THE OMAHA DAILY BEE: SUNDAY, JUNE 26, 1904.



Last week was another typical of Omaha's summer life. The stock company at the Boyd theater offered two very good plays, both well put on and acted with tasis and good effect, and patronised lib-erally by the public. The band concerts at the Auditorium had big crowds every night, and the parks each had a goodly patronage. So much diversity is afforded in the amusement line for the local public just now that at times the individual is uncertain just which of the several places he will visit. It is a most enjoyable con-dition, too, for no longer does the threatened tedium of a summer evening terrify. Now the tired man or woman dan seek any one of several places, certain of being well entertained in a cleanly way, and not be charged an exorbitant sum, either. In order to appreciate how well the public here fares it is only necessary to cite the instance of a man who recently went to Coney Island with his wife and two children. He found by the time he had gottan out there and gotten back his week's pay of \$20 had almost vanished. One of the items of expanse was 30 cents for four glasses of lemonade. It is apparent that the Omaha caterers have something to learn in the way of charges yet.

Do we measure our art by dollars? Has the American public reached that stags of vulgarity when the merit of anything is determined by its cost in money? A complete analysis of this proposition may com-pef an affirmative answer; a cursory glance certainly tends to so impress the investigator. With the rapid increase in material wealth and the attendant increase of luxury in the manner of living, has come the change that many find so regrettable. The reason for it seems to lie in the fact that wealth has increased faster than the capacity for correctly enjoying wealth, and the possession of large sums of money by persons who have not yet attained to that degree of refinement that will enable them to accurately value Art in any of its manifestations has led to a condition that is in one sense deplorable, while in another it might be hailed as a most desirable emancipation of those who have the God-given capacity for doing something well. It is not the fault of the wealthy man that he has not always been given also the fineness of perception essential to the thorough appreciation of what is good and beautiful. If he tries to make amends for this deficiency by the mere display of his wealth, invishing his money indiscriminately in the

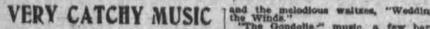
devoid of ability, that the singer has lost support of what he deems the artistic, he her voice, and that the actor and actress is transformed from a mere misforiune into an actual menace. His estentation of cannot under the circumstances achieve the results that demand patient effort and display leads to emulation by others of his sustained powers under the haste that atclass, and too frequently by those also tends their engagement in the "continwho can not afford it. People of moduous," but knowing this does not hold back erate means, but who are really qualified the patronage. The fact that the painter as leaders in matters requiring discrimreceives a check written for some tens of inating tasts and genuine judgment, retire thousands, that the singer is paid for the before the onshaught of these cohorts of night more than the average man carns cash, and allow them full ewing in an open field. Out of this condition grows up the fungue of a pseudo-art, and the sham in two years, that the actor or the actress gets for a single week as much as a wellpaid man gets for a year, is sufficient to that is backed by plenty of brass crowds induce the people to join in the mad rush out the real that has only its intrinsic to contribute to the stream of dollars by which Art is gauged nowadays. And the worth to commend it.

Wealth in itself is not responsible for this condition, for in the hands of men capable of correctly administering it, wealth is the agency of great most it. wealth is the agency of great good. All

