
Miller's Play

"The Great Divide," William Vaughn Moody's Big Drama of the West, at The Moore This Week.

"Arizona" at the Grand; Farce, Mystery, Melodrama and Music at the Other Local Houses.

"THE GREAT DIVIDE," to be presented at the Moore Theatre this week, tells the old, old story of love in its elementary stages.

Local playgoers are promised this virile, moving, picturesque drama, with its sweep of passion and depth of sentiment, as it was given in New York, although without the New York cast. Mr. Miller will present the entire original production and a fine company of capable players. "The Great Divide" was written by William Vaughn Moody, an American poet and professor of English literature. In this play Mr. Moody put blank verse and rhyme behind him, writing unctious, vigorous prose, proving himself as much a master of direct human discourse as of fanciful utterance in dactyls and spondee. Notwithstanding that "The Great Divide" is prose, a true poet's imagination and feeling is perceptible in its conception and treatment. The play takes its name from the section of our country in which the first part of the play is represented as taking place, the Rocky Mountains—nature's great dividing line between the East and the West. There is deeper significance than this in the title, however. The play represents a struggle between the spirit of the East and the spirit of the West, a fight of tradition as opposed to unfettered nature. The great division between the conventionality, prudishness and false pride of the old restricted communities and the blunt chivalry and honesty of the plains and mountains, forms the keynote. "Ruth Jordan," descended from a long line of New England ancestors, whose lives and thoughts are reflected in her, goes to Arizona and there meets "Stephen Ghent," of no lineage, but with innate nobility of manhood and soundness of heart. Their meeting is strange, their romantic wooing more strange, and their embittered life and antagonistic marital relations stranger still. The purpose of the drama is to reconcile these antithetical natures through combined logic and love, the latter, of course, being the main deciding factor.

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