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Amusements

For the closing week of the present theatrical season there seems to have been a rather unequal division of time among the different attractions which are booked for presentation here. So many meritorious attractions following each other so closely as those in prospect for the next two weeks will not only work a hardship upon the purses of the enthusiastic play patrons, but will, have a bad effect upon the office receipts of the different attractions as well. The unseasonable weather will also undoubtedly have its effect upon the attendance, and while large audiences are already assured for the engagements of John Drew and Richard Mansfield, the balance of attractions can hope for only ordinary attendance at the best. The bunching of important attractions at the close ing of important attractions at the close of the season in the west seems to be gether explainable. Much of the fault lies "Jim Bludsoe" and "Basty Tim," two of n the fact that many of the more im- Secretary Hay's early poems of life along portant attractions can remain almost the the Mississippi. It is called "Jim Bludsoe." entire season in New York and the other and its chief attraction is, of course, the eastern cities and only get as far west as interesting and exciting episode that ended Omaha late in April or early in May. With the caloric and strenuous career of that such attractions as Richard Mansfield, picturesque individual who so cheerfully Maude Adams, Viola Allen and others of exhibited a lofty disdain and absorbing their class, this makes little difference in disregard for the comity of civilized instithe attendance, as people will strain a tutions, such as marriage, the rights of point at any time to attend performances property and individuals and the like. of superlative excellence such as is al- We all recall that Mr. Hay wrote: ways forthcoming during engagements of i these stars, but the others must accept only fair patronage. This lack of patronage has its effect, too, upon the standing of Omaha as a theatrical town. Naturally the late comers, who are accustomed to playing to the full capacity of the theaters during the earlier part of the season, cannot account for the lack of patronage, unless it be that Omaha is unappreciative. no mean achievement, in fact it was al-However, there seems to be no ultimate solution of the problem or no good way o prevent its recurrence, unless the arrange the booking of the more im- river that in those good old ante-bellum portant attractions that tour the country annually as to have part of them open their seasons in the west and part in the deeds of wickedness of a degree to occasion of the company are:

any of the great stars and take them

day," so did Jim, and in the present in-

of one certain negro boy, known and de-

of "the day our left struck Vicksburg

He trumped Death's ace fer me that day
And I hain't goin' back on him.
"Now, ye kin resoloot till the cows come
home,

With all of the Joy virtues and force of

home, But ef one of you teches that boy He'll rassle his hash tonight in hell, Or my name ain't Tillman Joy."

"And when the smokestacks fell The ghost of Bludsoe went up alone, In the smoke of the Prairie Bell."

And he went for it that and then, And Christ ain't goin' to be too hard On a man that died fer men."

"Roaring Dick," as Mr. Richard Mans-

field is affectionately called by his admir-

of more brutal misrepresentation, probably,

made the hero of all manner of sensational

No one likes his joke better than Mans-

manuscript. In one he appears much

with these words:

the critics feel that

So the play lives.

whenever they see fit to come.

Decidedly the most artistic, if not the very best, exclusive theatrical publication steamboating. But, as "all boats have their of the present day is "The Theater," a handsomely illustrated magazine of theatrical and musical life published by all reference to his personal habits, his Meyer Bros. & Co. of New York. The moral obliquities and his matrimonial ad-May issue of this publication, which is ventures, and instead has grafted on him just out-handsome in appearance, as usual-devotes considerable space to a discussion of the proposed endowed theater. The editor wrote to the leading players, dramatists and literary workers asking for their views on the subject and he prints their replies. The fifty odd answers include interesting letters from Joseph Jefferson, Julia Marlowe, E. H. Sothern, E. M. Holland, Mrs. Leslie Carter, Reginald de Koven, Otts Skinner, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, De Wolf Hopper, Eugene W. Presbrey, Kyrle Bellew, Wilton Lackaye, John Malone, Martha Morton and others, The general opinion seems to be that there is great need in New York City for an ideal theater, and the name of Mr. Heinrich Conried is put forward by most as the man best fitted to conduct such a theater. Another important feature in the issue is an article on "The Passion Play in America" by a prominent clergyman. The writer, Rev. Percy S. Grant, rector of the Church of the Ascension, New York, takes the liberal view, which he thinks is that of many church members, that there would be no old-fashioned rip-snorting westerner of the impropriety in presenting the sacred story original mintage. And so when the final on the local stage if properly done. He climax of the play comes, does not think it would cheapen the Christian religion, but says that, on the contrary, Christian people must not shut their ! eyes to anything which tends to give greater reality to the story of Christ through fear it will shake their faith. Cleveland Moffett contributes an interesting study with striking portraits of Mme. Segond-Weber, the Parisian stage celebrity of the hour, and an entertainingly written dual interview with the joint stars, Effie Shannon and Herbert Kelcey, forms the subject of this month's "Chats with Players." The number is profusely illus-

