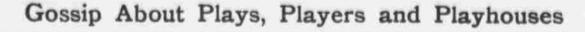
THE OMAHA SUNDAY BEE: JANUARY 24, 1909.





result in, signs all point to the has a real mission in the world. conclusion that public taste in

AMERICANS THE BEST DANCERS the matter of amusement at the theater is changing. It is

not merely seeking novelty, or pion Waltzer of the World. amusement, but is, so far as can be de-LONDON, Jan. 23-(Special Correspon- past the century mark, has revived "The termined from surface indications, really lonce.)-Still they come. English people Adventures of Lady Ursula," a product looking for things serious. The plays that are tearing their hair over an interview of the pen of Anthony Hope. Evelyn Milhave really succeeded in the last four seagranted by Georgie Mahrer, and Austrian, sons have been of a thoughtful type, plays said to be the finest dancer in the world, with a message. This must not be taken who has been brought over from Maxim's. to suggest that all plays that have been Paris, by George Edwards to appear in put on at the theaters and patronized by the "Merry Widow." According to Mahrer the public have been serious plays, or that the best dancers in the world are, not all of these have failed. The statement re-Austrians, nor Germans, no-not even the fers to those plays that have achieved dis-English, but the Americans. Along with tinct and pronounced success, that have you people on the other side of the Atlanseized on the public throughout the length tic he classes a select few of the Parisians, and breadth of the land, and have been put

on the heards on both sides of the water. but either you or the natives of Paris Some of these have been by American make all other competitors look like beauthors, some have been by foreign, but all ginners. Can you imagine what the Enghave treated on topics vitally connected lish think about Mahrer since he has with actual life, and with such virile force as to leave a deep impress on public the papers are full of indignant letters thought. A catalogue of these dramas of purpose need not here be furnished, for rian bases, not only his claim to the obvious reasons, but Omaha has had an title of champion dancer of the world, but opportunity for seeing most of them, and also to his claim to any knowledge at all has paid marked attention to all that have about dancing? The British do not take this come this way, and will probably welcome kind of comparison lying down, and Mahrer the others as they are presented. The is in hot water. But he sticks to his purpose of this paragraph was merely to guns.

call attention again to the oft asserted "Vienna," he says, "is the home of the mission of the theater, and its part in the waltz, but my country people are not, in development of the civilization of the race. my opinion, the best waltzers. That dis-Now that it has begun to take itself inction belongs to the Americans and the seriously, even better results may be Parisians. The English lift their feet too looked for, and while it will not cease to far off the ground, dance too quickly and be a reflector of the times and manners turn to rapidly." of its patrons, it will also fill in a larger

Truth to tell the average Englishman has way its better part of directing public poor opinion of the American as a danthought and shaping opinion on such matcer, and loses no chance of ridiculing such ters as may properly be treated of by the innovations as the "half-time" and the dramatist. Political economy, sociology, 'glide." religion, morals, ethics, even manners, may be taught at the theater, and it is not at all improbable that many a one receives from a well acted play a more definite and

lasting notion of the application of some of the abstractions of life than ever was gained from a text book or in a lecture room, and this is coming to be the true mission of the stage.

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Before the play is presented, and in order to anticipate, if possible, any objection that may be raised to an ex-post facto statement, this much will be said in advance regarding "The Servant in the House:" It is much to be regretted that Charles Rann Kennedy did not have the courage to abandon the tawdry trick of suggesting the actual presence of Christ on the stage. Not that any objection can possibly be laid against him on account of his treatment of the thought, or that it is handled at a deeply reverential way. The objection is that it seems so theatric and so paloably obvious a device to attract attention to a character that was otherwise a great conception. Manson, stripped of the mysilcism and secrecy with which he has been surrounded, and without the deliberate attempts to suggest his identiy with the personality of the great Savior of Mankind, would still be a most impressive character, and his lesson would be as readily imparted and as thoroughly assimilated by its hearers. It is a matter for real sorrow that Mr. Kennedy did not have the courage of Henrik Ibsen, who did not besitate to impart his message directly. Ibsen did not write for the public especially; he did not care if one or another understood what he was driving at.

