

AMUSEMENTS.

Preparation for the Christmas holidays has kept everyone so busy during the past week that few found either the time or inclination to attend the theaters. And even had there been nothing else to attract their attention it would have been made for the first time since the holidays were practically nothing above the ordinary at the playhouses unless it was Pagoda at the Orpheum. This theater seemed to enjoy its usual Orpheum patronage which, since it was first opened more than a year ago, has not been perceptibly affected by holidays, weather or anything else for that matter. The stars of amusement is popular, and there is practically nothing that will decrease the attendance until the public tires of vaudeville.

There are three good attractions booked at Boyd's this week, and as the Orpheum promises a bill of standard excellence, there is really something worth looking forward to. At the former theater the first half of the week will see one of Hoyt's plays, "A Trip to Chinatown," interpreted by a company headed by the formidable Harry Gilfoil. Emma Nevada, the great prima-donna, comes for a mid-week matinee performance on Wednesday, and the last half of the week the first Frohman play of the season, "A Colonial Girl," will be presented by the original New York cast, with but a few exceptions, is promised. Howard Gould, who scored such a well-deserved success here last season and the preceding one, as Rudolph Rassendyll in "The Prisoner of Zenda," will appear in the leading role and every thing points to a deserving production and performance.

Last season Omaha failed of the privilege of seeing Mrs. Lemile Carter and David Burgess' "Zaza" at the Orpheum. The management made all the money they wanted in New York and one or two other cities in the east. Omahans thought they were to fare better this season, as the bookings of Boyd's theater included Mrs. Carter and "Zaza" for the first time in Omaha, having been December 20 and 21, but Mrs. Carter's illness, which lasted for nearly three months, changed her plans materially. All of her dates were cancelled. After her recovery, three weeks ago, she decided to appear for a short time in Chicago, and then to return directly to New York for another indefinite run. As a result of all this Omaha players will have to wait another season for this great play. Manager Burgess was offered the "Zaza" contract, but he preferred to look it over, preferring, as he said, "to wait another year and give his patrons the real thing." Mrs. Carter's reception in Chicago during the last two weeks has bordered upon an ovation.

The announcement of Sol Smith Russell's illness, which came from Chicago Tuesday last, where he opened an engagement on Monday night, was received with deep regret by his many friends and patrons in this city, where he had looked for a long time to appear in February. As near as can be learned by press reports, Mr. Russell's illness is an affection of the mind, caused by nervous dyspepsia, and whether it is only temporary or permanent can only be guessed at, as his physicians refuse to talk upon the matter. Mr. Russell was taken suddenly ill during the first act of his play, "The Hon. John Grigsby," in which he was seen here last season, and was compelled to dismiss his audience. In speaking of the occurrence the Chicago Tribune of December 19 has the following to say:

"A very large audience had assembled to welcome Mr. Russell, and his first appearance on the stage was greeted with general applause. It was noted that he walked rather feebly, but he carried the earlier scenes effectively and the charm of the Illinois play of ante-bellum days had already exerted itself on the audience. The first noteworthy break came in the scene with Mrs. Hudson, when he was asked to look at his physician's notes to talk upon the matter. Mr. Russell was taken suddenly ill during the first act of his play, "The Hon. John Grigsby," in which he was seen here last season, and was compelled to dismiss his audience. In speaking of the occurrence the Chicago Tribune of December 19 has the following to say:

"Quo Vadis," the book which created such a future in the literary world a year ago, is now being made into a play, and of the play, which was given its first production in Chicago recently, the Times-Herald of that city has the following to say:

The excellence of "Quo Vadis" as a production, and in some respects as a play, has attracted wide attention, and there is no doubt that the engagement of four weeks at McVicker's theater will be highly prosperous. I have attempted on previous occasions to point out the special features of this new work, which, although somewhat diffuse in treatment and therefore lacking in climactic values, is the most creditable effort of the kind which has ever been originally produced in Chicago. If the play could make more of the dramatic and important climaxes, which culminate in the burning of Rome, and strip the denouement which is appropriately reached in the last act of some unnecessary repetitions of thought and feeling, "Quo Vadis" would be a very much more interesting play than it is at present. Naturally we turn to "The Sign of the Cross," a play which at many points seems artificial and unreal, in order to find the readiest means of comparison. The general opinion is that "The Sign of the Cross" is a play which is so striking that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion of a common origin. In point of fact, there has never been any denial, so far as I know, of the fact that "The Sign of the Cross" is a play which is so striking that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion of a common origin. In point of fact, there has never been any denial, so far as I know, of the fact that "The Sign of the Cross" is a play which is so striking that it is impossible to avoid the conclusion of a common origin.

