

when the great orator of the day began to speak, many thousands of the hillsides were in tears."

In later years many other internationally known artists including the famous violinists Remenyi and Camilla Urso were heard in Music Hall. What a contrast between the air-borne artists on tour today and the discomforts which an "American Tour" in those times must have entailed! The advent of home talent concerts and entertainments came at an early date. "Grand Concert" program, for example, was given on November 2nd, 1871, and the Dramatic Association of the Independent Order of Good Templars in 1876 presented a Temperance Drama entitled, "The Last Loaf".

Good and wholesome humor was appreciated and furnished by the Eau Claire Folly Company in the gay Eighties. The reproduction on page.. of programs given by the Company in 1871 and 1881 are entertaining and amusing.

In October 1882 the "Fashionable Event of the Season" was a concert, a "Grande Soiree Musicale". The very unique program folder is reproduced on page..

The following article appeared in the Free Press, the local newspaper of the day, dated March 18, 1880:

"There was a large and appreciative audience at Music Hall last Friday evening, March 12, 1880, to witness the production of "H.M.S. Pinafore" by the Eau Claire Folly Company. In the list of names are many well known and honored friends and it will be read with interest:

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|------------------------|-----------------------|
| ← Ralph Rackstraw..... | F.H. Graham |
| Capt. Corcoran..... | Frank Q. Swasey |
| Adm. Porter..... | Charles W. Lockwood |
| Dick Deadeye..... | Jasper Richard Kepler |
| Boatswain..... | Eugene L. Pond |
| Boatswain's Mate..... | F.L. Hume |
| Josephine..... | Miss Matie Best |
| Buttercup..... | Miss Josie Chapman |
| Hebe..... | Miss Ella Sims |

In response to public demand the performance was repeated on Saturday evening also to a well filled house. The Opera moved off smoothly, the participants were in excellent voice and the audience seemed enthusiastic and appreciative. Those who took part can well congratulate themselves on the evident hold this Opera has taken on the public and the praise and popularity it has won for them by the excellent manner it was rendered. That the town up the Chippewa, (Chippewa Falls) 12 miles above the head of navigation might be given a thrill, the Pinafore company appeared there on Friday evening, March 19, 1880 and were given a warm welcome by the good people of that place."

Many music teachers presented their promising pupils in recitals in Music Hall. Mrs. Mary Lamb Murray one of the popular teachers of the day, presented the following students: Lizzie Miller, Lottie Boright, Minnie Hull and Anna Wyman.

In the early days of the popularity of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" it was greeted by capacity houses. One instance worthy of record: A little girl of eight or nine summers was taken to see it and seemed to enjoy it very much up to the point where Simon Lagree began whipping Uncle Tom, whereupon she registered her disapproval by jumping up on her chair and crying out in a demanding voice, "Stop it! Stop it!" Undoubtedly the audience present shared the same resentment in their hearts.

Before the community enjoyed the convenience of a daily newspaper coming events were announced by distribution of hand bills as well as in the weekly press. Such a program from the year 1871 will be found on page..