



AMUSEMENTS

Never before has the Lansing theatre been taxed to its utmost capacity as it was Thursday evening when "Off the Earth" was presented by Mr. Edgardo Foy, familiarly known as Eddie, and his large company of stars and choristers. The piece has been commented upon in the east and the west is not slow in showing its appreciation of Foy's new extravaganza. "Off the Earth" is a very pretty and amusing entertainment. Its humor is broad enough to please the laughing contingent, without being so coarse as to grate upon more delicate sensibilities. Most of the music is of a good order of excellence, and all is of that catchy kind which fills towns with whistling and piano-banging performers. The duet of Gavotte and the Prince, "I Spy," and the song of the lunar chappies are both pretty and well sung. The song and chorus, "The Rainbow," is especially delightful. "Off the Earth" is most sumptuously staged. Not even the Henderson extravaganzas have more completely filled the measure of possibility in the way of scenery and costumes. The garniture of the second act will rank with the famous ambler ballet setting in "Aladdin Jr." and easily surpasses anything of the kind that we witnessed in "Sinbad." Foy has not fallen off in his powers since he left the Henderson forces. He still makes people laugh, even men and women who laugh neither loud nor often; and it is a good thing to do that in these days. He works up the risibilities of the audience by coming on as a beast tamer, with great knots of muscle sticking out in the wrong places all over him. By such artless means he causes the people to laugh and though his fun is not of an elevated or elevating type, it is at least measurably free from the vulgar suggestiveness so common with players of his class. The company numbers one-hundred people and they all seem to be the right people in the right place, especially Louise Montague, Sadie McDonald, Lillian Hawthorne and Kate Uart, four capable women, whose faces and figures are conspicuous even amid the pretty and graceful members of a chorus which for youth and general attractiveness is the best which the season has provided.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

The successful pantomime-comedy, "Eight Bells," will be presented by the Brothers Byrne at the Lansing theatre tonight. The Brothers Byrne have made an outlay of over \$15,000 for this season's production in the way of new scenery, novel tricks and catchy paper, with the intention of giving the theatre-going public a superior attraction. There are numerous amusing situations, and in the end everybody is happy. There is no villain in the piece. Incidentally there are some very clever specialties and there is a moonlight scene, humorous throughout, causing hearty mirth. It is therefore, good medicine, easy and pleasant to take.

The late author Steele Mackaye reached, perhaps, the highest pinnacle of fame of any American dramatist, and his many plays will always find a place in the hearts of the theatre-going public. His "Hazel Kirk" will always be reminiscent, for the beautiful love story it tells, the venerable old *Dunston Kirk* and the loving *Hazel* will always seem as though they were our own home companions, the quietness of this play, and the poetic way in which the story is carried out, was its chief charm. Then the versatility of the author was shown when he produced "Money Mad," which even in its title impresses one of the intensity of its theme, and the semi-maniac characters that were its central figures always left a shuddering impression with the auditor. It remained, however, with "Paul Kauvar" his masterpiece, in which he combined all the beauty and love of "Hazel Kirk" and intensity of "Money Mad" which in combination formed a production that will live for ever; still not being satisfied he wrote a new version of "Paul Kauvar" calling it "The New Paul Kauvar" wherein he put all of his untiring energies,

making changes until they suited his own brilliant critical opinions, allowing scope for all the embellishments, grand scenery and mechanical devices, and when completed, he said like Monolus when he chiseled the last line of Vesetto, "At last I have reached my goal." This is the production that will be seen at the Lansing theatre, Monday February 25th, with a superb cast headed by J. Harvey Cook and Miss Eether Lyons.

Herrmann, the marvelous will be at the Funke Opera House, Wednesday, February 27th. Herrmann will give theatre goers of this city an opportunity of seeing for the first time his new illusions and marvels which have created such sensation this season wherever presented. The claim is made for Herrman's entertainment which he will produce here that it is the most elaborate one he has ever given. The program which he will present is briefly as follows: The entertainment will commence with his marvelous sleight of hand performance in which he will introduce *Carte Volontes*. The *Mysterious Orange*, *Santa's Ribbons*, *The Listening Cards*, *Rigid Transit*, *The Mesmeric Flowers*, *Sun and Moon*, *The Exhaustable Hat*, *Hunting Without Powder*, and a number of novelties concluding with the bewildering national spectacle, *The Columbian Transformation*, with *Madame Herrmann's Columbia*. This will be followed by the Persian marvel, *The Asiatic Trunk Mystery*, in which a woman is tied in a sack, locked in a trunk, which is bound, and then placed in another trunk. At the end of a few seconds this woman is seen standing without the trunks and another woman, totally different from her in size and appearance is found in her place. Next follows *The Artist's Dream*, and idyllic sketch in which a young artist falls in love with a picture painted by him and which comes to life. *Madame Herrmann's dances* will complete the entertainment. Seats on sale at Zehrung's, Monday morning at 9 o'clock.

With the fact that Dorothy Morton is in the cast will undoubtedly have the effect of drawing a large audience for "The Fencing Master" at the Lansing theatre, Saturday March 2nd. "The Fencing Master" has proved to be one of the best, if not the best, comic opera companies that ever appeared in this city. The presentation of DeKoven and Smith's pretty opera is thoroughly pleasing. Of course, Miss Morton with her sweet voice, her dimpled cheeks and pretty face and form, completely captivates the audience. Dorothy Morton has many warm and admiring friends and she deserves them. Not only does she sing well but she is apparently perfectly at home in the character of *Francesca* and handles a sword like a veteran fencer. David Torrence makes a handsome *Fortunio* and sings well. A. M. Holbrook and Oscar Girard as *Visconti* and *Pasquino*, respectively, make an excellent team of comedians and their every appearance upon the stage is the signal for laughter. The chorus is first-class.

"The New Dominion" which Gustave Frohman offers to the patrons of the Lansing theatre, March 1st with such a versatile actor as Mr. Clay Clement in the title role is located on the banks of the picturesque river, in the old dominion state of Virginia. A young German nobleman, while traveling *incognito*, and pursuing his favorite study of botany in Virginia, falls violently in love with the beautiful daughter of the planter, at whose mansion he is staying. His host is almost ruined by the war and the subsequent financial panic, and his hostess persuades her daughter to keep her hand free in order to finally marry a vulgar roue, who has inherited the blanket mortgage, which threatens to wreck the old family home. The Baron presses his suit, therefore, in vain, although his affection is earnestly reciprocated, and returns to the fatherland; not, however, before he has secretly bought off the mortgage which hung between him and the girl he wished to take back with him to his castle on the Rhine. On Xmas day he wanders back to the scene of his first love. The play ends happily and has proven to be one of the greatest New York successes this season.

Lieutenant R. H. Townely entertained a few of his friends at a dinner in honor of his birthday last Saturday evening. The following were present: Mr. C. O. Whedon, Mr. J. A. Buckstaff, Mr. F. W. Brown, Mr. N. C. Abbott, Mr. J. D. MacFarland, Mr. J. H. Harley, Mr. J. W. McDonald. While the number of guests was not very large the dinner was one of the best that has been served in the city