



MUSIC ART AND DRAMA

Messrs. Brough and Boucicault open at the Opera House to-night (Friday) in the "Village Priest," by Sydney Grundy. The piece has been very successful both in New Zealand and Australia, and should go well here. Mr. Lohr, who is acting as advance agent for the Company, informs us that the *repertoire* for Wellington is a most extensive one, including H. and E. Paulton's "Niobe," Buchanan's "Sophia," Pinero's "Dandy Dick," Haddon Chamber's "The Idler," Pinero's "Amazons," and "Diplomacy" and "Caste." Surely here is a surfeit of delicacies, and it is to be hoped that the treat in store will be appreciated at its true worth.

A sacred concert was given at the Opera House on Sunday evening by the members of the Minstrel Company at present performing there. It was well attended, and an enjoyable entertainment was gone through.

Mr. F. E. Jones, author of the "Monarch of Utopia" intends making a brief trip to Australia. He will combine business with pleasure during his visit, and will probably not be absent over a few weeks.

Apròpos of the presence in Wellington of the Brough and Boucicault Company, the following anecdote with reference to Mr. Robert Brough is worthy of reproduction. In reply to a letter from a journalist asking his views from a managerial standpoint of the effects following Press criticisms of first night productions, he replied:—"Dear Sir,—I think with D'Oyley Carte, that a new play is like a newly-introduced cigar. If it is good everybody wants a box. If it is bad no amount of puffing will make it draw." Yours, ROBERT BROUGH.

Mr. Walton, Walter Howe and Miss Hilda Spong with a carefully selected Company have been playing at the Sydney Royal. The Company have made arrangements to shortly tour New Zealand. Mr. Howe will be recollected as being one of the leading members of Bland Holt's Company when it last showed in Wellington.

The final performance of Fillis' Circus took place last Thursday evening. The horse-leaping contest was particularly enjoyable, and the performance as a whole was one of the best that has been given during the season. Mr. Fillis generously invited the members of the Boys Brigade to the last performance of the company and it goes without saying that they rolled up *en masse* and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The company leave for Nelson by the s.s. "Penguin" to-day playing there on Saturday and Monday. They go from there to Blenheim, and return here before leaving for Auckland. After leaving Auckland they will show in New South Wales and Queensland for some time.

Miss McLean, the well-known Wellington singer, intends becoming a Sister of Mercy.

The minstrel company that was playing at the Criterion Theatre a short time back returned from Masterton and opened at the Opera House on Saturday evening last. There was a very fair attendance, and the entertainment passed off very successfully. The singing in the first part was very good, although Mr. Naylor seemed to be suffering from a slight cold. The different "turns" received well merited applause from the audience.

The pantomimes are still playing to fairly good houses in Melbourne and Sydney, despite the hard times.

Bland Holt's Company is doing good business at the Hobart Theatre Royal, Tasmania. Judging from accounts received from there "The Sailor's Knot" has proved a howling success.

G. H. Snazelle, writing to the *Sydney Bulletin* from South Africa on the eve of his departure for London, uses anything but complimentary language in referring to Johannesburg.

Mr. Walter Bentley, who has recently been suffering from sunstroke, we are pleased to state has at last finally recovered.

Sydney Sunday Times on Bartho:—"Her dance! It is the fluttering of butterfly wings against the portals of poesy. It is the poise of ideal art upon the gossamer clouds of fancy—an ethereal reality, a dream of chaste voluptuousness, the falling of a red rose-leaf upon a bed of snow, a vision conjured up by *haschisch*, an Oriental night—in fine, any beautiful unwritten poem called into silent life by the highest poetry of motion." What could that reporter have been drinking?

Arthur Garner purposes establishing a superior brand of Music Hall after the latest improved London pattern, with everything objectionable eliminated in Sydney. We wish him every success in his proposed enterprise. If anybody can make a success of such a scheme Garner ought to be the man.

Miss Mabel Hill, the promising young Wellington colour artist, is expected to return shortly from a trip to Christchurch and other parts of the South Island.

Mr. Harry Lyons and his Operatic Burlesque Company who have just returned from India, passed through Wellington this week *en route* to Christchurch where they will open on Saturday evening. After the close of the Brough and Boucicault Company's season Mr. Lyons will open here, in the "Isle of Beauty or the Pretty Persians," and "Faust up to Date," which will be produced in a similar manner to the way in which it was put on by the Gaiety Company.

Dan Barry, better known in Australia as the "Veteran Bushwhacker," has blossomed out into a metropolitan manager and is drawing very fair houses at the Alexandra Theatre, Melbourne.

Professor Richards, the so-called medical electrician, is at present showing in Auckland. After his season there he intends revisiting Wellington. There are a number of his ex-patients here who will undoubtedly be glad to renew their acquaintance with him.

Advices from London state that Tom,

or perhaps we should say Professor Tom Kennedy, the mesmerist, contemplates revisiting Australia. He has recently returned from South Africa where he had a prosperous tour, and is at present showing in Liverpool. If he comes he will bring 15 people with him and will put on something different from what has ever been seen here before.

Maritana is drawing good houses at the Opera House, Sydney, with Mr. Jules Simonsen as Don Caesar, and Miss Colburne-Baber as Maritana.

Sells' Circus has been playing to very bad business in America. Letters received from the company state that the show business, as a whole, is in a very sick condition in the United States.

Colonel Charles Sivvall, who is now in America, has sent word that he is getting together an equestrian combination to tour Australasia with. The Colonel has been advised by friends to delay his trip for another 10 years or so.

Johnny Rogers, Joe MacMahon, Erskine Scott, Herbert Flemming, Miss Florence Seymour, Johnny Sheridan, and Penstone, the artist, are at present treading the pavements of London.

The following story, which has been going the rounds of the Australian Press, about Dion Boucicault is worth republishing:—"During a performance of 'The Idler,' a gentleman spoke very disparagingly of Dion Boucicault's impersonation of Simon Strong, saying, 'That fellow's never been to America, or he would play the American better than that.' Another gentleman sitting next him then told him a story of a countryman who was witnessing the performance of a mimic, who, when the performer gave an imitation of a young pig grunting and squeaking, rose and publicly criticised the performance, saying that he could himself do better; whereupon the mimic produced a real young porker from under his coat and stated that the sounds had proceeded from it. Boucicault's critic said, 'Yes, that's funny, but I don't see the point.' 'Don't you,' said the other, 'well, Boucicault is the real pig; he was born in America.'" The critic left.

A well-known Australian actor was one night playing an old man part, and in the interval he took off his wig to cool his parched head and forgot all about it. When the curtain rose on the second act he burst in without it. The other man, however, was equal to the occasion and said: "It is not you I want, but your father." Then the actor bolted off, and presently re-entered with his wig. "Warned by my son," he said, gravely, "I have hastened hither."

Mrs. Brown-Potter, of Kyrle Bellew notoriety, and company are doing great business in India, at least so say our Indian exchanges.

There seems to be considerable discussion at Home as to whether or not Gilbert stole both the title and plot of his new opera, "Utopia Limited."

Says the *Bulletin*:—"General Mite is showing in Napier (M.L.) in a photographer's shop; his wife has the measles, and his father-in-law is digging gum *ad interim*."