# THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: MAY 27, 1906.

# Gossip About Plays, Players and Playhouses

R company was a success. Many of the memhers, who came here strangers, leave be-

hind them a circle of friends wide and warm, who wish them a joyous vacation season and hope to see them back here early in th fall for another round of merry plays. As the company played its last performance last night, it stood by all odds the most popular stock organization that ever made its home in Omaha. Individual members of other companies may have won as deep regard from the public, but not as a whole has any other ever succeeded in capturing the genuine affection of the people as did the Woodward Stock company of the season just ended. Recounting the artistic triumphs of the season merely needs the citing of the list of plays offered. Some were done better than others, but all were earnestly undertaken and intelligently presented. It has been the faithful, never relaxing interest shown by each member of the company in the work that has made this result possible, and the appreciation of the public has been shown in the steady patronage bestowed on the theater at which the company has made its home. It is impossible now to forecast the organization of the company for next winter, but it is certain that each returning player will be welcomed, while those who do not come back will be followed into their new fields of activity by a more than friendly interest on the part of the Omaha publie.

The coming summer is not to be devoid of its theater in Omaha after all, for Mr. J. A. Wolfe of the Wolfe Stock company has arranged for the use of the Krug theater. and will there install his company for the summer. The length of the run is indefinite, but the season opens on Thursday evening with the play first offered here by Mr. James O'Neill, "The Manxman." Mr. Wolfe is a manager-actor of many years experience, and his organization is one that is well known in the east. In the company which opens on Thursday Mr. Frank C. Long will be the leading man. He is an actor of much experience in eastern stock organizations, his home being at Cleveland. Miss Grace Huff, who has already had an introduction to Omaha people, will be the leading woman of the company. Herbert Dobbins also known here, an actor of ability, will be the heavy man. Charles Archer and May Shannon are to do the "characters," and Miss Nellie Long will do the ingenue. Mr. Wolfe himself will do the juveniles, and Fred C. Frink and T. Ashton MacRae are to be the comedians of the organization. Mr. Wolfe is arranging for a good line of plays for the season, and promises some new ones. among them Edward Milton Royle's great success, "The Squawman." He expects to take "The Virginian" on its first trip through the smaller towns of the west during the coming season, and may produce it at the Krug during his summer engagement. At all events, Mr. Wolfe promises to give plays that will be clean and interesting, and expects to merit liberal patronage.

----With the passing of the winter season, and the closing of the theaters for the summer term, comes the perennial cry for a better stage. This means better things on the stage, and the answer is "Not yet." Regardless of the call of the man with a high, square forehead, Art is still to assume a varying personality, and its manifestations are going to be many. Voices have served of recent times at the cheaper thebeen lifted up in many sections of the wilderness, and some have that faith which leads them to see certain signs of advancement in the world of art. This is true, though, only as far as society itself has advanced. The victory is not won, nor is the influence of the call for better things more than meagerly apparent. The theater will continue in the future as in the past to reflect contemporaneous manners and thought. It has a powerful influence in shaping thought, but only when dominated by a master mind is it of genuine benefit to the race. It is too often the case that the influence of the theater is in the other direction. Especially is this true of the modern melodrama. For several seasons the powers that preside over the "popular price" drama have vied with each other in efforts to set forth the more lurid and flashy of plays; they have all but glorified vice, and have shown how easy it is to commit crime. The social fabric has been turned inside out, and the seamy side has been shown under the glare of the calcium and the flood lights. No form of vice now awaits exploitation at the cheaper theaters. How far this pernicious influence has had an effect on the affairs of society at large cannot be told, or even guessed at with any degree of accuracy, but it certainly has been had. It cannot help but be evil. Young people, whose minds are not yet formed and whose moral fabric is incapable of resisting the evil instilled by the exhibition of vice and crime on the stage, are insensibly maybe, but inevitably turned to wrong as the result of the familiarity with which the evils are shown. Minds already evil in their tendencies get here that encouragement for which they crave, while the innocent receives such a shock as it never recovers from. It is impossible to become familiar with evil and not become to some degree tolerant of it. Toleration not infrequently leads to experiment, and then the end is not far off. For years the influential dramatic critics of the United States warred against the "dirt" drama at the first-class theaters until they finally degree that it is no longer flaunted as the acme of modern thought. It might not be amiss now for them to take up the crusade against the evil of the cheaper theaters, test against the play that glorifies crime and parades vice in alluring colors. The popular priced theater can be and should

