

CAPITAL CITY COURIER

A POPULAR PAPER OF MODERN TIMES

VOL 7 NO 5

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1892

PRICE FIVE CENTS



The year 1891 is fast. Many thousand new books were issued from the press. Recall all you can think of, and how many are there that will be known ten years hence? It is doubtful if you can recall one such. Isn't it almost enough to excite those who seldom read books? It is really a comforting reflection to me. I try to read the works which best suit my taste and purposes, but every once in a while some one is asking me about a book for which I care nothing. When the inquirer looks at me as though expecting an apology, I sometimes have a twinge of conscience, or is it merely vanity? Perhaps the confession of ignorance on my part is a lamentable admission. It was Emerson, wasn't it, who adopted the rule of never reading a book until it was a year old? A great many books reach the stage of oblivion in the first year of their careers, and Emerson's plan saved him from reading a vast amount of trash. So, in looking back over 1891, there are so few of the new books that appear to be very important that I am consoled for the little reading I do. As I said before, it is a comforting reflection and I imagine I have a great deal of very good company in the matter.

Speaking of the memorable books of the year, one of the magazines had a symposium of opinions as to the best book of 1891. The contributors were Gail Hamilton, Sir Edwin Arnold, Dr. Hammond, Amelia Barr, Agnes Repplier, "Julien Gordon" and Rev. Dr. Briggs. Their tastes ranged from Zola's "Money" to Herbert Spencer's "Justice," but no two of them agreed on the same book as being the best. Here are seven people, of presumably good literary judgment, and yet their opinions on the best book of the year are almost as far apart as black and white. Is it to be wondered at, then, that plain people without any pretensions to authority in intellectual matters of this sort should differ in their taste for books? There is a class of literary snobs in almost every town who affect a pitying condescension for persons who have not read books which they esteem fine. If you, dear reader, have been snubbed by any of this class, take comfort from the fact that Sir Edwin and the others of the symposium.

Sir Edwin Arnold, the author of "The Light of Asia," and "The Light of the World" is reading and lecturing in America—though he gave Lincoln the go-by—and he has had more or less to tell us about Japan. He covered the same things in a series of letters under the title of "Japandica," and according to his statements the Japs are a marvelous people, something little less than angels. A well informed Jap some time ago was talking about Sir Edwin's remarkable statements, and it appears that he is about as unreliable as the average traveler. Max O'Rell, the brilliant Frenchman, spent several weeks in America and then wrote a book about us. It was good naturedly witty, but we recognize many ridiculous statements in it. So the Englishman wrote of Japan with a poet's fancy, but this matter of fact Jap knocks a great deal of the beauty out of his picture. For instance, Arnold says there are no words of abuse in the Japanese language. There may not be such words in the dictionary, says the Jap, but there are plenty of them in common use. Sir Edwin says that from the moment of their birth the Japanese children seldom cry, are never scolded and are hardly ever naughty. The Jap thinks the children are milder and better behaved than those of America but there are plenty of them who commit mischief and their parents take them out into what corresponds to our wood shed and give them a thrashing. In describing the jirikishi men, those fellows who drag travelers about in two wheeled carts, Sir Edwin says they will tramp twenty-five miles, then take a biscuit and a sip of tea and be ready for another journey. The Jap says the jirikishi men eat from three to six times a day, according to their opportunities, and they devour vast quantities of food. These are merely illustrations of how unreliable a traveler may be, even when so distinguished a man as a leading poet of England.

A Fremont business house has set an example that is worthy of imitation. This firm had been in the habit of sending Christmas gifts to its customers, but this year it diverted that holiday fund to the relief of the starving people of Russia. The firm has notified Governor Thayer that it will contribute a car of corn for the famine sufferers, and it is not likely that any of its customers will regret the action. More than likely they will heartily endorse it. This is a practical charity that counts, and it makes little difference from what source it comes. The government has taken cognizance of the movement to send aid to Russia, and has set aside a naval vessel to transport grain and flour across the Atlantic. This is the least it could do in payment for the moral support the Czar gave us during the Rebellion.

