ABOUT PLAYS PLAYERS AND PLAYHOUSES

Out of the dreary monotony of the be- | said, but a little will do. It exemplines and potentiality, he has reached in this

cuede Fitch has long been a source of won der. His plays have had a vogue entirely out His plays have had a voque entirely of proportion to their merit; but entirely within keeping of the general spirit manifested by the American people toward the theater during recent years. He has furnished the charlotte russe, the cream puffs, the soda water of the ferst, so to speak. His few attempts at being sectous have been failures, almost dismol in their way nainly because he has found it difficult to approach his theme seriously. When lealing in persiffage he is at home. Like he blase reporter of the story, he could go to a funeral and make fun of the He has very nearly done so it two of his plays. In "The Moth and the when he certainly attained a pitch of such degree that people wondered at but held it for a single act only, he ds life and death so intimately that the uditor doesn't know whether to laugh or ery, and usually does neither, being unto more than gasp at the daring thought and the skill with which it is "The Climbers" he again parades the "death in the family" situabut this time leaves no room fo oubt as to h's intention. It is trested as a mere incident to a huge joke that being his conception of society, or rathe that phase of social existence generally nated as "society." It is satirs, no particularly deep, in which the funereal trappings take the place of the customary walls of the operating room, while Mr. Fitch makes a few shallow incisions in the cuticle of the patient, disturbing none but the capillary c'rculation. en't exactly mobe fun of the core at he has the corpse hanging around the ges while he makes fun of the living. me are two excellent examples of the ch style, and in neither of them does he show any evidence of stability of thought or desire for depth. The first act "The Moth and the Flame" is fol three others which fell so far shind the mark of the first that one al-

In "Nathan Hale" Mr. Fitch sought an ent indicates that his forte does not lie in that direction. His "Barbara Preitchie's is no more worthy. His one estern piece, "The Cowboy and the Lady," cellent as an example of careful matic construction, is so plainly conawing apparently from life and with a skill that challenges both attention and adas the effect of poses and not of nature. For his characters he has usually taken coloriess people and has animated them uing them with life on the surface only. oan and he would, for every now and then g the pretty little nothings he asks

same man, "The Climbers" is superficial

ation that shows he is capable of betngs than he has yet produced. His two acts are full of banter and light epartee that has marked all his work, with at enough of his real purpose disclosed on the auditor that he is leading up to Montana the next day. situation. It doesn't suffice to prepare me for that situation when it does arrive. third act we are shown a new Fitch. Fitch of thought and action, a Fitch who louive and produce dramatic situaof real power. No play recently shown tha has anything that can be reason both in conception and execution, so complete that it might easily be In-its every detail it seems perfect, its strength as a whole is surprising. a matter to be regretted that Mr he story end right there. His commonent from the height be has attained. and erying out in anguish of soul for the love she has slain is the one that will

Shall we dare hope that Mr. Fitch has "arrived," as the French say, and that we may expect from him plays fit to rank those of writers who think? With his capacity for dramatic construction, his skill and admirable taste in preparing pictures the stage, and his instinctive appreciaof dramatic possibilities, he has lacked but the one essential of greatness, that of With his purpose fixed, his awakened, there is nothing beworld of writers but his inclination.

