

# MUSIC AND DRAMA.

## HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Direction of Edwin Geach.

Music Managers:

MESSRS WILLOUGHBY AND WARD.

MONDAY NIGHT NEXT.

See the Popular

WILLOUGHBY AND WARD  
NEW LONDON COMEDY COMPANY.  
Including

MISS GRACE PALOTTA

In

THE MAN FROM MEXICO

"SYDNEY BULLETIN" says: Miss Grace Palotta, Hugh Ward, and George Willoughby had a house that would have done honour to Bernhard, and they tickled it almost into hysterics.  
Secure your seats at Wildman and Arty's.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.  
Lessee ..... Mr C. E. Bailey.

LAST WEEK

OF

WEST'S PICTURES

And

THE BRESCIANS.

EVERY NIGHT AT 8.  
EXTRA FAREWELL PROGRAMME  
THURSDAY TO SATURDAY.

Extra Plans, English & Foreign Agency.  
PRICES - 3/2, 1/6.  
Day Sales in Arcade.  
Plan at Wildman and Arty's.  
T. J. WEST and H. HAYWARD, Managers.

Miss Grace Palotta will hold a reception at the Star Hotel on Tuesday afternoon from 3.30 to 6.

Mr J. C. Williamson has completed the necessary agreements which secure to him all the rights in "Les Merveilleuses," the new musical play at Daly's Theatre, London, about which he recently received such eulogistic cables.

The Willoughby and Ward Auckland season is positively limited to twelve nights, since the talented company are due to open the Sydney Criterion on the 22nd of December in the production of "The New Clown." Mr Edwin Geach departs on Monday next to complete the necessary plans.

The 300th performance of "His House in Order," which Mr J. C. Williamson will produce here in the near future, has just been registered in London, and to all appearances Pinero's great play will see a considerable addition to that total before it is withdrawn.

Mr J. C. Williamson has been advised by cable that Mr Lewis Waller's new piece, "Robin Hood," has been received with remarkable favour in London, and that it has been definitely secured for Mr John Knight's repertoire. In all probability that actor will choose it for his opening piece when he returns to Melbourne at the beginning of February next.

With over 100 people to accommodate, and faced with the necessity of moving them as quickly as possible, Mr J. C. Williamson has found it advisable to practically charter the Riverina to convey the Royal Comic Opera Company to New Zealand next month, even although he has to pay heavily for the privilege, in addition to the usual fares and freight. The steamer will leave Hobson's Bay at midnight on Thursday, December 20th, after the performance, and will travel direct to Wellington, via Cook's Straits, a route never taken unless under

special circumstances. She will arrive on Christmas Day, and the company open their tour on Boxing Night.

Four Australian stars will scintillate in this year's pantomime at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, which is to be "Sinbad the Sailor." The principal boy will be embodied by Miss May Beatty, the second girl will be Miss Nina Osborne, and Mr. Edward Lauri and Mr. G. H. Snaezelle will also take part in the production.

Mr. George Musgrove cables from Europe to his agents in Melbourne that the formation of his grand opera company continues to progress satisfactorily. Already ten artists are fully engaged, while three others are not yet settled with. Engagements of high importance are those of Mme. Heinze, a dramatic soprano of note, and Bruennhille Greder, probably the greatest buffo bass in Germany.

An excellent advertisement for "The Spring Chicken" has been forwarded to patrons all over Australia by Mr. J. C. Williamson. It takes the shape of an india-rubber egg, which when pressed between the fingers shoots up a quaint-looking fowl through an orifice at the top, and the bird remains inflated as long as the egg is squeezed. Like the musical comedy, the toy is of French extraction, and Mr. Williamson has bought up all that were available.

The New Zealand tour of the Tittell Brune Company, which has throughout, and especially in Christchurch, been a singularly successful one, is now very near its close. A fortnight hence (on the 8th December) Miss Brane reopens in Sydney for a long season with "La Tosca," a play in which she has not yet appeared in that city. The fortnight which intervenes between then and Xmas will be occupied with preparations for "Parsifal," which promises to be one of the highest theatrical events of the decade. The company have already had their parts, and have been studying hard all through the New Zealand tour, but as much has been altered and re-written since they left, they still have a good deal of work in front of them.

