

# Our Illustrations.

of modern orchestration are employed with skill and effect. The libretto, which is based on an old British legend, provides a picturesque and dramatic setting, but falls short of the music.

## Von Arn, the Man Who Mystifies.

On Saturday next, May 18, at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, local theatre-goers will be afforded the opportunity of witnessing Von Arn, the magician extant, and his specially selected company of American star artists. The company have just arrived from America, where they have completed a highly successful tour, and have done record seasons in all the principal cities of the United States. Von Arn, who is a brother of the famous Nicola who recently visited us, is no less a clever exponent of the mysterious and bewildering magic art of which he is an adept, and is aptly termed "the man who mystifies." He carries with him several tons of entirely new paraphernalia specially constructed for him, with which he is said to produce some of the most astounding and amazing illusions ever conceived by the mind of the magician. His unique stage settings are said to be gorgeously picturesque. Von Arn is supported by an array of artists, every one of whom is entirely new to New Zealand. Principal among these is George Murphy, a comedy juggler of exceptional excellence. The box plan will open at Wildman and Arvey's to-day. Day sales are at Martelli's.

## The Golden Legend.

An unusual event of much interest in musical circles is the Auckland Choral Society's production of Sullivan's "Golden Legend" which takes place on Tuesday next at the Town Hall. The "Golden Legend" possesses so many difficulties that it is rarely selected by musical societies for presentation, but the Choral Society's action in engaging first-class artists as soloists and securing the services of the very best instrumentalists for the orchestra should result in a musical production of exceptional merit. There is probably no finer soprano in Australasia to-day than Miss Rosina Bucknapp, who has been engaged for the part of Elsie, and those who remember this talented young artist's performance as Suzuki in "Madame Butterfly" will surely be keen to hear her in oratorio. Seldom indeed does a vocalist with an English reputation and who is just in her prime, settle amongst us, but a case in point is Madame Dora Hunt, the contralto soloist in the Legend. This lady has appeared with conspicuous success at the Mason's Hall and Royal Albert Hall, London, and was a great favourite in Birmingham when she appeared at the concert given under the direction of the famous Birmingham School of Music. The tenor, Mr. Philip Newbury, is so well and favourably known in this city that the music allotted to this artist will be done every justice to. The baritone soloist, Mr. Charles Larson, is being brought over from Sydney, where he is an immense favourite and is voted Sydney's finest vocalist. For months past a chorus of 200 voices has been in active rehearsal, and a fine orchestra of 60 instrumentalists will demonstrate the beauties of Sullivan's musical setting to Longfellow's great poem. I am indebted to Mr. Scott Colville, the secretary of this society, for a copy of a very handsome souvenir programme and book of words of the "Golden Legend," and the society is to be congratulated for its efforts to place before the public of Auckland a musical production on such a lavish scale.

## Sixty Notes.

Mr. Pip Powell, the Dame in this year's pantomime (says the Sydney "Sun"), regards pantomime as a hazardous occupation. Before rehearsals are over each year he is a mass of bruises. Recalling his own "The Sailor" in Melbourne, he had a great deal of knocking about, falling off benches, and bumping through being mixed up with a property elephant and a lion, though in all sorts of sportive turns, while coming on a whale's back was also attended with physical perils. Again, in a dark change, he says, one has to be careful. The scenery is twisted about, and you never know when a part of it is going to fall on your head. Then there are tacks on the stage, which you generally find if you fall or sit down suddenly. Football or boxing are quite far better games compared to the rough-and-tumble of playing Dame in a pantomime performance. Of all pantomimes, Mr. Powell states, there is only one nice,

comfortable production. This is "Cinderella," which he always likes being engaged for. "There are no interiors," he says, "in 'Sinbad the Sailor,' and I do like a nice, homely interior, wherein to indulge in quiet humour, pathos, or levity, just as the mood takes one. In such scenes one does not require to be strenuous, and this is really quite restful after a pantomime cruise on the rolling deep, seeing that this generally involves a comic shipwreck."

Miss Pauline Chase played the title role in "Peter Pan" for the thousandth time in Great Britain last month, this record being attained at a matinee performance at the King's Theatre, in Glasgow. Somebody sent her, as a memento of the occasion, a silver cup, over a foot high, of a design inspired by a masterpiece of Benvenuto Cellini. It was in the Christmas of 1906 that Miss Chase began playing Peter Pan.

