

## Random Notes.

The fate of the Bryan lecture enterprise, which was foreshadowed in these columns a week ago, was only what might have been expected. Political eloquence of the sophomoric quality is too common in this land of politicians and orators to command a price of \$3 per seat. Mr. Bryan is having some setbacks now. Since the tide of November 3 things cannot be said to be coming his way. The star of destiny that shone so brightly has taken a tumble and been snuffed out in the swirling sea. The song of the conqueror has been replaced by the dead march in Saul. In these cool and calm days following the exciting campaign it is seen that Mr. Bryan is not, to use the strong and elegant phrase that passes current in Hogan's alley, the only pebble on the beach. What seemed so smooth and glittering in the days when the mid-summer madness got hold of the emotions of the easily-swayed, is now seen to have rough places, and the apparent sheen has lost its lustre. There are other pebbles on the beach, and the fickle public wants something new.

Mr. Bryan's place in the public estimation cannot but be seriously affected by this lecture fiasco. The failure of the lecturing tour is an advertisement of the fact that the prophet is beginning to lose the honor that is so necessary to prophets. It is enough to nip all the budding hopes in the naturally optimistic breast of the sky rocket statesman. It must be sad for Mr. Bryan to have to admit that the wronged people are not willing to pay him comic opera prices to tell them of their awful condition. All things considered it would perhaps have been better if Mr. Bryan had accepted the offer of Siegal-Cooper Co.'s Big Store in New York, whose motto "Meet me at the fountain," is rapidly becoming a household world in all American families afflicted with the bargain counter mania. Mr. Bryan would, in all probability, have been given luxurious quarters next to the Siegal Cooper "dental parlors," and he could have expounded the law to the music of jerking teeth. To be sure the salary offered was small, but one may be happy, even on \$25,000 per year. The newspapers have almost ceased to mention the erstwhile much-talked about Lincolnite and in the next month he will be entirely lost sight of in the tribute that the country will pay to those important personages, Corbett and Fitzsimmons. The new journalism is considering things other than Mrs. Bryan's shoes or Little Billie's pranks. So, it appears that Mr. Bryan's lines have not fallen in the pleasantest places. The rabbit's feet have lost their potency and Tuff Luck is clutching at the man who but a few months ago held thousands under the magic spell. All the world's a stage, and there are so many players that one player cannot have a continuous performance all to himself.

Nebraska is fortunate in escaping the recent epidemic of failure that swept over the west. People in Lincoln who imagine their town is so much worse off than any other place, can read the newspapers and learn that hard times have had a blighting effect in sections where there used to be the greatest prosperity.

Holcomb and Allen have told the country that they will control the populist colts this winter, and they have given assurance that they, the colts, will not jump over the fence. The acrobatic tendencies of the populists are so strongly developed that the cherub-faced governor and the long-winded senator have a big job on their hands. There may be some frieky populists who object to the Holcomb-Allen system of discipline. W. MORRISON SMITH.

## The Flower of Poesy.

When from the rose-wreathed  
gate of Eden man was driven,  
An exiled king to roam,  
He picked a flower in  
token of his heaven,  
And bore it to his home.

He planted it within  
his soul and tended,  
He watered it with tears,  
Unto his favorite child  
it has decended  
Through all the countless years.

—ISABEL RICHEY.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Coming events cast their shadows before, and such shadows are more appreciated when the aftermath proves familiar to the expectations of those interested. Ever alert to the public's demands the management of the Lansing theatre takes pleasure in offering the Woodward Theatre Co. for an engagement of two weeks, beginning Monday, Jan. 11th, at the same ever winning prices of admission of twenty-five cents for the ground floor and boxes, and ten cents to all other parts of the house. The Woodward Company have long since earned their spurs as the leading repertoire company of the west, and their coming for such an extended engagement will undoubtedly be hailed with delight by all popular priced amusement adherents. Mr. Woodward offers a decided novelty in the form of Edison's Magniscope, a latter edition of his now famous Vitascope which has demanded greater attention than any invention the Wizard has offered since the electric light. The Magniscope is not unlike his first invention in appearance but later developments have placed it more in advance of the former machine. With the coming of the Woodward Theatre Co. of fifteen artists with the Magniscope and twenty new pictures, a revival of pleasure, instruction and amusement awaits all patrons. Seats on sale Saturday a. m.

