

AT THE THEATERS.

Two Openings Yesterday.—Modjeska and Nordica To-Night.

Charles A. Gardner's annual visit to Kansas City began yesterday at the Grand with big audiences. His play, "Fatherland," is a familiar setting for Gardner's many songs and for the choruses and characteristic melodies of a group of genuine Tyrolese singers, whose work is an important part of the entertainment. There is a villain in "Fatherland" who has designs upon the winsome widow whom the hero of the play means to wed, but he is unable to interfere seriously with the steady flow of music and good cheer that permeates the piece. Gardner has an especial constituency among play goers and yesterday's large audiences were on the best of terms with him and his show throughout. "Fatherland" runs all week. Next week James J. Corbett, champion pugilist, comes to the Grand in his play, "Gentleman Jake."

A combination of negro minstrelsy and variety is the bill at the Gilliss this week. Barlow Brothers' minstrels opened to a big audience yesterday afternoon and in the evening played to "standing room." The first part is replete with jokes new and old and is freshened by good singing. The olio includes some creditable performances, including Seafield, in feats of juggling and balancing; Master Edward Percy in character songs; a black-face song and dance by six members of the company; Zeila, who is really a marvelous comedian; Sawyer and Buckley in a comic musical turn; Evans brothers, a knock-about song-and-dance team, and the Kennard brothers, acrobatic clowns.

The members of the Nordica Operatic Concert company arrived yesterday and are quartered at the Midland hotel. There is a large sale of seats for the concert at the Auditorium to-night.

Madame Modjeska arrived this morning. She has apartments at the Coates hotel. She will play "Henry VIII" at the Coates Opera house to-night and to-morrow night, the engagement closing Wednesday with a performance of "Mary Stuart."