

DRAMA BY CANDLELIGHT

Early Days of Play-Acting in the National Capital.

Of Amusements in the Primitive Period of the Federal Metropolis—Carroll's, Canterbury Hall, the Adelphi, and Other Halls for Mental Recreation—Old Landmarks.

A perusal of the earliest archives of this city indicates that the drama and its disciples have always been well patronized by the people of Washington and Georgetown.

Whether the manifold and brilliant promises of the advertisement were carried out in the actual performance there are no direct means of ascertaining. In view of the fact, however, that the latter was given necessarily by candle light, and without the aid of any of the mechanical effects at present in vogue, it may be inferred that much was left to the imagination of the audience.

It is stated by the way in the advertisement for this performance, that the manager petitioned the town authorities in behalf of himself and associates to remit the onerous tax that was imposed upon theatrical representations, amounting to \$6 per night, and it further transpires that the selection did meet and graciously consent to suspend the operation of a law which the comedians were in town.

Mr. L. Morley, of this city, possesses an old poster of the date of November 18, 1796, in which a notice is given, which announced the last two nights of the "Old American Company," the comedians on the "Living School for Scandal" and "Love is a Hoax." It is stated that this poster came from the collection of theatrical reminiscences made by the late Peter Force, who asserted that the performances took place in a theatre which was located on what is now the south side of Pennsylvania Avenue, between Fourth and-a-Half and Sixth Streets, the exact site being at present occupied by a coal factory. It is otherwise stated, however, that the performance must have taken place in some other city, most probably Philadelphia, as Washington at that time was a wilderness.

It would appear that in and about the year 1796 there was felt a longing by the people of the city for theatrical amusements, of which there was, at that time, a dearth. A chronicle for the year 1796 refers to this barrenness of theatricals, and publishes from a London paper an announcement of the fact that the National Academy, brought out at a Venetian theatre with universal applause, entitled "Two Gentlemen of Verona" (afterwards Shakespeare) with Signor Francesco, as the role of First Gentleman and Signor Beaulieu in that of Second Gentleman, etc., "with a triumphant entry into Milan, in which an Arabian dancer performed."

The first building devoted exclusively to dramatic amusements was erected in 1801. It was situated on the corner of Eleventh and C Streets. A stock company built it, and they gave it no other name than "The Theatre." It lasted for several years, and was at length burned down, and the site sold to Mr. Carroll, who afterwards transferred it to old residents of the city, in 1822, and who reconstructed it, and named it the City Assembly Rooms. Here Carroll held his dancing academy, and this hall were held many notable parties and balls. In 1857 Carroll's mansion was removed into a theatre, and excellent performances took place there for a long period of years.

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The next theatre built here was erected on Louisiana Avenue, just east of Sixth Street, and was called "The American Theatre." It was, in all likelihood, built early in the 30's, and it is a record of its having been greatly enlarged and improved in 1828. This theatre enjoyed great popularity and success for a number of years. It was burned down by fire in 1831, and was replaced by the present building, which was destroyed by fire in 1860, only enjoying a few years of existence.

For the 19th Street Theatre is still remembered by many, favorably, because of the enjoyable performances once rendered there, and on account of the tragic occurrence of which it has been the scene. The original building was a Baptist Church, in which the Rev. Obadiah Brown used to preach, and was altered into a theatre in 1837. After an existence of only about a year, this place of amusement was destroyed by fire, and no few people said it was a judgment against those who had turned a

house of worship into a playhouse. It was rebuilt, however, and had a prosperous career, during the war, which was disastrously closed by the assassination of President Lincoln.

Then there was the Oxford, which was erected on the site on which Ford's Opera House afterwards stood, the property having been previously purchased by William L. Wall, under whose management many notable performances were given. Laura Keane, J. W. Waller, Jr. and Edwin Porter gave their last presentations in this city in Wall's Opera House, as it was then called. This theatre was also burned, and on being rebuilt, was rechristened Ford's, in honor of its lessee.

