## About Plays, Players and Playhouses



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losing game at the Burwood, and would close the house with the performances today. reached paying proportions. From the very minutes sconer than it did at the end of start It was evident that the Omaha public the first act. did not cars for the cheaper vaudeville; not that cheap in this instance necessarily

meant had, for many of the acts offered at the Hurwood were of first class sort, although the majority of them were of the more ordinary class. But the people wouldn't have it, and so the house is to be closed. Manager Johnson announced that the house will reopen about the first the He looks at the situation from a wholly imyear, with a stock company, offering popular plays.

Death called James Henry Stoddart, dean of the American stage, to his rest recently, at the age of 80. Mr. Stoddart's last appearance in Omaha was in "The Bonny Briar Bush," nearly three years ago. He was still playing his role in that piece when he was stricken by paralysis last winter in Nova Scotia. He lingered for nearly a year, helpless and hopeless, before the end came. Mr. Stoddart was one of the old-time favorites of the American stage who could always attract big crowds and whose familiar figure was always greeted with tremendous applause. He spent a long lifetime in the glitter of the footlights, and was known as the dean of the American stage. Though he was born in England, of Scotch ancestry, he adopted the American stage as his field of endeavor and acted part in the discussion as to whether or not with the most celebrated men the theater has known.

From the day he landed in New York he played almost continuously in that city, He was essentially the stock company notor of the highest grade, and he always sought to make the humblest character of just as much importance as his own. He no promises. To the horror of the attending sought after a perfect setting and acting of a play and never attempted to star even himself or the leading lady in any of his cares nothing for his own fate, but is the shah's palace, and a persian rose gar- printed all over the country. On account productions.

For a time he was at the old Olympic theater in New York with Laura Keene, where, as Lawyer Moneypenny in "The Long Strike" he made the first hit of his Music and Musical Notes career. Then he acted with Booth in tragedy, and through a long line of comady parts at the Thirteenth Street theater, New York.

His early triumphs were in "The Rivals," "The School for Scandal," "She Stoops to Conquer," "The Heir-at-Law" and "Wild He took part in the successful Dats." Boucicault melodramas and was a leading Crawford; the messages being sentiments figure in the English adaptations of "Rose expressed by some of the world's greatest Michel," "The Danicheffs," "Daniel men on the subject of Music. I propose Rochat" and other Parisian sensations of bls carlier days. sharing these with the readers of this col-

umn from time to time, and they wil find In later years he found a prominent a few in this particular issue. Times frequent and unaccountable have place in the modern drama of both English and American growth. His Jacob Fletcher we heard such a remark as this: "What In Henry Arthur Jones' "Saints and Sin- is the use of singing (or playing) anything ners" will always be remembered for its serious, to people; they are bored to death, humanity, its sturdy integrity and its and if I interest them /I must sing (or homely and beautiful pathos, dignifying a play) something which you musicians call conventional drama into something ap- "trashy." proaching dramatic worth. His Colonel Hear the words of Richard Wagner: "If admiration) thes accumulation of lurid-Preston in Augustus Thomas' "Alabama," we harken to frivolous or insincere music, covered songs of the moment, by their Mason and Bart, are pair of comedy, helped the success of that idyl of the south. we may extinguish the last light God has young men and young women whose tastes ributed ALC: N

