

# The Price of the Prairie.

A dramatization of Mrs. Margaret Hill-McCarter's popular novel,  
as arranged by Prof. Lane.

At Shawen Hall, Saturday Night,  
June 1, 1912. *Garnett*

## PRESENTED BY THE SENIOR CLASS OF OTTAWA UNIVERSITY

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

MISS ELIZABETH KOONTZ,

Head of the Expression Department.

FRANK JENNINGS, BUSINESS MANAGER.

### Cast of Characters.

Phil Baronet, the hero, son of Judge Baronet	Chester Roberts
Father LeClaire, Missionary Priest	Wayne Gilliland
Judge Baronet, Lawyer and Soldier	Amos Childears
Jean Pahasca, Half-breed Indian	Frank Jennings
Omie, Good Natured Irishman	Ted Reynolds
Bud, Omie's Pal	Jay Stewart
Tell Mapleson, Sr., Friend of Judson	Spencer Frink
Amos Judson, Conspiring Store-keeper	Marcus Clemons
Tillhurst, A Jealous School Master	Hale Blair
Cam Gentry, Manager of Cambridge House	Ross Bowers
Irving Whately, Marjie's Father	Judge Summers
General Custer	Jesse Elder
John Anderson	Vertus Crotts
Bill Meade	Ernest Hoover
Dave Meade	Mark Pattie
Tell Mapleson	Edward Kroesch
Conlow	Clinton Patton
First Stranger	George Peterson
Second Stranger	Chester Crosny
Marjie Whately, The Heroine	Miss Nell Pattie
Mrs. Whately, Marjie's Mother	Miss Edna Hetzel
Aunt Cabdice, Phil's Aunt	Miss Mabel Stannard
Dollie, Cam's Wife	Miss Etta Stannard
Rachel Melrose, Marjie's Rival	Miss Laura Sudduth
Lettie Conlow, Another Admirer of Phil	Miss Augusta Geisenheiner
Bess	Miss Clara Kapp
Mary	Miss Emma Griffith
Captive Women, Soldiers, Messengers and Indians.	



# Synopsis of Events.

## ACT I.

"The Price of the Prairie" is a tale of love and war during early Kansas times. Phil Baronet (Chester Roberts) is left by his father and Irving Whately (George Summers) to protect the town of Springvale in the Neosho country, and incidentally Mr. Whately's young daughter Margie (Nell Pattie), while they lead the Springvale regiment against the confederate army.

Early in the play Jean Pahusca (Frank Jennings), the Indian villain, Amos Judson (Marcus Clemmons) and Tell Mapleson (Spencer Frink), the white villains, appear for a moment to foreshadow coming tragedy. After the soldiers are gone, Margie comes to the Cambridge House, leaves her long coat and is accompanied on her way to the home of a sick child by Phil. Here it is revealed to the audience that these young people are very much in love.

### ENTERS THE VILLAIN.

"I will crown you Queen of May in April," says Phil as he presses—a wreath of flowers onto her head. but as he speaks, Jean, who is in hiding behind them startles them by breaking a twig. He is not discovered, however.

Now a plan is developed to burn the town. The Conlow gang, made up of the Conlow's, Mapleson, Judson and Jean, is at the bottom of it. The plan is discovered. Phil takes command and defeats the plan. But in the meantime, "Omie" O'Meara (Ted Reynolds) has thrown Margie's coat around him and, being mistaken by Jean for Margie, is carried off. It is reported to Phil that Jean has stolen Margie. He is dazed by the news.

Later he meets Margie, and when he returns to the boys, realizes that it is Omie who is missing. He cries out "They will kill him." At this moment Father McClain (Wayne Gilliland) enters and says, "They will not kill him. My God, must this sin always follow me? Can I never atone?"

## ACT II.

### THE PLOT THICKENS.

A few years later, in act two while a party is in progress at the Cambridge House, it develops that Judson, the merchant, Jean and Tillhurst (Hale Blair) the school teacher, are each desirous of getting possession of Margie's heart and hand, while Lettie Conlow (Augusta Geisenhener), full of the Conlow intrigue and jealousy, and Miss Melrose (Laura Sudduth) a scheming Boston heiress, are equally interested in Phil.

### A COUNTRY DANCE.

In this act a country dance is held. Jean and Phil come to a hand to hand struggle, so realistic as to make the hair rise, in which Phil gains the victory and tells Jean to leave Springvale forever.

"I will go," he replies, "but I'll see you there, and when we meet again, my hand will be on your throat, and I don't care whose son you are."

Fate, also in the persons of Tillhurst and Miss Melrose, estranges Phil and Margie, and Phil leaves for the frontier, the Saline country, to fight the Indians. It also develops that Judson has swindled Margie's mother out of her possessions, and is spiritedly rejected by Margie when he offers to marry her to save her from poverty.



## ACT III,

IN PAHUSCA'S LAND.

Act III is a frontier fort scene on the Sweetwater river. Phil is in Jean's country. Phil and Omie see Jean throw a man, strangely like Father Le Claire, over a precipice. Omie rushes off the stage leaving Phil alone. Then it is that Jean enters, throws a lariat around Phil, binds him and tells him that Margie is true to him, but will soon be stolen by Jean and suffer things worse than death. Phil is to die at sunset. He turns and gazes at the sinking sun. Omie enters releases Phil and is thrown over the cliff by Jean. Then follows a struggle between Phil and Jean for the knife and for life. Jean seems to win three times but finally is overcome and taken by Omie and Phil to General Custer (Jesse Elder) who says, "Why the devil didn't you kill him, it would have saved me any amount of trouble, you infernal fool." Phil replies, "I may be a fool General, but I am also a soldier; not a murderer."

Then it is that Omie tells Phil that Margie still loves him and he is a "bloomin', blistering idjit." Phil at once decides to go home.

## ACT IV.

WRONGS ARE RIGHTED.

Act IV begins with the righting of the wrongs done by Judson; he gives up Margies' property and promises to marry Lettie Conlow. Mapleson is forced to leave town by Judge Baronet (Amos Childears) to escape his punishment for having robbed Omie. Le Claire is freed from the suspicion that he is Jean's father by saying that the man killed by Jean on the frontier was his twin brother and Jean's father. Phil is said to have returned. Cam Gentry (Ross Bower) has Dollie (Etta Stannard) tie him to the porch to keep him from stampeding the Baronet's home. Dollie is Mrs. Gentry. Finally, he quiets down a little and as he sits there on the porch he sees Margie enter, sit down on the big rock. A moment she bows her head. But she lifts it again and looking up she sees, rushing to her, her lover, Phil, with outstretched arms.