fore-holiday theater offering, the Clyde what has been accepted as axiomatic from Fitch play that came to Omaha for the the beginning. The green-eyed monster first time on Friday night lifts its head still mocks the meat he feeds on, and like a landmark rising from the sea. It "trifles light as air" still "are to the jealous a piece that would stand well among mind confirmation strong as proof of holy peers, and when it is compared with writ." Jealousy is in itself a confession of shoals of mediocrity we have lately weakness. It is a practical admission that been visited with, it looms up so big that the claim on the object is weak or uncer-Its proportions appear almost Titanic. Its tain. In "Jinny" Austin we have a woman was sufficient to arouse the fash- who is weak in other regards, and who onables from their ante-Christmas leth- lacks that all-consuming faith true love argy and the three performances were carries with it. She loves, but doubts her graced by the presence of audiences that ability to hold the object of her love. Jack any player or author might feel pleased Austin is simply a normal man, with only Of the last season's output of good impulses, and unable to reconcile per- keeping with the happy holiday mond. A meditation, suddenly awoke to the fact the Fitch dramatic mill "The Girl With feet love with the continual doubt imp.ind new headliner will top the bill. The Stein- that the meal was an unconsciousably long the Green Eyes" is the sole survivor. His by his wife's persistent outbursts of jeal- Eretto troupe of acrobats, three men and time in making its appearance and dether pieces went the sasy way to the ousy. His position is unpleasant, for he a women, is making its first round of the manded of the attendant a reason for the Embo of failures, but in this is the germ cannot explain, and his wife does not trust circuit. They present a number of equilof success. It marks a great step forward him. His patience under her persistent atin his career as a writer. Indeed, Mr. tacks is normal, too, for he has warned their work is distinguished from that seen guests had not arrived, Mr. Handel as-Fitch has gotten away from himself at- her that there is an end and bega her to here by the tricks accomplished on and by tonished the already puzzled waiter still most entirely, and appears as a new and step before she reaches it. She persists in their hands. J. C. Nugont and his com- more by sternly advising him that he himdifferent man, both in conception and ex- her course, going even beyond the limit, pany will present the only sketch on the self was the company and that the triple ecution. In others of his long flat of and when she finds out what she has done program, a little comedy entitled, "The dinner should be served forthwith, as he plays he has occasionally shown a glint, it is too late to undo it, in the natural Absent-Minded Beggar." That unique and was hungry and had ordered the three poran inkling, of what might be expected order of things. It is conceivable that comical looking individual, Irving Jones, when he "arrived," but in none does he Jack's love for Jinny is of such character styled "the man who writes and sings his approach even remotely the virility of pas- that it can withstand the terrible trial to own songs," will be a contributor to the and dramatic value, both in unity which it is put, and that he can come back funmaking and the music. Singing will be the next morning in time to save her from the specialty of McCue and Cahill, the face of a noble nature, a finely shaped legson of "The Girl With the Green Eyes" ends with the third act. The fourth act should not have been written.

Coming Events.

presenting the very latest in musical com-"The Sleepy King," will be seen at Boyd for seven performances, startthe ing this afternoon. The usual matinee will be given Wednesday. Popular Dick Ferris is one of the promoters and backers of the production. "The Sleepy King" is the joint work of George V. Hobart, who is also the author of "Sally in Our Alley," and G. E. Conterno, the celebrated band lender. The music of the piece is said to be remarkably sweet, melodious and catchy. Scenically it might be termed gorgeous. In the matter of costuming it is said to be most elaborate. The book of the piece is said to be very humorous and the best thing Mr. Hobart ever did. That unctious comedian, Walter Jones, heads the cast of eighty people. The part of the sleepy King Ozo was written especially for him and it is said to fit his unique personality to a dot. Mr. Jones selected his supporting company and he made no mistakes in his selections, as the following names will show: Ed Redway, George K. Henry, David Abrahams, George Fiske, James Stevens, Frank Farrington, Taylor Crenin, Harry C. Saylor, Catherine Lingard, acrobatic Nellie O'Neil, Harriet Packard, Zillah Harris, Katheryn Pearl Redway, Ally Stewart. Catherine Lingard is the prima donna of the company and she is said to possess a splendid voice. The plot of the plece is on about the same order of the majority of the "King" operas. It is in two acts. The first shows the gardens of the palace at Ruralania, the second the land of Arcadia and the forest of the fire worshippers. W. H. Crane, in his new comedy drama, most doubts that it is the work of the

