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TOWN TALK

It may sometimes occur under the dearest of an inscrutable providence that death is a welcome visitor, but when the grim reaper enters the household and strikes down the fairest flower of a happy family all feel that there is a great deal that we cannot understand in the ways of providence. Could we regulate the visits of the death angel they would come sooner to the aged who are prepared to die and schooled by reflection upon the points of time to meet the end without heart-burnings, disappointments or regret. They would come to the sufferer from disease and pain, or want and poverty—in short, to those to whom life is least enjoyable. The death of Miss Carrie C. Reed, the beloved sister of Mr. John Reed of the firm of Holm & Reed, which occurred last Sunday, only two days prior to her twenty-fourth birthday anniversary, can but renew regrets that death is partial to youth and happiness. A lovely young woman, the light of a contented and happy family, the idol of an aged mother and her brothers and sisters, her death is deplored in hundreds of Lincoln homes, and especially in Y. P. S. C. E. circles, where she was a patient, humble and earnest worker. Her funeral on Tuesday was an attestation of the enviable position she had won among her co-workers. The ceremony was most impressive, the floral offerings unusually rich and abundant and the attendance large. The remains were conveyed to the old home in Illinois, where the stricken mother will henceforth remain near the grave of the departed loved one. Mr. John Reed accompanied his mother and the precious casket to Illinois.

The management of Lincoln park decided to cancel all negotiations for the production of Pain's great historical spectacle, "The Last Days of Pompeii," in this city during the fair, but Mr. F. W. Little, president and manager of the Lincoln street railway, and Superintendent Upham of the same line took up the scheme with commendable public spirit, with the result that all had hoped to see accomplished. "The Last Days of Pompeii" will be produced in the evening of each day of the state fair in the M street ball park with over 200 well trained people in the cast, an abundance of elaborate scenery, rich and appropriate costumes and a display of fireworks never excelled anywhere. The seating capacity of the park is being enlarged, an artificial lake is being made and thousands of visitors from all neighboring points will be added to the annual state fair crowd. Meantime the street railway people have assumed a great risk, but with anything like favorable weather they will not be allowed to suffer serious loss.

The sensational trial of Chancellor Creighton of the Wesleyan University upon the charges filed against him as an elder in the Methodist church by Rev. George A. Smith and Rev. Hiram Burch, will occur in this city on the 30th inst. Both sides will be represented by gentlemen learned in ecclesiastical law and a bitter fight may be anticipated. Matters have progressed too far to permit of a compromise. Owing to the impression that prevailed among the chancellor's friends that Rev. Asa Sileth, the presiding elder of this district, was in sympathy with the prosecution, an appeal was made to Bishop Warren to designate some unprejudiced elder to preside at the trial. The bishop thereupon appointed Rev. L. F. Britt of Nebraska City for that duty. The friends of the contending factions of methodism in University Place are rallying with enthusiasm. It will be a calamity if this ugly disturbance among the brethren is not dispersed before the time for the opening of the next term of the university.

A spasm of aestheticism has attacked some portions of the city that ought to become epidemic before state fair time. People along some of the streets in residence portions have garnered their crop of sun-flowers. Those portions have resembled cisterns, and visitors thereto are not impressed by an air of damp solitude or impressed by fears of ambush, as are visitors to the sunflower districts. There should be no sunflower fields along the public thoroughfares within at least three miles of the business center, but they can be found with annoying ease within a few blocks of the postoffice.

It is a little remarkable that a proposition to bond the city to the additional extent of over \$200,000 submitted during the past few days would have drawn out but a paltry vote of but thirteen or fourteen hundred, but such was the case, and to the small vote was due the fact that while almost everyone met upon the streets favored the bonds, they passed by no unanimous vote, having but about 150 majority. All will rejoice, however, that the work of paving the streets can go merrily on henceforth, and that the period of stagnation in that line during the present administration has almost expired.

The question propounded itself, why do men talk politics with each other on the streets? Did anyone ever hear of a man's having been converted to any doctrine or from it by street corner altercation? It is safe to say that no one ever has. Then why continue the disturbing and oftentimes disgusting harangues? There is absolutely no excuse for it except that this is a free country in which men yearn to talk and can find some one with whom to talk. The truth is that men never talk to convince or to be convinced. They seem to talk most generally in order to prove their respective argumentative powers, and from the tenor of the prevailing forms of discussion it appears that they deem themselves most successful when they make their antagonists mad. The truth is, further, that the press is about the only medium through which force can be given to argument, although the stump and the public platform are not entirely without their influence. This country is too free. Men should

not be permitted to stand in groups and clusters on the most prominent thoroughfares and abuse each other like pirates in the heat of their political passions. They ought to be compelled to hire a hall, wherein each could have a show according to his worth.

