Amusements

"The play's the thing Wherein I'll catch the conscience of the king."

Shakespeare may have intended Hamlet to be mad, or merely feigning madness, but into his moments of solitude he gave him speeches of soliloquy which embody in pregnant sentences the fruit of not only long experience in the affairs of the world but of deep philosophic rumination as well. Hamlet is not alone in scattering these gems of wisdom, bright and radiant in their setting of chaste English, but the king, old Polonius, the grave digger, and others, each from his sphere in life, presents us with diamonds of counsel and pearls of thought, so that one may seemingly never exhaust the store contained within the play which tells of those tragic events at Elsinore. Even after repeatedly having seen the play produced by some of the best and some of the worst actors the American stage has known, and after having read and reread the text of the play as accepted by the highest authorities on Shakespeare, one finds each time on turning to the well known lines a new light flashed back, as though the ray had caught another facet of the gem, and thus illumed a hitherto unseen beauty. Lovers of good English, of deep philosophy and of homely wisdom clearly set forth will never tire of reading "Hamlet." But to get back to the text: Did Shakespeare know anything of what is called in modern police parlance "the third degree?" It is known that at least once in his life Singer Will of Stratford came within the purview of the law, and it is not improbable that during the days when he strolled the country in company with other players he was again and may be again in contact with the powers that were in these days, and he may even have come within the knowledge of the Elizabethan prototype of the twentieth century "front office." At all events, at the latter end of the sixteenth century he enunciated a proposition which is still potent and effectual in the awakening of conscience. To be sure, there is a possibility that the thief-takers of the world have profited by the experience of four centuries that stretch between the now and the time when the tragedy of "Hamlet" was first enacted by "his majesty's servants." Charity for the Bard of Avon naturally inclines us to this view of the case, for it not only exonerates him of being suspected of a more intimate acquaintance with the methods pursued by the authorities of his time in overtaking criminals and unearthing crime than is seemly or becoming in one so wise and gentle, but it lends an added luster to his brilliant halo by suggesting that he had already conceived 400 years ago a plan which is scarcely improved upon though still practiced. For example, the police of Cleveland during the week solved a murder mystery in almost exactly the same way that Hamlet verified the story told him by his father's ghost and fastened on his uncle the guilt of his fratricidal crime. It appears that an honest burgher of the Ohio metropolis was done to death by an unidentified man while walking along a shady byway in the outskirts of the city, accompanied by his wife. "Cherchez la femme" is also a maxim handed down from a past era which has been incorporated into the lexicon of up-to-date police practice, the receptivity of which is not confined to tangible articles alone. After the ordinary methods of obtaining information had been exhausted, the police sought out the woman and arranged the play. On a dark and gloomy evening, accompanied by two officers the widow went along the route over which she and the murdered man had gone on the night of the tragedy. At the point in the journey where the murder was committed another officer sprang from the shadow and discharged a revolver. Conscience leaped into life, and the widow shrieked the name of her paramour, who now occupies a cell with a charge of murder against his name. Here, indeed, the play was the thing in which the guilty conscience was entrapped.

What would some of the rest of us do did we not have better control over our nerves, or were our consciences not under the sedative and soporific influence of some powerful moral anodyne? Isn't it in a sense at least a blessing that we are all in a measure capable of raising our hands in Pharasaical self-congratulation and rendering to God thanks that we are not like other men and women? Those beams within our eyes are of some service, at least, for if they should be plucked out, it is quite probable that few of us would care to bother about the motes that obscure our neighbor's vision, much less visit the theater where the mirror is held up to nature. Not to make the application too personal, the play is continually pointing out to us the weakness and foibles of human kind, showing us the fruits of wrongdoing and the rewards of right, and ever marking the path along which lies the way to earthly happiness, and yet how often does the play entrap the conscience? Hardly a phase of human life but has been exploited with dreadful realism on the modern stage, and while it is undoubtedly saying too much to charge that no good has come out of all this teaching, there is certainly no manifestation of any general reform having its origin in the presentation of any picture of real life on the stage. Books have set people to thinking, and thus have wrought great changes and brought about social reforms of much moment in the world's affairs, but somehow the influence of the stage has as yet had no such triumph. It may be that the pictures shown are too evanescent, their settings too nebulous and their endurance too brief to leave a lasting impress. It may be that the failure is due to the application of Pope's well known postulate regarding Vice and familiarity therewith. Whatever the reason, the fact is lamentably apparent that only in rare instances does the play really entrap the conscience of the auditor, and even rarer are the reforms that may trace their genesis to the actor's art. That this is so should not be charged against the actor, for if his art does not have its effect immediately, it must in time do good, if only in that for a moment it diverts the mind of some one into a channel of thought along which it might not otherwise have wandered. Nor should the actor despair, because he has before him the example of teachers and preachers for ages, who have dinned doctrine and dogma, supported by threats of the direst damnation and most condign of temporal and eternal punishment into the ears of a heedless world, which still spins merrily along "the primrose path of dalliance." Verily, then, while we may admit the play's the thing, it is forced upon us that conscience is indeed a most elusive thing.