SURETFULLY indeed did Omaha evil is given a stimulus by watching the him, and the great questions of society blown up, the panic-stricken people, rush-say goodby to the Woodward unfolding of a story in which vice pre- were the problem he set himself to solve. Ing half clad, from one street to another is be added to this new chain.

others the occasion for personal investigation and experiment. If all men and women had attained the stage of mental development demanded by the Shaw school of thinkers the "dirt" drama question would settle itself, for then the stage and all other educational institutions would be devoted to a higher and broader culture than now seems possible. It is not difficut to conceive that such a state can be reached, but the parade of the moral delinquencies and deficiencies of mankind at present is not in the least conducive to

the hoped-for end. Certain phases of the question may be safely discussed before nixed audiences in which all grades of intelligence and all qualities of moral fiber may be contained, but other phases can as yet be debated only in camera.

nard Shaw himself is a most remarkable as difficult to avoid in this as in any other

phase of inquiry, and applies with trenendous force to the proposition that man has made no advance in spiritual things because he shows outwardly a greater predisposition to the merely physical. But this is wandering away from the original thought.

It was intended at the outset to volcr again a protest against the quality of plays te to

a discussion that would ordinarily be looked for in the lecture room of a medical college than on the stage. But Ibsen had ideas, and set them forth with a vigor and directness that made for him many ad-mirers and not a few corverts. He differs from Masterlinck, Sudermann. D'Annuslo, Shaw and others of the "moderns" in that

It is not true that our civilisation is a Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If you settled. failure because this is so. Nor is it a sign of decadence that we no longer tol-erate in public things that were once com-mon. Man may have increased in his capacity for physical enjoyment, and the chief outward sign of his advance in his journey upward from savagery may be in the comforts and luxuries with which he surrounds himself, but it is also true that man has at the same time increased in his mential capacity and that his appreclation of the higher things of life has grown furnished the plotures for the Britt--Nelson is a start of the higher things of life has grown in the life of the higher things of life has grown is in that line of business. They of the higher things of life has grown in the plotures for the Britt--Nelson is a start of the bigher things of life has grown is the plotures for the Britt--Nelson is start of the bigher things of life has grown is start of the plotures for the Britt--Nelson is start of the bigher things of life has grown is start the bigher things of life has grown is start of the bigher the bigher things of life has grown is start of the bigher the bigher things of life has g fallure because this is so. Nor is it a have never attended an earthquake, here mental capacity and that his appreciation ment in that the of the Britt--Nelson good one. of the higher things of life has grown furnished the plotures for the Britt--Nelson good one. the sunshine of material prosperity. Ber- eastern cities last week to crowded houses, and there is no question about their giving nard Shaw himself is a most remarkable and there is no question about their giving field with anxious eyes. For a time it was idiosyncrasies and occasional symptoms of will begin with a trip up Market street insanity. His contention for a greater showing the condition of San Francisco freedom of the sexes is not an original before the fire and earthquake began. The thought with him, and his citation of the pictures will then show failing walls, and the analyse are tabled with the pictures of the sexes is not an original before the fire and earthquake began. The big sompany with a capital of \$50,000,000.

Shaw and others of the "moderns" in that his mind was evidently clean and he wrote not for the purpose of shocking people, but to enlighten them. Time may come when Ibsen will have a more general vogus, but for his lifetime at least he was "caviar to the general." Coming Events.

