

THE THEATRE

Hoyt's "A Milk White Flag," at the Funke on Wednesday evening was the first dramatic event of any importance this season. It brought together an audience that comfortably filled the Funke. Each of Hoyt's plays is based on a characteristic of society, business or the modern human being. "A Milk White Flag" satirizes the masculine and feminine love for military trappings as displayed in the uniforms and swords worn by men, whether they be the mock soldiers or the militia or the real soldiers of the regular army. In "A Milk White Flag," as in all of his plays, Mr. Hoyt shows the contempt he has for women. In this case he draws one who ogles and simpers and flirts over the corpse of her husband about to be buried. Of course, the corpse is only dead long enough to get the insurance on his life. He is a rogue of the Holmes stamp, whom in real life we shudder at and can see no humor in. But everybody in the play, except his accomplice, supposes him dead, so the solemnity of the situation, according to dramatic rules, should have its full effect. Painting a corpse's face white, then painting it black, leaving it on ice, dropping the coffin with a live dead man down a flight of stairs, are some of the situations which Hoyt considers humorous. Now humor must have an air of reality or it becomes Gargantuan, Brobdignagian, monstrous. It is so in "A Milk White Flag." The corpse motif pervades the play and there are only a few laughs which do not leave a bad taste in the mouth. The exceedingly low estimate of human nature Mr. Hoyt has is shown by the bestial men and the coquettes that swarm in all his plays. Not a man in "A Milk White Flag," excepting the private. He neither drank nor swore but tended to his acrobatic work in a manner truly admirable. Mary Marble delighted the gallery with her short arms and babyish gestures. She is graceful enough but her self-conscious cuteness is a trick which is soon played. The play as a spectacle of arms and legs, colors and the lightest kind of music is amusing, but as a whole it is discouraging.

"Uncle Josh Spruceby" played to a slender audience at the Funke on Monday night. The play is a variation of the "Old Homestead" theme—as Uncle Josh is modeled strictly after Joshua Whitecomb. The substitution of brass horns for the usual farmer's chorus was a mistake. The brass wind instruments were not quite in tune and they played too long. The policy of throwing advertisements on to the curtain is in questionable taste. The audience was very patient, however, though the advertisements kept it in the house till past eleven o'clock.

Wheeler and Fulton will produce at the Funke opera house tonight a roaring farce comedy, "A Tramp's Dream." This is a new play with a new star, Mr. James Fulton, the funniest tramp on earth. The cast includes Mr. Lang Kane, champion all-around dancer of the world, Mr. Swartwood, in topical songs, parodies and monologues; Miss Scriba, the beautiful Spanish girl, with dances and pleasant melodies and Mr. Fulton in his old time specialties. Prices, 25, 35 and 50 cents. Boxes 75 cents.

First class burlesque attractions have ever been accorded a hearty reception and big business by the general body of theatre-goers, and the announcement of the "White Crook" at the Funke opera house Monday and Tuesday nights, October 4th and 5th, promises in every way to be the red letter event of the season. The manner in which this popular attraction has been placed before the pub-

lic has secured for it general endorsement as one of the best attractions of its kind on the road. The two new extravaganzas, "A Trip to Klondike," and "A Greased Greaser," make one of the strongest performances ever brought together. The list of specialties include a dozen or more fun-makers. A large number of figurantes take part in the grand marches, medleys, etc., attired in costly apparel. The entire production will be given with special scenery and electrical effects.

Prices 75c, 50c and 25c. Seats now on sale.

The story of "Never Again," the comedy at which New York laughed all last season, will be presented at the Lansing theatre next Wednesday, October 6th, may be gleaned from the following:

The title comes from the good resolution which the erring husbands and wives agree upon as the curtain descends for the last time.

Janitor Seraphin hits upon a sharp janitorial scheme to line his starving wallet with gold. He writes mysterious, unsigned notes of warning to the wives of men whose names he selects at random from the Paris directory, telling them that their husbands are carrying on flirtations at 25 Rue Sardine, where he presides over the rooms of a doctor, a model, a struggling hatter and a mysterious old German who calls himself "Ernst." When the jealous wives arrive in a flurry of nervous fear, they are taken in hand by Channo's, the hatter, who smooths their ruffled feelings by assuring them that there is some mistake, as he is sure that their husbands have never been seen on the premises. Incidentally he sells them a hat or two at a dishonest profit and divides with Seraphin.

"Ernst" is really Herr Katzenjammer, a cellist who dotes upon himself and is blind to the fast and furious flirtation of his pretty young wife, Octavie, who was a brilliant cookery maid before she became an old man's darling.

After much self-sacrifice and ready prevarication by Vignon, who nobly condemns himself to save his father-in-law and a hush explanation, the sinners of the piece agree to be good in future and "Never Again" to stray from the paths of truth and propriety.

Seats on sale Monday morning at box office, 9 a. m. Prices \$1.00, 75c, 50c and 25c

"The Twelve Temptations," one of the largest spectacles will be presented at the Lansing theatre Thursday, October 7. All summer this dazzling show has been in active preparation, and Manager Yale has lavished \$25,000 on the colossal production, which is new from start to finish. The elaborate transformation set, "Davy Jones Locker," is a perfect marvel of harmonious color and amazing novelty. The open ocean is first displayed, then there is a terrific storm in the midst of which a realistic shipwreck occurs, followed by a transfer to the bottom of the sea, a rescue by the Sun Queen in her glittering barge, drawn by picturesque dolphins, and a final change to the "Palace of Coral."

Rattling fun, pantomime and otherwise, is liberally provided, and between the heartiest laughs the audience can enjoy an interesting fairy plot in which good and bad destinies are constantly struggling for supremacy in the affairs of a pair of true lovers who are separated for a time by malign influences which are ultimately dispelled. There are visions of hidden wealth and thrilling adventures at the North Pole, interspersed with telling and natural episodes in lighter vein. The exceptional

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MATINEE AND NIGHT

Saturday, Oct. 9th.

MR. CLAY CLEMENT

Direct from two weeks at McVickers Theatre, Chicago, supported by the following excellent cast:

Clay Clement,
Charles Kent,
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Thomas F. O'Malley,
Edgar Martin,
Neil McEwan,
Eleanor Carey,

Frank E. Aitken,
Robert Drouet,
Jeffery D. Williams,
William B. McGillicuddy,
Claude Geiger,
Karra Kenwyn,
Mabel Knowles,

Mrs. Chas. G. Craig.

will present on Saturday afternoon, 2:30 p. m. his success of two seasons

THE NEW DOMINION.

Saturday evening at 8:15, for the first time in Lincoln

A SOUTHERN GENTLEMAN.

Special scenery for both productions. There will be nothing in the city this season more deserving of the peoples' patronage. Regular prices, \$1, 75, 50 and 25 cents. Seats on sale Thursday, 10 a. m.

Do not be misled by Cheap Stores and Cheap Goods now being placed on the market, but stay with the oldest and most reliable firm in the city.

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