

A MUSICIAN'S PROTEST.

In the current number of the New York "Musical Courier" I find over the signature of the Lincoln correspondent the following remarks:

The musical season in May generally closes with the May Festival given by the Matinee Musicale Club. * * * There are three conservatories or schools of music in Lincoln and numberless graduate and student recitals will be crowded into the next two months—a dismal prospect for the musical reporter. But then the presence of the student helps to bring the Rosenthals, Zeislars, Carreno, and all the other musical blessings enjoyed this winter. If only the trial had preceded the compensation!"

It has been the rule of one of these schools of music—the one connected with the State University—to ignore all ignorant and spiteful criticism. But the remarks quoted seem to me to require a few words of reply. I am not an ardent advocate of the rule "Stand up for Nebraska" at any cost, but the old proverb about the bird which injures its own nest may not be inapplicable to this case.

This person has gone out of her way to speak slightly of home institutions and of honest effort by students, in a paper published in a large city in the East. It is not only the school I represent but all the schools and all the students who are discouraged and rebuked.

I want to say on behalf of the school connected with the State University that the very paper in which this communication appeared has within the past month written to the director of the school praising the programs of the graduates, and that it published the announcement of their performance.

Honest criticism after the event we do not oppose, but welcome as helpful. But this sort of thing! To insult pupils before hearing them—as though the only value of students lay in their value in bringing foreign artists to that city and that at other times they are to be considered a trial to the supersensitive critic! I must say that this does not indicate a spirit of criticism either helpful or just, and I believe that I and my pupils will gladly forego the advantage of the lady's presence if it affords her such discomfort.

JOHN RANDOLPH.

THE THEATRE

AT THE OLIVER.

Monday night at the Oliver we are to have the event of the season in the production in this city of Mr. Richard Mansfield's superb presentation of Edmond Rostand's heroic comedy "Cyrano de Bergerac." No other occasion in theatricals in recent years has been anticipated with the interest and relish, and the belief in satisfaction for artistic appetite that makes so peculiarly and emphatically desirable this important event. The importance of Mr. Mansfield's appearance is so surely a matter of personally artistic pre-eminence that it is quite apart and distinct from the accident of the vehicle of expression. This is in evidence in his present creation of Cyrano and his elaborate presentation of the great play, according to criticism at hand. The beauty and greatness of the play are not only in evidence by the proclamation of foreign critics but it is patent to the hundreds of thousands of readers of the book. Yet only Richard Mansfield of the many who have essayed the presentation in America have been able to cope with the intricate role or flavor the presentation with the beauty and poetry which are its natural attributes. Prices, lower boxes, \$3; upper boxes, \$2.50; parquet and first four rows of dress circle, \$2.50; balance of lower floor, \$2; balcony, \$2, \$1.50 and \$1; gallery, 75 cents.

To one night only is confined the present engagement of that popular light

opera organization, the Bostonians, who will appear at the Oliver Wednesday, May 24. They will offer that beautiful and melodious composition of Herbert Smith, "The Serenade." Of the libretto nothing need be added to the fact that both in story and treatment it shows its capable author at his best, while in the general spirit of commendation that has fallen to the lot of its music, such gems as "The Serenade," "The Angelus," "Woman, Lovely Woman," "Cupid and I," and the waltz song, "Dreaming," have deservedly met with the highest encomiums enthusiastic praise could give. It is not without interest to note that though some changes are apparent in the former membership of the company, those old favorites, Henry Clay Barnabee, W. H. MacDonald, Miss Jessie Bartlett Davis, William Davin, George Frothingham, Josephine Bartlett and Helen Bertram are still included in its personnel, while among the newer faces are those of Lloyd Rand, tenor; Charles R. Hawley, William Boderick and Carolon Daniels. A strong chorus and perfect scenery and costumes of course, go without saying.

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THOSE IMPOSSIBLE PEOPLE.

Jigger—The Kansans are going to give General Funston a sword.

Jagger—Well, I hope he'll use it on the Kansans.

Ships Have Ears.

The Gate City, which arrived here on Monday from Savannah, is the first steamer going out of this port to be equipped with an aurophone, the new device for enabling the lookout to determine the direction of sounds at sea. The aurophone was tried on the way up, but little could be told about its utility owing to its being placed in a poor position. It consists of a brass box, which fits over the mast and which has projecting from each end a broad-mouthed funnel. From this box, close to the funnels, two tubes like ordinary speaking tubes lead down the mast and through the main deck to the deck below. Inside of the box there is a complex arrangement of diaphragms and sounding boards so placed, that a sound will enter only one of the tubes when it is passing through the funnel on the opposite side of the box. On the lower deck is an arrangement like an engine-room indicator, by which the box above may be turned around the mast, and directly under the indicator is a tell-tale compass. The man below places the tubes to his ears, where they are held in place by a cap. Unless the funnels above are pointing directly toward the sound which he wishes to locate he will hear it only faintly and in one ear, because one of the funnels being turned from the sound the tube opposite does not operate. He then turns the indicator in the direction from which the sound appears to come, and when the funnel is pointing directly at the sound it passes through the funnel and out of the other, putting both tubes in operation, and the operator hears the sound distinctly and in both ears at once. He then glances at the indicator and the point on the tell-tale at which it rests gives the exact bearing of the sound.—Boston Transcript.

Repeating Rifles.

The king of Denmark's "sort of new invented guns, which being but once charged will discharge many times, one after another," in 1657, would seem to have had rivals about the same period. Pepys twice refers to such. On July 3, 1662, when "at the Dolphin with the officers of the ordnance, after dinner was brought to Sir, W. Compton a gun to discharge seven times, the best of all devices that ever I saw and very serviceable, and not a bawble, for it is much approved of, and many thereof made." And on March 4, 1663-4, he mentioned "a new fashion gun to shoot often, one after another."—Notes and Queries.

The Baseball Fitcher.

The famous base ball pitcher had walked the floor with the youngest of his family for an hour or so. "Mary," said he, "if the manager saw me now, I bet I'd get soaked with a fine." "Why?" asked the wife, sleepily. "I don't seem to have any control of the bowl at all, I don't."

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The New Robinson Crusoe.

I. It was on an isle far out in the Pacific Ocean.

The branches of the palm embraced the branches of the wild orange, and the banana bent its stately head and whispered of its love to his little cousin, the lemon.

II.

A man in a thatched roof and the skins of animals came walking along the beach, followed by his faithful dog. Had you looked at the calm, sad eye you would have known that he was a man with a past.

III.

Suddenly he stopped. An ashen pallor spread over his face. He saw something in the sand.

It was the print of a bare foot.

IV.

He cried aloud:

"I fled from the world because of it! It haunted me there! God knows I was innocent."

He fell to the earth and his eye became glassy.

V.

Long years passed.

Sealers, seeking water, found on the beach the skeletons of a man and a dog and a footprint which grimly told that Trilby had passed that way.

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