He felt that somewhere in the created uni-

HATEVER it may ultimately (ing, and feels more than ever that Music ] she will soon see her way clear to taking a larger West End house. Evelyn Millard, whose term as manager So Declares Georgie Mahrer, Cham-

of the Garrick has been marked by a succeneful run of "Idols," a dramatization of William J. Locke's novel, which ran well lard and Herbert Waring both appeared in the play when it was originally produced and it was in the nature of a renewal of old friendships in the matter of both play and actors. It is seldom, if ever, that Waring is seen to such advantage as in the part of Sir George Sylvester. The part fits him like a glove, with scarcely a wrinkle, and might easily have been written for him.

Now that the pantomine season is well advanced, one may talk of those who have made the big hits. Curiously enough, American performers bear off more than aired his opinions? Can you wonder that their share of the honors. George All, whom, although born in England, we have demanding upon what grounds the Aust- come to regard as an American, and who will be remembered as "Tige" in "Buster Brown," carries off the honors at Drury Lane, where he is appearing as the cat in "Dick Whittington." Truly Shattuck also has come in for a large measure of approbation in the same production. Not a stone's throw away-namely, at the Lyceum theater-Julian Rose is saving the produc-

tion from the fate of playing to a half empty house. His performance is the one humorous agot in a production which is the scenic wonders. designed to be funny from the rise of the Next to the Drury curtain to its fall. JOHN AVA CARPENTER.

RISE OF THE FAIRY PLAY

Rival of the Holiday Pantomime Among English Children. LONDON, Jan. 10 .- Slowly but surely the London, in common with the rest of fairy play is beginning to replace the pan-

England, had a snow storm about a week tomime in the hearts of the London boy ago. It was an innocent little affair and and girl. "Peter Pan" came along some the height of the snow as it covered five winters ago, and the fairy play has has a fearful tale to tell of the hundreds children at the theaters. of dollars he lost through the inability of It was about 200 years ago that Manager

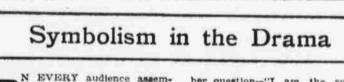
his patrons to get out of doors in the Rich, the pioneer of English pantomime, 'blizzard.' was induced to turn his attention to it by "Snow like this means a loss of from reason of the success of some performing

\$500 to \$1,000 a night to me," said one West dogs he had brought with him from Ger-End manager. "People are afraid to ven- many and which appeared on December ture out. Neither horses nor motor-cars can 26. 1717. In "Harlequin Excited; a new Italget through the snow so the playgoer reian Mimic Scene between a Scaramouche, mains at home." a Harlequin, a Country Farmer, His Wife

It is estimated that the total loss to and Some Others." For several years Rich produced similar plays which he called theater managers of a little snow flurry Italian mimic scenes, but it was not until is about \$50,000 a day. One wonders what 1724, when the "Necromancer, or History of would be the results of a real snow storm. Dr. Faustus" was presented by him at Lin-

I recently raised the question of how com's Inns Fields theater and took the much of the credit for the success of town by storm, that English pantomime, Mangham's three London plays was due to so called, was launched on its long and the new playwright a lucky man because successful career.

