

THE GRAND OPERA SEASON.

Arrangements All Complete for the Coming of Patti.

WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS.

An Immense Sale of Advance Seats—The Coliseum Transformed for the Occasion—The Stories of the Operas.

The Patti Engagement.

There is no longer any doubt of the success of the season of Italian grand opera which opens in this city Monday evening. The advance sale of tickets has been large, the receipts up to last evening aggregating over \$10,000. Taking everything into consideration, this has been equal to expectations. When the sale of season tickets began, there was a large demand, and the rush came, and the season tickets were sold in a few days. The single admissions were on the market. Of course the larger share of anxious purchasers secured seats for the matinee, when Patti appears, but the sales for the Monday night performance were satisfactory to the management, and the Coliseum will undoubtedly be filled on the opening night. It is a question, however, whether the immense building will be filled all the way to the top, to attend the matinee Tuesday. Orders for tickets to hear Patti have poured in from surrounding cities and towns in both Nebraska and Iowa, and the trains on Tuesday will be filled with music lovers from a radius of 150 miles.

On Monday evening Verdi's sublime opera, "Il Trovatore," will be produced, with Tamagno and Nordica as the stars. Tuesday afternoon, Patti will appear as Tosca in the "Fideler of Seville." As will be noted by reference to The Bee's telegraphic column, Mrs. Patti sang at the matinee yesterday afternoon in Denver. Private dispatches also state that Tamagno and Nordica have fully recovered from their illness and will fill their Omaha engagements as announced.

The opera company's train leaves Denver this morning at 10 o'clock and will arrive in Omaha at 10 a. m. Monday. Mrs. Patti and the other leading singers have arranged quarters at the Millard. The preparations for the reception are complete. A vast expense of chairs, greenery, etc., has been ordered. The chairs to be used are of the most elegant and comfortable, and very little behind the finest cars of today. They were supplied with all the appliances for sleeping, eating, cooking and the toilet, and were occupied by the high-priced members of the company.

The "Adelina Patti" was occupied by the renowned songstress and her husband, Signor Nicolini, and Mr. M. H. De Young, who accompanied her to San Francisco, accompanied by his wife, on a pleasure trip to Europe. As the train rolled into the depot a curious crowd gathered around it all having in view the same purpose, to catch a glimpse of the leading stars. The greatest attraction was Mrs. Patti's car, in which the party was seated at dinner. The curtains and blinds were drawn in such a manner as to permit the gathered throng to fully inspect the interior of the palatial car, and every mouthful eaten by the great singer was watched with intense interest. The leading people of the company, with the exception of Patti and her party, left the cars and were seated in the hotel at the depot. The girls of the party curled themselves up on the seats of the coaches and passed the night in quiet but settled down upon the scene. Mrs. Patti was called upon in her car by a reporter, who was shown through the carriage, which was built especially for her and cost \$60,000. It was a magnificent coach. The curtains were of heavy damask silk. The walls and ceiling were covered with the finest tapestry. The furniture throughout was made with silk of the most costly and elegant material. A grand piano was one of the appointments, the casing of which was of costly wood, beautifully carved, and cost \$2,500. The instrument had ship spruce for its frame, and it remained constantly balanced, thus doing away with the necessity of frequent tuning. The walls were hung with valuable pictures, two of which cost \$3,000 each, and were from the studio of some famous Italian artists. In this fashion did Mrs. Patti make her entry into Omaha.

Mrs. Patti spoke in tones of unbounded praise of her trip to California, and her treatment in San Francisco, where she received a grand ovation. Jewels, valuable vases and costly presents of all kinds were showered upon her. Each time she stepped on the stage was hailed with beautiful bouquets and floral decorations of every description. Upon her last appearance she was presented with a floral offering ten feet in length and six feet wide. At this performance the people were unable to get into the hall, and between two and three hundred passed through the rear and secreted themselves under the stage. In a moment of confusion they checked and were discovered. In Salt Lake City Patti sang to an audience of over 12,000 persons in the Mormon tabernacle, both Mormons and Gentiles vying with each other to get a view of one of Mrs. Patti's constant companions at that time was her world renowned parrot, which was a very knowing bird. It afforded a great deal of amusement to the party.