now before the public. In the demise of Sol Smith Russell, which occurred early in the week, the stage lost one of its quaintest and most lovable characters. Anyone who ever sat through, one of the odd, unctuous performances and laughed at his dry humor or was moved to tears by his tenderness and pathos, will undoubtedly retain a mental picture of him as long as life lasts. In the west he was held in particularly high regard and enjoyed popularity as great as that of any other actor. Of his career the Dramatic Mirror publishes the follow-

trated with scenes from the current plays

bligh regard and enjoyed popularity as great as that of any other actor. Of his career the Dramatic Mirror publishes the following interesting articles:

The property companies of the property control to the property contr

sick and Mansfield paid all her mother's of the foppish hero. Then and there he nearly any old kind of instrument. ative audience.

Coming Events.

This afternoon and tonight are the gagement of the Grace Hayward company at the Boyd. The sensational melo-drama. 'Reaping the Whirlwind," will be the bill Chleago is just now more than reveling at both performances. Mr. Ferris inan annual occurrence that is not alto- in the delights of a melodrama built on augurates his summer season at this house Sunday, May 25.

John Drew will offer at the Boyd tomorrow night and Tuesday night his latest comedy, "The Second in Command." The play is from the pen of Captain Robert Marshal, author of "A Royal Family" and "His Excellency, the Governor." It had a most successful run of five months at the Empire theater, New York. All his critics have declared that it is the best thing Mr. Drew has ever done. The hero is Major "Jim warn't no saint; them engineers
Is pretty much all allke.
He'd one wife at Natchez-Under the-Hill
And a nother one here in Pike." Kit Bingham, and the play is the story of Major "Kit's" love-making with fascinating Muriel Mannering, his chum's sister. Mr. Jim was addicted also to the use of the Drew is better liked in the role of Major bowle knife, and had made a record at "Kit" than in any other of his career. Natchez-Under-the-Hill in the line of an gives him the finest opportunities for actartistic manipulator of that storied weapon ing that he has ever had, showing more which fully equalled his accomplishments phases of his art and revealing all the in a matrimonial way. This in itself was skill as well as the dramatic power at his command. The role of Muriel Mannering most sufficient to ensure him fame as last- is in the hands of Miss Ida Conquest, whose ing as that which came through the unique personal beauty is acceptuated by the manner of his ultimate taking off. For charming costumes she wears, and whose theatrical syndicate can be induced to so it is recalled by those who remember the impersonation of the heroine adds to the completeness and pleasure of the perdays life in Natchez-Under-the-Hill was of formance. Miss Conquest is still Mr. such sort that any man who accomplished Drew's leading lady. The other members east. But let's be thankful that we get comment was assuredly an artist whose wald Yorke, Liouel Barrymore, Lewis name would be remembered with no other Baker, F. Newton-Linds, Reginald Carringespecial reason in all communities save ton, Robert Schable, Percy Smith, Robert that unfavored spot which has dwindled to Mackay, Ida Vernon and Louise Drew. Sabbath quiescence with the decline of

> "The Country Girl," in which Kathryn Kidder will be seen at the Boyd Wednesstance his historian has charitably omitted day and Thursday nights and a specia matinee Thursday, is claimed by some to be equal to any of the Shakespearian comedies. The play has been amusing audiences the virtues of that sturdy resident of since 1675, when it was originally produced "Egypt," the old-line democrat who laid at the Theater Royal in London. his politics aside to keep till the war was comedy, which was the work of William through, Tillman Joy. Mr. Joy came to Wycherley, was first known by the title of the front at a mass meeting of his old "The Country Wife." In 1766 another verneighbors, who objected to the presence sion of the play appeared, this time called "The Country Girl." The author was scribed as "Banty Tim." In impassioned David Garrick. The play abounds in in-Sucker dialect Mr. Joy recounts the doings teresting features which always gain the approval of theatergoers. Some of the heights," and tells how Banty Tim saved most noted actresses in England and in his life on that occasion. He concludes this country have essayed the role of Peggy, the comical heroine of "The Country Girl," 'So, my gentle gazelles, than's my answer, And hyar stays Banty Tim. who outwits her jealous old guardian, and young man of her choice. Perhaps the best remembered scene in the piece is in the park, where Peggy disguised as a boy is taken for a stroll by her guardian. The efforts of her lever to talk with her and the desire of her guardian to keep her away character, added to the natural dash and from all men but himself, are a basis for intrepidity of Bludsoe, quite a charming hero is made, not a wishy-washy Harding a series of complications which never fail to convulse the audience. Davis or Stanley Weyman sort, but a good,

