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CINCINNATI DAILY GAZETTE.
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MURDOCH'S READINGS.

Final Sunday Afternoon Intellectual Entertainment of the Season.

The crowded audience awaiting the appearance of Mr. James E. Murdoch in the Grand Opera-house, yesterday afternoon, was informed by Mr. Whelpley that the series of Sunday afternoon lecture entertainments was at an end for the season, and that the surplus of the proceeds of the course will be used for benevolent purposes and applied to the relief of worthy poor, neither of whom it would be proper or delicate to name in public, but those who had contributed to the receipts could rest assured that not a dollar but would be placed where relief is most needed.

Mr. Murdoch received a hearty greeting. He opened the entertainment by such a reading of Paul's speech before King Agrippa that seemed to present a new text, so vivid and powerful the meaning conveyed by the voice and manner of the reader. A selection from Longfellow and from a sermon by the renowned Maffet put the audience in the best frame of mind for the prominent piece of the programme, Daniel Webster's speech before the jury in the White murder trial, at Salem, Mass., in 1830. Mr. Murdoch prefaced the

reading by a few pertinent remarks. He said that in connection with that part of his programme he had imposed upon himself a duty over and above that of the mere elocutionist or reader. He would attempt the labor of a fervent expositor of the work of a man who in his day and generation bore on his broad shoulders, Atlas-like, the soul and substance of the constitution of his country. Gifted beyond others of his class, he expounded and defended the principles of our charter, so that they might be maintained in the same strength and durability as those Gospel truths which have been the cloud by day and the fiery pillar by night, guiding and cheering the nations through the lights and shadows of their earthy pilgrimage. Mr. Webster has pointed directly to the all-important fact that the conscientious discharge of the almost sacred duties of the jurymen is the pivot on which turns the safety of the citizen's best interests and his life; the safeguard of the innocent from the assaults of the guilty—where the duty of the jurymen is shunned or neglected, society is endangered, the general confidence is shaken, a gloomy prospect is foreshadowed, in which is seen the wreckage of the public weal. The anchors of society wrenched from their holdings amid a raging sea of disorder and fearful ruin. Think for a moment on the every-day evidences in the public press of outrage and murder perpetrated in every

section of our land. Then let them resolve the dread question whether or not the laws are to blame, or that they are not administered with that alacrity and firmness which are such imperative factors in working out the interest and purpose of lawful authority and the ends of justice.

The recitation recalled the stage days of the distinguished artist, when he was known only to the public as an actor.

In that once famous case one of the murderers confessed, one committed suicide, the third was tried, convicted and executed. Mr. Webster's speech depicted the crime in all its aspects and effects upon society. In the recitation of Mr. Murdoch the thrilling effect of the great jurist's words was reproduced upon the audience.

The recitation was interrupted by applause of Webster's sentence, that the law protects the innocent by punishing the guilty. The house rang with applause at the conclusion of the speech.

The unpublished poem of the 'Pilot of Lake Erie,' by Frank Murdoch, deceased, a talented and promising nephew of Mr. Murdoch, followed. It is a graphic picture of a ship on fire steered for the shore by the faithful pilot, John Maynard, who perished in the flames just as the fated vessel reached it.

'Sheridan's Ride' was given as Murdoch only can give it. He first read it in public in this city at the close of the war, and can not have been forgotten. Another peal of applause expressed not only the admiration but the patriotic feelings of the assembly.

Mr. Murdoch closed with a recitation of the touching poem of 'Wounded and Mustered Out.'

"John
Maynard"

(p. 8, c. 2)

JAMES E. MURDOCH.

