

With only a season of less than six weeks in Melbourne, three of which have already gone, Mr. William Collier has naturally had to curtail the run of "The Dictator," and that brisk, buoyant and breezy American farce comedy saw its last performance on Friday. To-night (Saturday, June 16) (writes Mr. George Tallis) Mr. Collier and his clever company will stage another piece of much the same delightful humour, which the star comedian has had as a strong attraction in his repertoire even longer than "The Dictator." "On the Quiet" is a farce comedy by Augustus Thomas, the hero of which is an alert young American, Robert Ridgeway by name, who has fallen in love with an heiress worth 16,000,000 dollars. Unfortunately for Robert, however, the lady's brother is also her guardian, and he has other plans for her, which include a husband of title or of high social position. Neither of these distinctions belongs to Ridgeway, but the young lover is so pertinacious that the brother gives a promise that his suit will be taken into consideration, if Robert goes back to college. That gentleman consents, but, in case there should be any forgetfulness, he persuades the heiress to a secret marriage beforehand. The subsequent proceedings, when the young Mr. and Mrs. Ridgeway are torn between the necessity of observing the proprieties and the inclination to indulge in exhibitions of affection, are of so exciting a nature that the brother is glad at length to strike his colours and consent to the union of his sister with Robert, whose keen wit and resourcefulness has met all the situations with an imperturbability worthy of the cause. Mr. Collier will, of course, play the young gentleman, a part in which he has already scored heavily, both in London and the United States, while the other members of his capable company are all fitted with parts calculated to show them off to the best advantage.

Mr. J. C. Williamson produced "The Little Michus" at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, a week or two after the same delightful piece had celebrated its first anniversary at Daly's Theatre, London, where it had been running continuously for a year. All the London papers noted the event, and most of them are confident to prophesy that the fresh and fragrant comic opera is likely to continue its prosperous career in that city for a long while yet. It was always delightfully bright and amusing, says one paper, while another (the "Daily Express") comments on it in the most flattering terms: "Dainty, fragrant, sweet, this memorable comic opera . . . must be accounted undoubtedly the most charming, melodious, tasteful and humorous entertainment in town." Judging by the audiences which have greeted it every night since the opening performance, that opinion is destined to be more than confirmed on this side of the world, and though the run may not be quite so long, it will not fall far short of 12 months when its successive seasons and revivals throughout Australasia are totalled.



BARRIE MARSCHEL AND IRENE CARLYON, who are now contributing a popular turn at the Opera House.

The Royal Comic Opera Company have begun rehearsals of "La Mascotte" in earnest. The old favourite will scarcely be needed for the Sydney season, which ends on July 6th, but it will form with "The Little Michus" and "The Shop Girl" one of the early attractions of the Melbourne visit.

When "Leah Kleschna" was produced in Adelaide by the Tittell Brune Company, Mr. Thomas Kingston played Kleschna, the Austrian criminal, and made the part one of the greatest of his successes on the Australian stage. He drew the character on lines very distinct from those made

familiar by Mr. Redgrave to Sydney and Melbourne audiences, and his idea of the man as a sly, incisive and sleek individual, who only blustered towards weaker vessels than himself, and was obsequious to those who might injure him, certainly seemed to be the more correct one. The performance was, indeed, a most artistic one.

The Brune Company will receive an accession of strength for their West Australian tour in the person of Mr. John Beauchamp, whom Mr. J. C. Williamson engaged to play "old man's" parts, a class of character in which he is said to be the best exponent on the English stage. Mr. Edward Mackay, a young actor who came out in the same steamer as Mr. Beauchamp, will be attached for the time being to "The Squaw Man" Company.

Miss Tittell Brune was most cordially farewelled in Adelaide, and is now on the eve of commencing her West Australian tour. That State will have the pleasure of her company until July 21st, and barely a fortnight later she will be at the other end of Australasia—New Zealand to wit, where she opens on August 7th.

Mr. Charles Waldron and the American members of the company engaged by Mr. J. C. Williamson to play "The Squaw Man" and "The Virginian" through Australasia, passed through Auckland by the Sonoma. On arrival in Sydney they will proceed straight through to Melbourne, where the tour opens at Her Majesty's Theatre on July 7th.