That evening as Mrs. Patti and her husband were in the hotel, in the moonlight her attention was attracted by the music of a German chorus sung by sturdy male voices coming from Turner hall. It was the March song which was being heard in a concert soon to be given. Patti stopped on the sidewalk for fully five minutes listening and seemed to be highly entertained, judging from her complimentary remarks.

The next day was warm and balmy, and the music of the chorus was heard again, often seen on the streets, and their foreign dress and manner attracted considerable attention. Mrs. Patti and Signor Nicolini remained in their car until 9 o'clock, when a carriage containing Mr. E. Rosewater and General Gibson, then department commander of the Platte, drove to the car and were escorted by the distinguished artist. It was intended to drive to the barracks but owing to the muddy condition of the roads, the car was abandoned. However, the party visited Hancock park and several other places of interest. Mrs. Patti expressed herself as much pleased with the view of the city, and was taking on their spring verdure, the tender green of the grass, the sunshiny and balmy air and the view of the hillsides as the hills among the trees, and the excitement of the hour. Mrs. Patti had never before seen the American bird and admired it greatly. In fact, since the time she first visited this city to speak of Omaha was sure to bring to her lips a word of admiration for the beautiful birds she saw in the park on that spring day.

Late in the evening a private supper was given at the Paxton hotel, attended by Mrs. Patti, Signor Nicolini, Mr. Rosewater and Count Zacheroff, and about 110 guests. Mrs. Patti and her husband were driven to their private car at the depot.

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seats. There is an unwritten law in Mexico that a manager cannot sell his whole stock to season patrons, he must save some seats for those who cannot afford or do not desire to witness every performance. The manager, however, was a friend of mine, and raised the limit to such an extent that I was allowed to sell almost everything for the season. We gave six extra performances in Mexico, making ten in all, and our receipts were \$225,000 in gold. The company has a tremendous repertoire now, embracing twenty operas. Patti did not sing except "Roméo and Juliet," but she will sing "Lakmé" during the return engagement in Chicago.

It was only one week with our train from Chicago to Omaha, and the Mexican International and the Mexican Central an iron bridge 25 feet long, about two miles above Toronto, broke down and our train was delayed thirty-six hours so that we arrived in Mexico on the 10th instead of the 9th of January and opened on the 11th to a \$10,000 house. Tamagno's William Tell proved a phenomenal success, as it has done everywhere.

In San Francisco, in spite of the depressed condition of the people caused by the annual snow and floods, the company has done remarkably well. I am an old Californian, and I never saw such weather as there has been there. There were days when not even suburban trains could leave, and I felt very much afraid of the result of the season. But in spite of all we had an advance season sale of \$27,000, and when the company reached the city we had \$60,000 in bank representing the season sale, and that not to mention the receipts of the first week were over \$50,000.

The company goes from here to Louisville and then to Chicago, where Patti will sing three times and Tamagno three times. Boston will follow with ten performances, beginning on Monday evening. The company will begin an engagement in New York, which will include sixteen performances. During the New York season the company will sing two nights in Philadelphia.

PATTI'S DEBUT IN OMAHA.

The Former Visits of the Diva to this City. On Thursday, April 3, 1884, a special train having on board Patti, "Her Majesty's Opera company," arrived in Omaha at 7:30 p. m. The train consisted of three baggage cars, three coaches and four sleepers. The three sleepers were "La Traviata," "La Somnambula," both Mann boudoir cars, the "Lycophonia" of the Hannibal & St. Joe railway and the Mann boudoir car, "Adelina Patti." These boudoir cars were fitted up in the most superb style then known in sleeping car architecture, and very little behind the finest cars of today. They were supplied with all the appliances for sleeping, eating, cooking and the toilet, and were occupied by the high-priced members of the company.

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sale closed, between \$7,000 and \$8,000 worth of tickets being disposed of.

"What's the matter?" said I, in Italian. "Madame, I saw the bird today." Patti arrived in Omaha on February 23, in her magnificent train, which included the car Adelina Patti, in which the diva made her first visit to Omaha. In the Pullman car Anchorage were the great singer's main support, Mrs. Scheloni and husband, Count Lolli; Sig. Galliani, Sig. Novari, Sig. Ardit, Sig. Mignani, Signor Mignani, Signor Mignani, private secretary Sig. Sanio and C. H. Matthews, the manager.

