

£80,000 worth of bullion was also taken out of this mine in the early days.

N.Z. Talisman shares had steady demand of 1 1/4 this week, but no transactions took place at that price.

The Kapanga Company obtained bullion worth £440 from seven tons of ore and 66lb of picked stone.

A less quantity of ore was treated this month by the Woodstock Company, consequently only £1,515 was obtained from 920 tons crushed.

The old Waitohi mine at the Thames cleaned up this week for a yield of £363. This mine has been a steady gold producer for 30 years, and has paid over £35,000 in dividends.

The last month's output of coal from the Hikurangi Collieries was the largest since the commencement of operations.

The Puru Consolidated mine again looks promising. The reef is 18 inches wide, and now shows gold freely.

The holders of the option over the Grace Darling mine paid £100 this week for a month's extension, making £1,000 expended on development works.

The leader in the Progress Castle Rock mine, Coronandel, continues small, but shows strong colours of gold.

Wahi Extended shareholders this week authorised the directors to sell the property on terms providing for a good working capital.

Good progress is being made with the erection of the Alpha Company's crushing plant.

Work has been resumed on the Rising Sun mine at Owharon.

A final clean up by the old Great Mercury Company yielded £299 4/5, for which amount 150 tons of ore and 240 tons of tailings were treated. It is intended to float a local company to further develop this Kuaotunu property.

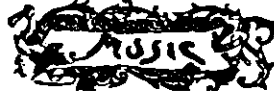
Kurumu-Caledonian tributaries are getting good stone. During the past month 53 loads of ore and 168lb of picked stone treated for various parties returned bullion worth £700 10/9.

Coronandel people have subscribed £300 towards the cost of erecting a public battery.

During the quarter ending March, 1899, the output of gold and silver for the colony was £83,796 in excess of that for the same period last year. The total export was £336,012. The Auckland fields contributed £128,349.

The silver entered for export from Auckland mines during the first quarter of the present year totalled £9,689, an increase of £3,773 upon the output for the first quarter of 1898.

The monthly gold returns reported this week amounted to £13,865 14/1



— and Drama.

Miss Maggie Moore and Mr H. H. Roberts are doing fair business at the Auckland Opera House, where they remain till the end of the week. 'A Prodigal Father,' which was staged in the middle of last week, and ran for three nights, is a remarkably funny piece, and keeps the audience in laughter from beginning to end. Sakurida saw Dion Boucicault's famous production, 'Arrah-na-Pogue' put on with all the completeness of a first-class production. Miss Moore is a surprise in more ways than one in the name part, playing with a delightful mixture of Irish vivacity and coyness. Mr Roberts impersonates Shaun well. To-morrow (Wednesday) evening the mining drama of 'Forty Nine' will be staged.

At the celebration of the 100th consecutive performance of 'The Geisha' in Australia on Saturday evening before last, each lady visitor was presented with an elegantly prepared souvenir, containing autograph photos of the leading artists, and also photographs of groups taken during the progress of the piece, and in the greenroom, and behind the scenes.

Williamson and Musgrove's pantomime, 'The Forty Thieves,' was played in Adelaide for the first time on April 1.

The Pollards are now giving a three weeks' season in Wellington. Adelaide University now confers the degree of Doctor of Music.

Probably 'The Geisha' will be produced by the Pollards in this colony, the firm finding a difficulty in sending its Opera Company over. The fact seems to be that business is too good on the other side. 'The Geisha,' by the way, still enjoys a marvellous popularity.

Mr George Alexander will shortly produce a dramatized version of 'The Prisoner of Zenda.'

The performance of 'Dorothy' by the amateurs of the Christchurch branch of the New Zealand Natives' Association is favourably criticised. The choruses, in the opinion of many, were better rendered than by the best professional companies, while the leading roles were capably filled.

Sir Henry Irving is partly giving up his control of the Lyceum, the freehold of the place having been acquired by a limited company.

The Gaiety Specialty Comedy Company is drawing well in Auckland.

The Christchurch Amateur Operatic Society produce 'The Pirates of Penzance' this (Tuesday) evening. Miss Rose Blaney, of Dunedin, will play the part of Mabel. There is a chorus of sixty voices, and both scenery and dresses are specially selected for the occasion.

