

DRAMA BETTER THAN EVER

OTIS SKINNER HAS NO USE FOR CALAMITY HOWL.

FRENCH ARE LONG ON TECHNICAL

In Opinion of Celebrated Actor American Playwrights Can Learn Much From Them—Mr. Skinner Appears in "The Honor of the Family."

"When Adam and Eve sat in their tree in paradise," declared Otis Skinner in a St. Louis City interview, "and watched their primitive drama, doubtless a censorious critic was perched in an opposite tree box, croaking about the 'decay of the stage.'"

The defendant of modern drama, whose experience includes acting knowledge of the "old masters," arrived in St. Louis City from Omaha and was on the verge of luncheon when he was seen at the West hotel. In spite of this fact and its indication of hunger, the actor, who believes in the present and the future, had time to scoff at calamity howlers of all kinds. "This talk about the retrogression of the American stake is foolish," said Mr. Skinner. "You have only to read back and think of the plays which were in vogue and given by our great actors a decade ago to realize this fact. Why Fitch, Thomas and these men of whom censors of the press write so scathingly are putting out better stuff than was dreamed of in those days. The American drama is climbing up, not sliding down."

As Mr. Skinner has given his attention for several seasons to the production of French made plays, his declaration that it was a pleasure to play in a play of French workmanship because it is so well made was founded on experience.

"I hope the American writers are learning the lesson of technic from their French contemporaries, for they certainly have a lesson to learn," he said.

This actor who climbed up from the pinnacle of being a matinee hero to the higher artistry of serious work in real life a handsome, quiet, manly man. The gray in his closely clipped hair, which has a decided tendency to curl, adds to the distinction of his appearance. He speaks quietly and concisely, his words being those of a thinker, not one who talks at random.

Mr. Skinner spoke with pleasure of the season which he and Ada Rehan played Petruchio and Katherine in "The Taming of the Shrew," mentioning it as a season of "lots of fun." However, he disclaimed any serious intention of returning to Shakespearean plays in the near future.

"I intend to do it sometime," he said, "as we all intend to do the things we would like to do. I look forward to it as a pleasure of the future, a returning to an old stamping ground. It is that for me, you know, a stamping ground which holds memories of my work with Booth and Barrett and others."

The pause between the names, as well as the tone with which the names were given, told of the color of these memories.

The reminiscences of Mr. Skinner, when he takes time to write them, will be an interesting review of an important page in American stage history. His professional debut was made in Philadelphia thirty years ago this month. Later he played with the famous Walnut Street Theater Stock company, and with it played in support of all the visiting stars, many of whose names shed a brightness over the page of American stage history. He took important roles at Booth's theater, the Boston theater and with Lawrence Barrett and was a member of the famous Daly company which made the historic tour of European cities, playing London, Paris and Berlin. He was leading man with Mme. Modjeska from 1892 to 1895, and since then has been starring, the romantic drama having a large place in his program until his entrance into the French made play. Last year "The Duel," which pictures the struggle between the church and agnosticism, was his vehicle and aroused widespread interest and discussion.

Delighted with Walker Whiteside's work in "The Claim of Blood," and satisfied that this talented actor is about to come into his own, Mrs. D. W. Pollard and Miss Carol Pollard have returned from Minneapolis, where according to the St. Louis City Journal they saw Mr. Whiteside, who has been out only about a week so far this season.

Miss Pollard, who formerly was a member of Mr. Whiteside's company, says his present support is probably the best he has ever had. Miss Clara Blandick, who is known in St. Louis City as a capable actress, is his leading woman. Leslie Kenyon, an English player of note, also is one of the principal members of the company. Mr. Whiteside has the part of a struggling musician. As a matter of fact, "The Claim of Blood" is practically the same piece in which Mr. Whiteside appeared last year under the title of "The Magic Melody." It has been rewritten and made stronger.

Mr. Whiteside hopes to be able to go into New York this year, although his plans are not definitely worked out along this line. It is not likely he will play St. Louis City. He is now under the management of Liebler & Co., who have great faith in him.

MONDAY MENTION.

N. W. Clover left at noon for Columbia and Mrs. J. J. Clements were

up from Madison Sunday to attend the Nethaway funerals.

Attorney R. H. Dickson of O'Neill was in Norfolk Sunday.

Senator F. J. Hale of Atkinson has been in Norfolk on business.

R. G. Rohrer, the Meadow Grove banker, was in Norfolk on business.

Burt Mapes left Sunday night for O'Neill, where district court was convened Monday.

M. C. Hazen left at noon for Wayne, where Judge Welch is holding a short term of court.

Mrs. Gus Schroeder and Miss Ida Sues of Hoskins were shopping in Norfolk Saturday.

