

ONE "LIGHT THAT FAILED."

Why Sir Edwin Arnold Did Not Read to Omaha Last Night.

EXPERIENCE OF A KANSAS CITY MANAGER.

He Had the Contract but Not the Means of Carrying it Out—Details of the Strange Case.

Sir Edwin Arnold, poet, journalist, traveler and philosopher, was advertised to appear at the Grand opera house last night and give a series of readings from his own works. In cultured circles the appearance of this distinguished literary light was looked forward to as an intellectual treat, but when the holders of tickets appeared at the theater the doors were closed and they were denied admission.

An announcement was made that Sir Edwin's manager had refused to allow him to appear, because the promised guarantee was not forthcoming.

The party holding the receipts from the sale of seats had disappeared, but it was stated that he had probably gone to Max Meyer Bro. & Co. to refund the money. The crowd adjourned to the Meyer store, but the gentleman in question did not appear, and they dispersed to their homes.

History of the Affair.

To clearly understand this fiasco it will be well to review preceding events. Sir Edwin Arnold contracted with J. B. Pond, the New York lecture bureau manager, to give a number of entertainments. Major Pond sent two nights at Kansas City and one night at Omaha to N. S. Shuman, proprietor of the former place. Mr. Shuman sent Francis C. Fisher Cramer to Omaha to act as his agent in advertising the entertainments, and to pay the bills. Mr. Cramer brought a letter of introduction to Max Meyer, Bro. & Co. and asked to have tickets sold at their store. On the other hand, Cloward represented himself as "western agent for J. B. Pond's attractions."

The Messrs. Meyer were too busy with holiday trade to be bothered with ticket selling, but as Major Pond was a personal friend and they thought it best to refer to him, they permitted Mr. Cramer to sell tickets at their store. They had no further connection with the matter, handling none of the money, and are in no way responsible for the cash paid for tickets.

Mr. Cramer called at the Bee office last night and made this explanation of the fiasco:

"I was employed by Mr. Cloward to come to Omaha and was authorized to sell tickets and pay expenses. Mr. Pond's agent came to me this morning and said he would have \$100 before giving the entertainments. Later he suggested that we work together this evening and see what could be done. In the morning he called on me and Cloward, asking him to telegraph me \$50 that the entertainments might go on. The answer did not arrive until 7 this evening. He said he was powerless to send the money. He directed me to hold the funds from ticket sales until 9 o'clock, and if then unable to meet the demands of Mr. Pond's representative to close the house.

"When I arrived at the Grand I found that the manager of the theater refused to allow tickets to be sold to box office, and why I do not know. Mr. Pond's agent demanded the payment of \$200 before he would let Mr. Arnold come to Omaha. I was unable to meet that demand. The receipts from ticket sales were \$251. Out of that money I had paid my board bill at the Millard, and I had to refer to Mr. Cloward for other expenses, as I was fully authorized to do so. These outlays amounted to \$183, leaving me with only \$68 in my pocket on hand. I saw no way of meeting the demand of Mr. Pond's agent, and left the theater to place the unexpended balance in the hands of the city clerk to be held for Monday and Tuesday evenings. Mr. Pond had subtlety engaged to Mr. Cloward. That gentleman had not returned, and I demanded the payment of the sum then Mr. Pond before the entertainment began. He claimed that under a clause of the contract he was not bound to pay until after the entertainment, and rather than dispart the audience, I waived the point.

"I estimated the receipts at \$500 to \$700. Cloward said a great many complimentary had been given out, and the receipts would be between \$500 and \$600. After the entertainment he refused to pay me, saying that he had not received all the money paid for tickets, and made an engagement to meet me in his office at 10 o'clock on Monday morning. At that conference a city attorney said he would advise him not to pay Mr. Pond's claim until the local expenses had been liquidated. And he advised that the expenses would eat up the receipts.

"I notified Mr. Cloward that the second entertainment would not be given, and he offered to donate him the proceeds of last night if he would make that payment. He made no offer, and I left Omaha last night for Kansas City at 9 o'clock last night for Omaha without attempting to give the second reading.

Come on to Omaha.

"Unfortunately Cloward had a separate contract for Omaha, and if we had failed to appear here he might have had a claim for damages against Mr. Pond. Cloward's agent was notified of the engagement and notified the papers by wire from Kansas City.

