

**SOGIAL GOSSIP.**

This week a number of small parties have gone out to Lincoln Park to hear W. T. Carleton and his company sing. This company of five people has been singing at the park all the week, without scenery, chorus or any of the usual operatic accessories, save costumes. Mr. Carleton's proper place in the musical world has long been in dispute. Many persons have insisted that he cannot and never could sing. Others have declared that he has a well trained and fairly good voice. It is a fact that he was, until four or five years ago, in considerable demand, and he has made a great deal of money singing, sometimes in his own company and sometimes under other's direction. Mr. Carleton, like many of his profession, has, in the years, past, had his head well up in the stars. He not only demanded a large salary, but was as fractious as a colt and as unreliable as a prima donna. It will be remembered that the last time Mr. Carleton sang in Lincoln, some five or six years ago, he didn't sing. He was expected to tune up his high priced voice for the delectation of the people assembled in the Funke opera house; but he stamped his small foot just like a Patti or a Calve or an Abbott might have done, and said, "I won't sing." It is current report that he was not at all enamored of Lincoln, and that in explanation of his refusal to appear he said he didn't care to sing before an audience of cowboys. It is but justice to Mr. Carleton to state, however, that he has denied ever making a remark of this sort. He insists that his failure to sing was due to another and altogether different reason.

The mutations of stage life, or rather the rainy days that come to all singers and for which they rarely make provision, are suggested by the presence of the former proprietor of the Carleton Opera Company, memorable for Clara Lane as the leader of the Amazons, if for nothing else. Playing to 10 and 25 cents is a very considerable humiliation for a man, who but a little while ago could draw his hundreds a week, stamp his foot and drink champagne from schooners. Probably Mr. Carleton is out on a lark. His summer season at "popular prices" may be just for the fun of the thing.

A peculiar piece denominated in the advertisements a "comedy opera," has been presented by Mr. Carleton. It is "Charity Begins at Home." This piece rather adds weight to the theory that Mr. Carleton is larking. It has neither length, breadth nor dimensions of any kind. It is fluffy and frivolous. Mr. Carleton sings "Ben Bolt," and he sings it far better than it has been sung in Lincoln thus far. He sings a great deal and is in fairly good voice. I did not see a program—if indeed there were programs—and am unable to give the names of the supporting company. There was a little ingenue with big blue eyes, a kittenish creature known as *Mary Jane*, of most generous proportions from the foundations up. *Mary Jane* was easily worth the price of admission. Then there was a little low comedian

and a big low comedian—and Mr. Carleton. They sing together very well, all having strong voices that blend acceptably. It is an entertaining bit of nonsense, much better than any summer opera that has been given in the theatre in Lincoln park. A small company of comparatively good singers is preferable to a company of fifteen or twenty such as we have been in the habit of hearing at the Park.

Already there is talk of plans for the coming social season. The Patriarchs, Empire, Pleasant Hour, Havola and other dancing clubs are looking into the future, and lately a new dancing organization has been discussed. A number of persons prominent in society have interested themselves in a project to organize an entirely new and distinct club, probably selecting the membership largely from the clubs named above, the purpose being to give a small number of dances, seven or eight at the most, at the Lincoln hotel or some other appropriate place. It is understood that the married people are are taking a leading part in this new club movement.

S. T. St. John, of Juniata, was in town a couple of days this week. Mr. St. John, when he left this city two or three years ago, was in poor health; but he is now fully restored, having been greatly benefited by an out-of-door life. Mr. St. John was a prominent member of Lincoln society, and has many friends among the young people here.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Smyser, who have remained in Lincoln since their marriage some weeks ago, will leave for Boston next week. Enroute to their future home they will make a tour of the great lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Little are in Dixon, Ill. The Little horses and cart have been purchased by G. M. Lambertson.

Mrs. Thomas Sewell is suffering from an injury received while riding a tandem bicycle.

