and got the extinguishers, but they would not work. A hose was turned on, but they could get no water.

"J. Morales, a Mexican dancer, warned me to get out, and we were just getting to the doors when the gas tank that supplied the lights for the tightrope walkers exploded and the place was a mass of flames."

This story about the origin of the fire was corroborated by Frank Hatfield, the doorkeeper.

Murphy, when seen, denied that the explosion of a can of gasoline was the cause of the fire. He thought the drapery caught fire from a cigarette or cigar stump.

"The Geisha" and "Never Again" Return.

AS dainty and tuneful as ever, "The Geisha" returned last evening to Daly's Theatre. The cast is exactly as it was, Nancy McIntosh appearing as O Mimosa San; Virginia Earl, entirely recovered from her serious illness, as Molly Seamore, and Julius Steger as Lieutenant Reginald Fairfax. The house was crowded and each of the now well-known songs were received with applause.

"Never Again," that insistent comedy which runs along by the force of its own humor, is at the Harlem Opera House. The sober denizens of the New York flat district laughed almost indecorously last night. Most of the original cast is retained, including May Robson, E. M. Holland, Fritz Williams and Grace Kimball.

"A Hot Old Time" suggests all sorts of warm possibilities. It is a play by Edgar Selden that is at the Grand Opera House with the Rays in the principal parts.

"Chimmie Fadden," with Charles E. Grapewin in the title role, found favor at the Metropolis Theatre last evening. Mr. Grapewin was the principal support of Frank Daniels for several years, and has many of Daniels' amusing mannerisms.

"Heart of the Klondike," with its salted mines, its love, jealousy, revenge and the villain turning a somersault from a mighty crag to a canyon, is at the Columbus Theatre. Laura Burt is in the leading role.

"The Great Diamond Robbery," a melodrama that has been seen at more than one New York theatre with approval, is at the Third Avenue this week. Harriet Sterling appears as Mrs. Bulford, the part originally played by Blanche Walsh.

The following attractions are on their last weeks: "A Stranger in New York," at Hoyt's; Nat Goodwin, in "An American Citizen," at the Knickerbocker; John Drew, in "A Marriage of Convenience," at the Empire; "A Ward of France," at Wallack's.

Notes of the Theatres.

Julia Marlow went to Lakewood yesterday, where she will rest for a few days before she returns to rehearsals of "As You Like It," with which she will begin her season at the Knickerbocker Theatre, next Monday.

May Irwin has accepted a new play by General McDonough. It will be produced at the end of her present season, and if it proves satisfactory, will replace "The Swell Miss Fitzwell" for her next season.

A mimic German band, with Snitz Edwards as leader, was added to "The Ballet Girl," at the Manhattan Theatre, last evening.

Sam Bernard, of Weber & Fields, concluded yesterday not to accept May Irwin's offer to star him in "The Marquis of Michigan" this season. It is probable, however, that he will be seen in that play early next season.

W. B. Hager, for many years assistant manager of the Barnum & Bailey Circus, and who would have managed the Buffalo Bill show for the coming season, is dangerously ill at his home, Wauseon, Ohio.

Charles Coghlan has met with such success in "The Royal Box" at the Fifth Avenue Theatre, that his time will be extended. H. C. Miner, of "Shore Acres" Company, has agreed to surrender the two weeks for which that company was booked.

Methodist Book Concern May Move.

A subscription of $15,000 has been raised by the Board of Trade of Mount Vernon in an endeavor to have the Methodist Book Concern, of New York, locate there. The money is to be used in purchasing a site for the proposed new buildings for the company. The property selected by the committee is the Burton tract, which consists of two and a half acres and is located along the New Haven Railroad track.

Nance O'Neil and McKee Rankin at Proctor's.

THE present week at the vaudeville houses is said to be the best of the theatrical season. New Year's week at Keith's presented many novelties, the principal being Joseph Hart, assisted by Carrie De Mar, in an original musical sketch entitled "The Quiet Mr. Gay," which gives the former star of "Later On" good opportunities to display his talents as a singer of comic Irish songs. Others who received recognition were Edmond Hayes and Emily Lytton, who appeared in their sketch, "A French Marriage;" Press Eldridge, the Kingsley Sisters, and a host of other people, who helped make the entertainment amusing.

At the Pleasure Palace Helene Mora sang several new popular ballads, and McIntyre and Heath furnished some furious fun as the stranded "Georgia Minstrels." The programme was full of good things, chief among which were the real colored comedians, Williams and Walker; Charles R. Sweet, the ragged but tuneful piano tramp; Jessie, the baboon somersault rider, and Gautier, in his startling feats of horsemanship upon a small table, elevated high over the stage.

