

## Events and Persons

In Which You Will Be More or Less Interested.  
News for This Department Must Be Received by Wednesday Night.

### RICHARD B. HARRISON'S RECITALS.

A large and appreciative audience greeted Mr. Richard B. Harrison, the talented dramatic reader of Chicago, at his recitals in St. John's African Methodist Episcopal church Tuesday and Thursday nights. This was Mr. Harrison's first appearance in Omaha. His reputation as one of the foremost readers in America, irrespective of race, had preceded him. The expectations of his audience were therefore high. Not only did he meet, but surpassed, the highest expectations. He captivated his audience and held them by the masterful interpretation of each selection from the first to the last number. Mr. Harrison is an artist of the first rank. He is a man of splendid physique, with a voice deep and vibrant and under absolute control. Add to this, wide reading, a richly cultured mind, a charming personality, sweetened and chastened by sorrow, and hard, conscientious, painstaking work, and you have the secret of Mr. Harrison's success in his chosen calling. In his case, as in that of others who have achieved success, the truth of the poet has been verified that

"The heights by great men reached  
and kept

Were not attained by sudden flight;  
But they, while their companions  
slept,

Were toiling upward in the night."

For those who are easily satisfied with mediocrity, it may be well to state that Mr. Harrison spent twenty years in learning to recite "The Raven," that weird psychological study by Edgar Allen Poe, in the manner in which he now recites it, holding his audiences spellbound. He puts the same painstaking work, in corresponding degree, upon the simplest selections in his extensive repertoire.

Mr. Harrison's program opened Tuesday night with the humorous selection, "Sam McGee," by Service. As an unconscious tribute to Mr. Harrison's power of interpretation, it may be well to state that one of the audience stated that so vivid did the reader depict the ice and snow of the Klondike that, despite the heat of the room, he felt chilly. The next number was "The Young Man Waited," by Cook. The audience was convulsed with laughter. "Little Brown Baby With Sparkling Eyes," "In the Morning" and "When Malindy Sings" were the selections from Dunbar and their interpretation and rendition were faultless.

"Knights and Ladies," by Dungee, was a selection in Negro dialect, describing a lodge meeting, making arrangements for a funeral. It is inimitable. It was in striking contrast to the next number, with which the first part of the program closed, "The Raven," by Edgar Allen Poe. In this number Mr. Harrison reaches the acme of dramatic art. His facial expression and entire appearance under-cornet solo by Mr. Robinette and the identity is completely lost in that of a gifted sot, who, in delirium tremens, sees the raven and mourns the lost Lenore. It is a marvelous rendition of one of the masterpieces of literature. The second part of the program consisted of six scenes from "Damon and Pythias," by Banim. The interpretation of each character was in

keeping with all of Mr. Harrison's other work.

The piano solo by Mrs. McCoy, the cornet solo by Mr. Robinette and the baritone solo by Mr. Rufus W. Long were also features of the evening's entertainment.

Thursday night's program consisted of the following selections: "Brud-der Moses, Put der Ro'usements On," by Dungee; "Case of Caline," "How Lucy Backslid" and "De Party," by Dunbar; "The Englishman's Lament," by Cook; "The Wreck of the Julia Plante," by Drummond, and Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar."

The musical numbers, all of which were well received and heartily en-cored, were given by Mrs. Stella McCoy, Mr. Roscoe Miller, Miss Darline Duvall, Mr. John A. Singleton, Mr. Rufus Long and Mrs. James G. Jewel.

Mr. Harrison is assured of a welcome whenever he may return to Omaha.

The summer cooking school opened at St. Philip's Guild room Thursday afternoon with an enrollment of eleven, under the direction of Mrs. J. W. Wallace. The school is held every Thursday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. It is open to all who desire to attend.

A musical and literary festival will be given by Mt. Moriah Baptist church at Tabernacle park, 24th and Patrick avenue, July 12th to 16th. A band concert and other features each night. Supper and refreshments served. The patronage of the public is earnestly invited.

D. G. Russell returned last week from a visit with his relatives, who are prosperous farmers near Enid, Okla.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther J. Dillard entertained for the Williams Jubilee Concert Company at their attractive home, 501 South Twenty-fourth avenue, Wednesday afternoon, June 30.

Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Britt were pleasantly surprised by a party of their friends to the number of about thirty on Wednesday evening, June 30th, the fifth anniversary of their wedding. A beautiful oak pedestal was the appreciated gift of the visitors.

Frances Gordon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Gordon, 3916 North Twenty-first street, was painfully burned with fireworks Monday, July 5th.

Mrs. J. D. Winfield left Sunday morning for St. Joseph, Mo., where she will visit her sister, Mrs. S. Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Black, 2923 North Twenty-fifth street, were given a pleasant surprise on the evening of June 23rd by the unannounced visit of twenty friends, who came to tender them their congratulations on the fifth anniversary of their marriage, and to leave as evidence of their visit and good will a handsome dresser scarf.

The Rev. W. T. Osborne, pastor of St. John's African Methodist Episcopal church, returned Tuesday morning from St. Louis, Mo., where he went to attend the services and exercises incident to the celebration of the

seventy-fifth anniversary of the introduction of African Methodism west of the Mississippi river. The celebration was held in St. Paul's African Methodist Episcopal church, of which the Rev. W. Sampson Brooks is pastor. This is the mother church of the connection in this section. The congregation was organized by the Rev. William Paul Quinn just seventy-five years ago. The Rev. Mr. Osborne preached in St. Paul's Sunday morning.

Thomas Bass of Mexico, Mo., spent Sunday in the city visiting friends.

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Mrs. Jasper E. Brown of North Forty-fifth street, with her daughter Gladys, left Saturday night for Atchison, Kan. for a two weeks' visit with her father, Mr. J. C. Willis.

Mrs. Mary J. Goodchild, formerly of Omaha, but now of Chicago, arrived in our city Wednesday morning for a two weeks' visit. While here she is looking after repairs and improvements on her Clark street property.

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Mr. and Mrs. Alphonso Wilson, of 521 North Thirty-third street, gave a delightful reception for Mr. Richard B. Harrison Monday night from 8:30 to 10:30.

During his Omaha engagements, Mr. Richard B. Harrison has been the guest of his boyhood friend, the Rev. John Albert Williams, at St. Philip's rectory.

The barbecue and picnic given by Zion Baptist church at Miller Park Monday, July 5th, was a great success. It is estimated that the total attendance was quite close to nine hundred people.

Mrs. Edna January of Sioux City, Ia., who was called to Ottumwa by the illness of her mother, Mrs. Ellen Martin, stopped over in Omaha on Saturday for a week's visit with her cousin, John Bell, 1310 Howard street.

Master Howard H. Allen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee C. Allen, of 1410 North Twenty-sixth street, left Wednesday night for St. Mary's, Kan., where he will spend his vacation with his grandparents, who have a good farm near that place.

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