

in this way. Of course the imagination had occasionally to lend kindly aid to the scenic effects intended, and costumes of the performers were sometimes peculiar; then an added spice was given to our entertainments, by one or two warning reminders during the evening from the stage manager, "not to be too enthusiastic in our applause, as the crowd had caused the floor to sag considerably, and although they had placed upright scantlings in the store below as supports, too much stamping or clapping might cause a catastrophe," which naturally tended to keep our otherwise high spirits in check. We never criticized nor felt that our ticket money was wasted, and were all glad to go again to the next performance.

The dress question was a grave perplexity to the feminine element, for the few dressmakers resident here, had like Topsy, "just growed," and it was never safe in ordering a gown, and selecting a design for same, to prophesy exactly what would be the final result; for if the modiste found the selected pattern too difficult, she merely improvised another model more suitable to her capabilities, and which no doubt was the mode she had used for all the old ladies, but somewhat trying to a young girl. Shopping, too, had its idiosyncra-

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