

Music and Drama.



FIRST CONCERT.
THURSDAY NIGHT.
CHORAL HALL - MAY 28th.

SOLOISTS:
MISS MARIEMME TAYLOR (Soprano)
MISS MAUD ALEXANDER (Contralto)
HEER ENGEL (Violinist)
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.
Two Tickets for each Concert 10/6
Three Tickets for each Concert 15/-
Four Tickets for each Concert 20/-
The Society usually give four Grams and Two Smoke Subscription Concerts.
S.D. J. HARBUTT, Secretary, Victoria-st.

Dear Tickets 2/.

G. HAROLD HARDEY.
PROFESSIONAL MUSICIAN.
Organist St. David's Presbyterian Church.
Best "Up-to-date" Music Supplied for all
Sorts of Social Functions.
Address—
LERWICK HOUSE,
MANUKAU RD., PARNELL.

After a long and most successful run in Auckland, "Sweet Nell of Old Drury" was withdrawn after Monday night's performance, and on Tuesday made room for the beautiful comedy "Mice and Men," in which Miss Stewart has achieved a reputation only second to that gained by Sweet Nell. As these pages go to press some three hours or more before the curtain rises on the Auckland production of "Mice and Men," any personal opinions as to its merits and performance must perforce be held over till next week. "A New Magdalen," which was some time christened "Dolores," will be presented on Saturday for the first time in New Zealand, and the occasion is of considerable merit, for, by all accounts, Haddon Chambers' play is an exceptionally powerful piece of work, and the heroine's part is one which runs through the whole gamut of human passion, making the role one of exceptional strain and difficulties. Miss Stewart has, it is said, triumphantly surmounted them all.

At the Auckland Liedertafel concert on Thursday night next, the society will be assisted by Herr Engel, violinist; Miss Mariemme Taylor, soprano; Miss Maud Alexander, contralto. The Liedertafel give eight items. This being the first concert of the season, the rates of subscription for the year are advertised, and early application to the secretary should be made to ensure delivery of season tickets.

"A Chinese Honey-moon" has a run of over 100 nights to its credit, and is still running strong at the London Strand Theatre.

It is understood that the projected tour of New Zealand by a company headed by Miss Florence Seymour, and playing a round of the Brough pieces, has been abandoned.

Kyle Bellow will appear during the coming New York season in a play called "An Amateur Crackman," which is an adaptation of E. W. Hornung's novel of that name.

A gem from "The Fortune Teller," now running in Adelaide. Says Foster Courtenay: "We are unobserved," mean-in, "We are unobserved."

Notwithstanding that the prices of admission were 3/ 2/ and 1/, the recent Dunedin season of Mr. Harry Rickard's Vaudeville Company was on the whole only moderately successful.

Western Australia, like New Zealand, is at present being overrun with theatrical companies, with the result that a slump has set in, and none but first-class organisations will get a "heating."

Mr. Harold Ashton is coming to New Zealand as touring representative of Mr. J. C. Williamson's New English Comedy Company with the farcical success, "Are You a Mason?" The tour will commence at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on the 15th June.

Owing to the success attending the New Zealand tour of Miss Nellie Stewart and Mr. George Musgrove's Comedy Company, it is more than probable that Mr. Musgrove will send one of his other combinations to this country shortly.

Sir A. Conan Doyle has completed his play founded upon "The Adventures of Brigadier Gerard." The scene is laid in France after Waterloo, and in the four acts Napoleon is one of the chief figures.

Maggie Moore thinks money scarcer than of yore on the goldfields of W.A. At Kalgoorlie prices were 5/, 4/, 3/, and 2/, where they previously paid in sovereigns. On her last visit the price of admission was often scraped together in sixpenny and threepenny bits.

Miss Bessie Doyle, the Australian violinist, whose later concert appearances were made under the name of Eileen Moore, and who retired from the stage on the eve of her marriage about three years ago, is now studying at Leipzig Conservatorium, with a view to reappearance on the platform.

It is stated that "The Midsummer Night's Dream" at Melbourne Princess drew £1601 in the first six nights so that George Musgrove must have about cleared the cost of the show, £2000. The original production at Manchester cost Courtneidge £6000, so Musgrove struck a cheap deal at the aforesaid price, especially as the show is still running to great biz. It is the "Graphic's" earnest hope this show will be sent to New Zealand.

"My Lady Molly," the new opera at Her Majesty's, Melbourne, is remarkable for its striking resemblance to "Dorothy," many of the most pronounced features of the Popular Cellier opera being reproduced by the makers, Messrs Jones and Jessop, but it has qualities of its own that promise to render it to that not too exacting individual, the regular playgoer. It is innuend with the customary Williamsonian taste, and the display of girl is superfluous. Flo Young is conspicuous as the My Lady in question, and swaggers manfully in male garments for the greater part of the evening. She is not as prominent as usual vocally, but figures to advantage in a pretty solo and one taking duet. Carrie Moore has a picturesque part as Alice, subordinate heroine, and her last item, "I'm Going to be a Good Girl Now," is just the sort of superior musically, mercurial ditty to please the large majority. Lauri as an eccentric Milesian of the Boucicalian brand is not quite at home in his clothes, but helps the merriment with a taking refrain or two and a rattling dance in Maudie Chetwyn's company.