"The Spenders," will be the Christmas attraction at the Boyd. His engagement opens at the special matinee to be given Christmas day and includes the regular matinee Saturday and the night performance. Mr. Crane is said to have in Peter Bines, the mining magnate, a part which fits him if anything better than David Harum. The play opens at the "One Girl" mine, owned by Bines, with Mr. Bines advising his grandson to stay in Montana listed among the fattures. He has and do things of a practical kind. This ren a master in depicting certain types, grat, dson has had an experience in a visit to New York, before the play opens. He has saved a young woman in an accident But his drawing and grouping and lost his heart. Of course, "she" is in that party of New Yorkers in the mountains, and young Bines sees her, make love to her, and madly dashes off to New motives, giving them tongues York in her wake. Once there, he becomes babble of the commorplace and en- a "spender," lives at a high pace in order to win out against the man who has been selected for the girl by her father. Old "The Stubbornness of Geraldine" Peter Bines, in ignorance of the real reason are quite common in the Fitch galaxy of of his grandson's bolting off to New York But Mr. Fitch has shown that he after he had promised to stay in Montana, comes east. Once here he imagines that his grandson is only in love with a fast his characters to say he injects a speech life, and in order to cure him, enters into that is barbed with stinging satire. But a conspiracy with the boy's rival to break him in Wall street. The game succeeds, but just at the time when he is overjoyed "The Girl With the Green Eyes" we to think that his grandson has come to wans, may be really termed the first his senses, old Peter discovers that the sy from the Fitch ren. It doesn't two men are really playing for the hand such a deep problem, but he has ap-of the girl, and that he has helped the shed it with an apparent honesty of rival drive his boy from the race. Then, ose and has treated it with a con- in one of those favorite Crane scenes, in plly, the old man, after racing off to New York in the rival's automobile, brings the two young people together and the curtain

The attraction at the Krug theater for the first half of the week, beginning with the matinee today, will be Phil Hunt's production of 'Down by the Sea," a comedy drama of life on the sea coast. This compared with that third act. It is play has been one of the popular successes in England for the past eight years, and for its presentation in this country out of the play and called a play in the story has been slightly changed and the action now takes place on the Long shore instead of on the English coast. The story is about the love of a Fitch could not withhold his hand and let good man for a woman whom he believes is false to her marriage vows, and it relating to the great master's personality ing of the story is too much of a gives opportunity for many strong dramatic The theme is such a large one that The situations. There is said to be a fine vein The picture of Jinny beating at the closed of comedy in the play. Mr. Hunt's company is a large one, headed by Miss Fannie Curtis, and the scenic and electrical offects are reported as being novel as well as adequate. The company has been rest-ing in Chicago during the past week, and clous assistance from the ever obliging with its appearance in Omaha today opens young women of the Omaha Public library, a trip to the Pacific coast.

On Christmas eve, December 34, for three nights and two matinees, Christmas and Saturday, the Krug theater will offer as its holiday attraction, Katherine Willard in "The Power Behind the Throne," which has played here twice before and is well to his own wish, on Good Friday in the remembered by the local theatergoers. It is year 1759, 145 years ago, on the anniversary a remantic play of love and intrigue, a of the first production of "The Messiah." play filled with strong situations and start-About the play fixelf, much might be spicuous ability, could give an adequate

portrayal of the leading role of "Aria," but that Miss Katherine Willard possesses this ability is firmly believed by the leading dramatic critics of the country. The supporting company numbers twenty-five people, and is headed by Edwin Caldwell, the well known actor, as Baron Ronald. Among the others in her support are W. H. Pendergast, J. R. Furlong, Carter Weaver, Byron Allerton, Misses Maude Durand, public school even for fear he should learn Buth Gadsby, Alice Hollday, Florence Ruthven and others. The same complete and elaborate scenic production has been provided. This is the first time this atpopular prices.

with a matinee today, at the Orpheum, self-inflicted asphyxiation, but it is hardly both of whom have carefully cultivate probable. At best, one cannot help think- voices, while the monologue feature will ing that the cracks in the mended vessel be furnished by a woman, "the talkative" wherein their love was enshrined will al- Miss Norton, who may be recalled as the ways be visible and that their way through getress who advised the women how to get life will always be shadowed by thoughts rid of freekles and husbands. Trask and of what is and what might have been. The Rogers, in black face guise, dispense omedy, song and dance. Among the initial bidders with an effort to ingratiate themselven will be Larkins and Patterson, refined colored entertainers. The kinodrome pletures will be entirely new, including one The Walter Jones Comic Opera company, of the Sixty-ninth regiment of New York.