A correspondent in Chicago sends the following account of a wedding that will be of interest to Lincoln people: "At Arcola, Illinois, July 23rd at 5:30 p. m., at the home of the bride's parents, Fred W. Kruse, formerly of Lincoln was married to Miss Lillian L. Vradenburg. As Mr. Kruse was for a number of years a resident of Lincoln, and prominent in both social and business circles, this announcement of his happy marriage to a most charming girl will give pleasure to his many friends there. Miss Vradenburg is handsome, thoroughly accomplished and with a peculiar charm of manner that is very rare. The wedding was quiet, but pretty. Flowers in lavish profusion made the parlors bright and fragrant, and as Mr. Kruse and his bride took their places where the rays from a shaded lamp fell full on their happy faces the writer could not but think that a handsomer couple is seldom seen anywhere. Only the families and the very intimate friends

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of the contracting parties were present, but even then the list of guests swelled to over a hundred, and the many beautiful and costly gifts of cut glass, fine china, silver and gold that poured in for several days previous to the wedding bore witness to the popularity of both bride and groom. The ceremony was brief, but impressive, and was followed by a wedding supper that was perfect in every detail. Mr. and Mrs. Kruse left Chicago immediately after the ceremony, going thence to Minneapolis where they will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Kruse, Sr. for a fortnight, when they go to their home in Des Moines, where Mr. Kruse, Jr. is in business. They will be at home to their friends after Sept. 1st. Among the many guests from a distance were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Griffith, Charleston; Mrs. P. A. England and Mabel Ford, Nunda; Mrs. Innis and daughter, Urbana; Mr. and Mrs. Seman Vradenburg and daughter of Arthur, and Elizabeth and Ida Bonnell, Chicago."

Mrs. Mary Beecher celebrated her seventy-fifth birthday at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Ross Tuesday evening. The entertainment was a surprise party and those present were: Dr. and Mrs. William Knapp, and children, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Beecher and children of University Place, Rev. and Mrs. H. T. Davis and Miss Libbie L. Hoel.

Sunday evening Mr. and Mrs. Allen W. Field were calling upon Mr. and Mrs. Ricketts in East Lincoln. While they were inside of the house their little three year old child strayed away. The assistance of neighbors was evoked, and the little one was searched for all night. The parents were distracted. Finally, early in the morning, cries were heard in an adjoining cornfield, and the child was readily found. He had passed the night sleeping on the ground. Mrs. William Clark, in returning from the Rickett residence was thrown from her carriage and seriously injured.

John K. Barr has returned from the western part of the state where with his daughter, Miss Anna Barr, he spent several weeks on a farm. Miss Barr remained and will probably not return until September or the opening of the university. She left Lincoln in poor health, but is now reported as much improved.

SOCIETY THE COURIER'S regular correspondent in Omaha sends the following notes of Omaha society. Next Tuesday evening the Omaha Guards, under command of Lieut. Wil



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son, will go into camp for a week at Lake Manawa. The management have kindly extended to the company the camp grounds, free access to the pavilion and bathing facilities. The motor lines will run special trains morning and evening from the lake to Omaha and return so that those members of the Guards who have to go to business in day time will be able to do so. Every evening the Guards will put up an exhibition drill. They cordially invite their friends to visit them next week when living under canvass.

Miss Jessie Dickinson returned home on Monday. She is the happy possessor of a very stylish trap and beautiful pair of small iron gray colts which she exercises every afternoon. Miss Dickinson is a remarkably clever whip.

Judge Davis went to Chicago Wednesday.

Mrs. Charles Keller is back from a business trip to Sheridan.

Senator and Mrs. Thurston and children went west on Wednesday.

Lieut. Leonard M. Prince, Second Infantry, is granted a month's sick leave with permission to ask for an extension of one month.

Miss Gertrude Clarke has gone to Lake Madison.

The marriage of Miss Gertrude Chambers and Mr. Parks of Decatur, Ill., is expected to take place in November.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Funke and daughter are at Pike's Point, Lake Okoboji, the guests of Mrs. J. E. Baum.

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