Coming Events. The most startling moving picture show ever presented in Omaha, will be that of the San Francisco earthquake and fire at the Auditorium beginning Monday night, May 23, and continuing every night during the week, with matinees Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. If you

Louise Dresser, well known here

with his penchant for the grosser. It is not given solely to the Shawites to feel the uplift of the finer things of life. Neither does it follow that because a man enjoys the eating of a three-inch steak that he is devoid of those aenstbilities es-sential to the enjoyment of a sourise of a delicate poem. Civilization is not sensual-ism, and the type is not deteriorating under the sunshine of material prosperity. Bersyndicate revive the rumors that klaw & Erlanger are looking toward that

practices of the savage is hardly a happy raging flames and firemen battling to save represent may set about to build up an of an old Spanish burying place, and many one. The doctrine of natural selection is the city. They will show buildings being the country, and their agents are now said

may goodby to the Woodward, Btock company, which doeed its were not true, the goodball of the goodball of the second of true were structures. Many of the sets the line were not true, the were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of the sets and matter were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of true were structures, leave be sets and beer of true structures, leave be sets and beer of true structures, leave be sets and beer of the structures the sets and beer structures, leave be sets and beer of the structures the sets and beer structures, leave be sets and beer of the sets and beer structures, leave be sets and beer of the sets and beer structures t

### Prattle of the Youngsters

Old Lady-Little boy, Aren't you ashamed

to swear that way? Little Boy-Yes, ma'am; but I am jist learnin'. You orter hear dad."

Mamma-Why, Jimmy, you are getting

awfully tanned going to school. You should keep out of the sun.

Jimmy-'Tain't the sun-it's the teacher. "Now, Johnny," said the teacher, "you

may try your hand at writing a short story."

A few minutes later Johnny handed up his slate, on which was written: "Us boys all love our teacher."

"Willie Brown! keep out o' that water," cried old Mrs. Fussey. "First thing you know you'll catch cold."

"I don't care," replied Willie Brown "Ma says next time I get a cold I kin have a han'kerchief all to meself."

Teacher-What is the meaning of the word "pulverized"?

Pupil-Powdered. Teacher-Right. Use it in a sentence. Pupil-You pulverize your face.

"My son," said the strict mother at the end of a moral lecture, "I want you to be

exceedingly careful about your conduct. Never, under any circumstances, do anything which you would be ashamed to have the whole world see you doing." The small boy turned a handspring, with a whoop of delight.

"What in the world is the matter with you? Are you crasy?" demanded the mother.

"No'm," was the answer. "I'm jes' so glad that you don't 'spec' me to take no baths never any more!"

## Cemeteries of the Nation

(Continued from Page One.) tine, Fla., takes first rank. it is on the site of an old Spanish burying place, and many seen there. Surrounded by a very old stone wall, within sound of the breakers and filled with tropical plants and dreamy la-Notes goons, it is at once beautiful and interesting. About 1,500 are buried here, and the Decoration day ceremonies are always of a

T a volume of Sidney Lanter's are necessary. These are a root frances a volume of Sidney Lanier's are necessary. These are a good fire and poems. What a great poet he without the fire for half the year, I may most impressive nature. The National cemetery at Chaimette, near New Orleans, is one of the best

was and what a beautiful, cour-igeous spirit was his. His real wever, was toward music; he deariy loved it, and the violin was his deariy for difference in the second se



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be presented. Depictions of bawdy houses, thieves' dens, slums and haunts of vice and wickedness are not needed for the illustration of moral precepts, and preachments that are offered in this guise invariably fail of good. Famillarity with vice has but one effect. The press of America can do a service to the public by making it unpopular to offer any play whose action deals solely with those vices which police authorities in all ages have battled against.

In one way the managers themselves have contributed to a solution of this question, and that is by the establishment of stock companies, by which plays of a high grade are produced at moderate charges to the Every city of any importance public. now has its stock organization, devoted to the production of at least one new play each week, and only plays of the better class are offered. It is probably true that occasionally these plays are beyond the capacity of the company, but it is far better to see a good play by a poor company than a possibly bad play by a good ompany. The further fact that these companies have been invariably successful is the best possible evidence that they are

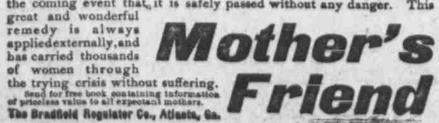
on the right track. To the manager who insists that the vicious play is demanded because it is patronized, the answer is that vice in any form will flourish when years old. unrestrained, and that society at large is just as much concerned in the suppression of vicious plays as it is in the restriction of any other form of evil. It has been demonstrated time after time that wholesome plays draw as much money to the box office as the unwholesome, and the managers ought to take sufficient interest in decency to aid in suppressing the evil that has grown out of the desire for the merely sensational.