The top liners at Proctor's Theatre were McKee Rankin and Nane O'Neil, in a very clever condensed version of "Oliver Twist," and Auguste Van Biene, in a one-act farce by Herbert H. Winslow, entitled "A Damage Suit." Mr. Rankin and Miss O'Neil received an ovation on entering, and although horror-stricken by the final scene, in which Nancy Sikes, beaten, bloody and dying, creeps to the centre of the stage, the audience applauded over and over when the curtain fell. In "A Damage Suit," Van Biene, as Carl, the blind musician, is given an opportunity to play the 'cello, which was also applauded. Another novelty was "La Piule et la Neige," a storm dance, during which real water fell upon two nimble, graceful dancers.

At Pastor's Johnstone Bennett, assisted by George Leslie, received a hearty welcome, as also did Gus Williams, dialect comedian, who was very amusing in songs, stories and recitations. The rest of the bill contained such well-known names as Canfield and Carleton, Lew Hawkins and the ever young Mr. Antonio Pastor, in new songs and parodies.

At Koster & Bial's, Anna Held is still one of the prominent features, although it is her last week. Charmion has also made a success in her unique act, and others who attract attention are Pablo Diaz, Madge Ellis, Daisy Mayer, the De Kock Troupe and "Kid" McCoy in an exhibition of scientific bag punching.

The Eden Musee presents Till's Royal Marionettes in "Bluebeard," and the antics of the little mechanical figures seemed to amuse the large audience greatly. The Cinematograph yesterday displayed twenty-four new moving pictures, all interesting at this time, as they show Christmas scenes in various countries.

The Harlem Music Hall's menu was made up of many favorites, the top-liner being Barney Fagan. Others were Henrietta Brown Byron, Delmore and Lee, Maude Beall Price and Lamore Busch.

At Huber's Museum Helen Coppage, the young woman who has been fasting now for three weeks, began the fourth week of her abstinence from food. She looks yet as being in the pink of condition, and declares her ability to complete the sixty-day fast.

Weber and Fields's Music Hall was not large enough to contain the multitude that wished to see "Pousse Cafe" last evening. The amusing skit becomes funnier and brighter at every performance, and the rest of the programme is quite up to the high standard of the vaudeville performances at this house.

Doris's Winter Circus also had its share of patronage last evening, and the bill was both high class and diverting. Santa Claus matinees, at which each child in the audience will be presented with a toy, will be given every afternoon this week.

SCHOONER SUNK BY A WATERSPOUT.

Skipper Correa's Trim Craft Torn to Pieces by It in a Jiffy.

HAD A RICH CARGO ABOARD.

Elephants' Tusks, Lions' and Tigers' Skins Obtained from the Natives of Africa.

Captain John Correa, who for the past twenty-five years has made New Bedford, Mass., his sailing port, arrived here yesterday on the Red D line steamer Caracas, from La Guayra. His last trading voyage was a disastrous one.

A little more than a year ago Captain Correa sailed out of New Bedford harbor in command of a trim 700-ton schooner. He had a crew of seven Portuguese sailors, including a mate and cook. He was bound for the west coast of Africa, where he proposed driving some sharp bargains with the natives.

"And I did it," said the weather-beaten skipper, as he stepped from the gangplank yesterday. "I traded them all sorts of gim-cracks for elephants' tusks, tiger and lion skins, and a whole lot of other things that people in this country are willing to pay big money for. But what was the use of it all, because a waterspout took me all aback, sent my craft to the bottom, and here I am bound at my age to start life anew."

Captain Correa said that after beating up and down the whole African coast and running up many a little creek, he had a cargo that would have made his fortune. He set sail for home and, favored by fair winds, made wonderful progress. Knot after knot was reeled off, and Captain Correa was mentally counting up his profits.

He took an observation of the sun on December 4, and after working out his latitude and longitude found that he was about 200 miles east of the Bermudas. That afternoon a storm, that soon turned to a hurricane, set in, and lasted until near sundown. Not a rope yarn was lost, and Captain Correa was congratulating himself on his good fortune when suddenly he saw a large water spout approaching him from the starboard side.

Faster and faster it came, until it had the schooner in its grasp. In the twinkling of an eye sails were wrenched from their bolt ropes, rails and stanchions torn from their fastenings and masts broken off. The schooner was a complete wreck and rolled in the trough of the sea like a log.

Captain Correa at once got out his boats, and, with his crew, succeeded in reaching an English tramp steamer that had been in sight throughout the storm. A short time after boarding her Captain Correa saw his schooner disappear beneath the waves.

The tramp steamer then made La Guayra, where the sailors were taken care of by the Portuguese Consul, while the American Consul sent Captain Correa to this port.

CHRISTMAS TREE BLAZE.

Sixteen Families Smoked Out of an Apartment House and $5,000 Damage Done.

An overdue Christmas tree smoked sixteen families out of the double apartment house at No. 341 East Forty-first street yesterday morning. The building is damaged to the extent of $5,000.

