

Law;" "Bob Acres," in "The Rivals." To the foregoing he in later years added a few more, the principal of which was "Rip Van Winkle," the most famous of all. This has been played in every city and town of note in the United States during the past thirty years, and is still a deserved favorite. Joseph Jefferson is also a painter of reputation.

F. R. DIFFENDERFFER.

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**Notes on the Same Subject by S. M. Sener, Esq.**

A local newspaper printed in Lancaster, in December, 1819, contains an advertisement to the effect that on December 4, John Landis had opened a museum "on West Orange street, opposite the theatre." Some few years since an aged resident informed the writer that the theatre stood near the tavern known as Beitler's, which is now the Western Hotel. The same gentleman, who was born in 1801, stated that he had seen played there the "Taming of the Shrew," with Mr. Duff and Mr. and Mrs. Entweizle in the leading parts. Also, that he had seen Mr. and Mrs. Darley perform there in the "Magpie and Maid." This same John Landis subsequently opened his museum in 1833 on West Chestnut street, where he gave theatrical performances, among them being "Punch and Judy." It stood where subsequently Kieffer's foundry was. Mrs. Duff once appeared there in the "Stranger." The original Joe Jefferson appeared in comedy, as did also his daughter, a Mrs. Chapman. The Jefferson family appeared there in "School for Scandal," "Drugget" and "Three Weeks After Marriage." They also appeared in the ball room of Cooper's Hotel on many occasions.

The late Alfred Sanderson some few years since stated in an article on

"Theatres in Lancaster," that he had witnessed the erection of the first building actually devoted to theatrical performances in this city. It was the Landis Theatre and Museum, on West Chestnut street. The large brick barn on the Reigart estate, on Chestnut, near Prince, was purchased for the purpose and enlarged by the addition of a frame structure for the stage. The internal affair, consisting of a gallery, pit and scenery, was considered to be an imposing affair. Mr. Sanderson stated that one of the scenes which impressed him most was a representation of North Queen street, from the Franklin Hotel, to the old Court House, in the Square. He had seen James E. Murdock and Miss Riddle perform there in "Romeo and Juliet," and also Thomas Apthorp Cooper in "Othello."

Chief Justice John B. Gibson once wrote to Judge Rogers and Mr. Sanderson in reference to erecting a monument to Jefferson's memory, and referred to having seen him play in Lancaster on one occasion when quite a young man. John Jefferson opened a theatre at the Cooper House on May 30, 1830, on which occasion Joe Jefferson appeared in the comedy of "The Birthday." Some time later on John Jefferson slipped and fell down the stairs at the Cooper House and broke his neck. The records of the Episcopal Church show that he died here and was subsequently buried in Harrisburg, services being conducted at that church over his remains before they were taken to Harrisburg.

The old building that stood where the swimming pool of the Y. M. C. A. building is was a theatre in 1840, and in it was played on one occasion "The Burning of Moscow."

One person connected with the early theatres of Lancaster must not be forgotten, and that was Old John Dwyer,

who conducted a school in the old Presbyterian session house. He organized a society of local talent known as the Thespians, and on one occasion they played in the Chestnut Street Museum and Theatre (Landis') the play of "Douglass." The actors were greeted by showers of applause. Glenal Ven was a printer's apprentice; Lord Randolph was a young artist; Lady Randolph was a young society woman, and their rendition was excellent, as stated by one who was there. The perfect elocution of the young typo surprised every one, and no one ever dreamt that that boy would achieve a national reputation as a politician and journalist, but he did, being no other than the late John W. Forney.

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