"Not in a hundred years," while probably not the latest, is by far the most popular slang expression of the day. It means plain "no," and is used to indicate the negative generally. Upon some young men and women it has taken hold with the tenacity of a case of smallpox, and is shunned by others with about the same degree of care as would that loathsome epidemic be shunned. One young man seldom makes any other reply. It is related of him that when, as he was passing along a quiet street the other day, a parrot shouted at him "Folly wants a cracker," he simply replied absent-mindedly as he passed on, "not in a hundred years." It used to be

Bob has started a metropolis on his domain, which he has named Calhoun in honor of the editor of the Lincoln Herald. It has a postoffice and Col. Handy manipulates the mails. Bob has joined the farmers' alliance, and is the candidate of the people's party for justice of the peace, and his invariably peaceful aspect and demeanor will certainly insure his election. While the assertion was generally viewed as a jest at the time, it is a fact no longer questioned that when Bob left Lincoln he went to Mexico with the intention of joining the Garza revolution, which came to an ignominious termination before Bob's potential sword could be lifted in its behalf. When this adventure failed he and Frank Handy made the trip from Mexico to Oklahoma, 1,200 miles, in the saddle, much of their journey being through a rugged and unsettled country. The rigors of that jaunt very nearly cost Frank Handy his life, as he was taken ill immediately after

their arrival in Oklahoma City and lay for ten days at the point of death. Bob's recital of the adventures of that trip would make "Darkest Africa" ashamed of itself.

The withdrawal of Judge Cobb from the race for the republican nomination for district judge, to succeed Judge Field, who has resigned to contest with W. J. Bryan for a seat in Congress, has abated numerous complications that were threatened. It is an open secret that Maxey Cobb will be again a candidate for the republican nomination for county treasurer when the time comes for selecting a successor to Mr. Burnham, and had Judge Cobb permitted the use of his name in opposition to Mr. Strode he would have been breeding trouble for Maxey, for there is every reason to believe that Judge Field and his friends secured the withdrawal of Mr. Strode from the congressional race by promises of the judgeship which Mr. Field would vacate. As it is, Maxey Cobb is not destined to have a walk-away for the republican nomination, as young Charley Miller, the present deputy county treasurer, is in line for the same place and stands remarkably well with not only the men who control nominations, but with the people, especially of this city, as well.

It is currently reported that railroad officials have promised the projectors of the Salt Lake enterprise that a viaduct will span the tracks on west O street before next winter. This is entirely too good to be believed, especially as no step has yet been taken toward that end. The Salt Lake people, however, have a substantial pull and will likely get the viaduct sooner or later. They have been given everything else for which they have asked, from a city electric light to a graded county road, things which years of beseeching on the part of the natives would not have brought.

Twelve carpenters, eight designers, a train load of scenery, together with a car of accessories for the fire works arrived Wednesday for "The Last Days of Pompeii." All the powder used to make the fireworks as well as everything else needed for the display, that can be purchased locally, will be supplied by Lincoln firms. This was one of the concessions that the Lincoln street railway company demanded of the management and is certainly to be commended. The fire works will all be made here on the grounds.

The Nesbit Shoe Store. The Lincoln Shoe Company who recently purchased the boot and shoe stock of S. B. Nesbit, is open and ready for business. The new firm has rearranged the stock, which is the newest and most stylish in the city, and is offering them at big bargains in all lines. It has been generally commented upon that the Nesbit stock contained the finest and most approved line of footwear ever brought to Lincoln, and the fact that the goods are now being offered at prices way below competition, should be sufficient inducement to every one that needs shoes to take advantage of the opportunity offered at an early moment. The same gentlemanly corps of salesmen in attendance, and the same courtesy that has heretofore been shown the trade still exists. Remember the Lincoln Shoe Company when you want footwear of any kind, Nesbit's old stand, 1015 O street.

Canon City Coal at the Whitehead Coal and Lime Co.

