

Lyons Burlesque Company are finishing up 'down South, after which they will re-visit India.

From a programme forwarded me, I learn that 'the refined unique and mirthful entertainment, Humour, Art and Harmony' will be on hand at the Ponsonby Hall, on Monday evening next, April 9.

Mr A. H. GEE has already secured a large number of pupils, and before long the most advanced of them will be heard in part songs at the Wednesday Popular Concerts.

It is stated that at no less than a dozen London theatres smoking goes on secretly in the gallery and pit. No wonder fires occur if this be true. The suggestion is made in a London paper that it would be much safer if the Lord Chamberlain were to allow smoking at such houses and insist upon proper safeguards for the indulgence.

The Lake County Press has come down with a thud on the Heller's trance reading as under:—"We were surprised to learn enough on one night's visit to warrant the conclusion that the results are obtained by pure trickery. The obtaining of the names of a large number of the people in the hall by an assistant who retires behind the scenes while this part of the business is on, the bungling over names (necessitating the Professor's asking the person his name and going up and whispering it to Madame), the misspelling of names 'divined,' and the many proved mistakes in the replies, warrant the conclusion we have come to. We condemn this part of the entertainment as pure humbug."

In connection with the forthcoming Australian tour of the Madame Belle Cole Concert Company, of which Mr Phillip Newbury, an old Dunedin boy, will be a member, I notice that Newbury has written to the Sporting and Dramatic News denying that Madame Cole engaged himself and wife for the tour. "I and my wife," he writes, "are engaged by an Australian syndicate, and Madame Cole and the other artists are under similar contracts to the syndicate." Which sounds as though Phil. is getting rather perky on his success. I also notice he now spells his christian name Philippe. Plain Phillip was good enough in the old Dunedin days.

The popular concerts at the City Hall have taken a firm hold of the public, and the attendances are increasing with every concert. Certainly, the Auckland public have never been so well catered for at such low prices before, and the promoter, Mr. A. H. Gee, richly deserves all the success he is meeting with. Last night's programme was an exceptionally good one, and the engagement of such favourite artists as Miss Alice Rimmer, Mrs Coates and Mr Tapper shows that the promoter is determined to present his patrons with the best of our local performers. The quality of the programme was admirable, and it may fairly rank as the best yet presented. Mr Gee's two solos were Will-O'-The-Wisp and The King's Minstrel, two songs which the artist's great descriptive power enable him to interpret to perfection. Mr Gee sang the duet Maying in company with Mrs Coates, and the latter artist gave most acceptable renderings of Kathleen Mavourneen and Dearie, while Miss Rimmer scored her usual measure of success with The Children's Home and The Last Milestone. Mr Tapper's songs were well chosen and admirably interpreted, and Miss Clarice Brabazon's piano solos were played in her customary finished manner.

The display made by Bluefire in the Second Challenge Stakes has made a deep impression on Southern sportsmen. "Castor's" opinion is that she is undoubtedly the best two-year-old in the South, and "according to collateral running there is every reason to suppose she is the best youngster in New Zealand and something out of the common into the bargain."

The A.J.C. meeting was brought to a close at Randwick last Saturday. Mr Turnbull's improving colt Light Artillery gave a good account of himself in the principal event, the A.J.C. Plate of 500 sovs, three miles, which he appropriated in 5min 43 sec. Little Portsea after his champion three mile record of 5 min 23 1/2 sec could only finish a fair second. Carnage was third. An Auckland victory was scored in the Nursery Handicap, which was won by Colletette from a strong field. Castor's daughter got out the six furlongs in 1 min 16 1/2 sec. Loyalty ran a bad race in the Place Handicap, one mile and a half, which was won by Oxide in 2 min 39 sec. Mr O'Brien's colt appears to be all out of it lately, but I will be much mistaken if he does not land a good handicap when the time and tide are favourable. And the handicap will be one worth winning.

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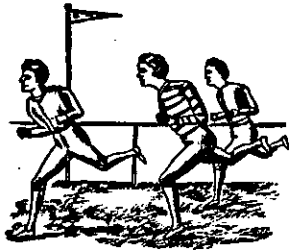
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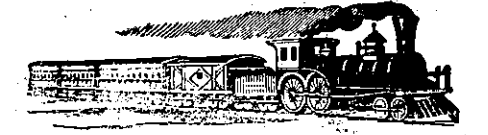


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