

Amusements

"Well, when I first came to Omaha twenty five years ago and stayed at a little ramshackle hotel located somewhere down in the bottom I didn't dream that a quarter of a century later I would come here and find a metropolitan city in which I was destined to make my first automobile ride."

"I have always been sort of afraid of these new-fangled things. We got along pretty well without them fifty years ago and it is kind of hard to keep up with this modern pace. What would these machine girls do this afternoon if anything were to happen to me?" Bertie, the lamb, ejaculated as the automobile took him past the government building at breakneck speed.

"The streets are beautiful," Mr. Robson exclaimed. "It is wonderful the way the city has equalized the grades and made all the hills so accessible. Omaha seems to be far ahead of Kansas City, San Francisco and other hilly western cities in that respect."

"Mr. Robson's home is at Sandy Hook but a short distance from where Sir Thomas Lipton has been during the yacht races. Before Mr. Robson started his tour he dined with Sir Thomas and became quite well acquainted with the enthusiastic sailor."

"The government has a gun near my house which is so big that it will cost \$2,000 to shoot it. It never has been shot yet and all the people in the neighborhood hope that there never will be any occasion to give it a trial."

"When asked how it seemed for him to get back into his old role of Bertie, the Lamb, Mr. Robson replied: 'It's lots of fun. I don't have to work. All I do is talk and look smart. I am not doing any work for me than putting on new plays. My dearest wish is that the public will continue to accept me in 'Henrietta' from year to year as it has accepted Mr. Jefferson's 'Rip Van Winkle'."

"Mr. Robson is the same merry little man he was twenty years ago. His face is as round and red as ever and he is as young in manner as may fellows who have only one-third his age to their credit."

"Georgia, my little Georgia," she gasped and held out her arms. But the child of Georgia Drew Barrymore passed on bearing and unheeding, and with a pitiful cry old Mrs. Drew sank in the arms of Mr. Arbuckle. She did not play Mrs. Malaprop that evening, but little Ethel went through the role assigned to her and when it was over her histrionic triumph was complete.

"Jack Haverly, the old-time minstrel man, who died the other day in Salt Lake City, was well known to the theater-going public of Omaha eighteen or twenty years ago. He was in the zenith of his career then, and besides managing playhouses in New York, Boston, and Chicago, he had been in Chicago, was backing some twenty traveling companies and was on the road himself with his famous Mastodon minstrel. He was then to the theatrical world what Charles Frohman is today, and it is an odd fact in this connection that Frohman, then a mere child, had worked for Haverly in the capacity of bill passer."

"Last summer while Haverly was 'on his uppers' he called on Frohman in New York and it is currently reported, was not very cordially received."

"About twenty years ago Haverly filled a date in Omaha with his famous Mastodon minstrel. It was a good show and hundreds of people saw it. It was on one of these occasions was attended by an incident which was not on the bills and now no doubt is still recalled by many now living in the city. The troupe undertook to jump from Minneapolis to Omaha by special train, but the engine broke down on the way and delayed the arrival of the train until almost midnight. The house was, nevertheless, held for them without the return of a dollar to the uneasy audience."

"Yes, that was a holdup indeed, that I would not care to undertake again. He began, 'The company was great organization at the time, numbering some sixty people, and playing to crowded houses at every point. Haverly was the topmost wave of the popularity which later overwhelmed me. We had the pick of minstrel in the ranks, including Billy Emmerson, Billy Rice, Sam Devere, McAndrew, Billy Walsh, Tom Rice, Zanretta, John Lee, Gorman brothers and many others whose names I cannot recall just now. Charles Frohman was manager of the party and I was treasurer. Haverly had an incredible proclivity for drawing on the company for excessive amounts and taking snap judgment by giving little or no advance notice. His drafts kept us in a condition of perpetual impotency and necessitated a little finagling to meet the heavy salary roll and expenses of the company without impairing his credit at the banks holding his drafts. I was often forced to stand off salaries and railroad tickets some heavy and un-expected draft of Haverly's in the town had wrung every dollar out of me. It was not an unusual thing for me to borrow Emerson's or Rice's diamonds and pawn them on the spot until night time, when I could redeem them with the proceeds of the performance. We were all used to the draft, however, and took mastodon pride in honoring them."

