

AMUSEMENTS.

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The week before Christmas is looked upon as the theatrical manager's general as the poorest of the year in their line of business, and certainly the one just closed in this city has been no exception to the rule.

There was nothing at either the Orpheum or Boyd's last week which a review would make interesting reading. At the Boyd's the first act of the week, "A Contented Woman," was presented with Belle Archer in the leading role.

At the Orpheum there seemed to be no let down in the interesting vaudeville program that this week and rapidly becoming popular amusement resort has presented since its opening three weeks ago.

For the coming week two plays that have packed houses during the past week in theaters will have their initial presentation to Omaha audiences at Boyd's. They are "What Happened to Jones," a comedy in which Harry Corson Clarke, formerly with the Praxley Stock company of San Francisco, is the bright comedian star.

"Cyrano de Bergerac" was given presentation in recent times and still the craze goes on seemingly gathering force as it travels. In Chicago seats are selling for the Mansfield performance of this same poetic French drama two weeks in advance and night after night people are unable to gain admittance.

Strange and unaccountable are these accidental successes of the stage. No one, not even Coquelin, who originally produced "Cyrano," ever expected so prodigious and continuing a success until nearly all Paris was talking in the same effusive manner of the swabbling hero with the big nose.

Hobson, the naval hero, held a kissing reception at the Coates here the day that he passed through Kansas City last week and the Chicago Chronicle's representative telegraphed the following interesting little incident to his paper: "A queenly looking woman, dressed magnificently and with a bearing that attracted general attention, approached Hobson in her turn. She was tall enough to almost look him in the eyes on the level, and there was silence as the two met. They gazed at each other searchingly for an instant, then a smile broke out on each face and the woman, clasping hands with the lieutenant, queried in a soft, yet distinct voice: 'May I enjoy the sweets of life, too?'

"Well, I guess," came the return, and the brave man plowed her head upon his shoulder. He was deliberate about this, and the crowd watched the performance with bated breath. The woman knew how and Hobson knew how, and there was a long drawn out 'Ah-ab-ab-ab-ab!'

The theatrical managers down east are just beginning to discover the fact that bill board and window advertising is a costly evil and this is what one of the most prominent of the city, the Dramatic Mirror in New York City last week.

"The method of advertising a theatrical attraction by printing in the windows and on the boards should long ago have become obsolete. It is a relic of a crude age. I believe much better results could be secured through newspaper advertising at a comparatively small expense and with many advantages not now enjoyed. One of the advantages would be a cutting off of thousands of deadheads, the accommodation of which cuts down the possibilities of profit disastrously. Once a deadhead is advertised a deadhead public that never will pay to go into a theater.

"Moreover, I believe that the existence of the popular interest in the enterprise is threatened by this evil of 'printing.' Local managers do not seem to have any idea of the cost of printing to an attraction and they have an exaggerated idea of its value. No matter how much is furnished to them they still cry for more and all they get means just as many deadhead tickets to provide for and the cutting down of possible profit, as well as the adding of expense to the combination. It has come to such a pass that the printing bills alone are equal to the regular attraction to a notable money maker. The attraction to a notable money maker.

usually is. Little jealousies will creep in and spoil the views. The little boxes he killed at this beautiful scene of the year, and let the time be suggestive of a real living practical "Christmas Carol."

He was only an organist. His apparel was not as stylish as that of the tenor. The basso had a fine new ulster, trimmed with fur of rich color and much warmth. But the organist was wearing the coat which had seen many winters, and which had recently been repaired by the kindness of his talented pupil, who was now here. This pupil was his one source of pride. She played at the early services and on holy days.

In the chance, what difference did it make about clothing? The cast-iron and the piano revealed all differences of costume, and the organist forgot that he was poor. But he had a family of seven children, and it was Christmas. Children would expect Santa Claus and if he did not come they would be disappointed, for they did not live in Athens, where Santa Claus is mentioned.

It is not at all an unlikely fact that Olga Neuhof will locate permanently in the United States. A new play being written for Julia Marlowe is said to be based on the story of Barbara Frischlie. During his starring career of fifteen years Roland Reed has produced sixteen plays and William H. Crane nine.

The late Fanny Davenport's first stage picture, taken in 1877, and entitled "Puck in 'Midsummer Night's Dream.'" A production of Zankow's dramatization of his novel, "Children of the Ghetto," is announced for October 1st at the Orpheum. May Irwin has decided to discontinue the Wednesday matinee of "Kate Kip, Buyer," at the Bijou, lest she should overtax her voice.

