

MAKE YOUR APPEAL

to the public through the

columns of this paper.

With every issue it car-

ries its message into the

homes and lives of the

people. Your competitor

has his store news in this

issue. Why don't you

have yours? Don't blame

the people for flocking to

his store. They know

what he has.

TRY IT.

The Stage

The Hidden Hand.

The "Hidden Hand", a new dramatization of Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth's story of old Virginia before the war will be at the Opera House, Lafayette, La., Thursday, December the 12th. The play is in four acts and the familiar characters of the story, Capitola, Black Donald, Old Hurricane, Mrs. Condiment, and the extremely funny darkies, Wood and Pitapat, appear in the drama. The picturesque scenery, some of the finest in the United States, is reproduced. The romance, melodramatic intensity, and the mystery of the story are most cleverly brought out in a series of powerful scenes.

"George Washington, Jr.," at the Crescent Theatre.

N. O. Picayune, Dec. 26.

"Cohanisms" are such wholesome fun that they who see "George Washington, Jr.," which began its run for a week last night in the Crescent Theatre, cannot refrain from repeating some of the snappy bon mots, and now that the play has found favor here the button-holers will be using some of the good things that go with the show. While all that George Cohan has done has won popularity, he surpassed his other efforts when he produced "George Washington, Jr." It is in light vein, with an interesting story. In his inimitable way Cohan strikes at half-hearted Americans, and in creating the character of George Belgrave, who assumes the name of George Washington, Jr., as a show of independence, he advanced principles which will find echoes in millions of hearts. Senator Belgrave, although he has won much in politics and is rated a millionaire, has desires to be in the aristocracy—the purple aristocracy of dear old England, and he aims to have his son George marry a titled lady. The bride-elect happens to be a magazine writer and adventuress working in partnership with a smart political press agent, who assumes the role of Lord Rothburt, a peer on a visit to this country, and presents the magazine writer as his daughter. Senator Hopkins, a political enemy with a pretty niece who is loved by little George and loves little George in return, is at the bottom of the scheme to have Senator Belgrave sell off his son in the marriage, so that at the right time the duplicity of the imposter will be exposed and the Senator will be the laughing stock of the country. However, little George rebels, and in a quarrel scene with his father, renounces the marriage proposition, declares that he will marry Hopkins' niece, and as he has been disowned he will call himself George Washington, Jr. In proper time he saves his father from the imposters and in the end little George wins the girl he loves and all is happy.

Carter De Haven does not imitate George Cohan. He is an original young American. The twang which goes with Cohan's singing is not necessary with De Haven, for he has a way of his own in singing topical songs. And his dances are graceful, and while somewhat grotesque, the steps find favor as well as Cohan's breakneck evolutions. De Haven made a distinct hit, and he will always be a favorite here, Miss Flo Parker, a dainty little soubrette, who is well remembered here, was clever and sweet as Miss Johnson. She danced and sang well, and the duet, "The Wedding of the Blue and the Gray," with De Haven was capital, while "Virginia" was great. De Haven had two gems, "The Grand Old Flag" and "If Washington Came to Life." So bright were the verses, which

included some localisms, that the actor was encored a dozen times. Willis P. Sweatnam, one of the best black-faced comedians in theatrical to-day, was a factor in the show. He is in a class by himself, and the character of Eaton Ham could not win the laughs if Sweatnam was not playing the part. Both Messrs. Jack Raffael and John A. Boone were fine as the senators, and they added to the success of the show. Edward Lester was good as the bogus lord. Miss Lola Hoffman a queenly woman, was charming as the Senator's sister. Miss Elsie Artz as the magazine writer, who sang "I've Never Been Over There," a pot-pourri of English imitations, was clever and pretty. The other members of the show were capital and the chorus made up of pretty girls, who worked with ginger in the telephone chorus, aided materially in scoring the triumph for "George Washington, Jr.," which will be on the boards for the full week, with the usual matinees on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Excellent Performance of the Classic.

The Louisville, Ky., Times of Oct. 8, contains the following mention of Charles B. Hanford, who will soon appear at the Jefferson Theatre.

It was a splendid production of that Shakespearian classic, "Antony and Cleopatra," that Charles B. Hanford and company presented last night at Macaulay's, and it was warmly received by an audience of such proportions as to be decidedly complimentary, considering the inclemency of the evening.

Mr. Hanford has reinforced the production with modern embellishments in the form of the spectacular effects, including a ballet.

In a curtain speech he explained that it was his aim to popularize the classic drama by such innovations in the hope that it could be brought back into public favor as in the days of Booth and Barrett when the interest was such that even the spacious old Auditorium was filled by patrons of Shakespearian plays. Mr. Hanford's talk was warmly applauded, showing that his ideas were approved.

And yet while Mr. Hanford's purpose to popularize the classic has met with indorsement in a measure, it must nevertheless be a bit discouraging to this conscientious exponent of Shakespeare to observe how the general taste runs, as shown in the encore of the dances in contrast with the fact that some of those sublime Shakespearian speeches "went over their heads," or were received with only moderate applause.

Mr. Hanford has retained some of the members of his company and strengthened it in the addition of new ones. He has been happy in the selection of his leading woman.

Miss Alice Wilson made a charming Cleopatra, both looking and acting the part of the beautiful Queen of the Nile in a manner which easily carried the imagination. Except for a slight deficiency in vocal power her portrayal left little to be desired. The part of Domitius Enobarbus by John M. Kline, also stood out prominently in the performance, his fine voice and distinct utterance being features of his work.

Of course, Mr. Hanford in the role of Antony gave a vigorous, well-rounded portrayal of that noble old Roman.

A most commendable fact was the promptness with which the drama was presented, there being only short intermissions, and the five acts being given within the 11 o'clock limit, which is rather unusual for Shakespearian productions.

"Antony and Cleopatra" will be repeated to-morrow night. For to-night "The Merchant of Venice," with Mr. Hanford in the role of Shylock and Miss Wilson taking the part of Portia will be the bill. "The Taming of the Shrew" will be given at to-morrow's matinee.

CHEAP RAILROAD RATES.

The M. L. & T., and La. Western will have on low rate tickets, Lafayette to Jennings and return Thursday, Nov. 28. Foot ball game between Jennings and Baton Rouge teams, fare for the round trip only \$1.60.

On account of the meeting of Knights of Columbus at Lake Charles Dec 1, the La W. and M. L. & T. R. R., will place on sale round trip tickets at one and one third fare, fare from Lafayette will be \$2.95.