

AT THE THEATRES



[Special Courier Correspondence.]

New York, Sept. 17, 1892.—Mr. Mansfield's first appearance at Daly's theatre on Monday came very nearly being a "first night" of the regular winter kind. Most of the old-timers were on hand, but the audience looked very much like the weather—that is, let us get between and a little of both. Ladies in full evening costume, sans hats, sans sleeves—well, not exactly sans everything, but quite enough—sat next to the summer girl in regulation seaside costume, white claw hammer coated gentlemen rubbed against others in the lightest kind of warm evening suits. Men in evening dress wore straw hats, and girls in summer attire sought seclusion. It was indeed a queer gathering and an unusual one for the beginning of the season for the girls neither smiled in happy recognition nor did the men seem happy. Possibly a recollection of Hawthorne's "The Scarlet Letter," read years before, had leaped into their memory, with all its mournful figures, and possibly they walked into the picture of the sordid, narrow Puritan life over which the gifted author, with rare skill and splendid literary style has thrown an excuse. "The Scarlet Letter" has four acts, joined together by Joseph Hatton, who kept closely to the book, but Hawthorne's words were not written to be spoken and hence the wonderful effects of weirdness stamped on the reader's imagination, and done by the author with the simplest diction and without effort, is awry on the stage. The book has been vulgarized. Hester and Dimmesdale's ordeal is a comic opera chorus and the whole play singularly false to the great original. The audience looked as if thankful that but few plays exist of the desperately gloomy and monotonous Puritan pattern, and fled out of Dr. Daly's newly gilded theatre, very much like the Plymouth pilgrims out of a meeting house. Of the production nothing but praise can be written. Miss Beatrice Cameron is plaintively dignified as Hester Prynne and makes a splendid stage picture on the pillory. Mr. Ferguson is grimly revengeful as Chillingworth and the little effluvia Pearl of Hawthorne is correctly mirrored by Miss DeGrattan. Although Mr. Mansfield totally failed to reveal the depth of remorseful feeling and conveyed rather the idea, to the audience, of a pretty mean sort of a fellow to leave his guilty partner in the lurch, he played the disagreeable part with vigor and intense feeling. The play lacks dramatic strength and variety. It is purely psychological. A worthy effort, no doubt—but it hasn't the ghost of a chance of anything like a popular success.

The only newness of the week was given the public on the tip upper end of Manhattan Island, and a new play, a new star and a new author jumped advantageously into fame. The play is called "By Proxy," the star A. S. Lipman, and the author Charles Klein. The peg upon which the comedy hangs is that of a young man secretly married in opposition to his rich father's wish. His parents had arranged to wed him to the daughter of an old friend. When the plan is about to be carried out the young man, prevailed upon a friend to exchange identities, and thus the old story of fast and furious complications is told over again, with numerous amusing variations. Mr. Klein has written a clean, wholesome story that is sure of success. Mr. Lipman, who reminds one at times of Chas. Wyndham, is a finished artist, and altogether Manager Charles Mathews may congratulate himself as the possessor of a money winner. The supporting company is unusually strong and give the star a close chase for his laurels and when I say that Harry Brown, Lionel Bland and Leonard Bradley are in the cast it is no wonder. The good folk of Gotham seem not in the least to fear the cholera in our harbor, for all the play houses have been well filled. Drexel brought out "Iolanthe" at Palmer's on Monday, introducing his son, Henry II, and the lad did well. "A Trip to Chinatown" continues to turn people away from Hoyt's Madison Square theatre and everything looks lovingly enough, the only thing wished for being a sharp nipping frost, nipping enough to nip the cholera bacilli which are a little worse than other importations, which unfortunately cannot be quarantined. DUNLAP.

Members of the two companies that stranded here last week have nearly all left town. Sims on, the leading man of the Widener-Duncan company joined the remaining members of "The Jack and the Beanstalk" aggregation and have been playing at Hickman this week during the county fair. They go from there next week to play other fair dates at Falls City, Missouri Valley and other places where fairs are being held. Some of both companies have joined the Leslie Davis company, while others are at the Music and have been doing work at both places this week.

