

ABOUT PLAYS, PLAYERS AND PLAYHOUSES

Omaha people had another splendid ex-pression of how good a play can be and still be sweet and clean in its every aspect as "Candida" was presented at the Boyd during the week by Ethel Barrymore and her company. It is not a "goodie-goodie" story, Mr. Barrymore has chosen for his theme, but one that deals with healthy men and women, and one that presents types as distinct and clearly drawn as any ever given us by a "problem" play, and still not one of them but you would be willing to welcome in your home circle. Without entering on a lengthy discussion of the qualifications of either of them, note that again it is proven that a playwright can take healthy people, with clean morals and pure minds, and make an interesting and entertaining play of them. If the public will only demand this sort of play, and withhold its patronage from the other, the question will be answered.

While we are yet in a state of indecision as to whether or not we should see "Candida" and "The Wizard of Oz," it is interesting to note that the most inspired "moderns" in their debates concerning society as a concrete proposition, along comes George Bernard Shaw and adds to the perplexity by injecting his virile conception of things as they are into the plot. Shaw, who is a realist in the sublimity of "The Irish Rebel," has about as little reverence for conventionalities as it is possible for one to have and still be allowed liberty. One of his plays, which was given in New York last season, and which will likely be seen in Omaha during the current season, "Candida," deals with a woman's right to accept the attention of another man after she is wedded. Candida frankly allows an artist to make love to her, and even goes a certain length in reciprocal affection. Naturally, her husband objects, and finally matters come to the point where she is compelled to make a choice, and she chooses her husband. She argues, though, that she has done no wrong in allowing the artist to make love to her, and in showing him some attention in return, because she did not forego her right to the admiration of mankind in general when she was married and that so long as she kept on the side of a trusting husband, exactly that it is all right because Candida tells him that it is. Mr. Shaw's argument is in support of a privilege that may exist, but which most women, recognizing, as did Pudd'nhead Wilson's niece, that this "is a nasty, mean, suspicious old world" are likely to forego, trusting to the better one we are promised by and by to compensate for what they have had to put up with in this one. And so it is hardly in the realms of probability that the example of Candida will be generally emulated.

One of Mr. Maeterlinck's dramas is based on willingness of a woman to submit herself to the embraces of an enemy of her people that the starving populace of the city may be succored ("Monna Vanna"); one of Mr. Sudermann's deals with the adulterous relations of a man and woman, high in society, trusted by all, and most of all those whom they have most deceived ("The Days of Living"); one of Mr. Ibsen's deals with the incestuous passion of a brother for a sister ("The Dead City"); Ibsen takes up the matter more in the abstract, but each of his plays deals with one or another of the various phases of that question which is usually discussed in camera. It would seem that these eminent writers had about reached the limit, that beyond nothing could go, yet Mr. Shaw has found a topic that even transcends those of the quartette mentioned, and now gives us a defense of the woman who thrives by her shame. It has not yet been produced in America, but London has seen it, and is properly shocked on the one hand and pretends to be profoundly impressed on the other.

One is somewhat at a loss to determine if Mr. Shaw is in real earnest, or if he is merely making fun of a certain element of society, well-known meaning folks, who devote a lot of time to the solution of problems that help nothing when they are solved. With a plausibility as fascinating as his logic is fallacious, Mr. Shaw preaches in his work. "Mrs. Warren's Pro-

Swift. It may be that there, too, they will learn a moral.

Coming Events.
Miss Mary Munchhoff's single concert in America this season will be given at the Boyd Tuesday evening, August 30. Usually Miss Munchhoff stops at a few concerts in the east before returning to Germany after her vacation at home, but a deviation will be made from the custom in this instance so that Omaha will be the single city where music-lovers will have the pleasure of hearing her before the commencement of her European season. The program will be one of Miss Munchhoff's own arrangement. The selections will include her own favorite numbers varied with those which were popular at the German concert. There will be two numbers at least by German composers. One will be by Miss Daisy Higgins and the other by Sigismund Landsberg. Miss Eleanor Schieb of Chicago will accompany Miss Munchhoff and will be on the program for a solo. Miss Schieb is not unfamiliar to Omaha musicians. She will be remembered as Mr. George Hamilton's accompanist when he gave the Strauss concert in New York and Boston a few years ago. Mr. Robert Cusack of Omaha will play a violin obligato for Miss Munchhoff and will contribute a solo number.

