

ADVERTISEMENTS

OPERA HOUSE.
Treasurer R. W. GREVILLE.

FAREWELL PERFORMANCES

WALTER BENTLEY.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JAN. 13 AND 14,
By Special Request,
THE SILVER KING.

NOTE.—On the occasion of the final performance Mr. Bentley will address a few words of farewell to his patrons.
Doors open at 7.15. Commence at 7.45.

OPERA HOUSE.
THE FIRST APPEARANCE IN AUCKLAND

THE DAMPIERS

AND THEIR FAMOUS DRAMATIC COMPANY,

In a SERIES OF POPULAR PLAYS,

For a LIMITED NUMBER OF NIGHTS,

Commencing

MONDAY, JANUARY 16TH,

With the Grand Production of Henry Pettitt's and George Conquest's Adelphi Drama, In Four Acts, entitled

HEARTS AND HOMES;

OR,

A ROYAL PARDON.

Admission—4s, 2s 6d, and 1s. Box Plan at Wildman's. Day sale at Tobacconists'.

LIEUT. M. ROSE, Business Manager.
GEORGE BULLER, Acting Manager.

Music, Drama.

(BY ORPHEUS.)

Spectatum admissi risum tenetis amici?

THE BENTLEY COMPANY.

Mr. WALTER BENTLEY'S "Macbeth," while remarkable for many good and original points, is not one of his strongest impersonations. The play was capitally staged, and taken all round the performance was a very satisfactory one. Unquestionably the success of the piece was Miss Emma Bronton's Lady Macbeth, a powerful, *spiritual* and consistent interpretation throughout. Mr H. R. Roberts made a fairly good Macduff, but must be careful about exaggerated force, which is liable to develop into *tant soit peu* of rant. Mr Lachlan McGowan's Duncan was full of dignity, and his lines were delivered with splendid enunciation and correct emphasis. Lennox and Ross, in the hands of Messrs. Seaton and Brian England, were well rendered, and Mr Charles Field, as Banquo, spoke and acted effectively. The weird sisters, taken by Mr W. F. Clitherow and the Misses Leighford and Hardy, were also good performances. One bit of business I think is scarcely in accordance with the true meaning of the text. When Macbeth, speaking of the Chamberlains, exclaims, "O, yet I do repent me of my fury that I did kill them," all drawing swords, ask in threatening chorus, "Wherefore did you do so?" implying a suspicion against Macbeth, which so far there is but little to warrant. In the text the question is in Macduff's mouth alone, and I think is asked rather in astonishment than in a tone of threatening inquisition. Mr T. E. Foster's conception of the drunken porter, while causing much laughter, is not quite in accordance with tradition.

On Thursday evening "The Lady of Lyons" was capitally staged and acted. Mr Walter Bentley's Claude Melnotte is a very fine performance of Bulwer Lytton's not altogether satisfactory hero. Power, passion, and a refined ironical humour are qualities which the character demands, and which Mr Bentley's genius displays to perfection. Miss Emma Bronton's Pauline is to be ranked among her highest successes. In her hands the character wins sympathy by some pleasing and original touches. Mr H. R. Roberts did full justice to Beauseant, and Mr Brian England made a dry and amusing Colonel Damas. Mr Lachlan McGowan's Deschappelles was an effective impersonation, and Miss Georgie Leighford, as Madame Deschappelles, made genuine fun out of the vain and silly dame. The other parts were capably filled.

On Friday evening "Richelieu" proved a big hit. Mr Walter Bentley in the title rôle ranks among the best of the numerous actors of reputation whose impersonations of the great Cardinal statesman it has been my privilege to witness. The blending of force, humour, subtlety, vanity, pathos,

dignity, passion, and affection which the rôle demands can only be adequately supplied by an actor of consummate skill and boundless resources such as Mr Bentley abundantly proves himself to be. That he satisfied his audience in every respect was testified by the numerous and enthusiastic calls before the curtain. Space will not permit me to mention in detail the masterly manner in which point after point was made. The sword incident was one of the most effective passages. As Julie de Mortemar Miss Emma Bronton largely shared in the triumphant success of the star, and added yet another to her already long list of finished impersonations. Mr Lachlan McGowan's Joseph was quaint and characteristic. Mr Harry Hill's Louis XIII., though in looks perhaps hardly the thirty years which the monarch numbered at the crisis in Richelieu's career, was in other respects eminently satisfactory. Mr H. R. Roberts as De Mauprat was an admirable success. Mr W. F. Clitherow made a comic De Beringhen. Mr Brian England came out well in the part of Baradas, the king's favourite. The remaining characters were satisfactorily taken, Miss Edna Eden's Francois displaying some excellent features.

