

LETTER FROM ST. LOUIS.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

Life in St. Louis—The Lecture Season—Gov. Wright—New Railroad Connection—Col. Titus—Dora Shaw—The Kellers—Miss Davenport—Eliza Logan—Miss C. Crampton, etc., etc.

Strangers visiting St. Louis the past two weeks might have imagined themselves in any of the four quarters of the globe during that time. The weather has been changeable in the extreme: one day bitter cold, the next spring-like, the next intensely warm, the fourth abundantly rainy. It is predicted we will have an open winter; prospects so far are favorable.

The lecture season has commenced in earnest. McLeod, Bishop Spalding and Tiffany have each lectured several nights before large audiences at the Mercantile Library Hall. Fanny Kemble has read Shakespeare on the off nights, alternating between the large and the small halls of the building, to fair houses. No one can doubt this lady's ability to render justice to the writings of the immortal bard, but many doubt the policy of charging one dollar for an admission.

Our merchants have been feasting Gov. Wright, of Indiana, at Barnum's Hotel. The Governor is a democrat of the old school.

By an ordinance lately passed by the Common Council of Alton, the right of way has been granted to the Alton & Chicago Railroad to lay rails across the streets of that town, which connects Chicago and St. Louis by railroad direct, which will prevent a great deal of the unnecessary delay passengers were before subject to.

Col. Titus of Kansas notoriety has just passed through St. Louis on his way to join Walker in Nicaragua, with about one hundred as hard a looking set of border ruffians as possibly could be got together. The Colonel says Kansas must be a slave State, and anticipates a warm time next spring, when the Abolitionists commence swarming the country again.

Miss Dora Shaw played at the St. Louis last week to fair houses. Miss Shaw first made her debut at this house some twelve months ago. For a novice she does remarkably well, having a good form, a penetrating eye, action good, but not enough physical strength, ever to become as great as some of the St. Louis enthusiastic critics have predicted. A scene not in the bills occurred on one night of this lady's engagement. The play was *Evadne*. The *Colonna*—an old favorite in Boston—was literally in a "tight" place, and the lady, though a novice, was too smart to risk her reputation, and the *Colonna* retired after a hearty hissing, never to appear on those boards again. By the kindness of the managers of the People's Theatre, Mr. Barrett of that house played the part, so that the piece was finally got through with after some delay.

Couldock has just commenced an engagement at this house, and will be followed by the Keller Troupe. The German Company is still doing well at the Varieties. Miss Charlotte Crampton played an excellent engagement at the People's. She was always a favorite in St. Louis and her reception was immense. Miss Davenport is now playing there, in the same range previously acted by Eliza Logan with acceptance to our playgoers. Theatricals at this season of the year are dull, and if managers make expenses during the next sixty days they will be fortunate. True criticism seems a dead letter here now. I was amused at one of our prominent stock actors who spoke to me the other day of the flattering notices he had received from the press since his arrival, and the hogheads of papers he had purchased to send to distant friends, when to his chagrin he discovered that the notices had emanated from the box office of the theatre. I shall endeavor in my next to give you a peep behind the scenes, and speak my honest opinion of our principal actors and actresses, reviewing their capabilities and expressing a sincere judgment of their merits and demerits.

RATTLE.