ABOUT PLAYS PLAYERS AND PLAYHOUSES

Omaha patrons of the theater had a us to meet the Issue bravely and removaried assortment to make selection from the causes for such plays as "Iris," at thus make them impossible. Sincere yours, varied assortment to make selection from at the Boyd, three at the Krug, and the regular excellent vaudeville at the Creighton-Orpheum. None of the offerings was the first magnitude unless the Mary Shaw engagement be considered as such. The Iheen play hardly proved popular; the same is true of the Miller-Anglin and Warde-James engagements. No one questions the ability of either of these, for each has too well proven a right to be listed among the stars, but neither "I'Arcy of the "Alexander the Great" "Ghosts" is worthy the pains bestowed upon them. If any permanent recollection attaches to the engagement it will be be cause the actors are recalled and not the plays. Joseph Hart and Carrie DeMar were heartily welcomed early in the week with their little bunch of fun, Grandpa," and Clay Clement closed the busy week with his customary tasteful offering of "The New Dominion." At the Krug the customary thriller had the first half of the week, and gave way to two nights of tenuation and not as exculpating the capacity-testing welcome to Ward and Vokes in their nonsense, served under the title of "A Pair of Pinks." On Saturday night the "Ward and Vokes discard, "The Head Waiters," delighted another large is trying to choose between her luxurious crowd with Joseph Kelly at the head of the company. The bill at the Orpheum was worthy of the patronage it received. This house has well lived up to its promise to give only the best in the way of vaudeville attractions. Omahans who have visited the eastern houses of the class give cheerful testimony to the statement that an opportunity to choose, for she has a the Orpheum is the peer of any.

OMAHA, Nov. 2.—To the Editor of The Bee: In Saturday's issue of The Bee there was a criticism of the play "Iris" which is so different from what seems to me to be the natural interpretation of the subject treated by the dramatist that I sak for space to present the story as it appealed to me. After reading the first page and the most important news of The Bee, the column "At the Play Houses" is always eagerly sought. I like a good play, one that reveals life as it is, even though it shows how difficult it is for man or woman to be good in certain stations in society. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was a horrible picture, but it was a picture of actual life and aroused a slumbering people of action. True, the author of "Iris" didenta "vista as cheeriess as a look down coal hole;" but Mr. Pinero was so acted in portraying certain phases of all society that when the unforturate with sympathetic hearts looked besthe closed door and wept over the atte form of another human being a hypocritical and villainous conmality had deliberately hurled into itter.

inality had deliberately huried into itter.

Is the story of a beautiful society whose husband's will deprived her in fortune unless she married a man honey. She had been reared in the of luxury, had been loved and petred a number of devoted friends; and was wise shough to know that she was utterly unprepared for a life of poverty. There were two suitors, one poor, the other rich lits leved the poor man, but in a moment of weakness adhered to society's code and promised to marry the rich suitor. A few minutes later she regretted the step, renounced the accepted suitor, pledging herself to the man she loved, but whom she could not wed.

Having defied conventional society, she was immediately made the target of

Having defied conventional society, she was immediately made the target of scandal. News came that the trustee had absconded with her fortune. And immediately after learning that she was penniless, that she was the economic equal of her poor lover, she accepted the situation nobly and announced her engagement to him—in the face of the repeated offer of marriage from the rich man. By accepting the millionaire, iris could have retained her position in society and would have been "respectable." But she tried to remain true to herself, choosing love with poverty instead of riches without love.

The accepted suitor went on a journey, and as soon as he was gone the rich lover from her lower or the suits of triendship and left a check book to be used as Iris chose. She resented the offer, but on learning that a former serving girl was in distress, and being in the habit of drawing checks in her own name, without thinking what she was doing, she wrote a check to save a griend—and thus fell into the trap the re-

her own name, without thinking what she was doing, she wrote a check to save a friend—and thus fell into the trap the rejected suitor had set for her.

The rich lover, being beaten by a penniless youth, set about to get even with the favored one, and never paused until he had succeeded in driving all the friends of Iris from her, but one.

