

ON THE STAGE

(By "Comus.")

CHRISTCHURCH NOTES.

My Christchurch correspondent writes:— Since my last, the Theatrescope has been on at the Royal. It professes to be the finest thing of the kind that ever struck Maoriland. Some of the pictures are good enough, certainly, but taken as a whole, the show wants waking up.

Had a yarn with John Fuller the other afternoon. He reported having secured a five years' lease of the Auckland Opera House. Here in Christchurch the Fuller Show has hardened up a good deal of late, and it is now making money hand over fist. One of the best turns lately has been that of Carmo, the juggler, assisted by Madame Carmo. These are clever people in their line of business. Their balancing feats are wonderful. On Monday Lennon, Hyman and Lennon make a welcome re-appearance at the Opera House. Millie Herbert, farewelled to-night; she is deservedly popular.

Mel. B. Spurr opens here shortly, and his bills are even now all over the city. They are good bills, too, of original and striking design. Mr Claude Whaite, who business manages for Mr Spurr, is a live agent, and appears to understand the art of theatrical advertising thoroughly.

I understand that Miss Maud Chetwynd (here with the Royal Comies) returns to Sydney in August, when the divorce suit, in which she is the petitioner, will be heard. She is a clever little artist, and her sprightly performance in "A Country Girl" and other productions, will not soon be forgotten.

DRAMATIC AUTHORS IN REVOLT.

Playwrights in Paris are very much afraid of the theatres getting into the hands of a few managers as the London theatres are doing. The Dramatic Authors' Society has, therefore, decided that it will have nothing to do with any manager who is financially interested in more than one theatre; and the Folies Dramatiques, whose manager is supposed to belong to a "combine," has already been put upon the society's black list. Most of the best known dramatists belong to the society, so it exercises a good deal of power.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

On Saturday, "In Old Madrid" will be revived by the Woods-Williamson Company at His Majesty's Theatre. This play, which is founded on the well-known novel, "In the Palace of the King," gives the leading artistes great opportunities, and with adequate mounting it should prove popular.

Montgomery's Entertainers are at present touring the country districts and goldfields centres, everywhere meeting with a warm welcome, and doing satisfactory business. Mr Montgomery is a special favourite in the Waikato. He never returns to an old field without a budget of novelties.

Mr R. T. Tregaski, who for many years has piloted the Steele-Payne Bellringers during their travels, arrived in Auckland by the Westralia last week, and intends to make this city his permanent residence. Mr and Mrs Ralph Steele and family, and Dr. and Mrs Low (Miss Maude Payne), are also in Auckland with the intention of establishing a home here, and taking a well-earned rest during the winter. Whilst resting they purpose obtaining fresh novelties and reorganising their Company for their next tour of New Zealand.

I learn from the Wellington "Mail" that Mr Charles Holloway, the well-known actor-manager, who was here recently with his company, is laid aside with an attack of pneumonia.

Sanford's American Dramatic Company will make their Sydney debut at the Lyceum on July 2 in "The Power of Gold."

Juncker, who has gone to America, will always be kindly remembered by his "I Was Dreaming" song in "Ma Mie Rosette."

Nellie Stewart may be seen in a Shakespearean role during her next colonial campaign that opens in October. She is said to favour either Cleopatra or Rosalind.

The recent revival of "The Silver King," in Melbourne, reminds the "Newsletter" that the triumvirate made £30,000 profit in the year of Titheradge's first Silver King appearance.



MADAME CLARA BUTT, the well-known English singer.

Mrs Bland Holt says that each play opens up a new phase of life to study. "Thus your part," says she, "becomes educational through the manifold inquiries you made regarding it."

Mr Arthur King, who for a number of years was conductor of Pollard's Opera Company, left that company in Perth, having secured a good position in Kalgoorlie.

Mr J. C. Williamson and Miss Maggie Moore first presented "Struck Oil" in Australia in 1874.

A. B. Tapping, who visited Tasmania with the "Sweet Nell" Company, has, since his return to England, organised a company, and is producing "The New Boy."

Maud Beatty says that English professionals are a little world to themselves, and everyone seems to work so hard, and to make such a business of their work.

Miss Clara Morris recently celebrated the fortieth anniversary of her first appearance on the stage. She is at present a member of "The Two Orphans" star cast in America.

Mr George Stephenson has secured another American success, entitled "Other People's Money." It will be staged by the entrepreneur's American Comedy Company at the Criterion on October 8.

In latest English files the marriage is announced, at 58 years of age, of Henry Sienkiewicz, the author of "Quo Vadis" and a host of other novels. The bride (nee Marie Babska) is a young and handsome Polish lady. This makes the novelist's third matrimonial venture.

"The Prince of India," General Lew Wallace's novel, written by him while U.S. Minister to Turkey, is to be turned into a spectacular play, on the lines of "Ben-Hur." The dramatisation of the book has been entrusted to Mr. J. T. C. Clarke, a New York editor of many years' standing, and a tried playwright. Mr Clarke once wrote and sold to Sir Henry Irving a play on the subject of Don Quixote, and he is also responsible for a play on the subject of Machiavelli, in addition to many others.

Mr Walter Howe, for some years with Bland Holt, was playing Beau Nash in "Monsieur Beaucaire" at London Imperial.

Mr Frank Weathersby, manager for Mr John F. Sheridan, wrote to the "Reference" from Kalgoorlie (W.A.) by the latest mail: "Business in West phenomenal, and we play return visit Fremantle, June 15, 16, 17. Then Town Hall, Albany, June 20, 21, 22; sail by Persic, June 23, for Africa; open Maritzburg, July 11; Johannesburg, July 18, at Her Majesty's. Just sold by wire to William Anderson new London drama, 'A Girl's Cross Roads,' 'A Female Swindler,' and 'Between Two Women.'"

Messrs Stanley, Woodhouse and Hedderwick, solicitors for the Theatrical Managers' Association, write as follows to a London paper with reference to the comments and letters which have recently appeared in the Press on the question of "gagging," and the statement that the Lord Chamberlain had issued a prohibition against "gagging": "At an interview we had about ten days ago with the Lord Chamberlain upon some other business, he informed us at the conclusion of such interview that he was about to consider certain rules and regulations which were in course of preparation, and would like us to consult our clients and theatrical managers before they were settled and ascertain their views thereon; and for this purpose he courteously lent to us at our request the draft which had been prepared by one of his officials, but which his lordship stated had not at that time been considered by him. It subsequently appeared that the draftsman, without the knowledge of the Lord Chamberlain, had inserted for consideration the words 'nor can any gag be allowed.' We find, however, that when the suggested draft was considered by the Lord Chamberlain, and before any comments had been made, he had struck out the words above quoted, and afterwards informed us of the fact, so that it is clear his lordship never intended to adopt the suggestion of the draftsman as to the prohibition of 'gagging.' It is, of course, regrettable that the suggested draft of the rules, which was lent to be dealt with privately and confidentially, should have been the subject of premature public comment."



MR HERBERT WARING, an English actor of repute.