When G. V. Brooke was playing Virginius one night, during the forum scene, among the lictors lined up on either side of the stage was a tall, lank fellow who was so thin that actually the weight of the battleax he bore upon his shoulders made him appear bowlegged, says the Chicago Tribune. He had eaten nothing all day, and was weak and dizzy. Just as Virginius plunged the dagger into the heart of his beloved daughter the lean and hungry lictor toppled over and fell to the floor with a sharp thud. The curtain immediately was rung down, amid great excitement. Mr. Brooke stalked majestically to his dressing room and summoned the captain of the "supers" to his presence. "Captain, do you know which one of your men so disgracefully disturbed the most impressive scene in the play?" demanded Mr. Brooke, in tones that made the "super" boss tremble. "Yes, sir; I do. He is John ——." "Well, never mind his cognomen," interrupted the angry tragedian. "Send him to me at once." In a few minutes the lanky-looking lictor, fully recovered from his swoon and braced up by a stimulant which the ancient Romans, wot not of, stood before the virile Virginius, who said: "Sirrah, what made you swoon a few moments ago? Was it from the effects of strong drink?" Shaking like a leaf and fearful of losing his remuneration of 25 cents a performance, the lictor suddenly was smitten with a brilliant thought. "If you please, Mr. Brooke, it was your splendid acting that overcame me. I hope you won't be angry with me when I tell you that you played the part of Virginius in such a natural manner I thought it was real. Then, as I fancied I saw blood flow when you stabbed your daughter, sir, I fainted." "Young man," said Brooke, his massive chest heaving with pardonable pride, "I have had many compliments for my acting, but that is the best and most genuine tribute I ever received. Here, take this and enjoy yourself." Then Brooke handed the smiling "super" a $10 bill and towed him out of his dressing room with the air of a diplomat who "crooks the pregnant hinges of the knee, that thrift may follow fawning." The following night Brooke played the part of the unhappy Roman father with greater force than ever. Just as his dagger descended upon the fair bosom of his lovely daughter he was startled by a terrific crash that made the stage tremble and caused the footlights to flare around. Turning quickly, he was horrified to behold the forms of twenty-five lictors prone upon the floor!

Coming Events.

Today and for the ensuing week summer resort entertainment will be varied and high class, Krug park having a number of special events scheduled to attract the pleasure seeker. At 6:45 this afternoon the sensational double balloon ascension by the noted aeronauts, Prof. J. Waldorf Hall and Howard Hall, which was postponed from last Sunday on account of the burning of the crown of the balloon, will be given. The men will give a double-trapeze performance as they soar skyward. When a great elevation has been reached H. Hall will cut away with his parachute and leave J. W. Hall, the claimant to the record for high ascensions, to make an attempt to establish a new mark for himself. "Jack and the Beanstalk," a pretty moving-picture production of the favorite fairy tale, will be one of the interesting features especially calculated to please the children. Much is added to its attractiveness by it being in colors. It will be presented every evening just before the "Passion Play," which continues to enlist a reverend interest. An entirely new program, carefully selected from the most popular compositions of the well known standard authors, will be rendered by Huster's cornet band, afternoon and evening. Included will be a selected solo by Huster on the trombone. The regular weekly ragtime concert will be given Wednesday and on Friday Huster's band will play a program embracing selections from the successful light operas. On Saturday next the different lodges of the Catholic Foresters of the city will hold their annual outing. The W. R. Bennett and Hayden Bros. teams will cross bats on the new Krug park ball field today.

Plays and Players.

Ailsa Craig is a recent addition to The Liberty Belles company.

Daniel Sully will have a rural drama, called "The Old Mill Stream."

Johnston Bennett says she is tired of vaudeville and is open for an engagement in the legitimate.

Charles Frohman will have twelve companies appearing simultaneously in England and its possessions.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew have been appearing in vaudeville at the opera house in Melbourne, Australia.

Hughey Dougherty is featured with the Dumont Minstrels, which began its season in Pittsburg last week.

The Market Street theater in Ottuma, Ia., will be reopened on October 4 by Effie Elisler in "When Knighthood Was in Flower."

Cissie Loftus, who made a splendid hit in London as Marguerite in "Faust," will play Ophelia in E. H. Sothern's revival of "Hamlet."

