# MAN WHO WROTE "FACE ON THE BARROOM FLOOR" WEEPS, JESTS, SMILES OVER WORLD-FAMED CLASSIC

Hugh Antoine D'Arcy, Old-Time Thespian, Weeps When He Thinks of Royalties He Never Got, Jests at Theory His Poetic Brain-Child Helped to Bring About Prohibition, Smiles at Efforts of Imitators to Do as Well as He

once le han doubless been talented. To

hiv was of thinking. As I walked

ing I compered in no mine the firs

"Treat a house the received and

"The measure on a lamp ta-

had wont twenty-her

Minnie Maddern Fiske appeared as a little girl in one of the first

plays managed by D'Arcy. "Even then," he says, "she showed

extraordinary ability. My memories of her are most pleasant"

Wanted to Convince Joe, the Barkeeper

ines

Is there any person plive who doesn't know "The Face on the Bar-playing London then. My good friend Cody rud Major Burke disculated the copies among their theatrien; friends.

Is there anybody from child to grown-up who hasn't heard callow and before three months had passed.

Touth or doddering old age recite that most popular of poems? It has been translated into every language that's spoken; for thirtyfive years it has been mouthed from Moscow, to Paris, to New York, to in this country. In 1889 I was man Chicago, to San Francisco, to far Tokio, and back to Moscow again.

It has been movied, sung, dramatized, plagiavized, mutilated; oceans .... of tears have been wept over its pathetic story; years of time have been in midspent reading, hearing, receing it; given of his have printed and

And it hasn't brought the number.

Hugh Antoine D'Arcy, one single the hegger and those the situation winging eleven to make the situation winging eleven to make the situation copper penny. However he is by no more dramatic, a rough haired terrier. Throughout the country

hair and his long white mustachies, prushed him off a little. One of us waged. Never Intended Verses

but they do not recognize him.

It is rather ironic. If you quoted.

"Twas a balmy summer evening and a goodly crowd was there," they would smile reminiscently and recall the poem. "Why I heard that when I was a baby." they would say. "Of

lover of literature, an inveterate this nan was not a professional leggar smoker and a devastating enemy of He was a new in. I had to admit; but

argument was taken up by other gentle, men in the room, and in the end I go angry, and left the place with a sor extraordinary poem.

#### Likes to Recite Famous Poem to Womenfolk

he says. "right straight at her, I can would make my argument convinmake her cry in a minute. I recite and satisfy lice Schm in that for laughs." He pauses there, and resumes, "Well, there isn't a laugh in it."

And if popularity and long life a goodly count out there, signify anything. "The Face on the that well righ filled for a barriage on Barroom Floor" is one of the most

remarkable poems over written. terronomer and all all all all "But that isn', the correct title," fore I jumped her bed, I have at submits Mr. D'Arc; "The original mass found the hardess to compose title is 'The Face on the Floor,' Next day I finished the story Somebody made a song out of the When Joe rend it. I saw tears in poem and added to the title the word for publication but schooly could take barroom'; strangely enough that if It was finite processed to a con-tex of the page than sont twenty five was

The story of the gestation of this to the Buffalo Bull show, which was poem of ten million recitations is an interesting one.

"The story is really hardly worth telling," and Mr. D'Arcy speaks with modest reluctance. "Bu: I will try to make good an old argument of mine that most of the fiction I. at least, have written is more than half of one per cent true.

"Away back to the carry righties. Union Square in New York was called 'The Righte.' It was the theatrical center of America, all dramatic agencies and offices were there and near. In the summer time, actors and managers filled the many

"On the corner of Fourth avenue and Fourteenth street stood a very excellent saloon run by Joe Schmidt. It was kept fairly full from moon to midnight with respectable members of the acting profession and amusement promoters.

"One Saturday evening in August. 1887, a table in front of the bar was occupied by a group of managers. most of them from the South. There was Henry Greenwald, who controlled most of the theatres in Texas: Frank O'Brien, owner of the Birmingham Opera House; Colonel Melson, lessee of two Nashville theatres; Frank Tannenbaum, of Mobile, myself, who was then managing a show, and a few others. We were combining business with pleasure, booking time and enjoying the very excellent beer and spirits available in those happy days. It was probably as late as 11 o'clock, when suddenly a mendicant shambled into the barroom. He approached our table and in a sad and husky voice. he said, 'Gentlemen, I want a drink.'

### Enter the Derelict

## Who Inspired Poem

"All eyes were turned to the derelict and some one at the table offered bim an untasted glass of whisky. It was quickly swallowed. Joe, behind he bar, in a very loud voice, yelled,

poem at the big music halls. a company called "He. She Illu We strambyl in Minneaper

means impoverished, his native thrift providing him with a comfortable nest-egg.

He is an old man now—eighty next March—and he lives in New York. People pass him on the street, turn to look at his slow steps interested in his great white head of hair and his lone white means after the strength of the party got up from the happened to the stranger. He was bing face inflicts and to see what hair through to a successful finale until some one—eighty through the stranger. He was bing face inflicts the country searcely a saleon client the country searcely a saleon. Therefore the face On the Barroom Floor wasn't recited at least through to a successful finale until some one—eighty through to a successful finale until some one—eight through the previously.

Several of the party got up from the happened to the stranger. He was bing the previously.

Several of the party got up from the happened to the stranger. He was bing face inflows through the country sentence of the saleon.

Throughout the country sentence was allown.

Throughout the country sentence was allown.

Throughout the country sentence was allown.

Throughout the country wasn't recited at least through the face on hight. No party, no evening company, in the cities and towns of this country and England could rollick through to a successful finale until some one—eight and through the saleon.

