

SCANNELL ON THE THEATER
Bishop Declares Some Stage Plays Are
Decrading Public Morals.

TONES LOWER EACH DECADE THAN FORMER
In His Lenten Letter He Appeals to
Catholics Not to Patronize Per-
formance Which is Im-
pure in Influence.

Bishop Scannell devotes most of his Len-
ten letter to his Catholic duties to a dis-
cussion of the evil influences of the theater
and an appeal, not limited to the people
of his faith, to cooperate in saving boys
and girls and young men and women from
the deleterious effects which he believes
lurk in many modern stage productions.

After discussing briefly against the in-
dulgence in fashionable functions and
cavetties during Lent the bishop pays his
respects to the unwholesome drama in very
vigorous English. He begins by saying the
matter has become a menace to the well-
being of the community and that many of
the plays he has in mind are given at the
Omaha theaters, but he is careful to say
he does not condemn all theatrical repre-
sentations and that classical plays and
those that are clean and wholesome will
do no harm in the contrary, these may
be made the occasion of pleasant and
profitable recreation.

The moral tone of society, in the bishop's
opinion, is lower than it was ten years
ago, and was lower ten years ago than
was twenty years back. He says the
contaminating of innocent plays, only thinly
disguised from open indecency, explains
this condition. Morally and physically
many young persons are ruined by the bad
influences of the theater before they are
20, he says.

Test of the Letter.
The utterance in the letter, which was
read in the churches Sunday, so far as they
deal with the theater, are as follows:
I beg also to call your attention to a
matter that has become a menace to the
moral well being of the community. I
mean the plays that are presented in our
theaters. It is far from my intention
to condemn all theatrical representations.
Classical plays, as they are called, and
all plays that are clean and wholesome
will do no harm; indeed, they may be
made the occasion of pleasant and
instructive recreation. The plays that
represent only what is depraved in human
nature, that appeal, not to the best, but to
the worst in man, that apologize for vice
and seek to make it respectable, are the
most potent agency of corruption that it
is possible to conceive. All that is old,
can be present at such representations
without sin, for it is allowed to no one to
expose himself to moral contagion without
grave necessity; and even the old and the
experienced cannot witness these things
without having their piety chilled and their
consciences dulled or tarnished. But for
the young such plays are disastrous. The
boy or young man who has once contracted
a longing for this unhealthy excitement
may be regarded as lost. The knowl-
edge of evil acquired from the stage
has hurried down to his or her ruin many
a young person who but for it would be
a good Christian and a useful member of
society. Here in Omaha, Catholic boys
and girls in large numbers frequent the
theaters and not infrequently assist at
plays which they themselves regard as
innocent. Having asked some of them what
induced them to go to such plays I was
told that they had been persuaded to do
so by friends, sometimes by older brothers
or sisters, and that sometimes they were
taken there by the moral atmosphere of
the place.

Women as Well as Men.
Here we have the extraordinary spectacle
of women, otherwise good and virtuous,
contaminating, nay, even enjoying, what
clearly the impurity of which only a very
thin veil saves from open and illegal in-
decency. Indeed, the character of those
who disgust and repel, would be less dan-
gerous to morals than the evident sus-
ceptiveness which is the characteristic of
many of these performances. And yet it
is all regarded as correct and instructive
and improving, because it takes place on
the boards of a theater, because other
women are there, and because it is fash-
ionable.
This conduct, difficult to understand and
impossible to justify, throws a light on
many things in our social system that otherwise
it would be hard to account for. It
explains why it is that the moral tone of
society is today distinctly lower than it
was, say, ten years ago, and that ten
years ago it was lower than it had been
ten years further back. It explains the
moral and physical deterioration of those
who from youth have been exposed to the
enervating influence which I have de-
scribed. It explains why it is that when
men, true men and capable men, are needed
for any position they have to be sought
for, mainly, among the sons of the poor.
These, living a simple and natural life,
trained to honest work and taught by ne-
cessity to practice self-denial, grow up
with clear heads and honest hearts and
become men, while the children of the
theaters and the votaries of pleasure grow
old, morally and physically, before they are
20 and never become men at all. What
the good of our greater material progress,
with its apparent refinement, if it cannot
produce a sturdier and vigorous Chris-
tian manhood?

J. BRANDEIS BOSTON STORE & SONS
Couch Cover Sale Next Monday

More Wonderful Bargains
from the ASHLEY-BAILEY STOCK
OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY

At Less Than the Original Cost to Manufacture
The tremendous success which is attending this sale is exceeding our
highest hopes. Tuesday we bring forward thousands of yards of fresh
new silks shown for the first time. Bargains even greater than ever.

Here Are the Three Big Specials
New black and white wash silks, elegant taffeta quadrille,
louisene, 20x27 inch striped silks, 27 inch
heavy rustling taffeta and chiffon finish
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suitings—Ashley & Bailey's wholesale
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Silks that Ashley & Bailey Co.
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black and all col-
ors, 27 in. all silk
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New spring silks that Ashley
& Bailey Co. sold at whole-
sale up to 50c a yard—plain
and fancy pongee silks,
chiffon poplins,
china silks, peau
de cupid, etc.,
at, per yard. 29c

EMBROIDERY GALLOONS
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WORTH UP TO 20c YARD, 5 Yard

All are the prettiest new patterns—a hundred dainty
novelties to making fine waists, etc.—a number of ribbon
headings as well.

