Amusements

variety. Almost every line of theatrical matic production. amusement known to the present generation has been forthcoming. We have had everything, from the chespest variety show pretense of costuming at least the leadup to the highest type of modern play, ing parts correctly. Our supernumer-including necromancy, minstrelsy, vaude- aries were somewhat neglected, however. ville, a romantic drama, a society play, a For instance, the soldiers in Richard's comic opera, a melo-drama, a problem play, army when we played 'Richard III' wore a religious play, a tragedy, a rural drama a nondescript pair of pants and a jacket and everything in the category. Another with a hood, all of brown stuff with braid remarkable thing about the month is that sewed diagonally across it here or there. no two plays of the same type Not much Grecian, English and French armies alike, can be said for the quality of the offer- but they made the men look more like ings, although a few of them have possessed Esquimaux than anything else. I rememunusual merit, while the majority of the ber one time when we were playing here others have fallen below the level of me- Archibald Forbes was lecturing in the city diocrity. We have had a number of lu- and he came to see our performance. minaries who have occupied positions in After it was over he came back to our the theatrical firmament long enough so dressing room and said, in his droll way: as to be able to attract large audiences 'I have learned a lesson in archaeology toby merely having their names posted upon right. I knew the Roman conquests exthey have proven a disappointment, while did not know that they had ever impressed the unheralded ones have invariably pleased the Esquimaux into their service." in each case. The patronage has been unusually good and about equally divided among the different classes of attractions. of my life was when I played twenty weeks in support of Edwin Booth. We did not

For the month opening today another diversified list of attractions is announced. ferent play at each of them.

Early in the season some dejected human from Iowa to the New York Dramatic Mirprop in Iowa, Kansas and Nebraska had left the people of this section of the country in a bad financial way, as well as a de-pressed state of mind. Managers of the o any of these states with their companies were advised to await the result of anbeen one of the best I have ever known heaters have been playing to unprecedented business, while, as you know, the theaters n Omaha are well filled at every performance. On Thursday, Thanksgiving day, the by Mr. Woodward and myself, the Century and Auditorium in Kansas City and the Boyd, here, amounted to \$5,200, and at the Century 30 cents is the highest price of was probably the saddest and most painful admission charged, while the lowest is 10 experience of his life. Shortly after this even matters up. It's lunacy to say that the profitable theatrical enterprises ever known lure of the corn crop is having in this or any other country. He made any effect upon the theatrical business in a fortune, but his fortune did not bring

There are few, if any, men in the theatrical profession today who are better informed on the history of the drama or on dramatic topics of any kind than Frederick Warde, the famous tragedian, who played an engagement in this city the latter part of last week. Mr. Warde possesses an inexhaustible fund of information re-When seen just before the matinee per-

Saturday he was in a reminiscent mood | found." and talked freely of the past.

"It was in the fall of 1879 that I first came to Omaha and the visit is quite as green in my memory as though it was but year ago, rather than twenty-two. When I stepped from the train yesterday morning and walked up through the palatial depot into the street I could not help contrasting it with the old wooden shed that stood near the same spot when I first visited Omaha. As I took my seat in the omnibus and was whirled away over the paved streets to a hotel my mind went back to the day of my first entry. The bus then was a broken-down trap of a thing that looked like it might have been discarded by some 'forty-niner. The streets were hub deep with mud and it took us fully half an hour to make the trip that required but a few minutes yesterday. I remember all of this distinctly, as we were unable to fill our engagement at the opera house that night, owing to the fact that the wagon engaged to haul our large wardrobe trunks mired in the mud at Tenth and Jones streets and 'all of the king's horses and all the king's men' could not pull it out, try as hard as they might, with every device known to man. Nebraska mud proved the conqueror, and so we had to disappoint our audience,

"In those days we did not carry scenery of our own, but used any that might be on hand at the theater where we played. Times innumerable I have delivered Marc Antony's address standing on a common flashing black eyes have had such a promicloth-covered dry goods box in front of a nent place in all discussions of her worl modern street-scene drop, with such signs that people take it for granted the actress as 'Jones & Co., grocers,' or 'Planter & is a stunning brunette. But the Blanche Co., undertakers.' In those days the au- Walsh who spends leisure hours among her dience paid little attention to the scenery, books is a fair-complexioned woman with a It was the force of the actor's art that wealth of auburn hair and dark hazel eyes.