During her engagement of three per-The former will be given Friday night and Saturday matinee, and the latter Saturday night. Mary Mannering showed Omaha theatergoers the worth of "Janice Meredith" early in the season. Miss Walsh has been unusually successful in the piece. "La Madaleine" is a new play from the pen of H. J. Dam, a newspaper man. The ing friends (behind his back) is the object scenes are laid in Paris at the present time, and the last scene finds Madeleine than any man on the stage. He has been witnessing the marriage of the woman she hates to the man she loves and for whom yarns, in which his violent temper, his inshe has given up all her hopes. It is it and many fine portraits of the players tractable nature, his insufferable egotism the chapel of the Virgin, at St. Roch. She and his supreme disregard for the rights holds in her hands a rosary, and when the and feelings of others have been portrayed crisis comes her animal nature rises above in most vivid language. Mr. Mansfield is too well balanced mentally to allow these spiritual influence and she casts the crucifix from her in a frenzy of rage and despair yarns to disturb him, or if they do disturb Then, when she hears the ceremony and him, he manages quite well to hide the fact. the fateful words are spoken which link to another the man she loves, she drinks field, even at his own expense. In his polson. As her senses begin to leave her home are two large group photographs. she realizes that she is dying, and with Each represents Mansfield surrounded by dim eyes and shaking fingers searches the his company, to whom he is reading a floor for the crucifix. At last she finds it, and with a smile of consolation on her fac bored, but everyone else is alert and interdeath comes. Miss Walsh is surrounded ested. In the other he is all smiles and this year by a very capable company of interest, but the company have gone to players.

Next week is the last one of the current regular theatrical season of the Boyd. Three attractions fill it, one being the most notable one of the season-Mansfield in "Beaucaire." Others are: "When Reuben Comes to Town," a big musical comedy of the New York casino sort, and May Irwin, in "The Widow Jones." Miss Irwin puts the period to the season Sunday night, May 18. three successive sessons she has done so.

The last bill of the season at the Orpheum begins with the matinee today, the and silent interest. curtain ringing down for the last time this on a double bill on next Saturday night, for immediately after the regular professional program the climax will be reached, with an amateur performance. as to the actual facts in such stories. But The most pretentious of the weeks' offer-no one, even those who discredit them, but ings is the presentation of the sterling one-The most pretentious of the weeks' offersay, "It would be just like Mansfield to do act comedy drama, "Tactics," by the Barthings on that extravagantly grand scale." rows-Lancaster company, who were seen Mr. Mansfield has always considered it in it several seasons back. It reveals gratulate them on their courage, but it is infra dig. to deny the many silly fictions the true American spirit and portrays the about temper, harshness and kindred sending into obscurity of the last vanish-

little girl who played the prince of Wales ing mist of Mason and Dixon's line. The to Mansfield's Richard III. She was taken reminiscent battle scene, showing the northern general and southern colonel reexpense from the first. He went every lating incidents of the battle of Gettysburg day to visit with her at the hospital and will recall the sketch for those who saw it. brought her toys and fruits. She has been Another feature will be Sugonato's troupe looking forward to seeing the great actor of Japanese acrobats and equilibrists. Lotta to express mysef. I never could roast. play Beau Brummel. He promised her Gladstone, the well known comedienne she should, but every day her case became | characterizes a quaint country girl as her more hopeless. Then she reaissed it, and share of the entertainment, while a variety one day she complained he had not kept of instrumental music will be contributed his promise. At that he threw off his by Mallory brothers and Brooks, a trio apgreat coat and disclosed all the finery parently capable of getting music out of acted the principal scenes from the Petite Sydney, a character dancer, will comedy and declared afterward that he make a local appearance for the first time. never acted better or to a more appreci- Marsh and Sartella's specialty is singing and dancing. Entirely new moving pictures will be projected by the kinodrome. General Manager Beck of Chicago reports that since the close of the concluding performances of the present en- new lease instructions have been given the American and European booking agents of the Orpheum Circuit company to push the booking for next season and asserts that everything possible will be done to have a superior line of attractions.