The following are the important attractions now being presented in New York: Vaudeville and ballet at the Casino; Vaudeville at Tony Pastor's; the Henry E. Dixey Opera company in Iolanthe at Palmer's theatre; A Trip to Chinatown at the Madison Square; Pauline Hall Opera company at the Fifth Avenue theatre; Blindfold at the Garden theatre; The Struggle for Life at the Windsor; The Fair Rebel at the Fourteenth Street theatre; DeWolf Hopper in Wang at the Broadway theatre; "Jane" at the Standard theatre; The Liliuputians at the Union Square theatre; Roland Reed at the Star theatre; Oliver Byron in The Plunger at the Grand Opera House; Robert Mantell in The Face in the Moonlight at Proctor's; Evans and Hoey in A Parlor Match at the Bijou; E. H. Sothern in Lettarblair at the Lyceum; The Back Crook at the Academy of Music.

The writer saw Salvini at St. Joseph Thursday evening in Don Cesar de Bezan, and can recommend both play and players in the highest terms possible. The scenery is magnificent, the company superb and the piece one of unceasing interest. There are

a number of exciting climaxes in which the work of Salvini is brought out vividly and most pleasing. No better attraction has ever traveled over Uncle Sam's domain. He received numerous curtain calls after each of the five acts, and frequent applause throughout the play attested the interest that the audience felt in its every action. The house was crowded and everyone delighted. Lincoln will likewise honor the great Salvini Monday evening at the Lansing.

"The Hustler" proved an excellent drawing card at the Lansing Wednesday evening, a full house being present to greet the clever company of comedians, vocalists, etc. The piece is materially the same as last season, although much new business and a much better cast is seen. John Kernell as "Coo" McFadden still does the leading work, his glib manner being particularly fetching. Next to him comes a new face, that of George Marion—new in The Hustler, but well and favorably known to the lovers of farce comedy. As Count Spaghetti, a music composer, etc., he introduced a new role, his Italian dialect being a decided feature of the show. The female portion was also up to a high standard, Sadie Kirby, Clara Belle and a bevy of other beauties appearing to excellent advantage. The Hustler has been here before but is good for several more visits. It has lots of dash and go about it, many beautiful music numbers, witty dialogues, etc., and it will do for several seasons yet to come, especially with the present cast.

Hoyt and his "A Texas Steer" are as popular as ever in Lincoln, and although his same brilliant comedy has been seen here several times before, fully as large an audience witnessed Wednesday evening's production as upon the initial performance in this city. Of "A Texas Steer" nothing further can be added to what has heretofore been said, save perhaps that it is unquestionably one of Hoyt's best efforts. The company is almost identically the same as that of last year, for Hoyt realizes as well as the public that it would be difficult indeed to better the present cast, which is so ably led by Mr. Tine Murphy and Flora Walsh (Mrs. Hoyt). The singing by the colored quartette was the best heard since they brought down the house last season. Verily, "A Texas Steer" does not show signs of age or wear and tear, so we patiently await its future coming. It was a big house and the Funke was filled from pit to dome.

This has been another big week at the Lansing, and the Lindons, so to speak, have again been "strictly in it." They have played good business every night except Wednesday, on which the occasion the company gave way to "The Hustler," which had heretofore been booked for that date. The opening bill of the week, Ingarman and the Danites, was staged Tuesday evening. Hazel Kirke was put on Thursday and last night a new one in the company's repertoire, "Blow for Blow," received its first Lincoln presentation before a large house. It was well received and liberally applauded. Tonight will finish the engagement when "Hearts of Oak," the piece in which the Lindons have scored a success here, will be given as a fitting close to a long and brilliant engagement. The pleasing curtain raiser, "The Green-eyed Monster," will precede "Hearts of Oak" and an evening of universal pleasure is promised all. The Leslie Davis company can well feel proud of their successes here during the present engagement, for not withstanding the fact that a host of strong attractions preceded them, such as the state fair, "Pompeii," Barnum's circus, "A Texas Steer," "The Hustler," etc., their business has been uniformly good and entirely satisfactory.

ALEXANDER SALVINI MONDAY EVENING. Manager Church has done well in securing one of the greatest stars of the American stage so early in the season. It will serve the patrons as an appetizer for the varied dramatic meal they will have to digest before it is over. Alexander Salvini, although but thirty years of age, has awakened more interest and enthusiasm than any one of his calling since Edgan Booth was in his prime. It seems that the succeeding generations are credited by those that have preceded them. Here is a genius who has all the advantages of youth, physique and personal charm, the cynosure of all those who take an interest in dramatic affairs. His success is due to two causes, his genius as an actor and his peculiar faith in offering the public that for which they have long yearned in vain. He has revived the romantic drama. Others have tried it and it has been but a fitful flicker.



