

**FUNKE OPERA HOUSE**

F. C. ZEHRUNG Mgr.

**THEATRICAL NOTES**

"O'Dowd's Neighbor's" played at the Funke on Tuesday night to good business for the time of the year. Mark Murphy is a funny man—funny without effort. He does not watch the audience but lets it entirely alone and looks pathetically stupid, obstinate and homely. His characterization of the frugal little Irishman is at once original and consistent. W. T. Cole as McNab, might take a lesson from Murphy and devote his attention to the stage. The company has been engaged in roof-garden business this summer and the night damps have affected their voices.

"Niggie Norcross," Minerva Dorr's eleven-year black cat, died on August 15th, Miss Dorr's birthday. "Niggie" and his white Angora companion, "Puff Dorr," were well known to the profession, and traveled always with their mistress. "Niggie" was once lost in New York for nearly two years, and late one rainy night came up to Miss Dorr and insisted upon being recognized. One may imagine her delight to discover in this tramp cat the long lost "Niggie" that she had raised from a kitten. Six years ago, "Niggie" was pushed from a sixth-story window by a bell boy, but, excepting a few lost teeth and an excusable lameness, the fall of sixty feet was a matter of no consequence. "Niggie" quietly died of old age at the Dorr homestead at Medford, Mass.

A well known local manager last week received the following communication from an ambitious dramatist:

Dear Sir—I own a five-act domestic drama, written by a very successful teacher of amateur players. It is purely original in conception and execution, and is entitled: Virtue Wins at Last, and the characters on the one side illustrate in their gradual development, in the most striking and impressive manner, those higher and nobler virtues and traits of character which finally culminate in the perfect man and woman. And on the other side the writer has surpassed himself in his graphic description of the gradual and certain yet unperceived growth of sin until its serpentine power has transformed the man woman of fair standing in the world into characters so monstrous as to cause even a demon to blush and shudder. In short this great play embraces almost every kind of acting known to the stage, requiring some eighteen to twenty actors, and affording food for two or three star players. It can be obtained, or the use of it, on very reasonable terms.

Pudd'nhead Wilson, the play which the late Frank Mayo adapted from Mark Twain's story, is to be sold at auction on Sept. 1st. After Mayo's death, his son, Edwin F. Mayo, informed Charles E. Evans, who claims a half interest in the play, that he was desirous of succeeding his father in the title role. Mr. Evans, on the contrary, wished to send the play out with Odell Williams in the part. Negotiations then came to a stand-still and the company engaged to support Mr. Williams were released. All the original scenery, as well as the right to produce the play, will be sold on Sept. 1st.

Madame Janauschek will not go with The Great Diamond Robbery. She has been engaged for Stuart Robson's company.

Sir Henry Irving, it is authoritatively stated in London, has entered into a contract with J. I. C. Clark, the New York journalist and dramatist, whereby the latter is commissioned to write for the English actor, an American historical play representing George Washington as the central figure. It is assumed, of course, that Sir Henry contemplates enacting the part of the first president, about whose romantic career a drama of the utmost interest should be woven, although it might not be calculated to appeal strongly to the English mind. But, possibly, Sir Henry means to produce it in America.

The following is printed in the September number of the Home Monthly.

**I WALKED IN THE WOOD.**  
I walked in the wood one summer day  
And heard a wild-bird singing,  
His tender notes through the forest glades  
Exultantly were ringing.

I said in my heart "That bird must be  
Happy beyond all measure,  
I will seek the bird and take him home,  
He will always give me pleasure."

But alas! I found a cruel thorn  
In the breast of the bird was driven,  
And all that wondrous melody  
Was from such anguish given.

I took the thorn from out his breast,  
But the wild-bird's song ceased ringing,  
The thorn in his breast had been the cause  
O of all his tender singing.

William Reed Dunroy.

The October number of the monthly will contain a story by Mrs. Peattie of Omaha.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

Manager Zehrung says the shows he has booked for this season are better than ever came here before. Just as good shows have been booked by Lincoln before but no season has shown so many "good ones and no poor one." Week after next the Spooner's, managed by the brother of the Spooner we know so well, will play a week at the Funke. His company comes with the best endorsements from the newspapers and present a show fully up to the standard of repertoire companies. Such companies have greatly increased in number on account of the hard times and by the same token have improved in quality.



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