> Commencing with the matinee today, the management of the Trocadero promises its patrons an exceptionally strong aggregation of talent in the Parisian Belles burlesquers, who combine the three ingredients of amusement, burlesque, comedy and vaudeville in an excellent manner. The two burlesques, which are presented here for the first time, are "Robinson Crusoe, jr." and "The Liberty Bell(e)s," which are brimful of excellent comedy and pleasing songs. The ollo is composed of Van Tassel and Rowland, character artists, who also introduce a broad sword contest, the Chatham sisters, song and dances artists; Klein and Clifton, eccentric dancing turn; Fonner and Carter, "coon shouters," and William Holland, descriptive vocalist. The engagement lasts the entire week, with daily matinees. On next Friday evening Manager Rosenthal repeats his amateur night.

Plays and Players.

Edmond Rostand is writing a play called The Trial of Joan of Arc." Milwaukee, St. Paul and Minneapolls are now to have high-class vaudeville. George Monroe will resume starring next season in a new play called "The Doings of Mrs. Dooley."

Next season Buffalo Bill's Wild West tours Europe. This will probably be their final season in this country.

Madame Janauschek, who is at Saratoga Springs, is said to be in very poor health and quite unable to help herself. Peter F. Dalley and Della Fox are to star next season in a new English musical comedy, entitled "In Fairyland."

Grace Cameron, late of the "Foxy Quiller" company, has been engaged to sing a prin-cipal role in the coming production of "The Chinese Honeymoon." Francis Wilson and his family will sail for Europe on May 10 on the Lahn. He had engaged passage on the new yacht Sardegna, which lost its propeller off the Avores last week

Azores last week.

Musical

I have been encouraged by the receipt of several letters approving of an article on column. One was from a fond parent. Now, rors. Here is one: "Delibes and Themes," I am requested to express myself in what from Wagner's "Tannhauser." Of course my friends call my "usual tender and the discerning reader will know that gentle style"-whatever they may mean Delibes is the author of the preceding finally, through a clever ruse, weds the by that—upon the subject of "talkers" or number, but someone saw that his name "gossipers" at a recital or concert.

Here is certainly one of the most aggravating annoyances that fall to the lot of preacher, orator, singer, player or actor. One cannot always do as the old minstrel man did who, being annoyed by much conversation and indifference to the "show" in one part of the house, walked down to the footlights and addressed the noisy section of the audience thus: "Ladies and formances, which opens Friday night at gentlemen, we sincerely hope that we are of Composers." Tonight, promptly at 7:30, Boyd's, Blanche Walsh will present two not disturbing you. If we are, we apologize the fourth and last of the series will be plays, "Janice Meredith" and "La Made- and we will endeavor to be as quiet as pos- given. German composers will rule.

> Long years ago-oh, many years before Omaha had depots and expositions and auditoriums and things, when Will Taber was giving his free organ recitals, with the customary catch-as-catch-can offertory, I wrote in The Bee protesting against the garrulous flirtations, silly babblings and general conversations which went on while he was playing. You remember Taber, the sweet-souled

> player on the instrument of a thousand You remember how his delicate fingers chased the fugitive thoughts which fluttered in the sunshine of his brain and how he caught them on the organ keys and gave them to us through the noble in strument that he loved.

And the interruption! It was extremely annoying to sit and try to listen sometimes when a buzzing of voices interfered with the soft plaintiveness of that "vox humana" stop. Taber has left us, but the talking auditors remain.

I remember, while on this subject, an in cident in the life of that late lamented apostle of the beautiful-John McQuoidhe who saw everything, but himself, as the child sees a bright flower-who was so unhurtful, so gentle, so poetic-to me, a reincarnation of Oliver Goldsmith. Dr. Mc Quoid was preaching one of his famous sermons and was waxing eloquent on a favorite thought when suddenly he stopped and, looking directly at some persons who were engaged in conversation and laughter, he said with a tone of pathetic sad ness: "This is not a funny story, I am not telling a joke." He resumed his discourse and it was listened to with intense

Yes, the subject of loguacious interrup tion is a vast one, but as long as ill-breeding exists that will exist. As long as selfishness and refusal to consider others exist, so long will people talk at a concert or lecture or service.