Hall Caine called for England last Tuesday to attend to the difficulties that have arisen between him and Wilson Barrett concerning "The Christian." John Philip Sousa is in Lakewood recovering from his recent illness. By present arrangements his band will resume its tour on January 20 in Baltimore.

At the close of the present season with "The White Heather" company, now in the city at the Walnut Street theater, Philadelphia, Miss Rose Coghlan sails for England. The new DeKoven-Smith opera, "The Three Dragons," is announced for production January 16 at the Broadway theater, New York. Marguerite Lemon will be the prima donna.

Virginia Harned emphatically denies the story that she is to leave the company of her husband, E. H. Sothern, to star by herself. She will sail for Europe shortly in order to enjoy a few months' rest after a long and arduous period of work. It has been practically settled that the operatic revival which is to be made at the New York Casino, January 11, will be "La Belle Helene," and Lillian Russell, Pauline Hall, Thomas G. Sealbrooke and two or three lesser celebrities are to appear in the cast.

Brooklyn friends hear with mixed feelings that Kate Claxton has leased the Park theater in that city and will begin her musical career by presenting "The Two Orphans." This is the piece in which she appeared on the night of the terrible fire in Mrs. Conroy's house. Her husband, when scores of persons were cremated. The Yale students gave Anna Hold a tremendous ovation when she danced upon the New Haven stage in the Yale sweater. The afternoon and evening performance of "The French Maid," in which Anna is featured, drew a large crowd. It is reported that Miss Hold will soon essay musical plays from Judic's popular repertoire.

One of the first persons Blanche Walsh ever saw upon the stage was Fanny Davenport, and in her childlike enthusiasm and ambition she frequently declared to her mother that she hoped to be as good as she. It is reported that she will be as good as she. It is reported that she will be as good as she. It is reported that she will be as good as she.

Today there will be celebrated the feast of love and peace in the churches of the land. The noble strains of music will be employed in stinging the commemoration of the Messiah's birth. The sunlight of heaven, softened by myriads of stained glass hues, will fall upon altars, chancels and aisles and profusely illumine the sacred walls. The most pretentious places of worship will be brightened by the red berry and the green leaf. But no place of worship will be so humble nor will any congregation be so mixed as that which first assembled in a certain stable in the town of Bethlehem.

And now, this same child, whose birth took place in a stable, or more properly a byre, whom kings and sages came to worship in great humility, this child, having passed through the world and made it better, is today the object of all worship, today, homage and reverence unite in adoration of the Prince of Peace. Anthems of gratulation, psalms of gladness, carols of narration and chanting of glorification fill the sacred edifice which are the churches of the world. Kings, the Lord of Hosts, formerly the little child who was born one day in a manger at Bethlehem.

MERRY CHRISTMAS - Matinee Today - Any Seat 25c. Extreme Hum - Ladder - Any Seat 25c. Children 10c. 3 SISTERS MACARTE-3. HARRY ALLISTER. THE GLEASONS. E. M. HALL. BARELL AND MORRIS. PRICES NEVER CHANGING.

BOYD'S PATXON & BURGESS MANAGERS. TELEPHONE 1010. Two Nights. One Matinee. December 30-31. Frank Daniels. In His Two Great Comic Opera Hits, Friday Night and Saturday Matinee - "The Idol's Eye" Saturday Night Only - "THE WIZARD OF THE NILE". President McKinley - "The funniest and prettiest comic opera I have ever seen."

AMPLE SPACE FOR AMERICA. Boyd's - PATXON & BURGESS. 5 Nights, Beginning Sunday Matinee, December 25, with Special Monday and Wednesday. Harry Corson Clarke. In Broadhurst's Hilarious 15-Karat Comedy Without a Flaw. WHAT HAPPENED TO JONES. Evening Prices - Lower floor, 75c and \$1.00; balcony, 50c and 75c. MATINEE PRICES - Lower Floor, 75c and \$1.00; balcony, 50c.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.-B. D. Woodward, the assistant commissioner general of the United States to the Paris exposition of 1900, arrived in this city today on the American liner St. Louis. Mr. Woodward said today: "I have been called over to participate in the permanent organization of the commissioner general's working staff and to familiarize myself with the general plan and scope of procedure in the future in order that, upon my return, the Paris end will be able to co-operate with the New York and Chicago offices."