Fred Hallen and Molly Fuller have a new vaudeville sketch, entitled "His Wife's Hero," which is said to turn on an amusing case of mistaken identity.

The call has been issued by Otis Skinner for the rehearsals of "Lazarre," which will begin at the Grand opera house, Chicago, the end of this month.

Julia Dean has been engaged to play the ingenue part in "The Altar of Friendship," which Nat C. Goodwin and Maxine Elliott will produce the coming season.

J. Cheever Goodwin, the librettist, who went into bankruptcy some months ago, was discharged in a New York court last Tuesday. His liabilities amounted to about $6,000.

James O'Neil's play for the coming season was only finished last week by Harriet Ford and deals with scenes in Russia fifty years ago. A title has not yet been decided upon.

"Damon and Pythias" was scheduled for a revival at the California theater in Frisco the other night, with Frederick Warde and Charles Herman in the title roles.

Klaw & Erlanger's "Sleeping Beauty and the Beast" company will leave New York for Chicago the 22d inst., opening its season at the Illinois theater Saturday evening, the 30th inst.

Nat C. Goodwin celebrated his 45th birthday last week by giving a banquet to his friends in London. Many congratulatory telegrams were received and replied to by the merry comedian.

The play that Herbert Hall Winslow has written for Ezra Kendall is called "The Vinegar Buyer." It is said to be very bright. Lottie Altar, Marion Abbott and Walter Thomas will be in Kendall's support.

As a dramatist Ethel Knight Mollison made something of a hit during the past week, for her little play called "Swords and Tea" proved to be entertaining and pleased the Montreal theater-goers very much.

The prize fighters, James Jeffries and Robert Fitzsimmons, have received an offer of $1,000 each per week to appear in the vaudeville houses and go through a light sparring act. Nothing definite has been decided upon as yet.

The trouble between Grace Livingston Furniss and Manager Harris over the play "Mrs. Jack" has been settled through the intervention of Alice Fisher, who expects to star in the piece, and rehearsals started in New York last Monday.

Wilton Lackaye had a chance to once more play the part of Svengali in "Trilby," for the Frawley company revived that piece last week, and it was demonstrated that Mr. Lackaye has lost none of his old-time cunning in the role.

"Mice and Men," the piece which it was thought Maude Adams would use next season, has been turned over to Annie Russell, but the latter will not appear in it until the first of the year, when she makes her first New York appearance.

Ethel Barrymore and her brother Lionel arrived in New York from London last Saturday and went immediately to their uncle's, John Drew, on Long Island. Miss Barrymore will play a boy's part in "Carrots," a curtain raiser, next season.

It is now reported in New York that Rose Coghlan has taken up a residence in South Dakota for the special purpose of obtaining a divorce from her husband, John Sullivan. The latter, it is said, will not oppose the application when made.

The Troubadour Four—Nat Nixon, Harry Thornton, Bert Eaton and William Fuller—have signed with Charles H. Yale and Sidney R. Ellis for "The Evil Eye" to do their specialty and play principal parts. Mr. Fuller is to play the Evil Eye and Mr. Thornton the part of Bertrand.

Charles Frohman last Tuesday received a cablegram from Maude Adams, who is in Switzerland, saying that she would not be able to open her season until late in November. Miss Adams has overworked herself, and it will be quite a while before she is in condition to resume her acting.

Robert Downing, the actor, in San Francisco, Thursday, obtained a divorce from his wife, who is known on the stage as Eugenia Blair. The petitioner swore that his wife deserted him in November, 1898, and the divorce was granted on the testimony of the actor and his daughter.

The answer to the question will be made after Blanche Walsh has produced "What Will People Say?" a new play by Rupert Hughes which Wagenhals & Kemper have just purchased. It is said that Mr. Hughes has discovered a new type of society woman which Clyde Fitch has overlooked, and Miss Walsh will play her late in the season, for her tour begins with the Stange play founded on "Salambo."

"There have been a lot of sensational stories in the newspapers concerning Mme. Janauschek's condition," says the New York Dramatic News. "All of them have been greatly exaggerated. The aged actress has been paralyzed on one side for several months, and, while she is able to get about, she is still very feeble, but her condition is not such as to particularly alarm her friends. Mme. Janauschek is resting in Saratoga at a cottage owned by some friends, who are offering her every comfort."

Augustus Thomas, the playwright, author of "On the Quiet," "Arizona," "Alabama," etc., has designated Thomas W. Ross as the logical successor to William Collier, who has signed with Weber & Fields. He has also selected him to play Robert Ridgeway of Yale in "On the Quiet," for a tour of the principal cities next season. James Sheegreen and John B. Reynolds will manage the tour and give the play a pretentious stage equipment, one of the scenes of which shows a sloop yacht under full sail, the deck and cabin being accurately pictured.

