

THE STAGE

(By "FOOTLIGHT.")

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

WEST'S PICTURES AND THE BRESCIANS.

A farewell season of one week was commenced on Saturday last, and, as all along has been the case with this company, there was an immense house. With the exception of the humorous "Trip to the Sun" series, all the pictures shown were new. They included "Practical Conjuring," a very clever illusion, portraits of several M.H.R.'s, Major Wood breaking in an untrained colt, a really capital series, "Billiards Extraordinary," "A Love Story," "The Standard Bearer," a splendid set showing a procession of elephants in India, "The Press Illustrated," an original idea, "Auckland Harbour," "Up Queen-street in a Tram," "The March Past of the Auckland Cadets," and a fine picture of Sir John Logan Campbell. Most of these were really excellent, but the cadets were made to march too fast, while the discordant braying of the boys' bugles in no way helped to improve matters. The tram picture found most favour of the local views. Comic studies were shown in profusion. Among these possibly the best were "The Schoolboys' Joke," "The Gun License," and "Jones' Half-holiday," all of which caused roars of laughter. Although we would have preferred a few more pictures of distant lands, yet the funny ones doubtless pleased the bulk of the audience best.

The Brescians, who made their appearance in an entirely new set of old English costumes, were warmly welcomed. Their portion of the programme opened with "The Bells," and then "Now the Day is Over" was given. Miss Sara Hendy was encored for a pleasing rendering of "Love is Made to Make Us Glad." So daintily did Miss Domenica Martinengo sing Hope Temple's pretty ballad, "An Old Garden," that she was emphatically recalled, when the evergreen "Home, Sweet Home," was most charm-

ingly sung. Plenty of laughter followed Miss A. Martinengo and Fred. Mills in their duet, "The World Went Very Well Then." Miss Adelina Martinengo showed her skill on the violin in Mendelssohn's "Andante," and the applause which followed was very spontaneous and hearty. Miss Antonina Martinengo was hardly equal to Donizetti's aria, "O Luce di quest'anima." As usual, Mr. Fred. Mills caused roars of laughter for his comic songs, the most popular of which were "To be Continued in Our Next," and "Sandy McCluskey." Perhaps the best item was Mr. Rudall Hayward's singing of the hunting song, "My Mare and I." Mr. Hayward, who appeared in hunting costume, was heard to great advantage, a perfect storm of applause following. Altogether the programme was a remarkably good one.

On Trafalgar Day it is the intention of the management to show a number of pictures of some of the first British battle-ships, including a glimpse of the famous old three-decker, the Victory.

"THE SCHOOLMISTRESS."

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday there will be produced at His Majesty's, A. W. Pinero's screamingly farcical comedy, "The Schoolmistress." The members of the Auckland Dramatic Society have been working very hard for a long time to make the coming production as perfect as possible, and those who visit the theatre next week will admit that their efforts have been crowned with success. Those who have seen "The Schoolmistress" before will look forward to seeing her again, and those who have not done so should lose no time in obtaining an introduction.

MISS JESSIE MACLACHLAN.

Miss Jessie MacLachlan's season at His Majesty's Theatre closed on Friday. It was on the whole a successful one, although one might have reasonably expected stronger support from the Scottish folk in Auckland. Still, fairly large audiences obtained throughout the sea-



MISS ADELINA MARTINENGO, the clever violinist with the Brescians. G. F. Jenkinson, photo.

son, and these were rewarded with some very pleasant evenings. Perhaps the most popular items given by Miss MacLachlan were "Blue Bonnets," "Comin' Thro' the Rye," and "The Laird of Cockpen," and it has to be admitted that as a singer of Scottish ballads, our recent visitor was easily the best we have seen here. Mr. McLinden, for a young cello player, showed much promise, and when he overcomes certain faults of technique and gains experience, should most certainly make a name for himself. He was a good deal handicapped through using a very poor instrument.

OPERA HOUSE.

FULLER'S ENTERTAINERS.

The usual full house greeted the change of programme at "Fullers" on Monday evening. The company greeted the audience with a new opening chorus entitled "The Midshipmite," and then the Valmore Sisters led off with one of their double song and dance items, which went well. Mr. Chas. Moody, who is a firm favourite, sang "All the Girls are Lovely," for which he was vociferously recalled, and being called out once more for his second song, again knocked the audience out with "Knick, Knock." Miss Malvena Moore, who appeared next in a song and dance, was followed by our old friend Sam Wilson, who kept the house in roars of laughter. Sam's rendering of the wreck of the good ship "Bread Poulitice" was very good, whilst his gags were fresh and breezy. Miss Elsie Brown sang "Hannah, Won't You Open That Door?" most convincingly, her expression and acting helping out the song immensely. Miss Cecile Stephano, who made a first appearance, sang "Out Where the Breakers Roar." She is the possessor of a fine voice, having a very wide range, which was heard to good advantage in the deep notes of her first song. Responding to a hearty recall, she sang "Marguerite," in which the range of her voice was made further manifest. Miss Viola Price, whose dainty dancing of reels and flings has proved such an attractive feature, was warmly applauded for her "Fling," and recalled, danced the "Sword Dance" most deftly. A further demand from the audience brought forth a second fling,

which closed the first part of the programme.

The second half commenced with a clever exhibition of trick cycle riding by the Meivas, Lionel and Roy. The turn was an excellent one, all manner of balancing and fancy riding feats being indulged in. The two appeared to be quite at home in any posture, and showed most conclusively what can be done with the modern bicycle. The Misses Cecile and Lulu Stephano, who next appeared, sang "Whisper and I Shall Hear" in unison, and gained a hearty burst of applause. Recalled, they rendered "Life's Dream is O'er," very happily, the voices blending well together. Bob Scott and Kitty Beresford caused much amusement with their original sketch, "Tilly's Young Man," which went with a good swing. Prince Olrac, the fire king, fully justified his name by making a hearty meal of sheets of flame, which he swallowed with avidity. Such little trifles as boiling sealing wax and kerosene flames also assisted to give relish to his repast. His crowning triumph consisted of singing a song with a lighted cigar inside his mouth, accompanying himself on a guitar the while. His turn is a unique one. Leonard Nelson, who has been most popular with Opera House audiences, and whose last evenings were announced, went through a lengthy budget of songs, which were much appreciated. He leaves for Australia and America shortly, and should have a career before him. The performance concluded with a farce by Sam Wilson, entitled "Four O'clock Train," which was the cause of much hilarity.

Last Saturday was the last night of the Modern Milo, whose fine turn proved such a sensation in Auckland. On that occasion the Milo presented the Venus di Medici among her other poses, which proved to be one of the best she had done. Cruikshank, the caricaturist, also appeared for the last time, his sketches being excellent.

Next Saturday two fresh attractions are announced in the person of Cleopatra, the snake charmer, who has caused such excitement in the South, and Bonita, the champion lady rifle shot, who is assisted by Carlos, the human target. These turns should prove great attractions.



MR. BOB SCOTT, a sketch artist, now appearing with Fuller's Entertainers.