

tude without for an instant robbing it of one precious moment, to instruct and amuse and at the same time make us wonder that reality and its simulation were so near akin—were such malleplings of thought and meditation.

Edwin Booth is the last of his race and his kind. He came of a family of actors and his skill was therefore, to a great extent, hereditary, but he was an accomplished artist in accordance with accepted rules no less than a genius whose capacity took him at times beyond the environments of set forms and customs. He was born to Hamlet, invested with all the Dane's proneness to melancholy moods, fitful ingenuity, active mentality and disposition to be contained within himself. He was, we may say, the incarnation of the part whether on the stage or elsewhere, and he only had to change his attire to cease to be Booth and at once become the metaphysical Dane. He played the part as it had never been played before, as it will not perhaps be played hereafter. The public never tired of it; to see it again and again as he gave it was but to drink from an inexhaustible fountain, to become better acquainted with the subject, to discover new beauties not only in the work of the artist but in that of the great master whose grand production had found so weird and matchless an interpreter. He has performed it here a number of times and while all of such occasions were enjoyable to the last degree, it seemed as though each succeeding one was an improvement on its immediate predecessor. But the same could not be said of anything else that he did. In the whole range of his characterizations apart from Hamlet he had dangerous rivals and in those respects the void which his death creates will not be so noticeable if indeed it shall be realized at all. But there was no other Hamlet; that is, there was no other such Hamlet; the comparison showed the judicious observer the inevitable flaws which the others left in the work while he left it with little, perhaps nothing more, to be desired.

Booth was a little under sixty years of age and he went on the stage at a very youthful period, having followed no other occupation. His father was Julius Brutus Booth, the intimate friend and admirer of the great Edwin Forrest, after whom the illustrious son was named. Edwin had two brothers—Julius Brutus and John Wilkes, also actors or eminces, both dead. His last appearance on the stage was at the Academy of Music in Brooklyn on April 3, 1891. The cause of death, generally speaking, was paralysis. After the fatal fever may his rest be sweet and tranquil.

COMMISSIONER LETT.

President Cleveland yesterday appointed Colonel H. C. Lett to be a member of the Uian Commission, and this is taken to mean that he will be chairman of the board. It is in all respects a first-class appointment. The colonel is a man of education, experience and affairs; he is broadminded,

liberal and progressive, extremely zealous in any cause to which he gives allegiance and possessed of remarkable tenacity and perseverance. He was one of the first to subscribe to the movement by which the people became divided on national party lines, and at once took an active and commanding position with the Democracy, whose cause he has ably and continuously championed ever since. He came very near being appointed Governor of Utah, the office he was an applicant for, and his backing was strong and influential; but there are as many slips between the cup and the lip in political life as in any other of its departments, and the colonel was disappointed just as the prize seemed about to fall into his hand.

We congratulate Col. Lett most heartily upon his appointment. The advice comes that he is ill in Chicago; the News trusts it may be but a temporary attack and that he will soon be at his post in good health.

AN ADMIRABLE PROJECT.

In the course of an address to the students of the University of Utah recently, Mr. F. J. Cannon gave expression to a project which calls for a little favorable comment. It has become a prevailing custom in all the large colleges in the East for the students, when taking their departure from the institution that has given them the position among scholars by which they will be estimated thereafter, to leave with it a memento of their association. For the reception of these precious contributions a room is set apart and a custodian appointed by the school authorities. Thus is constituted a shrine of memorials which is at once the most sacred and enduring of student memories to the graduate who reveres his alma mater.

Up to the present time the University has had no such institution. But in the project outlined by Mr. Cannon will be established the most admirable memorial system of any we know of. He proposes that a students' memorial library be established under the supervision of the librarian and be maintained apart from the general collection; that to this library every student upon leaving the institution shall contribute at least one valuable book. Within the cover of the book will be printed the name of the contributor, with a record of his graduation, etc. On these books a complete catalogue will be kept. Mr. Cannon has since headed a list of contributors with his own name, and the list should, before the next school year begins, contain the name of every one who has been a student of the University. Other schools would do well to profit by the suggestion.

AN EXPLANATION.

An article in last evening's News commenting upon and criticising an article in *Harper's Weekly* "of a recent date," concerning the Salt Lake

Temple, has been construed by some careless readers as reflecting upon the "most recent article" in that paper upon the same subject, and upon the writer of the latter, Mr. Eugene Young of this city. Those who compare the News editorial and the extract which it discussed, with Mr. Young's contribution as published in *Harper's* of the 27th ult., will see that his paper could not have been the one to which we alluded. Nevertheless it is due to him to make this explanation; our error was in calling the objectionable article "recent;" at the time we were not aware that he had published still more recently an article which was in fact called forth by the very sentences we criticized.

"KAWKAB AMERIKA."

Few of our readers may be aware of the fact that the Arabian population of this continent is large enough to sustain a newspaper printed in the hieroglyphics of their own language. But it is so. Sample copies have reached us this week. It is a weekly called *Kawkab Amerika*, The Star of America, and is published in New York and edited by Dr. A. J. and N. J. Arbeely. It is claimed that the paper represents an Arabian population of over one hundred thousand souls, a figure probably not very much exaggerated, considering the great numbers that have left their homes in the mountains of Lebanon and other parts of Syria. One of the copies sent us contains an article on "Mormonism in America," giving mostly historical data relative to our Church.

The Arabian language is among the Semitic family the last that was embodied in writing. It was first after the appearance of Mohammed that the Arabs became the possessors of a literary standard. What was composed before his time lacked uniformity of grammar, each tribe using its own dialectic peculiarities.

What the oriental prophet gave his people both as divine revelation and his own sayings was carefully collected. The language he used was the language of Allah and the prophet. A pattern had been found. All his followers mastered this and those who aspired to prominence as orators and leaders of the people had to be proficient in it. The words of the prophet had to be known by heart by them and they were supposed to thoroughly understand them. And in order to give the conquered foreign nations, who rapidly accepted Mohammedanism, a chance to learn the principles of the new religion, the Arabs set to work and wrote grammars and dictionaries. Thus in less than two hundred years after Mohammed a system had been completed in every detail. This language is still the written language of the Arabians.

To commence with, the spoken language of Arabia did not differ much from this. In fact, it has been asserted that Mohammed made use of the various Arabian dialects with which he was acquainted, selecting the best of each for the expression of his thoughts. But in course of time the spoken language changed. Many of the endings expressing differences in