Brief Sketch of the Early Life of the Eminent Actor:

Want of room has prevented a lengthy notice of the entertainment at the opera house on Thursday night last, when Mr. James E. Murdoch the eminent actor and elocutionist delighted a large audience of our most intelligent people in a varied programme of select readings. When the grey haired gentleman made his bow to the large assemblage he met with a most cordial reception. For there were many in the audience who recognized in the venerable personage before them the great actor of over a generation ago. They went to the opera house to look once more on that face which in the older days had depicted to them all the passions of the drama; to hear that voice whose powerful eloquence had entranced them night after night from the stage of the Arch street, old Chestnut street and Walnut street theatres in Philadelphia. They had confidence in Mr. Murdoch's ability to prove equally as entertaining as he once was, and their trust was well rewarded. Mr. Murdoch's selections were from his favorite authors, and it were vain to attempt a description of the reading of each individual piece. Every one of them was rendered by a master voice, with the old time melody of accent, and grace of gesture for which he was always so famous. Advancing years have mellowed the voice though not decreased its power. His selections from Hamlet were listened to with profound attention, broken only by bursts of applause, which were frequent.

The wonderful "One Hoss Shay" was read with a careful respect to all the details of its witty composition. "Paul Revere's Ride" and the "Pilot of Lake Erie," were by far the most interesting readings of the evening inasmuch as the great powers of Mr. Murdoch's voice had full scope in their rendition. The concluding dramatic sketch from Dickens was a choice bit of character reading which was well received by the audience who entered fully into the spirit of the thing, and laughed from the beginning of it to the end.

Mr. Murdoch was seventy years of age on the 25th of January last, and is a remarkably well preserved man. He con-

siders himself as hearty as the average young man of the day. A life of study and careful habits has been his from boyhood. Taking to the stage in early life from a love of the actor's profession, he threw his heart into the enterprise and reached the highest point of greatness as an actor. At the age of twenty James E. Murdoch and Edwin Forrest played together on the stage of the little theatre that stood for many a year on Prune street near Sixth, Philadelphia, and it may be said of them that here they each dated the beginning of their eventful theatrical careers. From about 1844 to the breaking out of the war Mr. M. performed the leading roles in Shakespeare's plays and the old English comedies in the principal cities of the Union, from the New England States to New Orleans, and became an acknowledged favorite wherever he appeared. At times for a season he would quit the actor's life to lecture, and give lessons in elocution, a subject in which he is to-day the best authority in the country. Losing a son, who was killed in battle in Virginia, fighting for the Union in the early part of the war, he quit the stage and devoted his time and energy to the cause of his country, going from camp to camp encouraging by his presence the soldiers to increased exertions to rescue their country

from an impending destruction. He gave readings whenever opportunity offered for the sanitary fund and did all that lay in his power for the advancement of the cause. At this time actors of mediocre talent were making fortunes, as at no time in the history of the American stage was it better patronized than during the war. Mr. Murdoch at the close of the war retired to one of his farms in Warren county, Ohio, where in his log cabin located in the woods near his farm house he gave lessons to a chosen few in elocution. Recently he moved with his family of two daughters into Cincinnati, selling one of his farms and renting the other, his love of active life making that of the farmer too monotonous. He came direct here from Cincinnati. From here he went to Philadelphia, where within the next two weeks he gives six readings before the school of oratory. Thence he leaves for Cape Ann near Gloucester, Massachusetts, where at his fisher's cottage he spends his summers.

(Continued on next page)

"Pilot of Lake Erie"

Mr. Murdoch is one of the most genial of gentlemen, and in conversational powers ranks among the greatest. He numbers among his friends the most eminent in the land, and nothing gives him more pleasure than to converse on matters pertaining to the past, or to incidents of his travel when in Europe. In traveling either on pleasure or business he is constantly accompanied in his declining years by one of his daughters, Miss Fanny, a bright intelligent young lady, whose face bears a resemblance to that of her father, while her conversation indicates the genius of that great man. Her devotion to him is constant, and the feeling meets with due reciprocation from the parent. It is to be hoped that time will spare him to visit our city again, where he will always be sure of a hearty welcome.

The Commercial Gazette (Cincinnati), Sunday, March 23, 1884 (Extra Sheet), p. 2, c. 5:

James E. Murdoch Reading at the Grand Opera-House.

Mr. Murdoch's programme for the reading to-day is filled with choice gems, including "Sheridan's Ride," "Sandolphon," "The Story of the Truant Boy," Daniel Webster's argument in a once celebrated murder case, "The Pilot of Lake Erie," by the late Frank Murdoch; "Paul's Defense before Agrippa," Shakespeare's "Seven Ages," and the tender and pathetic poem of "Wounded and Mustered Out," in which he will recite the Lord's Prayer. The reading is at the Grand Opera house, at 2 o'clock to-day.

