

THE PLAYS THE THING

WIDELY DIFFERING ATTRACTIONS AT THE LEADING THEATERS.

"FRIENDS" TO BE SEEN AGAIN.

Royle's Great Production to Be Put on in Full Strength--The Possibilities of Hypnotism Woven into the Drama Booked for the Grand--A Round-Up of Dramatic Drift.

It was nothing less than deplorable that John Drew and his capable company were not seen by more St. Paul people during the past week. There is opportunity for education as well as enjoyment in witnessing such stage work as was done at the Metropolitan every night last week, and such opportunities are much too scarce, as a rule. It is pleasant to note, however, that the slightest detail was slurred through vexation, pique or discouragement. When really excellent dramatic food is offered, and the public rejects it, the public is really the greatest loser.

For the present week Royle's admirable production, "Friends," is to be seen at the Metropolitan. It is a favorite, not only here, but everywhere, and should record a successful week's work. Hypnotism worked into drama will form the basis of the offering at the Grand.

"Friends" is an American play that has everywhere been hailed as a distinct fulfillment of the present and prospect of a noble future for a national stage. It is the work of a young American, who, without previous reputation, influence or financial resources, managed, by one of those miracles known only to genius and luck, to get his play a hearing at one of the New York theaters. It was produced at the Standard theater in the summer, admittedly the worst part of the theatrical season, indeed quite out of it. The opening night the actor that had been engaged for the leading part was taken suddenly ill, and at a moment's notice the trembling author, with all the responsibility and nervousness incident to such a trial, stepped forward to assume the leading role. The theater was scarcely half full, and of those present, the majority were critics and cold "first nighters." In spite of these accumulating and prostrating disadvantages, "Friends" achieved instant recognition. As the illustrated American aptly says: "The play itself, unconventional both as to method and matter, was hailed as the type of a new school of idealistic realism, and was as remarkable for its literary qualities as for its appeal to the popular taste."

Since its New York run "Friends" has been received everywhere with the most flattering critical and financial encouragement. It is a source of pride to every American that the widespread European dramatic product, with its questionable morality and conventional tricks, is at last making way for good wholesome stuff of the home-made order. Mr. Royle's success is an inspiration both to the public and to every struggling author. He has succeeded because he chose to disregard accepted types and conventional standards; because his humor, his instinctive Americanism and his pathos deep and wide as human sympathy. He has shown that a powerful and amusing play could be fashioned without the aid of tanks, sawmills and locomotives, and without an incident or a line to bring a blush to the most sensitive cheek. He has done well.

It is claimed by the management that "Friends" is interpreted by a company that has no superior in America. It is practically the same cast that produced the comedy in St. Paul last season, and was conceded to be all that all the star comedians that the widespread American dramatic product, with its questionable morality and conventional tricks, is at last making way for good wholesome stuff of the home-made order. Mr. Royle's success is an inspiration both to the public and to every struggling author. He has succeeded because he chose to disregard accepted types and conventional standards; because his humor, his instinctive Americanism and his pathos deep and wide as human sympathy. He has shown that a powerful and amusing play could be fashioned without the aid of tanks, sawmills and locomotives, and without an incident or a line to bring a blush to the most sensitive cheek. He has done well.

what the theater will be packed through-out this engagement.

Tonight the grand presents as its attraction for public consideration those clever and, at the same time, popular stars, Oliver and Kate Byron, and they will be seen for the first time in their new play recently produced by them with marked success in Chicago. Perhaps a good many women would really like to know whether the power to hypnotize love or hatred, at will from any person resides in any man. This interesting question is raised in the plot of "The Dark Continent," Oliver Byron's South African play, to be presented for the first time here next week. While the piece is founded wholly upon the scenes and stirring adventures and romances of the diamond fields of South Africa, the action rests upon the alleged power of the villain to reduce by hypnotic influence anybody, man or woman, to his will. The power to kill by the unscrupulous use of hypnotic influence has already been raised to the dignity of discussion in this country. It is by no means uncommon, either, for claims of hypnotism to be set up in court in explanation of apparently inexplicable conduct of men and women. The dramatist has taken advantage of these recent discoveries in this line to weave an extraordinary plot and strikingly interesting and picturesque scenes.

