



[BY ORPHEUS.]

**OPERA HOUSE: ST. JOHN AND HAYMAN'S DRAMATIC COMBINATION IN "THE VAGABOND."**  
 On Wednesday evening a capital house witnessed the performance of an excellent piece, staged and acted in most creditable style. The company is a compact body of competent performers, and the cast on the present occasion proved eminently satisfactory. "The Vagabond" reminds one very strongly of "The Black Flag," played by the Dampier Company in January, 1893, plot, characters, and writing being in many respects identical, but the action in the present production is a decided improvement on the older piece. Unlike most melodramas the interest is sustained throughout, the curtain falling upon a striking situation at the close of each of four good acts. Here is a brief outline of the plot:—Dunstan Peyton (Mr John Bruce), a wealthy squire, has married the widow of a convict with one son, who is brought up as the squire's son, under the name of Jack Peyton ("The Vagabond.") His own son, Will Peyton, is indulged and favored in every way. Jack is noble and kindhearted; Will is a weak-kneed scoundrel. Both love Leslie Grey, the squire's niece and ward, "a ten thousand quid heiress," as Simeon Jacobs, a Hebrew financier, calls her. Leslie prefers Jack to Will, and the squire, after disclosing his stepson's parentage, turns him out of the house. Will has forged his father's name to a bill, and Simeon Jacobs persuades him to rob the old man. Jack, leaving the clothes (which his stepfather taunts him with wearing as a charity gift) in his bedroom. Will disguises himself in them, and robs and nearly murders the squire. He deceives everyone except Simeon Jacobs and the sailor boy, Ned, whom Jack has saved from a brutal muster, who appears with the bundle of clothes which Will has endeavoured to sink in the river. The evidence in defence of Jack would seem to be ample, but, nevertheless, melodramatic necessities compel his conviction. He is serving his time at Portland, where Simeon Jacobs is also undergoing a long term. The latter threatens Will Peyton with exposure, unless he aids him to escape. Will arranges a plan in which Ned's former master (Captain Dalton, of the Seagull) is to assist. Leslie Grey, assisted by Adolphus Barnum and his charming wife (late Patty Perkins, landlady of The Lion Inn), let Jack know of the intended escape, and both prisoners get away and are concealed by Dalton in a smuggler's cave. Dalton, determined to be revenged on Jack for his rescue of Ned, wishes to betray him and yet earn Will Peyton's bribe for the escape of Simeon Jacobs. The faithful old Ned saves Jack, but is shot by Dalton. Will Peyton's crime and deceit are disclosed by Jacobs, and poetic justice ends a really stirring and smartly written play. Taking the characters in programme order, Mrs Harrie Marshall plays Leslie Grey with sweetness and striking emotional power. She is endowed with a charming stage presence, and is an accomplished and graceful actress who will, I think, shine even more brightly in higher class roles. Miss Madge Corcoran made a naive and dainty Patty Perkins, but, if anything, was too refined and lady-like for the landlady of a village inn. Miss Marie D'Alton had a difficult and thankless part in Mr Peyton, but made the most of it. Miss Dora Mostyn, as Ned, the waif, merits the very warmest praise for a bit of character work, in which true pathos, humour, and simplicity were artistically blended. Miss Mostyn's Ned is quite worthy to be ranked with Miss Jenny Lee's famous Jo. Dunstan Peyton found a capable exponent in Mr John Bruce, who played with consistent power throughout an exacting role. Will Peyton, the curiously complex villain, is one of the most artistic bits of work ever achieved by that consistently reliable actor, Mr Charles Field. Jack Peyton, the high-minded, witty, generous, and rollicking "vagabond," who vicariously suffers for the sins of his polished scoundrel of a step-brother, is so natural a portrayal that one is convinced of Mr Bert Bailey possessing a disposition overflowing with the same genial and noble qualities. Mr Joe Polano made a distinct hit as Adolphus Barnum, whose poetical tags and gags "on the spur of the moment" roused peals of laughter. Mr F. E. Putey was excellent as the brutal skipper, Dalton. Warder Jones was very capably played by Mr P. Owen Donoghue. The Stone-faker was a clever bit of character acting by Mr Ernest Franks. Last and best of all, Simeon Jacobs, something more than the customary exaggeration of the typical stage Hebrew, was in the able hands of Mr Irve Hayman—an exact presentment of the shrewd, calculating, vulgar, money-lending "Sheeny," who has no objection to shady transactions so long as his own fingers are not burnt. His characteristic courting of Patty Perkins, his altercation with the stern Squire Peyton over the forged bill, and his antics when working as a convict in sackcloth and broad arrow, deservedly won tremendous applause. His Coptological attainments, malingering apperperceptual fit were immense, and Simeon Jacobs will not soon be forgotten by the thousands who enjoyed his quaint vulgarity and original humours.

