

Grand—Corbett in "Gentleman Jack."

One of the neatest novelties that the present theatrical season in this city will offer will be the appearance at the Grand opera house this week of Champion James J. Corbett, in his new play called "Gentleman Jack." The play was written by Charles T. Vincent, a dramatist of enviable reputation, and in the main tells a story of Jack Royden, a gallant young collegian, who is ever ready to side with the weak. The scene in the first act



JAMES J. CORBETT.

presents the college campus at Payne. Jack is the hero of his classmates, and the best all round athlete. The villain, or rather Jack's rival, becomes envious of him on account of the former's superior qualities of many kinds. This, together with the fact that both Ashtou and his rival are suitors for the hand of the same girl, serves to keep up the feeling of hatred to the end.

Act second discovers Jack Royden employed in the bank of his enemy's father. His rival succeeds in making Jack the victim of a plot and the college hero becomes self accused of theft and is discharged from the bank. The third act presents a brilliant scene on the roof of the Madison Square garden, New York city. The once popular champion of Payne has become professor of boxing at a New York Athletic club. His rival, having concluded that the sure way to win Jack's sweetheart is to reduce Royden to the level of a defeated pugilist, therefore employs a celebrated English prize fighter to challenge Royden, after first having insulted him. This offers a reasonable excuse for introducing in the next two acts Corbett at his best, as the next act shows him in his training quarters. Here Corbett, while punching the bag, gives the audience an opportunity to judge as to his remarkable quickness of movement.

Of course, the crowning climax of the play is saved for the last act. In this act is shown a faithful reproduction of the ring side of the Olympic club at New Orleans. It is on the eve of the great battle between Royden and the English champion. The regulation sized ring has been roped off, anxious and excited spectators crowd about the red flannel covered ropes at every hand, bets are called and taken by overconfident

prophets, and even the ticking telegraph instruments are introduced to make the scene more faithful. All the preliminaries are gone through. Then begins what writers elsewhere have claimed one of the most exciting, interesting and altogether novel scenes ever introduced into a play. It takes several rounds before Royden succeeds in conquering the tenacious Englishman, which is finally done, and Royden's sweetheart returns to him while his rival is simultaneously crushed forever. Assurances are given that everything in the entire play is of a refined nature.