

## INTRODUCTION

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The tremendous popularity of the Pipe Organ in the Moving-Picture Theatre has undoubtedly put this wonderful instrument in the first place to stay as the most perfect accompaniment to the Silent Drama. Its superiority over the orchestra for this means is undisputed, not only because of the Organs greater flexibility and range of tonal expression but because under the control of an artist it can do all and much more than a large orchestra, greatly surpassing it in power and grandeur and even variety of tone.

The importance of correct and artistic use of the effects and imitations possible on the modern theatre organ cannot be over estimated. An audience will often be more favorably impressed by the organist who takes advantage of appropriate situations for putting in some clever trick or effect than by one who might possibly be a better musician but lets these scenes pass unnoticed. Remarks like "Wasn't that a clever Banjo effect the Organist played for that Negro scene?" or "Wasn't that Rooster-crow imitation he put in, a scream?" are much more frequent than "Didn't the Organist play that Chopin Nocturne beautifully?"

It should be remembered however, that a scene or a whole picture can be just as easily ruined by the indiscrete use or overdoing of these imitations. Do not be so anxious to put in tricks and effects that the audience is annoyed instead of amused. Good judgment for knowing when and when not to use an effect is just as essential or perhaps even more so than the ability to properly perform the trick. For instance, the Snore effect can be very funny or ridiculously crude according to the scene it is used for. In the case of a fat man snoozing on the porch on a hot summer day with the flies buzzing around him it would be funny but the ludicrous effect if it were used for a scene in which the pretty young heroine is asleep in her elegant boudoir, can be imagined. It is doubtful whether any organist would live long if he or she were guilty of such a crime but there are plenty of *organists* that do things almost as bad.