

THEATRICAL NOTES.

**"BEN-HUR" INTERESTS
NON-THEATERGOERS**

Thousands upon thousands of people who seldom visit a playhouse are crowding the Chicago Auditorium nightly to see "Ben-Hur." The keen interest they manifest in its enactment causes regret that more plays of this character are not in existence. "Ben-Hur" with its lustrous Star of Bethlehem, its camels and chariot steeds, its oriental trappings and splendor of the gorgeous cast is one of the most elaborate spectacles ever staged, and yet the appeal of General Wallace's religio-historic romance is not to the eye and the ear alone, but to the heart. Through all the scenes of wondrous beauty, through the vivid portrayal of the exciting incidents of the dawn of Christianity, the plain, simple story of "The Man of Calvary" is brought home with all-compelling force. The Star of Bethlehem, the adoration of the Wise Men, the heart-throbbing tale of the meeting of Christ with Hur, the greetings of the great multitude on the Mount of Olives and the final miracle of the cleansing of the lepers—these are some of the incidents of "Ben-Hur" which separate it from other plays and make it in its grandeur stand apart.

Special attention is being given to the public of this vicinity who are desirous of witnessing this mighty play. It is advisable to write well in advance for seats so that desirable locations may be secured. Mail orders with remittances addressed to Mr. Milward Adams, director Auditorium theater, Chicago, will receive prompt attention. The scale of prices for night performances and Saturday matinees is \$1.50 and \$1.00 for the lower floor; \$1.00 and 75 cents for the balcony and 50 cents for the gallery. While at the Wednesday matinee the entire lower floor is \$1.00; entire balcony, 75 cents, gallery 50 cents. No performance of "Ben-Hur" is ever given on Sunday.

"Age cannot wither nor custom stale" the attractions possessed by the best of Swedish dialect plays, "Ole Olson." Year in and year out, for more than a decade, "Ole" has been presented to the theater-going public and its popularity has never waned. Other Swedish characters have come upon the scene, but none of them can vie with "Olson" in the regard of the public and it stands unique in its line like Rip Van Winkle and Uncle Joshua Whitcomb. "Ole" will be presented at the Towle opera house, Sunday, Nov. 4, by the Northland singer, Ben Hendricks, with his budget of new songs and yodels. Mr. Hendricks makes his singing a feature and those who have heard him know that a thoroughly clever and artistic performance is assured. The company is the same that has presented the play this season in New York, Brooklyn, Boston, St. Louis and other cities.

GEN. WALLACE'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

To the many personal friends, acquaintances and admirers of General Lew Wallace, the announcement that his autobiography has just been placed on the market by Harper & Bros. will be of interest. With a dramatized version of his "The Prince of India" occupying the attention of New York and "Ben-Hur" that of Chicago at the Auditorium theater, this interest is accentuated. The last years of General Wallace's many-sided career were spent in the preparation of his remarkable story, under the old beech tree at his home in Crawfordsville, where "Ben-Hur" was written, the General transcribed his career on the diverse fields of arms, letters, politics and diplomacy. The book is rich in reminiscence, several chapters being devoted to his literary labors, in which he recounts how "Ben-Hur"—the book which has been read by an innumerable company and the drama which has been witnessed by more than five million people came to be written and later dramatized. The story is a forceful presentation of the man himself, an intensely individualistic character and one of the most picturesque personalities of our times.

LOW RATES TO PACIFIC COAST.

Via Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway.

Colonist tickets, good in tourist sleeping cars will be sold from Chicago to Seattle, Tacoma, San Francisco, Los Angeles and many other Pacific coast points for \$33, August 27 to October 31 inclusive. Reduced rates to hundreds of other points west and northwest. Folder descriptive of through train service and complete information about routes will be sent on request. E. G. HAYDEN, Traveling Passenger Agent, 426 Superior Ave., N. W. Cleveland.

Change of Cars.

On Nov. 13 the Wabash, in connection with the Iron Mountain T. & P., I. & G. N. and the National Lines of Mexico, will resume its Mexican special service from Chicago to the City of Mexico, leaving Chicago at 9:17 p. m., every Monday and Thursday. The Mexican special consists of sleepers, observation cars and dining cars. Only three days on the road. Write for illustrated printed matter and full information. F. H. Tristram, A. G. P. A., 97 Adams street, Chicago.