It is upon these upon which this play is built is a novel one and critics concede to its novelty in both plot and story. Aside from the strength of the play Mr. Byron is said to have in the dual role of a father and son splendid opportunities for the display of his abilities as a versatile actor, while the character of a boy finds excellent scope for his finished artistic methods. They feature a fine company that is said to be a most capable one and the several scenes of the play are strongly set with telling stage surroundings, and the presentation of "The Dark Continent" should prove attractive to the many patrons of Mr. Lutz's theater.

CHANGE OF DATE.

The Bollman Company Will Open Sunday, Sept. 24. Owing to a misunderstanding in dates the Bollman German Theatrical company will not open its season next Sunday, but on the following Sunday, Sept. 24, will open a very strong and new play entitled "The Girl I Left Behind Me," in which all the new talent is well cast. This play has had a large run throughout the German empire, and considerable credit should be given Theodore Bollman for introducing it here. A feature of the company this season is that Mrs. Bollman, who has gained so enviable a reputation as a concert singer in St. Paul, will take to the stage and hereafter be cast in the plays for the entire engagement. Those who have seen her in rehearsal say she has marked ability. Mr. Bollman begs the indulgence of the public for the change of date, as it was unavoidable, and hopes to see the entire German-American population present Sunday evening, Sept. 24, the opening night, and also the balance of the season.

JUBILEE SINGERS ARRIVE.

Grand Sacred Concert to Be Given Tonight. The jubilee singers arrived in the city this morning, and tonight will open up at the Auditorium in a grand and stirring jubilee, consisting of camp meeting stunts, hymns and jubilee songs. There are fifty in the party, and no fifty jubilee-looking darkeys ever struck St. Paul. Among the most notable of the most famous Afro-American song writers, and their three quartets are selected. This will be one of the most unique entertainments ever presented in St. Paul, but in spite of the terrible expense incident to carrying around such a large company, the Auditorium management still adhere to their plan of fixing the general admission to all parts of the house not previously reserved at 25 cents.

Next Week's Schedule.

Hoyt's great comedy success, "A Texas Steer," that has been seen twice in this city, will be the attraction at the Metropolitan opera house all next week, beginning Sunday next. The same cast that presented the play ever since it was first presented, headed by Tim Murphy, will be seen in "A Texas Steer," with the exception of the part of Bossy that was played by Mrs. Hoyt. This part is now played by Miss Alice Evans, a very nice sourette. "A Texas Steer" begins at the box office next Thursday morning. "The Crazy Patch" is a laughable musical affair that will be seen at the

Grand for a week after Oliver Byron closes with "The Dark Continent."

A Double-Sided Man.

The prize theatrical lawyer has emerged in an Iowa one-night stand. Recently Manager Thomas H. Davis sued the manager of the opera house in that town over a small matter arising from the engagement of "A Nutmeg Match" there. Mr. Davis, remaining in New York for a joke, put his case in the hands of the lawyer mentioned, knowing that the lawyer and the manager were one and the same person. The lawyer is evidently more anxious in law than in theatricals. As manager he employed other counsel for himself, and as lawyer he zealously fought and won the case for Mr. Davis.

Selbert at Como Today.

The Selbert band will appear at Lake Como this afternoon and evening. If the weather continues favorable, and the programmes will be found to be very interesting. In the afternoon the more popular music will be played, while in the evening there will be a liberal allowance of the better known classics, such as a selection from "The Flutes," the overture to "The Barber of Seville," a selection from Gounod's "Roméo and Juliette," and "The Marriage of Figaro." There will be horn solos, duets and quartets both afternoon and evening.

DRAMATIC DRIFT.

Miss Rhea arrived from abroad Aug. 27, and began rehearsing her new play, "The Queen of Sheba," on Aug. 28 at New York. The actress, Max Freeman has been specially engaged to produce the play, which is strong in dramatic situations, and is appropriately illustrated by incidental music composed by M. Oscar Comtantant, of the Paris conservatoire.

A playwright of the realistic kind submitted a play, "Harry Williams," manager of Katie Emmet, who is starting in "Killarney," last week, one of the strong features of which was to be a company of real Irish brought over direct from Ireland to support Miss Emmet.

