

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

"The Country Circus" which has a strong hold upon the affections of our theatre-goers will come to town and figuratively pitch its tents within the walls of the Lansing theatre next Monday for three performances, Monday evening, Tuesday matinee and evening. Who cares that the ring be smaller than Barnum's? You can see all the wonders better—the trained horses, who shoot one another dead or play leap frog at the crack of the whip, or the wonderful dogs which can do almost anything but talk and really seem to try to do that, and many other attractions that are absolutely new. "The Country Circus" is too well known here to need any extended description. The delicious New England comedy which precedes it, is as quaint as ever, and all the strongest features of the tanbark of last year are retained, but the chief attraction now lies in the many new absolute novelties which this enterprising firm of managers have added to their already enormous attraction. There are thirty-three Shetland ponies ranging in size from little Wee-wee, who weighs only thirty-six pounds, to Muldoon, the wrestling pony, who weighs nearly 300. This herd of ponies has heretofore been a rare treat to the ladies and children. They are as gentle as kittens and seem to crave the attentions of the ladies and love to be petted. A new act has just been introduced and will be seen for the first time in this city. It is Luciano Tatili, the Flying Serpent. It is a contortion act while flying through the air; it is said to be not one of those disgusting ordinary feats of contortion usually seen, but is described as a sensation. Another attraction for the children is that celebrated clown, Billy Conrad, who with his dogs and ponies, can almost give an evening's entertainment. William Showles, who was for the past two seasons, the star of the Barnum show, is with "The Country Circus" now. This gentleman has kept apace with the times, and is today considered the best bare-back rider in the world. La Belle Tina, another recruit from the Barnum & Bailey show, is a most beautiful and accomplished young woman, and is a living example of what may be accomplished by a thorough course of training. Next in order, comes a troupe of real Arabian acrobats in world beating feats of ground and lofty tumbling.

The town is quite elated with the news that we are to have John L. Sullivan in a new play on the 19th of January at the Lansing theatre. Mr. Sullivan's latest venture, and this time on his own account, is called "A True American," and is described as a romantic play with an interesting story unfolded without a tank, a railroad scene or even a shot being fired. It is a sincere effort at a legitimate play, acted with a spirit and power, but doing away with ranting and cheap straining for effects. The part of John Desmond is a gentleman, and Mr. Sullivan plays it as such. To those who have

credited the absurd mannerisms some times attributed to Mr. Sullivan, his quiet force and easy manners will be a surprise; he is not without a certain dignity too, as he knows how to carry his stalwart figure, and to walk across the stage as though he belonged there. Bobby Mack's Irish fun is a good foil to John's seriousness, and his comical acting in the arena scene is said to materially strengthen what is to most people the most interesting scene in the play. The pugilists give in that play such a realistic bout that many ladies nightly evince their feelings by little feminine shrieks every time that John L. lands one of his mighty blows anywhere on Dan Dwyer's anatomy.

Milton Noble's latest effort is undoubtedly his best. In none of his previous attempts in the line of stage literature has he evinced the talent that marks the play he has labeled "For Revenue Only." The piece is described as a political and satirical comedy. For once the designation is correct. The political phrase is obtrusively conspicuous, the satirical aspect is beyond cavil. Of all the plays and alleged plays aiming at the vulnerable points in America—or shall we say United States—politics, few have come rearer home than this. There is the added concomitant of a very faithful, though exaggerated, reflection of the country newspaper as an element in political campaigns. The editor of the country weekly is an individual whose importance is rarely understood by any save himself. Mr. Nobles' somewhat farcical play repairs this wrong and places this great factor in political contests on his native pedestal. Given a candidate for congress, a newspaper reporter and space writer who never allows his political convictions to interfere with his struggle for revenue only, and the various side issues that suggest themselves, and there you are. The Irishman who knows only that "he is a democrat," the German who has no use for prohibition, and a prohibitionist with a plank for a platform, which plank becomes hopelessly lost in the shuffle, all contribute to a state of general confusion that could only be untangled by one who remains through the last act. At the Funke, Monday, Jan. 14.

Next Thursday evening the twin stars, Wade and James, will appear at the Lansing theatre. Seats go on sale three days in advance and it is unnecessary to say that the sale will be very large. In conversation their representative, Mr. Arthur Warde, he said that notwithstanding the hard times they were drawing good houses. This is Mr. James first appearance in Lincoln since he was here with the Jefferson-Florence combination.

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Book-keeper—You told me to remind you to send Poet Smith something to-day.

Editor—Oh, yes ah, just send him my compliments.