Finally the lover returned from his long journey, listened to the pittful story; heard from her own lips how she had been followed by the prefersed friend; how through his delags all of her friends had been driven from her; how, when there was no place left for her to go, the rich man had given sed by the prefereed friend; how through a drings all of her friends had been driven on her; how, when there was no place it for her to go, the rich man had given r a key to the flat, where she then was, d had made provisions for her since, at then she begged that he, the poor ver, whom she had loved all those years, said take her away and save her from life of shame, saying that it was for his ke she had taken the first false step. But conventionality agein drove the two very apart. At the beginning of the ory, a woman is shown whose environments had been such that she was too sek to face the world with the man she ved. At the close was shown a man hose environments had also been such at he was too weak to face the world the the woman he loved. Turning his ck upon her he went away. Then the rich lover, who had heard it, drove Iris into the sireet and he too, fiered indescribable agony because of the meditions in which he found himself at the way the say the s

last.

The play "Iris" is as true to life as if it were a newspaper report of individuals by the name of Iris. Trenwith, Maldonado, etc. The characters were all products of a victous conventionalism that is quite generally known to exist. And, contrary to the general run of cheap, treshy plays, the author does not cater to public sentiment by having everything "turn out well" in the end. He was dealing with living types to be found both in Europe and America and told the truth to the very last line of the play.

and told the truth to the very last line of the play.

And the acting was good, even to the cowardly conduct of the hero, Lawrence of the truth of the cowardly conduct of the hero, Lawrence of the selection of

conventional in signing himself, and that he has sincerely approached the problem "Iris" presents, The Bee will undertake to briefly consider the character from the only standpoint charity will permit. Pity oftentimes outruns charity, as in the case of Goldsmith's village pastor; but this is a case in which pity has no part in the final decision. To begin with, Mr. Clark complains that Iris was a victim of conventionality. Admitted. What is the conwhich he complains on her biolim1f? It is simply that a woman can not do certain things and retain her position in society. Who made this conven It is not a written law, but it is as inexorable as any statute that ever was given life by being published. In considering the condition of Mrs. Bellamy, the actions of Mr. Maldonado and Trenwith can only be pleaded in ex-Mrs. Bellamy knew that she woman. could not have all the things she wanted. In the very opening lines of the play she owns to her solicitor and trustee that she existence and marriage with a man that will bring her only poverty. At the close of the first act she has made the gambler's choice and has undertaken to defy fate for as long a time as possible, knowing she has sacrificed her good name for her personal comfort. Once again is she given second chance to escape the inevitable out come of her course if persisted in, and again does she shun the difficulties that beget the honest path in life. When she accepts the check book, or rather when she writes the first check, it may have been an impulsive but honest action; but when she put that check book into her handbag she knew what she was doing.

and was again gambling with fate.

matter what her after struggles were, she

had signed away her right to Lawrence

Trenwith's love, for she had deliberately

accepted Maldonado's favor. Trenwith

might have later accepted her explanation

and have taken her to be his wife, but

conventional society has an awfully ugly

name to call such a man, one even worse

than it applies to the woman.

into it with her eyes open. She was not an unsophisticated girl, just entering on the world; she was the "divinity" of a circle in which much stress is laid upon the observance of the very rules for personal conduct which she chose not to observe. Dominion," will close his engagement with She cannot even plead the time-worn ex- two performances today-matines and cuse of ignorance. She did not face the night. condition that so many other women have swept away, but she was left with a remnant, however pitiful it seemed to her, was the necessaries of life. Beven hundred and fifty dollars a year isn't a princely income, but many an English and many an Amerasked to live not longer than three years. great reward of her lover's return to look forward to. Fully realizing the end toward which she was moving, she took her course, and while she certainly deserved pity, she could not expect condonation from society, from her lover, or from the man to whom she had proved doubly faithless. A terrible price she paid for her self-indulgence, but

Why should this price be exacted from the sinner? Because the existence of society depends on the enforcement of certain rules, laws made to govern certain conditions. None of these promise any reward for their observance, but all provide penalties for their infraction. It is absolutely necessary that these laws be enforced, strictly, and with exactness. Once a very able Nebraska jurist remarked that it was not the severity of the penalty that made the law respected, but the certainty of its infliction, Penalties attaching to of the English army, being very wealthy, one, written laws may be evaded, but once convicted (and mere suspicion in cases such as that of Iris is tantamount to conviction) of an infraction of an unwritten law, and the penalty at once becomes operative. This may be conventional, may be cowardly, may be weak, but it is the crystallization of the experience of all society since the dawn of civilization. Nay, even savage tribes exact the same penalty. And the weakness that leads society to condemn the wrongdoer is as nothing to the weakness that leads the individual to do wrong because it appears easier than doing right.