"On arriving in the morning, I told Mr. Cramer I would require \$400 before beginning the evening's entertainment. After looking into the matter, I offered to let it rest until evening, when, I thought, we could arrange it satisfactorily.

"When Mr. Cramer met me at the Grand this evening I understood him to say that he had paid all expenses but the rent and the advertising, amounting to \$72, and had about \$130 on hand. I was anxious to go on with the entertainment, and made him two propositions. I offered to accept \$300 and let him take the box office receipts until they amounted to enough to meet the rent and the advertising. As an alternative I proposed that he pay the rent and advertising and I would take the \$130 and the box office sales. He said it was simply impossible for him to do either, because he did not have the money. I have no doubt that he is to be held responsible for the fiasco in the matter, and I do not think he is to blame. The fault is with Mr. Cloward.

"I am very sorry this failure occurred, but I do not think the people will blame me when they understand the circumstances. If I had taken the balance of \$130, but Mr. Cramer's hands I would have been bound to pay the outstanding bills, amounting to \$72. To have given the entertainment would have incurred a very heavy loss for Mr. Pond."

Regrets it Deeply.

Sir Edwin Arnold was seen at the Millard hotel and expressed great regret at the deplorable turn of affairs.

"I am very sorry that this occurred," he said, "and I really wish an arrangement might be made for my appearance in Omaha. My next engagement is for Saturday at St. Paul, but my movements are controlled by Mr. Pond's representative. I do not know when we shall leave Omaha, but it will surely not be before tomorrow evening. I do not regret the disappointment which you say Omaha people feel, but it breaks the continuity of a pleasant series of engagements. I have read, for forty nights, and this break at Kansas City and Omaha is the only one that has occurred."

Only Protection Afforded.

Mr. Julius Meyer stated last night that his firm was in no way responsible in the matter of ticket sales, but being desirous of protecting Omaha people as much as possible he had accepted the balance of \$130 in Mr. Cramer's hands. This money he will refund to ticket holders pro rata. He proposes to wire Mr. Pond today asking him to forward enough money to Omaha to make the ticket buyers whole. The entertainment was advertised as under the Pond management, and Mr. Meyer thinks he cannot afford to let Omaha people suffer from the deception.

Dr. J. M. Berglund called on Sir Edwin at the Millard hotel and presented him a formal obituary, and was the gift of the Vedanta Theosophical society of Omaha, and was prepared for presentation at the opera house.

AMUSEMENTS.

"Washington is one vast graveyard filled with the buried hopes of countless office seekers," said Christopher Fishback Jr. last evening to the Mavorick Brander, during the course of "A Texas Story" at Boy's theater, and the sentiment found lodgment in many hearts in the audience. Two or three ex-congressmen, an ex-senator, the minister to San Francisco, and local politicians who had tasted of the sweets of official life in the national capital, gave the thought a hearty and enthusiastic recognition.

Wholly "A Texas Story" is not exhaustive, nor is it by any means a profound disquisition upon the manners and methods of the average congressman, and there are those who question its truthfulness, it has the merit of being amusing. And a very large audience voted "Brander."

There were old friends, too, in the cast, and their entrance was received with warmth which is a distinguishing characteristic of western audiences.

Mr. Murphy as Brander gives a strong and closely analyzed study of a type easily recognizable by Americans. While the portraiture is broad, for the purpose of farce, it is not lacking in delicacy. Mr. Cramer brought a letter of introduction to Max Meyer, Bro. & Co. and asked to have tickets sold at their store. On the other hand, Cloward represented himself as "western agent for J. B. Pond's attractions."

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RIGHT NICE TIME.

Ladies of Custer Relief Corps Show How to Entertain People.

The Women's Relief Corps of Custer post, Grand Army of the Republic, gave its monthly social and dance last night at Grand Army hall on Fifteenth street. The attendance was very large, and the evening was a most successful one. The ladies of the corps were the guests of honor, and their performance was highly appreciated.

In the early part of the evening Miss Lena McGouglan delivered a recitation, "The Polish Boy." The young lady proved herself a most capable and interesting performer. Her recitation was well received with much applause.

A German song was well rendered by Misses Schomel and Shropshire, and a band led by Mr. and Mrs. Gellenbeck was admirably performed.