Bland Holt is now running a new play in Melbourne, entitled 'Women and Wine. It is meant to be illustrative of Parisian life.

We learn from the 'Sydney Morning Herald' that another infant prodigy has been discovered in Melbourne, where the Mayor and an influential committee are endeavouring to form a fund to send Fritz Muller to Europe. Little Fritz is eleven years of age, has already written sonatas and concertos for his adopted instrument, the piano, and is said to play with feeling.

The famous German pianist, Herr Albert Friedenthal, is now in Victoria. 'The last London Sketch' says of Mr Walter Bentley: 'Mr Walter Bentley, the brother of Mr Faithful Begg, M.P., the new leader of female suffragists, is not merely the State teacher of elocution in Melbourne, for he still keeps up his connection with the stage by acting as agent for Messrs Williamson and Musgrove. Mr Bentley is a journalist also. He runs a paper called the 'Saturday Night,' and is a very candid critic of plays and players. As a consequence of this candour, he recently had to defend his paper against an action for libel. Mr Bentley himself—for he is a barrister—delivered a speech that lasted for 2 hours and 20 minutes, and the jury, without leaving their seats, brought in a verdict in his favour. A well-known Judge afterwards said, in his

club, that this oration was the most eloquent ever delivered at the Melbourne Bar.' All this is very complimentary to Mr Bentley, no doubt; but it may be news to him, and to a lot of other people as well, to know that it occurred in Melbourne. Mr Bentley lives in Brisbane, and conducts his paper there.

On Friday last Miss Pattie Brown was tendered a farewell matinee performance at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, prior to her departure for England. The programme was a most varied one. The Royal Opera Company contributed the best part of an act from 'The Geisha'; Mr Chas. Holloway's Company gave an act from 'Our Guardian Angel'; and Mr Rickards, Dante, and Mr Walter Bentley and several members of Fitzgerald's Circus Company also aided.

'The Belle of New York' was staged for the first time in Australia at Melbourne on April 1.

The 'Secolo' correspondent describes the inauguration of the new theatre in Vienna under the auspices of the Mayor Lueger and some more dignitaries. No music by Jew composers will be played there, even converted Jews are ruled out. Lueger advised the manager to favour Vienna comedy. He cried, 'Who writes comedy in Vienna?' It appears all the Viennese comedy writers are Jews. Lueger replied, 'If Viennese writers are hard up for matter, they'll find it in the Municipal Council.' Lueger is a very tyrant, and most rudely from the chair interrupts speakers with, 'That's enough; don't annoy me with any more.' The correspondent winds up his letter with the observation that if these agitators got at the rich Jews, there would be some point in their action; but only the poor Jews suffer at their hands.

Leschetzky, the man who taught Paderewski, says that the number of hours that should be spent in daily practice depends very much upon the pupil's power of concentrating his mind upon what his fingers are doing—five hours he would call a maximum, and less is better.

'Don't practise so many hours,' he is always saying, 'but use your brain more while you are practising. Learn to listen to what you are playing—to listen! How few there are who know how to listen!'

And then, to illustrate his meaning, he will strike two notes in succession, say G and D, and show what changes and shadings of meaning may be effected by varying the time and tone quality. A little strengthening here, a holding back there, the quickening of a pulse, the change of an accent—these make all the difference between soul and clay, between art and artifice, but it takes a listening brain to feel them.

And then there is the habit he is always counselling of practising away from the piano; not practising with the hands but with the mind, by thinking out a piece, note by note, passage by passage, until a distinct and original idea of it has been obtained.

This work may be done, he says, at almost any time, once the habit is formed, and may be done with or without notes. While walking in the street, while riding on a train, while idling in a room, the real musician may be playing rhapsodies and concertos in his fancy and actually advancing toward a more perfect conception.

Seldom has a dramatic year contained so much interest, says the 'Era,' as that which has just concluded. In endeavouring to take a comprehensive survey of the productions of 1898, one is astonished at the variety of the 'entertainments of the stage' which have seen the light in the past twelve months. And 1898 was full of interest despite the fact that—perhaps, to a certain extent, because—our two leading purveyors of plays made a very moderate output in that period.