The month of November, just closed, has , tion of elaborate scenery came with Sir been more remarkable in one way than Henry Irving's first visit to this country, any of its predecessors since the first page when he brought with him the splendid of Omaha's theatrical history was written scenic productions of the different Shakesome twenty years ago. During its four spearian plays. Since that time fine weeks theater-goers have been furnished scenery has been absolutely necessary to with entertainment most unusual in its insure the success of any kind of a dra-

"In the earlier days we did make some with but a single exception there has been These same suits were used for Roman, the biliboards, but in almost every instance | tended as far as Briton and Gaul, but I

"One of the most delightful associations

south and east. This was in 1876, I think. Among them are some known to possess I think Mr. Booth was one of the grandest merit of high grade, while sprinkled through men, personally, that it has ever been my the list here and there are a few common- good fortune to know, despite the fact place bookings, fortunately, however, the that his entire life was one continued traglatter class are, in almost every case, edy. Why was it a tragedy? In the first scheduled for Sunday night presentations. place, he inherited his father's passion for So in reality theater-goers have many drink. This naturally warped and clouded things to look forward to with pleasurable his early career. Then, he married Mary anticipation. The most important booking Devlin, a woman to whom he was warmly of the month, if not the season, comes on attached. He had a daughter by this marthe final day of the year and the opening riage, but he wanted a son to succeed him one of 1902. It is Sir Henry Irving and and to inherit the name of his distin-Ellen Terry. They are to give four per- guished self and father. His wife died time before I have to plunge into uncerformances in the city and will offer a dif- after a brief period and this was another tainty the way I did that night." great sorrow to him. Then came the murder of President Lincoln by his brother and his forced retirement from the stage for a year. He reappeared next in New being suffering from melancholia wrote York and made the wonderful run of 100 nights with 'Hamlet.' This rehabilitated for one performance. It is now in its ninth ror, stating that the failure of the corn his fortunes. Then in his desire to erect year and apparently as strong in popular a monument to the name of Booth he built the Booth theater in New York. It was the finest in the world at the time and it was his ambition to have it the home of will appear here. Its series of pictures of arge attractions were advised that a visit all classic productions of note. Everything southern life have caught the fancy of produced in it must represent the highest playgoers wherever the play has been prerould mean large financial losses, and they form of dramatic art. It was too early then to establish a theater of that kind. other season's crops. The best evidence New York could not support it and his of scenery has been gotten up for this of the absolute falsity of this statement is fortunes soon dwindled to nothing. He season's tour. lurnished by Manager Burgess of the Boyd went to Chicago after he lost his New theater, who says: "The season so far has York theater and on the eve of his marriage to Mary McVicker he opened the Mcin the west. Both of our Kansas City Vicker theater, playing Romeo to Miss big melodrama enjoyed runs of six and five McVicker's Juliet. Through the skill of months respectively in New York and Chireceipts of the three theaters controlled to the head of the tragic department of the stock, a manly, wholesome English sportsstage, came another cloud in his life in man, who loves sport for sport's sake, but the unfortunate estrangement between him- who gets himself into a tight place by reckself and his wife and her family. This cents. There may not be much corn money and when his happiness was all gone he and included in this amount, but there is enough | Lawrence Barrett combined and this conextra wheat money there to more than solidation resulted in one of the most

"He then founded the Players' club it New York. This was as much for the purpose of a stopping place for himself while in New York as anything else, and it was here that he spent the final days of his life. He donated his splendid library of poetry and dramatic literature, including the entire collection of an artistic life. garding the early dramatic history of this With Booth's death the stage lost one who country and the people who helped to to my mind, was its greatest benefactor. The present generation has failed to furnish a worthy successor to him and it is formance of "The Mountebank" at the Boyd extremely doubtful if one will ever be

him what he most desired-happiness.