Rather odd, isn't it, that they should have snow blockades of four days' duration on railroads in New Mexico and Arizona, a section we almost regard as in the torrid zone, while up here in Nebraska we have had but a flurry or two of snow? Have you noticed that for years past winter in this section has not begun until Christmas or New Year's? For two or three seasons, if you will recall the incident, you may remember that members of the Lincoln lawn tennis club prided themselves on having played without long interruptions right up to Christmas. Talking with an old timer the other day, I was told that Nebraska had not always had such mild winters. He went back to tell about the winter of '71 and all that sort of thing, and then he advanced the curious theory that the climate of this country was being changed by the network of railroads and the extensive use of electricity. Foster, the

weather prophet, you know, believes that storms are the result of electrical disturbances. This old timer thinks that the widespread distribution of electricity equalizes its forces and thus has a tendency to prevent extreme atmospheric disturbances.

And now a railroad man who has been associated with the big managers tells me that the Chicago railroads have been figuring on the world's fair passenger business and have reached the conclusion that it will actually cause them a loss. At first thought this may seem improbable, but look at the argument. The round trip rate to Chicago during the fair will probably be one half of the regular fare; perhaps even less. The hundreds of thousands of people who would travel to and from Chicago in the course of ordinary events without a fair will take advantage of the excursion rates, and their return tickets, if not used by themselves, will go through the scalpers to other travelers. There will be a loss of millions of dollars. Then it is figured that the railroads will have to buy new cars, increase their train service and enlarge their terminal facilities. All these things cost money, and plans already made for changes at one Chicago depot will entail an expenditure of \$300,000. The question is, "will the profits of the increased business make good the losses and the extra expense?" The railroads, or some of them, think not except indirectly. They believe it will result in a largely increased east and west travel after the fair at regular rates, which will enable them to recoup themselves. At least that is the way this railroad man reports the situation.

A beautiful New Year's menu just at hand from the Hotel Watson at Nebraska City conveys the intelligence that Ira P. Higby, a popular hotel man of the Capital City in days gone by, is now mine host of that most excellent hostelry. Mr. Higby is thoroughly capable of conducting a hotel in first class style and I am pleased to hear of his success.

What a wonderful people those little Japs are! When the people in western Nebraska are suffering for want of food and clothing it took weeks to get \$300,000 appropriated for their relief. What would Japan have done in such a case? We can only judge by her actions. A recent earthquake in that country was followed by floods, resulting in great distress to many inhabitants. The government immediately granted \$3,000,000 for their relief, and when the national congress got to filibustering over an additional appropriation the emperor prorogued it, and sent it home. Then he set aside another \$4,000,000 to relieve his people and repair damages. There was no nonsense about that.

A new president was inaugurated down in Chili a week ago last Saturday, and the fiery South Americans are finding fault because minister Patrick Egan did not attend the affair. I don't know the reason of his absence, but I don't blame him. He has been vilified and insulted by the Chilians, spies have been set on his house and his servants have been arrested. What wonder that he should not go out of his way to show deference to men who would permit such outrages! It has been shown that Mr. Egan has been grossly misrepresented by the correspondent of the London Times, who has personal interests to serve, but as the COURIER long ago maintained, the fact is that Mr. Egan has acted strictly within his instructions from Washington, and his course has been such as Americans can heartily commend.

Speaking of Chili suggests the possibility of war and invites attention to the newspaper and magazine articles describing the

The Columbian Exposition.
Our illustrations today are of the Woman's Building and a birds-eye view of the building and grounds as they will appear when completed and ready for the opening in 1893. The Woman's Building is one of the most imposing and important of the group. Among a great number submitted in competition, the sketch by Miss Sophia G. Hayden was awarded the first prize of a thousand dollars, and also the execution of the design. The terrace is designed in artistic flower beds and the principal facade has an extreme length of 400 feet, the depth of the building being half this distance. The rotunda is surrounded by a two-story open arcade, as delicate and chaste in design as the exterior, the whole having a thoroughly Italian courtyard effect admitting abundance of light to all rooms. On the first floor are located, on the left hand, a model hospital; on the right, a model kindergarten, each occupying 80 x 60 feet. The whole floor of the south pavilion



The tug of war contest which was to have taken place at the New Lansing Monday evening did not occur as advertised, owing to the fact that three or four of the teams did not put in an appearance. No more contests will be seen for the present at least, as the project has been practically abandoned.