This city has seen a large number of public halls, which have, in their time, run a close competition with the theatres for patronage. The Iron Hall, one of the earliest of these, was over what is now Droop's music store on Pennsylvania Avenue, and was destroyed by fire in 1857.

There were two Odd-Fellows Halls, one on Seventh Street, between D and E Streets, and the other on Eighth Street southwest. This latter hall was for many years visited by dramatic amateurs, and organizations which were gladly welcomed by the people of Capitol Hill, who, in the days before even the horse car lightened the journey, felt it quite a trip into the city.

The hall on Seventh Street was for a long time the principal place for the holding of concerts, school exhibitions, light draughts, entertainments, etc. It was the home of the negro minstrel, and many distinguished knights of the burnt cork made his first bow to a Washington audience behind the footlights of Odd Fellows Hall.

Willard's Hall on F Street, now demolished, has been the scene of some notable entertainments. It was the favorite place for lectures in 1846, when the season of E. P. Whipple, P. T. Barnum, George Vandenhoff, the elder, and others well known on the platform, appeared. The pianist, Gottschalk, gave his last concert in this city at Willard's Hall, being assisted by Miss Varrin, Ed Hoffman, and Carlo Patti, the violinist, a brother of the great Adelphi.

Carroll, Lincoln, Seaton, and Metropolitan Halls are things of the past. In the first named of these Charles Dickens read from his own works during his last visit to this city, and during his stay he was distinguished novelist had the large windows of the hall carefully padded in order that the sound should be lost. At Lincoln Hall the beautiful Christine Nilsson made her first appearance in the National Capital. The Masonic Temple and Congregational Church still remain devoted, at least in a measure, to their old usages, but the days in which they were far distant when they, too, shall disappear.

Visitors to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 doubtless remember the renowned Midway Place—that wonderful highway of nations where so many different and distinct kinds of amusement were to be seen. The fair was a grand success, and the exhibition of educated animals, which was by far the most popular and the international amusement features enjoyed a greater patronage than that accorded any of the costly and expensive exhibits in the industrial section.

For the first time since the idea of a traveling Midway organization was conceived, the residents of the Washington vicinity will have an opportunity of visiting the Frank C. Bostock's Mighty Midway in this city next Tuesday. The Midway National Baseball Park, Seventh Street and Boundary Northwest, and give performance both afternoon and evening on the following days, closing at midnight Saturday.

While there are a score or more shows on the Midway proper, the most popular of these is the "Trained Wild Animal Exhibition." It is a well-known fact that a report of the veracious, a paddle and jaw could be recognized. Other bones were subsequently examined. Thirty-eight vertebrae have been obtained, and both the jaws, with their conical fangs, teeth, and the largest, with one, at least, of the limbs, which in shape bears some resemblance to a paddle.

Provisionally the skeleton is referred to as "The South African Reptile," which is known to European geologists as a long necked, its jaws were armed with formidable teeth, and a rough idea of its shape might be gathered from the drawing. It is a very more terrible fish than the shark, had a head like that of a shark, and its body was covered with a scaly armor. Its eyes were of the deep red color, and its mouth was of a ghastly white.

AMUSEMENTS.

The New Grand—Camille D'Arville. The first opportunity afforded Washington to hear Camille D'Arville, the famous comic opera singer, at the low prices that make polite vaudeville so potent as a paying amusement will be presented by Manager Chase at the New Grand this week.

