

CAPITAL CITY COURIER

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TOWN TALK

The project of straightening Salt creek might receive new impetus from the recent overflow were property owners in the inundated districts profitably judicious. But the proposition would have to take an entirely different form from the one recently rejected. For instance, the sum in the last estimate designed to cover the cost of constructing new bridges for the ones rendered unnecessary by the proposed change in the channel might be left out of the new estimate, as the railroads would doubtless agree, if properly approached, to replace their bridges themselves in return for benefits derived. It would cost about \$40,000 to replace bridges. The railroads lost probably half that sum in damages by the recent flood. Then again property owners on the bottoms might well afford to secure and proffer to the project the necessary right of way, to procure which the sum of \$20,000 was inserted in the former estimate. Just how that could be done is a problem unsolved, but that it would be required was evinced by discussions in the recent campaign. Again the old proposition contemplated a 300 foot right of way, much more than necessary, as the proposed ditch did not average half that width. Property owners in those localities subject to overflow cannot but realize that an assurance of immunity in that respect would multiply present values, and if they would secure that assurance must be willing to share in the cost of it more heavily than the owner of property which is not threatened. Meantime the commissioners of the sanitary district have the lawful authority to levy a five mill annual tax on all property in the district for better sewerage. Will they do it?

While Congressman Bryan is contending for an appropriation with which to make the Platte navigable, he may well remember one other important avenue of expense which such a consummation would entail. Were the Platte rendered navigable it would be necessary to provide for the defense of Nebraska cities from foreign invasion. Just now there is a great deal of clamor for coast defenses along the shores of the great lakes to protect us from invasion from Canada. Were the Platte navigable, what in the name of common sense is there to protect Col. Bob McReynolds, when he shall have donned his fighting Mexican harness, from taking advantage of high tide in Salt creek, sailing up to the Nebraska capital and bombarding the police station or Skinner's livery stable? If Congressman Bryan succeeds in making the Platte navigable, and he is about as likely to do so as any one is to ever make the Missouri so, although a great deal of public money has been squandered on the latter pretense, he must not neglect the coast defense business, for his home city is bent on enjoying all modern advantages, airs and luxuries. Lincoln has recently achieved considerable distinction as a maritime city and her people have learned a great deal about navigation as a science.

It is not a flattering commentary upon the capital city that she has allowed her base ball team to go hence in distress, and were it not for the insufferable weather that has been vouchsafed this section the ladies of Lincoln would certainly be required to bear their share of the approbrium. And no inconsiderable share would it be. No base ball team can thrive in any city unless it receives the support of the ladies, and even the cranks among Lincoln's fair ever lend the encouragement of their presence in appreciable numbers at a game this season. Under such circumstances of course the team could not play ball, and of course, also, very few of the sterner sex found time and inclination to attend. In sport, as in work, the presence and approval of the fair sex stimulates the zeal of the champion, and develops hidden merit. The base ball manager who placed a few dummies in the grand stand clad in resplendent millinery had a head so level that a cheerboard would fit it. Should a western association team come to Lincoln something must be done to revive the interest of the ladies in baseball if it would live in Lincoln.

Myron Pratt, the slayer of Mrs. Sperry, has a most dismal prospect before him. It is his misfortune that he was not the only tragic killing that has occurred recently in Lincoln, and he must bear the brunt of public indignation for all of them. Already the newspapers have started in editorially to ensure to Pratt the severest punishment within the gift of the courts by hammering over Pratt's well-shouldered shoulders the sort of justice that has been dispensed heretofore in murder cases, and Mr. Strode is likely to realize that his success in former cases will hamper him in this one. The time-honored maxim that it were better that ninety-nine guilty men escape than that one innocent man should suffer has run its course, apparently, for the public is not prepared at this day to contemplate with patience and equanimity the escape of the guilty, even to the extent of a very few, and there is an impression prevailing that too many murderers are escaping their deserts. Therefore it is going to be a pretty difficult thing for Myron Pratt to secure an unbiased hearing in this community while the public press is harping upon the number of murderers who have gone unwhipped of justice, and no one need be surprised should his counsel seek to secure a change of venue, using the utterances of the newspapers as evidence to back up his claims.