The faculty with which Lincoln theatre goesers are endowed, of remembering names and faces of favorites, was clearly shown at the New Lansing Wednesday evening; by the

who has many friends in Lincoln, furnished a large share of the life of the opera as "Charles Favart". His work was much applauded. Miss Cora Reed as "Suzanne" was a trifle commonplace. Mr. William Blaisdell was an excellent "Markos". The company numbered forty-five and was generally efficient; the costumes were pretty. It is possible that a more familiar opera would have called out a larger audience.

An audience numbering perhaps two hundred, certainly not more, greeted Barlow Brothers' minstrels at the Funks Thursday evening. As Jim Barlow remarked in the first part—after incidentally informing the interlocutor that he was born in Lincoln, which is nothing more or less than a minstrel "gag"—"home talent don't seem to draw very well." There were some really good features in the entertainment, notably

made a most decided success everywhere during the past three seasons, the initial hit having been achieved at the well known Madison Square theatre in New York where its merits won instant recognition. The author has succeeded with this material in weaving a most effective and interesting play, and in lighting up all the emotions that go to portray actual being, and blending a comedy element showing the trials of youth introduced through the medium of the younger members of the family and also by the servants of opposite sexes. The sale of seats opens Thursday morning.

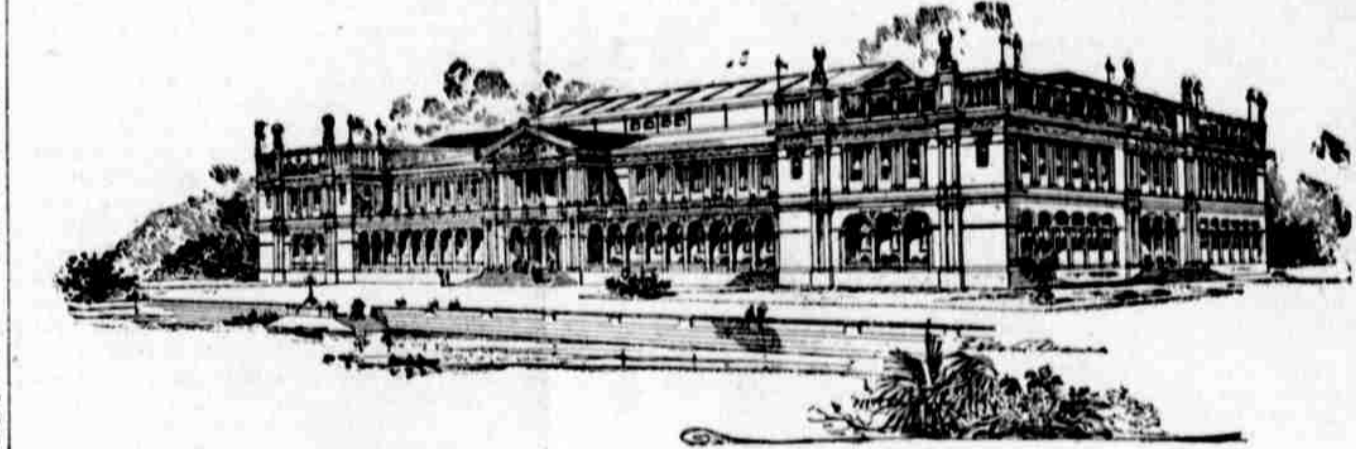
"THE PRINCE AND THE PAUPER."
Daniel Frohman's great production of Mark Twain's fascinating story, "The Prince and the Pauper," as dramatized by Abby Sage Richardson, will be presented at the Lansing Theatre, this afternoon and evening. The mere announcement will be sufficient to fill the handsome play house with a cultured audience. No one who has read Twain's delightful romances will fail to see it interpreted. It is in four acts and six scenes, with all the costumes, etc., that go to make it appropriate to the sixteenth century, in which the story is laid. Additional interest hinges on the fact that little Elsie Leslie, the greatest of all child actresses, will assume the characters of both Prince and Pauper. The dramatic editor of the New York Herald, usually so conservative, in speaking of it is moved to



remark: "The sweetest, rarest and prettiest of all the plays since 'Little Lord Fauntleroy.' Mark Twain was right when he said the performance of this play was the realization of a fifteen years' dream." Reserved seats at the box office.

