



AMUSEMENTS

The theatres were closed this week with the exception of Tuesday night when the Philharmonic orchestra gave a concert at the Funke. The tail end of the season is approaching and both theatres are receiving notices of cancellation of dates. Dave Henderson, of the Chicago opera house, says this is the most disastrous theatrical season in many years.

A great many companies have gone to the wall, he says, and none of the managers have ventured to bring out any expensive productions. This is probably all true, but taking everything into consideration Lincoln has not much to complain of. The Lansing and the Funke have made every effort to secure good attractions, and if a number of inferior shows have failed to materialize, the better class of companies that have appeared here compare favorably, both as to quantity and quality, with the record of previous years. And some of the best things are yet to come.

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People must bear in mind that Manager Zehrung, of the Funke, or the management of the Lansing, are not responsible for the non-appearance in Lincoln of Abbey & Grau's grand opera company or such stars as Beerbohm Tree and Wilson Barrett, and they should not be blamed therefor. It is not their fault that Lincoln is not as large as Omaha or Kansas City or Chicago. Attractions of this sort cannot be lured into a one-night stand in a city the size of Lincoln, especially if the city happens to be remote. The local theatres are after everything good they can get on anything like reasonable terms, and despite the criticism that is constantly bestowed upon them they are doing the best they can.

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Manager Ed. Church is to be congratulated on being able to keep his "Faust" company on the road all winter. It has been a very bad season, and the country is overrun with "Faust" companies; yet the Lincoln company has held its own, and in some places it made considerable money.

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Mr. John Griffith and his company drew a good crowd yesterday afternoon to the Hagan, where they are giving a very handsome production of Faust.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

"The Lost Paradise," Henry C. De Mille's most successful play, will be presented at the Lansing theatre, Friday, March 22, under the direction of Gustave Frohman. William Morris, the talented young actor, will be seen in the leading role, and the supporting company is said to be a very strong combination. "The Lost Paradise" is somewhat more stirring than most of the plays with which the Frohmans have associated themselves, assuming at time melodramatic form. Interest turns on a strike in a large foundry, and the excitement of a labor demonstration is cleverly mingled with the traditional society drama scenes. The play abounds in strong

and effective situations, and presented by a competent company it is an attraction of the first rank.

Miss Ellen Beach Yaw, who is accounted the most remarkable soprano the world has ever known, is a California girl. She has a compass of voice greater than any soprano recorded by history, extending from G below the treble staff to E in the altissimo, a range off nearly four octaves. The nearest approach to it known to the world, being mentioned by Mozart, does not come within four notes of Miss Yaw's highest and lowest notes. For three years Miss Yaw had the most careful training under the instruction of Mme. Theo Bjorksten of New York, who realized the wonderful possibilities of her voice. Afterward this excellent teacher took her to Paris and placed her under the instruction of Dellie Sedie and Bax—she was heralded abroad as the phenomenon of the times. The critics raved about her, as indeed did the famous Nilsson in Paris and many others. When Miss Yaw sang before the great Nilsson, the prima donna could not believe Miss Yaw had really sung so high until she had touched the corresponding key on the piano—the B above high C beyond human comprehension; it was so pure and birdlike and so rare in quality the ear instinctively discredited its senses. Miss Yaw will be at the Funke opera house, Thursday, March 21st. Seats on sale at Zehrung's drug store, Monday, March 18th.

"TRILBY" THE PLAY A SUCCESS.

"Trilby," dramatized by Paul M. Potter, was presented Monday night for the first time on a stage at the Park theatre in Boston by A. M. Palmer's company. Mr. Potter's version of Du Maurier's story shows how the girl falls under the hypnotic influence of *Svengali* and, act by act, how his power over her increases until he completely dominates her. Mr. Potter has departed from the original story to bring to the front the hypnotic influence exerted upon *Trilby* by *Svengali*, making the love episode between *Little Billie* and *Trilby* secondary. In the make-up all the leading characters follow closely Du Maurier's sketches, and Miss Virginie Harned in the title role won much applause from the Boston audience.

WHO WON?

Three students of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts, Marseilles, were talking in a cafe. "My dear fellow," said one, "I painted the other day a little piece of pine wood in imitation of marble so perfectly that it sank to the bottom of the water."

"Pooh!" said another, "yesterday I suspended my thermometer on the easel that holds my 'View of the Polar Regions.' It fell at once to twenty degrees below zero."

"That's nothing," said the last. "My portrait of the marquis is so life-like that it has to be shaved twice a week."

UNIVERSITY IN HARD LUCK.

Some valuable books consigned to the state university went down with the steamship *Elbe*, while another steamer containing scientific books from Germany for the university was struck by "a mighty wave" and the compartment in which these books were stored was smashed in and the books lost. Several reports were sent to the university and each one speaks of "the mighty wave" that forced its way into the boat.

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