Tarboro' N. C.
Feb. 24th '96.

Rev. A. Thompson -

The Gov. having asked Miss Cheshire to attend to the "Polk Miller entertainment", & she, for good reasons, being unable to do so, asked me to take charge, & do what I could to make it a success -

Mr. Miller has been here once, & of course will not draw as good a house as he would were this his first appearance -

Then the Lenten season will seriously affect his audience; & the night being Sat. could not have been more unfortunate

ly selected for a Tarbox entertainment, as the clerks, (who are kept on duty later on Sat. night) are very important additions to our audiences ~

But be that as it may, by reducing expenses, & by judicious advertising &c, we may do well.

I went to see the mayor this morning, & although he has gone over to the third party, he was a Vance man, & assured me that he would use his influence to get the hall rent reduced, to possibly, the actual expense of fuel, lights &c.

The hall com. also assured me

of their good will, & I am almost sure that that item of expense will be merely nominal—

Now please let me know exactly what you would like to have me do. The advertising I think I can get done free through the medium of the "Southerner". But let me know whether you want any hand-bills distributed just before the date of the performance, whether we must have the tickets for admission printed or whether Mr. Miller provides those: whether you think a little music by our local talent would add or detract

We have some young men who sing charmingly together, or two soloists, & also one or two ladies with exceptionally fine voices, who I know would assist - But I will let you decide all that -

I send a list of ladies, the most suitable in town & county to serve as patronesses. It may seem long, but when I tried to eliminate any, I found each so well adapted to fill the position in her neighborhood, that I decided to send it intact.

Mrs. W. K. McLain —
" W. M. Ainheim —
" S. S. Nash —
" J. M. Baker —
" Henry Morris —
" H. C. Bourne —
" J. L. Bridgers —
" Fred. Philips.
" Manse Hark
" M. Killebrew —
" A. N. Fairley —
" Geo. Howard Jr.
" S. E. Speight
" W. K. Pottell, Jr.
" E. Pennington.

Please let me know if the date is positively for Mar. 28th, so that the manager opera house can book it — Respt —

Mrs. E. D. Barnes —
Tarboro N. C.