

this gave the Melville troupe the opportunity to run the following advertisement : "The Black Crook put to the blush by the Great Comic Sensational Extravaganza, entitled the Black Cook, introducing the renowned Parish Ballet Troupe! And Gudger's Transformation Scene!"

Charles Plunkett and his company of twenty actors also appeared at the new theater shortly after its opening. This was his second appearance in Minneapolis that season. On the occasion of his former visit the *Tribune* made very favorable comment on his work but caustically advised that "the orchestra should bear in mind that practice makes perfect and a personal application will perhaps enable them to play an accompaniment that will not set one's teeth on edge." The company presented a group of plays ranging from "The Drunkard," "Robert Emmett," and "Pet of the Public" to "Macbeth," which the *Tribune* states "was brought forward as well as we ever saw it," "The Merchant of Venice," and "Othello." This was a period in which the temperance play was very popular. Two were included in the repertoire of the company, "Drunkard Saved," and "Ten Nights in a Bar Room."

The Minnesota Historical Society has a collection of theatrical handbills dating from 1867. Most of these are advertisements of St. Paul attractions, but they represent many plays that also were offered in Minneapolis, and in these cases identical handbills were probably used in the latter city. The file of the *Minneapolis Daily Tribune* in the society's newspaper collection is complete, beginning with the first issue in 1867, and contains advertisements and criticisms of the various amusements offered in that city from time to time.

L. A.

RAMSEY'S EARLY CHURCH CONNECTIONS

I am desirous of learning whether the late Governor Alexander Ramsey of Minnesota was whilst a student at Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, in the early thirties a member of the First Presbyterian Church of that city.

ETHAN A. WEAVER, Germantown, Pennsylvania

In the large collection of Ramsey Papers in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society are copies of a number of letters written by Ramsey during student days. Evidence therein contained indicates that Ramsey was not a member of the church in question. On September 28, 1834, he wrote: "I have been several times in the German Reformed Church, and it is indeed a noble pile, the beauty of its exterior front and cloud-capped spire being alone exceeded by the taste and beauty displayed in its interior decoration." A letter of October 12, 1834, contains the following statement: "I attend church twice a day, which we are required to do once in the college chapel, and once mostly at the German Reformed church. Most of the students being Presbyterians attend that church."

B. L. H.

THE BOUNDARY AT THE LAKE OF THE WOODS

In the northern end of Minnesota, near the ninety-fifth meridian, is a little projection which looks as though it was a bite in the corner of Ontario. It is just east of the eastern boundary of Manitoba, and includes part of the Lake of the Woods. Can you tell me why this was originally included in the state of Minnesota when the map would indicate the normal dividing line would be a continuation of the southern boundary of the western Canadian provinces?

S. B. WILKES, Buffalo, New York

Ignorance of the geography of the region now included in northern Minnesota and, especially, of the location of the upper Mississippi River resulted in the curious extension of Minnesota's northern boundary at the Lake of the Woods. According to the treaty of Paris in 1783, the northern boundary of the United States in this region was to be a line drawn due west from the most northwest point of the Lake of the Woods to the Mississippi River. When it was found that the sources of this river were south of the Lake of the Woods, it was proposed that the boundary be the shortest line between the above northwest point and the Mississippi River. Later it was



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