When the curtain was rung down we called a carriage and sent them immediately to the Virginia hotel. Dr. Billings, who attended him, says he must have absolute rest. We had hoped to go on with the engagement later in the week, but Mr. Hamilton said he would release us from our contract for this week in the hope that Mr. Russell would be able to appear next Monday. Mr. Russell suffered a similar attack last year, but it was at the close of the season. Mr. Russell received immediate relief after arriving at the Virginia hotel, and it is given that he was not to be disturbed. His physician would not commit himself as to Mr. Russell's ability to play later in his season at the Grand, declaring that a rest for the present was imperative. It is known that the doctor has already been given a week's rest, and he was advised not to continue his season.

It is probable that in the coming spring London theater-goers will have an opportunity to pass judgment upon America's most successful and popular comedians in America. He began his career as a star in 1880 in "Edgewood Folks," in which he was for a long time successful. His most important venture was some years later, however, when he produced "A Colonial Girl," a play which is still in the repertoire and which was underlined for the second week of his engagement here. It is an interesting fact that Mr. Russell's great successes have been on the stage of the Grand opera house, on which he was stricken last night, and he has frequently produced new plays there, notably "April Weather."

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BOYD'S Five Performances. Commencing Sunday, December 24. A MERRY XMAS TO ALL. MATINEE TODAY AT 2:30. TONIGHT AT 8:15 P. M. HOYT'S "A Trip to Chinatown". Special Christmas Matinee Monday 2:30.

WOODWARD & BURGESS, Mgrs. Telephone 1919. ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY. MATINEE, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 27. AMERICA'S GREATEST DIVA, MME. EMMA NEVADA, "THE HEROINE OF SEVILLE". And Accompanying Artists Including LOUIS BLUMENBERG.

ORPHEUM. A Crack-a-Jack Holiday Bill—Week Commencing Matinee Today. American's Famous Comedy Stars. RYAN & RICHFIELD. Presenting "A Headless Man".

BOYD'S. Three Nights and Saturday Matinee Commencing DEC. 28 Thursday. Mr. Daniel Frohman Presents, with the Talented Romantic Actor—MR. HOWARD GOULD. The Great New York Lyceum Success—A STIRRING TALE OF OLD NEW YORK.

Colonial Girl. FIRST TIME HERE. Magnificent Costumes of the Period. Superb Scenic Environment. A Typical Lyceum Production.

MORAND'S... Christmas Matinee. CRESTHORN HALL. Dancing from 2:30 to 6 p. m. Admission—Ladies, 25c; Gentlemen, 50c. Dimick's Full Orchestra.

FRAIL WOMEN. Krug Cabinet Bottled Beer. In hermetically sealed—then bottled which insures it to be free from bacteria—quite essential to the health of the consumer.

MUSIC.

The Christmas bells, how they're ringing tonight. As they did in the nights gone by. And the choristers all are singing tonight. As they did in the nights gone by. As they did in the nights gone by.

There is somewhere a soldier asleep tonight. Just as he is in the nights gone by. But his sleep is heavy and deep tonight. As he is in the nights gone by. Praying that he might die.

There's many a soul that doth mourn tonight. Just as in the nights gone by. And the sailor's young heart is brave tonight. As he is in the nights gone by. (Though some have a watery grave tonight.)

There's many a wail in the street tonight. Just as in the nights gone by. And her poor heart would joyously beat tonight. As she is in the nights gone by. If some one would buy her a "treat" tonight.

God play the harp that is sore tonight. Just as in the nights gone by. Who are wishing that Christmas was o'er tonight. (But the Christmases soon go by).

Mr. Charles Higgins contributed one of the most enjoyable concerts of the season at the Young Men's Christian Association hall Wednesday evening. Immediately after the holidays the choir of the First Methodist church and the St. Mary's Avenue Congregational church will unite in the presentation of the beautiful work, "Galla," by Charles Gounod. It will be ready for the public judgment about February 5.

Mr. Clement Shaw has been selected as choirmaster of the Hanscom Park Methodist church. Miss Ellsworth will be the soprano. She is an accomplished violinist in addition to her vocal qualifications. Mr. Delmore Cheney sang in an authoritative manner and with due regard to tradition the ever popular solo of the "Elijah" (Mendelssohn). "It is Enough," for the offertorium at the First Methodist church last Sunday morning.

The choir boys of the Creighton university and the University Glee club (of 99) made their initial appearance at the prize distribution last Friday. They will sing at St. John's church tomorrow morning at the 10:30 service. A very pleasing old-fashioned smoking concert was given by the members of the Royal league at their rooms Tuesday night on Webster street. The members of good music in the society and they had good professional assistance.

Mr. Edith Rissler McKay is a Nebraska woman who is winning laurels as a singer in Buffalo, N. Y. Mr. McKay formerly resided in Lincoln where she was a great favorite on account of her sweet voice. She is the soprano in the Prospect Avenue Baptist church at the present time, which she is doing excellent work. The Musical Courier of New York recently gave her a very complimentary notice. Mrs. McKay is the wife of W. L. McKay, whose parents reside in this city.

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