N. Y. THEATRES

[Special Courier Correspondence.]
NEW YORK, AUGUST 15, 1892.—The season of '91-'92 began in New York Monday with the production of "Fatherland" at the Union Square theatre. It is a romantic drama of Tyrolean life written by Mr. Sidney Ellis to fit Charles A. Gardner. Mr. Gardner has an agreeable individuality, sings melodiously, dances lightly and entertains pleasantly. The play is of the old fashioned kind, but Mr. Gardner has surrounded himself with a good company and the performance is admirable in many respects. The next opening of importance was at Miner's Fifth Avenue theatre where Mr. Charles Frohman's players began the season with "Settled Out of Court," August 8th. It is to remain for four weeks

November, when The Fencing Master will be given a run. The Windsor theatre begins its season August 13th with Jerry, produced then for the first time in America. Fabbio Romani begins the season at the People's theatre tonight, and on August 30th the Decker Minstrels open the Third Avenue theatre. Tony Pastor has as usual kept right on during the summer, giving jolly performances and making a good deal of money. On August 30th Mr. Robert Mantell opens the Twenty-third street theatre in a new romantic play, and if that is not a go he will be seen in Hamlet and some of his old plays. The Star theatre threw open its doors yesterday and Kattie Emmett tripped on the stage in her new play, Killarney, but will be there only for two weeks. She will be followed by Roland Reed who will produce Lord Me Your Wife. The New Empire theatre on Broadway near Fortieth street, is progressing very rapidly. There is every indication

to believe that the theatre will be finished about the middle of December. The theatre will be under the exclusive management of Charles Frohman for the next ten years. The new Park theatre is not being boomed since Manager Dunley left and no one seems to know when it will open. The Thalia and Amberg's, German theatres, will open in September and by that time Edward Harrigan and Mart Hanley will be back from Schroon lake and the theatre opened. It is doubtful if Mr. Harrigan will produce a new play before very late in the season, as it is his intention to begin with the old but popular Mulligan Guard series. Hermann opens his Hermann theatre himself this season, and will do his little tricks for several weeks before he goes on the road. Everything is a little late this season, but by the middle of September everything will once more be in full blast. Columbia theatre will this year begin with Mervyn Dallas in The House on the Marsh tonight, and the Harlem opera house opens August 23rd. Of the many new plays getting ready in New York for the road are: The Kid, Telephonia, Larry the Lord, The Operator, A Mad Bargain, A Fatal Gift, A Planter's Daughter, Underground, The Colonel, The Boomalady, In Old Kentucky, A Kentucky Colonel, That Man From Boston, A Dark Horse, The Lucky Number, with lots more to hear from.

"Uncle's Darling" at the Funke Monday night was perhaps more charming to the old uncle himself than to anyone else. At least one would judge so from the fact that on the first night there was only a fair house and the second night but a paltry few. It's not the kind of play that takes in these days. It takes considerable more than reindeers, bears, dogs, etc., to draw, and not only that, but it takes talent of no small order to be successful in the larger towns. The kind of shows that pleased Lincoln ten years ago, or even five, could not draw a half house today. "Uncle's Darling" with Hattie Bernard Chase as the leading lady is a sensational drama illustrative of Alaska life and scenes, and there are some commendable features in the play worthy of mention, but they are decidedly few. Miss Chase is a handsome a dress and she does some fair work, but her lines are not well defined and she permits her work to drag too much. Ned, the little captain, did some clever work and one or two of the others acquitted themselves with more or less honor, but as a whole, the attraction needs new people-dramatic people—and then with the piece rewritten, re-modeled and better staged, it might be a success.

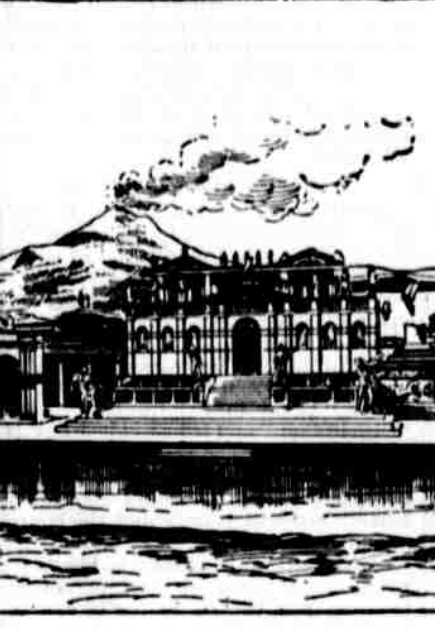
Few attractions in the minstrel line that have appeared in Lincoln in late years have given the satisfaction that George Thatcher's company did Thursday evening at the Lansing in "Tuxedo." The piece of course has little or no plot and the author claims none for it, but the specialties are so ingeniously interwoven as to make a most enjoyable program. There is a happy mingling of farce comedy and minstrelsy and the two are blended so as to give a pleasant variety of each. There is nothing broad or vulgar in the performance, a fact which in itself is great relief to those who enjoy the work of burnt cork artists. Mr. Raymond Moore's songs were as usual loudly applauded and scores too numerous were showered upon him. His voice is as sweet and clear as ever, and to those who have heard him this will explain his work on this occasion. The counter tenor selections by R. J. J. were likewise enjoyed and the baritone of Thomas Lewis was well received. H. W. Frillman has a beautiful