The aggregation of budding amateur talent yelped the Lincoln ball team has been transferred to Kearney, and few indeed are the regrets expressed in Lincoln, for outside of the fact that they had begun by persistently winning defeat, their presence in Lincoln was not hailed as a cause for popular rejoicing. It may be pure presumption on the part of local patrons of this superb sport,

but without there was a sentiment everywhere expressed that Lincoln should evince higher aspirations than to shine as tail-end in a state league. She has trotted in swifter classes and it looked like an acknowledgment of past presumption when she entered the state league movement. There is a suspicion extant among knowing ones that Lincoln will soon be invited to accept a franchise in the western association. Whether she may ever receive such an invitation or not, however, cuts no significant figure in the present situation. She has been in pretty good base ball company and is content to rest on her laurels. She will not dishonor the memory of her former glory, unprofitably expensive though it was, and will play no ball until she can do as well again, or better.

To the observant person who keeps informed of what is transpiring by personal investigation it is painfully apparent that



MRS. P. V. M. RAYMOND

the good people who never attend them do not begin to realize the banefulness of the public ball. Of course there may be exceptions, but the public ball as a rule should be frowned down, and when frowns are no longer effective more urgent discouragements should be invented and interposed. It is safe to say that there are a round hundred dances in Lincoln every year which should not be, or rather should not have been, permitted. It requires but a moderate acquaintance to enable one to enter the average public ball and at once discern innocence enshrouded by the arms of Satan, the pure and the vicious clasping ardent and friendly hands or flagrant brazenness flirting with timid purity. The apparent effects of the former, the entire absence of courtesy or formality and the general air of abandon that characterizes the average public ball room is disgusting in the extreme to a thoughtful observer, even though he may not be a crank on moral questions. While the earnest motherhood of today is striving to shield her son from the evils of intemperance, the peril of the daughters should not be forgotten. The public ball, as conducted in fine cases out of ten, is a menace to both and is attended by many sons and daughters of parents who little mistrust their associations.



The Count—Shee's vairy deestant to me now. I neivar go to zat house, all because of I make a very small meestake. I would say her daughter was a turtle dove and I get zo wrong word and call her a squab-Life.

AT LONG RANGE

Up to the time of going to press Mr. Walt Mason's copy for this department had not arrived, owing perhaps to the irregularity of the mails and the flooded condition of the railroads. Trains on all lines have been either abandoned or are very irregular since Tuesday, and Mr. Mason's wit is now probably awaiting railroad repairs at some point between here and Fremont. Trains are expected to make regular time again today, and the usual installment of interesting matter will again be visible herein next week.

Finest ice cream in the city and hand-some refreshment parlors, at the Boston-Poehler's old stand, Twelfth and P streets.

THE MAY FESTIVAL

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of this week the sixth annual musical festival given by the Lincoln Oratorio society took place in the Lansing theatre. In former years the society at its concerts has been highly favored with good weather and good fortune. The leading singers with scarcely an exception have appeared and performed their parts as set down in the program. This year, however, the rains descended, the floods came, and the winds blew. Besides, two of the principals fell sick on the eve of the festival. Mr. George Edsworth Holmes, baritone, of Chicago, was unable to appear at all, and Signor Campanini, though he was seen, was so indisposed on account of a serious attack of rheumatism in one of his feet that he was not heard to any advantage. But the Ora-

torio society was not to be outdone by the elements or by misfortune. The concerts proceeded in spite of the adverse circumstances. Mr. John Morley, of Chicago, took the part of Mr. Holmes, and Mr. Seamark of our city proved his exceeding usefulness by adapting himself to any part that lacked a performer.

