

San Antonio, Texas
December 21, 1907

Passing Show

MR. MANTELL

It often happens that some of the best attractions that come to San Antonio play to empty houses while mere clap trap will cause standing room to sell at a premium. This was notably the case when Maud Powell, one of the greatest violinists of the day appeared at the Grand Opera House Tuesday night. And this fact is exceedingly discouraging to those who work hard and try to give San Antonio the best in the way of musical attractions.

Maud Powell, who is known off of the stage as Mrs. Turner, has an exceedingly attractive personality, her beautiful and shapely hands showing the most refined and artistic temperament. She is a native of Peru, Ill., her father, Prof. Powell, having been superintendent of schools in that town.

“I was educated,” said Mrs. Turner, “mostly in . . . [Chicago] and Leipsig but I have not taken a lesson since I was sixteen years old. That does not mean that I have not studied since that age for a musician never ceases to study. I consider the playing of the violin a far more difficult task than playing the piano; it is more creative. In one sense every time a selection is given on the violin it is created anew. Where do I like to play best? Where they like me best. I like Chicago because that is my old home and Theodore Thomas really brought me out. Baltimore is fond of the violin and I enjoy playing there. I do not think the love of music belongs to any section of the country. We often see the greatest difference in neighboring towns.

“I am in love with this town. I do not think there is another place in the country like it. But you are paying the price of progress and are losing many of the things that have been so charming to visitors in the past.”

From the Archive of The Maud Powell Society for Music and Education