In the death of Ibsen the world loses a great writer and a deep thinker. His place In dramatic literature is secure among the foremost. It was Ibsen's misfortune to the sympathetic support of those lack secured its abolition. At least to such a closest to him, and the disappointment that grew out of this developed into a morbidness that tinges all his writings. Ibsen has been accused of bringing the technicalities of a clinic into the theater. It is and do what may be done in way of pro- admitted, even by his strongest supporters, that he was "advanced" in his ideas, but he attacked his subject with the certainty of conviction, and dissected it with marvelmade clean as the upper class. More lous accuracy. The only objection that can really depends on it, for those whose minds be lodged with security against him is were contaminated by the sophistries of based on propriety alone. He illuminated the elegantly-wrought "problem" play his ideas as no other modern writer has, rarely did society any serious harm by the clarity of his exposition being equal putting into practice the theories they there to the depth of his thought and the scope mbibed, but the mind that is turned to of his conception. Human life interested

No woman's happi-Woman's ness can be complete without children; it is her nature to love Nightmare and want them as much so as it is to love the beautiful and

pure. The critical ordeal through which the expectant mother must pass, however, is so fraught with dread, pain, suffering and danger, that the very thought of it fills her with apprehension and horror. There is no necessity for the reproduction of life to be either painful or dangerous. The use of Mother's Friend so prepares the system for the coming event that, it is safely passed without any danger. This great and wonderful

of women through



chosen instrument. His father, meaning to be kind, destined his son for a suc-

write of It.

and studying

life

Music and Musical

cessful business career, wherein a little money would accrue. Therefore the beloved violin was put upon the shelf, and after much begging the flute, a less dangerous instrument, was put in its place as a passer of time and comforter of soul. Lanier made a pathetic struggle to become a lawyer as his family wished, but when he was 31 his genius finally assumed absolute sway. "Taking his flute and his

pen for sword and staff," he betook himself north to Baltimore. He became first poets some delicious criticism. flute in the Peabody Symphony concerts and also a lecturer in the Johns Hopkins university. With everything before him and the consciousness that the great apark was within him, what a pathetic soul with." tragedy that his body should give out. When he was 27 his lungs became very weak, and from that time on he was enfood therein but pepper and salt." gaged in a constant warfare with consumption. His frequent recuperation trips; the struggling way in which he accomplished his work, and the sweet, sunny, drank it with a sort of a smile." undaunted spirit, remind one of Stevenson. It is pleasant to think that in his wife he had a loving, keenly appreciative companion, who helped him in every possible Musical Editor, Bee Office. way, and to whom he confided his inmost dreams. She cared for and encouraged him to the end. He died in 1881, just 41

Have you read the hymn to "Sunrise?" I reread it yesterday with the same thrill vacation up my back bone. To think it was penciled when Lanier was too feeble to raise food to his mouth, and with a fever temperature of 164 degrees. It was his last and greatest effort.

Most people know Lanlers' poems, but few are now aware of his intensely musical side. He was a genius in two fields. Anger Hamerik, his director for six years the Peabody Symphony orchestra, gives this description of his musical personality

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and presents somewhat the appearance a swamp with driveways through it.

Notes and Personals.

Imagine such supreme gifts, and no time There are several lakes in it, and in many from illness and the humdrum of life to instances the graves are very close to the bring them to the rich flowering they longed water. Decoration day is always extenfor. Lanier's time was very short, but sively observed here, but for one reason amid opposition and cruel circumstances he or another the graves are decorated with wrought as much as he could, and his flowers and evergreens the greater part of poems will surely live. His memory as a the year.

musician will have to be kept fresh by Largest National Cemetery. The largest national cemetery in

those who remember his genius and can country is at Vicksburg, Miss. About 17,000 are interred here, but the place has Lanler gives a few of the latter day rather a depressing effect on one who visits it for the first time, it is so vast and Of Whitman he says: "Whitman so suggestive of the horrors of deathpoetry's butcher. Huge raw collaps There is a melancholy aspect to it that slashed from the rump of poetry and never it is impossible to shake off. Near by is mind gristle-is what Whitman feeds our the cemetery at Natchez, where 3,200 are buried. In the immediate vicinity are the Of Swinburne: "He invited me to eat; cemeteries of Port Hudson, Baton Rouge the service was silver and gold, but no and Alexandria. All through this part of the country Decoration day is most ex-Of William Morris: "He caught a crystal tensively observed. In nearly every gravecup full of the yellow light of sunset, and yard there are several soldiers buried, and persuading himself to dream it wine, the sentimental nature of the people causes much attention to be given to the cere-I would consider it a favor if local monles. musicians would drop me postal cards, From Andersonville, Ga., and following telling of their summer plans. Address