The announcement that the Funke has engaged Mr. Harry P. Irvine of Omaha to lead their orchestra occasioned no little surprise and comment in Lincoln musical circles. Many of our people are personally acquainted with Mr. Irvine, many know of him by reputation; others having danced to his music and some having heard his charming orchestra at Boyd's opera house in Omaha. It is certainly a stroke of enterprise on the part of the Funke management that will prove a drawing card. It is Mr. Irvine's intention to engage Lincoln talent in his orchestra, but that which cannot be supplied here will be taken from the ranks at Omaha. Later in the season when Mr. Irvine's orchestra will be in first-class trim he will be open for engagements at balls, parties and in fact for all occasions where his services may be desired. There appears to be a general pleasant disposition in musical circles to work for the general advancement of orchestras work in Lincoln and it may be that later on Mr. Irvine may be able to bring the members of the various orchestras together under one cover and organize a musical union orchestra and military band just like was done years ago in Omaha, and is still conducted very successfully. They have a membership of over 150 musicians and the big orchestra is so constructed that a half dozen engagements can be filled in one night and each supplied with a first-class leader and musicians.

LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

POMPEII BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION

When Vesuvius poured forth its deadly torrent of lava upon the ancient city of Pompeii, burying it under a mass of liquid stone, and destroying with pitiless force the thousands of happy people who dwell within the walls of the doomed place, all was sadness and grief. Cries of agony rent the lurid air, and naught was apparent but desolation and misery. When after the force of the cooled and poured forth its molten catarract, the clouds of smoke cleared away and the sun shone upon a scene never since equaled in the history of the world. Where but a few hours before had been a mighty city, proud and majestic in its rearing temples and wealth of art, naught remained but a barren waste, with here and there a broken column standing like a grim sentinel over the ruins.



POMPEII BEFORE THE DESTRUCTION

This happened eighteen centuries ago. Since then excavators have been at work and their researches have brought before the world relics of the fated city. Volumes have been written upon it, and the people have come to know a great deal of the history of Pompeii. So far as books can teach them so far as lectures by sages can instruct them, they are well informed of the horrible night's occurrence, in which one of the greatest cities of ancient times was buried beneath a sea of hissing, molten stone.

But books, pictures and lectures cannot portray the scene in all the grandeur it must have possessed. Other means are necessary, and the people of Lincoln will soon have them at their hands. H. J. Pain of London, England, the most noted of all pyrotechnists, has conceived a representation of "The Last Days of Pompeii," a production of which will be given in all the magnificence of scenic effects and realism possible to modern art during fair week at the M street ball park. The production will be something that will excel anything ever before attempted in a pyrotechnic and spectacular way. Complete in every particular, true in each detail to history, correct in its scenic architecture, magnificent in its costumes and grand beyond any precedent in its entirety, "Pompeii" as presented will be a treat.

A COBRIER reporter visited the park yesterday and found a small army of men at work actively engaged on preparation for the construction of the streets and scenes of Pompeii. Carpenters, designers and builders were all busy at the work and the work is being vigorously pushed in every detail. The large grand stand heretofore used by Lincolnites to see the national game, is being enlarged to triple its former size. The great stage will be 400 feet long, a lake 250 feet in length will be put in, holding over two million gallons of water on which aquatic novelties will be presented nightly. The scenery is grand and wonderfully realistic, and the fireworks—well, none were touched off, but when it is stated that the cost of each night's production will be over \$1,000, their magnificence can well be imagined. There will be several hundred people on the stage and the scenery, which is of nature's size or nearly so, is beyond the mind's conception of magnitude and splendor. It requires 12,000 square yards of massive iron, wood and canvas to erect the scenes of Pompeii and is certainly the most stupendous affair ever attempted in American stage craft.

FRANK DANIELS AND LITTLE PUCK

On Monday next Frank Daniels will make his annual appearance before a Lincoln audience at the Lansing theatre, on which occasion he will present a new version of his time honored success, "Little Puck." Since

(continued on fifth page.)