

**THE BEGINNING OF
GRAND OPERA
IN CHICAGO**

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The beginning of grand opera in Chicago by Karlton Hackett

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KARLTON HACKETT

**THE BEGINNING OF
GRAND OPERA
IN CHICAGO**

The Beginning of
GRAND OPERA
in Chicago

(1850-1859)

by

Karleton Hackett



CHICAGO
THE LAURENTIAN PUBLISHERS
1913

To My Wife

M178613

FOREWORD

'Opera' has always been a word with which to appeal to the children of men; moreover it has been my experience that whatever interested me—I being an average man—would prove interesting to my fellows. Therefore, when I discovered that the first attempt to produce opera in Chicago was brought to a close by the burning of the theatre, it occurred to me that it ought to be entertaining to learn something of the facts in the case, if they were to be unearthed at this late day. In digging about among the soot-begrimed files of the newspapers of the time there was brought to the surface a wealth of material so amusing in itself, with so many sidelights as to how people felt in the 'fifties, that I ventured the conclusion that it would be amusing to others.

To those who like to draw up an easy chair under the lamp—if near an open fire, with a gentle rain outside, so much the better—light a

pipe, and quietly muse over the things that were, this little record is modestly offered in the hope that it may afford an agreeable half hour. The gathering of the material was for me a pleasure, and I shall feel doubly repaid should it prove entertaining to the courteous and discriminating reader—how easily one falls into the polite formalities of the olden time!

KARLETON HACKETT.

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