NNOUNCEMENTS made by the of Parnell and of Sir Charles Dilks, al- has been his life-work. The quiet scene palms and perfume. Mr. Daniels plays the local theaters do not indicate though the author wishes it to be expressly that follows between the two men is drama role of Omar Khayam, jr., poet, astrologer any special reverence for the understood that he has not had either of of the highest rank. The saturnine O'Con- and weather prophet, and his subriquet of venerable bugaboo of the these in mind. Henry Trebell is the man nell realizes better than the others the "The Tattooed Man" is due to the presence "week before Christmaa" by whom an incoming government looks for the managers. In many ways making and putting through an educathe promise of the next two weeks at the tion bill that is to be a wonderful thing Omaha theaters exceeds that of any like for the country. Trebell is a statesman, a period for the season, and the probabilities man above party, a kind of superman, all are that patronage will be accordingly intellect. But in a chance moment he fails too much of it-and it is finally decided great. The feature of the week was the into an idle flirtation with Mrs. O'Conthat even though the scandal is to be announcement of the Sullivan & Considine nell, a frivolous married woman who lives hushed up, Trobell is not a safe man politpeople that they had had enough of the apart from her husband merely because it teally. The one practical politician in the might spoll her pretliness if she were to group distrusts him. have children. Trebell cares nothing for This announcement had been dis- her and says so, but a careless kiss sets counted by the wise ones, as it was well the pair aflame-and it would have been Trebell discussing life and death in his known the attendance had at no time well if the curtain had come down two library with his physician. The curtain

goes down for a few moments to indicate the passage of the night, and in the morn-In the second act, three months later, it ing we find him still there-still waiting for is a pale, terrified little Mrs. O'Connell the letter which shall tell him whether or who makes her way into Trebell's library. not he is to be included in the cabinet. It He is drafting his great bill and is not comes at last, and he reads it and goes glad to see her. He had almost forgotten on casually talking with his sister, but her. She tells him she expects to become the feeling of impeding tragedy has grown till it has become almost unbearable. a mother, but finds no sympathy, no love, Again the curtain falls to indicate the no tenderness in this absorbed statesman. flight of a few hours, and when it rises

again we know that Trebell has shot himpartial, impersonal, scientific viewpoint. He will make all arrangements and will nelf. Having been forbidden by the censor the take care of the child, but he cares nothplay cannot be publicly performed in Enging whatever for the woman and will make land so long at the censor lasts, but when no pretence. It is an inhuman scene that the references to local politics are cut out, makes the blood run cold. The woman and a few of the most terrifying lines are goes away desperate. She says if Trebell omitted, there is no reason why it should had only loved her she could have "gone not be produced in the United States and through with it," but as it isbe received heartily as a really great work In the third act, a council of the men who of art. It is almost certain, also, to be

are about to form the new cabinet are holdproduced in Germany. ing a hasty meeting. Mrs. O'Connell has suddenly died from the effects of an illegal operation, there is to be an inquest, and Local playgoers will welcome the visit of her husband has found an incriminating note from Trebell. The man must be the popular comedian, Frank Daniels, who hushed up or the government will lose comes to the Boyd theater tonight, Monday and Tuesday, for it always safe to predict Trebell and the country will lose a laughter-laden entertainment wherever the brilliant measure that is to reform its he plays. Charles Dillingham has secured educational system. The men who take for his clever comedian a new opera, "The Trebell shall now be included in the Tattooed Man." The music is Victor Hercabinet are characterized with amazing bert's, and the book is the joint work of Harry B. Smith and A. N. C. Fowler, a cleverness, and their talk is so brilliant that one almost forgets to be bored by it

when it moves away from the story. O'Connell, the injured husband, is sumacts, and the locale in Persla. The scenes, ministers-to-be, Trobell bimself bursts in which are said to be of more than usual upon the meeting and faces O'Connell. He desperate for the fate of the bill that den, with its atmosphere suggestive of

ROM a thoughtful friend there say: "If I had to live my life again, I

been kept active through use."

