



[BY ORPHEUS.]

POLLARD'S OPERA COMPANY.—"La Fille de Madame Angot"—called "Madame Angot" for short, on the *lucus a non lucando* principle—was successfully produced on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings in last week. Being genuine comic opera, the contract was a big one, but the company passed through the ordeal with great credit. Special interest was taken in Miss Maud Beatty's first assumption of a female role, and I am pleased to have my own favorable opinion supported by Miss Fanny Wentworth, who spoke in terms of unqualified praise of Miss Beatty's fine impersonation and excellent singing as Mademoiselle Lange. Miss May Beatty's Pomponnet also merits high praise, her singing of the lovely "She Is So Innocent" being remarkable for exquisite taste and sympathy. As Clairette, Miss Marion Mitchell looked piquante, acted with spirit, and won encores for several songs. Miss Amy Curtis made a successful debut as a principal in the role of Aramanthe, a vigorous and determined woman of the people. The Misses Lily Stephens and W. Karkeek capably filled minor parts. Mr Alf. Stephens, as Ange Pitou, the lampooning poet, sang and acted very well indeed. Mr W. Percy, as Lavaridiere, Mr H. Quesley, as Tronitz, the pirouetting dancing master, and Mr E. Nable, as Louchard, the monocular spy, were all mirth-provoking, while Messrs G. Young, Albert, and A. Stevens completed a good cast. The many charming *morceaux*, such as the "Touneze Valse," the "Conspirators' Chorus," the ensembles "Yes You Are, Lavaridiere," "Happy Days," "O, Ne'er Before," "We'll All be Revenged," the "Letter and Quarrel" duets, etc., etc., were, without exception, encores. Chorus, ballet, and orchestra did good work, the modified can-can being capitally danced. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights "Djin-Djin" again drew immense audiences. Mr Pollard has enjoyed quite a record season, "Djin-Djin" running through fifteen performances, including two matinees. The company left on Monday for New Plymouth and return visits through New Zealand. They reappear in Auckland about Christmas-time, so we must now say—

"Farewell to sweet Falks, to Angot addio!
Good-bye to 'In Town' and to gay Boccaccio.
Adieu and au revoir, bold buccaner Paul,
Chin chin to Djin-Djin, and good luck to you all!
Your magic makes life seem all skittles and beer.
Come! Brighten our Christmas and gild the New Year!"

OPERA HOUSE: FRANK THORNTON COMEDY COMPANY.—"The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown," a cleverly constructed and brightly-written farcical comedy by Messrs Robert Buchanan and Charles Marlowe, kept a crowded house in a continuous roar of laughter on Monday night. Owing to a bad passage and late arrival the performers were severely handicapped, but the piece nevertheless hummed along, and few among the large audience realised the difficulties

which were so gallantly faced and overcome. To condense the plot:—Angela Brightwell (Miss Clare Manfield), a ward in Chancery, has run away from school to marry Captain Courtney (Mr Frank Thornton). Major O'Gallagher (Mr Fred Shepherd) and Julia, his wife (Miss Meta Pelham), assist the pair, and the knot is tied. Miss Romney (Miss Elsie Carew) and her solicitor Hibbertson (Mr E. Haygarth), arrive too late to stop the wedding, and Sergeant Tanner, a detective (Mr George Carey), appears with a warrant to arrest Captain Courtney for the heinous crime of marrying a ward in Chancery. The captain assumes female attire and is introduced as Miss Brown, niece of the Gallaghers, when the detective searches the house—the curtain falling on a funny situation. Act II opens with Herr Von Moser (Mr A. Cochrane) giving a music lesson to Angela in Miss Romney's school, and making hot love to her. Gallagher brings the hunted Miss Brown to Miss Romney and installs her as a new pupil, and after this point to the end the fun is fast and furious. One curious touch of nature bring the instinctive attractions to girls of a man although successfully disguised in petticoats, Miss Brown is introduced to her fellow boarders, and is tremendously spooned by Euphemia (Miss Madge Corcoran), a decidedly rapid West Indian young lady, who smokes, etc., etc. She finds Miss Brown very different to English girls, to which Miss B. naively replies "I am!" Angela coming in is, of course, jealous, smacks Miss B.'s face and the fat is in the fire. The detective arrives

in pursuit and cross-questions Angela. He shocks Miss Romney by insisting on stopping the night to watch for the suspected Courtney. While on guard Miss Brown endeavors to escape through the conservatory. The detective suspects her of a wish to keep a rendezvous with the music master. He flirts with the girl and wonders what his old woman would think if she knew the sort of job he was on. The music master comes to give information, but is kicked out. Miss Brown consumes all the detective's brandy and water. Assisted by Angela, Miss B. strategically handcuffs Tanner with his own darbies and the pair escape, the confusion arousing the whole school, who troop in clad in their *robes de nuit*. Curtain on splendid situation. Act III. opens with Miss Romney and her solicitor discussing matters. Herr Von Moser enters in a Killaloe condition—alterations and repairs being compulsory after Miss Brown's violence. He is smugged and dismissed, and ejaculates, "I shake my feet off your dust!" Tanner enters with further personal traces of Miss B.'s prowess, whom he presently brings in handcuffed. [Miss Romney plaintively suggests that "she is only a helpless girl!" Tanner feelingly retorts, "Ask the German!" Miss Romney, to Miss B.'s horror, declares that she will give her a warm bath. Miss B. mutters that she will be found out—no chance of a shave for a whole day! Euphemia (like Byron's Duda) begs to have Miss B. as a bedfellow. Gallagher brings in Angela, Countess of Fulborough, Courtney having succeeded to the title. Miss

B.'s boxes are found to contain only masculine paraphernalia. In spite of the solicitor's growls and the detective's threats it is apparent that the Lord Chancellor must approve of the marriage, and all ends happily. While Mr Frank Thornton's Miss Brown is immense, the farce is much more than a one-character piece. All the parts are strong and capably played—notably, the Misses Carew, Clare Manfield, and Meta Pelham, Madge Corcoran, among the ladies, are shining lights, and Messrs Fred. Shepherd, A. Cochrane, E. Haygarth, and George Carey among the gentlemen. Smaller parts are excellently played by Misses Iza Millet, Florence Poole, Merton, and Mr W. J. Townsend. To-night (Thursday) is the last chance of seeing "Miss Brown," whose acquaintance everybody should make. On Friday and Saturday evenings "The Private Secretary" holds sway, to be followed in due course by "Charley's Aunt" and "Sweet Lavender."

CONTRASTS.

High Hopes.	DEEP DESPAIR.
Murital	Stormy blow;
Lots of kai!	Spoilt the show;
Pollard's girls:	Couldn't go;
Fair as pearls,	Awful woe!
Gay young sparks,	What a damper:
Jolly larks;	Wasted hamper:
Clair de lune,	Pommery greno;
High old spoon.	All in vain, oh!
Land, perchance:	Pretty gears,
Lovely dance;	All in tears.
Song and rhyme,	Jenness'dorce,
Real good time.	Glum and sore, eh?
Fa, la, la! Fa, la, la!	Damital! Damital!!!
Fa, la, la!!!	Damital!!!



MISS CLARE MANFIELD AS "SWEET LAVENDER"
FRANK THORNTON COMPANY.



MISS FLORENCE POOLE,
FRANK THORNTON COMPANY.



"STRANGE ADVENTURES OF MISS BROWN"—FRANK THORNTON COMPANY.

Rowing: seats to order for 3s/6d per pair at Geo. Fowlds.