"'The Only Way' has been produced many times, but never had such a strong cast as offered by Henry Miller in San Francisco last week, and in consequence is that the engagement at the Columbia theater was a record breaker," says the New York Dramatic News. "Mr. Miller played Sydney Carton, Miss Anglin was the Mimi, Gertrude Elliston played Lucie Manette, William Courtleigh was the Ernest De Farge, Charles Gootthold played Darnay, Arthur Elliott was Dr. Manette, Charles Walcott appeared as Stryver and in the cast also were Ethel Hornick, Lawrence D'Orsay and Walter Allen."

"The third act of 'Quincy Adams Sawyer' has a kick and a kiss and a smudge of paint," says the New York Sun in reviewing the latest book play which gives us types from New England, set in a framing of farm scenery. And this third act made an unroarious hit with the attendance at the New York Academy of Music on the occasion of its first presentation. Other papers vote it a hit, and in course of time, likely, Omaha people will have an opportunity to judge of its merits as interpreted by the McUmpty company, which will have the rights west of the Mississippi river. The play follows the book very closely.

"It becomes almost pitiful to see the large number of applicants trouping in and out of the leading managers' offices, going in with hopes of an engagement, coming out with their fondest dreams somewhat crushed," says the New York Dramatic News. "The average number who have flocked to Charles Frohman's offices is over 200 a day, while at the Liebler offices and the offices of W. A. Brady, Kirke La Shelle and David Belasco the list of applicants amounts to over 100 a day. There is not a position open for one out of fifty and what many of the players will do this fall is much of a mystery. The cause of all this is hard to determine. There are just as many companies going out as ever, and the engagements, while a little behind, are not sufficiently in the rear to cause so many disengaged people. One actor who had been turned away from ten offices in one day was so disgusted that he has decided to joint the ranks of the vaudeville."

Musical

The most important event in local musical circles is the approaching series of concerts by the Ellery Royal Italian band, which will begin Thursday night of this week. I bespeak for the band a generous patronage and for the auditorium committee a loyal support. The band is entitled to an unprejudiced hearing, and if the men do in Omaha what they have been doing in other places the people of Omaha will be entertained beyond doubt. Mr. Campbell, a member of the auditorium committee, told me, unofficially, the other day that he had recently heard the band and that he was immensely pleased. It speaks well for Omaha that with two or three good musical organizations playing engagements at local summer resorts, there is, nevertheless, a demand for straight concert programs, as is evidenced by the fact that the business men who represent the musical festival and the auditorium committee, deem it a wise venture to back up once more an annual series of band concerts. I wish them a brilliant success and I appeal to the music lovers to assist in this educational enterprise.

I have been reading most complimentary accounts of Homer Moore's opera, in the musical papers, and I am inclined to the belief that Homer Moore has done something for American music which will outlast the lifetime of the man. From a close personal knowledge of Mr. Moore I have always considered him a man of large ability. As musical critic of The Bee he was a dignified, forceful, fearless writer, with an immense vocabulary and an originality of ideas. As a singer, he was a decided artist. As a conductor, he had a positive and authoritative style. As a manager, he had an executive brain. An individual manner, which was often misunderstood, made enemies for him—but that is merely a proof of ability.

He sang and played a part of his opera for me before he left here in 1898, and I was greatly impressed by what I heard. Not having seen the complete work I am not able to pass any personal opinion upon it as a whole, but let me quote a portion of a letter which I have just received from Mr. Joseph Gahm, who has been with Homer Moore for the past few weeks. He says: "You would be surprised at the music. It is really very wonderful and quite original. He wrote the libretto and also invented the story. He is now at work on his third opera, 'The Pilgrims.'"

Mr. Gahm adds incidentally that he did not recognize Moore when he first saw him, as he weighs 168 pounds.

I am glad to record this of a former Omaha musician, and I feel sure that all local musicians, irrespective of former disagreements, will unite with me in wishing him good luck and abounding success in his operatic venture. Here's to the "Purlitans."

The following item is clipped from the New York Evening Post:

"Gentlemen," said a German professor, who was showing to his students the patients in the asylum, "this man suffers from delirium tremens. He is a musician. It is well known that blowing a brass instrument affects the lungs and the throat in such a way as to create a great thirst, which has to be allayed by persistent indulgence in strong drink. Hence, in course of time, the disease you have before you." Turning to the patient, the professor asked: "What instrument do you blow?" and the answer was: "The violoncello."