Mary Van Buren, the leading woman of the Neill-Frawley company, which has just come out to Australia, is one of America's three leading stage beauties, the other two being Maxine Elliott and Lillian Russell. Tall, beautifully proportioned, with soft brown hair, and brown eyes, a delicious creamy complexion, and a vivacious and attractive personality, together with her histrionic gifts, Miss Van Buren is bound to add to the laurels she has gained in other parts of the world. She is the daughter of Colonel Haynes, of the U.S. army, and was a society belle of Washington previous to entering upon a stage career at New Orleans five years ago. One of her greatest successes was achieved in "A Doll's House," in New York some time ago, and she is an ardent Ibsenite. A magnificent frocker, Miss Van Buren has brought to Australia some gowns that will be a revelation to playgoers, says the Adelaide "Critic."

A story is told in an English paper of the first performance of a new church organ concerning which no one was better pleased than the maid employed in the organist's family. "So you liked the music, did you, Mary?" said the organist next morning, reports of her enthusiasm having reached his ears. "Oh! it was just grand," replied Mary, "the grandest I ever heard." "What did you like best?" asked the organist, moved by the glowing eulogy. "Oh! I don't know that," said Mary; "but there was one place where you came down with both hands and feet at the same time; that was about the best. It sounded like the steam roller coming down the street." The worthy organist had no doubt been playing a "Storm Fantasia!" The Greenwood family, very well known here, are now in New South Wales. They have been playing to good houses at Albury.

The House of Victor Hugo—"la maison de Victor Hugo"—which will shortly be inaugurated, will contain no fewer than 900 portraits of the great poet, and over 700 glasses, plates, and other dishes and familiar objects associated in some way with the celebrated author. There will also be a library with every published edition of his works, without exception. Among the most characteristic stories of Victor Hugo is one which has come to light for the first time. The old poet, when he wished, could be one of the most gallant of men. During the closing years of his life one of his favourite recreations was to get on an omnibus and go for long rides with no other object than the pleasure of enjoying the sights and sounds of the Paris streets. One day while he was in a tram-car a charming young lady entered the vehicle, and while making for her seat was thrown by a sudden movement of the car almost on to the poet's knees. With a flaming face she murmured through her blushes, "I beg your pardon, monsieur." "And I," said Victor Hugo, with a smile, "I thank you."

What ages and ages it seems since we saw our prime favourites, Mr and Mrs Bland Holt, and all our old friends in their company! It is, moreover, some time before they can visit us yet, but when they do come we may expect an exceptional treat, for the ever-gentle manager-actor has accumulated a truly splendid repertoire of fine spectacular melodramas since he was last here. Some of us will be specially interested in his latest venture, of which word just comes from Melbourne. It looks as though "The Price of Peace" would prove one of the manager's most profitable ventures. The play has double the interest of stereotyped melodrama, and gives some of the company an opportunity of showing that they can do good work in a lower key. Mr Walter Baker has all along been obviously a better actor than most of his parts require. As the Earl of Derwent, Prime Minister, he has scope for finer and more natural acting than in any one of a round of vigorous, young hero parts. And he makes the most of it. Lord Derwent has a high bred daughter (Miss Frances Rosa), who is coveted by a scoundrelly politician, Marcus Benton, M.P. (Mr A. Norman),

He separates this lady from her lover by lying tales, and then induces her, from motives of anxiety for her father and desire to avert war, to play the traitor. She gives Benton a cipher despatch relative to the position on the Afghan frontier, where England and Russia are almost at each other's throats. This, of course, finds its way into the hands of a Russian spy, Count Ostachne, and what may be called a problem scene results. This is stirringly played by Mr Baker and Mr Styan. The Premier is confronted by the knowledge that absolute disaster, perhaps massacre, will befall the British if the Count leaves the room alive. Must his country's interests be sacrificed, or is it permissible to save them by homicide? The statesman trusts the spy and the sequel of this tragedy is enacted on the floor of Parliament. There is a full-dress debate of a violent tone, and in the midst of a dramatic speech the Prime Minister falls dead before he can be himself denounced as red-handed or can denounce the real traitor. Benton's fate overtakes him when an Atlantic liner looms up out of the fog and crushes his yacht to matchwood—one of Mr Holt's finely set spectacular scenes. There are others, including a wedding in Westminster Abbey, splendidly staged. The leading parts are well played. Besides those already mentioned, Mr Styan's Russian Count is excellent, and Mrs Holt is very elegant as a titled dame. Mr Holt himself is a comic M.P., with some capital dialogue.



Ayer's Cherry Pectoral
Colds often hang on. You try this thing and that thing, every kind of home remedy and cheap cough mixtures, and yet your cold continues to hang on. You must not deal lightly with these old colds. You must get rid of them just as soon as possible. You must take something to break their hold.
soothes irritable throats, heals inflamed bronchial tubes, and quiets congestion in the lungs. This is why it so quickly controls these old coughs and prevents pneumonia and consumption.
"I was troubled with a very hard cough which I could not get rid of. When I read of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral I sent to Johannesburg and procured a bottle. It completely cured me, and I have many comrades here who have had hard coughs cured in the same way."
— Wm. SKEANS, Company C, Second Royal Berks. Reg., Nels' Spruit, Transvaal, S. Africa.
There are many substitutes and imitations. Beware of them! Be sure you get Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.
Two sizes. Large and small bottles.
Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

W. P. HOFFMANN, QUEEN STREET, Auckland.

Pianos and Organs on Time Payment.

SOLE AGENT FOR **BRINSMEAD** Pianos, Violins, Banjos, Guitars, Accordions, Concertinas, &c., &c., AND ALL KINDS OF FITTINGS. All kinds of Musical Instruments Tuned and Repaired. VIOLIN STRINGS IN GREAT VARIETY.

Brinsmead Pianos
Collard & Collard Pianos
Carl Ecker Pianos
Roseber Pianos
STORY & CLARK ORGANS.
Besson BAND INSTRUMENTS.
Call and inspect the Royal Piano Player.

PIANOS