Gossip from Stageland.

Elizabeth Kennedy, who presented "Cap-nin Jinks" in Omeba lest season, is get-ting much praise for her performance of Roselind in "As You Like It" through the "Our New Minister." which played a short engagement in Omaha last season, and was voted a success here, has caught on in New York, and is making a great

short engagement in Omaha last season, and was voted a success here. has caught on in New York, and is making a great tear there.

Charles Kent has given up his part of Uday in Mr. Pike's production of 'Mary Judas in Mr. Pike's production and subth assume the role. This is one of the book lings for the Krug this season.

Mr. Charles Frohman is out with a most optimistic interview, saying that he is not at all discouraged by the season so far, and given in the production and subth perfection as a home for the week. This house is the costliest in the United States aside from the New Amsterdam at New York, and is described as being all but perfection as a home for the arts.

On Monday, December 28, Mildred Holland the production and its success is confidently expected. Manager White, has sent out handsome invitations for a Bengress' at Bridgeoper. Comm. This play has been elaborately prepared for a Broadway production and its success is confidently expected. Manager White, has sent out handsome invitations first performance of the critics at the Mirror from the first. It has done nothing but what is good and will have to do with nothing that is not of the best. It is great what is good and will have to do with nothing that is not of the best. It is great what is good man, performed certain professional services for Mrs. Carter on the First It has done nothing but what is good and will have to do with nothing that is not of the best. It is great where the performance of Mrs. Lestien and the production of the performance of the progressional services for Mrs. Carter on the First It has done nothing but what is good and will have to do with nothing that is not of the best. It is great the performance of Mrs. Carter on the First It has done nothing but what is good not the productin

MUSIC AND MUSICIANS

At this time of the year musical interes universally turns to the composers and empositions concerning the Christmastide, And of these the most conspicuous musician is George Frederick Handel (or, to be more accurate, Haende', the "e" repre-senting the German "umlaut," or two dots

And the most conspicuous work is the oratorio of "The Messiah." Productions, or rather, presentations of this work are annual affairs in most cities of any size at Christmas time, and it is pleasing to be able to record that Omaha is in line this year with two of them. Un der Mr. Ben Stanley's direction the choir of the First Methodist Episcopal church, augmented, will present the choruses, local soloists doing the solo parts, and Mr. Simms falls on a happy party ready to start back of All Saints' playing the organ, on Tuesday evening of this week. On next Sunday evening Mr. E. D. Keck, the choirmaster of Kountze Memorial church, will give us the pleasure of hearing his large choir in same work, and he will be assisted in the solo work by some of his pupils. Mr. Keck's announcement was the prior one These two events are noteworthy and should be attended largely for purposes of friendly comparison, as valuable lessons

> del to read in abbreviated form some things elaborate or comprehensive thereupon, but it is hoped that the few paragraphs herein contained may stimulate the choir singers and others to further study of the matter,

will be available from each of them.

clous assistance from the ever oblights young women of the Omaha Public library, who have much Handel data at their command.

George Frederick Handel is a pretty good illustration of the oft-told tale that work seldem kills anyone, as he lived to the good old age of % and passed away, according to his own wish, on Good Friday in the year 1759, 145 years ago, on the anniversary of the first production of "The Messiah." And that he kept up his mighty work until the last, although blind in his later years is proven by the fact that he conducted his great work just one week before he died.

Mr. Handel is also a good flustration of he fact that a musician who has to overcome obstacles is by those very obstacles developed and, made "meet for the Master's use." How often one hears the student discourage him or her from dopting the profession of music.

Let Handel be an inspiration to such jersons.

The old story of the opposition of Handel's rather to his musical development, resulting in the sunugating into the petternal parter of an old dumb "plano" for the year had a garret of an old dumb "plano" for the year had a garret of an old dumb "plano" for the year had a garret of an old dumb "plano" for the year had a garret of an old dumb "plano" for the year had not a survived in first properior in the profession of music.