I have received copies of the Salt Lake papers in which very flattering accounts of a young Nebraska singer appear. Miss Edna Lucille Marshall of Plattsmouth is the recipient of the honors. She sang at the Elks' convention at Salt Lake City, in the famous Tabernacle, which was crowded with many thousands of people. She has a magnificent mezzo-soprano voice, and she is born to sing. The song of the occasion was the product of a Plattsmouth writer's brain, and is entitled, "Dear Promised Land." It is a song which ranks above the average sacred or semi-sacred publication. It will make a good addition to the list of desirable church music.

THOMAS J. KELLY.

Irishman Defeats American.

LONDON, Aug. 16.—At the Cliftonvale Athletic sports today the 100-yard handicap was won by Murray of Dublin, with two yards handicap. He defeated A. F. Duffy (American), who was at scratch, and Westney (American), who had three yards handicap. Murray's time was ten seconds.

GAME OF HIGH DIPLOMACY

How Played by the United States Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

HIS HOUR OF COFFEE AND CIGARS

No Fuss and Feathers at the American Embassy—Troubles of Yankee Representatives—Morgan and His Knee Breeches.

(Copyright, 1902, by Marshall Lord.)

LONDON, Aug. 1.—When some enterprising American university starts a special course in diplomacy for youths who want to become ambassadors, the chief item will have to be instruction in the fine art of dining. International law and history and all that sort of thing doubtless would be advantageous enough, too, but you might as well omit anatomy from the study of medicine as to teach European diplomacy without dining.

His excellency the American ambassador to the court of St. James would be the ideal professor in this branch of instruction when the time comes for him to leave London and get back home. He would testify that his work at the broad, flat-topped desk in the dingy office of the embassy in Victoria street was of comparatively little account, that his official communication with the marquis of Salisbury, Lord Lansdown and the other Downing street folk had been mostly formal after all, and that his occasional audiences with the king had little political significance. But when it came to the hour of coffee and cigars—that was when the real business of the nation was done, sometimes in neat, artful speeches, reported in full in the papers, and read by everybody, sometimes in comfortable, unofficial, informal talk with the men who govern England, in fact, while the king governs in name.

Those are the private talks in which the prejudices, ambitions and friendships of the nations are weighed and measured—in which it is determined what is the lease that one will accept and the most that the other will give—in which are shaped the international policies that are afterward the subject of formal, dignified negotiations to a predetermined end.

Fancy an insignificant looking, shy, nervous, awkward man representing a great nation at one of these behind-the-scenes spreads. He might know all there was to know about international law and such matters, but in these intimate confabs the personal impression counts for so much that it sometimes outweighs everything else. That is where Joseph Hodges Choate comes out strong. You can't lose him, either in a crowd or in a group of statesmen. He may be inwardly nervous—in fact, I suspect he was pretty uncomfortable when he first came over here—but he wears all the outward and visible signs of easy satisfaction. When he rises, with a benign smile, to respond to the toast the chairman has given, everybody settles back comfortable, sharing the ambassador's confidence that his forthcoming speech is going to be a rattling good one. The only other man in England who creates quite the same impression is Lord Rosebery.

Choate's Delicate Insinuations.

Opinions differ, of course, about Mr. Choate's success in the formal side of diplomacy, but he has done something more than make a personal hit with his after-diner addresses. I have heard a dozen or so of them in London and I have never missed from one of them a note that at first rather startled placid John Bull; in one form or another, his excellency always contrives to say deftly and insinuatingly what, if put bluntly, would be something like this:

"Brother Bull, you are in most respects a good fellow, but you have shown a little tendency to be superior in times past. The occasion for it has gone by, if it ever existed, and you will kindly take notice that Brother Jonathan isn't playing the role of younger brother."

The ambassador has kept up such a steady pounding on that note and commercial events have given him such strong backing that the effect has become noticeable. Brother Bull has been getting the idea firmly fixed in his head.

The American ambassador lives at No. 1 Carlton House Terrace, just back of the Prince of Wales' Marlborough house, in the great mansion bought by L. Z. Leiter for his daughter, wife of the viceroy of India, where she is the first lady among three times as many people as there are in the United States. The Curzons rented the place at a big price to John Hay when he represented the American government here, and Mr. Choate, after three or four weeks of house hunting, concluded that he couldn't do better than step into his chief's shoes, so to speak. The old yellow Georgian houses of which No. 1 stands at the upper end are not gorgeous as seen from the outside, but they have a stateliness and dignity within that makes them exactly suited for ambassadorial residences. The German ambassy does occupy one of them, but the difference is that Germany pays the rent, and the ambassador's home and his offices are in the same building, whereas the American ambassador pays the house rent out of his own pocket, devoting the larger part of his salary to the purpose.