Among all virile, strong peoples, among on history, a barrier has been erected bedisclosure. This, too, may be conventional, but it is a convention as old as humanity. It may be based on a sentiment, but it is a sentiment common to all mankind, and I

is a lofty and noble sentiment, even if it be

No fault is found with Mr. Pinere for his optimistic pursuit of a way by which his seroine may eventually escape the natural ciety. He may portray a condition of it is not a condition so general as to de-mand the treatment that followed the exsouth, of which "Uncle Tom's Cabin" purports to be a true pleture. A healthy public ing young widow, and the attempts of a Pinero play, and that sentiment is based on and quiet decorum. Mr. Bond's support the strict observance of the seventh com- includes Arthur Buchanan, Georgia Benany offend such must expect to pay the that is heralded with a little extra empenalty. That is all. Iris teaches nothing new in this regard.

No doubt all "those with sympathetic hearts looked beyond the closed door and wept over the prostrate form of another uman being;" but does Mr. Clark undertake to say that the conventionality that demands at least bodily purity is "hypocritical and villainous," or does he maintain that the convention that demands that one must choose between right and wrong is "hypocritical and villainous?" Would he have society reorganized so that the wanon may run his or her course of wantonness, and then, returning, say, "I am aweary of my play and willing to be good." and be restored to all the privileges and immunities that are now forfeited by such? Let him think a moment and picture to himself what sort of society would result from that condition. He might as well restore the feast and rites of the Babyionish goddess and have done with it.

Society has said to its offenders that they must bring forth fruits meet for repentance. Restoration to lives of usefulness does not follow immediately on the ac knowledgment of the fault. Iris did not think of Trenwith that night when Maldonado drove her from his flat; she thought of herself, just as she had from the first. What came to her in after years may be conjectured only. In "Resurrection" we had a picture of what might be and in "The Second Mrs. Tanquary" another. neither of these nor the extenuating circumstances surrounding the cases of either of these women, is sufficient to cause soclety to revoke or modify its decree concerning the status of both. The rule is the embodiment of mankind's respect for what is right, and anything that transcends or transgresses it is wrong, and the wrongdoer must expect to be punished, and will

Clay Clement, who has been pleasing his audiences at the Boyd since the opening of his engagement Friday night in "The New

"On the Bridge at Midnight" will be the faced, the condition that turned a Katusha offering at the Boyd Tuesday and Wednesinto a Masiova. Her fortune had been day nights and Wednesday matinee. George Klimt and Alma Hearn head the cast. The play is called by its author a comedysufficient to have provided her with at least drama, although in fact it is a melodrama with a number of comedy scenes. The action of the play takes place in Chicago, in a district frequented by the slum residents of ican family has been kept in comfort on the West Side. The main incident of the no more, and on this Mrs. Bellamy was piece, an attempted murder, occurs on the jackknife bridge which spans the river at But she was unable to do so, even with the Harrison street. This heavy plece of mechanism lifts its giant arms to allow a boat to pass and in so doing frustrates the evil design of the black mustached villian. The story of the piece deals with the adventures of a blind mother, who seeks to find her child, who has been kidnaped. Everything, of course, ends happily. Miss Alma Hearn plays the part of "Reddy," a it is the least that has ever been exacted street waif, who afterward proves to be the the correspondent. kidnaped child. Mr. Klimt will be seen as a cultured German, who befriends the ventures the villian forces on him.