It would seem that Mr J. C. Williamson's dramatic company has a second "Squaw Man" in "The Virginian," so very favourable has been the reception of the latter by the Sydney Press and public, who have found the dramatisation of Owen Wister's novel extremely to their liking. It was originally intended to play out the season with it, but as the company has the adaptation of Ouida's novel, "Under Two Fags," ready for production, Mr. J. C. Williamson thinks it advisable that it should be staged in Sydney before the company leave for New Zealand at the beginning of the month. The piece, in which Miss Ola Humphrey appears in one of her best impersonations as Cigarette, will accordingly occupy the last few performances of the company in Sydney.

As soon as "The Spring Chicken" had commenced its career at Her Majesty's Theatre, Mr Gerard Coventry at once took up the work of preparing the Xmas pantomime, and already rehearsals, voice testing, and scenic arrangements are all alike well in hand. Mr George Hall was taken away from the Gilbert and Sullivan Company to assume charge of the music, and Mr J. C. Williamson's agents all over Australia have been sending along batches of the best "show girls" possible to engage in the various centres of population. The chorus and ballet are to be an especially strong feature of the production, and Mr Williamson some time ago issued instructions to his representatives to pick the very cream of the girls who applied to

them. Mr Harry Phydora, who is to play the dwarf part, and Queen and Le Brun, the animal imitators, and the rest of the English importations, have left London on their way out, and will be here in a few weeks, so that before long everything will be in full working order.

Those requiring admirable chorus and patriotic songs, sure of popular acceptance at public meetings, round the camping-out fire, or at smoke or other concerts, should secure a copy of two new nautical ballads—"Britannia's Heart and Hands" and "They'll 'Elp to Rule the Waves." Both are excellent, and are destined to have a big vogue. They are, indeed, already the songs of the season in Christchurch, and down South, where copies are selling extremely freely. Mr. Horace Seebing, the well-known Auckland vocalist, is author of both words and music of "Britannia's Heart and Hands," and of the words of the second song as well, the music in this instance being by Mr. John Heartwell. Both are fine manly songs, patriotic, but not jingoistic—just, in fact, the sort of songs to keep us alive to our naval and defence responsibilities, and are, therefore, very much wanted just at present. They are published by the English and Continental Piano Co., Queen-street, Auckland.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has been telling a Dublin interviewer how he baffled the inquiries of the New York reporters on a certain occasion. "I went out," said Mr. Tree, "on the same steamer as Mr. Richard Croker, of Tammany fame. He and I became very friendly on the steamer, and the New York reporters, hearing this, attacked me in pursuit of copy. 'I understand, Mr. Tree,' they said, 'you talked a good deal with Mr. Croker on the voyage?' 'Yes,' I replied. 'I should like to tell you how much I like America.' 'But what did Mr. Croker say?' 'Oh, Mr. Croker—well, what Mr. Croker said was his business, wasn't it?' 'Pardon us,' they cried in chorus; 'we guess it's ours.' 'Well,' I said, 'if you insist on my revealing a private conversation, I must tell you that Mr. Croker talked exclusively about horse-racing and the immortality of the soul.' Mr. Croker was much pleased. He said that what he liked about actors was their discretion."