The curve of the terrace makes it impossible to get a good photograph of the front of the house, but from St. James' park in the rear you get an impressive view of this famous row of residences, where Mr. Gladstone once lived, and where Mrs. John W. Mackay and William Waldorf Astor have their town houses now. Gilbert Parker, who "married money," as they say, and has made a lot more out of his novels, also lives in this elect territory. All good Americans in London swarm from adjacent Pall Mall into Carlton House Terrace on each Fourth of July to climb the fine curving stairway at No. 1, hear their names called out by the liveried footman, shake the hand of his excellency at the head of the stairs, bow low to Mrs. Choate and then squeeze on through the crowd that fills the long succession of lofty rooms, back to the temporary buffet, where portly waiters deal out good things to eat and drink.

Mr. Choate's Dingy Office.

It is only a short walk around by Westminster abbey to No. 121 Victoria street, where the United States government has its little pied-a-terre, and a dingy, grimy, stuffy, dark, depressing place it is, too. It is a wonder that the ambassador and the half dozen members of his staff do not suffer perpetually from the blues. No other diplomat of ambassadorial rank in London has such mean quarters, and some of the ministers from little South American republics are far better provided for. The only comforting reflection to Americans who visit the place is that it gives the lie to the British notion that Americans have a taste for garish display.

Although the ambassador represents in person the president and the whole 70,000,000 people of the United States, there are no fuss and feathers at the embassy. If you have any good excuse for it, or if you are merely a distinguished citizen who has no other excuse for calling than a desire to shake his excellency's hand, all you have to do is to go in and await your turn in a gloomy anteroom, walled about with reports of the proceedings of congress and other diverting and popular volumes of a similar nature. Once ushered into the inner room where James Russell Lowell and so many other famous representatives of the American people have sat, you conclude from his manner that his excellency doesn't resent the intrusion, that he is glad to see you—and that he would freeze you up and get rid of you in about ten seconds if you proceeded to be a bore who didn't know when to go.

Formerly one of the great drawbacks to the fun of being ambassador was the deadbroke American who came of such good family and brought such strong letters of introduction that there was nothing to do except guarantee his hotel bill or provide money to pay his passage to America. Half of the time at the embassy was taken up in listening to hard-luck stories, but Mr. Choate, with his usual good fortune, has escaped most of that, thanks to the organization of a relief department by the American society in London.

Politicians' wives who want to be presented at court take up a lot of time, too, and in the summer season folk who want tickets to Parliament, letters to officials, and all sorts of personal privileges, keep two embassy secretaries in a rush. Various folk who have called and asked to see Mr. Choate have been found to have the intention of asking him to write out for them a little list of cheap boarding houses; others, it appeared, cherished the idea that a personal heart-to-heart talk with the ambassador could reasonably be expected to result in the loan of a dollar until the next American mail arrived.

Americans Kick on the Income Tax.

One of the most urgent of these personal matters laid before the embassy is the income tax which Americans living in London have to pay to the British government, although most of them get their incomes in America. Each new victim usually heads straight for the embassy and wants to know what in something or other the British government means by demanding a percentage of his receipts from, say, real estate on which he already pays taxes in America. It does seem like an outrage, but there is nothing the embassy can do about it.

Unlike every other ambassador in London, Mr. Choate has no court costume. The distinguished Americans who go with him to a levee to be presented to the king have to scurry around for knee breeches and buckled shoes, but the official representative of Jeffersonian simplicity goes in ordinary swallow-tail and becomes morbidly conspicuous in the gorgeous throng.

When Mr. and Mrs. Choate entertained the king and queen at dinner early in June Pierpont Morgan was also one of the guests. He rushed over from the continent on purpose to be present, arriving only a few hours before the time. He had been so busy buying up odds and ends of steamship lines, railroads and old masters that he had forgotten all about knee breeches. He was badly rattled when he was reminded of them at the last moment. None of his friends had anything of the sort that would fit him, and all the Morgan millions couldn't move a London tailor to turn out a pair of court knee breeches in three hours. It began to look to Mr. Morgan as if he would have to be taken suddenly ill for the sake of a good excuse for absenting himself from the dinner, when somebody suggested that a theatrical costume might help him out. Hurried search in the shops around Covent Garden resulted in finding a pair of nether garments that made a fairly good fit, and in consequence Mr. Morgan was presented to their majesties in breeches that had previously seen service on the stage.

It is said that Lord Curzon has had enough of India and will be returning early in the autumn to take a place in the cabinet if the present government remains in office throughout the year—as it is almost certain to do. In that case Mr. Choate will have to move out, and as it is such a difficult matter to get a suitable house, and as he has had about all there is to get in the way of ambassadorial fun and glory, I think it is more than probable that he will retire from office. Although he made a fine fortune out of his law practice, he probably finds it rather a bore on some accounts to fill a position that calls for the expenditure of from two to three times his salary.