BOSTON THEATRE.

LAST TIME THIS SEASON.

The Veteran Actor and Eminent Elocutionist.

JAMES E.

MURDOCH,

WILL GIVE

DRAMATIC EXPRESSION

—10—

SELECT READINGS,

THIS SUNDAY EVEN'G,

Nov. 26.

THE PROGRAMME.

Extract from the New Testament, Paul Before Agrippa, with comments on the character and Eloquence of the Great Apostle.
Sandalphon, the Angel of Prayer...H. W. Longfellow
Brushwood, Labor and Prayer, a Story of the Apennines.....T. Buchanan Read
Scene from Julius Caesar, including the Orations of Brutus and Marc Antony, with comments on the eloquence of the Shakespearean orators.
How They Brought the Good News from Ghent to Aix.....Robert Browning
The Pilot of Lake Erie (by request), an unpublished poem.....Frank Murdoch
Admission 50c. A few reserved seats at 25c. extra.
Box Office open Today from 12 to 1 and at 6 o'clock.
Doors open at 7:30. Reading at 8.

Frank Hitchcock Murdoch,
playwright, poet, and actor
(1843-1872)

THE BOSTON HERALD.

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BOSTON, TUESDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 18, 1887.

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PRESS CLUB ENTERTAINMENT.

The annual entertainment of the Boston Press Club, which takes place at the Boston Theatre next Thursday afternoon, promises to be one of the principal events of the season, and will be witnessed by a large and fashionable audience. Nearly every dramatic and musical organization on the New England circuit has volunteered its service, and, while it has been found impossible to utilize all these kind offers, enough have been selected to make the bill one of great variety and rare attraction. The programme as arranged includes the following admirable features: Mr. and Mrs. Dav. Oaks, from Austin & Stone's Museum, in a new specialty sketch; Mr. Arthur Plummer, the young cornetist; Mr. H. L. Southwick, O. B., and Mr. Morris S. Kuhns, O. B., in scenes from "The Rivals"; Miss Myra Goodwin and her company, from the Park Theatre, in the second act of Mr. E. F. Kidder's new comedy, "Philovene"; Mr. James E. Murdoch, the distinguished elocutionist, who will read "John Maynard, the Pilot of Lake Erie," written by his nephew, Mr. Frank E. Murdoch; song by Mr. Joseph L. White; selections by the Boston Ideal Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club; Mr. Dion Boucicault and company, from the Hollis Street Theatre, in the first act of "Conn the Shaughraun"; Miss Lucie Pitts, soprano, accompanied by Sig. Rotoll; recitation by Mr. Louis Aldrich; Mr. George W. Wilson, Mr. Boyd Putnam, Mr. Arthur Falkland, Mr. H. P. Whittemore, Miss Helen Dayne and Miss Annie Chester of the Boston Museum company in "The Inquisitive Darkey"; M. Maris, baritone of the Grau French opera company; the Harvard quartet; the Boston Theatre company in the third act of

"A Run of Luck," introducing the thoroughbred horses and the hunting dogs; Mr. Edmund T. Phelan, humorist, with imitations, including an imitation in costume of Mr. Henry E. Dixey as he sings "It's English, You Know"; El Nino Eddy, acrobatic slack rope dancer from the Gaiety Music and Bijou Theatre; Thomas and Watson of the World's Museum and Windsor Theatre in an Ethiopian sketch called "Thompson's Dead." The music will be under the direction of Mr. N. Lothian of the Boston Theatre, and the accompaniments will be played by Mr. J. A. Howard. The performance will begin at 1 o'clock promptly, owing to the length of the bill. Handsome house programmes will be supplied by the Rand-Avery Company. A few good seats remain unsold, and those who desire to attend the performance should secure them at once, as the probability is that it will be impossible to purchase seats on the day of the entertainment.

Frank Murdoch's middle initial should read "H" for "Hitchcock."