

Some Passing Notes on Affairs of Theater

CAN it be that the temper and taste of the American public, or that much of it as is represented by the people of New York City, in things theatrical is undergoing a change? Two plays whose sole bid for support was that the salacious denigrated their course, have proved fatal failures in Gotham, and a third instance was there any public clamor, nor did the newspapers give the events more than passing notice. Another encouraging sign is that when one of these nasty farces was removed from the theater it was disgracing its place was taken by "The Citizen," one of the cleanest and most delightful of modern American plays. These facts certainly indicate that the patrons of the theaters have had enough of the indecent. It is likely that the managers will continue to make a virtue of necessity, and give the public only plays that will pass muster. It must not be forgotten, though, that while this little trio of unclean plays has failed, the really great successes of the season have been achieved by dramas that are elevating in all ways, and that the preponderance of "moral" plays was never so great as at the present time.

It is reported that a play written in collaboration by the late Mark Twain and Edwin Rossouw will be produced next autumn. Mr. Rossouw thus epitomizes the nature of the composition: "The play is a humorous extravaganza. It tells the story of a poor astronomer who for years had been struggling to earn a living by his trade. The scene is laid, of course, in an imaginary kingdom, in which a beautiful and haughty queen holds sway. "Wearied of the labor of struggling for a mere existence, the astronomer thinks out a scheme for becoming famous over night. He announces that end of the world will occur on a certain far distant day. The whole kingdom is aroused; crowds flock to hear and see the great man, who lectures and draws big crowds who pay well. He is in the midst of this new-found glory when the queen summons him to her presence. She is struck by his comeliness, but suspicious of his sincerity. 'You say,' she tells him, 'the world will come to an end two months from this day. If it does we shall both die, but if the world should not come to an end and you have deceived us with needless alarm and distressed our queen, you shall be put to death all the same.' "The denouement is withheld. Mark Twain's share in the work was done several years ago.

The first prize for the one act sketches submitted to Martin Beck in connection with the Actors' fund contest was won by C. T. Dacey with a drama called "The Finite Player." The reward is \$50. The five plays selected out of the 1885 submitted in the contest were "Outwitted," by Lucy Spencer Sarver, 236 West One Hundred and Sixth street; "Judge," by Eleanor Gates, Alma, Cal.; "Susan's Gentleman," by Kate Jordan, New York City; "Ashes of Roses," by Alice Leah Pollock, New York City, and "The Eleventh Day," by Evangeline M. Lent, New York City.

Man Beerholm, until recently the dramatic critic of the Saturday Review of London, has abandoned criticism for matrimony and is married to Miss Florence Kahn, an American actress, once upon a time a member of Mr. Mansfield's company. Miss Kahn will be recalled as the handsome young woman who read the prologue to "King Henry V," asking for "imaginary applause." She is so crammed with this wooden O's that she very rarely that did affright the air at Agincourt. Mr. Beerholm is a brother of Sir Herbert Tree.

Glady's killed her nurse, Conline. Had her in the dark coal bin. All that winter, had by her. Nurse was lugged to meet her God.

The name of the new comedy which William Gillette is writing for Charles Fro-

May Music Festival

Concerts at the Brandeis Theater This Week Should Have Great Success, as the Programs Promise Interest for All and the Chorus is Under Capable Direction—Notes of Interest to the Omaha Musical Colony

EVERYONE who is interested in music should be sure to attend, at least some, if not all of the concerts of the May Music Festival, which will open at the Brandeis theater on Tuesday evening.

This festival of music promises to be the best that has been held here for several years. There is not one program which is not full of interest. The management of the festival has spared no pains to present to the music-hungry public a genuine feast in several rich and elaborate courses.

The choral side of the festival will be handled by the Omaha Oratorio society, under its "new" conductor, Mr. J. H. Simms. This fact alone will make an interesting feature, as the "new" conductor is one of the oldest and most experienced choral leaders in the city.

