

BEGAN WITH A PENNY SHOW

With This Small Beginning He Lived to Dominate All Contemporaries. Work Was His Only Pleasure, and to This Is Due His Unparalleled Success in His Chosen Field.

It was said of Charles Frohman, lost when the Lusitania was sunk, that he had the refusal of every American play, and it was regarded as a fact that every foreign play coming to this country was offered to him before any other manager had a chance to look at it. Such a statement perhaps expresses his dictatorship in theatrical America more vividly to the public than to say that he was the proprietor and manager of a dozen theaters in New York, of about seventy of the first class throughout the United States and eight in London and managed thirteen touring companies in the United Kingdom. Besides this hundreds of theaters were more or less directly controlled through the booking operations of the "syndicate" in the minor cities of America.

Charles Frohman was born in Sandusky, O., June 17, 1860, and went to New York with his parents at the age of ten. His home was on the east side. While attending school he worked in the evenings in a newspaper office. At the age of seventeen he organized a minstrel show. He was manager, treasurer, secretary, ticket seller, ticket puncher, ticket taker, prompter and interlocutor of the company. Admission to the show was 1 cent, and for three coppers a spectator might become an actor. A more serious theatrical pursuit was selling tickets.

Began With Minstrels.

In 1880 he went to Minnesota to join the Chicago Dramatic company. Shortly after he toured the United States and Europe as treasurer of Haverly's Forty Minstrels, and with this troupe he marched through many a provincial town, the band at his back. Business was good, and he came back manager. The true beginning of his theatrical success was when in 1887 he obtained control of Bronson Howard's play, "Shenandoah." His brother, Daniel Frohman, had been associated with the Mallory brothers at the Madison Square theater. Charles Frohman went in with him and began to organize road companies under a new system. The ideas that he developed have influenced the course of the theatrical business since that time.

"Shenandoah" first appeared in Boston, when no manager felt interested in it after the first appearance. Charles Frohman saw it, liked it and telegraphed to Al Hayman to come on to Boston at once. Together they made a contract with the author of the play. Under their management "Shenandoah" was a great success. The next play Frohman took up was also a great success. "All the Comforts of Home" was adapted from the German by Gillette.

That the Charles Frohman theater at Broadway and Fortieth street, New York city, might have an auspicious opening Mr. Frohman went to Europe to see Sardou. He gave the famous Frenchman \$8,000 to write a play worthy of the finest stock company and theater in the United States. While on the other side he made contracts with Alexander Bisson and other French writers for their next plays. In London he obtained "Gloriana" and "Jane," both popular favorites. From "Jane" he made \$50,000 in the first season.

Made Theatrical Stars.

Such was the start of the man whose nervous vitality and force swept everything before him in the theatrical business, unconquerably and inevitably. He stamped his personal traits and characteristics upon half a hundred separate organizations. John Drew, Maude Adams and other leading actors and actresses have stated that much of their success was due to Frohman's suggestions and instructions given in directing rehearsals.

There was little allowance for rest in Frohman's manner of life. Life was nothing but work to him. Four hours amply served him for sleep. It was a marvel to see him in his office, turning his hand from one thing to another. Up and at it betimes in the morning his day was carefully appointed into hours and half hours for the diversified needs of the business. But he would do nothing that he could hire any one else to do, always saving himself for those things which he alone could do.

Work was Frohman's only play and he had practically no time for social pleasures. The song, "I Am a Friend of a Friend of Frohman," had a peculiar significance. That was as near as any one could get to him. He had few or no close personal friends. He was almost never seen on the streets. He was enrolled in the best clubs of New York and London and paid them his dues, but never a visit. His most pronounced eccentricity was an abhorrence of posing for a picture or feeling that one was being taken of him unaware. He was very shy in manner. He and J. M. Barrie have been declared the shyest men in the world. They found each other congenial company.

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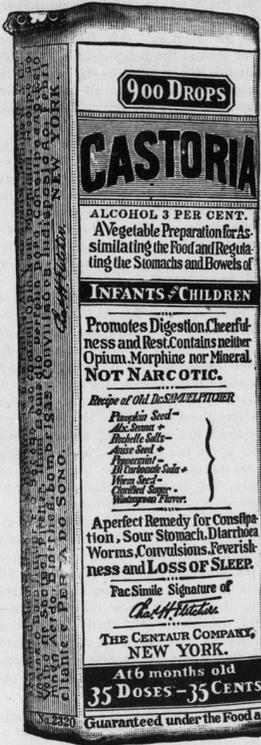
That old saying may have many applications. When the face is blotched with pimples, the body vexed with eruptions or eaten by sores, the blood is telling of its impure condition. Just as we put out a red or yellow flag in the front of the house where a dangerous disease is rampant, so Nature puts out the yellow flag of saffron skin, or the red flag of rash or eruption to indicate the diseased condition of the blood. Whenever symptoms of a disordered condition of the blood appear, the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery should be begun at once. It purifies the blood perfectly. It removes the poisonous substances which cause blotches, pimples and sores. The result is a smooth skin, clear complexion and healthy blood.

Spoiled His Argument.

The discussion turned to the reading of books. The guests were seated in the library when the conversation took this turn. Said one of the guests: "While more books are sold than in former years, I believe fewer are read. This is especially true of reference works and the classics. To illustrate: How long has it been since a book was taken out of this bookcase?" indicating with a sweep of the hand a large and well-stocked repository for books. "I had every book out last week when I cleaned house," answered the hostess who momentarily had lost the drift of the conversation and answered the question literally.—Louisville Times.

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Plain silk parasols in all new colors, black and white, handsome handles from \$1.50 up. A complete line of Silk, Union Taffets and colored umbrellas at 25c, 50c, and 75c.

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Our assortment of Washable Waists is as large as early in the season; also a big line of Washable Silk Waists.

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Shoes.

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