

## THE THEATRE

Sol Smith Russell played to a magnificent house on Thursday night. All the boxes contained brilliant theatre parties and the body of the house sparkled and shone with the best people in their best gowns. But the play was a disappointment. The Hon. John Griggsby is a very good example of the type of hero Mr. Russell likes to enact; something impossibly magnanimous, virtuous and unworldly. Not a live man at all, least of all a lawyer, just a combination martyr and saint. Mr. Russell will not except a play in which the hero is not etherialized to a prunes and prisms young man, and deodorized and expurgated until he resembles the ordinary man as closely as the Mrs. Holmes' spotless tenor resembles those who sing to us with a mortal method occasionally. It is well known among actors that Mr. Russell is never extravagant. A very ordinary company if it is cheap enough will suit him. Yet I have never seen him in a play in which the hero's scorn of mere money and his supernatural generosity was not insisted upon over and over again, and this is funny too because he has a deep affection for that which suits him to play he is indifferent to.

The Hon. John Griggsby as a play is deadly dull. In spite of the repeatedly manifested affection of Lincoln people for Mr. Russell the applause was spiritless and contained a touching note of disappointment. The action took place in a lawyer's office with not a change of scene or properties from first to third except a few flowers and a new sign for the second scene. I looked eagerly for Miss Bertha Creighton who was Mr. Russell's leading lady last season in "A Bachelor's Romance." But she was too good to last. Her place was taken by an uninteresting young lady who was unable, in spite of her greater youth, to keep the audience from wondering why the Hon. Griggsby preferred her to the widow, who was Miss Fannie Addison Pitt—a very original and clever actress, whose inspiration was the redeeming feature of the evening. Geo. W. Denham as the lawyer's clerk "with thirty years experience" is also a clever actor. Mr. Lackaye was a repulsive villain and succeeded in making his role lifelike. Criticism of so popular an actor as Mr. Russell is unpopular, but we treat him so well here that when he does not reciprocate we ought to have the privilege of speaking our minds.

double contributes his full share. Mrs. Ray as Mrs. General Stonewall Blazer, is what the gallery would call a "whole team." The two Rays—husband and wife—are two of the best stars of farce comedy on the stage. The music, singing and dancing, the funny, not to say ridiculous situations, the original and unique vein of humor make "A Hot Old Time" one of the most amusing shows on the road. The cake walk exhibition by Mr. Geparo and Miss Bailey at the close of the second act is always heartily encored. Many popular songs are introduced and the patriotic song by Miss Bailey, accompanied by a lightning crayon artist who painted portraits of President McKinley, Hobson and Dewey on canvas while the singing is in progress is a hit.

The same cast will appear here. Prices 25, 35, 50 and 75 cents. Seats on sale Thursday 9 a. m.

The fifth and last of this season's series of Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts will be given March 20 at the Oliver. So many requests have come in for repetition of numbers, that the program will consist of these largely. The E flat Mozart Symphony is one of the numbers. Mr. Bicknell Young, the famous Chicago baritone, will make his first appearance in Lincoln, accompanied by his wife. The press notices speak for themselves.

Mr. Young is the possessor of a good compass and power, and his delivery is distinct and dignified. In many ways he reminds one of Ludwig. He is an acquisition to the concert stage.—New York World.

Mr. Bicknell Young sang Gounod's "Ring out Wild Bells" magnificently.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Mr. Young was heard in contrasting numbers, "O loving heart trust on," displaying rare purity of tone and artistic feeling, and the "Toreador's Song," from Carmen, rolling forth with a swing and vigor quite irresistible.—Jersey City Evening Journal.

Mr. Young roused his genial audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm by his excellent and enjoyable singing, both of his two numbers being heartily encored.—Chicago Figaro.

Mr. Bicknell Young sang "Eri tu," from Verdi's "Ballo in Maschera," with fine intelligence and artistic finish.—Chicago Tribune.

Mr. Young sang several songs, showing a clear and powerful baritone voice



Mr. John Ray, in "A Hot Old Time."

The Rays in their funny farce "A Hot Old Time" will play an engagement of one matinee and night at the Funke on March 17th. The Boston Traveler in speaking of it says: "A Hot Old Time," a violent musical farce, was given last night by The Rays. Mr. Ray as Larry Mooney, an eccentric expressman is of splendid proportions.—The American Art Journal.

Mr. Young's voice is the realization of sonorosity; it is full, deep and round.—Salt Lake Herald.

Eugenie Blair has probably played as wide a range of tragic and emotional roles as any actress on the American

# THE OLIVER

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## PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

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Fifth and last concert of this season's series

Monday, March 20th

SOLOIST—

**Bicknell Young, Baritone.**

Prices—25c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00. Seats on sale Saturday morning, March 18.

# THE FUNKE

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## One Night and St. Patrick's Day Matinee, March 17.

The Blazing Lights of Laughter

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**A HOT OLD TIME**

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stage, therefore the announcement that she will soon be seen as Clorinda Wildairs in "A Lady of Quality," is one that will be of particular interest to her innumerable admirers, because of the fact that it will not only present her in a new role, but in one which has been attracting a great deal of attention both as the heroine of a popular novel and a very successful play.

The character has naturally created even more of a sensation in dramatic form than it did in the book. Zangwell in speaking of the character in the Critic says:

"It appears to me the most interesting and remarkable thing Mrs. Burnett has done. Clorinda as vixen, mistress and murderess, yet remaining withal the matchless Clorinda, and finding her womanhood through all this stress and storm, is indeed a bold conception—always radiant, beautiful, witty, triumphant, rose-crowned, the toast of the beaux, and the envy of the belles, inimitable whether in conversation or equitation, half angel, and half demon, and all a wonder and a wild desire."

Miss Blair's tour in "A Lady of Quality" under the direction of W. M. Wilkinson, opens January 30th. She will be seen in an elaborate production of the play from the brush of Ernest Albert of the Fifth Avenue Theatre, New York. Negotiations are pending for an engagement in this city during the present season.

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Trade, remarked the auctioneer as he hung up his red emblem, always follow the flag.