This afternoon at the Boyd theater and again this evening the "Caught in the Web" company will present the dramatization of a thrilling chapter from real life. Joseph LeBrand, author of the play, has been very successful in adapting actual records of the great detective agencies to the purposes of his plays, and in none has he been more successful than in the present interest. The tale is an intensely interesting one, and has been furnished with sufficient comedy to relieve the strain of the action of the main plot. The company is a competent one and a satisfactory performance is promised.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and a matinee on Saturday "The Wizard of Oz" will be presented at the Boyd theater.

"The Wizard of Oz" has attained the most triumphant success of this decade and the capacity of playhouses is tested at every performance. The spectacle represents an unusual expenditure of money and a proportionate expenditure of brains and talent. The artistic hand of Julian Mitchell, the most inventive producer of spectacle in this country, is observable throughout. "The Wizard of Oz" equals, if not eclipses, any of the imported spectacular productions from Drury Lane. Mr. Mitchell possesses the gift of vitalizing a stage ensemble by the most artistic methods. The lighting effects are at times marvelously effective and the transformation of the poppy field from summer to winter, although simple in the extreme, is a triumph of poetic imagination achieved by the simplest and most tasteful expedients. The chief funmakers, the Scarecrow and the Tin Woodman, an irresistible pair of drolls, and little Dorothy, the breezy Kansas girl, who is blown away to fairyland in a cyclone, are an ideal sourette. The cast includes over five score clever people, who are expert in all branches of stage work.

Commencing with a matinee today at the Krug theater, "York State Folks" will be presented with the same great cast which originally presented the piece last season and which scored a success unsurpassed by any others. James Lackaye, Ray L. Royce, Harry Crosby, Richard Currie, George Mahara, Mrs. Sidman, Frances Young, Millie Stevens, Osburn Seale, the three clever children and others will be seen in their original roles.

As to the scenic investiture, it can't be truthfully said that nothing to compare with it has ever been mounted with the lavishing that characterizes that of "York State Folks." The old "settling room," the interior of "Ben Tuttle's Emporium" are two of the most natural settings ever conceived, while the interior of "Martin's Wagon Works" is an absolute novelty, nothing like it ever having been introduced before. The engagement will last four days, with a popular ladies' and children's matinee on Wednesday.

The final scene of "York State Folks" is one to carry home and sleep on, so soothing and lovely it is. The old organ player, asleep in his chair by the open fire, the wedding guests all gone, he is dreaming of the pleasant news that he has just heard. The organ he had been ten years building had just been sold; the walls of the room fade away, the interior of the church appears, the choir boys are singing, "Rest, Rest to the Warrior," a smile steals over the face of the gentle old man as he sleeps.

Holden Bros. company will present Harry Jackson's latest play, "What Women Will Do" at the Krug theater three nights and Saturday matinee, commencing Thursday. The play is founded on Dickens' great story, "David Copperfield," and deals with the characters found in that work. The sad story of Emily and Steerforth, the pathetic figure of Peggotty, the manly Ham Peggotty, the despicable Uriah Heep, the humorous philosopher, Wilkins Micawber and others who are familiar to the readers of Dickens, figure in the play. All these are brought out in strong relief by the playwright and the company presenting the piece is one especially selected for the purpose. The play is properly mounted, and the whole performance promises to be one of the best ever seen at the Krug theater.

Goings from Stagedale.
Among the engagements made by Henry W. Savage last week were Gertrude Clark for the Turtle Dove in "Woodland," and Dan Collier for "Matty" McGowan in "The College Widow."

Charles R. Bacon, formerly manager of the "Bostonians," has been appointed manager of Henry W. Savage's English grand opera company. This company will begin a season in Brooklyn and will go to the Pacific coast.