A woman without fads and free from all the eccentricities which are characteristic of the sex. Such is Blanche Walsh. She doesn't care for society and eschews fancy work and pets. Acting is her work and books are her recreation. The theater and a comfortable room, well filled with books, are the only places which have any attraction for the tragedienne. She abhors functions at which she is to be exhibited to curious guests. Books are her best friends and she is never happier than when closeted a mosaic of incidents from human docuwith her favorite novelists and historians. "Where do you spend your vacations?" was asked of Miss Walsh during her recent

visit to Omaha. "Oh, I seldom have vacations which are long enough to give me an opportunity to play. take much of an outing. I work all the time and am never happier than when in the midst of rehearsals. I work every summer. Last season I was with the stock company in Denver. It was there that I had an opportunity to play Romeo to the Juliet of Maude Fealy, and a charming little Juliet she made. She is now in London with Mr. Gillette. I liked Romeo and hope to have an opportunity to assume the role again. It is a pleasure to have an opportunity to take part in a Shakespearean

Dramatic critics have frequently spoken of Miss Walsh as a dashing brunette. Her attracted their attention. The introduc- Her appearance is wholly unlike that o

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the dashing heroines whom she portrays. She is reserved and unassuming and the voice alone betrays the Blanche Walsh whom the public knows. And what a voice it is. So full and rich that it makes one long for a school where other actresses might have their voices brought down several octaves and rounded out after the

Work is Blanche Walsh's watchword. Sh is never too tired for rehearsal and was never known to be late. She lives for her art and everything else must give way to it. Miss Walsh has broken all records as a quick study and has never yet been known to say "no" when a manager imposed some heavy task upon her.

During the original run of "Trilby" to New York Miss Virginia Harned was taken sick one morning and her understudy could not be found. Miss Walsh was playing in melodrama at another theater. At noon she finished a rehearsal and started home She was hailed by Miss Harned's manager who announced to her that she must play Trilby for him that afternoon. He had a big sale and could not abandon the matinee.

A seamstress was called and took a fer stitches in Miss Harned's gowns to make them set to Miss Walsh's figure. Miss Walsh locked herself in her dressing room for an hour and a half and learned the long part. A twenty-minute rehearsal followed At 2 o'clock the curtain was rung up and Miss Walsh played Trilby so well that only the members of the company knew how short a time she had studied the part.

"Yes, I was a little nervous before the performance," Miss Walsh remarked in discome west, but confined our tour to the cussing this achievement, "but I knew I would not fail and felt sure of myself after I stepped upon the stage. The fact that I had seen Miss Harned play Trilby made my work much easier.

"But I had a much more trying experience than that when I accepted the role of Edith Varney in 'Secret Service.' I had never seen the play and had only a little more than two hours for study. That was where long experience in stock companies was valuable to me. I knew I would not fail and I didn't, but I hope it will be a long

Coming Events. Manager Jacob Litt's fine production of C. T. Dazey's popular play, "In Old Kentucky," comes to the Boyd Sunday night favor as ever. Mr. Litt has with excellent judgment kept the company up to a high pitch of excellence. The original company sented. It is a melodramatic spectacle of great splendor and a complete new outfit

"Sporting Life" is to be seen here for the first time at the Boyd Monday night. Mr. McVicker, his wife's father, as a finan- cago last season, and is pronounced a marcler, Booth was enabled to recuperate his vel of its class. The story has to do with depleted purse. Then, when he again rose the fortunes of a certain young Lord Woodless betting.

> "King Dodo," a brand new comedy opera with a reputation of having broken the record for long theatrical engagements in Chicago, will be seen at Boyd's for four performences, starting Tuesday night. Pixley and Luders, two young authors who have schieved fame by previous successful efforts in the same line. The lavish character of the costuming is a feature which is strongly dwelt upon by the management, and the display of finery, seldom equalled is expected upon the occasion of the visit of the company to this city. Prominent members of the big company mentioned are: Raymond Hitchcock, Cheridah Simpson, Gertrude Quinlan, Miro Delamotta Greta Risley, Elsa Ryan, Edward A. Clark, Arthur Wooley and Charles W. Meyer.