Ante Room Echoes

Omaha is to be the center of activity of several national secret societies this year, at least three having looked to this city for executive officers. The first to be chosen was Henry C. Akin, imperial potentate of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine; the second, George P. Cronk, who this week was elected grand exalted ruler of the Elks, and then from San Francisco came news of the selection of Mrs. W. A. Dilworth as head of the Pythian Sisterhood.

There is much in this to make Omaha proud. The orders, without exception, contain among their members much of the best citizenship of the country. The head of the society being located here turns the attention of every member to Omaha. They will come here to visit the supreme officers, and in coming may be attracted to the city for other purposes.

There was little of the sensational or dramatic in the selection of any of the officers, and for this reason the citizens outside of the orders affected have not appreciated the importance of the selections as they will later. The real election of Colonel Akin to the office of imperial potentate took place several years ago, when he was chosen assistant rabban of the order. After that his promotion followed as a matter of course and he came to his own at San Francisco, when those who had preceded him in the lowest elective office had retired from the chief office.

The election of Mr. Cronk, while not on the program for years, as was the case with Colonel Akin, was so well assured for months before the national meeting that no campaign was necessary. Mr. Cronk has been an Elk for many years and has for several years been closely identified with the national organization, having served on many of the important committees and been tried among the best men in the order. His nomination came not only from his own lodge, but from Kentucky, whose favorite son died just before the nomination of Mr. Cronk, and against whom Mr. Cronk had said he would not run. The impetus given the candidacy by the lodges of Omaha and Louisville was such as to destroy opposition—if any had been intended—and but one name was presented in the grand lodge.

The election of Mrs. Dilworth as supreme chancellor of the Pythian sisterhood is a compliment to a Nebraska woman, who has devoted much time and attention to the order.

While not a secret society, it will hardly be out of place to mention the election of Mrs. F. A. Kennedy as president and Mrs. Herman Matthes as chaplain of the Woman's auxiliary of the International Typographical union, thus bringing four officers of national organizations to Omaha during the week. The society is social and beneficial in its nature, and Omaha was the second city in the United States to form a local association, the one at Atlanta, Ga., being the first organized.

The organization of the uniform teams in the Woodmen of the World is progressing rapidly, and at the next meeting of the sovereign camp it is expected that the men with the swords will make a fine showing.

Omaha council, Knights of Columbus, has practically filled its second class of initiates, consisting of about sixty members. Quite a number of the class are residents of adjacent cities, and in order to facilitate their coming to Omaha the ceremony of initiating the class has been set for Sunday, September 28, the beginning of Omaha's fall festivities. The ceremony of initiation will be conducted by ranking knights from Chicago.

On Sunday, September 21, a large delegation of the council members will go to Des Moines to participate in initiatory ceremonies there, and enjoy the hospitality of the Des Moines council.

Omaha tent, No. 75, Knights of the Maccabees, held their regular review Thursday evening. Much business was transacted, after which a splendid athletic program was carried out, the feature of which was the wrestling contest between Sir Knights Houston and Holden. Among the visitors present were John G. H. Scott of the uniform rank and Supreme Deputy State Commander Dopkins. A large class of candidates were initiated, and at the close of the regular meeting refreshments were served.

Petition for Injunction Denied.

CLEVELAND, O., Aug. 16.—The petition of the Philadelphia National league base ball club for an injunction against Lajoie and Bernhard, the ball players, was denied by Judge Stripple in common pleas court today. The Philadelphia club sought to enjoin these two players from playing with any other than the Philadelphia club. An injunction had been granted in Pennsylvania and it was sought to have it extended to Ohio, but the court denied this on the ground that it would interfere with the internal policy of a sister state. The case settles the status of the two players named for the balance of this season at least, as no further hearing or appeal can be had until after the close of the base ball season.

AMUSEMENTS.

Omaha's Musical Festival
54 GRAND CONCERTS,
Beginning Aug. 21st, Ending Sept. 17th
GIVEN BY
ELLERY'S ROYAL ITALIAN BAND
AT THE
Pavillian 15th and Capitol Avenue, for the Benefit of the Auditorium Fund.
The Royal Italian Band is one of the largest and greatest organizations of its kind in the world. Under the directorship of Cavalier Emilio Rivela, the most noted band leader in the country, and under his direction the band has created a sensation wherever it has appeared.
DON'T FAIL TO ATTEND OPENING NIGHT
Coupon Book Tickets 20 Admissions, $5.00.
Transferable and good for any concert.
REGULAR ADMISSION, 35 CENTS.
SECURE YOUR TICKETS BEFORE NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT.

