

since he left Lincoln. His specialties are gas and politics. I should think gas and politics would mix well. Mr. Dawes is staying with his brother, B. G. Dawes. He has been entertained considerably. More of those abominable stag parties. Tuesday Beman Dawes had around his board I M Raymond, Judge Holmes, Geo. A Crancer, Charley and W R Dawes, Morton Smith, C A Hanna, D G Wing and J W McDonald.

Mr. Dawes speaks with enthusiasm of his new home in Evanston. He can not say he is sorry he went though he misses old friends. But you know he is a versatile chap and he makes friends where other men make enemies. He seems to have hold of the steering-pole on the McKinley boom. They do say if protection is made president "Charlie" can have anything he likes—fancy being personally acquainted with the minister to England. I have always been told that it was possible for the humblest to know really distinguished people, but I never believed it before.

Mr. Buckstaff will give a dinner for Mr. Dawes tonight (Friday).

I heard the other day that Mr. Burnham was going to give a stag party next Monday. Later I learned that it is only a meeting of the Round Table.

Miss Mae Mount, of Omaha, who is visiting Miss Alice Slaughter, is making a great many friends. Miss Slaughter gave a car ride in the red car on Thursday afternoon to her young lady friends. They rode out to Union college and about town.

Mrs. Geo. Woods expects Miss Rhineheart from Indiana, to visit her next week.

Miss Sue Spalding and Miss Maud Oakley will go to Omaha this morning to visit Miss Ura Kelly.

Mrs. F. W. Kelley's sister, Miss McClure, is visiting her.

J. E. Baum, of Omaha, has been visiting his sister-in-law, Mrs. Chas. L. Burr.

The Lansing boxes were filled on Tuesday night. The first two boxes on the left were occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Greene—the hosts and their guest, Miss Wallace, with Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Mr. and Mrs. Beeson and Dr. Spahr. Mrs. Leonard gave a dinner to the party before the theatre. First box on the right contained Miss Spalding, Miss Lucy Griffith, Miss Mae Burr, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Fred White and Mr. Malla-lieu.

Mrs. Frank Brown's sister, Miss Bennett, of Omaha, is visiting her.

Mrs. Greene's guest, Miss Wallace, left yesterday morning for her home in Lafayette, Ind.

Miss Maud Oakley gave a card party on Thursday evening for Miss Sue Spalding. There were eight tables and it was a lovely party.

I expect to have a lovely time tonight at the Pleasant Hour party. You know who I am going with. He is just as nice to me as ever. I am so sorry Mr. Howell will not be there. He is ill with a cold. May Moore is also ill as I wrote you. Well, I am sorry she will not be there, but as my program will be better filled in consequence it does not matter. I do not care much for girls at a party anyway. Too many of them "spile the ball."

Did I tell you that Mae Burr is wearing a lovely diamond pendant? She says in reference to it, "papa gave it to me."

Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Rudy and Mrs. Yates left on Wednesday for Kansas City where they will stay till the first part of next week.

A young lady is fortunate to visit Mrs. Green or her sister or Mrs. Leonard. You know these people frolic a good deal anyway and when they have a visitor she does not spend her time reading. Mrs. Beeson gave a chafing-dish party on Monday night for Miss Wallace and Mrs. Greene gave a swimming party at the sanitarium on Tues-

day, both because of Miss Wallace.

The people who went say that the whist club was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Harley on Wednesday night royally.

The number of "visiting girls" received an addition Wednesday in Miss Anderson, of Taylorville, Mo., I think. She is a guest of Mae Burr. Miss Anderson was at Miss Oakley's party, as were also Miss Bennett, of Omaha, Miss Sherwood, of Connecticut, and Miss Mount, of Omaha, and of course Miss Spalding. The last named will visit in Omaha over Sunday and return to Lincoln before going back to Sioux City. Mr. Avery left for Sioux City the first of the week.

Dick Berlin and Rob Patrick were in town on legal business but managed to see a few people.

Mrs. Kelley will give a reception for Miss McClure next week.

I have met Mr. and Mrs. Frank W. Smith, of Alliance, two or three times. They are now visiting in Omaha.

There! I think I have told you all the gossip you would care to know, except a horrid story which the Journal printed today that reports one of the visiting girls as having remarked the coffee was not "so very damn hot," in answer to an inquiry of a gentleman who had spilled a cup of the dark brown liquid on her dress, which was a lovely one, by the way. The story gives a false impression of the girl and it was shockingly improper of the Journal to print it. I will wait until I see you before giving you the particulars. Write soon or you will hear no more from

ELEANOR.

