



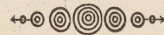
POLK MILLER, (Virginia.)

Polk Miller's Dialect Recital,

An Evening of Story and Song on

"Old Times Down South,"

Delineating the Old Plantation Negro.



Mr. Horace J. Smith, Sole Manager,

Box 217, Richmond, Va. Feb. 3rd, 1896.

Gov. Elias Carr,

Chairman Executive Committee of the V.M.A. Raleigh, N. C.

My dear Sir:-

You will find enclosed contract regarding entertainments by Polk Miller and Leo Wheat in North Carolina during the month of March, signed. Please sign and return one copy. I am of the opinion that in order that ~~this~~ entertainments shall be made thoroughly successful, that it will be necessary to work with all possible speed, as the printing is no small detail to work out and I will have to be notified as soon as possible in order that it may be properly prepared. Would it not be a good plan for me to come to Raleigh and consult in regard to a number of details which might not occur to the committee, in which I am thoroughly conversant with, the same details arising in my business every day? I make this suggestion because I want to be thoroughly informed as to what extent these entertainments will be given public and social prominence in the respective towns. I do not wish to imply that I have any special fears that the entertainments will not be placed upon the basis that they merit, but I would like to lay before you the exact financial status of Mr. Miller's work, in other words his present value, and on that basis to urge that everything be done to

**Prominent Points Visited
During Past Season.**

NEW YORK,	N. Y.
BROOKLYN,	N. Y.
PHILADELPHIA,	Pa.
BALTIMORE,	Md.
WILMINGTON,	DEL.
WASHINGTON,	D. C.
RICHMOND,	Va.
NORFOLK,	Va.
LYNCHBURG,	Va.
RALEIGH,	N. C.
WILMINGTON,	N. C.
COLUMBIA,	S. C.
CHARLESTON,	S. C.
ATLANTA,	Ga.
SAVANNAH,	Ga.
MONTGOMERY,	Ala.
SELMA,	Ala.
NASHVILLE,	Tenn.
LOUISVILLE,	Ky.
CHARLESTON,	W. Va.
ST. LOUIS,	Mo.
NEW ORLEANS,	La.
HOUSTON,	Tex.
CINCINNATI,	Ohio.

**AND OVER 250 TOWNS IN
ABOVE 17 STATES.**

**CLUBS,
ASSOCIATIONS,
ASSEMBLIES
AND SOCIETIES.**

UNIVERSITY CLUB, N. Y. City.
SOUTHERN SOCIETY, N. Y. City.
ALDINE CLUB, N. Y. City.
TEACHERS' ASSEMBLIES, Virginia, North Carolina.
ST. NICHOLAS SOCIETY, N. Y. City.
NEW CENTURY CLUB, Wilmington, Del.
HAMILTON CLUB, Brooklyn, N. Y.
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA, Charlottesville, Va.
TRINITY COLLEGE COURSE, Durham, N. C.
CHAUTAUQUA ASSEMBLIES, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama.
AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION, Asheville, N. C., '94.
DAVIDSON COLLEGE, Davidson, N. C.

Personal Commendations of Mr. Miller's Recital.



Henry Watterson, Ed. Louisville (Ky.) Courier-Journal, says:

"Polk Miller, you have the best one-man show in America."

Chauncey M. Depew, Esq., writes:

"I take pleasure in certifying to the ability of Mr. Polk Miller and the excellence of his recitals."

Thomas Nelson Page, "Mars Chan."

"Polk Miller is a great success, for he knows the negro, can tell a negro story and give the true negro dialect better than any man living."

Charles Pierre Goldey, Ed. Sportsman's Year Book.

"Probably no man in America is more gifted than Polk Miller in delineating the peculiar characteristics of the Southern negro."

Hon. C. U. McElroy.

"What James Whitcomb Riley is to the Hoosier dialect, Polk Miller is to the Negro dialect; both perfect in their line."

Ex-Governor Fitzhugh Lee.

"I know Polk Miller well. When he is sketching the 'foe de war' negro, if you did not know he was Polk Miller you would think he was a darkey of the olden time, and if you did not know he was an old-time darkey you would think he was Polk Miller."

Mark Twain.

Mark Twain, in his introduction of Mr. Miller at the Madison Square Garden Concert Hall, in New York City, said: "Mr. Miller is thoroughly competent to entertain you with his sketches of the old-time negro, and I not only commend him to your intelligent notice, but personally endorse him. The stories I have heard him tell are the best I have ever heard."

Joel Chandler Harris, "Uncle Remus."

"Polk Miller is the humorist the country has been looking for. I know of no one why can more aptly depict the real negro character or more faithfully render the true negro dialect. There is a live 'nigger' hidden somewhere in Polk Miller's banjo and you look for him to jump out and go to dancing when Miller strikes a string."

The Governor of Virginia says:

"Mr. Polk Miller is one of the best delineators of the negro character that I have ever seen. An evening with him is an *absolute pleasure*. First, his quaint imitations of the old-time darkey bring side-splitting *laughter*, and then, almost in the same breath, he moves his audience to *tears*. He is a *genius* in his line, and what renders his entertainments more delightful is the fact that his anecdotes are *pure*, and replete with humor."
CHAS. T. O'FERRALL.

Bill Nye says:

"Polk Miller does not advertise goods he cannot deliver. He says he will describe and illustrate the Old Virginia Plantation Negro, and I am free to say that he does it. After hearing the negro dialect given by a *Canadian*, and the folk song and dialect of the negro given in *Cork and Cockney* at St. James Hall, London, I am glad to hear Mr. Miller correct this misconception with the *real thing*."

The Governor of Florida says:

"It affords me pleasure to commend Mr. Miller of Richmond, Virginia, as a refined and cultured gentleman. His name is a household word in his native State of Virginia, whose people always welcome him, not only as a citizen of the best Southern type, but as the best living delineator of the old-time negro character. His 'recitals' are entertaining in the highest degree, and no one will regret hearing him. Mr. Miller is a successful business man in Richmond, as well as a genius in his line. In all respects he is worthy of the highest esteem and confidence."
W. D. BLOXHAM.

Rev. Moses D. Hoge, D. D., Pastor Second Presbyterian Church, Richmond, Va.

[Extract from a private letter, and published by permission.]

"I would scarcely have anticipated that there are enough left of a former generation to remember the Plantation Negro as he was, and to appreciate a true representation of him. Your manner is so natural and different from the *exaggerated*, conventional way of exhibiting him, that your success is all the more gratifying to you because it is gained by a true and faithful illustration of your subject."

This is the Idea.

"No one ought to fail to hear Polk Miller. When I heard him, I thought of a statue I saw at the World's Fair called 'The Closing Era.' An Indian, with his knee resting on a dead buffalo, was looking sadly into the future. Both the Indian and the buffalo were fast passing away; so is the Old Plantation Negro. Books can give us no adequate idea of him, and the man who can reproduce him, in characters that live, move and breathe, will soon be gone too."

REV. J. T. MASTIN,
Pastor McKendree M. E. Church, Norfolk, Va.