KRUG PARK
Omaha's Polite Summer Resort.
TODAY
A Superior Array of Refined, High-Class Novel Attractions
A GREAT SENSATIONAL DOUBLE
Balloon Ascension
And trial for world's high record by Prof. J. W. Hall and H. Hall, the famous aeronauts.
JACK and the BEANSTALK
Something to Please the Children.
Huster's Concert Band
Entirely New Program.
PASSION PLAY
Depicting the Life of Christ.
AND OTHER FINE FREE SHOWS.
Bowling Alleys, Burro Excursions, Shooting Courts, Merry-Go-Round, See-Saws, Swings, Children's Play Grounds and all the pastimes of a modern resort.
Ragtime Concert Wednesday, Aug. 20.
Admission to park, 10c; children free.

Another Big Show TODAY and all week. FREE Performances
Courtland Beach
J. A. Griffiths, Manager, 218 1st National Bank Bldg.
The greatest variety of high-class open air free performances ever attempted at a summer watering resort in the west.
NOVEL LADDER ACTS by the celebrated Frisco and Faust, the world renowned aerialists. One of the most amusingly entertaining combinations known. Free, twice a day.
BALLOON ASCENSION with parachute leap every day during the season. Free.
SLACK WIRE Performances. Three distinct kinds of balancing at one time. Free performances twice each day.
TWO ORCHESTRAS in constant attendance. Free concerts every afternoon and evening.
PENDULATING PERCH Two free daily performances. One of the most interesting and novel of free entertainments.
COLORED QUARTET in new southern melodies. Two free concerts every day. The biggest hit of the season.
This coupon good for One Ride only on Aug. 19th Courtland Beach Merry-Go-Round.
CUT IT OUT
JACKSONIAN CLUB PICNIC Saturday Aug. 30 AT COURTLAND BEACH
Among the speakers will be Governor Patterson of Colorado, Governor Stone of Missouri and Hon. W. J. Bryan.

Try a Cold Glass
Krugs' Bottled Beer—absolutely pure and healthful—an aid to digestion and a system builder—a cold glass several times a day will take you through this hot weather and leave you in a vigorous condition. Send for a trial case. A 'phone call will bring it. Remember, there is only one beer—that's Krug's.
FRED KRUG BREWING CO.
1007 Jackson St. 'Phone 420

Mr. Kelly's Studio
CLOSED
Season Opens Sept. 8th
Students entered Sept. 5-6

BRASS BAND

Instruments, Drums, Uniforms. Lyon & Healy's "Own Make" Instruments are now used by the greatest artists. Fine Catalogue, 400 Illustrations, mailed free, it gives Band Music & Instructions for Amateur Bands. Bargains in Instruments just reduced in price.
LYON & HEALY, 57 Adams St., Chicago.
The World's Largest Music House. Sells "Everything known in Music."

BREEZY AND PICTURESQUE
J. A. Griffiths, Manager, 218 1st National Bank Bldg.
LAKE MANAWA
THE MOST BEAUTIFUL VIEW THAT LOVERS OF FINE SCENERY CAN WELL IMAGINE. HUNDREDS OF BAUTIFUL YACHTS AND SAILING CRAFTS OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS.
Round Trip Ticket 25c from Omaha good any day.
This coupon good for ONE RIDE MONDAY AUG. 18 ONLY on the Lake Manawa Merry-Go-Round
Balloon ascensions with parachute jumps every day.
Round Trip Tickets 15c from Co. Bluffs
Be sure to buy round trip tickets before entering the cars. On sale at the usual places.
Free Admission Attractions
COVALT'S Manawa Concert BAND
The greatest musical organization ever heard in the west. A band second to none. Composed of the highest class musicians and soloists under the directorship of the ever popular leader, Mr. A. A. Covalt.
Finest bathing in the west.
Visit the Kursaal.
Round trip tickets on Electric Launches 15 cents.
Fill your baskets and picnic at Lake Manawa.

MORAND'S DANCING SCHOOL
Reopens for
Adults Tuesday, Sept. 2, 8 p. m.
12 lesson ticket—gentlemen $8, ladies $6. Two dollars less if you join the opening night. Call for circulars and particulars open day and evening.

HOTELS.
The MILLARD 13th and Douglas Sts. OMAHA, NEB. Omaha's Leading Hotel
SPECIAL FEATURES: LUNCHEON, FIFTY CENTS. 12:30 to 2 p. m. SUNDAY 5:30 p. m. DINNER, 75c.
Steadily increasing business has necessitated an enlargement of the cafe, doubling its former capacity.