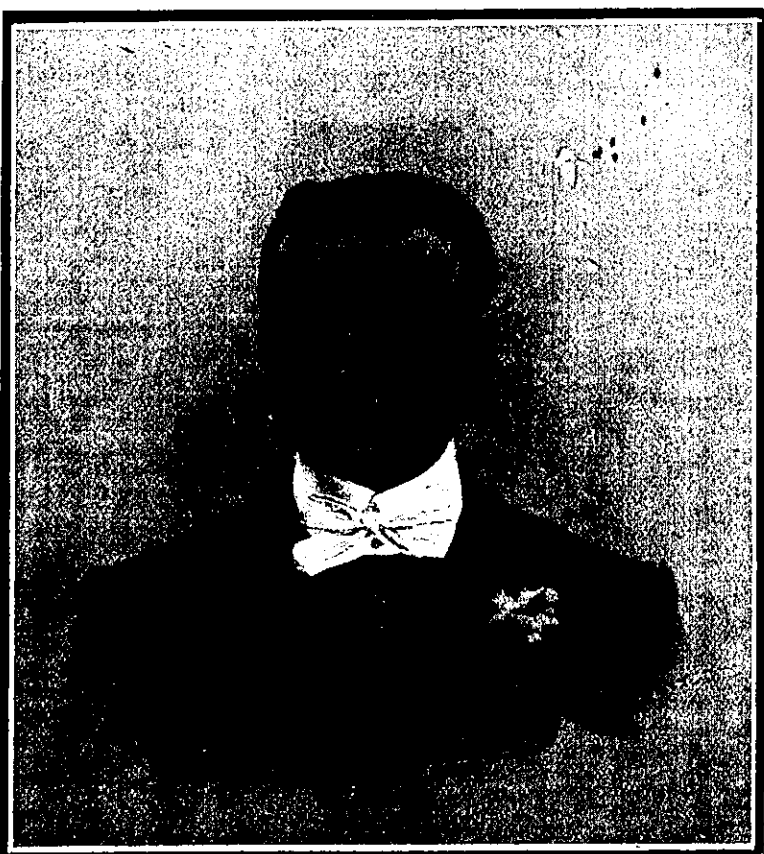
All the Australian booksellers agree in ascribing to Owen Wister's fine novel, "The Virginian," the distinction of being one of the best selling books of the past decade, and even now, five years or so after its first appearance, its popularity remains at a consistently high level. The vigour and manliness, no less than the humour and sentiment, contribute a blend which has a very decided attraction

for Australian readers, and everyone is therefore looking forward eagerly to the dramatic presentation by Mr. Waldron and his company.

Some of the London critics give very high praise to the turn of "Milo" and Cruickshank, who will be remembered as appearing at the Opera House some months ago. They are now showing at the London Pavilion.

A cable received a few days ago states that at the jubilee benefit to Miss Ellen Terry no less a sum than £6000 was taken, and that some people (whose enthusiasm must have outrun their common-sense) waited outside from 24 to 30 hours to obtain a front seat. The performance took place at Drury Lane, and there was a very strong management. Mr. Arthur W. Pinero was the chairman of the committee, which included Mr. George Alexander, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. Arthur Boucher, the Hon. Stephen Coleridge, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Alfred Courtenay, Mr. Henry Dana, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Sidney Smith, Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. J. E. Vedrenne and Sir Charles Wyndham. Mr. Acton Bond was hon. secretary, and at the request of the committee Mr. Austin Brereton undertook the duties of hon. press manager. A feature of the performance was the appearance, acting together in one play, of the entire Terry family.

"The Dairymaids" is the title of a new musical comedy recently produced at the London Apollo Theatre by Mr. Robert Courtneidge. It is very highly spoken of by some of the critics.



WARD LEAR, a great favourite with Opera House audiences.

Cough while you can,
For you can't when you will,
If you take this advice
You'll never get ill,
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure
All coughing will kill,
So run off your cough,
And run up no bill.