Frank Dudley of Fullerton, who came to Norfolk to attend the funeral of his sister-in-law, Mrs. Nethaway, returned to Fullerton Monday.

F. G. Coryell was in Madison Saturday.

Miss Bessie Williams has resigned her position at the Fair store.

Attorney H. F. Barnhart returned to Norfolk Saturday evening from Madison.

Mrs. Malone and Miss Malone of Enola spent Saturday afternoon in Norfolk.

E. D. Clark, accompanied by two sons who were on their way to St. Louis City, was a guest at the home of his brother, W. H. Clark, over Sunday.

Miss Watson was up from Madison to spend Sunday with her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Matrau.

It was announced Monday that the Bonesteel motor car, which has been off the line for repairs, would be returned to service Tuesday, making the Tuesday morning run north.

City Superintendent E. J. Bodwell returned Saturday evening from Kearney, where with other members of the state examining committee he inspected the Kearney normal school on Friday.

President J. M. Pile of Wayne college was in Norfolk over Saturday night, on his way back to Wayne from Madison, where he addressed a meeting of Madison county teachers held under the auspices of the county superintendent.

Among the day's out of town visitors in Norfolk were: Thomas Green, Hoskins; C. T. Norton, Wayne; William Huber, Madison; Henry Schwartz, Winnetoon; Henry Wellman, A. Goodwater, Madison; Mrs. Kloekentger, Miss Myrtle Raymond, Creighton; W. R. Smith, Monowi; Miss Ella Smith, Bazile Mills; J. S. DeForest, Miss Pearl Dewey, Creighton; W. R. Harper, Mrs. R. A. Harper, Wood River; E. G. Edens, Tilden.

The chess club met Friday evening at the home of A. Degner.

Miss Edith Barrett entertained the O. M. C. club Saturday evening.

The regular December meeting of the council is set for Tuesday evening.

Letters received from Denver state that Phil Hull, who went to Colorado for the benefit of his health, is in declining health.

The Minneapolis and Omaha road put a new time card into effect Sunday, the new card scheduling an earlier departure for the morning passenger to St. Louis City. Hereafter the St. Louis City train will leave the uptown depot at 6:10 a. m. instead of 6:40 a. m. It will leave the Junction at 6 a. m.

A double wedding with the contracting parties prominent in this section will take place on Wednesday morning at 11:30 o'clock when Mr. Paul Raasch and Miss Emma Eppler and Mr. Otto Eppler and Miss Dora Raasch will be married in the Emanuel Lutheran church at Hadar.

J. A. Lehman, who is in the last week of treatment at the Keeley institute in Omaha, is in good condition and has been getting along well, according to letters from that institution received in Norfolk. At the institute Lehman has been putting in his time making a big twine fish net. Lehman was the Madison county farmer who drew one of the choice homesteads in the Lower Brule land lottery and afterwards created excitement at Pierce by firing a few shots at William Zulauf, the Pierce horseman.

Death came Sunday evening at 10 o'clock to little Helene Suiter, the eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Suiter, living on Phillip avenue between Third and Fourth streets. The little girl has been seriously sick with pneumonia for some time. Helene Suiter was born in Norfolk and attended the Lincoln school. Although often kept from school on account of ill health she was said by her teachers to be an exceptionally bright little girl. She was eight years and nine months old. Another sad feature of the little girl's death is that the mother was operated on for appendicitis only a few weeks ago and has not recovered her strength. The funeral will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the M. E. church.

Commenting on the status of the deadlock over the appointment of a state accountant, the position for which Chris Schavland of Madison county is now being presented by north Nebraska republicans, the Lincoln Journal says: "The deadlock over the appointment of a state accountant appears to be no nearer an opening than it was several months ago. State Auditor Searle once suggested the name of Senator J. C. McKesson of Lincoln, but Governor Sheldon whose approval is required by the act creating the office has not given the required consent. Auditor Searle has several applications under the dust in his desk, but it is not likely that any will be brought out and the office which was created by the last legislature bids fair to remain vacant until a new auditor is elected or an agreement is made possible between the present auditor and governor."

When a man is always in a hurry it is an evidence that he lacks the capacity to dispose of his business in the ordinary way.

LEAVES RAILROAD WORK

LONG TIME NORTHWESTERN AGENT HERE RESIGNS.

H. C. MATRAU QUILTS DEPOT

After Serving in the Railroad Harness Since 1872, H. C. Matrau Will Give His Time Over Entirely to Private Business.