his chief roles were in the hands of has led the world in the gorgeousness and



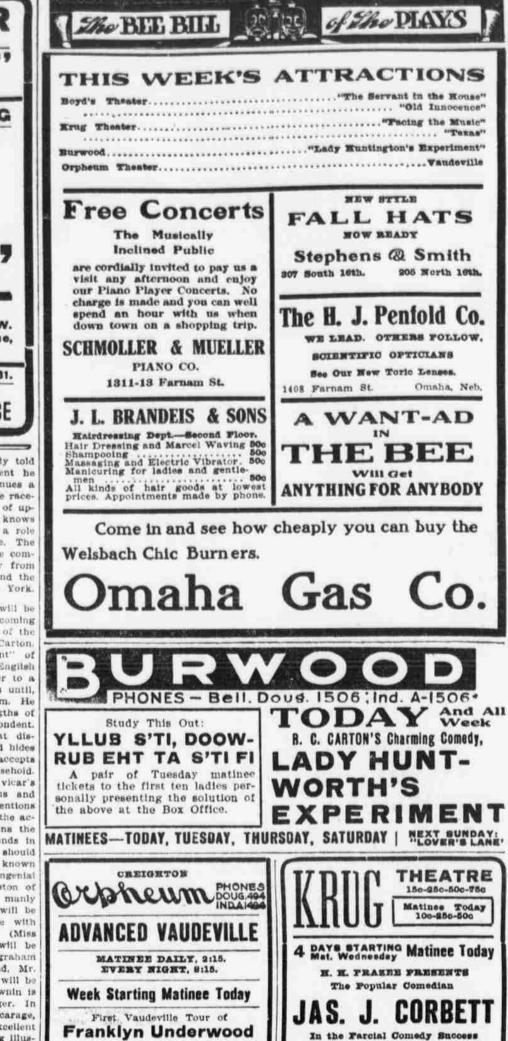
the starts who appear in them, and called For many years now Drury Lane theater her question-"I am the servant in bled to witness "The Servthis house." ant in the House," there are An equally significant symbol lies in keenly intellectual men and the fact that Mary is the only one women who grasp all the who recognizes the bishop of Benares author's subtle meaning in in Manson, the butler. Hers is the clear vision of innocent childhood and



old friend. "Peter" has a rival and a serious one in family succumb to her fascinations and "Pinkle and the Fairies." written by Gra- every male member thrusts his attentions ham Robertson, an artist. Pinkle is a upon her is delightfully told during the acdelightful person, who, with her brother, is tion of the play. The piece contains the intimately acquainted with many fairles most scintiliating comedy and abounds in that unfortunate grownups cannot see or splendid situations. Miss Elliott should find the part of Lady Huntworth, known know. The fairy Queen, wonderfully well played as "Caroline the Cook," a most congenial

by a mite of 8, invites Pinkle and Tommy role. Mr. Grew as Captain Dorvaston of to a ball in the woods, where Cinderella, the Bengal cavalry has a splendid, munly the Sleeping Beauty, and other favorite character to portray. Mr. Connor will be heroines appear. The woodland scene on the Rev. Henry Thoresby, in love with May day eve is a dream of loveliness, and the vicar's niece, Lucy Pillenger (Miss the children as sprites are so exquisite as Stearns). The vicar of Stillford will be played by Mr. Todd and Mr. Ingraham to appear unreal.

Ellen Terry plays an old maid aunt, the will portray the dissipated husband, Mr. most delightfully prim, charming aunt Crayil. The butler at the vicarage will be imaginable in curls and a poke bonnet, and in Mr. Bacon's hands and Miss Downin is she sings, with no voice whatever, a little to be the vicar's sister, Miss Pillenger. In song in a way that brings down the house. Keziah, the housemald at the vicarage, Yet, if one stops to think of the parts Miss Jeffery will have a most excellent that she has played in this same theater comedy role. The second act setting illusin bygone days, there is a pathos in the trating the vicarage with "the cook" in full way will be found to be a most decided



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ling Frances Slosson and Georg

was another mind, kindree own, to whom his thought would appeal. and he addressed himself to that mind. And if his expositors have only succeeded in befogging the issue and surrounding his theme with dense mists of words and clouds of Stygian rhetoric. Ibsen is not to blame. That one bright, clear intellect he addressed himself to has received his message and understands it, and maybe in time the rest of us will come to understand it also. This quality of Ibsen is entirely lacking in Kennedy. His message is not the less important, but it has been obscured by the studied effort to give it a value it does not possess. "Good wine needs no bush," and truth needs not an envelope of mysticism to secure a courteous reception from the studious. On the contrary, the investigator is not infrequently turned aside from the quest because of the wrappings of husk in which the kernel of truth is hidden. It is admitted that a medium for suspension, as the chemist might put it, is essential for the transmission of the message of the drama, but this medium might have been more wisely chosen than is Mr. Kennedy's in some regards, and without at any point destroying its effectiveness.