On Saturday evening lovers of a lower flight welcomed the staging of the romantic melodrama "My Partner." This class of play does not perhaps suit the company quite as well as the more legitimate drama, but nevertheless the performers proved their versatility by rendering the play most effectively. Mr Walter Bentley as Joe Saunders and Mr

ing Mr Bentley's finished interpretation of the title rôle, and need only say that "everything you do still betters what is done!" As I anticipated Miss Katherine Hardy's Ophelia proved a brilliant success, but with more experience she will approach still nearer to the ideal character. Her snatches of song were admirably given in pitiful and heartbroken tones, but the enunciation was not quite distinct in places. Miss Emma Bronton's Queen was a powerful and pathetic impersonation. Of Mr McLachlan McGowan's Polonius I have already spoken in high terms of praise. Mr H. R. Roberts proved a capital Laertes, but should practise fencing. He also doubled the part of First Player, and spoke his lines admirably. Mr Harry Hill played Horatio very well indeed, infusing into the rôle a grave earnestness with telling effect. Mr Charles Field enacted the Ghost fairly well, but omitted some fine lines. Miss Lily Hegarty as Osric displayed a charming figure, and played the mincing fop with great fidelity. The gravediggers, Messrs Clitherow and Foster, were funnily quaint. The former gentleman doubled the part of the second player who murders Gonzalo in the play within a play, and certainly looked the blood-thirsty ruffian to perfection. As a whole, "Hamlet" was an excellent performance, the mounting and stage arrangements being well conceived.

On Tuesday evening "The Lyons Mail" was the bill of fare. On Wednesday "The Taming of the Shrew" was given and "David Garrick" repeated.

was educated at the Scotch College, Melbourne, so he may be claimed as a thorough colonial. The many friends he has made while on tour by his unfailing courtesy and genial manner will be pleased to see so good a reproduction of his handsome and kindly face.

OUR MELBOURNE LETTER.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

MELBOURNE, December 28th.

DEAR SPORTING REVIEW, — Things theatrical are now gaily in full swing. Helen and Arthur Vivian (so well known in New Zealand) are now at the Melbourne Alexandra in the "Woman of the People." Gus Glover is in the cast, and Geo. Neil is all right; but the houses are "shy, shy, dreadfully shy," even for the holiday season.

Things at the Opera House are very much ditto. "Current Cash" is the *piece de resistance*, but on Christmas Eve! a *Saturday night* too, there were not a hundred people in the whole theatre. The performance is by no means a bad one, the star (Miss Marion Willis) being more than able to hold her own with the home or imported article.

At the Exhibition we have a wood chopping contest, in which the axemen of Tasmania are carrying all before them. Personally, I do not go in for this thing, having wood chopping enough to do at home.

Re the pantomimes. The Princess Gordon's production is Al, and the Gaiety Company are largely represented, and Snazelle as "Hassarac" is, as usual, "all over the shop." The general opinion here is that "The Forty Thieves" will have a highly successful time of it. Miss Lethbridge and Mr Lormen are also strongly in evidence. The scenery is in Mr George Gordon's customary superb style.

At the Theatre Royal "The Babes in the Wood" is the pantomime, and Geo. Coppin is to be congratulated on "the children's production." George Carey, Johnny Gourlay, and Harry Norman work hard. The latter, by the way, is Bland Holt's right-hand man.

Bland Holt was to have played in and generally superintended the pantomime, but though the doctors ordered him off the job New Zealand people will be pleased to hear that the popular comedian is now recovering.

The news of Mrs. George Darrell's death in South Africa has been received in Melbourne with intense sorrow.

I forgot to mention that the Marion Willis Company close to-night (Friday).

Davy's and Miss Devoe—just back from a trip through New Zealand—have opened at the Victoria Hall. This place seems a trifle unfortunate of late, and big business is not looked forward to.

The Cogills are running on the shilling racket, and Dan Tracey is still at the Gaiety Music Hall.

Brough and Boucicault have gone to Sydney, and consequently the Bijou is closed.

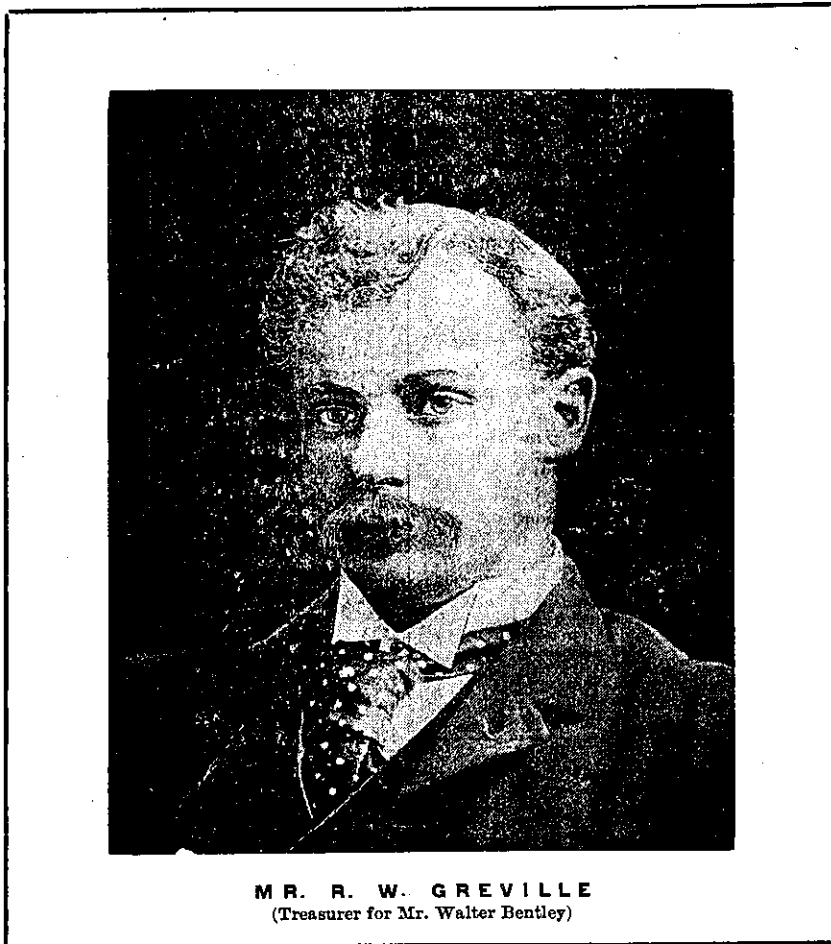
Miss Myra Kemble and a specially organised company will visit New Zealand early next year.

