Dramatic and Lyric.

Last Night's Variety Show—Stuart Robson—Lady Windermere's Fan—The Weihe Testimonial—Gilbert & Sullivan Revivals—The Saengerfest.

A good form of variety and vaudeville show was always popular in Salt Lake, and the name of John Hopkins, who has been the controlling influence behind the Howard Athenæum shows for a good many years, sufficed to draw out a large audience at the Theater last evening. The audience was in all ways paid for its coming, in the new treats provided by such old favorites as Billy Van, Kara, Melville & Stetson and Will H. Fox, and by the original acts of such new people as De Bessell and the Larsens. The evening was thus one of varied merriment and novelty. Van seems quite to have supplanted such old favorites as Thatcher, Rice and Wilson, and his negro bits were side-splitting; Kara, the juggler, is as clever as ever; Melville & Stetson are two ladies who, while they can sing but little, if at all, are such clever imitators that they kept the house in an uproar, and the one who is so much like May Irwin is specially clever. Fox gave the same combined instances of good piano playing, humorous sayings and laughable silliness—his act can hardly be described by any other language—that he gave before. The Late Larsen family, five in all, did some exceedingly clever tumbling and acrobatic work. A feature of interest in their appearance was that the head of the family, a very old man, and his daughter, a middle-aged woman, occupied a seat near the stage. The couple had just arrived from Provo, where they have lived for a good many years past. They came over from Europe thirty or forty years ago, leaving the remainder of their family behind, and their reunion here, though under such strange auspices, it may be imagined, was a very happy one. The old gentleman looked alike proud, doubtful and bewildered as he heard the plaudits occasioned by the work of the performers. De Bessell, a [illegible] in clay, gave an act new to the variety stage in moulding before the eyes of the audience a lump of "dull, senseless clay" into the wonderfully lifelike face of first a German, and next an Indian; he is an artist in every sense of the word. The last appearance will, without doubt, draw a second good audience this evening.

Despite the advance in prices which Robson's manager insisted on, even to the extent of saying it was a dollar and a half or a go by, the theater people say Robson will play a fine engagement here. There was a good demand for seats yesterday, especially for the Henrietta. In the Comedy of Errors, the bill for Wednesday evening, the Two Dromios will be played by Mr. Robson and John L. Wooderson, an actor who has risen to a sort of fame through the fact of his close resemblance to Robson. They are said to look almost like twin brothers, which is, of course, the reason why he is with Robson in Shakespeare's comedy. The charming face of Mrs. Robson, who made her original hit here when she was May Waldron, will be a strong addition to Robson's forces.

Next Friday and Saturday evening we are to have our first glimpse of the much advertised Lady Windermere's Fan.

Oscar Wilde, the author, says that Lady Windermere's Fan has already paid him $16,000 in royalties, or more than his books, newspaper articles and poems have brought him in the last twenty years. No wonder that he is determined to keep on writing plays. The success of the play has been even more emphatic in this country than in England. During its run of 100 nights at Palmer's theatre, New York, it was played to large and fashionable audiences. On the first Saturday of its New York run the receipts for the two performances, afternoon and evening, were $2,900, something uncommon even for a great success.

Society, musicians and amateurs seem to be vieing with each other in a generous endeavor to see who can do most toward making the Weihe testimonial a rousing success. The program is going to be a choice one, and it has one feature, especially, the first appearance of Miss Viola Pratt since her return from her very successful sojourn in New York, which may be relied on to help the sales ladies in their peregrinations. Miss Pratt looks in the best of trim and says she is happy to be home again, and doubly happy that her first bow since she made what might be termed her metropolitan success, is to be made for the benefit of a musician like Willard Weihe. Mr. Easton is coming down from his hermitage in Logan to sing a song and take part in the ever glorious Lucia sextette, the other singers in which will be Mrs. Edward, Miss Pratt, Mr. Pyper, Mr. [illegible] and Mr. Spencer. Miss Ruth [illegible], who went east at the same time as Miss Pratt to study elocution, and who is also at home, will give a recitation. Mr. Weihe will himself, of course, give a number, which equally of course will be multiplied by [illegible]. Mr. Krouse and Mr. Steelman will each lend their aid, and a large committee, headed by Mrs. Hamilton and Fred [illegible], and including that princess of ticket sellers, Mrs. Amelia Cummings, is doing all that is necessary to insure its public interest. The [illegible] will be an event—is now set for Monday, July 2.

