

## THE THEATRE

The Oliver management has been providing the theatre goers of Lincoln with an unusually fine line of attractions the last two or three weeks. Complaints are occasionally made of the number of inferior companies appearing in western cities. Well, the quality of the acting and the size and equipment of the companies are what the market demands. Opera house managers of experience are like merchants and purveyors of all sorts of commodities, they endeavor to supply the community with the kind and quality of goods it will pay for. If the companies visiting Lincoln are not first class, it is not a commentary upon the managerial taste but upon ourselves.

Two excellent and distinguished companies appearing at the Oliver this week played to insufficient audiences. On Monday night Louis James, Kathryn Kidder and Frederick Ward presented "The School for Scandal." The last time this play was put on here Fanny Davenport played a very fascinating Lady Teazel which refused to be displaced by Miss Kidder's graceful and charming, albeit somewhat heartless enactment of the role. Mr. Ward and Mr. James as the hypocrite and the spendthrift brothers were a trifle disappointing. The young spendthrift brother should be a slender bit of thistledown. Mr. James is a trifle heavy for the party and his words are too carefully weighed. Insouciance, irresponsibility, a joy of life are inadequately represented by a middleaged, portly gentleman. He would have done better as Sir Peter. Tripp the valet, Mrs. Candor, and the baby faced lord who thought himself a poet took one back to the time of Sheridan.

"On and Off," on Thursday night in which two stars, Mr. Holland and Mr. Williams bore leading parts, played to a half filled house. They were supported by a competent and very clever company. The smoothness and artistic finish of the program was not marred by a single flaw. Audiences are very tired of the kind of play to which "On and Off" belongs. The kind where its humor develops from the lies which the head of the family tells to the other members of it explain his absence, his possession of strange feminine portraits and his coldness to his wife. The first two or three dozen of these plays are amusing, then the hideous insincerity and coarseness, the weakness of the men of whom they present a likeness, is oppressive, and no longer amuses. But it is still possible to enjoy the work of such very clever actors as Mr. Holland and Mr. Williams, whatever the play. Their grace, quickness of repartee, their ease spontaneity and mastery of technique is very satisfactory even when their talent is confined within the shallow limits of a play like "On and Off."

A Bachelor's Honeymoon on Wednesday night involved the same situations derived from the ability of the star to tell prodigious and instantaneous lies. The company was a very good one, Mr. Walter Walker being a finished comedian, was ably assisted by a lady who could sing coon songs to perfection, and by a sloppy little serving maid, who was made up to perfection. In complaining of the two exclusive employment of the whopper motif as the sole excitant of humour, I am quite aware that the vein of humour has been exhaustively worked and that only the broadest, Gargantuan humour reaches the gallery which does most the applauding. Nevertheless there are plays which fill the lower parts of the house choking full and sets it to applauding like the lords of the gallery. Such are The Little Minister, Cyrano de Bergerac, Beau Brummel, Shore Acres, Rip Van Win-

kle, et cetera. If the whopper plays acted by such super excellent actors as those under consideration play to only one well filled part of the house, viz.; the gallery, would it not pay such companies to change and play to the parquet, dress circle and balcony people awhile?

"A notable event," is a stereotyped expression in the theatrical business, but the appearance of that brilliant stellar alliance of Mr. Herbert Kelcey and Miss Effie Shannon in Clyde Fitch's successful play of American society entitled "The Moth and the Flame," in this city on Saturday, May 6th, at the Oliver theatre will, it is safe to say, prove to be one of the most notable occasions our amusement patrons have been invited to for a long time. Both of these artists for the past five years have been the most prominent figures in all the successes of the Daniel Frohman (New York) Lyceum theatre, and for the past two years have been conceded to be the most successful stars of that class in the country. Both the play and the players are far above what is ordinarily seen outside of the principal cities and as the production will be seen here with the original cast intact their appearance will undoubtedly prove the most brilliant event of the dramatic plays.

All who have not subscribed to the open air concert fund should be sure to take tickets for the monster concert to be given at the Oliver on Thursday, May 4th, by Hagenow's band and the string section of the Philharmonic Orchestra, forty-five musicians, to raise a fund for the building of two music pavilions for the use of the band in giving the concerts. The band is unusually well equipped in every way, and much pleasure is promised for the summer months. At this concert the grand realistic tone picture "An American Battle Scene," will be presented with special attention to details. The prices are 25, 50, 75 cents and \$1.00, so every one can attend and help the good cause along.

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# THE OLIVER

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF  
L. M. CRAWFORD AND F. Z. ZEHRUNG.  
Corner Thirteenth and P. Phone 746

## Saturday, May 6.

### A NOTABLE EVENT

First appearance here of the Brilliant Stellar Alliance

HERBERT  
**KELCEY**  
EFFIE  
**SHANNON**  
COMPANY.

In the impressiv play of American Society

## "THE MOTH AND THE FLAME."

With all the original cast which distinguished its production 125 nights at the New York Lyceum theatre. Sale of seats will begin Thursday, May 4.

## AN AMERICAN BATTLE SCENE

Dedicated to the G.A.R. at the Monster Concert

Hagenow's Band and Orchestra

45-MUSICIANS-45

Thursday Evening, May 4th

Benefit music pavilion fund. Regular prices. Ticket holders can reserve seats Tuesday, May 2.

Matinee Musical May Festival  
Oliver, Monday, May 1st  
St. Paul's M. F. Church Tuesday, May 2.

The first concert will be given by the Bruno Steindel Company. At the second concert Miss Bishop, the dramatic contralto, will sing; a cantata will be given by the chorus, and prominent members of the club will appear in solo. Prices—For season tickets, \$1.50, \$1 and 75c. Gallery 50 cents.

### NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway. In the lovely city of Los Angeles, California, the above named organization will hold its fourteenth annual meeting, July 11th to 14th, 1899.

The Great Rock Island Route has issued a handsome book containing views and necessary information as to trains, rates and routes, and this will be sent to you by addressing with postal card or letter.

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