Preparing to sever a railroad connection of twenty-two years with the Northwestern company in Norfolk and to end a railroad career of thirty-six years of continuous service H. C. Matrau has placed with the officials of his company his resignation as local agent of the Northwestern, a position that he has capably filled for more than a score of years.

While the Norfolk station is still being operated under Mr. Matrau's name, his resignation has been accepted by the company with the understanding that he is to be formally relieved as soon as his successor as agent in Norfolk is named. Pending a permanent appointment Cashier H. A. Drebert has been acting as agent.

It is naturally with mixed feelings of relief and regret that Mr. Matrau is withdrawing from a line of work in which he has been continuously engaged for but little less than two score years. But having reached the age of sixty-three and besides feeling that the demands of his private business as a member of the firm of Matrau & Wille will make more and more demands upon his time and strength, Mr. Matrau decided definitely to resign his position and to make permanent the temporary leave of absence under which he has been absent from his office during the last three months.

With the possible exception of the banker's chair no position in a town's life brings a man in closer touch with the business affairs of a city and with

ton to Dallas, and from Casper to Lander. It is the record of Mr. Matrau's work that he has made friends for the Northwestern and helped materially in the building up of Norfolk. His regret at severing his long railroad connection is known to be shared by officials in the big corporation he has worked for. And that the relations between Mr. Matrau and the public, while he has served as agent, have been largely as pleasant as the relations between him and the company is shown conclusively by the offices to which Norfolk has elected him.

Side by side with his career as a Norfolk railroad man Mr. Matrau has had a career as a local public servant. In 1886 he was elected for a year to serve out a vacancy on the board of education. And at the next election he was re-elected as a member of the board when the old high school building was built. At the close of his term as a member of the board of education Mr. Matrau was elected a member of the city council, serving for two years.

In the early nineties Mr. Matrau was elected mayor and served two terms. During his administration the people of Norfolk under his lead found relief from the water problem that was vexing them by effecting a very advantageous purchase of the water plant after long and complicated negotiations and much opposition. And today the city's water plant, a paying investment to Norfolk and her people, is still a monument to Matrau's administration.

For twelve years past Mr. Matrau has been a member of the Norfolk board of education and for eight or nine years past has served as secretary. No man in Norfolk has been more closely identified with the city school system of Norfolk. As a member of the board Mr. Matrau's services to Norfolk have been invaluable.

A veteran of the civil war and a member of the Loyal Legion, Mr. Matrau also quits the railroad world with an undisputed right to call himself a veteran railroad man. In a railroad town of Norfolk's importance and in a city where the railroad element is as prominent as it is here it is no little thing to have served as agent for more than a score of years, to have won the respect and regard of the company, the good will of the public.

From a railroad man Mr. Matrau becomes a Norfolk business man, devoting his time principally to managing the affairs of the coal firm of Matrau & Wille, successors to the business built up by the late C. W. Braasch.

DOWNED

Servant Girls Settled as "Undesirables" in Debate at Woman's Club.

Servant girls were branded as "undesirable citizens," or something similar, at the meeting of the Fremont Woman's Club says the Fremont Herald.

It's all settled. The end of the tyrannical reign of that kitchen despot, familiarly known as "the hired girl" is here. Never again shall she hold her head high in Fremont, and kick the crockery out the back door, while she demands a raise in wages.

It was a debate at an open session of the club yesterday and the question was "Resolved, That the regular employment of Domestic Help is detrimental to the best interests of the Home."

Mrs. B. Cummings and Mrs. Dan V. Stephens were in the affirmative and Mrs. A. J. Eddy and Mrs. Conrad Hollenbeck championed the cause of the domestics.

Mr. Livingstone, Mrs. Wintersteen and Mrs. Coman were judges of the debate and awarded the honors to the affirmative side. Some very excellent arguments were made by the ladies in both the affirmative and negative sides.

Mrs. Cummings felt that if love prompted the work of the wife, the household duties were transformed from drudgery into pleasure and Mrs. Stephens made some very good points.

Mrs. Eddy pointed out that, without a maid, the mother was overworked and without time for her children and bounden wifely duties. Mrs. Hollenbeck explained that a modern woman should be only the superintendent of the household and not the drudge. The debate was most enjoyable to those present and the attendance was large.

List Always Padded.

Sloux City, Iowa, Dec. 7.—Coach Arthur H. Whittemore of the South Dakota university football team, in an interview here, denounced the casual statistics of the game as untrustworthy and padded. "These yarns about a lot of deaths from football, regularly published in the newspapers, make me tired," he said. "They are based on unreliable information, and, besides, are colored so as to increase whatever popular prejudice there is against the game. This year they claim eleven deaths, besides many minor accidents."