His Majesty's Theatre on Monday evening next will no doubt be crowded to the doors to welcome a new band of popular players in the Willoughby and Ward London company, who are to appear under the spirited direction of Mr. Edwin Geach. In addition to the two well known comedians, playgoers will be afforded an opportunity of welcoming Miss Grace Palotta, whose name alone would suffice to attract a brilliant audience in any English speaking community. Regarding the opening attraction (says an exchange) it is not necessary to discuss the construction of the comedy presented, and the plot has been already sketched in these columns. It is sufficient to say that "The Man from Mexico" deserves to be classed among the world's greatest laughter-makers. It embraces a continuous chain of diverting situations, particularly smart dialogue, capital song hits, and some clever dances. The action of the piece is delightfully brisk. There is not a dull minute in the whole three hours. The plot develops apace, one situation follows in the heels of another, the dialogue flashes, and the audience is whirled along with shaking sides.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has delivered himself frankly to a Glasgow interviewer on the question of social order in that city. "Glasgow," said the eminent actor, "is a good city to be away from on a Sunday. Sunday in Glasgow is a day of Godless gloom. You take away, if you do not forbid, all the chance the people may have of obtaining rational recreation, and then you wonder why drunkenness is the disorder of the day. People talk of the Continental Sunday. I have just come from there; and what is the Continental Sunday? It is a day of joy, of life, of beauty. The people are given opportunities of hearing delightful music. Now, why can't you have such in Glasgow? Why can't the municipality of Glasgow establish places of recreation where the public may obtain their refreshment, seated comfortably, and listening to good

music. Instead of standing in a crowd on a sawdust-littered floor, drinking as much as they can in the brief while allowed them?"

Miss Annette Kellerman, who hopes to repeat her Hippodrome triumph at Hengler's, in England, this year, is not only a wonderful swimmer, but a most charming girl, says the London "Era." Frank, high-spirited, absolutely fearless, with her twentieth birthday still to come, she is the pride of New South Wales—the home of champion swimmers—and represents the finest class of physical culturists. It is needless to say that Annette is an enthusiast in her own work, but she goes in for other sports with characteristic energy with the exception of cycling, for though certain muscles are strengthened by work on the wheel, others are not used at all, and swimming requires an all-round development. She is past-mistress in the art of trick-diving, from what she describes as "the slip into the water as clean as a whip to the great splash."

Born in Sydney, she laughingly describes herself as of "German-English-American-Australian descent." She had few opportunities of "padding about in the water" as a child, having been sent to boarding-school; but at fifteen she quickly got "into the swim," literally and figuratively, and won every race and every medal for which she could compete in the colony. It was a great amusement of hers to rescue other girls from the deep end of the swimming baths, although she confesses that they did not always see the joke, as it was necessary to use some strength and strategy in throwing them into the water before she bravely fished them out again! Miss Kellerman came to Europe about fifteen months ago, making her debut as a swimmer in the Seine. She has twice attempted the Channel, and hopes to make a third effort next year. Hitherto her great trouble has been seasickness.

A very novel communication has been received by Dalton's Agency from an American turu, which reads as follows: "Dear Sir,—We are still laid up in port. Our sails are ready to be hoisted to a fair wind and good pilot, so if you will favour us by taking the wheel in hand, we'll be sure of a good long, successful voyage; but, as I said before, we only want a good pilot. We shall meet the pirates later on, but they'll find us armed to the teeth. Our cargo of entertainment is of the best—unequaled and unrivalled; our crew determined and impatient—and with a long telescope in hand on the look-out for hand with gold in it, P.S.—"

"Methinks I scent the morning mail,  
With contracts for our ship to sail;  
So hurry up and let us know  
Where it is we've got to go."

Mr. Charles Manners is heartily to be commended upon his latest effort towards promoting the musical education of the people in the Old Country. His matinee at the Camden Theatre recently, with Donizetti's "Lucia di Lammermoor" was performed to an audience of children numbering over fourteen hundred, drawn from schools in the neighbourhood, was successful from all points of view, says a correspondent. The opera was artistically staged and sung, and the youthful audience followed the performance with the greatest attention, and applauded with enthusiasm. Prior to the beginning of the opera, a lecture explanatory of the work was given, and interest was stimulated by Miss Fanny Moody's offer of prizes for the three best essays recording the impressions of those who listened to a grand opera for the first time.

## The Webbe School of Music. STUDENTS' RECITALS.

St. Andrew's Hall, Lower Symonds Street  
Monday, November 26th  
Wednesday, November 28th  
Friday, November 30th

Visitors are requested to present Cards of Invitation at Door, and to be seated at five minutes to 8.  
Cards of Invitation may only be used for one occasion.  
Special Train Cars after Recitals to Epson, Remuera, Kinghams, and Parnaby.