The weekly capacity of the Lyceum Theater is [illegible], and the receipts will evidently run close to that figure for the week which closes tonight. A Night Off has drawn so well that it might run several nights more, but Mr. O'Malley has determined to stick to his policy of giving the new bill every Monday night, and alternating a week of comedy with a week of [illegible] or sentiment. The Wages of Sin will be the bill next week.

Gilbert & Sullivan revivals are all the rage in the East. The Mikado and Patience have taken immensely in New York and Chicago, and Camille D'Arville's company has just revived the Pirates of Penzance with decided success in Boston. There is an awakening demand all over the country for clean, high class comic opera, and as there has never been anything written of that class to equal Gilbert & Sullivan's works, we may look for a boom in these gifted Englishmen's productions second only to that which they originally experienced. The taste is just as keen in Salt Lake as anywhere, and our talented amateurs will promptly awaken to the fact during the coming fall and winter; that is, if road theatricals and opera have any sort of future in Salt Lake, of which just now there seems to be a large degree of doubt. But we would not be at all surprised if this widespread depression, which casts such a gloom over amusement enterprises as well as business concerns, were to prove the very thing that brings about a revival in home dramatics and [illegible]ration. Foreign attractions are so fearful of venturing on a big expensive tour across the continent, that visits from them are becoming few and far between, and ultimately towns like ours may be driven to turn to the native article for their diversion or be forced to go without them. It was circumstances like these that gave birth to the Home Dramatic club in 1880; a dramatic representation had become so much of a rarity in those days that the first advertisements of the Home club were headed "The Drama Once More," and everyone remembers with what a relish, and with what a refreshing sense of novelty those early performances of The Romance of a Poor Young Man, Rosedale, The Banker's Daughter, etc., were greeted by the public. If there dare come another boom or boomlet in home drama or opera, we do not lack for ample material, all ready and waiting to take advantage of it.

In spite of all talk that has been heard of late with regard to the dearth of American leading men, so copious a manager as Henry Irving has sent over here to secure a leading man for his Lyceum company next year, says the New York Sun. Mr. E. H. Vanderfelt is the lucky man who has been engaged to replace Mr. William Terriss. Mr. Terriss leaves Mr. Irving's company at the close of the present London season. He and Miss Milward will then return to their old love, the Adelphi, where they are under a three-year contract to appear in melodrama. Two months ago Mr. Vanderfelt signed a contract with Julia Marlowe to act as her leading man next year. Miss Marlowe's marriage however, knocked that plan on the head. Since she became Mrs. Taber she has decided to emulate Mrs. Kendal and have her husband for her leading man. The Irving engagement frees all parties concerned out of the difficulties. Miss Marlowe is delighted to release Mr. Vanderfelt, and Mr. Vanderfelt, under the circumstances, is equally delighted to be released.

A New York letter to the San Francisco News and Dramatic says: Edward H. Sothern, who sails with Daniel Frohman on the City of Paris tomorrow, is a very sick man and goes to Europe for his health. He had to cancel several one-night stands during the last part of his tour, as he fainted several times on the stage. He is afflicted with [illegible] nervousness, for which he has been taking drugs for years. The Mariani wine that he consumed at one time would have killed a less nervous and fidgety man, but he found a false stimulant in it. He has broken down completely and his physicians insist upon absolute rest and quiet.

Edwin Milton Royle, the author of Friends, does not believe in selling the products of his pen. He thinks he cannot afford to jeopardize his reputation by writing to order. He proposes to make the company now engaged in interpreting Friends a permanent organization for the production of his own plays and begin the [illegible] of the coming season. Mr. Royle will produce his new play, which is a romantic drama of historic interest, the scene being laid in Mexico.

The Saengerfest, which the German residents of New York open at the Madison Square Garden tonight will probably be the biggest musical venture ever contemplated. Even the Welsh Eisteddfod of last year pales into insignificance before it. A chorus of 10,000 male voices is expected to sing in the hall during concerts which will be given from tonight till Monday night. They come from singing societies in every city east of the Mississippi, and the New York committees have been rehearsing them for nearly a year past. A dozen of the most notable soloists of the world have been engaged. Steinway, head of the piano firm, will preside, and among the prizes to be awarded are a dozen Steinway pianos. President Cleveland was expected to come from Washington to formally open the affair, but the dispatches say the press of public business will prevent his attending.

FORESTRY.