A large number of ladies and gentlemen were gathered at the depot to greet Mrs. Patti. It was the anniversary of the birth of Signor Nicolini and in commemoration of the event Mrs. Patti decided to dine in her traveling home, so the spectators were disappointed in not catching a glimpse of her as they expected.

Mrs. Patti reached the Millard late in the evening, where a suite of several rooms had been especially prepared for her, being luxuriously carpeted and furnished at great expense.

The night of the concert the Exposition was filled from wall to wall with the largest audience that had heard Patti during that season. Among the spectators were the members of the faculty, all lovers of music in every class. Ladies' hats were taboos, and full dress was largely the rule. One hour was occupied in seating the immense throng, and at 8 o'clock the music began with a bold hand raised his baton and the first notes of the orchestra floated over the heads of the audience. Mrs. Patti sang "Lakmé" and "Roméo and Juliet." When the diva sang "Lakmé" she stepped upon the platform the storm of applause that broke forth was enough to convince anyone that the background of the audience that had heard Patti during that season. Among the spectators were the members of the faculty, all lovers of music in every class. Ladies' hats were taboos, and full dress was largely the rule. One hour was occupied in seating the immense throng, and at 8 o'clock the music began with a bold hand raised his baton and the first notes of the orchestra floated over the heads of the audience. Mrs. Patti sang "Lakmé" and "Roméo and Juliet." When the diva sang "Lakmé" she stepped upon the platform the storm of applause that broke forth was enough to convince anyone that the background of the audience that had heard Patti during that season.

PATTI IN "LA TRAVIATA."

The Great Diva's Appearance in New York in 1844. The following is an extract from New York editorial correspondence which appeared in The Bee, December 15, 1844: New York, Dec. 9, 1844.—The Academy of Music was crowded Friday night with a fashionable audience on the occasion of Adelina Patti's debut in Verdi's opera, "La Traviata." Passing down the central aisle of the parquette a few minutes ago I beheld a spectacle of dazzling splendor. The vast and brilliant lighted auditorium with its regal decorations was resplendent with the wealth, beauty and beauty of the diva. Her dress was magnificent and her voice was of a most gorgeous tenor. There was a fair sprinkling of the less imposing of New York society which exhibited her in a most brilliant and cultured of indulging in less extravagant in dress. The black dress suit with its light and graceful cravat was predominant among a majority of the male audience. Only a few dukes made themselves conspicuous by their "loud" flummery. The apparel and fixtures of the auditorium were decidedly striking and flashy. Velvets, satins, lace, ribbons and flowers—both natural and artificial—of every shade and hue in distinction were to be seen. The display of costly jewels was simply stunning. The twenty-four boxes ranged three tiers high and four tiers high on each side of the stage were all occupied. The two lower tiers were for the most part monopolized by the millionaire class and the middle tier by the aristocracy, and the upper tier by the famous. What specimens of vanity and vulgar taste those American apes of nobility are! Whatever may have been the make-up, color or quality of the dresses, the costumes were by the robust and cadaverous compound of feminine indelicacy that occupied the boxes, nothing was to be seen in the audience below except the bejeweled and jeweled tufts with their liberal display of the fountains of motherly love. Here and there a glimpse of lace, presumably the highest garnish, were exposed in order to enable the owner to exhibit strings of glittering diamonds that were attached.

The curtain had already risen when I entered and Patti, radiant with smiles, authoritatively clad in elegant robes, ornamented with covers, her queenly bearing and her diamonds, was the center of a giddy delirious group that made her appear like a lustrous pearl set in a cluster of rubies and emeralds. She sang "Lakmé" and acted with that supreme perfection which justly entitles her to rank among the greatest living actors. I had seen "Traviata" and "Lakmé" in its counterpart, played by famous actors at various times and places, but never had I seen Violletta or her rival, and her performance was such a masterpiece of art and nature, such passionate yet natural intensity of feeling. Although her support was in many ways defective, and Alfredo, who plays the role of Violletta's lover and who carried the stage in a genuine fainting fit, Madame Patti sustained the play throughout by her marvelous talent and her superb manner, which elicited frequent and hearty applause. Spell-bound from first to last by the profound emotion, intense passion and deep pathos of Patti's performance, I forgot to breathe, but my eyes were fixed upon her, and I was literally more impressed with her marvelous dramatic power than her enchanting vocalization, which cannot be described in all the world over pronounce absolutely perfect.

