

THE THEATRE

On Monday night Lewis Morrison presented "Faust" to one of the largest audiences of the season at the Funke.

Mr. Morrison's Mephisto is beyond criticism so far as his own presentation and that of his company is concerned. He has worked it up scenically and dramatically till there is little to be suggested in the way of improvement. It is mysterious why "Faust" should be so popular as a play. It is not Goethe's Faust. The sentiment is forced, the devil is not the Biblical or Miltonic Beelzebub, he is just a clownish villain making very poor jokes at an easy audience, who laugh for no apparent reason. It is full of rant and cant and uninspiring situations. According to the canons of play-writing it is a poor play yet it draws a crowd, so the critics are silenced. The people know what they want without consulting them and that they do not the crowds who patronize "Faust" are a sufficient indication.

James O'Neill played to good business at the Oliver on Wednesday night. Mr. O'Neill always does his best. His conscience is of the old fashioned kind which reverences the profession of the actor at all times and under all circumstances, a conscience which induces him to stage his plays with careful attention to detail, to have an excellent company and finally to play to a small audience with the same care as to a large one. As a romantic actor, no one disputes his pre-eminence. Monte Christo, and the French Revolution plays of which the "Dead Heart" is an example, are costume plays on a romance-ballad foundation. The hero is a man who laughs at death, holds woman's honor something worth dying for at a moment's notice. He kills his enemies with no more compunction than Robin Hood, with even a dashing air of doing the right thing at the right moment that brings the ever-trenchant gallery to its feet and its whistle at once. The "Dead Heart" was well staged and handsomely costumed.

"The Jay in New York" played to a crowded house at the Funke on Wednesday evening. "The Jay in New York" has the plot so deftly concealed that nobody found it. It is merely a name for songs, dances and specialties, which, to all appearances, were what the audience wanted.

On Monday night, February 28, that very strong, interesting and successful company, the Spooner Dramatic Co., will begin a week's engagement at the Funke in choice repertoire. The first night's bill is the "Black Flag," a drama interesting in story and depicts, sentiment and humor with truth and vigor.

It possesses an intense dramatic interest that is keenly aroused at the rise of the curtain and deepened with each succeeding act. The company needs no introduction to the people of Lincoln, being well and favorably known and are sure of being enthusiastically received.

New plays superbly mounted and costumed with new and elegant scenery and wardrobe, new songs, new dances, new pictures from a new picture machine. Buy a 30c ticket before 7:00 p. m. Monday, and take one lady free that night only.

All of the Hoyt comedies have been presented in this city at one time or another and none of them have been found wanting. The best thing about the Hoyt plays is their variety. Hoyt can turn to almost any part of the country and discover material from which he can draw the inspiration necessary to the completion of a comedy. Next Wednesday evening, March 2, at the Oliver theatre, his latest concoction of melody

and mirth, "A Stranger in New York," will receive its initial presentation in this city. It is pretty well known that this clever playwright has never devoted much time to writing a play. It is reported that "A Texas Steer" was written in ten days. It took him less than a week to put "A Temperance Town" together, and about the same length of time was used in building "A Trip to Chinatown." It is claimed by Mr. Hoyt's representatives that he has spent months on his "A Stranger in New York," with the avowed intention of making it his masterpiece. The cast, which is a very strong one, was engaged many months ago.

Mr. Hoyt is thoroughly familiar with each performer's ability, and each part



has been especially written with the idea of exactly fitting his people, and giving them every opportunity of displaying their respective merits. The new piece is announced as a broad farce comedy, constructed for laughing purposes only. Mr. Hoyt it is said, has been lavish in the expenditure of money in making this a production that will appeal to the eye, as well as the ear. The extravagant stage settings with gorgeous costumes and bevy of pretty women cannot fail to make a wonderfully pleasing picture. Prices \$1.00, 75c, 50c and 25c. Seats on sale Wednesday 10 a. m.

On Thursday, March 3, the management of the Oliver, offers the theatre goers of this city a novelty in the shape of a musical farce comedy called, "Dodge's Trip to New York," which will be interpreted by that prince of entertainers, John E. Henshaw, and the twenty artists who make up the Henshaw-TenBroeck company.

The vehicle in which Mr. Henshaw and Miss TenBroeck are starring is—"Dodge's Trip to New York," and the complications which arise during the performance are attributable to a visit to the French ball in New York, by Howell I. Dodge, a bank president from a rural village in New Jersey. It is simply a big entertainment in which no claim is made for much of a plot, and no effort made except to amuse, has given Mr. Henshaw and Miss TenBroeck a wide latitude for improving on the author's original version, by adding plenty of specialty features and arranging a musical repertoire that sparkles with the latest compositions. There are more than two dozen songs and choruses scattered throughout the three acts. Mr. Henshaw is a refined, graceful and pleasing comedian with an excellent singing voice, a pair of very nimble nether ex-

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ONE NIGHT ONLY
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Pretty Girls
Who Can
Sing, Dance
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HOYT'S
BIG MUSICAL FARCE.

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A STRANGER IN NEW YORK

Largest, Best and Most Successful Musical, Farceical Entertainment in the Country.

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Seats on Sale Tuesday, March 1. No advance in prices.

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tremities and originality and fun making, that makes his work positively refreshing. Miss TenBroeck, Mr. Henshaw's worthy partner in the fun, plays the part of a stage wife excellently. She wears some very elegant costumes that have pleased the ladies very much wherever "Dodge's Trip to New York" has been played this season. The supporting company is very strong and is equal to any musical comedy company now travelling.

Prices \$1.00, 75c, 50c and 25c. Seats on sale Tuesday, 10 a. m. sharp; secure them early.

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Traveler—Nope! Suicide's a felony!

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