

WITH OPERA AND OPERA

Plans of the Apollos and Miss Clary for Omaha's Musical Culture.

GREAT CHANGES AT THE BIJOU THEATER

Has a Stock Company and Will Give Continuous Performances—Evolution of the Serpentine Dance—Coming Attractions—Stage Chat.

The Apollo club, which has done so much for the musical culture of Omaha, has made its plans for the coming season and announces three subscription concerts, which will be given at the Boyd on Thursday, November 7, Monday, February 20, and Thursday, May 4.

The program for these entertainments will probably be selected from "The Crusades" by Gade, "Fritzhof" by Bunch, "The Golden Legend" by Sullivan and "The Creation" by Haydn, all works of high quality.

In order to meet objections to the former method of reserving seats, the management has decided to have an auction and sell the choice of seats in that manner. This plan has been tried in other cities with satisfactory results.

Miss Clary reports a very encouraging progress for the Omaha operatic festival, which will begin at the Boyd on November 7 and continue for the week and is now able to make some definite announcements.

Max Maretzek, a well known musical director, has consented to take charge, which assures competent management in that department.

Miss Clary says of Signor Maretzek as a director: "It is a great pleasure to have this master, the companion and peer of Ardi, direct the first season of opera that is attempted to be given as a local affair with the hope and intention of permanently establishing the same with all its possibilities for future development."

Mr. Robert Downing, the tragedian, has been successful in more than one line of endeavor. It is not generally known, for instance, that he is in the publishing business.

The romance being finished, the question of a publisher had to be settled. The terms were offered in a note, not a contract, and Downing believed that the book founded on Pethias would have an immense sale, and he also believed that his work was so written as to possess more than an ephemeral value.

Mr. Hall objected that the tragedian knew nothing about the publishing business, and he would be a failure. He had the work set up and stereotyped plates made in Chicago, bought paper, contracted with a Washburn firm for the printing, and opened a publishing house in the latter city.

Then Mr. Downing began to look for other work for his pen. He had the idea of writing the unfortunate English stage poet, Nell Gwynne, came to his mind as a good subject for a second romance, and in due time this work appeared.

Visitors to the old Grand will hardly recognize it since Manager Lawler's improvements have been made. The most striking of these is a new ceiling, which has been erected by the architect who formerly designed the auditorium.

An even greater change has been made in the manner of conducting the house, which, by the way, will hereafter be known as the Bijou theater and wonderland. Manager Lawler has engaged a permanent stock company and will give what is known as a continuous show.

The stock company, which has already been rehearsing a repertoire of standard plays, will produce "Elections" at Long Branch, "The Merry Wives of Windsor" at East Lynn, "Silver King" and other popular dramas.

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promises to be the most successful the management has had.

The serpentine dance has become one of the successful novelties of the stage, and the man who can give the straightest account of its origin happens to be in Omaha. The dancer is Louis De Lange, one of the stars in "Tangled Up."

"It was not long before she was compelled to appreciate the possibilities of acts coming under their notice, and how ingenious they are in adapting them to the uses of the stage."

"Before the opening of the season, I had occasion to go to London and there met Louis Fuller. She and I have always been friends, and when I told her about the starting enterprise that was about to open in America with myself as the principal feature, she asked for a place in its membership."

"When Miss Fuller came off the stage I told her of my discovery, requested her to rehearse with me, and for ten days I was busy drilling her in poses, steps and the treatment of the dress that has now made the dances so famous."

"Our season opened at Philadelphia the week before Christmas, and was to be followed by a few weeks' rest. Miss Fuller was the first to appear in the new production, 'Tangled Up,' and the serpentine dance was one of its biggest features."

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Nearly forty years ago "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was simultaneously acted at two New York theatres, and four other cities.

"There are said to be more theatrical people out of employment now than at any similar period for five years. A dramatic agent in discussing the reasons for this state of affairs, said: 'The theater has been overdone by the number of actors and actresses that can be given places, even if every successful company in existence last year was to take the road again this autumn, supported by a political campaign has caused a shrinkage of 50 per cent in the number of companies, so that upon the whole, there are fewer actors and actresses scattered through the country who have been and will be unable to find places.'"

"The fact is that it is a very sort of life which rather than a man for a profession, has no ambition beyond getting his salary with the least possible exertion to himself, and has an idea that actors are overworked, it's all both. A company playing one-night stands has a good deal of traveling, but that is not hard; men play in the theaters, the women read novels and sleep. There is no rehearsing, no study, and the only actual work, so called, is during the three hours spent at the theater. It must, as we have seen, be an actor often enjoying more than he does acting his dinner. Therefore it may be said that an actor remains in the profession, when he grows too old or finds that the public will not have him on any terms, the actor usually opens a school for young actors to shine upon the stage, thus adding to the already overcrowded ranks. The time is coming when the small actor can pay \$1.00 a week to a hotel as he does in New York, to do as his professional brother in England has always been compelled to do—in live in lodgings and trust to his own resources for meals. The English actor is satisfied to live on far less than we pay here, which accounts for the many importations we make."

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WHERE BEAT WASH WAS BORN

Scenes that Waken, Sleeping Memories of Old-Time Revelries in Bath.

RESORT OF ENGLAND'S WIT AND BEAUTY

Sanctuary in the Fair Somersetshire City, Where Seventy Years Ago One Sheridan's Heat and Helms Surrounded the Spinnet and Played Havoc with Reputations.

BATH, Eng., Jan. 28.—[Special Correspondence of THE BEAVER.]—Nowhere in England have so many great men and women come and for a time lived and left behind them such clear and charming chronicles of their tarrying as in this interesting old Somersetshire city of Bath.

Curiously enough it furnishes few of the ordinary characteristics which rendered most other British cities attractive to the traveler. There are no ruins of castles or vestiges of siege and slaughter. No kings were crowned or avowed within it. It has no cathedral, vast, dim, shrine-like things. Miss Croswell still can remember in the homeless and homeless abbey church of the noble new ships of the United States navy, the Charleston and Boston, and she thanked God for the sight.

There are said to be more theatrical people out of employment now than at any similar period for five years. A dramatic agent in discussing the reasons for this state of affairs, said: 'The theater has been overdone by the number of actors and actresses that can be given places, even if every successful company in existence last year was to take the road again this autumn, supported by a political campaign has caused a shrinkage of 50 per cent in the number of companies, so that upon the whole, there are fewer actors and actresses scattered through the country who have been and will be unable to find places.'"

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We are pleased to sell; we sell to please.

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