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history of Omaha in the way of concerts

**Husical** Notes.

terrible waste of a brilliant life and a great on his neck of a mystic mark in the form reform that threatens to grow out of a of the scarabrus or Persian sacred beetle. careless woman's easual caress. He de-Around this wondrous thing the fun of the sides to keep the secret, and Trebell leaves play revolves, for the appearance of two the meeting expecting to join the cabinet. similar traces of magic in the same spot There is more discussion after he goes-far on two others in the kingdom is said to

lead to all sorts of whimsical situations and predicaments. The opera is reported to be replete with dainty dances and novel song hits. Of the latter "Omar Khayam," Take Things Easy," and "Nobody Loves Me," are described as catchy melodies of we come to the final act and find

the popularly whistled order. The supporting cast is a strong one and includes William Danforth, George O'Donnell, Harry Creston Clark, Gilbert Clayton, Nace Bonville, Harold Russell, Julia Brewer, Louise Sylvester, Norma Kopp and a large beauty chorus.

A real musical comedy is promised in Klaw & Erlanger's presentation of "The Grand Mogul," at the Boyd's theater next Friday and Saturday nights, with Saturday matinee. "The Grand Mogul" is the latest musical comedy by Pixley and Luders, whose former works, "The Burgomaster," "King Dodo," "Prince of Pilsen" and "Woodland" have made them famous throughout the United States in this particular line. The cast numbers seventy five and includes such well known singers and comedians as Mr. Frank Moulan (he of

"Sultan of Sulu" fame), Maude Lillian Berri, John Dunsmuir, Sarony Lambert, Edith St. Clair, George H. Moore, Seymour Brown, J. B. Carson, Clara Belle Jerome and Marie Johnston. There is a singing chorus of fifty.

William Collier will be at the Boyd on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights next week, with a special matineo on Christmas, in his success, "Caught in the Rain."

Kubelik's present tour of America is marking the high tide of concert attendance in this country. All records were broken at the great New York Hippowriter new to the stage. This collaboration drome on the occasion of his first concert is said to have produced a story which there early in November, and flashlights blends frantically funny situations with a of the immense audience were taken for moned to this meeting, but he will make genuine love interest. The opera is in two the London "Sketch" and other great journals; while photographs of the box office statements showing the enormous remagnificance, represent the courtyard of celpts were also taken and are being reof the great capacity of the Hippodrome popular prices were charged, and even then the receipts were \$5,576. Since then five concerts have been given in Chicago to very large and enthusiastic audiences. A third one is already booked in St. Louis and in Milwaukes, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, St. Paul, Winnipeg, and other centers

the same record of attendance is noted came to me a book entitled, would have made it a rule to read soms appear at the Boyd theater on Sunday Dewithout exception. Kubelik is scheduled to birthday book, compiled by a poetry, and listen to some music at least comber 29.

woman whose name I had once every week; for perhaps the part of Minnie Seligman, a distinguished actress my brain now atrophied would then have and William Bramwell (off the stage, Will) been kept active through use. The ides Dowing, well known in Omaha social and of these tastes is a loss of happiness, and Masonic circles, having been secretary to may possibly be injurious to the intellect, the grand master Mason of Nebraska years and more probably to the moral character, ago, when he resided in Omaha) presenting "A Dakota Widow," a one act comedy by enfeebling the emotional part of our

come at the top of the new bill that starts Would it not be a good thing for all of the week with a matinee today at the us to remember this confession of Mr. Orpheum. One of the big features will be Darwin. Think of those sad, sad words of the comedianne, May Ward and her "Eight Dresden Dolls," of girls, prettily costumed, that great man, "perhaps the part of my brain now atrophied (1) would then have rendering catchy up-to-date songs. Frederick Voelker, the eminent violinist, accom-Parents who view with indifference (or

panied on the plano by his beautiful and accomplished wife are also on the bill. horizontal bar performers. For a skit he



largely to of A. M. Palmer's company, Mr. Stoddart has always been known as

the comic roles and he naturally fell into it." the serious parts with which he had long been identified. He was one of the most courteous and genial of men off the stage and utterly unlike Mr. Austen, one of his favorite roles in "The Fatal Card." He had one hobby which he never thought was a hobby. He longed for a little home else, but either to tell, or to hear, some in the country and bought a place near Rahway, N. J., where he cultivated pears for twenty years. Every night after the theater he went out to the country and looked after his pears. He calculated that 2,000 trees would augment his salary as an actor, but the pears did not prove profitable and he moved away from the unfruitful usefulness! orchard. His last impersonation was that of Lachlan Campbell in Ian MacLaren's "Beside the Bonnie Briar Bush." He was seized with paralysis in 1905 while filling a Canadian engagement in this play and the serious thought, the promulgation and proattack compelled him to retire from the stage.