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The Dramatic Department slipped its moorings one night during the week and wandered off into the realm of Music. What the Dramatic Department doesn't know about music includes about everything that has been written on the topic, and a little bit more, but this does not at present apply. It was the inspiration of seeing a large assemblage of earnest men and women, "each for the joy of the working," pursuing diligently Art in its truest Not that Music has any greater claim to recognition as an art than has any of the other manifestations of Divinity than are loosely classified under the description, but because in their undertaking these people are showing their devotion to to ideal, and by sealously pressing forward towards its attainment are proving them. selves worth of the calling. Not one among them looking for reward beyond that which comes with knowing that something worth while has been undertaken at least. Studying and working as if some great prize had been offered for proficiency-And, by that same token, a great prize has been offered them for proficiency, the very greatcommand success. Sempronius; but we'll do more. We'll deserve it." So spake the of sage of long ago, and his words are just s true and just as applicable today as then. The mortal who deserves success is greater than he who merely commands it Success is relative, and, happily, is not measureable always in tangible wares. In fact, the most completely satisfying success is that which brings to the door an intangible reward, one that can not be measured in goods of the world, but is felt and appreciated by the winner above all other things. And so these singers were striving, and do continue to strive just for the advance they are making in the art of singing. They spend their money and their time, and the only reward they will ever achieve is that they will be able after each evening of affort to better un derstand and better express the thought of the composer under study. And over Wyndham. them is a Master Mind, one who sees far

shoad and deep into things, to whose soul the soul of other masters speaks, and who hears "the music of wonderful melodies." hard being the mand out of that so product to observe the sources the operation of the new pro-inspiring thought to others, that they may hear, too. And as "for the joy of the second success of Miss Ashwell's in the second success of Miss Ashwell's and undentably dul except for the effort others, and out of that sympathy springs a fellowship, that an outsider can secarcely anderstand. The Dramatic Department spont the evening very pleasantly, listen-spont the evening very pleasantly, listen-

written with a double significance. A greater number of auditors ignore the symbolism and find quite sufficient material to interest them in the surface story. During a second or third hearing of the play, however, the internal story unfolds itself, and one is able to trace the many beautiful symbols that give Charles Rann Kennedy's drama a double charm. "The Servant in the House" is not really an allegory in the full sense of the word, nor is it constructed like a morality play, which it is sometimes rather called. It is, indeed, a loosels play of today, full of real human interest.

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The symbols of Manson's personality and the cesspool under the church, and the large cosmic symbol of the present discontent among the civilized nations exemplified by class distinction and the hate of brother for brother, are readily recognized. The symbolism of the personality of Manson is brought out more emphatically than any other in the play. The jam episode at the beginning of the first act is a clever theatrical trick utilized for the conveyance of a psychological subtlety. It catches the attention of the audience and creates an atmosphere of mysticism that paves the way for the author's double meanings. In the scene Mary first suspects Manson's identity Mr. Kennedy introduces one of the most beautiful symbols of the play. "Who are you?" she asks with the dawn of knowledge shining from her face. "I am-," he begins, when the sound of a bell from the

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immediately recalls the verse from the New Testament: "Unless you become as a little child you cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." It must also be remembered that Benares is the "Holy City" of India. The symbol of the servant becoming master is quite obvious, as is Manson's answer to the bishop of Lancashire's outburst; "If I could have my way with you I would have you publicly whipped; I would visit you with the utmost rigor of the law; I would nail you up, sir, for an example." "I have encountered similar hostility before, my lord," Manson significantly replies, "from gentlemen very like your lordship." Who can mistake the veiled reference to Calvary. The bishop of Lancashire, of course, is Mammon. The symbolism of his personality is shown by his use of every power for his own end, and the episode of the £5 note that recalls the buying and selling of Christ. Also, he is blind and deaf-has "eyes to see, but sees not; ears to hear, but hears not." The symbolism of the drain that led to the cesspool under the church is

frequently misunderstood. It is not an attack upon the foundations of religion or established churches. It means that religion is fettered by the moldering coffins and decayed bones of the past; that we are not worshiping a dead Christ who once was, but a living Christ eternally present. Old ideas, old prejudices, dead statements, a greater veneration for the forms of religion than for the practical application of Christ's teachings, must be church checks his speech. It is the removed by the "Drain-Man." It sanctus bell that echoes the chimes drives home the fact that many who in the hand of the acolyte as the host is elevated. Manson's sad eyes turn loudly profess their faith in Christ are to the altar beyond the door. Then the worst of athelats and only realize that truth when they are brought face with deepened humility he answers to face with a spiritual crisis.

