

possesses a very clear voice which was heard to advantage in the song. Miss Elsie Bates finished off the first half of the programme with a lively serio and dance item, "Reuben, don't be Teasing," that earned applause and a recall. The second half, ushered in by Mr. Crowther's orchestra, started with a descriptive song by Mr. Walter Anderson that earned applause and a recall. He was followed by Miss Pearl Lovell, who has quite won the hearts of Opera House patrons, and whose specially bright serio items met with prolonged and unstinted applause. Her turn is always full of vivacity and expression, and goes with a great swing throughout. Mr. Carden Wilson, who next appeared, gave some excellent imitations of various well-known actors, in several cases hitting them off to the life, both in voice and gesture. His Howard Vernon in "Tit Willow" was specially good, as also was his mimicry of Professor Moriarty and Sherlock Holmes. He is certainly a first-class imitator, and his turn was much appreciated by the audience, who applauded him vociferously. The Brady Sisters, Ida and Eva, gave a fine rendering of "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," their voices blending very pleasingly, and for which they earned hearty applause. The advent of the Bovis Brothers was the forerunner of prolonged and hearty applause. As before, the two were simply immense in their patter work, and the laughing song by one of the brothers was a very fine piece of work. Their vocal sketch, "The Masher and the Irishman," caused roars of laughter, the affected "dontcherknow" sort of stroll exhibited by the masher being too funny for work. Miss Elsie Bates next gave a very dainty serio and dance turn, "My Maori Maid" that went well and earned her unstinted applause at the hands of the audience. The evening's entertainment concluded with Jack Hagan's version of the comedita, "Love in a Tub," which sent the house off in high good humour.

Mr. Fuller, ever on the march with fresh attractions, has still more artists billed to appear at the Opera House on Saturday evening. Among others the first appearance is announced of Antonio and his world-renowned troupe of performing dogs and monkeys, while Mr. Val. Newton, an eminent basso, is also due to appear on the same evening.

#### OLYMPIA SKATING RINK.

Now that we are in the middle of winter, with many cold and wet evenings, an exercise which can be carried out under cover is one to be greatly desired. This is partly the reason why the Olympia Rink is never wanting for patrons, all the sessions being well attended. Rinking possesses an irresistible fascination for everyone who once dons the "winged sandals of Mercury," and glides on the polished floor to the strains of the latest waltz. Mr. Martin and the executive keep well abreast of the times, and the skates provided are of the best, while the all-round management is excellent. Good business is also reported from Onehunga and Otahuhu.

#### CHORAL HALL.

##### MISS AMY MURPHY.

Miss Amy Murphy, whose portrait we publish to-day, is announced to give two song recitals in Auckland, at the Choral Hall, on Monday and Thursday next, 16th and 19th inst. Miss Murphy is a New Zealand girl, but her reputation as a vocalist is by no means confined to this colony, for she has appeared with conspicuous success in the sister colonies, and her musical career, whether in opera, oratorio, or concert work, has been one long series of triumphs. Miss Murphy is an artiste of the highest rank, and both Press and public have united in proclaiming her one of the most gifted singers that Australasia has yet produced. Some of her most recent engagements include "Faust" (Christchurch), "Cavalleria Rusticana" (Christchurch), "Cavalleria," again (Wellington), "Faust" (Dunedin, last month), "Samson" (Wellington, her last engagement, two weeks ago), and she returns to Wellington immediately to sing the "lead" in two performances of "Cavalleria," going on at once to Feilding under special engagement to sing the soprano part in "The Creator." She is also engaged for a special performance at Napier for Friday, 27th inst., and later for the opening of the new Opera House at Invercargill. Miss Murphy has ap-

peared at all the big musical festivals held in the South during the time she has been professionally before the public. She has appeared on the same platform as Madame Melba, and has sung with Belle Cole, Watkin Mills, Gerardy, Friedenthal, and all the visiting stars, and always with conspicuous success. Her concert engagements are numbered literally by the hundred, and her popularity with the public is unbounded. Miss Murphy will be supported here by a specially-selected company.

Judging from what we have already seen of Signor Antonio's troupe of performing dogs, monkeys, and parrots, Opera House patrons are in for a good treat on Saturday evening. The troupe comprises some of the cleverest animals that have yet been seen on the stage, and their performances are certainly wonderful. With such an attraction in sight the house on Saturday evening should be a bumper one.

Miss Elsie Bates, the clever serio and dancer, now appearing at the Opera House, is a most versatile artiste, and recently scored quite a big success as one of the musical Gardeners. She will no doubt give Opera House patrons a taste of her capabilities in this direction at a later date.

In our issue of May 25, 1905, appeared a paragraph which was taken from the "Critic," and the source of information acknowledged, which stated that Mrs. Sims Reeves had been placed under restraint in Kalgoolie on a suspicion of being insane. It has subsequently transpired that there was no truth in the allegation made by the Australian paper mentioned. We greatly regret having published the paragraph, which, however, was done in all good faith, believing that the matter was of interest in the dramatic world, and that the "Critic" must have had good authority for the statement. We desire to apologise to Mrs. Reeves, and trust that she has suffered no annoyance from such a baseless report.