"The Little Princess," with Millie James of "Little Lord Fauntleroy." Twelve ju- point. venile artists assist Miss James, "The has left her at the school during his service in India, entrusting his money to a his own and his friend's capital in a dia-Crewe dies broken-hearted, and Carisford is stricken with brain fever. Sara, who could desire, is suddenly made a charity pupil, treated with cruelty and neglect, made to sleep in a rat-infested garret. profitable. He knows of Crew's daughter every nation that has set an indelible stamp he has taken a residence next to the school of Miss Minchin's. One day he sees tween the good woman and the bad woman. the pitiful little Sara trudging by and his This does not mean to say that the division heart is filled with sympathy. He directs has always been exact, but it does fit the his Lascar servants to go to her garret case of Iris, and Iris knew of that barrier, while she is asleep, and they transform knew when she crossed it, and knew that, it into a place of beauty. The child seeks once across it, she could never return, her lonely bed in the dismal garret, imathe outset, but it was not weakness that that she is loved and pitled, and falls led him to turn his back on her in the end. asleep. Then the room is changed by She had ceased to be his idolized mistress white robed Lascars into a veritable fairyand had become a more wanton, and his land. Sara wakes. She still, thinks she about Miss Gunning: love died in the revulsion that followed her dreams, and prays that if so she may dream always. Eventually little Sara out that she is the child of his friend.

At the Krug theater the first half of the week, opening with the matinee today, will be seen "The Beauty Doctor," musical comedy by C. Herbert Kerr and Howard M. Shelley, the former a young composer and the latter a Philadelphia newspaper man. It has been given ar elaborate production by Fred E. Wright, and will be seen here with the entire company of sixty and the complete scenic production. The story of the piece deals with the beauty culture fad, which is treated in satirical vein. The music is said to be bright and a dozen of the songs are said to be hits. The choruses and finales have a particularly dashing style, and are said to be effectively handled by the big beauty chorus, which has voice as well as looks. The show girls are gowned in Worth creations of taste and gorgeousness and there is a "pony ballet" of twenty girls whose costumes are of an

entirely new design. "The Peddler," which comes to the Krug theater next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, is the vehicle which serves to introduce the Hebrew character delineator, Job carries a story said to be full of heart interest and pathos, yet with sufficient com-edy thrown in to keep the audience in a happy frame of mind throughout. The story treats of the machinations of an adventuress, who lures the son of a respectable Hebrew clothing dealer away from his father and drags him down the road to ruin. He deales his father for this woman, robs his father's store and ruins him, yet, despite it all, father love prevails, and the merchant saves his son from prison and death. Mr. Welch, in the charactor of Abraham Jacobson, has been given plenty of scope to show his histrionic ability. He is surrounded with a big act-

Harris & Woods, have seen to it that all scenic settings, mechanical effects and acessories are the best.

Frederick Bond, who may be recalled as comedian with Frohman attractions, result of her folly and regain a place in so- and his own little company, procenting "My Awful Dad," are scheduled in the actual existence; but, thanks to convention, headline position of the new bill of eight varied features that opens the week with a matinee today at Orpheum. The funposure of what Mr. Clark conceives to have | making situations and lines emanate from een the actual conditions prevaling in the the actions of a happy-go-lucky old dad, who becomes smitten with a rich and dashsentiment has always prevailed in regard to strait-laced young son to keep the old the social conultions suggested by the man in the path of conventional living mandment. This is known to all, and it ton and Ethel Tassin. Another feature phasis is Agnes Mahr, a pretty little toe dancer who is known as the "American Temmy Atkins." The first horizontal bar performance to come this season will be ntributed by Marlo and Oldo, two agile i and daring gymnasts. "A Very Bad Boy," a sketch with a mistaken identity and a decidedly eccentric lead character, will be the vehicle for Hal Godfrey and company. Joe Newman will be the vocal fea-He is the author and composer of over fifty humorous songs and will sing ome of these. "A Bunch of Nonsense" is the description given of Wood and Ray's turn." John Le Claire, the well-known juggler and funmaker, will be one of the few on the program who have appeared here in vaudeville. The kinedrome pictures will illustrate "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

Gossip from Stageland.

Robert Edeson, who is soon to be seen in Dmaha, is making a great hit on the road n "Soldlers of Fortune."
Millie James, who will be here this week n her successful play, "The Little Princess," is the daughter of Louis James. ceas," is the daughter of Louis James.