Salvini has trimmed the lamp and made it burn as brightly as in the days of the great Fechter. It is fortunate in one sense that the romance of O'Flannery and Dumas have lumbered for want of a fitting delineator of their heroes, for Salvini in reviving them has given to the younger generation a dramatic treat that in the majority of cases has the element of novelty. "Don Cesar de Bezan," in which he will appear here, is therefore anticipated with rather more than usual interest. Salvini finds in the half comic, half heroic part of Don Cesar, a character exactly adapted to his powers. Beyond his own ability Salvini has the advantage of enterprising management. He is surrounded by a splendid company and his plays are mounted with the magnificence of a scenic and costume effect that capital alone can provide. The organization will not have to call upon the local management for anything whatever, in the way of scenery or properties, all is carried complete. The sale of seats opens this morning at the Lansing box office.

A GREAT IRISH PLAY. The Chicago Dramatic Journal says of "Leaves of Shamrock" which appears at the Funke Thursday evening: "Another new Irish play on the market is 'Leaves of Shamrock,' which with its elate orate printing drew a large audience to the Academy Sunday. The play presented a capital star in J. P. Sullivan, who is still known as the best Irish comedian and singer the Ivy Leaf ever had. Mr. Sullivan found a friendly audience which made him sing his songs until he showed evidence of fatigue. 'Leaves of Shamrock' is one of the few Irish plays free from the usual tawdry and banal business. It is a straight comedy with plenty of good speeches which appeal to the patriotism of the Irish, full of life, has plenty of opportunities for every

member of the company, and was embellished with some new sets which were picturesque. Mr. Sullivan and his company deserve the success they made, and 'Leaves of Shamrock' can come back to us any time and do a good business.

THEATRICAL CHAT. There's nothing as sad as an actor's laugh. In the true theatrical style, Except the spasms by courtesy called A professional Joker's smile.

It is now Minna Gale Haynes. The Rices' "1492" has caught on in Boston. There are twenty-six theatres open in New York.

Alexander Salvini is an expert swordsman.

Dr. Augustin Daly and Ada Rehan will arrive in New York Saturday.

Col. Miliken, Pasha, wishes to sell his melodramas, "Chris Columbus."

There are three thousand actors and actresses out of work in New York.

The San Francisco courts decide that McKee Rankin has no legal grounds for divorce.

The Lindons will make their farewell appearance at the Lansing tonight in "Hearts of Oak."

New York will this season be surfeited with ballet and vaudeville entertainments. Is come opera to take a back seat?

"The Paper Chase," by Charles Thomas, will have an important place in Rostin Vokes' repertory this season.

Otis Skinner is back from Europe and preparing for his tour with Modjeska, whom Frank Perley will manage this season.

The Winston Opera company and the popular favorites, the Spooner company, are among the October bookings at the Funke.

Evans and Hoey began a five weeks engagement in New York at the Bijou theatre Monday, presenting the ninth version of "A Parlor Match."

Joseph Jefferson begins his eleven weeks' tour October 31 in Lowell, Mass. (Hoyt), New York at the Star theatre October 10th, and the Lansing in the near future.

Robert B. Mantell is the defendant in a suit for absolute divorce, which his wife, Margaret A. Mantell, has brought.

Didn't I tell you so? "The Duchess" is the name of a play which Paul M. Potter has written for Helen Barry, and which she will produce in the west after the elections.

The Lansing's October bookings will open with Frohman's great success, "Jane," which is now running in New York to enormous business. It will be here October third.

Thomas Flaherty, the husband of Mrs. Kimball, who is Corinne's reputed mother, died in Boston last week. People, however, say that there have been three Corinnes.

A warfare between the Philadelphia newspapers and the theatrical managers is now on.

The Henry Mapleson Opera company begins its American tour at the Boston theatre, October 17th, with "Fidelio" and English version of "Les dragons de Villars," by William Gist, music by Tito Matei, Americanized by H. B. Valentine.

