

and has been constantly before the public in one way or another. Her wanderings and manifestations have always been watched with some interest in Lincoln, and I imagine that when she comes to the Funke, in the course of a month or two there will be considerable curiosity to see Miss Lewis. She will present "Cleopatra," it is said, with most elaborate scenery and costumes.

Charles Dickson opened Hoyt's theatre in New York August 19 with his new play "Other People's Money." He will give this play at the Funke in the near future. Other Funke bookings are M. S. Robinson's company in "On the Road," a new farce comedy in which will appear the noted mimic of stage children, Lydia Yeaman Titus; Sam T. Jack's big extravaganza, "The Bullfighter," with twelve living pictures and brilliant spectacular accessories; W. C. Andrews the new starring comedian in "My Wife's Friend" and Richard Mansfield.

"The Silver Lining" by Fitzgerald Murphy, will also appear at the Funke. This is a play dealing with the silver question. It will open in Chicago tomorrow. Hermann will come again to the Funke. Walter Whiteside will do a little tragedy as will also Creston Clarke, the young nephew of Edwin Booth. David Henderson will bring his American Extravaganza company to the Funke and give two performances Thanksgiving day, of "Sinbad," as originally presented at the Chicago Opera house. Fannie Rice will appear in the operatic comedy "Nancy." "Wang" will also be given at the Funke, with a large and brilliant company. Morrison's "Faust" will appear for one night, and the popular actress Minnie Maddern Fiske, who will, the coming season, reappear on the stage, will be seen in "Queen of Liars." This actress is the wife of Harrison G. Fiske, editor and proprietor of the *Dramatic Mirror*. She is very clever and her return to the stage will be one of the events of the season.

The Holland brothers who will open the Garrick theatre in New York next Monday and who will be one of the season's strongest attractions, will present "A Man With a Past." These two brothers, E. M. and Joseph Holland, are among the strongest actors in the country. Della Fox, who will open her season at the Broadway theater in New York on the same day that the Hollands open theirs, will produce her new opera "Fleur de Lis" at the Funke. Robert Mantell is booked for one night, and Digby Bell will appear in his new opera "Nancy Lee," by Miller, author of "Ship Ahoy" and other nautical operas.

The Andrews opera company will come for three nights.

The above are only a few of Mr. Zehring's bookings. The remainder will be of the same high order as those indicated.

August Hagenow will be conductor of the Funke orchestra the coming season. There will be nine pieces.

Although Edwin Milton Royle's comedy-drama of "Friends" has far from lived out its popularity, he has a new play already written entitled "Mexico", which will have its first production the coming season and will be seen in this city. Mr. Royle's debut as a dramatist was singularly fortunate. It is seldom, indeed, that an author's first play meets with anything like popular approval. As a rule he must try with one play after another and if after the third or fourth heart-breaking failure, he at length produces a success, he may

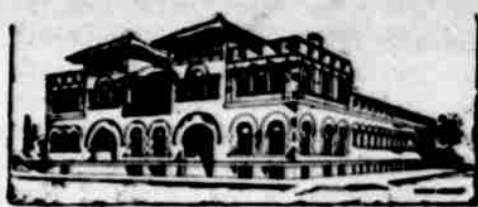
esteem himself fortunate. But Mr. Royle's first play, "Friends," was successful from the time of its production. "Mexico" is his second effort at play-making and for two years he has been engaged in writing and re-writing it with the utmost care, until now he has it in satisfactory shape for production.