What is described as "the world's greatest and most artistic living picture and statutory act" is now being presented at the Tivoli Theatre, Sydney. Madame Henriette de Serres, from the Palais, Alhambra, Coliseum, and Oxford Theatres, London, is reproducing famous works of art, including celebrated paintings, etchings, statutory groups, relief paintings, and bas-reliefs. The company, which is made up of 16 Parisian models remarkable for their grace and beauty, were the hit of the last Christmas pantomime, "Hop o' My Thumb," at Drury Lane. The London "Daily Telegraph" said of the act:—"So we pass to the Magic Garden. This is not merely a scene of the gigantic elaboration which only Drury Lane can command, but also of a rare grace and beauty. First you see group upon group of marble men and women, posed in the stately manner and dress of the eighteenth century. Then behind rise statues in the classic manner, fine forms, finely grouped. In among the motionless shapes Hilarious moves, seeking at first the fountain, then scattering from a leafy bowler the enchanted water. Slowly the marble wakes to life; slowly in gestures of stately mannered grace, and then more swiftly. Then the light grows, and they pass and re-pass, and there is a glow of wreathed roses, and the whole garden quivering with delicate colour. A fine piece of the art of the stage, this, finer than anything memory recalls in all the glories of Drury Lane." The tableaux vivants are developed to a fine art, not only in point of pleasing illusion, but in choice of subjects, in artistic treatment of the nude, and in freedom from all coarseness.

It has been claimed that some of the plantation songs of the negroes in the Southern States of North America represent folk-songs brought by the first slaves from Africa; but the more generally accepted view is that they were plucked up from the revivalist preachers or from the Europeans around them, and adapted to their own strongly-marked rhythms, which are certainly of African origin. The earliest song which became familiar to those outside the Southern States was "Tim Crow," sung by Dan Rice, and introduced to England about 1830. The "Jubilee Singers," a troupe from Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, toured the United States and Europe in 1871; but the great popularity of the negro songs and dances and the traditional instruments, the bones and tambourine (the banjo was not originally used by the genuine negro), was due to negro minstrel troupes, whose performances were of a high order. New Zealand has not been visited by such a band of singers for very many years, so that the coming of the great minstrel party engaged by Messrs. Portus and Talbot, Limited, will be something quite new. The visitors commence an extensive tour of the Dominion next month, the Auckland season opening on June 10th, and closing on June 22nd.

Mme. de Cisneros, who is booked for an Australasian concert tour, will leave San Francisco by the Marana on May 9th, and will open her season in Sydney on June 22nd, and after a brief season in the Australian capital she will tour New Zealand, appearing in all the principal centres.

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## MOUNTED RIFLES CAMP. AN UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS.

THE camp of the 3rd (Auckland) Mounted Rifle, which came to a conclusion last week, has been probably the most successful that has been held in the Auckland Province. It has been not only highly profitable from a training point of view, but the men have thoroughly enjoyed their nine days under canvas. From the officers right through the ranks the esprit de corps has been most commendable. The conduct of the men has been admirable. Whatever may have been said about other camps there could not be the slightest ground for adverse comment on the Avondale gathering. Strictly teetotal—even to the officers' dinner to its guests on the last night—the men were open to no temptation from a fruitful source of criticism, but the troopers right through were of an exceptionally fine class, and not likely to give way to excess of any kind, even in the somewhat unusual surroundings of a first regimental camp, and so long as New Zealand can rely on a sufficient number of men of the stamp of the 3rd Regiment, there need not be much fear for the future—either from a defensive or a civic point of view. Most of the troopers came from country districts, and were of excellent physique. Colonel W. R. Bloomfield added to his already wide popularity in the regiment by the judicious manner in which he controlled the camp, and it was largely owing to his personality, and the splendid support of his officers, that the camp was such a signal success. Major Wynyard, Captain Knutsford, Lieut. Woods, and all the Squadron officers worked very hard, and gave the Colonel every assistance in the arduous work of looking after the 500 men in camp. Special credit is due to the Adjutant (Captain Knutsford), whose capacity for hard work is apparently unlimited. He won the admiration of the whole camp for the splendid way in which everything worked. Everybody looks to the Adjutant to adjust all and sundry difficulties that arise, in addition to his ordinary work of running a fair-sized township with all its difficulties, but none of its conveniences for management. Captain Knutsford has special qualifications for organisation and dealing with men, which make him an invaluable officer for the position he fills with so much credit.