I know of a church where ushers reprove people who talk disturbingly, and I connot fair to the usher to be compelled to ask him to be a policeman without a star

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As I said before, the subject is one which should be mentioned. I agree with my correspondent, who suggests that some thing should be written about it, but I must absolutely decline to say a word about it, through sheer inability to find words As it may be of interest to go back once

in awhile to old times, here is a reprint of an article by the present scribe in The Bee many years ago, when the column was headed "Dominant Sevenths:"

Bee many years ago, when the column was headed "Deminant Sevenths:"

It was Sunday. The attraction was Mr. Taber's organ recital. We went. It was most interesting, the program was carefully selected, well played and eminently satisfactory. The St. John's Collegiate church quartet (an unusually good one. by the way) sang. Lack of space forbids mentioning each number, but the "Sancta Mater" deserves special mention as being suggestive of the way in which most of the audience hear Mr. Taber's programs. "Sancta Mater, istud agas," sang the tenor, which blended nicely with "It was a 'hot' show, you bet; I'll go again any time." The ideas seemed rather incoherent, but of course sometimes musical writers cannot translate Latin freely. Then fluted the "Crucifix! fige plagas, Cordi meo valide," and a young woman smiled, then smiled again, then littered or twittered, but not like the lone sparrow of ancient lore, for there were many sparrows. Could it be that those words expressed something humorous? Doubtless we would hear. The tittering grew into a whisper, and this was what came to listening ears: "Mamma tried to keep me from going, but you bet I went, just the same. Oh, I know how to work mamma, te-be-he," and so forth ad lib.

"Juxta crucem tecum stare, Me libenter sociare, in pianctu desidero." And from a very well dressed and respectable looking woman, in whom one would have expected to see good manners, came this translation: "It is a perfect dream. Oh, speaking of dreams, have you ever tried using ale instead of beer in cooking a Welsh rarebit? You know there is a "tout here Mr. Taber had the bad taste to interrupt a conversation which I was enjoying, for I like Welsh rarebits).

Cannot something be done to induce Mr. Taber to play very softly; very, very softly.

tion which I was enjoying, for I like Welsh rarebits).

Cannot something be done to induce Mr. Taber to play very softly; very, very softly, so that conversations may be continuous. He is an urbane fellow and one of the most agreeable in existence; he is nothing, if not agreeable, and doubtless if pressure sufficient were brought to bear on him he would see his foliy and give his whispering chatterbox auditors a chance.

How about this for a sign in a leading church: "Please do not talk while the organist is playing." We are coming to that. Then we can have: "Gentlemen will please remove their hats." And meanwhile the basket, that obtrusive little basket, goes by unnoticed. And the artist plays on.

I am again reminded of the great possibilities of a big annual musical festival. I do not mean a month of band concerts; those should be regular annual incidents, free in the parks, and they will be some day; we are growing thereto-but I mean a gathering together of the choral associations of Nebraska and neighboring states in annual conclave for a few days. The reminder in this case is an announce

ment in the daily press of an "Annual Festival of Music" at -Yankton, S. D. Prominent artists have been engaged and the business men have taken hold in good earnest. When will Omaha do it? Is there not one business man in Omaha who will take it up as a business venture? Look at the advertising Yankton is getting!

In connection with the announcement "Bables" which appeared recently in this by the way, there are the usual funny erand the common English word "themes," when coupled, looked like the names of a hero and heroine in a mythological drama. It is also announced that "Mrs." George Wilson will sing the baritone part in Mendelssohn's "Elijah."

> In spite of the severe rainstorm last Sunday night a large audience assembled at the First Methodist church for the third (French) evening of the "Historical Cycle

> A cong recital by Prof. Clement B. Shaw will be given under the auspices of the music department of the Woman's club, at 8:30 Monday evening, May 12, at the First Congregational church. Prof. Shaw will be assisted by the best talent, and all music lovers, the club and their friends are in-THOMAS J. KELLY. vited.

Marie Swanson, Harpist, 829 S. 18th St. See Davies opening on society page.

AMUSEMENTS.

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SUNDAY 5:20 P. M. DINNER
is a special Militard feature.

C. H. Peeples, Manager, A. B. Davenport, Principal Clerk.

Extensive Library