PATTI OFF THE STAGE. Next day I called at the Windsor hotel to renew the agreeable acquaintance I had made during Madame Patti's brief stay at Omaha last April on her return from California. Patti, as she is called in the city, examined me with a good deal of interest, and with vivacious and fascinating manner; "I shall not forget Omaha. We had such a delightful time in your city, and I shall never forget with pleasure how we roamed about the place. Your magnificent hotel, that electric light factory, the park and those lovely blue birds. Do you remember, Ernest," turning to Mons. Nicolini, who had also received me most cordially, "they were not swallows, but real blue birds with such beautiful feathers. When you were here we did have! I like Omaha and should like to see there once this winter." "I hope you will play the opera that will enable our people not only to hear you sing but see you sing," said I, "for after seeing you in 'Traviata' I regard your performance as an excellent one, and I am sure you must have been exhausted after such an effort, you were so terribly in earnest. I do not know how you were able to sing so well during the day." "Madame was completely broken down last night and did not take a morsel after returning from the opera," said the secretary, Mons. Nicolini. "La Traviata" always affects her deeply. She sheds real tears and she is wreathed as if the play was a sorrow and reality." "I had more than my usual part to play last night," said Patti smiling. "Alfred, my lover, was struck and in one scene had a fainting spell, so I had not only to do most of the love-making, fondling and prancing out to fill his part as well as that of the absent-minded actor who falls head over heels for her." "Turning from the sublime to the ridiculous," said Patti, "there was an incident in the libretto. You remember that when Alfredo throws down the money at my feet and in the excess of passionate grief and despair I faint away on the floor. At that moment the man who impersonates the baron whispered to me, 'Don't faint too hard, madame; don't make it serious!'"

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IT WAS NOT A LIBEL.

A Verdict for the Defense in Lilla's Suit Against The Bee. The jury in the libel suit of Edward Lilla against The Bee returned a verdict for the defendant in Judge Donne's court yesterday. The case, as has been stated, was an action for libel and \$5,000 damages brought by Lilla as a result of the publication by The Bee of a brief item in its police court news in October, 1888.

The case was given to the jury at a late hour Friday afternoon and a sealed verdict returned Friday night for the defendant. In his instructions the judge pointed out the defendant admits the publication of the article complained of but claims it was published as a result of the publication by the plaintiff of a complaint had been made in police court against the plaintiff and a warrant issued for his arrest.

The jury is instructed: 1. That the defendant, as a newspaper, had the right to publish as a matter of news the proceedings occurring in the police courts, or such matters as may appear in the public records provided the same is published in good faith and with a bona fide interest for a publication made under such circumstances the publisher of a newspaper is not liable to an action for damages. 2. If the defendant has published any article or proceeding then the defendant would be held liable for the same. 3. If the publication was of the character denominated by law as libelous per se then malice is presumed from the publication and the plaintiff need not prove it. 4. The publication complained of is not libelous, per se, except that part of it which charges the complainant with being in police court, and the issuance of a warrant thereagainst him, and as that was a matter of public concern the defendant is not liable for its publication, unless you find from all the evidence that the publication was maliciously made. 5. If you shall find that the publication was made with malice and good faith, your verdict will be for the defendant. If, however, you find that the publication was made with malice and without good faith, you shall find for the plaintiff and award him such damages as you may find the plaintiff sustained by reason of the publication. In assessing damages to the plaintiff you will confine yourselves to such damages as the plaintiff may have suffered in his good name and credit by reason of the publication. If other retail dry goods houses would do as well as the justice of the move. The sales of this progressive merchant have not fallen off in the aggregate and his employees have had the benefit of his liberal policy. From 7 in the morning till 6 in the evening is a good day's work for any man or woman. If other retail dry goods houses would do as well as the justice of the move. The sales of this progressive merchant have not fallen off in the aggregate and his employees have had the benefit of his liberal policy. From 7 in the morning till 6 in the evening is a good day's work for any man or woman. If other retail dry goods houses would do as well as the justice of the move. The sales of this progressive merchant have not fallen off in the aggregate and his employees have had the benefit of his liberal policy. From 7 in the morning till 6 in the evening is a good day's work for any man or woman. If other retail dry goods houses would do as well as the justice of the move. 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