



THE COURIER

LINCOLN, NEB., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1895.



AMUSEMENTS

"The Fencing Master," a pretty but mediocre opera, played to good business at the Lansing last Saturday evening. The opera has undergone a complete renovation since it was last here including more handsome scenery and an excellently trained chorus. Miss Morton is undoubtedly far superior to Marie Tempest in the title role.

It can truly be said that the company is better and more spirited in every way than it was last year. Miss Morton has a winsome manner and her vocal qualifications are unquestionable. Most of the leading vocal work was well done and the inevitable comedians made the audience laugh.

Griffith's Faust company, under the direction of Manager Ed. A. Church, are now on their way to this city fresh from their eastern triumphs. The company is now considered almost perfect, as several people of rare merit have been added.

Last Friday evening at the Lansing theatre Clay Clement presented his new play, "The New Dominion," to a small but appreciative audience. Mr. Clement is a young man, who, having had experience in the supporting companies of various well-known actors, is now engaged in an attempt to establish his own identity as a player of merit, talent and interest. The task he has set for himself is not of the easiest, for the theatre-going public, when choosing its entertainments, likes the assurance given by well known names and well published success, but of the final outcome of Mr. Clement's venture there can be no doubt. There can be no great delay in a general finding-out of the fact that here is a comedian of fine talent who, confident in his ambition, has the courage to persist in enacting comedy instead of caricature and in playing—for whomsoever may come to see him, few or many—with self-respect and patience making an honest bid for public favor and making it in a manly way. The Baron von Hohenstauffen is intrinsically a gentleman grave, high-minded, proud and elaborately courteous. His struggles with the half-known English language are irresistibly laughable; his misunderstandings are many and vastly amusing, but the character is never degraded or grotesque. At the conclusion of the play Von Hohenstauffen remains in the memory, a complete, consistent lovable character, a man whom one recalls as one whom one has known.

Charity giving was made easy for the public in Kansas City last Saturday, when in return for the price of a ticket—which solely benefitted the poor—the purchaser was given a theatrical performance entirely out of the common and first-class in all its features. The members of the different theatrical company's including Eddie Foy and his company, Two Old Cronies, McKee Rankin, Alabama and Clay Clement. Each gave an act of their show, which was

interspersed with songs and specialties by the members of the companies. \$1300 was the net proceeds and the poor people of Kansas City will long remember the actors who helped make the matinee a success.

The ministers of Port Huron, Michigan, have won the fight against the alleged immodesty of the show bills of the "Black Crook" company. Their eyes will no longer be confronted by pictures of female loveliness in less than the normal amount of clothing, and the result is brought about through the voluntary yielding of the opera house people. The ministers asked the chief of police to remove the obnoxious show bills, but the chief declared that he had no authority to do anything of the kind, and the bills stayed where they were. Manager L. Bennett, of the opera house, then ordered all the pink bespangled forms on the billboards clothed with conventional dresses, with all the embellishments known to fashion, and they were. The garments were made of tissue paper of all sizes and colors. They were deftly pinned on every show bill in the city. Instead of the gay danseuse in pink tights one now sees on the dead walls the demure girl of good church society, with puffed sleeves, flowing skirts, etc. The most prudish could not find fault with the pictures now. But the transformation has created much amusement. The window hangers look ludicrous and attract much attention. One hanger shows a beautiful brunette, arrayed in short skirts and displaying much of her anatomy in black stockings. After the transformation the girl is arrayed in a long sky blue tea gown reaching to the ankles. A pretty blonde in short skirts of green now hides her form under a "mother hubbard" of coffee color. The show played to a crowded house.

The following are the dates at the Funke opera house: March 9, Pure Food lecture by E. B. Worrell; March 13, Philharmonic Orchestra; March 15, Nebraska state oratorical contest; March 21, Ellen Beach Yaw; March 25, A. L. Bixby.

John L. Sullivan's theatrical company playing "A True American" disbanded somewhere down south. John was the star and he kept the balance of the company constantly reminded of the fact as he would persist in spending the box receipts in "true american" style, hence the bust-up. He is now in Boston and says that most of the stories sent from the south about him were not true, and further than that, he has no intentions of going to Cuba or Spain and would not entertain the idea for a moment of "doubling up with a temperance orator." He is disgusted with the theatrical business and hereafter proposes to look after his farm.

Theatrically Lincoln is again brightening up and a performance which warrants due consideration from the public comes to the Lansing Theatre Monday and Tuesday, March 11 and 12, furnished by the inimitable fun provoker Frank Wells, and a company of real faceurs, including the queen of "terpsichore," Carlotta. "The Two Old Cronies" will be presented. It has been reconstructed and advanced to meet the general approval of modern times and the management not only promise a gigantic pleasure boom but the Goliath of comedy creations. The seat sale is now open at regular prices.