The installation of Mr. Simms as conductor of the choral forces, was a wise move on the part of the management and one which might well have been taken long ago, for Mr. Simms has been identified with the musical life of Omaha for, in these many years. His advent into the music festival program has, of course, brought many bright satellites, as he has always been surrounded in his choir work with material which was capable, good and well seasoned. His choir work at All Saints' church has been always respected and admired in the community and in that line Mr. Simms has worked for the highest standards, even against discouragements which would cause less persistent ones to shrink.

The musical editor of The Bee has, more than once, called attention to the work of his esteemed colleague, when others were apparently oblivious to it.

And so the advent of Mr. Simms and his singers into the May Music Festival scheme has led us to "expect things" of this approaching festival, and the strong probabilities are that there will be no disappointment.

Another wise move on the part of the management—and, be it said, it has not

always been wise—was the move which induced Mrs. E. A. Cudahy to assume the tremendous labor and the unremitting work connected with the duties of president. The present writer happens to know of some of the personal work which the president has done. She has worked with indefatigable energy to make this year's festival a success and she has the well-wishes of the musical public in her hopes of success, which undoubtedly will be realized. When Mrs. Cudahy determines to put a thing through, it goes through.

The orchestral forces will be the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra, under the favorite, Mr. Emil Oberhofer, who will conduct all of the purely orchestral offerings, Mr. Simms conducting the choral work, which requires orchestral accompaniment. In the latter class the principal work will be the dramatic cantata, "King Olaf," by Sir Edward Elgar. This will be given on Thursday evening. The work is exacting and is in Sir Edward Elgar's best style, and it is quite notable that it will receive its first presentation in Omaha at this festival. The entire program has already been printed in The Sunday Bee of May 1.

Another item of special interest will be the playing of Mr. Max Landow, the distinguished local pianist, who will be heard here for the first time in connection with the orchestra; this will be on Wednesday night, and Mr. Landow will play a concerto for piano and orchestra in E flat, by Franz Liszt.

It is with regret that the musical editor of The Bee announces the intention of Mr. F. G. Ellis to leave the city in the fall, and take up his abode in Los Angeles. Mr. Ellis has been a vigorous and earnest worker and has been very popular with the profession. He will leave behind him a large circle of friends, but he will find a great many people in Los Angeles who used to live in Omaha who will greet him for his own sake as well as that of mutual friends. Mr. Ellis has been doing faithful and fruitful work in the First Congregational church as choirmaster, and has been a valued ornament to the local concert platform and church service through the medium of his beautiful voice and his abundant temperament.

THOMAS J. KELLY.

Features of the Festival

Some Detailed Information as to the Works that Will Be Offered and Singers and Players Who Will Be Heard at the Brandeis During the May Music Festival Which Begins There Tuesday Evening

THE Omaha May Musical Festival, which will be inaugurated Tuesday evening at the Brandeis theater, promises to be one of the most important musical festivals that has ever taken place in Omaha. It has certainly met with most generous support from the business men. When contributions from 100 are given for the cause of music, it is a sign that the desire for musical culture is developing. The present festival is promoted almost entirely outside of the musical profession.

The festival will be dedicated by "Hymn to Music," by Dudley Buck, sung by the Omaha Oratorio society, under the direction of J. H. Simms. This will be the first appearance of this society under Mr. Simms' direction. Many of the members have sung under the baton of Mr. Simms for several years, both in the Omaha Art society and in church choir work. Mr. Simms has appeared before the Omaha public on so many occasions his work needs no introduction and three most interesting and serious unaccompanied works will be presented on Tuesday evening for the opening concert.

The star soloist for the first evening will be Madame Frieda Langendorff, mezzo-soprano, from the Royal opera of Vienna, and also of the Metropolitan Grand Opera of New York. In the Portland and Bangor (Me.) festivals they said: "Langendorff ranked one of the most marked successes last night in the long history of the festival. Her triumph was complete at the close of the first number from the prison scene in 'Le Prophete.' This number will be sung on this program. Among her other selections is 'The City of Rachel,' written by Mary Turner Patler, sister of Mrs. C. W. Morton of Omaha. This song in itself is so full of dramatic possibilities, which, combined with the temperament and power of the singer, makes it a wonderful creation.