MATCH SETS OF EMBROIDERIES—Sheer and high quality Swiss
and Nainsook in medium and narrow
widths and baby sets—perfectly matched
7c-10c-15c

19c ORGANDIES AT 5c YARD—Fine Mercerized Organdies,
printed in floral designs on white grounds—have been on
display in our show window—19c quality, at, yard. 5c

ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE MOST GIGANTIC SALE OF
TAPESTRY CURTAINS and COUCH COVERS
Ever Held in the West—Begins
MONDAY, MARCH 5.
Entire Stock on hand from Philadelphia Tapestry Mills. Watch
for further Particulars.

and it will guarantee also that the chil-
dren will not be permitted to acquire, by
too much theater going, an unhealthy cry-
ing after the romantic and the unreal.

Duty to the Wives.
Fathers cannot safely relinquish this duty
to their wives, for, as I have said, many
women allow themselves to be swayed in
this matter by extraneous considerations,
and their judgment cannot always be relied
upon. Men, on the other hand, are rarely
under any illusion as to the meaning and
importance of their duty of condemning
and avoiding them more imperative. And
let not fathers of families excuse them-
selves from this duty on the plea that their
other responsibilities are so numerous and
onerous as not to permit them to look after
the amusement of their sons and daughters.
They should remember that one of their
greatest responsibilities is to train their
children in virtue and that if they fail in
this their success in other things will not
bring happiness to themselves or their
children.

Observe Fast Days.
The faithful are warned not to give for-
mal dinners or receptions on fast days, nor
accept invitations to such dinners on Fri-
day. Regarding the spirit of Lent, the
prelate says:
It behooves us to remember that Lent is
a time of penance, and that during that
holy season, we ought to devote ourselves
in a special manner to prayer, to works of
religion and charity and to acts of self-
denial. Many things that would be lawful
at other times would be unbecoming in
Lent. The giving of formal dinners or re-
ceptions, assisting at theatrical representa-
tions, and the like, are entirely out of
harmony with the spirit of the penitential
season, and should be avoided. It is in
these things during Lent without giving
rise to the usual faithful and disinterested
to the public; for although non-Catholics
do not always know what we Catho-
lics ought to do, they know very well
what we ought not to do, and we sink in
their esteem when, disregarding our own
principles, we make concessions to the fas-
hions of the day.

OMAHA WEATHER FORECAST—Tuesday Fair.
BENNETT'S
GREEN TRADING STAMPS EVERY TIME

To Every Book Shown
Ten Stamps Free
Ten Stamps Free
Wednesday is Red Letter Day
Bring your books.
Ten Green Trading Stamps to every book
shown. Balcony and second floor.
Watch Red Letter Day Ad—Tuesday
Bee and News.

BENNETT'S BIG GROCERY
Special Offer to Reduce Stock
Diamond 8 Fruits—
Peaches, pears,
plums, apricots,
cherries, pineap-
ples, can—
25c
And thirty green
trading stamps.
This offer good
for Tuesday only.

Bennett's Candy Section
Special order of fresh made Yankee Pea-
nut, very delicious, Tuesday's
price, pound 10c
5c package Atkinson's Vanilla
Chocolate 4c
Look Out for the Red Letter Day Ads

DR. BRADBURY, DENTIST 15 Years Same Location
1506 FARNAM Phone, Douglas 1786
Teeth Extracted... 25c
Porcelain Fillings \$1 up
Gold Fillings... \$1 up
Silver Fillings... 80c up
Crowns... \$2.50 up
Plates... \$2.00 up

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NICOLL'S handsome array of Spring
and Summer Woollens—represents
the best thoughts of the Foreign and
Domestic cloth makers. Over 1,000
styles on display.

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WILLIAM JERREMS' SONS.
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Our store is the largest depot for
Homeopathic Medicines to be found
in the West. We are in a position to
supply WHOLESALERS and RETAIL-
DRUGGISTS as well as PHYSI-
CIANS and RETAIL TRADE.
NOTE—When ordering always state
what form (pill, liquid or powder),
the medicine is desired, also what strength.

Special Bargains in New Spring Suits
Special Sale of Sample Covert Coats Tuesday
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Great Silk Sale Continues
Despite the snow our silk department was crowded with enthusiastic
buyers at an early hour. Nothing could prevent them from participating
in these wonderful bargain opportunities. The people were the referees
and we have undoubtedly received the decision.
The Sale of Ashley & Bailey Silks
Offers to our customers the greatest opportunities for bargain getting ever
known in Omaha—the Prices Less Than Manufacturer's Cost.

Other Interesting Tuesday Specials
Wool Dress Goods Sale
Wash Goods Sale
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To Many Points in
California, Oregon, Washington
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Every Tuesday during March and April to
points in North Dakota, Minnesota, Manitoba
and Canadian Northwest, also
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to same destinations first and third Tuesdays
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