Camp sports were held, a large number of the troopers' friends being present, and the long programme went off remarkably well, the results being as follows:—

Wrestling, pick-a-back: Sergeant Brenner's team. Mounted Relay Race: Corporal Barriball's team. Tug-of-War (foot): "C" Squadron, Sergeant Crawford's team. Tug-of-War (horseback): "B" Squadron, Sergeant Eaton's team. Victoria Cross Competition: Trooper O. Wyllie, of "B" Squadron. Ladies' Bracelet Whistling Competition: Trooper Rogers and Miss Thorburn, Mount Roskill. Lloyd-Lindsay Race: Sergeant Patton's team. Sack Race, 100yds: Private Adolf, 16th Regiment of Infantry. Leading Race for Files: Corporal Barriball, "B" Squadron. Wrestling on Horseback: "B" Squadron. Bandmen's Race: Bandman Thornton. Staff-Sergeant-Majors' Race: Sergeant-Major Hobbs. Officers' Race: Won by Captain Herrold.

The officers of the Regiment entertained a number of guests to dinner on the last night, among those present being Colonel Wolfe, Officer Commanding the District, Mr. John Ballard, M.P., and chairman of the Avondale Jockey Club, Colonel Holgate, Major Major, Lt.-Col. Parker, P.M.O., and officers from most of the corps in the district. Colonel Bloomfield presided, and Major Wynyard was vice-president of the mess. The Regimental band, under Hon. Lieutenant Whalley Stewart, played a most enjoyable selection of music during dinner.

There was a pleasing evidence of the esteem in which the regiment holds Colonel Holgate, commanding the Auckland Brigade, and formerly in command of the regiment, when Colonel Wolfe, senior officer present, handed to the Brigadier a large framed shield containing the photographs of the officers of the regiment. Colonel Wolfe mentioned that the Brigadier had been fourteen years in the service, during eight of which he commanded the regiment. The

speaker had ever found the recipient most loyal to him, and ever ready to take an interest in whatever was going on in either manoeuvres or the training of the mounted rifles. He had always been a most efficient and zealous officer, Colonel Wolfe was sure the presentation would be highly prized as a lasting memento of a long connection with the mounted forces.

The evening was brought to a conclusion by a concert held in front of the grandstand, which was apparently attended by Avondale residents en masse. An enjoyable programme was gone through. Messrs. Abrahams and Rayner assisted, but most of the items were given by members of the regiment, which is strong in musical talent. A much applauded "turn" was a haka by some troopers, who have been trained in camp by a comrade who is proficient in the Maori art.

During the evening Colonel Wolfe presented Quartermaster-Sergeant Greenhead with a long-service medal. The sergeant was one of the old Waiuku Mounted Rifles, now C Squadron of the regiment.

## YOUNG MAN HONOURED.

Bro. Arthur Rittelle, the Noble Grand of the Fountain of Friendship Lodge, which has a membership of 60, and is the largest and wealthiest Lodge of the Manawatu Unity in the North Island, is only 22 years of age, and is the youngest member on record to attain to that position. Recently visited Invercargill, where he visited the Lodge, and, in the course of an address, remarked that the business of the long-term was undoubtedly beneficial in raising the members morally, mentally, and intellectually, and he was glad to see in that Lodge that members young in years were raised to high office. His Excellency then paid a graceful tribute to the youthful Noble Grand, and applause. In a sense, too, he continued, they were educating a school of young men to take their part in the public operations of life. The larger the army of such young men a country possessed, the better it was for the country. (Applause.) The Lodge was established in 1844, with seven members.

## HINTS TO SHOPPERS.

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Owing to expiration of lease Andrews and Clark, Queen-street, have commenced an extensive sale of carpets, linoleums, upholstered furniture and art furnishings.

Mothers are informed that the prettiest, faintest, and sweetest photographs of babies are taken at the Royal Studio, at 184, Karangahape-road, by E. H. Skeates.

For five shillings C. H. Warren, sample rooms, Strand Arcade, will send post free 2 pairs ladies' cashmere stockings and 3 dainty fancy handkerchiefs.

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Really good seeds and bulbs at moderate prices can be procured from Robert Sydenham, Ltd., Tenby-street, Birmingham, England.

At Miller's fancy repository, 100, Victoria-street, Auckland, there are spectacles to suit all sights, and the price is right.

"His Master's Voice" gramophones and records are stocked by A. Eady and Co., Queen-street, Auckland.

The New Zealand Insurance Co., Ltd., fire, marine, accident, and live stock, has its head office in Auckland and is represented and supported throughout the world.

Speight's Dunellin ales are to be had everywhere and the sole agents and bottlers for the Auckland district are Hippien and Coutts, Customs-street East.

Fishing tackle that is fit for fishing can be obtained from Hazard, Queen-street, Auckland.

F. Moore and Co., piano and organ warehouse, Customs-street East, Auckland, advertise instruments at 20/- or 10/- a month, or for cash, from £17.