Charles Hawtrey, Marie Tempest and Ethel variety of its annual pantomimes. The first Irving. My answer, in a measure, came performance of the Christmas season is al- any plays since the days of Shakespeare. sooner than i expected. The withdrawal of ways given on Boxing night, and a brilliant The company which includes Creston stranded far from the great white way. "Jack Straw" has been made permanent audience of grownups assembles to judge Clarke, Clay Clement, George W. Wilson, A novel dancing and pantomime will be because Hawtrey's heath will not permit as to the merits of this performance sup- Lizzie Hudson Collier, Wilfred Roger, offered by De Have and Sidney. The him to resume the title role. This is a posed to be for children. Alas, nowadays Gwladys Wynne and Henry Dornton, is program is rounded out with an exhibition est of prizes. "It is not in mortals to facit acknowledgement by the man- it is not for children, though Mesars. Hick- one of the strongest that has been guthered of physical culture by the Keeley brothagement that without the services ory and Arthur Collins may still think and together for several years. the comedian, or one just as intend it to be. clever, the chances of continued success are It has really resolved itself into various

too risky to be ventured. An attempt was "turns" by the favorite music hall artists made to induce Beerbohm Tree to assume held together by a thread of an old fairy the role and a salary of no less than \$375 story and interlarded with scenes and a performance was dangled before his dances of surpassing splendor. Even the eyes as a bait, but the manager of His hardiquinade, the last vestige of the orig-Majesty's refused to bite, although he was inal pantomime idea, in which Harlequim "resting" at the time. and Columbine play a series of tricks with

It would not have been the first time the help of Punchinello on policemen, that Tree and Hawtrey had appeared in tradeamon, etc., is now cut down to a thirthe same parts, for it was the former who ty-minute performance and comes at the first played the role of "The Privata Sec- very end of some four hours of the other. retary," in which Hawtrey made such a Yet all the tired youngsters stay to see it brilliant run at a later time. However, the and it is the part which really most amuses at an early date at Boyd's theater in general opinion seems to be that Tree them. yould not have shone in the part of

This year Drury Lane has excelled itself 'Jack Straw" and that the only actor in England who would have made a success of it after Hawtrey was Sir Charles "Grit" has not proved the money maker when all his troubles are over, are magthat it promised and Lena Ashwall has

Marie Lohr makes a Cinderella to dream about. Viola Tree plays the Sleeping Beauty and Mrs. Pat Campbell's daughter Stella is Cousin Mollie, whom the children

fear they are going to hate when she comes to visit them, but who turns out to be quite their sort, though she is elderly, having reached 18. "Peter" and "Pinkie" between them have

ir stitution, the English pantomime. COMING TO OMAHA THEATERS

Attractions for the Current Week at

the Playhouses. The engagement of "The Virginian" the Boyd for an extra performance this evening will doubtless afford much satisfaction to the Sunday patrons of that John Smith during its two long runs at theater. This play has already proven one of the most successful dramatizations of recent productions, for it has captivated even those unfamiliar with Owen Wister's entertaining comedy. As John Smith, the novel, while with the multitude to whom sportively inclined flat dweller, Mr. Corthe story has become a loved association bett ought to give a good account of himthe play is especially appreciated.

"The Servant in the House," Charles Rann Kennedy's comedy-drama, will be Krug theater for three days, starting next presented in Omaha for an entire week, at Thursday night. This play comes to Krug Boyd's theater, by Henry Miller's asso- theater well known, because of former apciate players. The engagement begins pearances here. Monday evening January 25 and will in-

