



Wild with the Actors

(Special Courier Correspondence.)

New York, May 9. Besides the splendid revivals of "She Stoops to Conquer" at the Fifth Avenue Theatre by Mr. Stuart Robson and "Holly" and "The Day" by Mr. Edward Harrigan at Harrigan's Theatre, six new plays were produced on Monday. Three of them were seen at Palmer's, where the regular Palmer stock company are to appear for the final two weeks of the season. The interest of the triple bill was mostly centered on Mr. Thomas Bailey Aldrich's "Mercedes" which he had rescued from the Theatre of Arts and Letters, but while Mr. Aldrich's work is no doubt very clever reading, it is not strikingly original, nor is it in any way remarkable. It tells a tragic romance of Spain, during the Peninsular war, an officer of Napoleon's army having been ordered to massacre the inhabitants of a little village in which the captain of the company had previously been nursed back to life by *Mercedes*. When the French troops arrive the inhabitants have fled but *Mercedes* remains with her aged grandmother and babe. The French soldiers find skins of poisoned wine only, and the lieutenant commands that *Mercedes*, her grandmother and the baby drink some of it before the men are permitted to touch it, and in order to avert suspicion she does so, and in consequence one of her victims is the captain, who has nursed, who is also the father of her child. "Panjandrum," by J. Cheever Goodwin and Woodson Morse, in which De Wolf Hopper owns the center of the stage during the entire evening with his clumsy efforts and ungraceful long arms and legs was done at the Broadway. It is called an "Original Ollapodrida," which is a Spanish dish, but it is also metaphorically means an incongruous melange and nothing describes it better. The fifth novelty is by a young man named Fitzgerald Murphy. It is called "The Irish Statesman" and Mr. Murphy has discarded the usual corderoy breeches the shillalah and even the red-checked collar in short skirts. The chief character is a schoolmaster who emigrates to New York, and is seen from his entrance to Castle Garden, as a congressman and finally as United States Minister to the Republic of Ireland. "Credit Lorraine," by Lawrence Mars-ton, produced at Hermann's, is the sixth novelty of the week, although it has been seen in New Orleans and the south. It tells a story of the Franco-Prussian war and is a hodge-podge of situations made familiar by Dumas and Sardou. Nothing but the skill of the players saved it from a fiasco, and even now the tragedy is an amusing burlesque.

DUNLOR.

Effie Ellsler lost money by not opening with "Doris" last Friday evening instead of "Hazel Kirke." The latter play used to go in Lincoln, and it goes in some places yet; but somehow or other the amusement patrons of this city have of late years refused to become enthralled over the celebrated drama that has made thousands weep, not even when presented by a company of such people as Miss Ellsler, C. W. Coudlock, Frank Weston and Robert Drouet. The two presentations of "Hazel Kirke" Friday evening and Saturday matinee, did not draw. Saturday evening Drouet's new play "Doris" was placed before a Lincoln audience for the first time, and it was very favorably received by a fair sized audience. The play deals with the question of divorce, and contains many strong passages and striking situations. *Doris*, impersonated by Miss Ellsler, is loved by *Brian O'Neil*, a whole-souled, merry-hearted Irishman; she loves *Stephen Broadland* married him. *Stephen* turns out to be a professional crook, and he soon finds himself behind prison bars with a divorce in the possession of *Doris*. The latter, stricken with grief, hides her identity and seeks refuge in the friendly rectory of *Mr. Merrigood*. Here *Brian O'Neil* unexpectedly appears and finds that his heart is still *Doris*'s, but he is once more too late. *Kenneth Ashleigh*, a young squire, a manly young fellow, has fallen in love with her without knowing her story, and his affection is reciprocated. Accidentally *Doris* overhears *Kenneth* say that he is unalterably opposed to divorce and that he could never, never marry a divorced woman, particularly if the husband were still alive. Deep-dyed sorrow here gets in its work. Later he tells the old old story of love, and it goes. *Doris* tells him her history and he changes his opinion of divorce. Then the divorced husband escapes from prison and arrives just in time to make things generally unpleasant. He has vowed to have the life of the lawyer who secured his conviction and he finds that his intended victim is *Doris*'s lover. * * * But he is sent off and the next day there is a railroad accident, and his name is printed among the list of the dead. *Doris* and *Kenneth* marry and live happily until the dead comes to life and reappears to threaten his former wife. *Doris* strives in every way possible to prevent her husband from finding out that *Stephen* is still alive, and there are a number of stirring scenes in this part of the play. Finally the jealous husband discovers that his wife is visiting some unknown man, and there are seven different kinds of excitement. Then all the people get together; the convict and ex-husband dies with the words "She is an angel" on his lips. *Doris* and *Kenneth* are reconciled, and happiness fairly oozes out of every nook and crevice. Such is the bare outline of the play. There are a number of weak places in it, notably the introduction of two exaggerated characters, *Mrs. Beth* and *Miss Bishop*; but it has elements of genuine strength, and will probably become a drawing card. It has only been performed a few times, and already it has been decided to make a number of changes. Mr. Drouet, the author, interpreted the part of *Kenneth* in a most agreeable manner, and *Weston* as *Brian* and *Coudlock* the rector, were effective as usual.