An amusing incident recently occurred at the Theatre-Royal, Halifax, during the performance of 'The Penalty of Crime.' In the first act the villain seized his opportunity to rob a gentleman with whom he was staying of a large sum of money which was kept in a safe. The lights were lowered and the thief entered, exclaiming, 'Now is my time!' when an angry voice from the 'goods,' evidently that of an elderly female, shouted out in angry tones, 'I shall tell him if I do.'

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

Mr Charles Wilson, M.H.R., is on a pleasure trip to Sydney.

The Hon. W. C. Walker has arrived in Christchurch from Wellington.

Mr A. P. Burns, Nelson, has gone to Dunedin for a holiday.

Mr and Mrs Baker, of Newton, Auckland, are staying in Cambridge. Mrs W. Atkinson has returned to her home, Fiji, after paying a short visit to relations in Nelson.

Miss Moore, Nelson, has gone to stay in Blenheim.

Miss Jo Pitt has returned to Nelson from a visit to Christchurch and Wellington.

Mrs Hodson (Blenheim) is at present the guest of Mrs Pitt, Murita, Nelson.

Mr and Mrs Richardson, who have been staying in Auckland, have returned to Nelson.

Mrs Sommerville, Sydney, who has been staying in Nelson, left last week for Blenheim en route for Sydney.

Amongst the visitors to Cambridge lately I have noticed Mr and Mrs Hall and Miss Philson, of Auckland, Mr and Mrs Hill, of Waikau.

Mr E. Mirams, Blenheim, was in Wellington last week in order to be present at the marriage of his brother, Mr H. Mirams, of Nelson.

Mrs Hodson, of 'Thurston,' Blenheim, has gone to spend a month in Nelson with Mrs Blackett and other friends.

Miss Munro, of 'Valleyfield,' Blenheim, left last week to visit friends in the North Island.

Mrs H. Sharp, Tauranga, has returned to Blenheim, after spending a few weeks in the country with Mrs G. Waits, at 'Landsdowne,' and is now the guest of Mrs Howard.

Miss V. Johnston, of Wellington, is making a visit to her sister, Mrs A. Mowat, in Blenheim.

Miss Gertrude Fisher, Wellington, is spending the Easter holidays in Blenheim, and is the guest of Mrs Carey.

Mrs Croker and her children left Blenheim last week to join Mr Croker in Dunedin, which will be their future home.

Mrs C. de V. 'Tschemaker,' 'Acondale,' left Blenheim last week on a trip to the South.

Mr Ashcroft, Wellington, paid an official visit to Blenheim last week. Mrs W. Sinclair and her three daughters left Blenheim last week for Wellington, where they intend to reside. A large number of friends assembled to see them off.

Mrs Barron and Mr Winston Barron, Wellington, are the guests of Mr and Mrs Louis Ibarzayn, at Featherston.

Mrs Tasker, Wellington, has been re-elected President of the Women's Democratic Union, and Mrs Lennox Secretary.

Mrs Arthur Simpson, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs Turner, at Ravenscliffe, Queen Charlotte's Sound, returned to Blenheim last week.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Russell, Palmerston North, have returned to 'Te Matai' from Christchurch. They stayed a few days with Mrs Russell's parents in Wellington on the way home.

Miss Sidney Johnston, Rangitikei, stayed with Mrs Elgar, in the Waikarapa, for the Tauterikinui races.

Amongst the visitors who are being entertained at 'Langley Dale' by Mr and Mrs W. Adams are the Misses Johnston and Mr Mirams, of Blenheim.

Mr John Hursthouse, Nelson, has received promotion in the Union Steamship Company as assistant purser on the s.s. Horoto. He left this week to join the steamer at Auckland. Mr Hursthouse will be succeeded in the Nelson office by Mr L. R. Bonar.

A public meeting, at which addresses on prohibition were given by Messrs A. R. Atkinson, of Wellington, and Mr G. Grant, of Palmerston North, was held in the Theatre, Nelson, on Sunday evening. The same gentlemen also addressed an open air meeting in Trafalgar-street on Saturday evening.

The Rev. R. S. Gray and Mrs Gray have returned to Nelson from a visit to Auckland. The former is very much improved in health, though, it is to be regretted, he is still unable to resume his pastoral duties; and he has been granted a further leave of absence for six months.