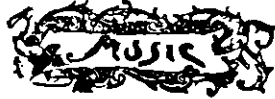


this church. The next thing they would find would be this—candles. (laughter.) And the next thing would be the confessional-box. 'Woe betide you fathers,' exclaimed Mr Kearns, 'when you get your daughter into the confessional-box, and woe betide you, husbands, when you get your wives there!' (laughter.)

KITCHENER'S DRUNKENNESS CURE.

General Kitchener is a martinet in the observance of rules, says a writer in a London weekly, and is severe in punishments. He comes down rather heavily on drunkenness, and for this reason has made himself to a certain extent unpopular with some of his soldiers. Rogers, his body servant, is a foot-taller, which is an exceedingly rare thing to find in the ranks of Tommy Atkins. 'Kitchener's cure for drunkenness' is a by-word among his men. Once taken it is never forgotten. The culprit is logged out in full marching equipment, which is a matter of sixty pounds, and is then compelled to carry in each hand a bag of shot weighing fifty pounds. A sergeant and a guard are put over the victim to see that he does not stop walking or drop the shot. A man is sometimes kept at this 'shot drill' for six hours.

Clarke's World-Famed Blood Mixture.—'The most searching Blood Cleanser that science and medical skill have brought to light.' Sufferers from Scrofula, Scary, Eczema, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood Diseases, Pimples and Sores of any kind are solicited to give it a trial to test its value. Thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it. Botles 2s 6d each, sold every-where. Beware of worthless imitations and substitutes.



← and Drama. →

On Monday next the great Australian favourite, Miss Maggie Moore, and Mr H. R. Roberts, with their company will open in the Auckland Opera House. Throughout the tour of the colony this combination has won marked success. The plays which they stage are all of a popular character. New Zealand playgoers, we are sure, have pleasant memories of Miss Maggie Moore in 'Struck Oil,' that evergreen drama with which the Auckland season will open. This play will be followed by an entirely new dramatisation of 'The Silence of Dean Maitland,' which in turn will be succeeded by 'A Prodigal Father,' a farcical comedy by Glen MacDonough. The 'Trilby Burlesque,' which is described as infinitely amusing will also be played.

The complimentary concert to Mr Walter Kirby takes place in the Auckland Choral Hall on Thursday first.

Franklin Fuchs, the talented young violinist who toured Australia some time ago, has been doing great things in America. Her admirers in Chicago presented her with a violin worth over £1000, and she has signed a contract with one of the best companies in the States.

Harmston's Circus will give two farewell performances in Auckland on Thursday and Friday next.

The New York section of 'The Belle of New York' Company, numbering a dozen members, passed through Auckland last week on their way to Melbourne. The London contingent was despatched from the metropolis by Mr George Musgrove on February 10, and has now arrived in Australia. Mr Coventry, a noted New York stage manager, has also gone to Melbourne in advance, together with Mr Girard, the comedian of the company, and is now engaged with Mr Gordon in preparing for the Easter production of 'The Belle of New York' at the Princess's Theatre.

It has been stated that Mr 'Pete' Hughes contradicts the statement that Mr Williamson contemplates sending the 'Vielma' Company to New Zealand this coming winter, but we have it from Mr Hughes only a day or two ago that there is a strong likelihood of the company paying us a visit.

LONDON INTERVIEW WITH NELLIE STEWART.

Miss Nellie Stewart, unquestionably the most popular actress who ever appeared on Australian boards, has been interviewed in London on her success - which is really of a phenomenal nature—and her intentions. Miss Stewart says she is determined to succeed for the sake of Australia. Asked if she was satisfied, she responded enthusiastically. 'Yes, indeed!' is the instant response. 'I am more than pleased; I am proud and delighted and jubilant! Everybody has been kind-ness itself to me, but oh! you can't

imagine what an ordeal that first night was to me. It was terrible. I wanted so much to be a success, for my own sake, and for the sake of the management, and, above all, for the credit of Australia. It sounds conceited, I suppose, but I belong to the theatregoers of Australia, and I love them, and I didn't want it to be said for them to hear that I had failed over here. I was quite a stranger to the audience; I was perhaps the only principal in the company who was not a popular favourite, and I don't mind confessing that I felt nervous.'

How 'our Nellie' carried the Drury Lane audience clean off its feet is now ancient history. So, as the interviewer said, there was no cause for nervousness. Questioned as to her future intentions, Miss Stewart said:—

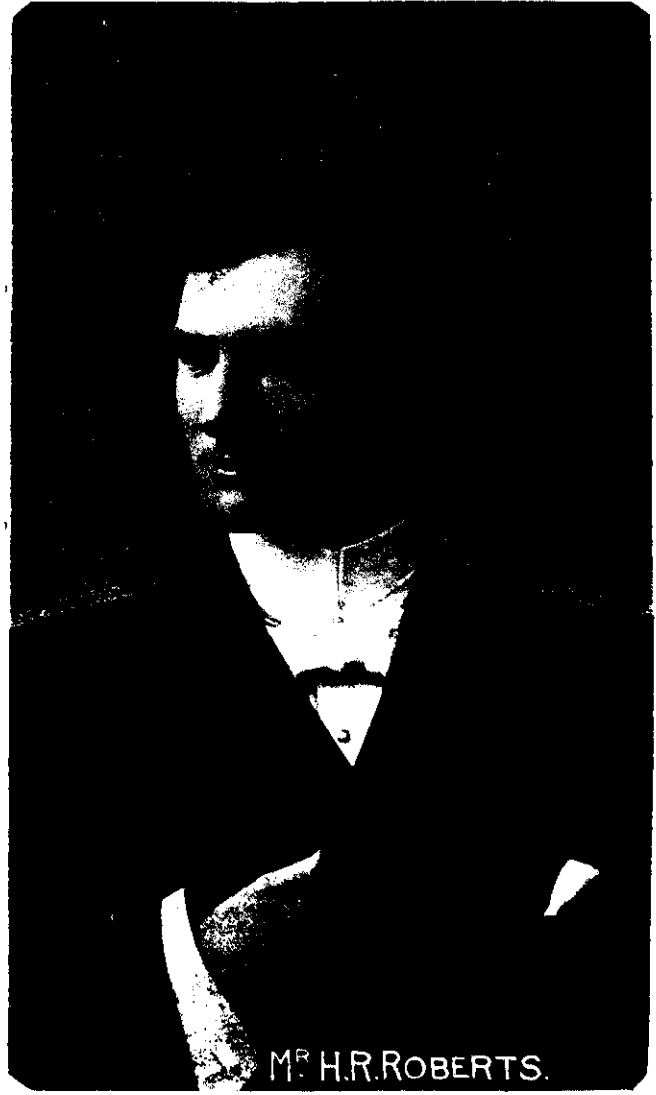
'After leaving here at the conclusion of the pantomime season, I join a new operative syndicate to make a short tour of about five of the most important provincial cities, and then we return to London and open at one of the West End theatres. I don't know which theatre it will be yet, and I am not sure which operas we shall produce. "Ma Mie Rosette" is to be one, and we shall play the Australian edition, which was a big success in the colonies. You may imagine how pleased I am at the prospect of appearing in a part which, if I may say it with becoming modesty, I made a success in out there.'

'And after that, Miss Stewart, what are your big, broad prospects, or shall I say in what direction do your general ambitions lead you?'

'Ultimately to Australia—to home. I want to establish my success here first. At present it is a pantomime'



MAGGIE MOORE AS POLLY BONDE IN A PRODIGAL FATHER



MR. H. R. ROBERTS.

TWO AUSTRALIAN FAVOURITES.