

time in St. Louis, entitled, "More Blunders than One:" *Larry Hoolaghan*, Master Burke.

August 31st was performed N. H. Bannister's prize tragedy, written for Mr. Parsons, entitled "Caius Silius, the Slave of Carthage:" *Caius Silius*, Mr. Parsons; *Florena*, Miss Riddle.

This tragedy was not successful, yet there was some forcible language in it, and some good dramatic situations; but it was all *Caius Silius*. There was not another part in it, even among the females, that any person of talent would think it worth while to bestow much exertion upon. It was, therefore, generally in the hands of inferior performers, and required a greater histrionic genius than Mr. C. B. Parsons, in that one character to make it successful, if it could be made so at all.

It is a very mistaken idea that many would-be "stars" have been possessed of, that to make themselves positively prominent, and to stand out, as it were, in bold relief, all the other characters should be "subdued;" and where they have had plays written for them, instructions to that effect have been given to the writers. The result has therefore often been that pieces have failed because too much was put upon one person to do, and that one person frequently incapable of carrying such a load. September 2d, the third night of Mr. Parsons, was performed another new play, entitled, "Oranaska, or the Chief of the Mokawks." This was an Indian drama, *a la* "Metamora," but not as well written. After Mr. Forrest's performance of the Indian chief, *Metamora*, there was scarcely a chance for any other person to succeed in that line of character. The fourth night of Mr. Parsons's performance he appeared as *Lucius Junius Brutus*, in John Howard Payne's tragedy of "Brutus, or the Fall of Tarquin." This play was indifferently performed. Mr. Parsons could not satisfy an audience who had but a short time before seen J. B. Booth, Sr., perform this character; and further, in consequence of the illness of Miss Riddle, Miss Petrie had to undertake the character of *Tarquinius*. This was entirely beyond her ability, which was only good in comedy characters and singing parts. September 5th, the fifth night of Mr. Parsons, he appeared in the character of *Virginius*, in J. Sheridan Knowles's tragedy of that title. The *Virginia* of the evening was Miss Petrie, again out of her element; but she was a good and kind-hearted young lady, very considerate and obliging, and ready to sacrifice her own feelings to relieve a friend in

trouble. Blessed be her memory! She was a good and true woman.

The following night, September 6th, Mr. Parsons appeared in the character of *Othello*, to the *Iago* of Mr. J. M. Field; *Desdemona*, Miss Petrie; the continued illness of Miss Riddle still preventing her from appearing in this latter character. The next night, Thursday, September 7th, was the benefit and last appearance of Mr. Parsons, on which occasion was presented a new historical play, first time in St. Louis, entitled, "Rienzi, the Last of the Tribunes:" *Cola De Rienzi*, Mr. Parsons. The concluding piece of the night was the nautical drama of "Black-eyed Susan," Mr. Parsons performing *William* (a sailor). I believe this was the last appearance of Mr. Parsons on the "stage," in the city of St. Louis. The next time that I saw him, in a public position, was in the pulpit of the Centenary Methodist Church, corner of Pine and Fifth Streets, St. Louis, and heard him preach a very good sermon.

Signor Vivalla, calling himself "the wonder of the world," stretched the "gaping eyes of idiot wonder" for four nights, with "sleight of hand," and tricks of legerdemain.

Then came the untired and untiring Mrs. Pritchard, who commenced her engagement with the romantic drama of "Pizarro, or the Death of Rolla;" but on this occasion she had the good taste to appear in petticoats, instead of a short shirt and silk tights, and the ladies were the more obliged to her. She enacted *Elvira*, in this play, more like what it should be, according to my poor judgment, than any representative of it that I ever saw. On her second night she performed *Marguerette of Burgundy*, in "La Tour de Nesle," and *Madame Manette* in "Mischief-making." Third night, *Madge Wildfire*, in the drama of the "Heart of Midlothian," and *Massaroni*, in the "Brigand." Fourth night, *Isabelle*, in "Woman's Life," and *Mrs. Turtle*, in the farce of "Hunting a Turtle." Fifth night, *Marian*, in the tragedy of "Wallace, or the Scottish Chiefs." Sixth night, "Woman's Life," as before, with "Masaniello, or the Dumb Girl of Portici," in which she performed the part of *Fenella*, the dumb girl, and performed it well! The seventh and last night, and benefit of Mrs. Pritchard, was on the 19th of September, when was acted a new drama, — new to St. Louis, at least, — entitled "Alberti Contarini, or the Bandit of the Abruzzi," in which Mrs. Pritchard appeared in the title rôle; after which was performed "Wallace" for the second time.

Mrs. Pritchard was a favorite with the St. Louis public, and