that we have in literature, music or art is given to us through the appreciation of men of means and position, who were possessed of sufficient understanding and en-dowed with tasts to enable them to recog-nize and correctly cellinate the affects of Art has its uses for wealth, its needs that only money can supply, and there are few so ungenerous as will deny to the artist the fullest meed of his efforts or achievement. In fact, so liberal have the American people been in this regard that Art has its uses for wealth, its needs and correctly estimate the efforts of this country has been the paradise of the the master and give to his work enduring And yet this is only partly true, calculating, who have again and again life. for too often has recognition and fame measured their talent against a heap of Yahkee dollars, and no true artist ever come long after the artist has ended his working time in obscurity and poverty. left our shores unrewarded; quite on the This possibility has not been eliminated contrary, many a sham and many a mediby the increase in wealth, and the con- ocre adventurer has gone away with purse sequent advance in price put on art in heavy with American gold, and by his of its varied expressions, for Art, success has added to the depth of contempt Charity, "vaunteth not itself." It is felt for America by Europeans, where Art like Charity, the spurious art, like the sham culture, is gauged by different standards and where that eries aloud in the market place; the the impostors who thrive on Yankes credgenuine is a "pear: of great price," and ulity are rated at their real worth. And must be sought diligently. When found, yet one feels like applying here the maxim it is usually in modest surroundings, and of the law, that it is better that ninetyious of the money estimate and-nine guilty ones escape than that a that is likely to be placed upon it. Such single innocent one should suffer. We are art rarely gets its due appreciation from young yet, compared with the generations the generation of its discovery; in after that have gone before us in the old counyears it is halled as a triumph, or a try, and it is not to be expected that we should be wise to the point of ability to the list of those revered of men. visitors who seek us out and offer to ex-But the art that gathereth in the shekels in the art that is wise; it has no punc-tilious qualms about vaunting itself in the market place, or on the street cars, or change songs, or paintings, of poetry, or to tear passions to tatters, for the dollars they affect to despise. America has often been sneered at as "the land of the dollar," wherever two or more are gathered tosether for any purpose. Last week The but casual observation leads to the conclusion that the dollar is acceptable if i Hee printed a paragraph about the course which Jean de Resske has embarked, comes in sufficient company. giving vocal lessons in Paris at \$40 the hour. It is hardly likely, as was then Herr Conrold was halled with much acclaim in New York and elsewhere last pointed out, that any of the great tenor's pupils will ever grace the operatic stage, or even attain local fame as amateurs; season as the apostle of Art. He brought over "Parsifal," and his name was called but it is certain that each of them is blessed by those who had the necessary seased of an undue supply of coin of money to buy a seat at its presentation. realm. Some intervention of nature. When the season was over Herr Conrold has rendered it impossible that the ds declined to give a statement as to the Resake shall charm with his notes the exact sum that was taken in at the door, golden stream from the public's pockets, but he did announce the amounts that but he is fully convinced that art is measwere paid for the several items of cost of ured by dollars, and doesn't propose to the production. Before he began his great less any chance to get what he can of triumph he cut the eminries of all his the harvest. His case is here cited merely singers. Many of the great ones did not as an example. Monsteur Mahistique feel that they could afford to appear at spreads a large number of square feet of the wages offered by the new director of canvass on a frame and announces that the Metropolitan opera house, and so the he is going to paint for immortality, but casts were chiefly notable for the names aft the time he has his eye on a million- that were not on them. But the director aire, and in his heart he doem't care a paid the btockholders a handsome dividend rap if posterity ever sees his ploture, so that he gets a goodly sum, say not less at the close of the season. Now the good Herr Conreid is in a muddle with his than france running into five figures, for orchestra. He proposes that the \$7 per night paid to the instrumental performers it now. Mms. Highnois will leave her tirement and pitch her quavering voice shall be reduced to \$3, and threatens that against the music of the red gold at any unless the musicians accede to his propositime, while Mr. Greasepaint or Mile. Pow-derpuff will not hesitate to appear in any number of theaterw per night, the number tion he will import an orchestra from Europe. In this event the American public being limited solely by physical possibility. will be again treated to an argument as to and there display themselves, but not their talent, for the sake of the roll of bank-notes that awaits them each Monday. And the public knows that the painter is







## This Year's Band Concerts Have Un-precedented Wealth of Tungful Material.

VERY CATCHY MUSIC This Year's Band Concerts Have Tra-presedented Wealth of Tanaqtul Material. Material. Greater than ever before is the pleasure funded the public by concert bands this music furnished. When the strains of the "The Gondoller," are heard, the people ap almost with delight. Beveral other



sential to enjoyment, that one may enjoy a beautiful lawn or a pretty painting or a fine statue without owning it, and that the capacity for understanding these things in not a thing that can be purchased, but a gift from the Creator. The post has sung of the time when men's minds will be

July.

esthetic side of life. And yot the true artists are not discouraged. They realize that theirs is a giarious mission, even though they may at times experience the discouragement natapparent fullure, for on laid the task and duty of educatng the