The regular season at the Lansing theatre will close May 31. The engagement of the Lindon's will terminate this evening, and the theatre will not be opened again until May 22, when the Lincoln Oratorio Society will open with the May Festival. On May 25, Marie Wainwright will appear for one night only. Primrose & West's minstrels are booked for the following night. On the 29, 30, and 31, the Calhoun Opera Company will present popular opera. Then there are no more theatrical dates until August. The high school commencement exercises will be held in the Lansing June 1, and 2, and the state university spring ceremonies, lasting three days, will begin June 4. On account of the world's fair the summer theatrical season will be unusually dull. Very few companies will have the temerity to grapple with the uncertainty of the road. Manager Church doesn't expect things to liven up until about the middle of August. In the meantime he is busy looking attractions for the season of 1904. A large number of dates have already been filled, and the plans thus far made assure a splendid array of theatrical talent.

Ringling Bros.' circus, which visited Lincoln Tuesday, gave two very satisfactory performances. The street party was generally pronounced to be the best seen in this city for a long time, and the circus itself sustained the promise held out by the procession. Everything was new and bright. The horses, and there were many handsome animals, were in splendid condition. The costumes were as bright as though they had never been used before. To the time worn features of the ring were added a number of new and attractive specialties, and on the whole it was one of the cleanest and most entertaining tented shows recently exhibited in Lincoln. Both performances were very well attended.

By special arrangement Manager Church of the Lansing has secured Damrosch's orchestra for one concert Tuesday May 16, at which time the people of this city will be given a genuine musical treat. After Theodore Thomas, Walter Damrosch stands at the head of the musical organizers of the country, and his superb New York symphony orchestra, numbering sixty-five artists, is in many respects unrivaled. Mme. Scalchi, the famous cantatrice, will head the vocal list. Miss Lillian Blauvelt, soprano, will sing, and Adolph Brodsky will give violin solos, and Anton Hekking will give selections on the cello. The Damrosch orchestra seldom leaves New York, and to be able to hear a Damrosch concert in Lincoln is an extraordinary opportunity. Much interest has been manifested in the forthcoming concert, and there will doubtless be a full house Tuesday evening.

Wednesday evening Frank Lindon and company appeared at the Lansing in "The Count of Monte Cristo" to a very large audience. The company was given a hearty reception. Frank Lindon and Miss Edna Earle Lindon are Lincoln favorites, and their engagement in this city this week has been a repetition of their former successes. A grand matinee will be given this afternoon, and the engagement will close with tonight's performance.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

Verona Jarbeau has a new three act play entitled "Fe Fe, from Paris."

John R. Rogers will submit to a divorce from Minnie Palmer without a murmur.

Chicago theatres report unsatisfactory business thus far. It has always been the experience that the theatres in cities in which world's fairs are held invariably suffer.

Carl Duft, of New York, baritone; Mrs. Fisk, contralto; Mrs. Johnston-Bishop, soprano, and Charles Knorr, tenor, have been engaged as soloists for the May Festival at the Lansing, May 22, 23, and 24.

Will Lykens is booking heavily for the big three circuit, which includes the Lansing Theatre in Lincoln, the new Tootle Theatre in St. Joseph, and Mr. Boyd's handsome theatre in Omaha - Dramatic Times, New York.

The Ramsay Morris company, in which Miss May North, of Columbus, Neb., is playing her first engagement, is making a great hit in "Joseph." Miss North, by the way, is receiving very favorable notice from the critics.

Here are two of Oscar Wilde's jokes on America in his new play, "A Woman of No Importance": Q: "What are American Drygoods?" A: "American Novels." Again, "Women are of two kinds, plain and colored; and when good Americans die, they go to Paris's Rats!"

Last week blind Mr. Max Arnold was given a benefit at the Philadelphia Chestnut Street Theatre, and Marion Manola and John Mason promised to appear in the balcony scene from "Romeo and Juliet." At the last minute they refused to go on "because they had been insufficiently billed," and poor Max was in great distress. Miss Nellie McHenry was in the house, and hearing of his trouble, went back and volunteered to fill the gap without any billing at all. Mr. Arnold was delighted and when the big audience was told the reason of Manola's absence, they gave Miss McHenry a welcome such as few actors receive in a lifetime.