Mrs. Kirby Lunn, who will create the role of Kundry in the first production, "Parsifal" in English, will sail from England on September 10. Mrs. Lunn has already sung the part with much success in Boston, when Wagner's work was given in concert form.

"The Prince of Pilsen" will open the season at the Montauk theater, Brooklyn, September 1, with a cast including Trislie Frigante, Jeannette Bagnard, Jess Dandy and Arthur Donaldson. It is in its fourth month in London, where it is one of the season's foremost successes.

Tim Murphy's season begins August 29, at the Folk Va. Mr. Murphy will make his first appearance in "Two Men and a Girl" on the 29th, and later the same week he will make the first production of "When a Man Marries." Both comedies will be used alternately all season.

"Woodland," the Frisley and Luders' fantasy of the forest, played continuously in Boston from April 21 until last Saturday night, "The Bird Opera" with its latest cast, headed by Harry Bulger, Sheridan Singars, Emma and others, will soon begin an engagement at the Studebaker theater in Chicago.

During her season Miss Viola Allen engaged Percy Anderson, the famous artist, to prepare a set of costume plates for her production of "The Winter's Tale" for next season. In years ago Mr. Anderson executed the plates for most all of Henry Irving and Herbert Tree's Shakespearean productions.

"The Shogun," the Korean comic opera by George Ade and Gustav Linder, opened its season at the Tremont theatre in Boston, Monday, August 22. The show is one of Henry W. Savage's best productions. The cast is headed by Charles E. Evans, formerly a member of the famous Evans and Hoyt. Mr. Evans has not been on the stage for a number of years, except for a very brief season in New York, where he played in "A Parlor Match" with the late Royce and Herbert Tree's Shakespearean productions.

Dorothy Tennant, who has been engaged by Henry W. Savage to play the title role in George Ade's new comedy, "The Col-

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legs Widow" is a native of San Francisco, and has been on the stage but three seasons. During her brief career on the stage she has played a number of important roles. Her first engagement was in "Lover's Lane," and for two seasons was the first woman for Robert Edison in "The Soldiers of Fortune" and "Ransom's Polly." She also played with Hertha Galland last year. Miss Tennant is a tall, willowy blonde, and the role of Jane Witherpoon in "The College Widow" is well suited to her talents.

ISSUES OF COMING PRIMARY

(Continued from Eleventh Page.)

and swindled the Whitebago Indians, and had used the machinery of the courts to prosecute people who were offensive to the ring. I felt convinced that Gurley would be no improvement on Summers. His associations were all with the baneful element that made for populism in Nebraska by starveling in with the corporations in season and out of season. I also had in mind the peculiar methods which Mr. Gurley pursued in his criminal practice, which could not commend themselves to any man who desired good government.

Civic Federation Action.
What amazes me in the republican members of the Civic Federation are supporting Mr. Gurley just because I am not supporting him. The main purpose of the Civic Federation, if I understand it rightly, is the purification of the city through the purgation of the slums; in other words, the enforcement of the laws. And yet the federation is rallying to the support of a man who has for years been the owner or part owner of a disreputable resort on the corner of Twelfth and Capitol avenues, from which he has derived considerable revenue. Mr. Gurley certainly cannot plead ignorance of the character of the place. It has been for years one of the most notorious resorts for the vicious of all classes, blacks, yellows, and whites, male and female. All the vices are reported to be rampant in it, and the corporation in season and out of season. I also had in mind the peculiar methods which Mr. Gurley pursued in his criminal practice, which could not commend themselves to any man who desired good government.

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I trust that the republicans of this district will put on their thinking caps, drop all factional feeling, and unite as well as they can upon a candidate who can be elected. I would be very glad indeed to see a republican candidate, but only to men of integrity and moral stamina. I certainly am not anxious to bring about the reelection of Mr. Hitchcock. I want a republican to represent this district, and I again assure you that if you nominate any clean, capable republican, no matter how radical an anti he was, I will dwell I can to elect him.

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