## BARKER'S ASTONISHING PLAY

"Waste,". Forbidden by English Censor, Said to Be Work of Art.

LONDON, Dec. 4-(Special Correspondence.)-Probably no play in recent years has made such a commotion in London as Granville Barker's "Waste," which was produced privately this week after having been "suppressed" by the censor. Although the seventy-three leading playwrights and men of letters, from George Meredith, Henry James and Thomas Hardy down, who signed the resulting petition for the abolition of the censor, have not yet had a chance to appear before the prime minister on account of his illness, it seemed to be the general opinion that something or other was going to happen to the censor in consequence of his suppression of Barker's play.

But the production of, "Waste" has strengthened the censor's hand, for it provides for one brief, violent exhibition of sexual passion that undoubtedly would be thought by the general public to exceed the limits of-not exactly so strong a word as baskets, songs by modern compositors, decency, or exactly so mild a word as which are not worth the paper on which propriety, but something about half way they are printed. Because publishers are between. The unquestionable sincerity of after "some new thing." the author and the fact that this ectsode comes at the beginning of the flay and that all the rest is a profoundly moving study of its tragic results, doubtless would not weigh with many of the theatorgoers who look to the drama for only laughs and thrilis. Furthermore, the man and soman on whose transports the curtain falls at the end of the first act, engage in the second act in a discussion of the consequences that is outspoken to a degree, and that probably would have caused any but a stage society audience to squirm with embarrassment. Finally, although this doesn't concern the censor, the play contains several discussions in which the actors are expected to hold the audience with brilliant but protracted views on the education question and other political affairs and on various phases of human con-

Yet the play, based in these censor shock. ing scenes, and emerging through these mists of medical, ethical and political disenasion, is so powerful, so well thought out, so sound, and so hig in theme, that it is amost sure to be remembered in time to come us a really great achievement.

The story of "Waste" is simple and direct, and can be told in a few lines, if no attempt is made to indicate the fine distinctions that lift it so far above the or- terest us in music? dinary level. It is to some extent the story Listen, this is what we heard Darwin

burning within us to lead the way to find Him anew."

"Musical Messages," being a

never heard before, Robekah

And hearken to the wisdom of Goethe: a comedian until he joined the Union "The effect of good music is not caused Square theater. When he went there he by its novelty. On the contrary, it strikes to the intellect," and "more probably an found Stuart Robson had the monopoly of us more, the more familiar we are with injury to the moral character."

> Truly human nature doth not change to this article which conclusion I had in view when I began the first sentence. This is any alarming extent. In the year 54, some what I want to bring home. If you are a 1.850 years ago, a writer said: "Now all the Athenians, and the strangers solournstudent of music, never let the opportunity "hearing" good concerts he neglected. ing there, spent their time in nothing Oh! the many students who are practising every day in some line of music, who new thing." And today the thirst for novelty, to

> never, never go to a concert when a visiting artist comes here. Violinists! Do not "hear something new." is sadly prevalent. stay away from the plano recital, or the The popular song of yesterday is lining the song recital. Singers! Go to the violinists' waste basket today, and today's popular recitals and piano recitals; he a musician, song will be starting the fire tomorrownot a "vocalist." Planoist may learn from thereby entering at last upon a sphere of song recitais and violin recitais and organ recitals and then there is the opera, when