Let Handel be an inspiration to such jersons.

The old story of the opposition of Handel's a the survival of the survey had been affected and ground to powders. Little, per late of the survey had been affected in the services and the year and the sole ingredients of the love compelling powder. The shells and roots are dried and ground to powder, then, after making a sort of rusts of the missing a rest of an edit dumb "plano" for the year had been affected in the profession of the professi

in any biography, no matter how unpreten tious. Ferris, one of the Handel writers, tells us that Handel, senior, looked upon music as an occupation with very cross turned eyes. Hear him on the matter: "Determined that his young son should become a doctor, like himself, and leave the divine art to Italian fiddlers and French buffoons, he did not allow him to go to a

the gamut,"

Of Handel's personality there has been provided. This is the first time this at-traction has ever played at the Krug's Many stories of him are told that are quite authentic. Not the least interesting The eight features, beginning the week tered a coffee house, or restaurant, and ordered a dinner for three. The attendant being the attraction for matinee and even- after waiting for quite a while was walking performances Christmas, are calculated ing up and down rather nervously, when to constitute a lively and merry show in Handel, who had been busily engaged in delay. When he was informed that the tions for himself.

this might lead one to celleve. He is painted and described as having mouth, which beamed benevolence, and a calm and unruffled dignity.

The December number of the magazine, 'Masters in Music," which is given over to Handel and his works, has the following interesting excerpt from an essay by Mr H. Heathcote Statham:

"In the days when "The Spectator" fianked the chocolate on the breakfast table, when ladies spotted their faces and surrounded themselves with a circumvallation of hoops, when silk-stockinged and high-heeled gentlemen went about (as the nun in St. Clement's Eve' would have said) . 'with rapiers at their sides, like leopards, prancing up and down the walks," and when Sir Plume would emphasize his 'fore gad' with a rap on his anuff box and was conscious of the nice conduct of his cane-in those days there was well known in London a large, tall, heavy man, with clumsy hands and feet, sauntering about

of Beethoven's death chamber and other | 15c 25c, rooms of his home, which is about to be 50c and 75c Beathoven committee, the duchess of Marlborough, Lord Napier and others, proposed to incorporate the rooms into a museum to be erected on the site of Beethoven's

Miss Flora Donaldson, the Scottish prime donna, who appears Monday evening at Kountze Memorial church, was leading soprano in the celebrated Glasgow select choir, composed of twenty-four of the bes voices in the country. She has appeared before the royal family at Balmoral. Mr. Gavin Spence, who sings on the same program, is a tenor and entertainer of merit This I have on the "good word an' honor of me fren', Lindsay of the Lindsays.

A merry Christmas to all musicians, and those who are trying to be, and those who would like to be. THOMAS J KELLY.

OUT OF THE ORDINARY.

Europe has four and a half miles of rail-way for every 10,000 people; the United States has twenty-five miles. More than 300 competitors have announced their intention to participate in the airship race for the \$100,000 prize at St. Louis.

The original stock of the 2000 reindeer now in Alaska cost the soverament \$13.60 each in Siberia; cost \$32 per head to date and are worth, to sell, \$50 to \$75 each.

New York's racetracks will turn in \$300,000 for the agricultural interests of the state this year, under the new law which requires a 5 per cent tax for hore racing.

The coffee tree reaches its maximum of production in about twelve years, and should continue in full bearing for fifty years, though some trees are known to be as old as \$2 years.

The payment for the transportation of mails is at practically the same rate as it was a score of years ago, while the cost of transporting other classes of matter has been reduced one-third to one-half.

Mrs. "Jack" Gardner of Boston has just received a valuable consignment of art treasures for her palace, among them an old Roman altar of the second century and two gates from an old convent in Milan.

Mrs. Jane E. Ogien, one of the earliest settlers of Milwaukes, having gone there a bride in 1835, has just celebrated her ninety-fourth birthday. She has resided continuously in the Cream City for sixty-seven years.

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