OLD CONCERT TALES RETOLD

President Grant and Others Entertained in 1870 at Performance of 'Martha'

In the course of preparing materials for a continuation of the series "Local Musical Activities," the writer found an interesting item relating to the presidential box at the performance of 'Martha' at the Opera House on January 11, 1870, that presented an incident of the administration of Andrew Jackson.

One of the most important features of the program was the grand choral and instrumental music that followed a prominent soloist in the opera. The choral numbers were sung by the famous opera singer Mrs. Fred Wilson, who was accompanied by a large orchestra. The performance was well received by the audience, and the opera was a great success.

Mr. Lincoln, who was a frequent visitor to the opera, was present on this occasion and was seated in the presidential box. As the performance proceeded, he became deeply engaged in the music and the story of the opera. At one point, he leaned forward in his seat and listened intently to the music. When the soloist finished singing, Mr. Lincoln rose to his feet and applauded the singer with enthusiasm.

The incident was reported in the New York Times, which commented on the performance and the presence of Mr. Lincoln. The newspaper noted that Mr. Lincoln's reaction to the opera was typical of his love for the arts and his interest in music.

Although the article did not mention the president's name, it is likely that the incident took place during the administration of Andrew Jackson, who was the president at the time of the performance of 'Martha.' The incident highlights the president's appreciation for the arts and his role in supporting the performing arts during his tenure in office.