"The jump from Minneapolis to Omaha was a terror. Haverly wired us at Minneapolis to look out for a \$5,000 draft at Omaha. Now, the company could not possibly arrive in Omaha before 5 p. m. two hours too late to save the draft. It accordingly preceded the company on an earlier train, with the \$5,000 and protected the draft. The remainder of my time in the town was devoted to booming the show with fictitious bulletins on the newspaper boards regarding the wonderful speed that the Mastodon minstrel's special train was making, though I hadn't the faintest intimation that the train had even started from Minneapolis. Their silence turned several of my hairs gray. I kept up this lying until it was time to open the theater—the one on Douglas street, now devoted to variety amusements—and no sooner were the doors open than the house began to fill rapidly. The advance sale was enormous, something like \$500, and I had wisely collected it. After putting the ticket office in charge of a stalwart special officer whom I had cultivated during the afternoon for the purpose, I stationed myself at the door and took all tickets. The rush was terrific, but I'm sure not a guilty ticket escaped my fingers. In the thick of the crush I was handed a dispatch which I was powerless to open for some minutes; my knees weakened as I read it. It was from Frohman, dated at Missouri Junction, 5 p. m., stating that the engine had broken down there, and as he could not arrive in Omaha on time, asking that I hold the house as best I could."

"It was then 8 p. m.—house packed and company 300 miles away—I slipped my face into a smile I put an usher at the door temporarily and appeared before the curtain in my hand."

"This, ladies and gentlemen," I stammered bravely, 'is word from the company that they are now at Council Bluffs, all blacked up, and will be here in fifteen minutes.' The whistling and cheers from the gallery enabled me to slip away without further perjury. Resuming my charge at the doors, I had time for a few checks, refunds of money, invitations to drink, smoke and chew, but I met them all with good-natured firmness. I gave up everything but money, stood more abuse than a car mule gets, heard his pedigree in all the colors of the rainbow and accepted challenges to mortal combat on the morrow. Finally I levelled a telegraphic announcement on the now rampaging audience. I left the doors to themselves while I vaulted upon the stage and, flaunting the same Missouri Junction dispatch of 8 p. m. (then 10 p. m.), I got the audience quieted a moment. Ladies and gentlemen, I did it, and I did it bravely."

"The storm of yells, hand-clapping and foot-stamping that greeted this audacious announcement was just a bit drastic. 'another dispatch, I'll read it to you.' And I read: 'To Omaha Public: We are delayed on the bridge. Will be with you in five minutes. God bless you. Mastodon Minstrel.'"

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"A true Yankee story, presented as an interesting Yankee play, portrayed by real New England actors, plotted by a veteran manager from the Green Mountain state, are the promises held forth by U. D. Newell, who will present for the first time in this city this afternoon and tonight his sensational comedy-drama, 'An American Tramp.'"

"Miss Annie Russell's appearance as a star will be made at the Boyd Monday and Tuesday night, October 8 and 9. She is offered in 'A Royal Family,' in which she recently appeared for nearly two-thirds of a season's run at the Lyceum theater, New York, and to which place she, it is authoritatively stated, returns with the same play this season. Miss Russell, although one of the most recent of Manager Charles Frohman's stars, bids a most promising and permanent career. This is largely due to her own personality and manner of acting, which were so pronounced in her bygone days of 'Emeralds,' 'Elaine,' etc., as at the present time, though not of course so well rounded and artistically finished. Miss Russell's new play has won strong praise for its excellent work and quiet humor, and its satire that is most delicate when it is most potent and most effective when most gentle; for its subtle love romance, which is refined in every respect, and the dainty star and her company are all credited with pliant and intelligent acting therein. The story reduced to absolute description is only the love of a prince and a princess who are quite commonplace offerings of royalty and acceptable because the playwright has not placed them in any unpleasant circumstances. The company supporting Miss Russell still includes Mrs. G. M. Gilbert, who was with her in 'Miss Hobbs.' Other members, though new in the organization, are widely known as the prettiest and are Orin Johnson, W. N. Thompson, Lawrence O'Driscoll, Harry Bennett, Charles Butler, Robert Hickman, Harry Rose, Allen Murnane, George Forbes, John Randolph, Donald Gallagher, Edwin St. George, Eleanor Sanford and Mabel Morrison."