The character songs and imitations of Mr. Heywood who appears at the Funke in "New Edgewood Falls" October 7th and 8th are in a different vein from those attempted by any other actor. He never oversteps the bounds of good taste and studies with such good care every phase of character represented that no detail seems lacking.

\$100 Reward. \$100. The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer one hundred dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials. Address, F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

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Ginger ale, finest now before the public, is being served to families by the Lincoln Bottling Works. Call telephone 44 and order a case. It's cheap and very nutritious.

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Four Ways. GOTHAM. Eye the Theopian exhibition, as you stand with meek submission and occasionally mutter, "It is getting very late."

PHILADELPHIA. When the Philadelphia maiden, with her lofty mind overladen by a pedigree that's dated back from old man Penn direct, Trips to greet you while you're waiting, she will stagger you by stating in a voice well modulated, "Is my hat on straight?"

CHICAGO. When the lakeside girl is ready, first she looks at you quite steady, and with scarcely any heeding how the minutes take their flight. With Chicagoese persistence, which admits of no resistance, she exclaims in accents pleading, "Is my topknot out of sight?"

BOSTON. But the Boston girl smiles sweetly as she floors the rest completely, and you're filled with consternation when you hear her gently say, "As she makes a few more passes and she re-adjusts her glasses, "Is my upper decoration horizontally an fault?"—New York Herald.

In the Mountains. She—Must you go back to work tomorrow, Harry? He—It is imperative, Mand. I need the rest.—Harper's Bazar.

The Worst to Be Told. The snowy heads were bowed and the wrinkled faces were wet with bitter tears. A great crushing sorrow had come to them in their old age and they clung to each other helplessly.

"Mother, there was a world of pathos in the aged husband's tender, solemn manner of address. "I have seen our boy in—in—" The load upon his mind was too great to permit him to proceed at once. His voice sank to an inarticulate whisper.

"Jill!" The word seemed to wring his soul. "And he confessed to all." "Oh, James!" The venerable mother trembled and would have fallen but for the support of her helpmate's strong right arm.

"James, James, to think that it is all true." "Yes, mother, he admitted it all. Oh, that I should live to see this day!" In utter misery they rocked to and fro in each other's arms.

"And, mother, the worst of it is yet to be told." She looked into his face in unspeakable horror. "James."

"Our boy confesses that he stole the money to—oh—to buy cigarettes." It seemed as if their grief must kill them.—Detroit Tribune.

He Had Learned Something. Old Hownow—So you're through college? Young Smilax—Yes. Hownow—Well, what are you going to do?

Smilax—Well, I hardly know. I've had two offers—one to go into a lawyer's office for two years at three dollars a week, and the other to play halfback for a football team at \$1,500 for the season.—Boston Globe.

Waiting for a Skycycle. "Why don't you ride a bicycle?" I asked a young lady who was talking about needing exercise.

"If I had started in some years ago it would have been all right, but I can't do it now that everybody else does it. I am waiting for something new to turn up and then I will get in early."—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Plenty of Odds. She—I feel so sure of the finale that I believe I would be willing to bet you a kiss. He—I don't think I would like to accept that bet except upon one condition.

She—Pray, what is that? He—That you give me odds.—New York Herald.

The Almighty Dollar. Featherstone—Have you seen the latest thing in a silver dollar? See here. You touch a spring, it opens and here is a photograph of your best girl.

Travers—Fine, isn't it? By the way, old man, is that the only dollar you happen to have about you?—Brooklyn Life.

A Wild Protest. Young Wife—What do you think of my pie crust, Jack? Jack (who doesn't wish to be as severe as the case warrants)—Very nice, my darling; but didn't you get the shortening in lengthwise?—Boston Post.

Time for Rest. Tailor—Your account, sir, has been running a long time, Mr. Jinks. Jinks—Exactly; it must be fatigued. Let it stand still for a few months.—Judy.

Very Deep. "Has Mantallius a very deep voice?" "Very. Why, when that man sings it hurts his corns."—Tit-Bits.

Alas! A face that's sweet, a figure neat, A fancy paragon! A gauzy dress—lace more or less—Alas! but that's not all.

Besides her smile used to beguile The youth that's smart, Hid 'neath her dress, I must confess, Is an India rubber heart.

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