When E. H. Sothern goes on tour in two weeks he carries the entire production of "The Proud Prince," which New York is now viewing, and the same supporting organization, enormous in numbers and incuding Miss Cecilia Loftus, Rowland Buckstons, Mary Hall, L. Rogers Lytica, William Harris, John Findlay and many others. Mr. Sothern carries an orches raof his own, including a harpist, with which he augments the regular theater orchestra, and his production includes a choir of singling voices and a ballet. ng voices and a ballet,

Ing voices and a ballet.

Manager Burgess of the Boyd and Manager Dillingham of "The Little Princess" company have issued invitations to the entire corps of teachers of the city schools to attend the opening performance Thursday at Boyd's of "The Little Princess," in which Mille James, the diminuitive ingenue, is starring this season. Over 400 invitations were sent out. The printed cards will be exchanged for received seats on precentation at the box office. On Saturday a special matinee for school children will be given. "The Little Princess" engagement includes Friday and Saturday nights and Saturday matinee. "The Little Princess" is a play that is especially appealing to children. Its cast employs twelve juvenile artists.

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

In this column last Sunday there apeared a letter which offered much food for thought, and therefore it was impossible to include in one short column all that one migh' learn from developing and study ing out all the points contained in said letter.

Ordinarily one must perforce consign to the stern doom of the waste paper basks much of the epistolary eloquence expended upon musical and dramatic critics, but when a letter like the one to which I refer if much can be learned indirectly by taking the text of the letter and making it the spirit of one's text.

To resumme, then, let us look at the matter from the critic's standpoint, as last week we looked at it entirely from that of

First of all, we must be careful, very careful, to read clearly and accurately just waif and becomes the hero of the many ad- exactly what critics say. The present writer has suffered much contumely, much abuse (very well meant, and therefore harmless in the name part, will be the offering on to the writer) through being misquoted, Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, and through having people read into the A matinee performance will be given on lines a meaning which was entirely foreign Saturday. "The Little Princess" was writ- to the matter and a conclusion which was ten by Frances Hodgson Burnett, author not in any way germane to the case in

I fear that my correspondent has erred Little Princess" tells of the life of Sara in this particular, and I know that she will Crewe, a pupil of Miss Minchin's school in be glad to have this fact called to her at- NIGHTS -London. Her father, Captain Paul Crewe tention, for the letter was a very honest

She says: "I thought Louise Gunning with De Wolf Hopper, had a beautiful friend, Mr. Carisford. The latter invests voice but I did not see her receive much notice, while Anna Held, who, I think, is mond mine, which proves a total loss, a poor singer, received a couple of

Now, in the first place, my correspondent has hitherto had everything that her heart should remember that Anna Held is not considered as a singer. She is just Anni Held. She does not draw the full houses because of her voice, but because she is scantily clothed and starved. Carisford Anna Held; she is an individuality; there recovers from his fever. Then he loarns is no other. She may have imitators, but that his investments have proven very they are just as conspicuously imitators as are the many imitations of that fourand seeks to make restitution. By chance dollars-the-package beverage, which Anna Held tells us "tastes like nee-eedles." Friends of mine who have the necessary wealth to indulge in the imported "grape have told me of this difference.

Whereas, Louise Gunning was merely an incident of the De Wolf Hopper combination, which was a very strong one, and in cluded such old-time favorites and honored Trenwith was probably as guilty as she at gines that she is warm and well fed, and ones as Laura Joyce Bell, Digby Bell, Harry Norman, Grant Stewart and J. K. Adams. Most of the singing was given to the men, and this is what The Bee said

"Louise Gunning looks like & school girl, but her contribution to the success of the comes to Carisford's house and he finds performance is mainly through her voice which, while not strong, is remarkably pure and sweet in tone; the solos 'Speak Low' and the 'Rainbow,' sung by Miss Gunning, were also well received."

The show in which Miss Gunning figured got 173 agate lines in The Bee, and Miss Held's show got only 165, and that is far from "a couple of columns."