a sort of curve to Little Rock, Ark., there is a line of cemeteries where nearly 100,000 MARY LEARNED. soldiers are buried. These are all very much alike in appearance and are not as well cared for as those in other parts of Mrs. Milly Ryan is in Europe traveling the country. The principal ones of this group are Memphis, Nashville, Chatta-

Mr. and Mrs. Borgtum will spend their acation in Paris, sailing from New York n June and remaining till September, with the exception of a few weeks at the sealde. nuooga and Marietta. There is a little group of cemeteries in Last night the Schmoller & Mueller Piano company hold its opening in the fine new building on Farnam street. Music was dis-coursed and flowers and souvenirs were given away. There was specified exhibition of art Steinway planos. This firm is a vory great credit to our city and its new quar-ters marks another step in our metropolitan life. Kentucky where about 8,000 are buried, but the observances of the day here are always very sad. More old people will be seen at these ceremonies than in any other cemetery in the country. They still remember their lost sons, and even at this late day old, white-haired negroes will Mr. Alexander C. Stewart, tenor, will give frequently be seen weeping and crying for "young marsa."

song recitals, including operatic, oratorio, descriptive and ballad selections, in Pender and Baheroft, Neb, and algo in Rockwell City, Ia, on May 28 and 29 and June I. Mr. A National cemetery that is very little known is Jefferson Barracks, located about eighteen miles below St. Louis, Mo. Over 1.800 are buried here, and the cemetery is one of the grandest sites in the world. It is about 300 feet above the Mississippi, on the west bank, and commands a view in all directions over the bottom lands. This cemetery is remarkably well kept, although does not contain as many trees as one feels ought to be there.

The National cemeteries of the west are and places. Most of them are absolutely barren and are distressing in the extreme. The one at San Antonio, Tex., is of this character, although of late years an attempt has been made to improve it. Nearly all the western cemeterles are small.

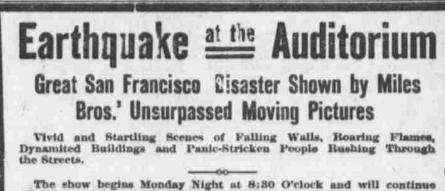
The National cemstery on the Custer battlefield in Dakota is perhaps the strangest burying place in all the world. It is a most barren spot, containing an enormous marble shaft, with 414 graves grouped around it. The strange thing about this cemetery is that all those sleeping there were killed on the same day. The National cometery of San Francisco

located at the Presidio. It is not generally known, but the United States maintains a National cemetery at the City of Mexico. Of course the 6,184 buried there are the victims of the Mexican

Temeperate Men in Parliament According to a calculation made by the British Temperance Advocate, there are 118 English, twenty-six Weish, twenty-one Scotch and twenty-one Irish members of the House of Commons who are total abstainers. The greatest proportion is among the Weish M. P's, of whom the testotalers form \$5.5 per cent of the total representation. The Scotch percentage is 28.1, the Irish 29.1, while the English show the smallest proportion, which is 25.4. Altogether the 154 fectotal members are 29 per cent of the whole assembly.

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Decatur, Ill., May 17th to 24th	.\$15.40
Boston, Mass., May 31st to June 9th	.\$29.75
pringfield, Ill., June 1st to 4th	
New Haven, Conn., June 1st to 4th	
ouisville, Ky., June 11th to 13th	
dexico City, Mex., June 25th to July 7th	
Boston and New Haven trip tickets good on boats across Lake E r both directions, without extra charge except meals and berths. llowed at Detroit and Niagara Falls. For descriptive booklets, time-tables, sleeping car reservations formation call at Wabsah City Ticket Office, 1601 Farmann SL, or a	stop over
Harry E. Moores, G. A. P. D., Wabash R. R., Omah	

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