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.-The title of the Northern Pacific railroad to nearly 9,000,000 acres of land in the state of Washington is being contested by a majority report of the special state legislative investigating committee. The legislature will be urged to take up the matter with a view to restoring this tract to the public domain. The committee was appointed to investigate the legality of the transfer of granted lands of the Northern Pacific in this state from the old Northern Pacific Railroad company, which received the lands under an act of congress, to the Northern Pacific company of Wisconsin, a corporation which succeeded the latter in possession of the line and its property of every description.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-Harry A. Gardner, president of the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce, has been in Washington for the last few days in connection with consular conferences, which the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce and other commercial institutions throughout the country intend to urge upon congress. They will ask for a hearing before the foreign relations committee of the senate and the foreign affairs committee of the house unless so far as the house is concerned the Adams bill, favorably reported at the last session of congress, is deemed to be a satisfactory basis for commercial organizations, both east and west, are co-operating in the movement.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 24.-Judge Sulzberger and Pennsylvania today dismissed the bill in equity brought by Messrs Barr and Yocum to restrain the issue of the new loan of \$11,200,000, to be devoted to city improvements, including nearly \$5,000,000 for a better water supply and \$1,000,000 for the public library. This decision establishes the legality of the loan and it will be negotiated at once.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-The auxiliary steamer yacht Utowana sailed today with its owner, Allison V. Armour, and a party of guests for Yucatan on a botanical expedition. Among the party are Dr. C. F. Millspaugh of the botanical department of the Field Columbian museum and Messrs. Ischman, Allen and Mott.

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MUSIC.

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There was no grand organ there, whose majestic peal thrilled the listening world; instead there was a choir of angels, and the morning stars sang together. No organist with casework, surplice called the people to worship, but in sacrifice was offered in the form of gold, frankincense and myrrh by the Magi, wise men with much lore hidden away in their hearts, dressed not in priestly vestments, but in the richly bordered robes of the east. No Italianes were said on that eventful morning, but the poor, wondering shepherds knelt and worshipped, in faith and in sincerity. The oxen were surprised at the strange intrusion, doubtless, but there was no room in the stable for them.

And now, this same child, whose birth took place in a stable, or more properly a byre, whom kings and sages came to worship in great humility, this child, having passed through the world and made it better, is today the object of all worship, today, homage and reverence unite in adoration of the Prince of Peace. Anthems of gratulation, psalms of gladness, carols of narration and chanting of glorification fill the sacred edifice which are the churches of the world. Kings, the Lord of Hosts, formerly the little child who was born one day in a manger at Bethlehem.

The message of the Christmas can be accepted by the musician as well as by the layman. To the musician peace and good will. They who make musical the services of Christmas should certainly feel the true spirit of Peace within themselves. While musicians are not generally overburdened with a superfluity of costly luxuries and much wealth of the east, and are consequently not noted for the valuable and handsome presents they give each other, yet it would not cost much to give to each other a greeting of pleasant good will, and how useless it is to carry grudges over Christmas and into a new year.

Some people would not be satisfied if they did not find a grudge on the Christmas tree. They will even fill stockings with grudges just to show what very smart people they can be. The artistic temperament, it is to be presumed, is largely responsible for this, sensitive, delicate and refined as it

News Boys' Third Annual Ball and Banquet. Jan. 1, Creighton Hall. Cake Walk at 11 p. m. Come and get your money's worth. Tickets, per Couple 50 Cents. Mogy, Manager.

WIRTH'S MUSIC HALL. Cor. 10th and Harnay Sts. Attractions for week commencing MONDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1898. ELLA HERRING. Vocalist and Artistic Dancer. TIM STARR & HICKLING-Derby Red Hot Sixteen Team. BESSIE DAVIS. The Little Sunbeam. EVA ROSS. Soloist.

THE MILLARD. 13th and Douglas Sts., Omaha. -AMERICAN AND EUROPEAN PLAN- CENTRALLY LOCATED. J. E. MARKEL & SON, Props. THE NEW MERCER. 12th and Howard Sts., Omaha. European Plan. \$1.00 American Plan. \$1.25. Next week -entire change of bill - watch for it. W. M. ANDREWS, Chief Clerk.