> we have that; and many students, and some While on the subject, it may be well to teachers (believe me) never go near the reflect that although not a conservative in opera, because they have no ambition to be music, one must view with more or less a Melba or a Bonci. motion of the work of Richard Strauss, Hugo Wolff, Max Reger, Sinding, and oth-It would be unprofitable as well as uninteresting to go back over the musical ers of that notable and wonderful school,

while the people have not yet been conversant with Brahms, or Grieg, or Liszt, or shall I say it, evenSchumann, and Schubert, and Franz, and Rubinstein, and Mendeinsohn? Are we not, also, in danger of being

somewhat inclined to "spend our time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing?" any large fortune; no one has been obliged

Let this not be taken as a word against the "new music;" but rather. It is said that students may be perchance led to look up something of Schumann, beside the "Two Grenadiers" and "Traumerelei;" something of Schubert beside the "Ave Maria," the "Serenade" and "Who is Sylvia ?" something of Franz beside the "Aus Melnon Grossen Schmerzen" and "The Rose Complained," something of Rubinstein beside "Du Bist Wie Eine Blume" and the "Melody in F:" and something of Mendelssohn, beside the "Songs Without Words" ("Lieder Ohne Worte") and the "Wedding March."

Every three months, a acore or two of songs fall gently but surely into our waste have tried, know that she needs all the not be withheld. Yes?

To change the subject, (before the "ultramodern" friends of mine become sarcastic), let me quote a line or two from Mendelssohn, as his name has come up. Mendelssohn thus expresses himself: "I Millen, the violinist. know nothing more fatal than the abuse or neglect of a divine gift, and I have no sympathy with those who triffs with it." Wouldn't you rather have the good opinion of Mendelmohn, than be able to

Mr.<sup>4</sup> Fred G. Ellis announces that on Sun-day evening. December 22 his choir at the First Christian church will give a Christ-mas cantata, "The Story of Bethlehem," have the season's vaudeville "repertoiro" at your fingers' ends? West

When I hear of some special case of neglecting a divine gift (and we hear of An interesting recital was given at Piym-outh Congregnitional church a week ago last Friday night by Miss Mary Taylor, ansisted by Miss Ramsdale. Miss Taylor played compositions by Rachmaninoff, MacDowell. Golard. Rubanstein. Moszkowski. Griof and Liebling. The program was gute pre-tentious. Miss Ramsdale gave Screnades by Piernee and Drdle and other numbers by Hubay, Papini and MacDowell. many, who through, indifference, or impatience, or self-disparagement discontinue their study in music, or fail entirely to begin it), I go away from the musicians, and forget music altogether, and I wonder stiently, until I get out among the shadows of the winiry afternoon, and as I walk, I wonder about the great men who have immortalized themeselves, through their study and searching of things beyond the grasp of ordinary man; and as I dream of them, I find the names of Huxley, Darwin, Spencer, John Fiske (the latter a fine musician) come to me and then from somewhere, methinks there come the sounds of

a voice, and the voice is the voice of Darwin, and what does he say that can in-

are in process of formation. calls "Every Inch a Soldier," Charles worse than read the words of Darwin, Sharp entertains with dutch comedy and about the loss of the taste for music being instrumental music. Dixon and Fields the a "loss of happiness." possibly "an injury "Original German Sailors" are fun-makers as is William Tompkins with his topical

HAYDEN CHURCH.

Coming Events.

talks styled, "The Sense of Nonsense." A fresh assortment of pictures will be pro-And that brings me to the conclusion of jected by the kinodrome.