Richard Czerwonky, the violinist, will be most favorably remembered for his artistic playing of last season. Formerly with the Boston Symphony orchestra, he is now the concert master for the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra.

Wednesday evening has been called "Orchestra evening," but the program has developed into one of broader lines than was at first anticipated. The Minneapolis Symphony orchestra, under the direction of Emil Oberhofer, has been mounting higher and higher in the scale of perfection and will present Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, one of the most popular, as well as most Russian, of this composer's works. Many of its themes are based on the folk-songs of that country, and the whole seems to interpret the spirit of Russian feeling and history. Also "On the Shore of the Moldau," by Smetana, a symphonic poem, which this gifted Bohemian tone-poet and patriot intended should glorify the land of his birth.

Max Landow, a pianist of the highest possible attainments, technically as well as musically, will present Liszt's E flat Concerto for piano with orchestra, conducted by Mr. Oberhofer. This in itself will be a treat for Omaha, which rarely has the privilege of hearing a work accompanied by an orchestra.

The vocal soloist on this program will be Madame Jane Osborn-Hannah, soprano, a singer of high vocal accomplishments, and one of America's own artists. Madame Hannah was born in Ohio of American parents and showed remarkable talent at an early age. She has studied in Chicago and with prominent teachers in Europe and was engaged by Nikisch for three years as leading soprano at Leipzig Opera, and recently has been singing with the Metropolitan Opera with great success. Madame Hannah will sing with orchestra and also piano accompaniment.

On the last evening of this series of concerts the Minneapolis Symphony orchestra,

under Mr. Oberhofer's direction, will open the program with a lyric suite by Grieg, after which will follow the important work of the Oratorio society, with orchestra accompaniment and soloists, "King Olaf," by Sir Edward Elgar.

This work is a musical setting of Longfellow's "Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf" and is a work of great power and beauty. Notably interesting is the use of the "representative theme," which is rarely, apart from certain operas, made so conspicuous or so closely interwoven with the texture of music. The soprano part will be taken by Mrs. Lucille Tewksbury, tenor by David Duggan and bass by Arthur Middleton. Mrs. Tewksbury made a reputation in Omaha three years ago under Mr. Simms' baton; Mr. Middleton will be remembered for his singing in the festival of last season. Mr. Duggan is a new singer to Omaha audiences, but has made special conquests through his solos in "King Olaf."

The two afternoon programs will be participated in by the orchestra under Mr. Oberhofer's direction, assisted by the festival soloists already announced, and Miss Marietta Bagby, contralto, who has a voice of great beauty and exceptional range. She has made several tours as soloist with the Russian Symphony orchestra and leaves for Europe shortly to enter grand opera. Carlo Fischer, one of the most popular and talented cellists in this country, will again delight Omaha audiences by his playing.

The audience is requested to be seated at the time announced, as the concerts will begin promptly.

At the Omaha Theaters

William Collier Will Be at the Brandeis Tonight and Monday—Otis Skinner Comes Next Week and Margaret Anglin the Week After—Eva Lang to Play "Peter Pan" at the Boyd—Stock Company at the Gayety.

IN insisting that his play be of the highest standing, free from everything objectionable, William Collier has created for himself a place in the hearts of the better class of theatergoers which is enviable. His loyal following is continually increasing and his rank as foremost of American comedians is richly deserved. Charles Frohman will present Mr. Collier in his latest comedy, "A Lucky Star," at the Brandeis theater for two days, beginning next Sunday, May 15. Never before in the history of the theater has there been more elaborate scenic equipment than is used with this comedy. The scenes of the piece all transpire in Holland, which gives the scenic artists unusual opportunities for the display of their achievement. A particular merit is the scene in the last act, where it shows a practice houseboat with its party of merry travelers, moored in one of the many locks encountered on the Dutch canals. Mr. Frohman has had this boat made in exact duplicate of William Gillette's famous craft, "Aunt Polly."

