

SUCCESSFUL THEATER OPENING.

A Big Audience and a Good Show at the Grand Yesterday.

The Grand Opera house was in luck when it selected yesterday for its season's opening. The weather last night was clear and cool and the large audience that went to see the opening performance of "The Soudan" sat the evening through comfortably. The play is a vigorous and interesting melodrama with various sorts of wicked people in it and several specimens of the unvarying type of hopelessly stupid but marvellously good people, whom the scheming wicked ones always impose upon with great ease in melodrama. The scenic arrangements are well devised, but the scenery itself shows the effects of long usage and so pretentious a firm of managers as Jefferson, Klaw & Erlanger ought to be ashamed to start a new season with it. The best of the scenes are the one showing a worn out farm, with a novel handling of lightning effects; the one showing the interior of an Egyptian city, stormed by the British troops; and the one showing Trafalgar square, London, with the return of the soldiers from the Soudanese war. The battle scene with the active and soldierly young men of company H, Third regiment, N. G. M., personating the British troops, could not fail to be a fine and exciting spectacle. The soldiers in red coats swarm over the city wall as if they were 10,000 strong, and there is a continuous clatter of Winchesters, a wild rout of the Egyptians and a quarter of a minute of quite convincing war.

The acting is reasonably well done throughout. Especially memorable is Dick, a misused waif, played by little Walter Lewis. His joyless face, as he stands glaring helplessly at his oppressors in the second act, and his wasted, weird figure in the semi-darkness of the fourth, make a strong impression upon the memory. The best of it is that young Lewis plays the part like a bright boy should play it and not like a freak or a marvel of precocity might. Some of his effectiveness is in his shortcomings.

"The Soudan" runs all week, and, if the weather remains cool, will do a big business.

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