

THE THEATRE

Digby Bell played to a fairly well filled house at the Funke last Friday night. Mr. Bell in the character of Dr. Willow of Vincennes, Ind., is strongly reminiscent of Frank Mayo in Puddin'-head Wilson or Sol Smith Russell. The play apotheosizes the home and children. The characters are balanced like Hogarth's serial pictures. There was Dr. Willow, the affectionate, good man, generous, and free from the vices of scandalizing and envy which flourish in small places, contrasted with the mercenary grocer whose petty interference in her father's affairs deprived him of his sweetheart. The industrious, honest, temperate young Tom Bunce and the drunken, lazy Fred Dalrymple. "Grandmaw" the virago, and Mrs. Bunce—the lovely, sympathizing, domestic angel. The worldly-minded "Harriet" and the modest violet of a youngest daughter. Crabbed age and youth. The play, withal, is wholesome and except for the free action of Shoreacres, quite as effective. Some of the "business," such as undressing the little girl, has been adopted from that play, much to the pleasure of the audience. Mr. Bell has finished. He has power in reserve. He does not rant and he has a smooth resonant voice. He does not hurry his lines and every one in the further corners of the room can hear him. Mrs. Bell's "Grandmaw" was unique. She rose at times to the perfection of Mrs. Drew as Mrs. Malaprop. The company was a very good one. The next time they come to Lincoln they will play to standing room only. I have yet to hear an unfavorable criticism on their performance.

"The Dazzler" played to moderate business at the Funke on Monday night. The play is the usual farce comedy with Irish variations. As usual the men were funny and clever, the women homely, with cracked voices, wrinkled and soiled, gowns and *de trop* as far as the audience was concerned, whenever they came on the stage.



"A Bunch of Keys," polished up to date Hoyt's best satire, still possesses great attraction for the theatre-going public. It is essentially an entertainment for the masses, and draws the patrons of farce comedy. This rattling farcical production bristles with funny situations so closely following upon each other that the audience is in a continual peal of laughter until the fall of the curtain. The songs, dances and medleys, which form an important item in the play, are entirely new and nicely rendered. Miss Bothner appears as Teddy. The rest of the company are very evenly balanced and contains some very clever people. At the Oliver tonight, for one night only. Prices \$1.00, 75c, 50c and 25c. Seats on sale at box office.

Beautiful Lillian Russell, sprightly Della Fox and comical and acrobatic Jeff De Angelis, leading their triple alliance of comic opera stars, are to be the attraction here shortly, when they will present Stange & Edward's tuneful comic opera "The Wedding Day." The opera will be presented exactly as when seen in New York. Not the slightest detail of scenery or properties will be omitted. At the Oliver soon.

Daniel Frohman sends us the announcement from the Lyceum Theatre, New York, that the company which is to appear here in about a fortnight to play "The Prisoner of Zenda," is one which he has selected and rehearsed with great care, and to assure theatre-goers that they may expect an admirable performance of Anthony Hope's famous romance. The company is a very large one, and carries all the scenery for the

On Wednesday evening, December 29, the Philharmonic Orchestra will give a fine program for the special benefit of visiting instructors and friends. This will enable our visitors to hear a good orchestral concert, and some first class soloists. Harriet Dement Packard, the well known soprano of Chicago, will appear twice on the program, and Master Karl Smith, the wonderful boy 'celist, who created such a sensation at the last Philharmonic concert, will also appear. Popular prices; 25c, 35c and 50c. Seats on sale at the Funke box office Tuesday, December 28.

The Des Moines Leader has the following to say concerning the Boston Continuous performance, which opens at the Funke Monday, December 20th, for one week:

The Boston Continuous company opened a week's engagement at the Grand last evening and was greeted by a good house. The best part of the performance was given over to specialties. These opened with the aerial feats of the Del Sabos, who did excellent trapeze work. Hibbard won liberal applause by his performance on the slack wire. Mart W. Zeilie sang two taking songs. The Eldons appeared in novel feats of juggling interspersed with flashes of comedy, forming a pleasing combination. Rice and Delmar as German comedy sketch artists, produced one of the best numbers on the evening's program of specialties, and kept the audience in a round of laughter. Rajah closed the performance by executing a laudable series of gymnastic feats.

Monday night "The German Brewer," will be presented, and two ladies or one lady and gentleman will be admitted on one 30 cent ticket if bought before a p. m. Prices 10, 20 and 30 cents. Seats on sale today 10 a. m.

Burlington Route Playing Cards. Those elegant cards of the very best quality only 15 cents per deck. For sale at B & M depot or city office, corner 10th and O streets. t. 12-31-97.

We sell etchings and engravings. Can you think of anything more suitable for a Christmas present?  
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MEN'S BOYS' and CHILDREN'S Suits, Overcoats and Ulsters.

Our prices are easily 25 to 33 per cent less on the same goods than what you will pay in other stores. We strive to give our customers new, bright and up-to-date merchandise for as little money as they can possibly be pushed over our counters.

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We sell handsome all wool suits, overcoats and ulsters for men at \$5.00, \$7.50, \$10.00, \$12.50 and \$15.00. We give you a guarantee which actually guarantees with every purchase and that is, "Your money back if you want it."

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THE GREAT RAJAN—Accomplishing marvelous headlong backward dives from top of pyramid 18 feet high, alighting upon the hands on front table below and going into lightning-like routine of tumbling after each dive. RICE and DELMAR—Comedy sketch artists. THE VICORRELLIS. THE ELTONS—Novel feats of juggling, hat spinning and comedy flashes. THE ONLY HIBBARD—In his wonderful performance on the slack wire. THE LESTERS in refined sketches. MART W. ZELIE in the latest and most popular songs, THE DEL SABOS, sensational aerialists.

Monday Night. "The German Brewer." Change of Play Every Performance.

10c 20c 30c

Monday night two ladies or one lady and gentleman admitted on one 30c ticket if bought before 7 p. m. Christmas matinee, 10c, 20c and 30c. Seats on sale Saturday, 10 a. m.

Useful Christmas Gifts

Silk Embroidered Suspenders, Fine Silk Umbrellas, Silk and Cashmere Mufflers, Handsome Styles in Neckwear, Silk Initial Handkerchiefs, Plush and Cloth Caps, etc., etc. Besides our usual full line in Men's and Boys' Clothing at popular prices.

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