The play is described as a romantic comedy-drama, and as the name indicates, it has for a back-ground, the stirring and romantic period of the war of 1847 between Mexico and the United States. In American history, there are few more thrilling and fascinating stories than that of "old Zach Taylor penetrating with his handful of Americans into the heart of Mexico," fighting battle after battle amid mountain defiles and ambuscades, always against overwhelming odds, and always victorious, until he finally forced the Mexican leader Santa Anna back to the very limit of his defenses. Mr. Royle has mainly used this picturesque period and scene to lend color and atmosphere to a story of heart-interest and a study of character. War is there with its inspiration and its strength, but its more visible and raw effects of marching armies and rattling musketry are skillfully veiled and serve merely as an accompaniment in undertone for the display of rational and personal passions. It is war, not in its horrors that is pictured, but in its deep and strong effect on human character; it is a picture of self-denial, of heroism, of manly sympathy and love. The hero is a young American officer, the heroine a Mexican girl, and one of the characters pictured is an old body-servant of ante bellum days, who is instrumental in furnishing a number of quaint scenes of humor and pathos.

COURIER readers may remember a quotation from a play called "For Congress" which appeared in these columns a few weeks ago. It is this play, under a different name and modernized by Rosenfeld, that Mr. Reed will present at the Funke Wednesday night. "The Politician," or as it was originally called "For Congress" was first produced at the National theatre, Washington, D. C. in 1883, with the famous John T. Raymond in the part of *General Limber*, and this characterization was one of Mr. Raymond's most conspicuous successes. David Demarest Lloyd, the author, was born in New York in 1851, and died in Weehauken, N. J., in 1889. He wrote "The Woman Hater," (1885), and "The Dominie's Daughter" (1887.) "The Senator" produced by Mr. Crane, was written by him the year of his death. The scene of the play is laid in Woollyville, Ill., on the eve of a convention to nominate a candidate for congress. *Gen. Josiah Limber*, a practical politician, has a candidate before the convention, but as there is much opposition to him, he decides to look about for a compromise candidate. He selects *Peter Wooley*, a millionaire, old absent-minded, unsophisticated country gentleman who has paid more attention to cultivating his garden than he has to politics. *Wooley* nearly has paralysis at the suggestion, but the wily general gets the assistance of *Wooley's* sister, *Mrs. Muffin*, who is ambitious to shine in a social way, and not averse to marrying again. *Limber* starts him in the race and begins to handle the campaign funds. At this point *Gen. Limber's* plans are threatened by the arrival of *Cleopatra Sturgess*, a young woman of advanced ideas, who insists on having a woman suffrage plank inserted in the platform. She announces her intention of keeping *Mr. Wooley*, her uncle, out of politics, but *Limber* wins her over by declaring that *Wooley* is an out and out suffragist, while his opponent is a bitter foe to the movement. With this assurance she enlists her sympathies heart and soul, and *Limber* has a hard

time preventing a meeting between the two, which would surely result in *Cleopatra* finding out that *Wooley* had no views on woman suffrage, or any other political question. The third act shows the working of the modern political convention and ends with the nomination of *Mr. Wooley*. At the same time *Charles Montgomery*, a young lawyer, betrothed to *Anna Wooley*, brings news that he had been nominated for congress by the opposition party. In the fourth act, which takes place in the library of *Mr. Wooley's* residence, returns from the election are received, showing that *Mr. Wooley* and young *Montgomery* have received the same number of votes, so both resign in favor of *Gen. Limber*, who by this time has made himself secure in the affections of *Cleopatra Sturgess*, and accepts the honor, and this is the denouement.

It is a singular fact that several of the greatest character actors on the American stage were born on the Bowery, or in that district within the confines of East Fourteenth street, the Bowery and the East River. Here is a polyglot population found in no other American city, and perhaps, nowhere else on earth. Here Irish, German, French, Italian and Hungarian and Polish Jews are huddled together, with a few Americans in tenement houses as next door neighbors. These types of character offer splendid opportunities for study to the natural mimic, and observation and imitation of them as boys in the East Side streets gave to the American stage several great artists, notable among them Edward Harrigan. Within this boundry is the most thickly populated square mile on earth, the last census showing that over 362,000 people reside in it. This far exceeds the number of people credited to the most thickly populated square mile of old London, which was about 170,000 people. On the West side of the Bowery, from Bleecker street down to Chambers street, extend-



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