tractive setting can make an audience forget the poverty of the performance. But "Parson Thorn," whether classifiable or not, was doubtless well chosen by the management for the opening of the holiday week. With a large and heterogeneous house, it "caught on" directly the curtain rose. The plot is perhaps a little thin, and wanders occasionally into some inaccuracies as to matters of legal procedure, but we forget the demands of mere common sense when we are face to face with Mrs Harrie Marshall's dainty comedy and Mr Irve Hayman's truly excellent fooling. As Folly Bishop, Mrs Marshall has a part which hardly does justice to her powers. But, in her hands, the ex-ballet girl, married at last to an old buck with money, is very cleverly treated, and as with the development of the plot, the lighter side of the character is gradually lost in the deepening pathos of events, we learn to love Folly Bishop and realise that Mrs Marshall has the true artistic faculty. In point of fact I wished that poor Folly could have taken a little longer to die, for Mrs Marshall has the art of compelling tears, and I am so seldom moved in this way myself that a little thing like that is quite refreshing. But if Folly Bishop is the lead of the piece, Parson Thorn is a close second, and Mr Bert Bailey showed us his real quality as an actor in his conception of this difficult part. The parson who had been almost wrecked on the rock of "curly piety" at college, and now wants to reform—the parson who is a man first and a clergyman afterwards—found a capable exponent in Mr Bailey, and had the house with him from the start. Of Mr Hayman's Paddy O'Quirk I need only say that he was so inimitable an Irishman that it was difficult to believe that the same lips had given us the patter of a stage Hebrew a night or two before. Miss Marie D'Alton was a delightful Dorothy Thorough-

On Saturday last the City Hall was well filled by a crowd of happy children and friends, the occasion being a matinee, at which Mr F. Clarke gave an interesting lecture on "The Story of the Longest British Reign," illustrated by splendid lime-light views, appropriate songs and music, etc. Over a hundred children from the orphanages were present by invitation, and the entertainment proved a brilliant success.

**MRS HARRIE MARSHALL.**—Some particulars of the career of this brilliant young actress, whose portrait appeared last week, will doubtless prove interesting. Mrs Marshall is the daughter of Mr James Thynne, for many years a distinguished actor, but now holding an appointment in the Civil Service at Brisbane. Historic talent and beauty are marked features in the family. Two sisters—Lillie (Mrs J. J. Archer) and Daisy (Mrs F. J. Smith)—retired from the stage on their marriage. Addie is the wife of Mr Irve Hayman, who is consequently Mrs Marshall's brother-in-law. Jack (the youngest) is married to Mr Harry Plimmer, who shortly contemplates visiting New Zealand. Although only twenty-three years of age, Mrs Marshall, who made her debut when very juvenile, has great stage experience, having actually been lessee, in partnership with Mr Alfred Woods, of Her Majesty's Theatre at Sydney, surely a record achievement in theatrical progress. Married in 1892 to Mr Harry Marshall, the brilliant young New Zealand actor, whose untimely death from consumption but three years after proved a terrible shock to the young and loving wife. Mrs Marshall attributes all her success to the teaching and experience of her accomplished and talented husband. They played together with brilliant success, chiefly in Queensland, the climate suiting Mr Marshall's



[BY DIOKEN.]

I had a chat with Jim Pratt, the old New South Wales slipper, the other day, and he waxed eloquent on the subject of coursing in the old days in Victoria and New South Wales, and he recalled the pleasant memory of Sir W. J. Clarke giving him a cheque for fifteen guineas for slipping at a one day's meeting, but he sighed when he remarked that very different men crept in to the game and intrigued to take one another down. That, said Pratt, ruined the sport in Australia for the time, because the good men went out of it. When coursing got to a low ebb in Australia Pratt came to New Zealand, but here found that the sport was beginning to languish from very much the same cause that had temporarily crushed it in Australia. This was particularly observable in the South, and during the late Challenge Stakes meeting at Avondale it was quite apparent that there were bad influences at work. Pratt speaks in terms of praise of Avondale as a well-furnished plump, while he had never seen better hares, and for all this he thought coursing men were very much indebted to the Avondale slipper, Jim Ferguson.

**OPERA HOUSE**  
 Lessees ..... Messrs St John and Hayman  
 Gen. Manager ..... Mr Percy St John

A PHENOMENAL SUCCESS!  
 THE RECORD REIGN BOOM!

ST. JOHN AND HAYMAN'S  
 AUSTRALIAN DRAMATIC COMBINATION  
 Headed by the Popular Young Actress,  
**MRS HARRIE MARSHALL**  
 SUPPORTED BY A  
 Specially-selected Dramatic Company, including  
**MR IRVE HAYMAN.**

PROGRAMME FOR THE WEEK:—  
 WEDNESDAY, 23RD } "MY PARTNER."  
 THURSDAY, 24TH }  
 FRIDAY, 25TH } "QUEEN'S  
 SATURDAY, 26TH } EVIDENCE."  
 "CURRENT CASH" and "HARBOUR LIGHTS" to follow.

POPULAR PRICES:—3s, 2s, 1s. Box Plan at Wildman and Lyell's.  
 Doors open at 7.15, Overture at 8 p.m.  
 J. L. LE BRETON, Touring Manager.