In order to accommodate the many who could not attend the evening performance, a matinee production of "The Prince and the Pauper" has been arranged for this afternoon at the New Lansing in addition to the regular presentation tonight. This will afford an opportunity to many who otherwise could not witness the play. "The Prince and the Pauper" as given this afternoon and evening will be interpreted by Daniel Frohman's company of star artists and there can be no doubt that they will be greeted by an audience great in numbers.

THE LANSING'S "TURKISH BATH."
Many of our theatre goers are still laughing over the humor that was produced early in the present season by "The Turkish Bath Company". After leaving here the piece was taken west and has since been playing a succession of successful engagements throughout the coast region. The company is now enroute east and will play a one night booking at the New Lansing Monday evening, January 18th. Marie Heath, the petite soubrette, and the former cast as originally seen here will be presented.



WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION—THE WOMAN'S BUILDING.

is devoted to the retrospective exhibit, the one on the north to reform work and charity organization. The curtain opposite the main front contains the Library, Bureau of Information, records, etc. In the second story are ladies' parlors, committee-rooms and dressing rooms, all leading to the open balcony in front. The whole second floor of the north pavilion incloses the great assembly room and club room. The first of these is provided with an elevated stage for the accommodation of speakers. The south pavilion contains the model kitchen, refreshment rooms, reception rooms, etc. The building is encased with "staff," the same material used on the rest of the buildings, and as it stands with its mellow, decorated walls bathed in the bright sunshine, the women of the land are justly proud of the result.

In these days of brag and bluster, misrepresentation and deceit, it is a pleasure to turn from their importunities and temptations to the solid facts set forth by Louis Meyer & Co., the well known and popular dealers in groceries and dry goods, and one of the oldest established firms in Lincoln. Through all the vicissitudes of Lincoln's history, through good times and bad, through adversity and prosperity, this enterprising concern has steadily progressed both in the volume of business transacted and the good will of the public retained. This has not been accomplished without considerable outlay of mind and muscle, however. It required sterling principles, as immovable as the rock of ages, on which to build such success—it could not well be done on a bed of quick sand. The same ideas and methods—one price for the best goods—are still practiced as religiously as for many years past, and that other fund-

amental principle—satisfaction guaranteed—or money refunded—is a favorite motto there.

Ladies hair dressing, Miss Johnston, 1114 O street.

Geo. A. Raymer, coal and wood. Phone 390, 1134 O street.

Ladies kid gloves cleaned or colored at Lincoln Steam Dye works, 1106 O street.

One hundred finest engraved calling cards and plate only \$2.50 at Wessel Printing Co., 1136 N street.

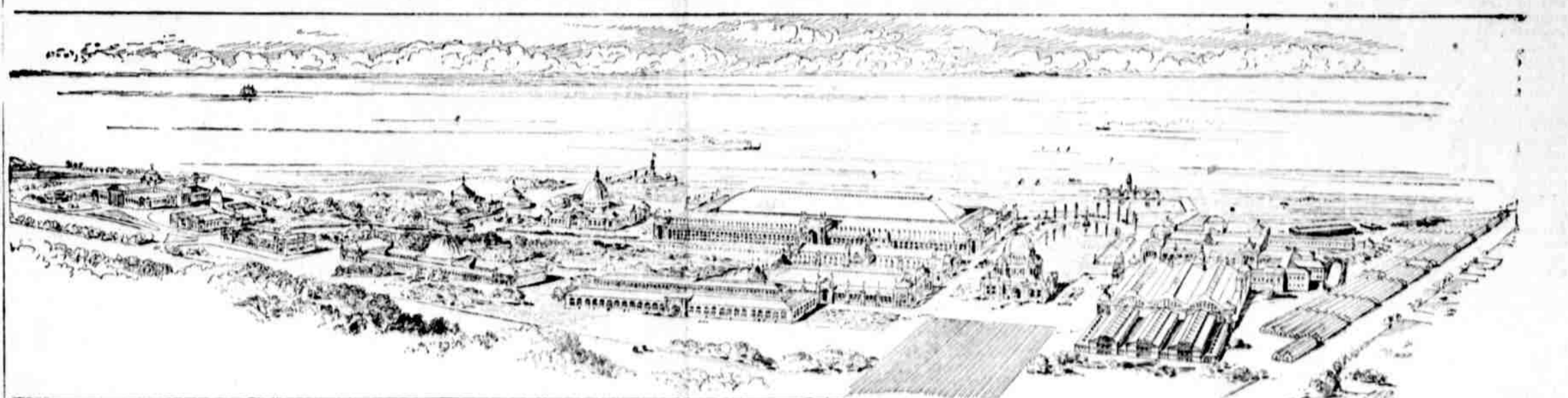
The only place to get the "Time lock register bank" at the great 10 cent store, 118 south 13th street.