clude both a Wednesday and a Saturday matinee for the convenience of out-of-town patrons. This is the play which ran five derwood and Company, who will be seen months at the Savoy theater in New in "Uncle Dobb's Dilemma," a skit which packed Powers' theater in Chicago for ten weeks at the beginning of the present see. York, last spring and summer, and which weeks at the beginning of the present sea- with James O'Neil and George Bloomtion has creater such a sensotion. All the quest, a light comedian. The Miliman leading newspapers and magazines of the tists of the day, will also be a feature. country have united in declaring it to be Joly Violetta, a Parisian dancer, assisted a masterpiece. Above all, "The Servant in by M. Arnaud, will present a series of the House" tells a fascinating human in- exotic dances of Brazil. Leo Filter is a terest story, in which sparkling humor Russian peasant lad whose violin playing forms a striking contrast to scenes of stir- has won him high praise. "Two Hundred ring pathos. The play is written in ex- Miles from Broadway," as Edmund Day's quiaitely pure English and two of the big sketch is called, will be given by Ermin speeches have been called by critics the Campbell and company, including Aubrey best examples of eloquence to be found in

On January 31, February 1, 2 and 3 Mr. Tim Murphy, assisted by Miss Dorothy Sherrod and company, will open his return engagement at the Boyd theater in Mr. Murphy's best comedy, "Old Innocence." This comedy has made Mr. Murphy many friends here, who will be glad to see him art of this city. again in this great character part, and

those who have not seen it will be doubly anxious to witness this sterling attraction. He will give a matinee on Wednesday.

Charles Frohman will present the pop-

"Father and the Boys," a piece which has been an unequivocal success for both Mr. in the gorgeouaness of its scenic wonders. Crane and its author, George Ade. It cer-"Dick Whittington" is the pantomime, and tainly shows Mr. Crane to better advantage Dick's vision in the first part of the play, than anything he has had in years, not where he sees the "harbor of gold" and barring even "David Harum" of pleasant his state entry into London as lord mayor, memory. The play deals with the predicament of the father, who is country bred nificent pageantry and wonderfully beau- and who has accumulated a fortune, and

novelty. Matinees will be given today, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Clyde Fitch's everlasting success. 'Lovers' Lane," will be given a fine production at the Burwood following "Lady Huntworth's Experiment." There are twenty-five speaking parts, thus necessitating the company to be greatly augstruck a strong blow at the time honored mented for the single week.

"Facing the Music," with James J. Corsett in a stellar role, supported by a very strong cast of comedians, will be presented at the Krug theater for four days, starting with a matinee today. It is a farce cemedy in three acts, by James Henry Darnley, who originally wrote the piece for Henry Dixey, who played the part of the Madison Square theater, New York, and Powers theater, Chicago, where the public and critics declared it to be a highly self.

"Texas" will hold the boards at the

The bill which opens at the Orpheum this afternoon is headed by Franklyn Unturns upon the nocturnal wanderings of Yates. It is a little story of a Broadway soubrette and a race track habitue, both ers, bag punchers and boxers.

Gossip from Stageland. Miss Maud Leone, who has been starring in the west as Constance Pinkey in "On Parole," closed her tour and disbanded her company in Salt Lake on account of liness. She is now at the Methodist hospital in Omaha, where she is slowly recovering. Miss Leone is a cousin of Mrs. S. B. Stew-art of this city.

Thomas Millard, the newspaper corre-spondent who accompanied President-elect Taft in his trip to the Philippines, which resulted in the engagement of Miss Alice Roosevelt and Nicholas Longworth, has collaborated with Edgar Selwyn in the writing of a play. The locale of this drama is laid in the far east. Building. to walk around the town, and had gone about a half block when I set eyes on something with a cormet coat, a jockey hat, a club and a set of teeth like an ivory grove. George was it, and he lived up to his scenery, too."

May Simon is the latest Yiddish actress to be referred to as "the Bernhardt of the Bowery." She writes most of her own phys and is said to have a huge follow-ing. "Forgive me if I tell you that your Mary Ryan, who did so hope that "Ticey," the Gillette play that failed, would make a star of her, is to play the heroinne in a second "Blue Mouse" company. This is the farce in which Mabel Barrison has Broadway audience does not appeal to me Broadway audience does not appeal to me. she told an Evening Mail man the other day. "I know I should congeal in that at-mosphere, but I respond quickly to the en-thusiasm of my own people. Broadway people would think it funny to toss choco-lates to a tragedienne, but tonight I have had many boxes thrown at me." become an actress right on Broadway.



FACING THE MUSIC

By JAMES HENRY DARREY.

Tuesday Evening, Jan. 26, 1909

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