A somewhat special observation of the Wasatch mountains in Utah county leads me to attach more importance than ever before to the subject of Forestry, but the possibility of again clothing the mountains with timber seems more certain. There are at least seven species of trees growing naturally in our mountains which are valuable either for fuel or timber. There are two or more species of pine, the poplar, the maple, two species of cottonwood and one or two species of willows. Of these the pines, the poplar and the maple grow very nearly up to the snow line. East of Springville fine groves of poplar are grown at an altitude of between 10,000 and 11,000 feet, and most of the canyons in that section are lined with trees and bushes from their heads to where they open into the valleys. In innumerable places maple and cottonwood trees have grown to a size which makes them valuable for either fuel or lumber, and especially valuable to shade the ground and thereby prevent the rapid evaporation, and to act as checks to descending snow, preventing snowslides. The size to which these trees have grown indicates that our native trees will attain goodly proportions if they are given an opportunity. In Hobble Creek canyon, about three and a half miles above its mouth, is a beautiful grove of native trees. The owner has simply cleared away the brush, and judiciously cut some trees as he has needed, but he has cut his trees like an owner and not like a vandal.

The most practical forestry work to begin with, would probably be to encourage the growth of trees along the canyon streams. This should be done by proper trimming, and thinning such trees as are already growing there, and gradually setting out trees which experience shows will profitably grow in such places. Were this done, thousands of acres of land which are now useless, would be serving a double purpose, for they would not only be conserving our water supply, but they would be growing into valuable timber for use in the near future.

The next forestry work should be to set out trees around the head waters of the principal irrigating streams. In many cases this would be somewhat expensive, as it might be necessary to fence several square miles of land away from sheep; but the value of the timber would soon compensate for the expense; and even sheepowners would be benefited with the rest, for the most valuable sheep feed grows on the shaded ground.

It will be a slow and somewhat difficult task to get trees started on the bare mountain sides. Probably the most practical thing for the near future will be to find some grass that will grow in such places, and begin the seeding of the mountains with it. It will serve a double purpose; furnishing food to stock, and keeping the ground loose so that water may readily penetrate it and furnish a supply for the springs.

I feel sure that thousands of acres of good land in Utah are steadily [illegible] at the present time. Were this all, it would be bad enough, but the land is not only idle, it is constantly deteriorating owing to the fertile soil being washed away. Should not this be changed? Would it not be better, even at some present expense, to get as much as possible of our now useless land into trees which will gradually grow into very great value?

C. A. WHITING.

University of Utah.

A GIANT'S BODY,

THAT WAS WASHED ASHORE ON FAR ROCKAWAY BEACH.

[N. Y. Evening Sun, June 11.]

There is great excitement at Rockaway Beach today—more than there has been in that place for some time. It is all on account of an old, black, water-soaked human body that floated ashore there this morning and that now lies on exhibition in a room at the Hotel Albright.

All day long throngs of people have been crowding by it, not because it is only a human body—they come ashore frequently at Rockaway—but because it is evidently the mortal remains of a giant.

At about 8 o'clock Edward Simms, the cook at the Albright, went in bathing. He was bobbing up and down in the breakers, enjoying the cool water, spluttering and yelling to some companions, when he was struck on the back by what seemed a great log that was carried in by a big roller and knocked under.

When he came to the surface again he saw the strange black object lying back on the rolling flow. It came in again and passed right by him, and he was terrified to see what seemed long, black matted hair streaming from the end. Then he saw the arms and knew it was a dead body.

Mr. Smith did not like such a bathing companion, and [illegible] no great haste. He called to [illegible] a number of silver men, who forthwith proceeded to drag the uncanny object ashore.

[illegible]'s second surmise proved correct. It was a dead body and a huge one. It was unclothed, the legs were gone, and the body black and bloated, having evidently been in the water a very long time. The features were indistinguishable.

Its great size at once tempted the men to make measurements, and they obtained the following results: Length from top of head to end of trunk, 4 feet 7 inches; length of arm, 3 feet 5 inches; width of shoulders, 2 feet 6 inches; length of forefinger, 5 inches.

The news of the strange catch soon spread, and quickly a large crowd was gathered on the beach viewing it. There were many surmises as to whence it came. The old salts who gathered about declared that it must be the body of a man who went down on a small sloop that was wrecked on the beach about three winters ago. The small vessel, it seems, got among the breakers.

But one man was made out on board, and he was seen to be a fellow of big size. He refused all offers of aid, and paraded the small deck with a big club over his shoulder. When the boat broke and went down he sprang into the breakers and disappeared.

It seems hardly probable, however, that the body could have come in after so long a time.

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