SENATOR ALLEN'S ESCAPE

MADISON IS STIRRED UP OVER WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

NETHAWAY HATED ATTORNEY

For No Other Reason Than That He Was Representing Mrs. Nethaway in the Case for Divorce—Tragedy Might Have Been Worse.

Madison, Neb., Dec. 9.—From a staff correspondent: Madison much more clearly than Norfolk realizes the narrow margin that kept the Nethaway tragedy in Norfolk and limited its victims to Mr. and Mrs. Nethaway. In Madison details of the Nethaway affair were as much sought after as in Norfolk and copies of The News were at a premium.

Up to a few minutes before the tragedy Thursday afternoon even Nethaway himself, although determined on murder and suicide, had not determined just where the scene should be laid. A few minutes before he had stepped onto the Madison train he stopped at the Krantz livery barn and inquired the price of a livery team to Madison. "I'll let you know if I need the team," he said as he turned towards the depot. At the station Nethaway found his wife and the chance to carry out his plans.

In Madison the Nethaway divorce case was to have been heard on the evening of the tragedy—and not in the district court room but in Senator Allen's office. That would have been the scene of the Nethaway shooting if Nethaway had not found his wife in Norfolk. With Nethaway's unreasoning animosity against Senator Allen in the latter's capacity as attorney for the wife in the divorce case it is not at all improbable that Senator Allen would have been one of the first to have been shot in the mad affray that would have occurred in his office.

With only Judge Welch, the plaintiff, Mrs. Nethaway, and a few attorneys present, Nethaway would have sat through the proceedings and awaited an opportune moment.

Mrs. Nethaway never asked for more than \$500 alimony, Senator Allen advised. As her attorney he had advised her to drop the fight for alimony altogether, accept the divorce which Nethaway had agreed not to contest and to return to the position which she had formerly held in the hospital at Hastings. Informed again of Nethaway's threats Senator Allen advised the wife to remain in Madison over Wednesday night for the Thursday evening trial. But she disregarded the senator's advice and possibly thus unconsciously saved Senator Allen's life.

Monday and Wednesday Nethaway set in the district court room with a loaded revolver waiting for his case to be called for trial. With Nethaway's nerve as a murderer and his known skill as a marksman Madison people do not like to think of what might have happened in their court room.

Sensor Allen has begun to receive letters from away congratulating him on escaping being one of the victims of the Nethaway tragedy.

The fateful Nethaway divorce case is still on the court docket. It will be formally dismissed at the next term of court.

A pretty romance was registered in Madison last week when Miss Hallie M. Plass, a Madison county school teacher, was married to Louis H. Shull, an engineer running between Clinton and Boone, Iowa. Visiting with her mother at the scenes of the mother's younger days in Iowa Miss Plass first met Mr. Shull, listed among the mother's friends of the old-time days. Mr. Shull pressed his courtship for the daughter's hand. Last week the wedding took place at the Plass home in Madison and the bride and groom are now living in Boone. Among the other weddings which have taken place in the county within the fortnight are the marriages of Ralph L. Cain and Miss Ida J. Hannah at Tilden and of Oliver L. Miller and Miss Laura M. Stocker at Battle Creek.

A public mass meeting in the interest of a new public library is held in Madison this evening.

Highly successful were the Madison county teachers' meetings held by County Superintendent F. S. Perdue in Madison Friday and Saturday with no less distinguished Nebraska educators than President Pile of Wayne college and State Superintendent McBrien of Lincoln on the program. Similar meetings will be held at Norfolk in a few months.

The G. A. R. hall was crowded Friday evening at the public lecture given by the state superintendent. Speaking on "Our Young People and What to Do With Them," Mr. McBrien took up the contention of the Ladies Home Journal that American pupils were "worked to death." Parties and late hours and not school work, Mr. McBrien said were the real causes of nervous breakdown on the part of school children.

Saturday afternoon Superintendent McBrien discussed with the teachers the use of literature in the schools. President Pile, following Mr. McBrien, spoke on "Experimental Life" and in the course of a pleasing address advocated rearranging the course of study in the schools so as to accomplish more for the life of the people, declared that normal schools should be leaders rather than followers in arranging standards for educational work and thought that the school ought to be made more of a center of interest for each community.

Last Thursday the Modern Woodmen of Madison held their annual supper, placing 350 plates in the lodge rooms where the supper was served. The latter part of the evening was spent in the Madison opera house, where dancing was preceded by a program. Addresses were made by Rev. Mr. McClenagahn of the Presbyterian church and W. C. James of Norfolk, district state deputy. The Madison band was on the program.

