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this is (says the *Bulletin*) is that women who come in late, have the joy and privilege of being looked at by everybody in the room. This is being discovered by the vain. Just as a woman with a new bonnet will hurry up the aisle of a church just after the service has been commenced, knowing full well that she will be on view to the greatest advantage, so Melbourne women who have new hats and frocks are learning that it is worth while going in a trifle late to a Marshall Hall concert.

THE Dacres and their 'Bunch of Violets' are being well supported at Her Majesty's (Sydney), but not nearly so well as the excellence of the play and the company (or most of it, anyhow) deserve. The only touch of nature that is missing is that the Boanerges Bank is not reconstructed in the last act, the depositors taking 2½ per cent. extended deposit-receipts with a text printed on the back.

AUCKLAND theatre-goers are anxiously awaiting the 'Living Pictures' which are to be exhibited for the first time in the northern city. It is promised that they shall be of unexampled beauty, and compare favourably with those produced at the Princess in Melbourne. There are to be interspersed dances, and Mr Alexander, the well-known reciter, is also to contribute to the entertainment. This should of itself prove something of a draw, for Mr Alexander is a really first-class man at his business. The pictures will be perfectly 'proper,' and from the amount of speculation about they will be well patronised.

'REVELS' did very well for the Stokes-Gourlay Company in Auckland, and 'That Awful Girl' was also duly admired by large audiences. The Company is certainly clever, and the songs are very good. The usual bane of semi-variety shows is their vulgarity. This is entirely absent with the Stokes-Gourlay entertainment. There is plenty of fun and laughter, but nothing offensive.

THE Elizabethan Society are endeavouring to get support for the institution of a memorial window in St. Saviour's Church, Southwark, in memory of Philip Massinger. I (says Mr Fryers in the *St. James*) wonder if the members have forgotten that an actor named Shakespeare, brother of the author of 'Hamlet,' lies in the same church.

THE 'Sleeping Beauty' was given with great success by Christchurch Musical Union. The soloists were Mrs E. T. Robinson, Miss Davie, Messrs Lovell and Day, all of whom distinguished themselves in a marked degree.

AN opera founded on English history, the libretto written and the music composed by Englishmen, sounds quite startling. From such sources is 'Harold,' produced under the fostering care of that past master of the art, Sir Augustus Harris. In music circles the event makes a mark in the annals of opera, and a more brilliant scene than Covent Garden on the occasion it would be difficult to conceive. Royalty smiled upon the scene, and Albani was in her best voice. The score of 'Harold,' by F. H. Cowen, is classical and harmonious in an astonishing degree, and to lovers of good music, and well-wishers of England's musical future, nothing could be more satisfactory. The staging was perfect, and the great scene of Edith finding her lord's body amid the heap of slain round the spot, where all day long had flown the Oriflamme of Saxon England, was exquisitely realised. No one could have written the story with greater inspiration than Sir Edward Malet (our ambassador at Berlin), for his ancestor, William Malet, the founder of his family, was companion of William the Conqueror at Hastings, and connected by marriage with Rollo, the first Duke of Normandy. He was charged with the burial of Harold, of whose queen he was uncle. So that of all the men under the sun to write the pathetic story of the Saxon king's last stand, Sir Edward seemed picked out to be the one. A picture of a scene in the opera is reproduced from our English contemporary, *The Queen*.

HAVING lost Nellie Stewart and poor Vi Varley, 'the firm' are in rather a fix for a *prima donna*. On did that one is to be imported from America.

THE Gaiety Company left Melbourne littered with their pictures scrawled over with signatures and inscriptions of all sorts. The simple 'Yours sincerely, Grace Palotta,' fetched a modest 3s., but the French chorus inscription, 'Et trop de cour si ne faut pas. Grace Palotta, Melbourne, May 29th,' had an easy 5s. value.

MELBA, who is always uncommonly good-natured to her fellow-colonials in the musical line, has boomed the clever young Sydney 'composeresse,' Miss FitzStubbs, by accepting an 'Ave Maria' by that lady and singing it on all possible occasions.

THE 'Mikado,' as staged by the Hawera Amateurs, evoked great applause in New Plymouth, whither the Company journeyed to give a performance last Thursday. All the principals received ovations and encores, and were highly complimented by the local paper.

THE Francis Ross Dramatic Company are playing in Wanganui at the time of writing.

HUGO'S MINSTRELS are in Christchurch, and so far as I have heard are doing fair business. The Company does not quite realise expectations of those who delight in burnt cork.

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