In engaging this noted singer, still in the prime of her life and operatic triumphs, Mr. Chase gives additional, not needed, proof of the generous policy animating his operations at the New Grand, and that it is recognized as being deservedly an abundantly plain to those who marvel at the immense audiences drawn nightly to this popular theatre. This season is Miss D'Arville's first performance in this city, by right of her fame, beauty, and vocal genius, she stands at the head of the stellar attractions in this new sphere of refined entertainment. It is that, not excepting Pauline Hall and Cissie Loftus, Miss D'Arville's popularity exceeds that of any other vaudeville star, and the charming role which she plays from her personal charm of face and form, places her in her prominent position. No chronicling of Miss D'Arville's triumphs as the leading prima donna of the decade is needed to attract the many who head her as Maid Marian in "Robin Hood" with the Bostonians. She invented that charming role which she has never equalled. Miss D'Arville's selections cover the whole range of her wonderful voice and comprise popular songs as well as more classic numbers. Another notable feature of the bill is "Baby" Lund, the juvenile, whose vivacity is genius and not incalculable intelligence. Although a mere mite of seven years, she possesses the grace and ease of a mature artist. Others engaged are Frank, Stuart's dog and monkey comedians, the three Ours, the jugglers and equilibrists, Elsworth and Burt, in a refined sketch; Tom Mack, "black-face" humorist, and Fialkowski, the German funnyman, and Fialkowski, the wonderful imitator of animals. The advance demand for reserved seats presages another tremendous week's business.

Kernan's "The High Rollers." The High Rollers open at the Lyceum tomorrow with a matinee. Those who admire the beautiful and burlesque may expect a genuine treat. This is the second season of the High Rollers and it has been a triumphal march from one city to another. They crowded every theatre where they have performed. The opening part of the bill was a glimpse of gay Parisian life. It is called "The High Rollers" and the "Paris Exposition." After the first part follows an olio of vaudeville artists, every one said to be a crackjack. Every performer takes part in a headliner, who dispenses wit, humor, grace and novelty until the spectator wonders that so much merit could be crowded into one performance. Hooper and Fields, the German funnyman, and Fialkowski, the wonderful imitator of animals. The advance demand for reserved seats presages another tremendous week's business.

Bostock's Midway Carnival. Visitors to the World's Fair in Chicago in 1893 doubtless remember the renowned Midway Place—that wonderful highway of nations where so many different and distinct kinds of amusement were to be seen. The fair was a grand success, and the exhibition of educated animals, which was by far the most popular and the international amusement features enjoyed a greater patronage than that accorded any of the costly and expensive exhibits in the industrial section.

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AMUSEMENTS.

GRAND EVENING AT 8:15. 25 and 50c. Polite Vaudeville--The Phenomenal Success. THIS WEEK: Camille D'Arville The Beautiful and Gracious "Queen of Opera." The Peerless America's Singer Favorite.



"BABY" LUND THE WONDERFUL CHILD ARTIST. 3 FAMOUS CHRIS JUGGLERS AND EQUILIBRIST WONDERS. MACART'S DOG and MONKEY COMEDIANS. ELLSWORTH & BURT COMEDY SKETCHISTS. TOM MACK BLACK-FACE COMEDIAN. FIALKOWSKI ANIMAL IMITATOR. MATWEEF DUO Sensational Russian Dancers.

Next Week, - - - BRILLIANT COMEDY BILL. Secure Seats Ahead Now for Both Weeks.

his faithful adjutant, Lieutenant Cook, with one hand steadying the form of a henchman. All things considered, this particular division of the act, in which the revolver in the act of firing a shot from his revolver. The painting is not horrible or shocking in any way. It is intense, dramatic, and full of tremendous action and force. One can almost hear the rattling fire of the carbines of the hard pressed cavalrymen, and the triumph war whoop of the Sioux and Cheyennes.

It is impossible to point out the salient features of this great work of art in a short review. It must be seen to be fully appreciated. The artist of the picture, E. T. Paxson, lives in Butte, Mont., and has served as officer of the First Montana Volunteers in the war with Spain. Mr. Paxson has spent over twenty years in studying the subject of this great picture. He has been well acquainted with General Custer and his officers, and visited the battlefields just after the light, and many times in later years, making sketches and studies for this picture. He has received from officers, soldiers, and Indians their accounts of the battle, and affords these, has arrived at historic truth, which is one of the chief merits of his great work.

The Debs Lecture. Eugene V. Debs will lecture at the New Grand on Sunday night. His subject will be "Labor and Liberty." Some press opinions of Mr. Debs follow: "The name of Eugene V. Debs is the sweetest sound that the working classes have heard since the days of Abraham Lincoln—Los Angeles Chronicle Review. He is an orator. He is a wit. He is a patriot. After hearing him one can readily understand why he stepped into the leadership of the labor movement in this country. Mr. Debs' lecture in this city last night was one of the finest it has been our pleasure to listen to.—Galveston (Texas) Daily News. Debs is doing more to advance the cause of the brotherhood of man than all the big city newspapers in the country.—Cleveland Forum.