The title of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" is derived from associations which the familiar music of "The Girl I Left Behind Me" has with military life, for the air is always played by military bands whenever a regiment goes in and out of garrison.

"The Girl of Kentucky" has made a great success there can be no doubt, as Manager Gulick, of the Bijou theater, Pittsburg, where it was produced last week, has already booked it for a return date, paying an attractive \$1,000 to cancel the week.

Selena Fetter is one of the best dressed women on the stage. This coming season she will wear entirely new gowns as the opera singer in "Friends," and they have been imported by her from Worth's famous establishment in Paris.

Marie Wainwright, who began her tour at New York Monday night, will at the Auditorium in a grand and stirring jubilee, consisting of camp meeting stunts, hymns and jubilee songs. There are fifty in the party, and no fifty jubilee-looking darkeys ever struck St. Paul. Among the most notable of the most famous Afro-American song writers, and their three quartets are selected. This will be one of the most unique entertainments ever presented in St. Paul, but in spite of the terrible expense incident to carrying around such a large company, the Auditorium management still adhere to their plan of fixing the general admission to all parts of the house not previously reserved at 25 cents.

Joseph Hawthorn, who has been seriously ill for several months from a mental malady, is said to be in a fair way to recovery. He will not resume the stage this season, however.

The summer season of opera at New Orleans proved a success, despite the croakings of the prophets, and it is proposed to continue the programme each year if yellow jack will permit.

Arthur Lloyd, the great English comedian, in his comedy success, "Our Party," opened in Chicago last Monday night to a large and well pleased audience.

Fanny Davenport will this season be seen in "La Tosca" and "Red" as well as her great success, "Cleopatra." Melbourne McDowell will be retained as leading man.

Frank Losee is credited with having made a great success with his starring venture in "The Romany Rye." His wife, Marion Elmore, is also in the company.

Manager Temple, of the Schiller theater, Chicago, was one of the victims of a railroad wreck near that city last week. He was highly esteemed by the profession.

It is thought that Will J. Davis, of the Haymarket and Columbia theaters, Chicago, will endeavor to obtain control of Hooley's now that "Uncle Dick" is dead.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" seems to retain its vitality. A dozen companies are producing it in differing grades of excellence in the central and Eastern cities.

George Kingsbury, who used to sell the tickets at the Grand, is now ahead of "Yon Yonson," and is making rapid steps in the Swedish language.

The Kendalls are to bring "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" to America this season. It has been the greatest London success of the past five years.

Annie Suits, a California singer and dancer, made her New York debut at Proctor's theater Sept. 4. She made a very favorable impression.

"The Wolves of New York" has had a protracted run at Salt Lake City. All the lambs of the Mormon flock went to see them.

W. J. Dixon has signed to go with James O'Neill for the coming season. He will play Caderose in "Monte Cristo."

Minnie Maddern is about to return to the stage, after an absence of several years. She will no doubt be well received.

Willie Collier and "Hoss and Hoss" are again pleasing the people, and will be at the Grand in the near future. Ole Bull, a daughter of Ole Bull, the great violinist, made her debut as a dancer at Taunton, Mass., last week.

Amy Huntley goes with J. Stevenson's "Enoch Arden" company for the season, playing heavy parts.

Rev. Henry A. Adams is dramatizing Bulwer Lytton's "What Will He Do With It?" for Richard Mansfield.

"The Country Band" is a big hit in the new programme given by Dock-stader's minstrels.

James Grace, a member of the original Georgia minstrels, died in New York last week.

Lillian Russell is suing for a divorce with Teddy Solomon in the New York courts.

Herbert Fortier has been re-engaged with "The Sportsman" company. Julia Marlowe has opened her season in "The Love Chase."

The Shakopee Excursion.

The young ladies on the several committees for the excursion to Shakopee on the steamer George Hays next Friday, Sept. 15, at 2 p. m., are invited to attend the services at the soldiers' home today. The steamer George Hays will leave at 2 p. m. from the foot of Jackson street.

Today at Como.

Grand Concerts in the afternoon and evening.

FACTS AND FANCIES.

Some of the Sizes in Photographs. Quoted so low at Swem's will be withdrawn in a few days. The studio is at 419 Wabasha street.

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DEED.

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