A New Orleans exchange in criticism of Frederick Warde and his production of King Lear says:

The ablest exponent of Lear an American public has seen was Edwin Forrest, and it must be said the part was not all his own until in his latter days when age had enfeebled him to a degree and caused him to abandon the robust roles of Othello, Macbeth, Matamora and Sparticus. Now comes Frederick Warde, who knows the play thoroughly and who has played Edgar and Edmund in it many times with the old actors, and he makes a grand presentation of the play, a worthy production of the tragedy in the way of scenery and costumes. He does more, he gives a splendid characterization of the character of Lear. In all the phases of Lear's character Mr. Warde showed himself to be a student in his conception and reading of the part, and a subtle artist in his execution. He works out the character intelligently from the moment he is the throned King until the pitiful ending of his life, fierce until his strong will is broken, terrible in act of cursing his traitor daughters, pathetic and touching in all scenes where strength and intellect and life is fading away. For some time Frederick Warde has been the best Virginius on the stage. Now he is the best King Lear.

For the Ladies Bargain matinee Mr. Warde and company will present the "Merchant of Venice." Prices 50 cents to any reserved seat in the house. Children 25 cents. Evening prices \$1, 75, 50 and 25. Secure your seats early.

The magnificent production of Hal Reid's beautiful home like play will be the attraction at the Lansing theatre, Saturday, Jan. 16, for one night only.

It is not an extraordinary sight to see those of the gentler sex weep while witnessing some pathetic incident vividly portrayed upon the stage, but it is extraordinary to see men who have attained ripe years of mature manhood shed tears while witnessing a stage picture. This, however, is a nightly occurrence at the theatres where "Human Hearts" is produced. The scene is only that of a poor blind mother, without evidence or political influence, without anything excepting her simple faith in God, pleading with the Governor of Arkansas to give back to her her innocent boy whom her mother's heart tells her is suffering for a deed of which he is not guilty, and when defeated she is about to go she hands the Governor a small bunch of old fashioned yellow roses which she has plucked "from the corner of the house at home." So it is that from the inmost depths of manhood there wells up those crystal evidences that no man ever grows too old to remember; the sacred beauty of his innocent childhood and the dear old hands that have rocked him to sleep. Prices \$1, 75, 50 and 25. Seats on sale Thursday morning 10 a. m. at theatre box office.

The success of the Brownies was so overwhelming that Mr. Cox resolved to write a great stage spectacle in which they should figure. He chose Malcolm

Douglas as his musical collaborator, and their work occupied them two years. When it was finally completed the well-known theatrical firm of C. B. Jefferson, Klaw & Erlanger secured it. The spectacle was in twelve elaborate scenes and full of intricate effects such as a storm at sea, a shipwreck, an earthquake, a volcano, and the destruction of a palace. Scenic artists, property-makers and costumers were over a year in their preparations and at last the curtain went up for the first time on the gorgeous production in Philadelphia, where it created the greatest enthusiasm.

The big spectacle was then taken to New York where it ran 150 nights to packed houses. Every one in the metropolis crowded to see it, and New York became infected with the "Brownie craze." Manufacturers got the Brownies out in scarf-pins, crackers, souvenir spoons, rugs, wall paper, and almost every other conceivable line of goods. The success of the Brownies on the stage was even greater than in the books, and Mr. Cox abandoned his literary and art work to give the big production his undivided attention. He has travelled all over the country with it, and his appearance in the different cities has been in the nature of an ovation. "The Brownies" is the greatest spectacular success known to the stage, and next year it is to be presented in one of the principal theatres in London.

## THE LANSING THEATRE

JOHN DOWDEN, Jr., Manager.

One Night Only,

EXTRA! :: EXTRA!

SATURDAY, JANUARY 9.

The Eminent Actor,

- Frederick Warde, -

Will present his great Shakespearian success

"King Lear,"

A great scenic production. Throne room in Lear's palace, courtyard Albany's castle, the storm, landscape near Dover heights.

EXTRA SATURDAY--Special Bargain Matinee--"The Merchant of Venice." Prices 50 and 25 cents.

EVENING PRICES: \$1.00, 75, 50 AND 25

Seats now on sale.