Henderson Africanus, "The Third Ambassador," is dead.

It happened in one of the Melbourne theatres, and on the night in question, to the practised eye of the performer, there appeared to be considerably over £100 in the house. The receipts from the front of the house, however, totted up about £60. When the news came "behind" things were lively and the blessings were loud and deep. Several members of the company handed in their parts with the intimation that they'd be jolly well—ahem! if they'd "go on" at night. They were persuaded to re-consider their decision, with the customary (theatrical) result that things were "all right." All this shows that as the apparatus, as Jacob McClosky says, "can't lie," the theatre must have been admirably full of "dead heads." At another Melbourne theatre, on the same night, one of the performers refused to "go on" unless he got a "five." He got it, and went on accordingly.

THE FLAT.

The death is announced of the brood mare Evening Star, the dam of Commotion, who expired the other day at the Linwood Grange Stud, Victoria. Evening Star was foaled in 1870, and was by Lord Clifden (winner of the Leger) out of Maid of Derwent, by Flatcatcher. Her best progeny was undoubtedly Commotion, but she was also dam of Nightmare, who in her turn produced three good racers in Mentor (winner of the Melbourne Cup), La Tosca, and Insomnia. In the year before she produced Commotion she foaled Albert (a full-brother to the ex-champion), who is now at the stud in Tasmania, and is a sire of a good racehorse in the shape of Harbinger.



MR. R. W. GREVILLE
(Treasurer for Mr. Walter Bentley)

H. Roberts' Ned Singleton, the partners, looked and acted distinct types of the Californian digger with considerable originality and success. Major Henry Clay Britt, the lawyer and candidate for election, found an excellent exponent in Mr Charles Field, whose stumpy speeches were given in true high-falutin style. Mr Lachlan McGowan was impressive and natural as the injured father Matthew Brandon. As Josiah Scraggs, Mr Brian Ennland distinguished himself in a by no means easy rôle. Perhaps a trifle more of the sanctimonious puritan unctuousness would improve his rendering. Mr H. Hill as the ex-circus performer Sam Boraler was first-rate. Mr W. F. Clitherow made a really funny Chinaman, and as Wing Lee created roars of laughter with his antics and comicalities. Amongst the ladies Miss Emma Bronton was again fitted with one of those strong yet pathetic parts which she plays so well, and Mary Brandon excited the pity and won the sympathies of the entire audience. Miss Katherine Hardy had rather a colourless part in Grace, but played it with pleasing simplicity and delicacy. Miss Georgie Leighford again made good fun out of the queer and quaint old housekeeper Posie Pentland. The other small parts found capable exponents, and "My Partner" altogether delighted the immense audience.

On Monday evening "Hamlet," by drawing a large audience, again proved that, in Mr Bentley's hands at least, "Shakespeare does not spell ruin!" Last year I had the pleasure of witness-

To-night (Thursday) "The Merchant of Venice" is sure to fill the house, and the season terminates with "The Silver King" on Friday and Saturday evening.

LAST night, but too late for a notice this week, Madame Bahnsen and Mr T. Jackson with strong support, were to give a good programme in the City Hall.

On Monday next the Dampiers, with a dramatic company which has received very favourable notices in the South, open in the Opera House with "Hearts and Homes," an Adelphi drama, by Henry Pettitt and George Conquest. Mr Dampier visited New Zealand some years ago, when he achieved a great success, and since then he has earned *kudos* as both manager and actor in Melbourne. Coming from the South, he and his company have drawn big money in each New Zealand town they have visited, and, as most of Mr Dampier's pieces are new to Auckland, he should draw well here.

In this issue we publish a striking likeness of Mr R. W. Greville, who is well known throughout Australia and New Zealand both in his present capacity as treasurer for Mr Walter Bentley, and as an actor of undoubted talent. He is the younger son of the ever popular comedian and manager, Mr J. R. Greville, whose performances are too familiar to most of our readers to require us to refer to them in any way. Mr Greville, jnr., is a native of Ballarat, and