Monday evening Coven's "Sleeping Beauty," a cantata, was rendered. The performance was a very meritorious one all things considered. At the beginning the orchestra and chorus seemed a little nervous, but as the work progressed this feeling wore away and all entered heartily into their parts. There are no striking melodies in the cantata, but there is much opportunity for the composer to display his power. The object of the composer was evidently to reveal not the grandeur but the delicacy of music as an interpreter of life. One of the finest features of the cantata is the orchestration, and I think it may be safely said that no Lincoln orchestra ever acquitted more creditably than did the one on Monday night. The part of the Princess was sung by Mrs. Lawson, the Wicked Fay by Mrs. Fisk, the Prince by Campanini and the King by Mr. Seamark.

Tuesday evening was devoted to a miscellaneous concert. As in former years this proved to be one of the most popular features of the festival. The singing of Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Fisk and Mr. Morley was of a high grade of excellence, and the audience gave abundant evidence of its hearty appreciation of the work of these artists.

The chorus of misses shown with its usual splendor. Nothing could be more sweet and affecting than its rendition of "Sleep, Little Body of Mine." Another very enjoyable number of the evening was "A Dutch Lullaby" words by Eugene Field, as sung by Mrs. Lawson and the adult chorus. Wednesday evening was given to the "Messiah," and though there were some very faulty things in the performance, still taken as a whole it was by far the best presentation this great oratorio has ever had before the public of Lincoln. The choruses were sung with telling effect, Mrs. Lawson and Mrs. Fisk crowned their already brilliant record in such airs as "Come Unto Him," "Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion," and "He was Despised and Rejected by Men." Mr. Morley acquitted himself with great credit in such difficult roles as "The People that Walked in Darkness" and "Why Do the Heathen Rage." Mr. Seamark not only demonstrated his ability to meet an emergency, but he proved his true artistic instinct and mastery in the pleasing manner in which he sang the recitative, "Comfort Ye, My People," and the accompanying air, "Every Valley Shall be Exalted." Special mention should be made also of the orchestra in this connection, it did its part in a very happy way in which it performed the famous "Pastoral Symphony."

But no report of the festival would be complete without a mention of those persons who have made it what it is. And first among these is Mrs. P. V. M. Raymond. The COURIER has graced this issue with a cut of this energetic woman. She may in a very just sense be said to be the Oratorio society, for she has made it what it is. She has not only held the chorus together but has grown in numbers and efficiency under her direction and supervision. The May Festival is a thing of her creation. Were she not in Lincoln the people of this city would not have the privilege of enjoying this annual musical feast. Few can realize how much it costs to carry through such an enterprise and to make it so uniformly successful. It is rare that one has the skill, tact, judgment, determination, intelligence

and willingness to make the sacrifice necessary for such an undertaking. But Mrs. Raymond possesses all these qualifications in happy combination. Hence the May Festival and all it means in the way of a purified and uplifted life to this city and surrounding country.

Mrs. Raymond's work has furnished a wide range of oratorio and concert music. Under her direction the following works have been given:

- Gaude's "Holy City" (3 performances).
- Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus."
- Mendelssohn's "Elijah" (2 performances).
- Haydn's "Spring."
- Gounod's "Messe Solennelle."
- Spohr's "Last Judgment."
- Handel's "Messiah" (3 performances).
- Gaude's "Crusaders."
- Haydn's "Creation."
- Coven's "Sleeping Beauty."
- Mendelssohn's "Hymn of Praise."
- And various miscellaneous concerts.

Next to Mrs. Raymond mention is due to Mrs. Will Owen Jones, the accompanist of the society. One of these women is not more faithful than the other, more painstaking and conscientious in whatever needs to be done. Week after week Mrs. Jones has been found faithful at her post of duty accompanying the rehearsals of the society with rare appreciation and patience. And most trying of all her duties is the work required at the miscellaneous concerts when each singer from abroad must be accompanied in his or her own peculiar way. But to all these things Mrs. Jones has proved herself abundantly equal.

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Mrs. Stella Rice, the organist, during the festival, acted in this capacity for the first time this year. Her work was all that was to be desired and confronted its due share toward the ultimate success.