The attraction at the Brandeis theater on May 25, for one night only, will be Mr. Otis Skinner in the greatest success of his career, "Your Humble Servant," by Booth Tarkington and Henry Leon Wilson. Mr. Skinner will be remembered by his many Omaha friends in his two former productions, "The Harvester" and "The Honor of the Family," and this play is said to be even better suited to this star than either of the above two. His engagement is limited to only one night, which is to be regretted, as Mr. Skinner will have to disappoint many of his admirers, for only so many seats are available, and it would be

well to get your orders in early, so that you may get good seats for this great engagement.

After an absence of several seasons, during which she has made a triumphant tour around the world, Margaret Anglin, the distinguished actress, and one of the Omaha favorites, will come to the Brandeis theater for three days, starting Thursday, June 2, with her recent great success, "The Awakening of Helena Richie," which is, as is well known, a dramatic version of Margaret Deland's well known and highly popular novel of the same name, rendered for the stage in four acts by Charlotte Thompson. When the play was first produced in New York in the early fall it was hailed as the first brilliant success of the season, and Miss Anglin has been playing in New York to crowded houses as a gratifying result. Miss Anglin is to be supported here by the same company that was with her in New York. The seat sale will open May 30.

"Peter Pan," J. M. Barrie's apostrophe to eternal youth, is to be the opening bill for the engagement of the new Woodward company, headed by Miss Eva Lang at the Boyd theater. Miss Lang plays the name part, and played it so well at the Willis Wood in Kansas City during the week it was on down there that she made a new record for attendance at the theater. Extra matinees had to be played, and on the Saturday of the week the play was presented three times. This is an indication of the great success she made in the role. The same company that supported her there will come to Omaha. It is the strongest organization that ever had the name of Woodward associated with it. Mr.

You are earnestly invited

Albert Edholm's Anniversary Diamond Exhibition

Beginning Monday Morning, May Sixteenth

THIS is to announce to all Omaha, especially to all those who care for the art of the lapidary, the opening of the first exposition of diamonds and precious gems ever held west of New York City.

THIS exposition is a display of almost barbaric splendor. A necklace valued at \$25,000.00 will be on view.

THESE glorious gems are here displayed in a fitting crown to the twenty years that Albert Edholm has been in business in Omaha; a business that has grown with each year; a successful, splendid shop for particular people to patronize.

PLEASE understand: You are not expected to buy. You are expected, really requested, to become our guest for the week. Polite salesmen will take a real pleasure showing you any, every piece. Take hours, if you have the time. This is our treat and, if the truth were told, will enjoy the showing as much you will like the looking.

PARIS, Brussels, Rotterdam, London, New York—the leading establishments of the leading cities of the world—have spread this blazing bijou, these splendid regal jewels for your delight.

Please come. Please be my guest.

Salesmen from other Omaha and out-of-town jewelry houses are assured that they, too, are welcome.

This exposition will include:

Square Diamonds, Marquise Diamonds, Pear Shaped Diamonds, Triangular Diamonds, Oval Diamonds, Blue Diamonds, White Diamonds, Brown Diamonds, Green Diamonds, Canary Diamonds, Emeralds, Oriental Rubies, Blue Sapphires, Pink Sapphires, Oriental Pearls, Pink Pearls, Lavender Pearls, Yellow Pearls, Wonderful Black Opals, Pearl Collars, Diamond Collars, Diamond Lavalliers, Gold Mesh Bags set with diamonds and precious stones.

At this time we can only promise a week of this show of sparkling beauty.

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OMAHA MAY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Brandeis Theatre—Next Week

TUESDAY EVENING, 8:15 SHARP— Madame Frieda Langendorff, Mezzo-Soprano; Richard Czerwonky, Violinist; Omaha Oratorio Society, J. H. Simms, Director.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, 8:15 SHARP— Madame Jane Osborn-Hannah, Soprano; Max Landow, Pianist; Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Emil Oberhofer, Conductor.