D. D. Lynch, who has been in the office of his father-in-law, Senator W. V. Allen, has gone to Afton, Wyo., to take charge of a bank in a town of about 500 people, fifty miles from a railroad and the only town in a prosperous valley. Another son-in-law of Senator Allen, William L. Dowling, who has been superintendent of the school at Clay Center, has taken Mr. Lynch's place in the law office and will study law under the former senator.

ATHLETIC CLUB REVIVED

JACK O'LEARY AGAIN AGITATING THE PROJECT.

SEEMS LIKELY TO SUCCEED

O'Leary Would Establish Headquarters and Teach Athletic Stunts During the Winter—Would Help Y. M. C. A. Enterprise.

The project for the organization in Norfolk of an athletic club or physical training class, which was dropped when Joe Carroll failed to show up for his wrestling date with Oscar Wason and Jack O'Leary, has been revived by O'Leary and now seems likely to meet with success.

ASK US TO PRINT IT

HOW TO PREPARE A MIXTURE TO CURE RHEUMATISM.

RELIEF FROM FIRST FEW DOSES

This Town Has Its Share of Dread Disease, Which is Said to Yield to Simple Home Recipe—Take Teaspoonful After Each Meal.

To relieve the worst forms of rheumatism, take a teaspoonful of the following mixture after each meal and at bedtime:

Fluid extract dandelion, one-half ounce; compound kargon, one ounce; compound syrup sarsaparilla, three ounces.

These harmless ingredients can be obtained from our home druggists, and are easily mixed by shaking them well in a bottle. Relief is generally felt from the first few doses.

This prescription, states a well-known authority in a Cleveland morning paper, forces the clogged-up, inactive kidneys to filter and strain from the blood the poisonous waste matter and uric acid, which causes rheumatism.

As rheumatism is not only the most painful and torturous disease, but dangerous to life, this simple recipe will no doubt be greatly valued by many sufferers here at home, who should at once prepare the mixture to get this relief.

It is said that a person who would take this prescription regularly, a dose or two daily, or even a few times a week, would never have serious kidney or urinary disorders or rheumatism.

Cut this out and preserve it. Good rheumatism prescriptions which really relieve are scarce, indeed, and when you need it, you want it badly. Our druggists here say they will either supply these ingredients or make the mixture ready to take, if any of our readers so prefer.

their subscribers, this section of Nebraska being given the forecasts from the Norfolk office of the company.

North Nebraska people anxious for the "weather prediction" to get some inkling of what the day holds for them will communicate indirectly with the Norfolk office of the Nebraska company, provided they live within the Norfolk district, the new service from Norfolk being sent as far west as Stuart, as far north as Niobrara, as far south as Humphrey and Albia and as far east as Beemer.

Early each morning the day's weather forecast from the government bureau will be telegraphed to Norfolk from Omaha over the Nebraska company's private telegraph wires. It is over these private wires that all of the big company's private business is transacted by telegraph so as not to interfere with the use of the telephone toll wires by the public.

Once the forecast is in Norfolk it will be posted over each toll board and in front of the local operators. Then subscribers can ask for the "weather" just as in times past they have asked for the "time" and for train reports.

People outside of Norfolk desiring weather information can call up their local exchange, where the operator will at once obtain weather information from the Norfolk office.

A central weather supply station is also established at the Wayne office. The innovation introduced this week does not represent the Nebraska company's only connection with the weather service. Each morning at 7 p. m. local weather conditions in Norfolk and other district centers are wired in to the head office, where the information is compiled and furnished Director Loveland, the Lincoln "weather man," to assist him by supplementing his own reports from local agents.

WON'T RUN AGAIN.

President Assures Senators He Won't Make Another Race.

Washington, Dec. 7.—As a direct result of the conference at the white house between President Roosevelt and Senators Aldrich and Crane, peace has been declared between the administration and the senate, it is said.

The direct subject of the conference was currency, but the talk between the two senators and the president finally took a political direction, and there was an intimate exchange of confidences, with somewhat remarkable results in a political way.

Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island and Senator Crane of Massachusetts are the two strongest republicans in the senate from the eastern states. Like most of the other senators that have been under the impression either that the president was conniving at his own nomination, or at least that he was weakening in his determination to decline the honor.

The conference convinced them that he would not be a candidate and, although there was no direct quotation of the president and it was not intimated that he had reiterated his famous declaration made on election night in 1904, the word was passed around the senate that Aldrich and Crane had sounded the president successfully, and were convinced that he would not run under any circumstances.

INSTALL NEW WEATHER SERVICE

Nebraska Telephone Company Will Furnish Bulletins.

Beginning with the present week forecasts of weather conditions are to be furnished by the Nebraska telephone company as a new service to

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