> One of the most charming promises which the dramatic season holds out is the com-ing of Mr. Tim Murphy in his latest success. "A Capitol Comedy." which is to be seen at Boyd's Saturday mattnee and night of this week. This is a play of life in Wash ington, by Paul Wilstach, a writer who knows his topic well. It deals in an absorbing story with conditions which may be found in the national capitol by an observing student who cares to ransack the nooks and crannies of human nature. Every element of the comedy is said to be gathered from real life. It is in a way ments from the files of both halves of remarkable city. Every character has been made a type and the actors to be seen with Mr. Murphy have been selected because of their peculiar adaptability to the roles they

With one exception the acts composing the program at the Orpheum for the week commencing with a matinee today will be presented by artists who have never been seen on the local vaudeville stage, and they are of such divergent character that the range of variety covered by them is only limited by their number. The Faust family of acrobats, nine in number, including children, who in particular have everywhere won favor of the feminine portion of the audiences, will show what they can do in the acrobatic line, which has won for them fame on two continents. Thorne and Carleton make the one exception in having been seen by local vaudeville patrons; they come with a budget of new jokes, calculated to create laughter of the whirlwind type and lay claim to originality. "A Perfect Lady," little comedy, will serve as a vehicle to introduce Emily Lytton as the star of her own production. Formerly Miss Lytton was a member of the team of Hayes and will open Tuesday morning at Hospe's music Lytton, whose work will be pleasantly reverted to by those who saw them. Mignonette Kokin, the Parisienne, "chauteuse and danseuse," will sing the songs of the London music hall and show how the British do a coon song, a cake walk and other dances. John Geiger, trick violinist, will display the unique manner in which a violin may be played. Mitchell and Bernard, the arranged by Mr. Ernest Nordin of the two popular vocalists from Gotham, who have just captivated the patrons of vaudeville at San Francisco, and a series of the very latest animated views projected by the kinodrome, complete the program.

Ed F. Rush's Victoria burlesquers will make their annual bow to the patrons of the Trocadero this afternoon. The burlesques. and there are two of them-one called "The Gay Deceivers" and the other "Slumming in Chinatown"-are new affit original and entirely out of the regular rut.

The appearance of America's greatest singer, Madame Lilian Nordica, at Kountze Memorial church, Saturday evening, December 7, in song recital, will be halled with delight by all music lovers in Omaha and vicinity. One must be in the whiff and wind of such magnetism and ability as Nordica's, else he but arrives

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THE COLISEUM TUES. DEC. 10, afternoon-evening Official Concert Tour of Canada's Crack Military Band-48TH HIGHLANDERS

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20 MALE VOICE CHOIR **6 HIGHLAND DANCERS** 1 GIANT DRUM MAJOR Most Successful Organization Travel-

ing in the States.

MATINEE—2 o'clock; children, 15c; adults, 25c, 50c and 75c. Evening, 25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00 (reserved.)
Reserved seats go on sale tomorrow, 9 L. m., at Douglas Printing Co., 1508 Howard Collseum will be well heated and

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Kelly Song Recitals. Pupils Received in

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by singing a "coon song." The sale of seats

The Danish Dramatic company of Omaha will produce tonight in Washington hall a play written by Axel Waage, called "Revyen 1961" or "Paa Tournee." Over forty people will participate in the production, besides a ballet. The music is Boyd theater. The ballet has been coached by Prof. Jensen Dreyer, and the whole production is promising to be a grand affair amongst the Danes of Omaha.

A week from Tuesday "The Kilties" will be at the Collseum for two concerts under the auspices of Clan Gordon of the Order of Scottish Clans. This organization has long been famed as the crack band of the British army in Canada, being connected with the Firty-eighth Highlanders, stationed at Montreal. Its fame has extended to the United States and wherever the band has appeared on its present tour it has been warmly welcomed. Omaha people who heard "The Kilties" play at Buffalo during the last summer will be glad to listen to them again next week.

Relief for Stranded Miners. ability as Nordica's, else he but arrives at a lame and impotent conclusion regarding the greatness of her success in the new line of work she has chosen. More supremely beautiful than ever, fresh from her scason's victories at Munich, the very appearance of Nordica commands success in her success. She will surprise the public states government is preparing to send relief to the 115 Cape Nome miners who are reported to be stranded at Unalaska. Captain Healy sof the revenue cutter service has received instructions to hold himself in readiness to proceed at once to the far north in command of the cutter McCulloch It will require ten days for McCulloch to reach Unalaska.

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