The tree blazed up in the basement where the two children of Mrs. John Tiesdale, the janitress, were still celebrating. In a few moments the smoke mounted to the fifth floor, and the tenants from top to bottom made a rush to escape. Mrs. Tiesdale was sweeping the sidewalk when the fire started. She ran in and picked up one of her children, but could not find the other one in the smoke. It was rescued by Alfred Varney, who lives on the first floor.

In the rear apartment, first floor, lives Mrs. Curry, who was alone with her baby and a young woman. The visitor jumped into the back yard, a distance of ten feet. Mrs. Curry dropped the baby to the young woman and then leaped to safety. The fire made such slow progress that the tenants all escaped in good order.

Fireman William Cullen, while fighting the fire in the basement, got caught between the walls of the double building. He was badly overcome by smoke when his comrades pulled him out.

Churchill-Hayes Wedding.

A pretty wedding ceremonial occurred in the Roman Catholic Church of the Epiphany, in Second avenue, at exactly noon yesterday, uniting Miss Harriet Hayes, daughter of Captain William F. Hayes, of Fire Engine Company No. 64, and Thomas W. Churchill, of No. 221 East One Hundred and Eighteenth street. The Rev. Albert J. Bader, assistant rector, aided by the Rev. William G. Murphy, of the Church of the Holy Rosary, performed the ceremony.

PASTOR FOUGHT THE BOLD BEGGAR

His Wife, Daughters and a Servant Girl Helped Him Bravely.

EJECTED THE INTRUDER.

The Man Demanded an Overcoat and, Being Refused, Pushed Into the House.

The Rev. D. B. F. Randolph, pastor of Trinity M. E. Church, Jersey City, had a wrestling match with a man who attacked him in his hall Christmas Day, but with the assistance of his wife, two daughters and the servant girl he succeeded in throwing his assailant from the house.

Dr. Randolph reported the case to the police yesterday. The parsonage adjoins the church in York street. Pastor Randolph and his family were at dinner Christmas Day when the door bell rang, and as the servant was busy in the kitchen, Dr. Randolph answered the summons.

On the door step stood a tall, well built man. The stranger in most courtly manner requested that the clergyman give him an overcoat. Dr. Randolph expressed regret at his inability to do so.

Then the courtly demeanor of the stranger forsook him and in threatening tones he demanded that he be furnished with an overcoat at once. When Dr. Randolph again refused to accommodate him the stranger forced his way into the vestibule.

Dr. Randolph is a small man, the stranger towered above him, but the clergyman tackled him. The beggar threw him to the floor. Dr. Randolph was quickly on his feet and again tackled his assailant.

Then ensued a wrestling match, with the odds, as regards weight, against the clergyman. Sounds of the struggle alarmed Mrs. Randolph and her daughters, who hurried up stairs to the hall. There, reinforced by the servant, who had industriously cried "Police, Help," etc. as she rushed up stairs, they formed a flying wedge and bore down upon the assailant of their struggling husband, father and employer.

Their onslaught was effectual, for they forced the stranger from the hall to the steps.

There he stood for a moment, then, as he walked slowly down the steps, sneered, "You're mighty strong when united, but if you'd let me along with the old man, I'd have done him."

The servant and Miss Edith Randolph searched for a policeman in vain.

Dr. Randolph is confident that his assailant was bent on robbery, but was deterred from his purpose by the determined resistance of the family.

The police believe the fellow was drunk.

"YES, MR. KERSEY SAILDE'."

But, According to Mr. Ismay, He Resigned His Place in the White Star Line.

It was admitted yesterday at the White Star office that H. Maitland Kersey is no longer manager of that line and that he is on his way to Liverpool on the steamer Lucania, as related exclusively in the Journal on Sunday.

The one point denied was the dismissal of Mr. Kersey from his position. J. Bruce Ismay, who has taken Mr. Kersey's place temporarily, declared that the latter had resigned six weeks ago. Indeed, Mr. Ismay was so exercised over the Journal's recital of the facts that he had an elaborate statement prepared referring to Mr. Kersey's resignation. Why he had resigned the statement did not reveal, but at the White Star office it was said that he did so in order to attach himself to a mining syndicate in which the Duke of Teck and L. Z. Leiter, the Chicago millionaire; Ogden Mills, John W. Mackay and other capitalists are interested.

Mr. Ismay said no arrangement for a permanent manager of the White Star Line has yet been made.

FITCH TO BE A BANKER?

Rumor Says the Comptroller Will Be Made President of a Big Trust Company.

There was a rumor current last night that Comptroller Fitch was to take the presidency of one of the largest trust companies ever formed in this country when he retires from the Comptrollership on January 1. Comptroller Fitch refused to say anything about the report. His family denied knowledge of it.

Friends of Mr. Fitch, including Deputy Comptroller William J. Lyon, say they understand that Mr. Fitch is to continue his law practice.

Rumor also connects the name of Senator Platt with the new company. The only trust company in which Mr. Platt has an interest is the Fidelity Title and Deposit Company, of Maryland, of which his son is one of the managing agents.