The Sappho Painting. This wonderful painting is attracting such crowds that the management is trying to arrange to cancel the date with the Sappho painting, and the entire gentlemen have visited the painting this week. It is an exhibition from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m., at 419 Seventh Street northwest.

The Marine Band Concert. Many of the regular attendants at the White House and Capitol concerts of the Marine Band during the summer season have expressed the desire to hear the band under the more favorable surroundings of a regular concert hall or theatre. To those it will doubtless afford gratification to learn that on the 15th of May the band is to render a concert in one of the theatres of the city for the benefit of local charities. A number of prominent society people have been interested and the event bids fair to eclipse all others of the season in point of interest and successful management. The Marine Band Orchestra, composed of forty-five members, will doubtless contribute to the attractiveness of the programme.

An Excusable Fault. (From the Fliegende Blaetter.) "Naturally, if you've been discharged from one of these military hospitals, it's no wonder you're a little out of sorts. I can't imagine your friend, Frau Schell's, I can't imagine you're a little out of sorts. 'Yes, but you've no idea, ma'am, what interesting things I've had.' 'Well, on the whole, I think I'll 'take you.'"

Stocks and Bonds. (From the Philadelphia Press.) "Has he got a good one? 'No, but he has a revenue cutter that's a regular clipper.' 'Yes, but you've no idea, ma'am, what interesting things I've had.' 'Well, on the whole, I think I'll 'take you.'"

AMUSEMENTS. SEE SAPHO! Admission 25c to 50c. 419 Seventh St. N. W. Over two thousand ladies and gentlemen have visited this magnificent life size Oil Painting the last week.

AMUSEMENTS. HARRISON BROS. Big Spectacular Production. The New and Ancient South. Under waterproof pavilion, 14th and V sts. n.w. ONE WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, MAY 7. Two Performances Daily, at 8 and 9 P. M. Greatest Company of Colored Talent and Finest Outfits of any Colored Show in the World. FREE STREET PARADE MONDAY NOON. Excursions. Only 15 Cents Arlington and Return ON SUNDAY. Electric trains leave 12th St. and Pa. Ave. about every 45 minutes. Wash, Alexandria & Mt. Vernon Ry. Chris. Xander's "PRIDE OF VA. PORT" Finest American Port, 75c qt. CHRIS. XANDER, 909 Seventh St. Phone 1425.

AMUSEMENTS.

KERNAN'S LYCEUM THEATRE. WEEK COMMENCING TOMORROW MATINEE. MATINEE DAILY. THE SENSATION OF THE SEASON. A PERFORMANCE OF UNEQUALED MERIT. The High Rollers Extravaganza Company, THE PARIS EXPOSITION. Illustrating the Polly and Fables of the French Capital. LIVING PICTURES TELLING STORIES LIVING MODELS. Mammoth and Magnificent, Made Gloriously Brilliant by Beautiful Women. A Burlesque on the Latest Craze of Daly's Great Production, THE GREAT RUBIE A SWIFT ENTERTAINMENT. A Wealth of Special Scenery, Electrical Effects, and Gorgeous Costumes.

Next Week, - - - ROSE SYDELL'S LONDON BELLES. FIVE DAYS OF FUN AND FROLIC! Frank C. Bostock's Mighty Midway Carnival. NATIONAL BASEBALL PARK, 7th St. and Boundary N. W. Midway Free Shows. Minting. Frank St. John. In a Terrific Leap for Life Into a 4-foot Square Net. Mile. Orrocco, On the High Wire Over a Beautiful Revolving Fire Fountain. Mlle. Morell, Queen of the Jugglers. While on the Midway Do Not Fail to Visit The Streets of Cairo, Turkish Theatre, Streets of All Nations, Hailoo Theatre, Boer Lager, Crystal Maze, Cinematograph, African Village, Racing Yacht, the \$50,000 Venetian Gondolas, Wombwell's Royal British Menagerie, the Wild West, and Bostocks Renowned Trained Wild Animals. ADMISSION TO THE MIDWAY: 10 CENTS. Under the Personal Direction of FRANK C. BOSTOCK, the Animal King. 5 NIGHTS.