SATURDAY NIGHT RECEPTION

The charter day program, it would be more correct to say charter week program for it was a matter of days, was concluded by the Women's federation meeting in the art hall of the library building at the university. The room was full of men and women. Chancellor MacLean welcomed the clubs to the university with his characteristic warmth of expression. Mrs. H. H. Wilson presided gracefully. The sensation of the evening was Mr. Bixby's poem. Mr. Bixby's rubicund face was melancholy and humble. He said "this is the proudest moment of my life, as the out-saw said when he was about to be hung, because at last justice was about to be done." His remarks were listened to with delight by the ladies. Everything that Mr. Bixby ever said about them, and he has intimated some pretty severe things, was forgiven and forgotten because of the sweetness of his disposition. The ladies felt as they looked at him that he was a good man, and that whatever his views might be, they were without malice. It may be news to him, but the ladies have made him their laureate. After the program was concluded the audience, in connection with Funke and Ogden's punch bowl, had an important part to play. The following is the program:

- Welcome.....Chancellor MacLean
- String trio.....
- Mrs. Hagenow, Misses Ensign and Hagenow.
- A Club House.....Mrs. Field
- Quartet.....
- Mrs. Campbell, Misses Worley, Oakley, Becker.
- Clubs as a factor } Mr. H. H. Wilson
- } Mrs. Hartley
- Quartet.....Lullaby from Erminie
- How Women's clubs affect the press.....Col. Bixby
- How the press affects us.....Miss Elliott

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PIRATES OF PENZANCE

The Pirates of Penzance and the popularity of Mr. Seamark's amateur company drew a very fair audience. It was an enthusiastic audience, profuse of flowers. There were bouquets everywhere and all the time, in the most bounteous inopportunities. In fact, they made up a good part of the fun. The performance was very creditable—as an amateur performance. Judged by a professional standard, however, it would have many defects. The singing of the soloists, while it showed careful preparation, had little volume. The enunciation, both of soloists and chorus, was very indistinct. I knew the words of most of the songs, otherwise I should, in most cases, have had but little idea what it was all about. Mr. Seamark and Mr. Kettering sang very distinctly, so did Miss Hoffman. In others, the indistinctness may have been owing largely to lack of volume. Mr. Keens' words seemed mumbled, however, and all the humor of the Major General's song was lost. In many cases, too, the air was hardly to be distinguished. It took no little strain of attention to tell that anyone was singing. Perhaps the orchestra could have made this a little better by allowing for the weakness of the soloists and playing pianissimo, even if the score did demand forte. In some operas this indistinctness would do no great harm. I should be willing to miss words or music, or both. In Gilbert and Sullivan's work, however, I want both and I want them strong.

Mr. Seamark, except for a certain managerial coldness, acted and sang his part very well. His Frederic hit about the right Gilbertian mean between the romantic and the ridiculous. Mr. Manley's Pirate King was very effective in dialogue. His singing, however, was not what one would expect of a pirate. It seemed timidly evasive, and he rejoiced mildly in his "glorious" vocation. Mr. Kettering's policeman was amusing in get-up. But Mr. Kettering should have gone further and put in more "business." The policeman is the low com-

edian of the opera and there are great opportunities in the role, as those know who have seen the play given by professionals, even by that bright little company that played at Lincoln Park. Mr. Keene's made the same mistake as Mr. Kettering—he took his major general too seriously. The old fellow should be gloriously and gravely ridiculous. But Mr. Keens made him merely an estimable gentleman who had strayed into a band of lunatics and felt rather uneasy.

The real actor, the only actor of the company, was Miss Hoffman. She didn't look quite the necessary forty-seven, but that did no harm, in comic opera. She was the only one who ventured much original business and she did it well. Her singing was weak, but her acting more than made up for it. Amateur companies should be sure to get her in their cast. Miss Simons made a very fascinating Mabel. What she sang was not always clear, but she sang with sweetness, and with expression. Her first appearance was particularly telling.

The chorus, the great reliance of amateur opera, did well,—in places. In other places they did rather ragged work. They seemed to have some disagreement with the orchestra as to tempo, and each stuck to its own opinion nobly. But, on the whole, they sang with dash and spirit, and brought out the good old catchy airs in a way that made one's ears echo. The hopping chorus during the Major General's song was very funny.

For amateur work the concert had two defects, "it lacked comedy business," in which an amateur company can do finely—and lacked distinct enunciation. These two things should have been worked for with more diligence. The choruses, too, could have been trained to greater precision. The other defects were to be expected. On the whole, the evening was amusing, the audience satisfied, and—I should judge—the receipts fairly large. Mr. Seamark and his company deserve congratulation. But a critic can safely leave that to others.

H. B.