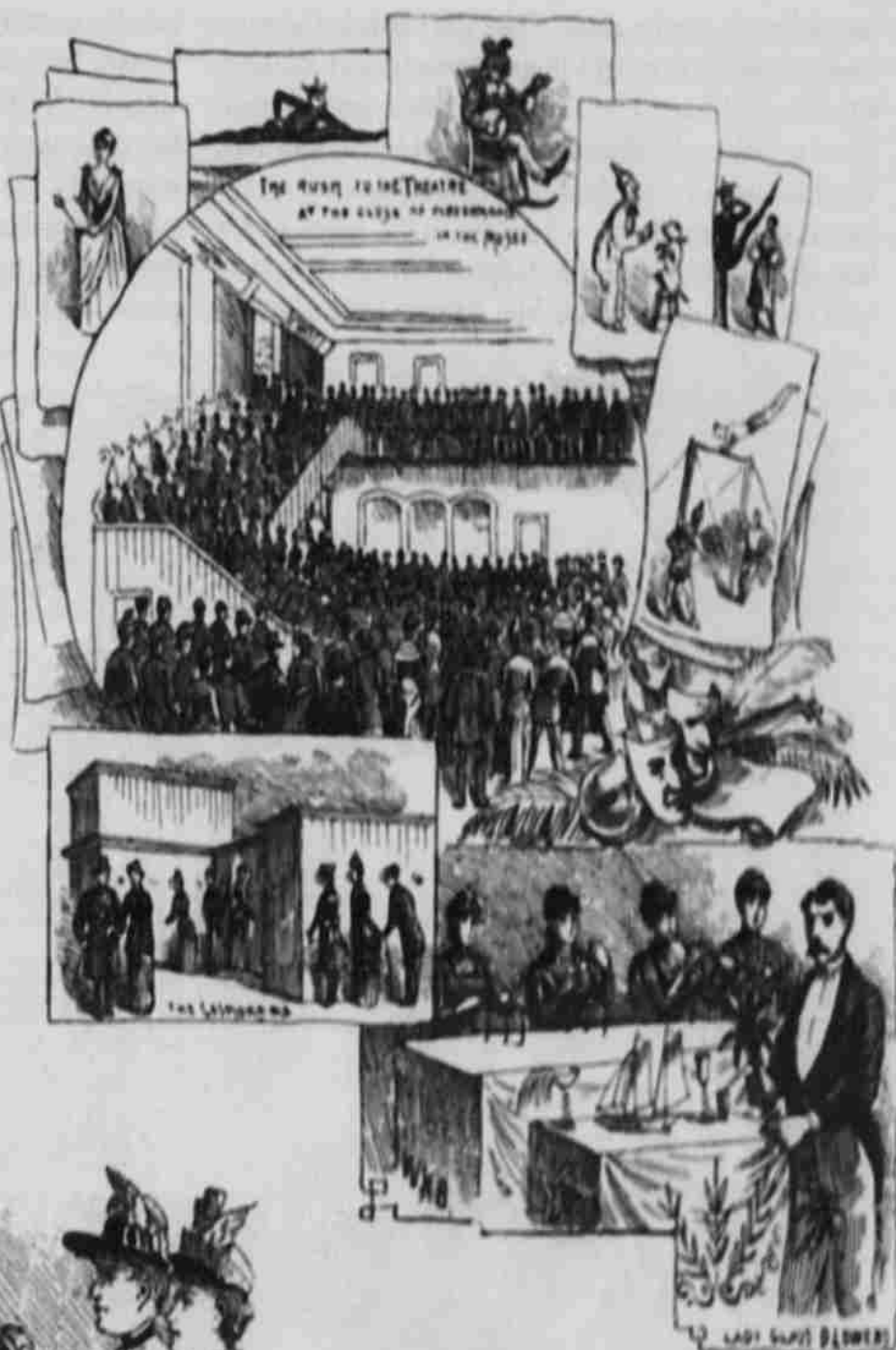


superior place of amusement, the best of its class in the United States, is one of the many evidences that Portland is in advance of the majority of eastern cities in other respects as well as in solid prosperity.

CATCHING STURGEON.

STURGEON, or "sea bass," are so common a sight in Portland, and have so long been considered as of little value, that our people do not realize that a great industry has sprung up during the past two or three years that has elevated that homely and despised fish to a prominent place among the exports of the country, amounting



SKETCHES IN THE MUSE.

to about \$250,000 annually. Sturgeon swarm in the Columbia and are caught at all seasons of the year, a large number of fishermen now following that business in the winter time who used formerly to be out of work at that season. Fishing is carried on from Astoria clear to the cascades, a distance of 140 miles, and the usual method is by set lines that are visited regularly and relieved of its victims. The sturgeon is a very large fish, averaging in weight from 400 to 600 pounds, though monsters weighing 1,200 and 1,400 pounds have been caught. He is not, however, gamy like the salmon, or it would take a ship's hawser for a line and an anchor for a hook to hold him. As it is, a large hook and a quarter inch line suffice to hold him till he tires himself out. Sturgeon are excessively fond of the delicious Columbia river smelt, and those fish make the best kind of bait, but as they are only procurable for a few weeks in the early spring, less attractive bait