THURSDAY EVENING, 8:15 SHARP— Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Emil Oberhofer, Conductor; "King Olaf" (Elgar) Oratorio Society, Orchestra and Soloists; J. H. Simms, Conductor.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY MATINEES, 2:30 SHARP— Minneapolis Symphony Orchestra, Emil Oberhofer, Conductor; Lucille Tewksbury, Soprano; Marietta Bagby, Contralto; David Duggan, Tenor; Arthur Middleton, Bass; Richard Czerwonky, Violinist; Carlo Fischer, Cellist.

—SEATS ON SALE AT BOX OFFICE—

Single Season Tickets, \$5, \$3, \$2—Single Concerts, \$1.50, \$1, 75c, 50c.

BRANDEIS THEATRE

2 Days TONIGHT Starting

CHARLES FROHMAN Presents

WILLIAM COLLIER

IN HIS GREATEST COMEDY SUCCESS

A LUCKY STAR

By Anne Crawford Flecker, from C. H. & A. M. Williamson's Novel "The Motor Chaparran."

Direct from His Four Months Run at the Hudson Theatre, New York. A splendid farce in which Mr. Collier appears to even better advantage than in "The Patriot," "Caught in the Rain" or any of his other former successes. May 25th—OTIS SKINNER in "YOUR HUMBLE SERVANT."

BOYD'S THEATRE

Four Nights—BEGINNING SATURDAY NIGHT, MAY 21

Matinee Next Week: Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday

EVA LANG Peter Pan

SEE SUPPORTING COMPANY—Ethel Valentine, Marie Hudson, Bertha Ellison, Merty Johnson, Essie Ferguson, Vera Bayne, Lloyd Ingraham, Ralph Marthy, Marjorie Bayne, Mayme Williams, Frank Douglas, Henrietta Vadera, Wm. T. Hays, Judith Harie and twenty others.

WEEK OF MAY 29th—THE ROSE OF BANCHO

Sale of seats open Wednesday morning, May 18. Prices, 25c and 50c.

BRANDEIS The Toy Shop

THE CHILDREN'S OPERA

Benefit of the Child Saving Institute

Friday and Saturday Night and Saturday Matinee, May 27th and 28th. Prices—Night, 25c to \$1.50. Matinee, 25c to \$1.00. Season ticket sale at box office Monday, May 24. Regular sale opens Tuesday, May 24.

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FOR ITS FIRST WEEK'S RECORD, 8,765 TICKETS PAID

Looks Mighty Fine for Our All Summer Attraction, The

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4 DAYS STARTING Mat. Today "THE SLAVE GIRL"

Company Announced to 40 MATINEE TUESDAY

3 DAYS Starting Thurs. Mat. "The Queen of Queer Street"

NO LITTLE MOMENTS BETWEEN Acts Complete Change of Bill Every Sunday and Thursday

EVG. & SUNDAY 10c & 25c Week Day Matinees, 10c and 50c. Always 1,000 SEATS at 10c Biggest Amusement Value on Earth.

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Monday, May 16th, Ladies Day. Game Called 3:45

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SPECIAL MUSICAL NUMBERS BY GYMNASIUM MEMBERS.

EVERY WOMAN INVITED.

Woodward has staged the play beautifully, and it will be given perfectly. For the second week the bill will be "The Rose of the Rancho," David Belasco's great story of the early days in California.

F. P. Parker's play, "The Slave Girl," will be the bill of the Rocedia Stock Company at the Gayety theater for the first half of the week, starting with a matinee today. A beautiful love story runs through the play and the great emotional scene in which Miss Leona discovers she has negro blood in her veins, goes raving mad and on seeing her face in the mirror realizes that she is not white, breaks the same into a thousand pieces. The comedy of the piece consists of a plantation scene, with large numbers of slaves picking cotton. Cake-walks, quartets and plenty of dancing are introduced and in connection with the regular bill five big vaudeville acts are specially engaged. There will be matinees today and Tuesday. The bill for the last half of the week, starting Thursday matinee, will be "The Queen of Queer Street."