**OLYMPIAN ARENA**  
 (Late Agricultural Hall).  
 TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

The above Hall has been re-seated and newly decorated, and now forms a really nice and comfortable house of entertainment, particularly adapted to equestrian displays. The management has therefore secured the services of Mr JAS. HAYES for the putting on and mounting the thrilling and evergreen romantic equestrian drama,  
**DICK TURPIN,**  
 OR THE LIFE AND DEATH OF HIS BONNY BLACK BESS.

Mr Hayes produced this piece for Hengler's Hippodrome (Manchester), Filis's Circus (South Africa), Fitzgerald's Circus (at Sydney). He will be assisted by 25 capable performers. The drama will be preceded each evening by a short RING PERFORMANCE, in which 16 Clever Artists will be engaged, headed by the favorite  
**FREDO FAMILY.**

Notwithstanding the magnitude of this production, Popular Prices will be charged, viz., ONE SHILLING to all parts of the house. A few Chairs Reserved in the Dress Circle at 2s.  
 On SATURDAY AFTERNOON, at three o'clock, there will be a splendid MATINEE PERFORMANCE, when Children will be admitted to all parts of the house for SIXPEN. E.  
 Ladies' Cloak-room, with respectful female in attendance.  
**FRED. FREDO, General Manager.**

**1<sup>S</sup> CITY HALL 6<sup>D</sup>**  
 MR F. R. DIX'S  
 MONDAY POPULAR CONCERTS  
 EVERY MONDAY NIGHT  
 BEST AVAILABLE TALENT. Admission 1s & 6d

[A CARD.]  
**MR AND MRS WILKINSON**  
 Present their compliments to the gentry of Auckland and beg to state they are purchasers of clothing in any quantity. Letters attended to.  
 HIGHEST CASH PRICE GIVEN.  
 NEXT MARKET HOTEL, GREY STREET.

**SPORTING REVIEW OFFICE**  
 FOR YOUR  
 COMMERCIAL PRINTING.



MR J. L. LE BRETON, TOURING MANAGER, MESSRS ST. JOHN AND HAYMAN'S COMPANY.

good, and all the other characters exhibited a high level of excellence. The blood-curdling realism of Mr Field's villainy as Wyldre Crewell, and the love-making of the village policeman (Mr Tolano) were also greatly appreciated by an audience which was kept in good humour for three hours. Nevertheless, I am persuaded that there are ladies and gentlemen in the St. John and Hayman combination who are capable of giving us much finer work than "Parson Thorn" either needs or deserves.

**CITY HALL: MR DIX'S MONDAY POPS.**—On the first "Illumination Night" an immense audience was delighted with a choice and patriotic entertainment. Mr Cooper's myriorama of Record Reign events was splendidly shown and received. The entire audience joined with the performers in singing "God Save the Queen," which produced a grand effect. Capital songs were given by the Misses Carrie Knight, T. A. Hargreave, E. L. Featon, Kathleen Hand, and Messrs. A. Taylor, Robin Hay, M. Lewis, etc., while Miss Lily Thomson accompanied the various items with her wonted taste and ability. Next Monday night Mr Dix has more novelties to produce.

On Thursday evening Mr Arthur Boulton gave a musical At Home in his tasteful rooms in the A.M.P. Buildings. Selections were performed by a number of Mr Boulton's pupils, who displayed a marked improvement as the result of but three months' tuition. Some thirty friends were present, who thoroughly enjoyed the music and the dainty refreshments provided by their host.

delicate chest better than any other. At Brisbane, three years ago, "The Governor" ran for twenty-one nights, a record run for that city, Mrs Marshall playing Carrie. Among many successful roles, Beatrice Fane in "Impulse," Polly Eccles in "Caste," Naomi Tighe in "School," Dolly Baggs in "To the West," Eugenie Douglas in "Monte Christo," and Camille in "La Tosca" are numbered as brilliant triumphs in Mrs Marshall's career. She much prefers legitimate comedy to melodrama. In spite of many severe sorrows Mrs Marshall is bright, charming, and natural, and a most delightful raconteuse, having an infinite variety of amusing anecdote. She is a wonderful mimic, and once took off to the life her great friend, Mrs. Brown Potter, in one of her most famous roles. No one was more delighted with the success of this *tour de force* than the original herself. "Orpheus" has never met a lady so modest in self-appreciation. Although as manageress she might have taken unto herself every star part, it has been her invariable custom to allot the best roles to those she deemed most suitable, often contenting herself with shining as a lesser luminary. Such rare self-denial is meeting its reward, and undoubtedly a great future lies before one who is maturing brilliant natural gifts by patient toil and incessant literary study. *Elle ira loin*, and deserves to.

**NOTICE TO RACING CLUBS**  
 The proprietors of the SPORTING REVIEW will be glad to receive Nominations and Acceptances free of charge, for all Clubs advertising in the columns of this journal.

For everything which gentlemen wear Geo. Fowlds is cheapest.