Mr. J. Nevin Tait is due by the incoming mail steamer from America.

A production which should prove of considerable interest will be seen during the present season of the Anderson Dramatic Company, when Ambrose Pratt's version of the exciting story "Thunderbolt" will be staged at His Majesty's. It should prove a great success.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred. Graham are now having a short but well-deserved holiday at Rotorua. Mr. Graham was very unwell during the pantomime season, and it meant a big effort to rise from a sick bed to undertake such a trying role as Mrs. Sinbad. His legions of friends will be glad to hear that the popular comedian is himself again.

Signor Antonio, who appears with his wonderful troupe of performing dogs and monkeys at the Opera House on Saturday, was born near Genoa under blue Italian skies, and came out to Australia during the great gold rush of the early days. After roughing it on most of the big goldfields and passing through many adventures, he finally decided to take up the training of animals, a thing which he had always been fond of and which he has now carried to such a successful issue. He had a faithful dog with him all through the gold-mining days, and in his spare time he taught it all manner of tricks, and in this way became finally decided in his course of action. A visit to his well-trained animals now shows how wise was his decision, for they can do anything almost except talk, and not only that, but go through their performance with evident enjoyment. Signor Antonio places the intelligence of dogs far in advance of that of the monkeys. The latter he obtained from the Straits Settlement islands, and says that they took most constant and careful training before they became at all efficient. The dogs, on the other hand, learnt what was desired of them much more rapidly, and with kindness, which Signor Antonio considers absolutely necessary in the training of all animals, have reached the high standard that they now show. Constant and unremitting attention is the only way to perfect animals in anything, and this must be carried on in the face of many minor failures and disappointments, according to Signor Antonio,

Scene from "The Mariners of England" (Mr. Anderson's next production).



Mr. Harry Diver as Lord Nelson.



The Death of Nelson.

who seems to have trained his troupe to as near perfection as possible. His dogs consist of a fine collie, a Japanese poodle (a merry little chap), a half-bred Irish terrier, and a part-bred Italian greyhound, and all we need say further about them is that they are the cleverest troupe without doubt that has been seen in New Zealand.

My Christchurch correspondent writes:—Animated picture shows are becoming as common as broken teetotal pledges. They fairly tread upon each other's heels. Any yet the people of this dusty, gusty metropolis never seem to tire of them. "The World's Pictures" have just gone after a most successful season at the Theatre Royal, and already "Edison's Popular Pictures" are announced for next week. Meantime "The Fatal Wedding" Company opens a season to-night at the dingy old Royal, when local playgoers will have an opportunity of renewing their acquaintance with at least two old-time favourites—Mr. Olly Deering and Mr. C. R. Stanford. There are so many "fatal weddings" in real life that the "counterfeit presentment" of one on the boards is pretty sure to attract crowded houses. I shall hope to have more to tell you about this show after I have seen it. People of an optimistic turn of mind still speak hopefully of Christchurch possessing a new Theatre Royal "some day." Possibly their hopes may be justified in the sweet by-and-bye. But just now the prospect of our getting that new temple of the drama is, to put it mildly, remote. The City Council (the members of which body were declared the other day to be suffering from "the sleeping sickness" by a local rag) refuse to pass the plans submitted for their approval by "the syndicate," because sufficient exits are not provided for, and matters are now at a deadlock, the chances being that the aforesaid syndicate will see the city

fathers jammed (or some word rhyming with that) before they will commit themselves to further expense. Meanwhile the conversion of the Canterbury Hall into His Majesty's Theatre is proceeding apace, and in a week or two now the new "gaff" will be an accomplished fact. . . . Standing-room only will be the order of the night at the Opera House this evening, I expect, when Madame Lydia Yeamans Titus makes her first appearance under what a local scribe is wont to call "the Fullerian Banner." Madame L. Y. T. (name is too long for repetition) is an expensive artiste, and will doubtless prove a trump-card for J.F. and sons. Frank King is making a great hit at the Opera House just now, and the Driscoll boys are as popular as ever, while our old friend Les Warton gets so many encores he doesn't know what to do with them.

The rehearsals of the "Lady Typist" are, to use a turfy expression, "going strong and well." The chorus is rapidly getting into shape, and should be perfect before the time for producing the piece. I am told that some of the songs are extremely beautiful, and having heard one or two of Mr. "Humphreys'" previous compositions I can well believe it.

The favourite play, "The Mariners of England," will follow "The Orphan Heiress" at His Majesty's. In it Mr. Harry Diver makes a great hit as Lord Nelson, this being perhaps the best of all the roles he has undertaken.

Mr. H. R. Roberts has obtained the Australian rights of "The Prince Chap," a great American success, and will probably bring it to Australia at the end of this year. Owing to engagements extending into 1907, it is unlikely that Mrs. Roberts (Maggie Moore) will be able to accompany him.