I intended also to mention last week that there is not a Sunday in the year, more especially during the season from September 1 to July 1, when people can not go to church in Omaha and have enough good music to last through the whole week. I notice in every Saturday's evening edition of The Bee a number of Choral Magazine;" choice programs, not one or two, but seyeral, which the musicians who are engaged in the churches present for the enjoyment us, as well as the uplifting of the people. There is no admission fee charged, and the collection is a voluntary one. The services do not last long, and from the class of musicians who are engaged in the leading churches, and the standing of those musicians in the community, I can safely assert, without fear of contradiction, that the musicians give to their Sunday programs much time and much study Welch, as a star. The plot of the piece and care, for which their salary does not

begin to remunerate them. They are working for a great art. They are in love with it. Your presence will cheer them, your word of appreciation of their work, the fact

that they may have helped raise your thoughts from the worries and crosses, and burdens of this life, for an hour, these things, I say, will gladden the hearts of the municians in the churches and will make them more keen than ever to develop their opportunities. Would it not be a good idea to start, say

today, on a weekly visit to any one of these churches?

When the kidneys go wrong one is sick all the time-"Always ailing." Many aches and pains make life a burden-headaches, sideaches and backaches, hip pains, back pains, side pains and groin pains wear on the nerves and tax the energy of the strongest. Keep the kidneys well, help them-stimulate them when they become sluggish and you are free from aches and safe against the numerous ills that follow kidney neglect. Doan's Kidney Pills cure all disorders of the Kidneys and Bladder, Dropsy, Diabetes, Bright's

OMAHA PROOF.

Mrs. F. Mach of 1221 South 15th street, says: "I first felt sharp twinges across the small of my back. I paid little attention to them thinking they would pass away in a short time, but instead I grew worse and finally got so bad I could not do my work. My husband bought many kinds of medicine for me, but nothing helped me until he procured Doan's Kidney Pills at Kuhn & Co's. drug store, corner 15th and Douglas streets. They benefited me right along and in a short time I was all right. There has been no return of the trouble, and I am glad to let others know what Doan's Kidney Pills did for me."

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"Where Was Moses?"
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want you to read it over many times, and

It is printed on the outside cover of

Oliver Ditson Co.'s very interesting maga-

zine for November, entitled, "Choir and

spheres, but in the heart of man-not above

"The music of the spheres is not in the

and without us, but near about us

The following article appeared in the very

nteresting column signed A. Non in the

I have submitted the list to Miss Edith

Tobitt, who has charge at the public li

brary, and she advises me that many of

the books are on the library shelves and

the musical department of the Omaha Pub-

lie library? If you have not, do so tomor-

list of

Chicago Musical Leader and Concert-Goer.

see if you do not like it also.

and within us."

article:

musical

cians - a

Thursday, Nov. 12th

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that she will immediately try to secure the others. By the way, have you looked at nard; 'A Daughter of Music,' by Colmore 'The Blind Musician,' by Korolenko; 'The Russian Violinist,' by Durand; 'As It Was row, it will surprise you. Here is the Written,' by Harland; 'Consuelo,' by George Sand; 'Charles Auchester,' by Elizabeth, readable Sheppard; 'A Matter of Temperament,' by Edward I. Stevenson; 'A Teacher of the Vicnovels - novels about musilist the like of which, lin,' by J. H. Shorthouse; Miss Traumerel,' so far as I know, has never been complied by A. M. Bagby; "The Improvisatore," by heretofore: 'The First Violin,' by Jessie Hans Andersen; 'Beethoven' and 'Mozart, Fothergili; 'Evelyn Innes,' by George by H. Rau; 'Musical Tales,' by Elise Paiko; Moore; 'Melomaniacs,' by James Huneker; 'A Minor Chord,' by Joseph M. Chapple 'A Roman Singer,' by Marion Crawford; 'Yanko the Musician and Other Stories,' by The Dominant Seventh, by Kate Elizabeth Henryk Sierkiewicz; "Trilby," by George du

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ST. PAUL-MINNEAPOLIS 8. 10 PM Pullman sleeping pare, buffet library

.25 AM To Fremone, Lincoln, Walton, Norfolk, 1401 and 1403 Farnam Street

Clark; 'A Singer's Heart,' by Farquhar; Maurier." THOMAS J. KELLY. "The Spellbound Fiddler,' by Jansen; 'A Soutless Singer,' by Lee; 'Only a Fiddler,' ing company, while his managers, Suilivan, | Here is a thought which I like, and I by Hans Anderson; 'The Soprano,' by Bar- W. bidg.; Tuesday, 2104 Bur