"Sheridan's Ride" was recited by Mrs. Jessie Sawhill in a manner that brought recollections of bygone days to the veterans. A dialogue on a Christmas day was between Ethel Henderson and Floyd Abekauer, which was very amusing. Following this were magic lantern views and a piano duet by Mr. and Mrs. Gellenbeck.

"Sheridan's Ride" was delivered as a recitation by Hugh Riley, a 32-year-old boy, in a most capable and interesting manner. He was well received with much applause.

The U. S. government are using large numbers of the improved Howe scales. Borden & Sellock Co., agents, Chicago, Ill.

Full in Custody.

The three young men arrested early Wednesday morning at Twenty-ninth and Leavenworth streets and charged with being suspicious are still held. When tackled by the officer the man had four chickens and some clothing in his possession. Mr. Chaudman, being a Georgia man, identified the clothing and a number called the chickens. It is more than probable that a charge of petit larceny will be placed against the prisoners, who all gave fictitious names.

Van Houten's Cocoa—The standard of the world.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

C. F. McGraw of Lincoln is at the Paxton.

N. S. Harwood of Lincoln is at the Millard.

J. H. Kennedy of Douglas, Wyo., is at the Millard.

John D. Marston of Kearney is at the Millard.

W. H. Berger of Lincoln is stopping at the Arcade.

J. F. Kendall of Superior, Neb., is at the Millard.

H. M. Mason of Boone, Ia., is stopping at the Paxton.

George B. Barr of Lexington, Neb., is at the Paxton.

John Bratt of North Platte is registered at the Murray.

W. F. McGee, a stockman of Beatrice, is at the Dellone.

F. M. Crow of Hastings is among the arrivals at the Arcade.

Mrs. J. D. Harrison has gone to Memphis to check the holidays.

Madame Post has left for the east to spend Christmas with her family.

S. O. Curtis and wife of Logan, Ia., are registered at the Dellone.

George H. Moad, a merchant of Chadron, is at the Dellone with his wife.

Mrs. J. M. Murray and Mrs. C. W. Murray of Nebraska City are registered at the Paxton.

Charles H. Hoyt, wife and maid, of the Texas Steel company, are at the Millard.

LOVES AMERICAN PEOPLE.

Sir Edwin Arnold Captivated by This Nation's Open-Handed Informality.

VIEW OF THE COUNTRY'S LITERATURE.

The Current is Not Running so Full and Strong as it Did a Few Decades Past—Too Much haste.

"Come in," said a smooth, pleasant voice as a reporter for The Bee rapped at the door of Sir Edwin Arnold's room at the Millard hotel at noon yesterday.

"Please excuse my appearance and be seated," the distinguished gentleman said pleasantly, extending his hand and giving the reporter a cordial grasp.

"I am just looking through the mail, and you are not here and have not taken time to pay much attention to my personal appearance."

The celebrated author, the leading editorial writer on the London Telegraph is a man of medium height, well proportioned and evidently possessed of that courteous and unassuming disposition which is characteristic of so many Englishmen. He has a long face covered with light brown hair, not very long and not very thick, and a pair of eyes of a pair of keen and very expressive eyes are the most impressive features of his general appearance.

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advised: "Don't prophesy until you know."

Two years ago on his way to Japan, and expressing his great interest in the progress of the Indians to tell him of Arbor day, which, he recently asserted, was the only holiday looked forward to in the future.

"Do you really plant trees?" asked the poet, and when assured that we did he commended the idea warmly. It is to be noted that he is planting a tree on the grounds of George Washington Childs at Philadelphia, and how he found a gentleman to give it special care. Then he related a conversation with Gladstone, in which he playfully reproved the statesman for cutting down trees because according to ancient mythology, trees dwelt in every tree a goddess, who died with the death of the tree. Gladstone's defense was that it was necessary to cut down some trees in order to give others freedom to attain their full glory.

Some one inquired if there was any such thing as theosophy in India. Mr. Arnold replied: "I shall have to ask you, my friend, by theosophy." No one undertook to define the term, and he went on to say that spiritism, as we understand it, is the child of Buddhism. He related some of the incidents of his life in India, and expressed some of the habits of thought peculiar to the oriental, and dwelt lovingly upon the beauties of Buddhist teachings. He said he saw no reason to doubt that the great sages instead of five, and he believed that under proper conditions people could communicate directly with each other, though widely separated