

THE THEATRES

It is strange that men will write burlesques when they might write comedies, and that they prefer to build upon the sand when the rocks are so many that one is always in danger of stumping his toe on them. "The Politician" is a good farce, much better than the run of them, but the same material refined and dignified by a little of that saving quality, the truth, would have made a comedy that would out draw and out live all the farces of the generation. Suppose, for instance that something of the tone and quality of "The Senator" were given to it. Suppose that *General Limber* were made a possible character, a fellow considerably warped by the elevating methods of nineteenth century politics, but with humanity enough left to fall in love right in the middle of an exciting campaign; a humorist who dabbled in corruption with a sort of cynical indifference and an artistic appreciation of the situation. He might have been quite a man under those circumstances and above the game he played. When John T. Raymond played the same role years ago under the title "For Congress," he put more of that spirit into it.

Suppose too that *Miss Cleopatra* had been made a possible new woman, such a one as would not be certainly taken up by the police, and just enough "advanced" to escape the patrol wagon. A real woman, but an undeveloped one and with all the disturbing impetus of new ideas, bicycles and bloomers. What a chance for a character actress of the dashing sort! The only question is, if this sort of change were made in the play, would it not be just a little beyond Mr. Reed's grasp and an inch or two over Miss Rush's blonde head? I fear so.

All the minor characters are the same in general tone. When "Sister" entered I drew a hopeful sigh and speculated upon the chances of an oasis; her appearance warranted it, but no. In the theatre hopes are only born to be dashed, and mine did not survive "sister's" flirt scene. "Sister" was not the gentle woman whose illusions and complexion were marvelously preserved by fifty years of country life. She was the same old spinster of the farces, disguised a little by a white wig. Sometimes she wears a red wig and sometimes a yellow one and sometimes little curls that bob about her face. But she is ever the same in all ages and all climes, and no disguise can ever remove her loathsomeness.

The most redeeming feature of the farce was that ensemble scene at the end of the third act when *Limber* returned from the convention hall attended by the brass band, and *Cleopatra* mounts a chair exultingly waving a banner and *Mike* wraps the fainting and exhausted form of *Peter Wooley* in the American flag. That is a spirited scene and somehow it makes one remember for the minute the excited admiration he used to feel when he followed the flambeaux clubs through the streets, when the horns tooted and the rockets hissed and the sparks flew.

Mr. John H. Bunny is a clever comedian, and he made *Mike* the bright particular star of the evening. His fish story was the best little bit of acting I saw Wednesday evening.

A good many people were evidently taken in by the little reply from the gallery at the end of the play. That was a

put up job of course; besides, if it wasn't Miss Rush don't need any advice on that subject.

The Flints have furnished amusement and interest at the Lansing for the past week. Their work is beyond a doubt genuine and there is always a peculiar sort of attraction about hypnotic exhibitions when they are properly conducted, and Mr. Flint is prudent and limits his demands on his subjects within the bounds of good taste. But after all the most interesting thing about the Flints is their personality. A more incongruous combination than Mr. Herbert Flint in a dress suit would be hard to find. By the way, why isn't it Dr. Herbert Flint? That would be consistent with the gentleman's make up and suit his manner admirably. Any one with such imposing whiskers ought to sport a doctorate degree on the strength

young actor whose worth has attracted the attention and called forth the praise of several of the most noted judges of the drama. With the public the role of Mephisto is always popular and Mr. Griffith is one of its most popular interpreters. This season the cast is almost entirely changed and very materially strengthened and the presentation will be magnificent one. Mr. Griffith is one of the most daringly original devils on the stage and his impersonation of Mephisto is one of thrilling interest. The production itself will be a treat to the audience; being somewhat out of the usual line, it should hold the interest and attention of its beholders, particularly the famed "Brocken" scene in which the electric and calcium light effects are important factors. The company in support of Mr. Griffith is a strong one and aids materially in presenting this masterpiece in a strong and faultless manner.

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First publication Sept. 7.

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION

Pursuant to the provisions of the Statutes of Nebraska, notice is hereby given and published of the formation of a corporation.

1. The name of said corporation is the "COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY."

2. The principal place of transacting the business of said corporation is in the City of Lincoln, Nebraska.

3. The business to be transacted by said corporation is the printing, publishing, circulating and maintaining a newspaper or newspapers, the carrying on of the business of printing, the



JOHN GRIFFITH as MEPHISTO

of them. If an actor could ever achieve by consummate art the manner and appearance with which generous nature has endowed Mr. Flint, he would be a high test genius and no mistake. By the way, if Mr. Flint could hypnotize an actor into carrying out the detail of an imaginary situation as he does his subjects, he would be a most valuable acquisition to any company. Under his influence his subjects go through more realistic detail than the most careful artist would ever think of, they simply live the suggestion. If Flint could suggest the situation and feelings of a role to an actor, why for real live money value to a manager Edwin Booth risen from the dead would not be in it.

At the Lansing Tuesday evening Mr. John Griffith will open the season at the Lansing in his notable spectacular production. Mr. Griffith is a promising

At the Funke, all next week, beginning Monday night, Cecil Spooner and her company will play in repertoire at the Funke. The program will change nightly and several new pieces will be presented during the course of the week. Miss Spooner is too well known and too popular in this city to need any introduction.

Monday night Miss Spooner will open with "The Buckeye." On Monday night one lady and one gentleman or two ladies will be admitted on one 30 cent ticket. Prices 30, 20 and 10 cents. Seats on sale Saturday morning.

Pauline Hall tarried so long abroad that it will be impossible for her to keep all her dates this season. Her husband telegraphed Mr. Zehring that they would not be here next week but would go on to San Francisco and play here on her return in about eleven weeks.

erection and maintaining of such buildings, structures, machinery and appliances as may be necessary for transacting such newspaper and printing business and the purchase, ownership or leasing of the necessary real estate to be used in conducting and transacting said business.

4. The amount of the capital stock of said corporation is \$5,000, which shall be paid in full at the date of its issue.

5. Said corporation shall commence on the 15th day of August 1895, and continue 100 years.

6. The affairs of said corporation shall be conducted by its officers consisting of a president, secretary and treasurer. There shall be a board of directors consisting of three stockholders.

Dated this 5th Sept. 1895.

COURIER PRINTING AND PUBLISHING COMPANY.

Sarah B. Harris, Secretary. W. Morton Smith, President.

[SEAL.]

Sept. 28.