

Music and Drama.

Personal Paragraphs.

CHORAL HALL.

THE HOLLANDER CONCERT CO.
Under the Direction of Mr C. C. Bethune.

Commencing
TUESDAY, JANUARY 14.
MISS ALICE HOLLANDER,
The Phenomenal Contralto,
MR NEIL McCAY,
Tenor.
(By arrangement with Mr J. C. Wil-
Hamson, Esq.)
HERR GUSTAVE VOLLMAR,
Violoncellist.
MR ERNEST FARRELL,
Solo pianist and Accompanist.
Prices Admission, 2/ (Reserved); 1/ 1/.
JOSEPH GIBBS, Manager.

OPERA HOUSE.

Under the Direction of
MR ROBERT BROUGH.
Representative... Mr Allan Hamilton
HARRWELL APPEARANCES
IN AUCKLAND

MR AND MRS BROUGH,
Prior to their Retirement from the
Australasian Stage.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2.
"MRS DANE'S DEFENCE."
An Original Play in Four Acts,
By Henry Arthur Jones.
Author of "The Liars."
THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
JANUARY 9 and 10.
First Production in New Zealand of the
"TYRANNY OF TEARS."
A Comedy in Three Acts.
By C. Haddon Chambers.
SATURDAY AND MONDAY,
JANUARY 11 and 12.
First Production in New Zealand of
"SWEET AND TWENTY."
A Comedy in Three Acts.
By Captain Basil Hood.
Box Plan at Wildman, Lyell, and Aroy's
PRICES—Dress Circle and Orchestral
Stalls, 1/; Stalls 2/; Pit, 1/.
Day Tickets at Williamson's and Thea-
tre doors.
Early Doors to Pit and Stalls open at
7, 8d extra; Doors open at 7.30; Curtain
at 8; carriages at 10.45.
Children Under Six NOT ADMITTED.

houses greeted it every appearance, but owing to Mr Brough's policy of quick changes it was replaced on Monday with "Mrs Dane's Defence."

In the last-named work we have a return to the problem play, and meet once more with the woman with the inevitable past. Public taste has evidently changed, for this character no longer appeals to an audience as she did a few years ago. It is the same "past," and there are the same consequences. The circumstances are slightly altered, the principals are unmarried instead of married, but "Mrs. Dane's Defence" is, to put it brutally, Tanqueray and water—and there is plenty of water. The wretched woman who attempts to construct a rampart of lies to defend her secret, and by doing so secure her lover, fails entirely to hold us in the vice of sympathy in which Paula Tanqueray did. We feel for her, never with her, as in the case of Piner's heroine, but at the same time the long-drawn torture which she has to endure as she sees her falsehoods demolished, afflicts us with a sense of irritation against the author. The central male character of the play, Sir Daniel Carteret, is certainly a masterly creation, and the notion of making his friendly cross-examination gradually unfold the guilt of the woman, whom he has set forth to assist and defend, is extremely dramatic. But two acts lead up to this one strong situation, this one telling scene, and one follows it, and even so clever an act as this, is handicapped by being, if one may so express it, so heavily sandwiched between the others. Mr. Brough's acting as the retired judge—whose son is in love with Mrs. Dane—and who discovers her secret when attempting to help her clear herself, makes ample amends for any painfulness in the play. As a finished study in character it equals anything in the same vein this truly fine actor has done, and is altogether worth seeing and studying. Mrs. Brough has a part which makes almost superhuman demands on an actress, and achieves a great measure of success, but Mrs. Dane is not one of the roles we shall remember her by. Miss Temple and Miss Susie Vaughan both shine, the former as a society lady, and the latter as a vulgar scandal-monger and husband terroriser, whose humiliation and defeat are the only gleams of humour in a sombre play. To-morrow Haddon Chambers' "Tyranny of Tears" will be played, and on Saturday and Monday "Sweet and Twenty."

We have given a portrait in this week's issue of Mr Neil McCay, the young and gifted tenor, who will appear with Miss Alice Hollander at her concerts, commencing on the 14th instant at the Choral Hall. The lovers of music will be afforded an opportunity of hearing this young gentleman's sweet and well-trained voice and artistic method. Mr Neil McCay has just come from England under engagement to Mr J. C. Williamson. Miss Alice Hollander, since she appeared here a year ago, has improved vastly, having had the experience of appearing before large audiences in both Melbourne and Sydney, where she was an undoubted success. A leading paper in Sydney, after speaking of her contralto that have gone to England, says:—"But we are not now discussing any other question than that of a world-famous voice; and we repeat that no such contralto as Miss Hollander has been heard in Australia since Miss Ada Crossley left the country." The other "star" will be Herr Gerard Vollmar (violoncellist), a musician of great repute, who always plays the best music, never allowing himself to be associated with meretricious or "tricky" pieces; therefore a rich and rare treat may be anticipated by the Auckland music lovers. Mr Ernest Farrell is a young Sydney pianist—a musician who has not won his spurs on the concert platform like the other "stars," but from reports he is a brilliant performer.

