

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT

Autobiography of a Famous Actor.

Mr Edmund Payne, the comedian, contributes an exceptionally interesting story to "The Days of my Youth" series in "M.A.P." Mr Payne's curious and very human story of his boyhood enables one to trace his progress from the very instant that the glamour of the stage began to take possession of his brain. Besides an entertaining story, he has given a psychological study. At the London Gaiety Edmund Payne has broken all records as a member of its famous company. For 15 years he has been under continuous engagement to Mr George Edwards at that house, and no other artists can compete with this. The actual term, for instance, of Nellie Farren's engagements at the Gaiety may spread over a longer number of years, but it was not a continuous stay, being broken by contracts fulfilled with other managers. A great number of first-class actors have appeared side by side with Mr Payne during his connection with the historic Strand house, but he has out-stayed them all.

"I am frequently referred to as a 'short' or 'little' man," writes the veteran. "I am nothing of the kind. Three years ago there were four generations of Edmund Paynes alive—my grandfather, my father, myself and my son. And I was the tallest of the four, standing three feet three and a-half inches in my half-hose. History does not record any other Edmund Payne as tall as that. But what we lack in inches we make up in muscle; we are a muscular tribe. When I was a boy, I went to school at Gloucester House Academy. Another boy there was a

nephew of Mrs Sara Lane, the famous lessee of the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton. The boy's mother was also a neighbour of ours, and so he and I were doubly entitled to an acquaintance. His mother used to copy out the parts for the actors at the 'Brit.' She was also engaged as checktaker at the theatre in the evenings.

authors' manuscripts. There was no such thing as typewriting in those days, so we always had plenty of work to do.



ADMIRAL TOGO.

The hero of Tsushima, when a boy on board the English training ship "Worcester."

"My chum, when his mother was taking checks, used to help her with the copying part of her employment. I happened to write a readable hand in those days and volunteered my assistance. It was accepted.

"So, at a very early age, I became familiar with actors' parts—also with

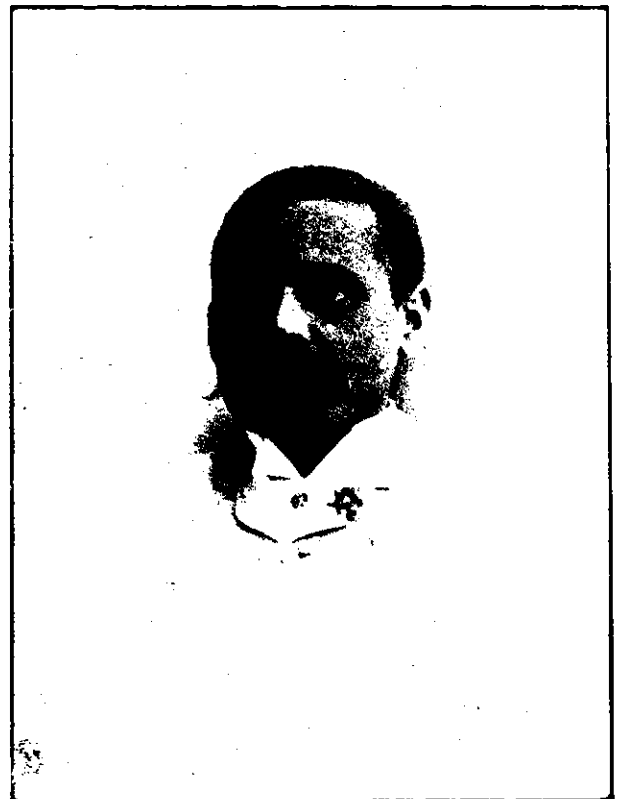


ADMIRAL TOGO'S WIFE AND FAMILY.



RATU KADAVU.

One of the leading Chiefs of Fiji, and a descendant of the notorious King Cakobau, who ceded the Fiji Islands to Great Britain.



RATU LALA.

Bartlett, photo.

The wealthy and hospitable Fijian Chief, whose death was recorded last week.