

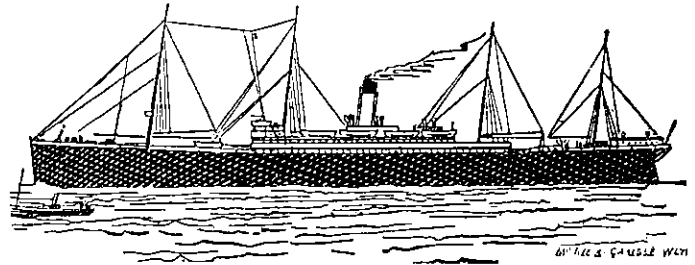
voice always creates amusement, and his facial contortions cause the greatest merriment. He goes through his performance in a workmanlike manner, and has the audience with him from the jump. The *Post* in describing this gentleman states that "he has the natural advantage of possessing a prehensile neck." Just what that means we are at a loss to know, as we have always heard the term applied to monkey's tails; a monkey who was the proud possessor of a prehensile tail being one who could wrap it round the branch of a tree and swing by it. Mr. Fanning's neck is certainly a wonderful one, but we hardly think it is prehensile.

The two Anderson sisters are very clever dancers, the elder one especially being well up in the grotesque dancing line. In the double "tarn" entitled "Flirtation" a very good exhibition of dancing is given, and special praise is due to Miss Wilson, whose business is very graceful and clean-cut. Miss Kate Howard has a very pleasing stage presence and a fair voice, but it is not strong enough for the Opera House. The other members of the company are not bad, but they seem to be intended more for the purpose of looking pretty than doing active work. The mounting is decidedly excellent, and we are pleased to be able to award unstinted praise to the setting of the first part. "Neptune's Retreat" is a pretty idea, and its appearance is always met with a round of applause on the rising of the curtain. The farces which end each act are funny, but they are not very, very funny. A change of programme was advertised for Thursday night, but the criticism upon it was too late for this issue.

The Garden of Eden, a curious illusion by means of mirrors artfully arranged, is attracting crowds of people at the Criterion Theatre, in Manners Street. The original entrance fee was one shilling, but in order that all may see this very clever entertainment without too great a strain on their resources, the management have reduced the price of admission to sixpence.

The S.S. Gothic.

We publish in this issue an illustration of the s.s. Gothic. It would be superfluous for us to enter into a detailed description of the vessel, as that has been done in a previous issue. Her appointments are commodious, comfortable, and thoroughly *fin-de-siècle*, and the party who intends travelling "Home," and intends to be conveyed there in a luxurious manner, should certainly engage his or her passage on board this floating palace. One feature is particularly noticeable on board the Gothic, and that is the spirit of *camaraderie* which seems to exist amongst the officers of the vessel. We regret to state that this is not always the case on ocean going steamers, and its existence on board the Gothic is a compliment to the Captain as well as the



S.S. GOTHIC.

officers individually. The Gothic will be back in Wellington shortly where she will remain for a week or two before making her return trip. In another column we publish the portrait of Mr. Augustus Kane, the purser of the vessel. Mr. Kane has been for some time in the service of the company, and has made himself deservedly popular with both the passengers and his brother officers. It is an old saying at sea that the purser's work commences as soon as his vessel reaches port. For one reason we regret to state that as a rule this saying is only too true, and our reason is that it prevents Mr. Kane from giving the time he otherwise might to his many friends and acquaintances on shore.

Opinions of the Press.

WHAT OUR CONTEMPORARIES SAY.

FAIR PLAY A UNIVERSAL FAVOURITE.

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FAIR PLAY is a most creditable production. — *Bruce Herald*.

A well-illustrated and well-printed Wellington weekly. — *Western Star*.

FAIR PLAY is the title of the latest addition to the list of journalistic productions in the colony. — *Wellington Evening Press*.

FAIR PLAY is very smartly written, and contains many excellent portraits of Wellington celebrities, and the praiseworthy way in which it is published reflects the highest credit on its promoters. It should undoubtedly have a very successful run. — *Palmerston Standard*.

FAIR PLAY will prove a valuable acquisition to the ranks of New Zealand journalism. — *Feilding Star*.

FAIR PLAY is well printed and enlivened by many photo-electrotype portraits and views. The price is very reasonable. We congratulate the publishers, and wish them every success. — *Manawatu Herald*.

It is nicely got up and contains 24 closely printed quarto pages of good reading matter. The journal will be published weekly. — We wish the venture every success. — *Waimate Witness*.

FAIR PLAY is a respectable addition to the current literature of New Zealand. — *Napier News*.

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