"The Magistrate," "Lady Huntworth's Experiment," and "Mrs Dane's Defence" have been produced by the Brough Comedy Company since the last issue of this paper, and all have been enthusiastically received by enormous audiences. Either the taste for high comedy and farcical comedy has vastly increased in Auckland, or people are frightened at missing the last chance of seeing "The Broughs," but certain it is that had such splendid houses been the rule in past seasons only a very feather-brained manager would have determined to give New Zealand the "go-by." "The Magistrate" went extremely well. Old stagers who remembered the first production by Williamson's London Comedy Company were a trifle disappointed in the revival, but it is much to be doubted if their regrets were justified. It must always be remembered concerning revivals that "no one makes cakes as mother did," which, being interpreted, means that a few years of retrospection lend wonderful enchantment even to the critical view. No doubt the performance by Auson, Titherage, Stansfield and Frank Cates was an extraordinarily fine one, but one must not forget it came first. There is the rub. Had we seen the Broughs first in it, and then the Williamson Comedy Company, we should almost certainly have reversed judgment. Mr Brough as the unwilling sinner, the altogether estimable Pockett, could really not be improved upon; and the Colonel Lukin of Ceetu ward is good, and there is a satisfactory Horace Vale. Southern readers should tick off "The Magistrate" for attendance. "Lady Huntworth's Experiment" is without exaggeration one of the brightest and most interesting modern comedies we have lately seen, and it is well nigh perfectly acted. In it Mrs Brough made her first re-appearance this season, and was most enthusiastically welcomed. Mr Carton's notion for the play is happy, and he works it out in admirable fashion. The characters are, without exception, finely drawn, and stand out like cameos, while the dialogue is always smart and often extremely witty. "Lady Huntworth's Experiment" could easily have run two or three more nights, as packed

Mr. J. L. Morrison, of Wellington, was in Auckland this week.

Mr. Louissou, of Christchurch, was staying at Lake House, Ohinemutu, last week.

The Dean of Waipapu and Mrs. Howell are spending a fortnight in Ormondville.

Mrs. Kilgour, of Auckland, was a passenger for the South on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Rees, of Gisborne, are staying in Auckland at Glenalvon.

Mrs. Lucas, of Blenheim, is visiting Mrs. J. Bond, at "Homewood," Petorus Sound.

Mr. W. Carey has returned to Blenheim from a brief visit to Wellington.

Mr McCullough and Mr Wingate, of Auckland, have returned home after a long tour of the thermal and lake districts.

Mr and Mrs Rothchild, of Wellington, are visiting Rotorua.

Mr and Mrs Baxter, of Christchurch, are up in Auckland at present.

Mr Lamb, of Wellington, has been on a visit to Auckland, staying at the Central Hotel.

Mr Straghan, of Wanganui, is visiting the Hot Lakes.

Mr and Mrs MacDonald, of Auckland, were at Rotorua last week, and put up at the Grand Hotel.

Mr A. S. Biss and Miss Bias, of Wellington, are at present visiting Auckland, staying at the Star Hotel.

Mr and Mrs Lowry, of Hawke's Bay, who were up in Auckland for the races, have returned home.

Mr and Mrs Esam, of Marton, were amongst last week's visitors to Auckland.

Dr. and Mrs. Mielke, of Christchurch, are on a visit to Auckland.

Mr Benjamin, of Wellington is staying in Auckland.

The Rev. Dr. Sidey, of Napier, has, owing to ill-health, been obliged to resign his position as chairman of the Education Board.

Mr. and Mrs. Denham and family are spending a few weeks at Sumner.

Mr. H. C. Godfrey, Christchurch, returned from New Plymouth and Nelson on Saturday.

Mr. Mrs. and Miss Anstey, Fendalton, have gone to Hammer Plains for a week or two.

A large number of New Plymouth men came up to Auckland for the races. Messrs A. McIntosh, A. Richmond, and J. W. Harding were amongst the guests at the Star Hotel in New Year week.

The Rev. Scott West, late of St. David's, Auckland, and now of Burwood, Sydney, will arrive in Auckland on a visit by the mail boat.