Several of the party got up from the through to a successful finale until some one—eight and towns of this country and England could rollick through the discussion of the saleon.

Several of the party got up from the through to a successful finale until some one—eight and towns of this country and England could rollick through the saleon.

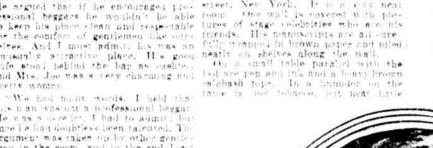
Throughout the country wasn't recited at least through the face of the saleon.

Throughout the country wasn't recited at least t

course, I know it?" But they do not know D'Arcy. "He must have died a long while ago," they say if you press them to it. "I heard 'The Face on the Barroom Floor' when I was a kid in breeches."

But D'Arcy is very much alive.

almost dapper in appearance, an in-





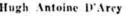
Leaf in B country | For sixty years 1 |
Leafen atmosphere of order | Feeted with the them's point the major test of the property of the pr Tank sowe and hondle. He wises the kind of the kind of

19. 1...

Once a Call Boy in

## Theatre in England

At the age is sexteen be occasion with the state Theorem Royal. Brists Engineed A in the often was induced to play than I used there. "I was an actor, but a verse fact one." I was During this winds, in worked intermittently in a pool, short, where Larry play loads. stere beigh and sold. Here he read columnia-te and developed an amountal knowledge a place and play making, In 1872 orang D'Arey came to Amer eitizenship papers us be can remember, he devoted bac-eff to remember into the consents: bilited to the a frequent outrible of if bilinerus poems and skill i officed by nowned Captain Marryat. He also In New York he took up the theater-



# Famous Thespian Stars

1) Any became treasurer of Nido's Theoree in New York in 1899. He has Manual Associated as non-central Robert Manual, James Cone the De Walf Hopser Company of 1917, 08; Mary Manual ag. Cherter Cone, Margner of Cherk In The World Ring In that and Jobs Missey = 1910.

there. If I find to descript on my poems property for my fivelibred. I seems have started For sixty years I have been con-

hesitates to talk about them.

"Some of the small towns in the West and in sections of the country like "He handed me the wallet. And to "He handed me the wallet. And to you know that wallet had \$600 in the righties. I remember that one night we played in the very worst. We had finished the show and were waiting for a 3 A. M. train out. We killed time talking, and the conversation veered into bandits and banditry. There had been a lot of trouble thereabouts lately.

Benlores Lack of Art

from the hotel to the station, when the driver asked me if we had any guns with us. There are a couple of bad looking men hanging around town, and maybe they are looking for the show to use rhyme. Some of them did and do. There was William Cullen Bry. ment and we began collecting guns.

Some of us corried colts, and those who didn't soon got a curious array of firearms together, and mounted the bus.

We didn't want to faithless the first sound the second sound to second sound the second sound the second sound sound the second sound the secon to we expressed nothing of our fears.

"Armed to the teeth we started for scious there was something in the wind. unwillingness to answer them made

#### Exchange Fusillade With Supposed Bandit

With Supposed Bandit

"We had gone about half the distance, when suddenly we saw a horseman riding mady toward us. One of the men let go a shot, and before we knew it, the rest of us contributed to the fusillade. About twenty shots were fired, and the horseman wheeled about and disappeared.

station, and who should we see dishounted there but that horseman! And it was our landlord! 'Danmed nice let you are,' he yelled. 'What the devil were you firing at me for? It didn't scare me much, because I knew not one of the whole bunch of you could hit showed his visitor out.

Mr. D'Arcy's experience in the the-

atre dates back to the strenuous days of the small companies which barn- botel with the prospect of a fight way stormed all over the South and West. I had left my wallet on the landits. counter when I paid my bill. The hote

"I was gathering my flock together for the combine which was to take us from the hand to the combine which was to take us from the hand to the combine which was to take us from the hand to the combine which was to take us from the hand to the combine which was to take us from the combine which was In Writing of Poems "You know, there are few person us. There are a couple of bad who know how to write poems. The

> Mr. D'Arcy, long past the average man-the three score and ten mark-must still grin a little at the attempt of many people to think him dead. couldn't possibly be alive, 'Why heard that poem when I was a child!

credit for being dead. "I am a Christian Scientist, I don't

right smartly-though he puffs a little Within ten minutes we were at the on arrival,

#### "THE FACE UPON THE FLOOR"

Which well-nigh filled Joe's barroom on the For gradually is corner of the square; and systems and with stories came through I made a picture over door. the over door to be comed upor the chase of Fame; is called The Chase of F

"Where did it come from?" some one said. With even that part-Where did it come from: some one are.

The wind has blown it in.

What does it went? snother cried, "Some wiskly, time or sin."

There, Tolky, seek burn if your stomach's "Why don't you laugh? The vagabond you seek lum it wouldn't fouch him with a fork; he's as Could ever, ove a woman littly as a Tura.

But twee he, and for a r smaller were freely as the same are treely as the same are t

I wouldn't touch him with a lots, by
fifthy as a Turk

This badinage the poor wretch took with
a roical good grace:

But 'two so, and for a month or two her
smiles were freely given.

And when her loving live touched mine is
carried me to heaven.



fond of making of himself





Marguerite Clark, star in some recent plays managed by D'Arcy

Winth by poly-y of a corner.

He grass, in west the street styles the gray of and the start "yellows," or style image the effect of T. Fure in the Law of the Law of

France, or Maca 7 1812. When 844 are inflated a smallest real as parents to Leave to a difference and red to Eng.