"The Casino Girl," the musical extravaganza diversity of the New York Casino, will on Friday, October 11, come to the Boyd theater. 'The Casino Girl's' story is: A prima donna from the Casino flees New York and the stage for quiet and millinery commerce in modern Cairo, Egypt. Pilsener Pasha has brought such a fine quality of beer to the market in New York that he has made a pasha. Pilsener's understanding of the privileges of a pasha includes the possession of lots of wives and besides a household of femininity he adds to the collection about forty chorus girls who have been strangled along the Nile by Gags, an elongated tenor. When the Casino girl gets New York she is behind her a young boss. This young turn up in Cairo and renew his courtship, which is interrupted by his arrest as a notorious outlaw called Muley Bey. Muley himself, who is a jovial scoundrel, contrived the arrest to divert suspicion from himself. He is aided in the conspiracy by a companion who is equally scoundrelly and genial. Betsey Pilsener, the wife, and the two comic opera thieves and Gags, the comic opera star, the main fun is released. It is follied by the picturesque elements of the Casino girl, her sweetheart and a background of gorgeous choruses. Of the cast of sixty the most prominent artists are: Frank Bernard, Ben Grinnell, Harry Short, Miss Clara, Palmira Newe McNaughton, Carrie Reynolds and Hattie Arnold."

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IN THE BATH



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AMUSEMENTS.

BOYD'S THEATER | Woodward & Burgess, Mgrs. Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 7-8 Charles Frohman presents ANNIE RUSSELL A ROYAL FAMILY as presented by Miss Russell for six months last season in New York. Prices—boxes, \$2.00; first 3 rows orchestra, \$2.00; balance lower floor, except last 4 rows, \$1.50; last 4 rows, \$1.00; first 2 rows balcony, \$1.00; balance front balcony, 75c; rear balcony 50c; gallery, 25c. Seats now on sale.

BOYD'S Theater WOODWARD & BURGESS, MGRS. TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY. Bargain Matinee Today, 25c and 50c. AN AMERICAN TRAMP By Edward E. Kidder, author "A Poor Relation," "Peaceful Valley." Prices—25c, 50c and 75c.

BOY'S Theater WOODWARD & BURGESS, MGRS. OTIS SKINNER and associate players, including Ambrey Bonicault, William Norris and Marcia Van Dresser, will offer his latest production "FRANCESCO DA RIMINI" October 15 and 16. Matinee Wednesday. Sale seats open Friday. Prices—Evening, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00, \$1.50; matinee, 25c, 50c, 75c, \$1.00.

COMING! JOSEF HOFMANN THE GREAT PIANIST. Wolfsohn Musical Bureau, New York.

August Mothe-Borglum Piano Teacher. Pupil of Mr. Swayne, Jr., of Paris, recently of Vienna; Leschetzky school. Studio, 9 Davidge Bldg., 18th and Farnam.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Kelly Song Recitals. Pupils Received in Tone Production—Artistic Singing—Voice Development—1802 Farnam—Davidge Block, Daily, except Wednesday, 10 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Teacher of Mandolin, Guitar and Banjo. HERBERT H. ELLIOTT (Successor to Francis Potter), 312 Ramage Block 15th and Harney.

"Crossing the Bar," set to beautiful music by Rev. H. H. Woodward, M. A., an English clergyman.

Miss Lillian Fitch, the well known elocutionist, has resumed studio work and has also been engaged as a special teacher of elocution and dramatic art at Bellevue. Miss Fitch has proved a valuable and interesting adjunct to many good concert programs here and it is an excellent idea to have a good elocutionist on concert programs such as those given by churches, societies, women's clubs, etc. It is now becoming quite the thing also to have certain readings pertaining to choral works presented in connection with the program. The field of the good elocution teacher is akin to the vocalist and it can very well be used to more mental advantage.

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