Mrs. C. Watts, of Nelson, is the guest of Mrs. Monro, at "Bank House," Blenheim.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Sharp, who have been spending Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Watts, at "Lansdowne," left Blenheim on Friday to return to Nelson.

Mrs James W. Bibby, of Waipawa, returned to New Zealand by the Papanui last week after a nine months' trip to England.

The Hon. W. Jennings, M.L.C., was in Auckland last week, and was warmly welcomed by his many Auckland friends both in the printing and political world.

The Board of Management of the Parnell Orphan Home desire to tender their many thanks to the proprietor of the "Graphic" (N.Z.) for the dolls he so kindly sent to the inmates.

The Very Rev. Dean Grogan, of Napier, is leaving for a 12 months' holiday in America, England and Ireland. The Rev. Father Goggan, of Wellington, will undertake his duties during his absence.

Some visitors at present staying at the Lake Hotel, Takapuna, are Canon, Mrs. and the Misses Cole, Misses Horne, Mrs. King (Sydney), Misses Ward, Earl, Hamilton and Young.

Mr. Tangye, son of Sir Richard Tangye, Birmingham, England, is the guest of his sister, Mrs. John Chambers, who is staying at Lake Takapuna for the summer months.

Miss Dixon, who has been staying with Mrs. Lambie at "Birch Hill" for a week or two, was in Blenheim this week on her way to "Manaroa," Petorus Sound, where she will pay a visit to Mrs. Maschell.

Among the visitors at Waiwera Hotel during Christmas holidays were: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Nathan, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Ross, Messrs. Ross (2), Dr. and Mrs. Parkes, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Hanna, Mrs. Misses and Mr. Jackson, Mr. Mrs. and Misses Leddingham, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Mahony, Miss Devereux, Mrs. C. Motion, Mrs. Proud, Mr. and Miss Sinclair, Messrs. Mowbray, D. Pencock, Blair and Hall.

Mr C. E. Macky, who is leaving Stratford to practise as a solicitor in Wanganui, was entertained by his Stratford friends at a dinner at the "Silver Grid" on the evening of December 29th last. Mr T. E. Hammetton (Inglewood) presided and the vice-chairs were occupied by Dr. Carbery and Capt. Liardet. A large number were present, including several from Whangamomona, Strathmore and Toko, and a very pleasant evening was spent.

Kipling, according to the table, has appeared in his stirring verse to the young Briton to recognise the necessity of Imperialism and accept conscription; and he adds a condemnation of the excessive devotion of his compatriots to cricket and football to the exclusion of exercises as manly and of infinitely more value to the nation. His description of their "fawning on younger nations for men who can shoot and ride" sounds flattering to our ears, but as a fact it is the necessity of the position rather than our recognition of the importance of horsemanship and marksmanship that has acquired us some proficiency in both. We are every bit as likely to devote our spare energies to cricket and football as to neglect shooting and riding as our British brothers, and where, as in our cities, there is no immediate necessity for these requirements we do neglect them. Kipling's appeal is almost as much addressed to us town dwellers as to the young men of London or any big city, and if we don't see that at the present the future will most certainly prove it. Why cannot our young men be persuaded to take up riding and shooting with the same zeal they display on the cricket or football field?

A story of miraculous rescue from the "jaws of death and mouth of Hell," in which Mr Marks, of the Australian athletic team, figures as hero, has found its way into several papers here and on the other side. Mr Marks is described as clutched at a brother athlete, Mr Oxlade, whose foot had slipped on the terrible brink of Hell's Gate, Tikitere, and dragging him back from that awful inferno. Mr Marks, who left Auckland for Sydney on Monday, declares that the story is a horrid stretch of somebody's imagination. Mr Oxlade never slipped, and was never clutched at by Mr Marks, or anybody else. He certainly was led rather nearer to the pit mouth than was quite safe, through his passion for photography, but it only required a warning from some of his friends to withdraw him from danger. So says Mr Marks. Now, the point is, does he say so out of respect for fact or through sheer modesty? It is a point worth investigation, although, such is the hero worshipping tendency among some of us, no contradiction of his heroism Mr Marks may offer is likely to entirely save him from his friends.

Miss Morrah (Wellington) is on a visit to Invercargill; Miss Swainson and Miss Taylor are spending the holidays with friends and relations in the Manawatu and Rangitikei districts; Miss Butts is in Hawke's Bay; Mrs Ewen and her daughter have paid a short visit to Napier over the New Year; Miss Fraser is at Palmerston North; Mrs Higginson and Mrs Tilley have gone to Blenheim; Mrs Dalcombe Brown is spending Christmas with her people, Captain and