Archie Royer in his "Happy Kid" specialty and "Ferry, the frog man," and some of the songs were exquisitely rendered. The Harlows seem to be playing in hard luck, as it is generally understood their business has been very unsatisfactory for some time back. Perhaps the secret of this might be found in the fact that they are "not in it" with the larger aggregations. Their house here was certainly a frost.

Herrmann gave one of his wonderful exhibitions at the Lansing Thursday evening, repeating the entertainment the following night. It has been some years since the noted magician has been seen in this city, and he has many new wonders. Perhaps his greatest feat is the Strobeika, which for a year or two has baffled everybody. It is utterly incomprehensible. Madame Herrmann rendered valuable assistance, notably in the representation of Black Art, which by the way, was unusually effective. In the various sleight of hand performances, and illusions, the professor showed the same skill as of yore, and introduced many new things. There was a large attendance, and although many people were called upon the stage, no one succeeded in penetrating the veil of mystery which surrounded the magician. Herrmann, after Keller, is undoubtedly the greatest exponent of the mystic at present before the public.

LILLY CLAY'S FAMOUS AGGREGATION.
This well known variety company appears at the New Lansing Wednesday evening. Manager Church does not, in making this announcement, claim for the attraction that it is a refined dramatic entertainment, but that it is a first class variety and burlesque company that rather caters to the mass

Pauline Hall, in the title of Offenbach's



WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION—BIRD'S-EYE VIEW—LOOKING EAST.

comic opera, "Madame Favart," appeared at the Funks Wednesday evening, supported by a large and competent company. It was the finest operatic performance since the rendition of "Ermine" and "Nadja" by the Aronson Opera company two years ago, and yet the house was only two thirds full. "Madame Favart" is somewhat ephemeral in its construction but is built upon attractive lines and admits of much taste in the stage presentation. It was very acceptable rendered and gave very general satisfaction. Miss Hall is pretty and her singing has a sweetness that is peculiarly her own. One can readily understand the secret of her hold upon metropolitan audiences. Mr. John Brand, "Hector" has one of the best voices in the company and the pedler's duet with Brand and Miss Hall in the third act was exquisitely sung. George Boniface Jr.,

than to the classes. The company it said to be up to the super-standard which manager Sam T. Jack has always preserved and to contain some new and attractive faces. It has always been the strongest attraction of its kind, and will doubtless draw the spectators of burlesque with its accustomed success.

THE BURGlar AT LANSING'S.
Several years ago amusement lovers of the drama witnessed a clever sketch called "Editha's Burglar" rendered by the Dickson Sketch club, a strong but small company out of Boston. The piece took so well that it was deemed good material for better productions and its author, Gus Thomas, reconstructed it and from it was born the great play of "The Burglar," which appears at the Lansing Saturday evening. It has

The recent mental collapse of W. J. Scanlan has left an undeniable breach in the line of legitimate Irish comedians, and the thought uppermost in the minds of leading theatrical people is "who is going to take Scanlan's place?" It is plainly apparent that "Mavourneen," in which the demoted actor starred, is too valuable a time to be booked ahead. A number of names have been mentioned, among them, Carroll Johnson, the star of "The Gossoon," Jack Mason, Sam Ryan and Joseph Sparks. Mason seems to lead in the choice. He is a clever singer, a good actor, has a delightful stage presence and would be more likely to fill the place than any one else; but whether manager's would accept him as a substitute for Scanlan or not is another question which requires an answer.

[Additional Dramatic on 5th page.]