Lillian Lewis, the hysterical actress who opened the Lansing theatre with so much vehemence a year and a half ago, contrives to secure a good deal of more or less valuable advertising. Here is what the Dramatic Times says: Hermann's Theatre, [New York] festooned handsomely with a sprinkling of fragrant flowers and with a good

A TALK WITH LAMBERTSON.

Some Impressions Received in Washington By the Ex-Assistant Secretary.

Mr. G. M. Lambertson, of this city, appointed assistant secretary of the treasury by President Harrison a few months prior to the change of administration, spent a very pleasant winter at the national capital, and he will doubtless look back upon his brief career in the United States treasury department as one of the most enjoyable and interesting experiences of a life that has been full of action. The duties of his position were exacting but, on the whole his service under the government was a pleasant relaxation from the demands of the legal profession to which he has given such unremitting attention for years, and while he worked hard in Washington he regards the time spent there in the light of a vacation. Just now Mr. Lambertson is busily engaged in the impeachment trial; but he found time the other day to talk about his experience at the capital with a representative of THE COURIER.

"The appointment was very agreeable to me," he said, "because coming late in the administration, an acceptance did not necessitate an extended absence from my business in this city, and I have frequently thought I would like an opportunity to handle work of the character which fell to me in the treasury department. I received invaluable assistance from my private secretary who has been in the department for years, and adopting a regular system, my task proved a pleasant one."

"Secretary Foster was a most efficient officer and my relations with him were particularly cordial. It was also my privilege to serve for a time under the new secretary, Mr. Carlisle, at whose request I remained in Washington until a few weeks ago, and from what I know of him I believe he will be entirely competent to deal with the important questions that will come before him. Carlisle has the characteristic southern sociability and I imagine he will not find it easy to deny himself to his friends from the south who call, not to discuss affairs of state, but merely to make a social visit. Callers of this kind consume a vast amount of the time of all public officials, and it is hard to deny yourself to them."

"As regards applications for office and requests for this and that, I discovered some time ago that the ease with which a man can say no depends, in no small measure, upon the way he happens to feel. For instance, in the morning when you are fresh and vigorous you can deny an importunate applicant much more readily and easily than in the afternoon when you are apt to be tired and not in a mood to meet combative arguments."

Mr. Lambertson was in more or less close contact with the president and in his opinion Mr. Harrison is the "best equipped man who ever held the office of president." His information extends to an infinite variety of subjects, and "nearly every man who talked with him, no matter how well versed he might be on some special subject," said the ex-assistant secretary, "went away feeling that the president knew much more about the subject than he did himself. I consider Mr. Harrison remarkably able man. It is his misfortune not to possess the gift of affability. He hasn't the power to make a person feel at ease in his presence; he is restrained; he doesn't unbend even to his best friends. Mr. Harrison does not intend to slight anybody; he simply lacks that peculiar personal quality that attracts men, and I could see that many men who ought to have been his friends could not help feeling aggrieved at the president's manner."

"J. Sterling Morton came to Washington under very favorable auspices. He has long been on intimate terms with Thomas F. Bayard, of Delaware, and men like Brice and Voorhees, and he was quite well known at the capital prior to his appointment. It is a fact that he is receiving more public attention than any other member of the cabinet. There is a straightforwardness about Morton that people like. I think he will be a success in the agricultural department."

It was Mr. Lambertson's good fortune to be present at a brilliant session of the celebrated Gridiron club. All of the cabinet officers were there; also Vice President Stevenson, the entire diplomatic corps, officers of the army, and many others prominent in public and private life. Frank Hatton presided, and the toasts were of a high order. "Secretary Hoke Smith," was called on; continued Mr. Lambertson, "and after a few witticisms he proceeded to apotheosize the administration and tell about the wonderful things the government would accomplish. The club kept pretty quiet through it all, but when the secretary finished Hatton announced that the quartet would sing 'I Want To Be An Angel.' Later the toastmaster said that Mr. Morton had passed along the word that Mr. Lambertson was present; that the assistant secretary wasn't exactly a handsome man; but that he was a terror when it came to talking, and that Mr. Lambertson had specially requested that he be allowed to talk. This was something of a shock to me; but I responded and got through without being choked off."

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:: MME. SCALCHI, ::

and a magnificent array of Vocal Talent in a Miscellaneous Concert, the equal of which have never heretofore been heard in the West.

Full Company and Orchestra of 65 People

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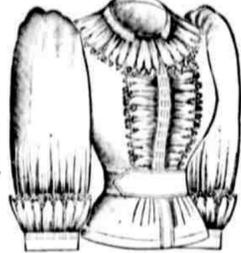
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