The public are worthy a word too, right here, for it matters not how much a few may labor for such an enterprise if it is not appreciated and if the people do not respond to the demand made of them then little can be done. But the Lincoln people have responded generously and cheerfully in this matter. They have contributed their money and their presence to make the festival, the success it has ever been. Only one thing remains to be remembered, and that is that Lincoln is not at the end but nearly at the beginning of its musical career. It can take the highest rank in such matters only by its continued and persistent fidelity.

There seems to have been some doubt in minds of some people as regards the floral tributes and in justice to all concerned we wish to state, upon the authority of Mrs. Raymond that the flowers received by the soloists Wednesday evening were not sent by either the management of the festival or the Oratorio society, but were simply the offerings of personal friends and admirers. No slight was intended to any one and the society have with one accord expressed the highest appreciation of Mr. Seamark's efforts during the festival and none regret the unfortunate circumstance more than they.

A New and Strong Corporation.
Monday morning a new firm was ushered into our commercial circles, and while it is just in its infancy, yet it is the successor of a strong and vigorous institution which dates its existence in Lincoln way back into the early seventies. The firm referred to is the Clason & Fletcher Co., which was reorganized and incorporated with a paid up capital of \$20,000, adding several strong and prominent people to the already prosperous business.



THE WITCH—ACT I, SCENE I

ness, including besides those mentioned in the title, Messrs W. C. Miner, Frank McCusky and J. H. Wallace. The company is officered as follows: W. O. Fletcher, president; C. S. Clason, vice president; W. C. Miner, treasurer and Frank McCusky, secretary. The firm will increase its jobbing interests and as heretofore Mr. Fletcher will manage that department, while Mr. McCusky, who is well and favorably known through his long connection with educational interests, will oversee the retail department and generally be on hand to meet the trade.

Heroism.
Seminary Teacher—Yesterday I read you the histories of some famous heroic acts, now, Ella, what would you consider an example of a modern deed of heroism?
Ella—To refuse a lieutenant.—Flegende Blatter.



The many requests sent in to Manager Church for a return engagement of the talented Leslie Davis New York Fifth Avenue company had the desired effect, for as every one knows the company returned Thursday evening to the Lansing to finish the present week with four performances. The opening night that beautiful domestic drama "Hazel Kirke" was put on and Mr. Frank Ludon made a decided hit as "Dunstan," and his bright, vivacious daughter won the admiration of an appreciative audience as "Hazel."

Mr. Griffith, as usual, covered himself with glory, and throughout the evening every character was most cleverly acted. There seems to be no limit to Mr. Ludon's ability upon the stage. His work covers a wide range of characters and he is in one or the other, it always finds in him a most excellent portrayal. Another large house greeted the company last night, when "Igonar" was handsomely staged and the same tact and precision given the performance as characterized the first night's entertainment.

At the matinee today Hazel Kirke will be repeated and tonight the company's great success, "The Galley Slave," will be the bill.

Last week's COURIER went to press without a notice regarding the excellent program rendered at Prof. Hill's dramatic entertainment, a fact which is much regretted and owing entirely to an oversight occasioned by a rush of other matter. The affair was a most delightful one throughout and certainly demonstrated Prof. Hill's genuine ability as an instructor. The new Y. M. C. A. hall was well filled and the audience seemed to enjoy every number on the program. Mr. Hill's reading needs no comment at this time from us, his work being already sufficiently known. Bret Harbo's "How Miss Edith Helps Things Along" was a masterly effort by Miss Thompson. Miss Dobbs eloquently recited "Naughty Zella" and Miss Dey gave us a pretty presentation of "A Ride Against Time." In the hands of Miss Eaton "Jack the Fisherman" found ample merit and proved a most charming selection, while Bark's "Marble Dream" proved an interesting subject on which Miss Stien elicited much favorable comment. The musical numbers were also of a high order, the orchestra rendering several beautiful selections. The Concert Waltz by Miss Burr, assisted by Messrs. Curtice and Blyston was a very pleasing feature. The entertainment as a whole was one that afforded all an evening of unusual enjoyment and he it said to the credit of the genial professor, it was a most artistic success throughout.

