

draw.

"Crom-a-Boo" at the Park.

A play which, with proper interpretation, may prove a success, was given its first public presentation last evening at the Park Theatre. It is by Ernest Lacy and is entitled "Crom-a-boo." The cast:

Robert, Earl of Kildare...Chas. Maclaine
Sir Henry Hardcastle.....Prince Lloyd
Gerald O'Brien.....John Skelly
Maurice O'Brien.....James A. Barnes
Edward Doyle.....James Skelly
Larry Donovan.....Edmund G. Moroney
Elizabeth, Countess of Kildare.....Ella Craven
Kathleen.....Annie Dacre
Moya.....Miss Santje
Una.....Gretta Hovendon Halvey
Nora.....Mae Cody

ACTS I and II.—Drawing rooms in Kilkea Castle.

ACT III.—Exterior of Kilkea Castle.

As may be judged by the name, this is one of the very numerous dramas of the romantic Irish school. But it differs from the majority of those which have preceded it, in not having one Irishman wallop a whole corps of British Red Coats. Mr. Lacy has heroically suppressed the Milesian heroics and instead has given a drama of rather slender plot but with bright dialogue and strong situations.

The story is that of the Earl of Kildare, whose daughter, Moya, is to be betrothed to Sir Henry Hardcastle. She is in love with Edward Doyle, a young surgeon, and the efforts to break off the match with the English Knight form the base of the plot. Gerald O'Brien, house steward of the Earl and the foster brother of Edward Doyle, is the good fairy who endeavors to have the true lovers united and he has a double love affair of his own which complicates matters. At a critical moment Gerald's supposed father, Maurice O'Brien, discloses that Gerald is the real Earl of Kildare, and the de facto Earl acknowledges the fact. Usually this would bring matters to a climax but it takes another act to fully tell the story as the honor of the de facto Earl binds him to still give his daughter to Sir Henry. The real Earl, Gerald, skillfully unmasks Sir Henry as a villain, and then every one is made happy.

The plot is not unusual, but it has such variations from the conventional as to make it seem new. With a company of capable players and with a better conception of the "business," "Crom-a-boo" should prove successful. "Gerald" has very bright lines and the dialogue throughout is consistent. The effect, however, was lost through the halting, amateurish manner of many of the players. Exception must be made for John Skelly, whose "Gerald" was a very meritorious creation; for little Gretta Hovendon Halvey, who is an unusually clever child actress, and for Annie Dacre, whose "Kathleen" was given dignity and whose sweet voice trilled a pretty Irish song most handsomely. Miss Santje, as Moya, should have dominated, but her lack of proper training, her action showing evidence of some peculiar school of Delsartian elocution, handicapped her remarkably pretty presence.

The play was generously received by a very large audience and floral tributes and curtain calls were numerous.

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margaretgingell62
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