

AMUSEMENTS.

Since the opening of the present theatrical season Omaha has not seen a duller week than the one just closed.

appearance was certainly a most successful one, and instead of suffering from stage fright, as would seem most natural for children of their tender years at a first appearance before a large audience, these little girls were perfectly at home, stage fright seemingly being their last thought.

"The Carpathians." Tim Murphy's new play, which he produced at the Boyd theater on Sunday and Monday evenings for the first time in this city, is not unlike the majority of the later day comedies and has little to it, but it is perhaps the best Mr. Murphy has seen in here as yet.

So well does Tim Murphy do his character work that people who never see him off of the stage think and speak of him as an old man, as he always plays elderly parts, and many who have witnessed his performances will doubtless be surprised when told that he is not yet 30.

It is pleasing to note how fruitful the present theatrical season has turned out when at the outset it promised so poorly.

One of the events of the week in local theatrical circles was the professional debut of the two little Council Bluffs girls, Frances McMillen, aged 9, and Margaret Stephan, aged 8, which took place at the Creighton-Orpheum theater on Wednesday afternoon before the largest and most fashionable mid-week matinee audience that attended the theater since its opening.

"Why did I forsake the legitimate stage for vaudeville? Well, I will tell you," said Sidney Drew in his dressing room after he came off the stage at the Creighton-Orpheum yesterday afternoon.

Among the new stars that have appeared in the theatrical firmament during the past season and have by their artistic achievements literally been knocking at the door of the public is Blanche Weiskopf.

John Phillip Sousa has been engaged to write the music for Klav and Erlanger's new extravaganza, "Christ, or The Wonderful Lamb."

Yvette Guilbert has not been successful in St. Petersburg. She sang at an out-of-the-way theater and did not draw.

Christine Nilsson recently visited her native village. She first went to the little town of her birth in the county of Skaneateles, in the northwestern part of New York.

uninteresting to the public generally and the musical public in particular. It is a matter of old-time history that the name Saracen was first applied to those wandering tribes which were to be found on the Syrian borders of the Roman Empire.

The Arabian was by nature fitted to be the developer of the art of music. Their nomadic tendencies displayed that fact. And he wrote and he sang the stories which have been written and which have been published there will be no reason to doubt that the Arabians were a nation of poets.

Many and interesting are the stories told by the ancients of the magic powers of this instrument, the lute, which far eclipse those of the present day.

The loka-gita of Madagascar has four strings, the wooden body being grotesquely carved, covered with paint of gaudy colors, and profusely decorated with feathers.

The Indian sitar is the most important instrument of the guitar class to be found in that country. It has been known ever since the thirteenth century, experts tell us, and the invention of it is credited to one Amir Khursu.

Of modern examples the Spanish guitar is the guitar par excellence. In the date of glory of master Mateo, to the church of Santiago da Compostella in Spain, there is one guitar-shaped instrument assumed to represent the original vihuela, Spanish violin of the thirteenth century.

middle of the last century that it threatened to oust all the other instruments of the period, and to drive the manufacturers to the wall. The story is told of the organization of persons who were engaged in the manufacture of the harpsichord and of the ingenious device of one of them, known by name, who bought up a lot of cheap guitars and gave them away to street singers, free of charge, including with the gift a series of free lessons so that the guitar should be known only as a street instrument.

The Spanish guitar, who thoroughly understood the whims and ways of society of that day induced the fair women and the gallants to throw aside the guitar, which was "nothing but a vulgar street affair," and to return to the more exclusive harpsichord.

There are now twenty-seven military post-offices in operation in Cuba. Instructions have been given to the American postmasters to work in conjunction with the former Spanish postmasters. They have all been informed that the United States is responsible for their salaries from January 1.

General Brooke is engaged in a careful examination of the bank taxes and will use his discretion in the matter of their remission. While there is no information forthcoming as to what he will do in the matter there is no doubt the general will remit all taxes prior to December 31, 1900.

General Brooke is in a position to learn quickly the purposes of any considerable party for the purpose of the military administration. The military administration has had no communication with the Cuban commanders regarding the question of pay, but Governor General Brooke is in a position to learn quickly the purposes of any considerable party for the purpose of the military administration.

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industrial and other capital. He was connected with the organization of the glucose combination and it has been rumored frequently during the last few weeks that his presence in this city was partly due to the much talked of sugar-glucose combine.

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MUSIC. There are doubtless many people who speak of the guitar, the banjo, the autoharp, the zither and the mandolin without having any very distinct idea of the various capabilities and capacities of these different instruments. It would not be possible to discuss the various merits and demerits of these instruments in this column, but a recent article in a musical magazine about the guitar has considerably aroused the interest of many musicians and therefore it will be toward the guitar that the thoughts of the musical community will be directed this week. Few people realize that the guitar is by no means an easy instrument to master. Inquiry made of the various teachers in Omaha results in the information that mandolin actors are much in excess of the devotees of the guitar. In the first place we have the authority of Sir John Grove that Berlioz and Paganini, two great men in musical history, were guitarists. Schumann thought of using the guitar as an accompaniment to the Romanza of his D minor symphony. But finding that the tone was too light to answer his purpose he substituted the violin, played pizzicato, or with the strings "plucked," or "picked," as distinguished from "arco," signifying "played with the bow." A word with regard to the early history and evolution of the instrument may not be