POSTOFFICE NOTICE. WASHINGTON, D. C. POSTOFFICE NOTICE. MAIL MUST BE DELIVERED TO THE PORTS OF SAILING DAILY, and the schedules of closings are arranged on the presumption of their uninterrupted observance. For the week ending May 22, 1900, the last closing times will be made from this office as follows: "Per s. Atlantic Mail." MONDAY—(a) At 9:15 p. m. for EUROPE, per s. Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, from New York, via Cherbourg, Southampton, and Bremen. (b) At 9:15 p. m. for EUROPE, per s. New York, from New York, via Southampton. (c) At 11:30 p. m. for BELGIUM, direct, per s. Belgium, from New York, via Antwerp. (d) At 11:30 p. m. for FRANCE, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, SPAIN, PORTUGAL, TURKEY, EGYPT, and BRITISH INDIA, per s. La Champagne, from New York, via Havre, Malindi, Suez, and Port Said. (e) At 11:30 p. m. for NETHERLANDS, direct, per s. Rotterdam, from New York, via Rotterdam. (f) At 11:30 p. m. for ITALY, per s. Italia, from New York, via Naples. (g) At 11:30 p. m. for SWITZERLAND, per s. Mail must be directed "Per s. Italia." (h) At 11:30 p. m. for GREECE, per s. Greece, from New York, via Genoa. (i) At 11:30 p. m. for GERMANY, per s. Germania, from New York, via Bremen. (j) At 11:30 p. m. for AUSTRIA, per s. Austria, from New York, via Trieste. (k) At 11:30 p. m. for RUSSIA, per s. Russia, from New York, via Archangel. (l) At 11:30 p. m. for JAMAICA, per s. Admiral Dewey, from Boston. (m) At 11:30 p. m. for CENTRAL AMERICA, per s. Central America, from New York. (n) At 11:30 p. m. for HAWAII, per s. Hawaii, from New York. (o) At 11:30 p. m. for PHILIPPINE ISLANDS, per s. Philippine Islands, from New York. (p) At 11:30 p. m. for GUATEMALA, per s. Guatemala, from New York. (q) At 11:30 p. m. for YUCATAN, per s. Yucatan, from New York. (r) At 11:30 p. m. for CUBA, per s. Cuba, from New York. (s) At 11:30 p. m. for SASSAU, N. P., and the PROVINCE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, per s. Santiago de Cuba, from New York. (t) At 11:30 p. m. for DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, per s. Dominican Republic, from New York. (u) At 11:30 p. m. for PORTO RICO, per s. Porto Rico, from New York. (v) At 11:30 p. m. for VENEZUELA, per s. Venezuela, from New York. (w) At 11:30 p. m. for SAVANILLA and GUAYAMA, via Caracas, must be directed "Per s. Caracas." (x) At 11:30 p. m. for BERMUDA, per s. Bermuda, from New York. (y) At 11:30 p. m. for FRENCH ISLANDS, per s. French Islands, from New York. (z) At 11:30 p. m. for MEXICO, per s. Mexico, from New York. (aa) At 11:30 p. m. for GUATEMALA, per s. Guatemala, from New York. (ab) At 11:30 p. m. for YUCATAN, per s. Yucatan, from New York. (ac) At 11:30 p. m. for CUBA, per s. Cuba, from New York. (ad) At 11:30 p. m. for SASSAU, N. P., and the PROVINCE OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, per s. Santiago de Cuba, from New York. (ae) At 11:30 p. m. for DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, per s. Dominican Republic, from New York. (af) At 11:30 p. m. for PORTO RICO, per s. Porto Rico, from New York. 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