Regarding New York's theatrical season Jerome Eddy writes: "The season has not been a brilliant or prosperous one in the theatrical field. In the musical world, on the contrary, there has been a noticeable improvement. The best class of concerts and musical entertainments have been liberally patronized, and the mediocre affairs have not been rewarded by much encouragement. There have been more really good musical entertainments than for many years, and all of them have justified the judgment of their managers in thus gauging the intelligence of the public. In the theatrical field, while

didn't know when and where you were well treated. You have been a naughty girl, have lost your once excellent charm of voice and acting and I now you're no good. Fact, come off, Fay, and go in silent seclusion and don't have them say unkind words of you now who used to admire you in the freshness of your youth.

Many Lincoln young folks will remember Miss Bessie Holliday of Papillon who visited with Mrs. H. B. Foster a year ago last winter, and will be pleased to learn that she is now gaining considerable notoriety as an actress in New York City.

While Miss Holliday has received some very flattering offers for the coming season yet she will not make her professional debut until the season of 93 during which interval she will continue her studies in Gotham. The writer has known Miss Holliday for several years and seen her in a number of amateur performances in which she was always the star. I therefore venture the assertion that within a very few years her name will be among the leaders of her profession.

POPULAR OPERA AT POPULAR PRICES.
Not in a long time has Lincoln had an opportunity to see and hear comic opera at a price less than a dollar for best seats. Manager Crawford, however, has contracted with the Dadd opera company to play a summer season at Omaha and previous to opening the engagement there, will sing one week at the Funke in this city. That the cast comprises some really excellent material can be seen by the following names: Amy Leslie, Helen St. Clair, J. C. Abill, Brookhouse Bowler, Mack Charles, C. N. Chester, T. G. Hadley, Signor Gallipoli, John H. Ammons, Ernie Collins, Dan Young and Milton Smith, musical director. The opening night occurs Monday evening when "Chimes of Normandy" will be presented with all the above singers in attendance and a chorus of forty well trained voices. During the week a change of program will occur nightly and such popular opera as "Nanon," "Chimes of Normandy," "Mikado," "Pinafore," "Fatin-tza," "Olivette," "Gracie Giraffe" will be given. The price of seats has been placed at 25, 35 and 50 cents, and no lover of good music and comedy should fail to take in the whole engagement.

MRS. FROHMAN IN THE WITCH.
A beautiful half-tone cut shown on our first page today illustrates a handsome scene in Marie Hubert Frohman's new play which will be seen next week at the Lansing. "The Witch" tells an interesting story of New England life in the seventeenth century, and has commanded more attention from thoughtful critics than any other American



production in recent years. The action is easy, five acts being linked together in natural sequence. There is an even distribution of interest, without any noticeable straining for false effects, calling for unflagging attention, and in no wise weakening the intensity of the climax. Love, hatred, fidelity, jealousy and treachery are woven into the quaint and picturesque simplicity of early New England life. The power of the whole piece lies in its vivid presentation of a strong contrast, the spectator involuntarily drawing comparisons between the palpable enlightenment. Wonderment is excited that such a wide gulf should separate a recent past from our own happy time. In short, it is historically instructive, and has the further charm of suggesting a vista of future advancement. "The Witch" will be presented Thursday evening.

Continued on fifth page.



"I wouldn't worry if I were you; there is no imminent danger of death."
"It isn't the dying that I mind; it's the horrible waste of time in staying dead."—Life.

For The Soldier Boys.
The Albany Telegram, May 28, will be printed on an army blue paper, especially designed for the Decoration Day number alone, and will contain original poems, sketches and stories by leading Grand Army officers and prominent "old vets" from all parts of the country. It will also be very profusely and elegantly illustrated. The entire 16 pages will be sent by mail for 5 cents. Address, The Telegram, Albany, N. Y.

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