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Every performance of the new and greater "Ben-Hur," which was successfully launched at the Chicago auditorium on the evening of Oct. 15, has been witnessed by several thousand people, and the present engagement bids fair to prove the most successful in the history of General Wallace's Biblical romance. As presented at the Auditorium this soul-stirring drama is the most impressive demonstration of spectacle. It is the seeming culmination of all the possibilities of theatrical mechanism and effects—the final word in lighting, the management of stage crowds and the arrangement of stage illusions. Because of the spaciousness and character of the house, "Ben-Hur" at the Auditorium assumes a heightened dignity and religious atmosphere. Nowhere else is there so great an organ to lend the beauty of its tones to the magnificent musical settings that Edgar Stillman Kelley has given the Wallace play. And nowhere else could that great and thrilling chariot race be run with five four-horse chariots.

Before it was transformed into a play "Ben-Hur" claimed the critical attention of almost all the reading world, and the consensus of opinion was that in the elements of originality and power it excelled all other fiction in the religious field. Its dramatization has substantiated that opinion for although now in its eighth season, the two thousandth performance of the drama on Monday, Oct. 22, while only four thousand people (the capacity of the auditorium) while only two thousand were in attendance at the premier at the Broadway theater, New York, Nov. 29th, 1899.

Special attention of those who intend witnessing "Ben-Hur" is called to the fact that at the evening performances the curtain is raised precisely at 8 o'clock and at the Wednesday and Saturday matinees at 2 o'clock. The performance begins with the beautiful prelude, "The Star of Bethlehem," and in order not to mar its awe-inspiring effect, late comers are not seated until the end of this scene.

AT THE GARRICK.

De Wolf Hopper with Marguerite Clark and all the old favorites will come to the Garrick theater for two weeks beginning Sunday, Oct. 28, in the great comic opera success, "Happyland," and a sumptuous revival of the great success, "Wang."

Happyland can be considered a classic in the matter of thorough entertainment.

The story, particularly plausible for a comic opera, is immensely amusing, and being devoid of all slap stick and bombastic incongruities, sets a standard in the matter of later days opera. The late Frederick Rankin, certainly erected a theatrical monument for himself when he wrote it.

The story is a mythical land of Elysia where everyone is so happy that its king is bored to death, and is on the lookout for trouble. He finds it; for at the opening of the play the king

OUR CONGRESSMAN

HON. E. D. CRUMPACKER

WILL BE AT

**TOWLE OPERA HOUSE, HAMMOND,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 29**

AT 8 O'CLOCK P. M.

**Don't Fail to Hear Judge Crumpacker Discuss the
Political Issues From a Republican Standpoint**

Everybody Invited, Especially the Laboring Men and Their Wives

of Altruria (which is the adjacent principality) demands for his daughter the hand of the king of Elysia's heir. As this interesting party happens to be a girl, who meets, promptly falls in love with the crown prince of Fertunia (another nearby kingdom) many complications naturally ensue which give the king of Elysia all the excitement that he seeks. Rankin's scenes are never remissent, his songs permit much in the way of personal accomplishment and his ensembles tell a story in an unusual fashion. Reginald DeKoven, his collaborator, who wrote "Robin Hood," also aimed high, with the result that melodies are captivating and interesting. The production is beautiful in the extreme and abso-

lutely perfect in the matter of detail, they are feasts for the eye. The large company comes in for its share of the general result and admiration, for it is not a case of simply "Girls," "Girls," "Girls," but a large aggregation of choral artists, who seem to consider their work as hard and faithfully as does the star.

Taken all together "Happyland" is one jingling ripple of genuine enjoyment and the announcement that on the forthcoming visit last season this company, which practically remains intact, will again portray their respective assignments, is welcome news indeed.

During the latter part of the engagement a gorgeous revival of that per-

ennial success, "Wang," will be given. "Wang" has probably outlived a large majority of the latter day operas, and rightly too, for it permits of legitimate buffonery, in which Mr. Hopper excels. Then again, it is not a one part play, for others besides the star have almost attractive parts.

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