> "In Olk Kentucky," will be seen again at the Krug theater for four days, starting matinee today. It has been presented for fifteen years, season after season, and from Maine to California and from the great lakes to the gulf, it is known and appreciated by all classes of play-goers. One is always assured of seeing a first class, competent company of players and a beautiful scenic production. Then, again, there are the clever little pickaninnies. These diminutive Ethiopians can be depended upon at all times to furnish an attractive and amusing feature of the performance. The company for the season of 1997-8 includes some of the favorite players who have been identified with the play for

years. Bert G. Clark and Charles K. French play their original roles of the colonel and Uncle Neb. A charming young actress, Miss May Stockton, will be seen for the first time in the role of Madge. Others in the cast are J. J. Sullivan, A. H. Wilson, Calvin Tibbets, Miss Katherine Raye and Miss Margaret Lee.

and concert giving; suffice it to say that since the days of the old Apollo club, the Ladies' Musical society, down through the Homer Moore epoch, and some with which the writer had the rashness to "impresa-"Toyland," a very pretty and pleasing rionize," on to the days of the Concert Promusical melange, will be the attraction at moters and Mr. Borglum, no one has made the Krug theater for three days starting

to open the window and let out the toowell staged and carries a large and handoppressive fragrance of the bouquets, and some chorus. yet, in spite of all this, a woman "goes Announcement is made that an excellent forth to meet Gollath" and alone and stock company is to be the 'attraction at single-handed (without even a sling) faces the Burwood theater, starting in about two the community with a series of concerts in weeks. Vaudeville will receive its last two one hand and a subscription list in the hearings today at 2:30 and 8:15, the house other (and the good will of the musicians closing then for the next two weeks in at her back), and calmly, but firmly. order to allow an opportunity to make alwrestles with conditions in an effort to terations and changes necessitated by the keep Omaha well in view on the musical change in policy. Although the company is map, and she is meeting with success. And partially formed, it is not deemed exthe woman in question is Mrs. Turner, and pedient to make any announcement at this Mrs. Turner wants every reader of this time as to the makeup of the organization. article to help her, and some of us who Already many people have notified the theater management by 'phone or letter assistance possible. Surely when a fair that they desire that the same seats rewoman asks a favor of brave man, it will served weekly that they occupied during

the former stock seasons. So numerous The next of Mrs. Turner's concerts will have been these requests that in all probbe Olga Samaroff, planolste, January 2. ability a subscribers' book will be opened Then will follow the much-talked of shortly. Scenic artists will start work at Corine Rider-Kelsey, aoprano, and later once on an entirely new supply of scenery Jean Gerarly, violoncellist; David Bisand the house will be thoroughly renovpham, "the Bispham," and Francis Macated during the two weeks of darkness.

> THOMAS J. KELLY. Friday the management of the Jewel theater was informed that they might run the pictures of the Passion Play showing the Life and Passion of Christ one week longer. These pictures of the great play

held at Oberammergau every ten years were shown at the Jewel theater all last week, and were a wonderful drawing card. An interesting recital was given at Plym People visited the Jewel who had never set foot inside the doors during the two years it has been at Strteenth and Douglas streets, and many were the expressions of satisfaction with the pictures and surprise at the refinement and character of the theater. This time of the year is peculiarly

by Hubay, Papini and MacDowell. The Robert Cuscaden School for Stringed instrumenta, Schmoller & Mueller building, will give its bext public recital on Wednes-day of this week in the school auditorium. The sololats from the school will be Miss Essie Aarons. Miss Ada Morris and Clar-ence Patter. The principal orchestral num-bers will be overture from Mendelssohn's "Return from Abroad," and two mové-ments from the Sixth Symphony of Haydn. The school will be assisted by Miss Minna Weber, pupil of Fred G. Ellis, who will sing its "Sixes Song," by Del Riego; "An Even-ing Love," by Chinman, and "All for You," by D'Hardelet. The public is cordially in-vited. Admission is free, appropriate for the exposition of this play az it deals with the life of Christ from birth to ascension, and one viewing it can better understand the meaning of Christmas. Those who were fortunate enough to witness the play last week saw something truly wonderful; there were over 49,000 different photos, each complete in itself, enlarged to life size, and shown at the rate of over a dozen each second, making one complete scene lasting one hour and a half. Children should see this play as well as grown-up folks