

Messrs Meyneli and Gunn announced the withdrawal of the Russian melodrama, "The Beautiful Fiend," from the boards of the Royal after August 2, and on the following night they produced for the first time in Australia, "The Great Awakening," by M. ss. Maud Hildyard, who heref interpreted the principal role.

"I sat next an interesting couple at 'Lohengrin,' the other night, in the two bob department of Melbourne Princess gallery. They were a cut or two above push society, but had some characteristics in common with the talent. He might have been gripman on a delivery cart; she was a star cigarette hand in a tobacco factory. After the first act she was very curious. 'Wha's it all erbout,' she said, 'tha's what I wante know. Why'd that bloke with ther sword make a row fer? The lydy in the night dress do nothin' t' him what I could see.'" "Ah-h, he's er nark, the gaboz with ther sword. He. orter be pinched," answered the youth. "But what's up with 'em all, Dolf? Blime, they're up the stick." Dolf, feeling that he had a duty to perform, settled down to explain. Not being quite certain of his ground his voice was low and confidential. "I dunno for a cert," he said, "but I reckon this is how. See, they're havin' a sort iv picnic 'n' darnee, these torfs, et eh place something like Dreamland 'r Prince's Court. Tumble? Well, the guy with ther sword—Fred his name is—he does a mag that ther lydy Elsie's done him for his ticker or p'r'aps bilked him fer er quid er two. Well, he makes er tickle iv th' show, Harry the Fowl they calls him, 'n' Harry sez they better not call in ther Johns, ez it ud on'y give ther p'ace er bad name. He sez gysts that Elsie's bloke should put up er ecuple iv rounds with this 'ere Fred fer ther ticker, winner t' take ther lot. Ther ticker, winner t' long stick, he's ther 'eferee, 'n' he cal's out ther names 'n' weght: iv ther two lads, 'n' th' conditions iv th' contract. Elsie's bloke, he's willin' 'n' he gets et Fred, 'n' passes 'im out in one round." The young lady looked relieved, but was not yet quite satisfied. "But what iv ther goose?" she said. "Why does Elsie's bloke have 'er goose t' drag him round?" "Yar, yer mug," retorted Dolf; "that's on'y one er them penny rides, same ez ther dragon et Prince's Court."—S. Snell, in "Sydney Bulletin."

Mr. Percy Grainger, according to letters received by Messrs. J. and N. Tait, is still pursuing his upward and N. Tait, as one of the rising pianists of to-day, and his second London recital in the Aeolian Hall was even better attended and more cordially received than the first.

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Miss Marie Hall completed her successful tour of New Zealand under the direction of Messrs J. and N. Tait last week, and is already on her way to England again on board the Aorangi, which she joined at Suva.

Mr. Andrew Mack's new piece, which first saw the light at Her Majesty's Theatre, Melbourne, last Saturday (July 27th) has in it, to judge from its reception from a packed audience, all the elements of as great a popular success as any of the older favourites such as "Tom Moore," "The Way to Kenmare," or "Moore, Shannon." It presents the star himself in a character that was made for him. Gerald Fitzgerald, the Earl of Kildare, is one of those open-hearted, kind, handsome sons of Ireland whom nothing can dismay or disconcert, who goes through life with a smile for everybody and everything, a captivating character altogether, and one that suits the comedian's particularly "human" methods entirely adequately. Whether he was making love, in that peculiarly half-tender, half-humorous style of his, defying his enemies or entertaining his friends, he was always admirable, whilst his singing of his own compositions, as well as Edward Harrigan's "My Dudheen," had the customary enthusiastic recognition, the effectiveness of the last named being increased by the full chorus, while the joining in the refrain of "My Sweet Maid" by a chorus in the gallery was also much applauded. The rest of the cast was capably filled by Miss Jane Kelton, who played the part of Kathleen Fitzmaurice with freshness and vivacity, by Miss Annie Mack Berlein as the sharp-tongued, warm-hearted seward of Killea Castle, and by the rest of Mr. Mack's company. Some elaborate scenery and appointments, costumes and properties generally give further distinction to the piece, and an excellently managed fight in the second act wrought the audience up to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

During the past winter season over forty shows of every description toured Queensland. Naturally, it was a case of killing the goose again, and the show people fell heavily. One big concern, it is said, dropped over £3000 on the tour; another, £1500; and a third, £1000; many others suffering to a proportionate extent.

Marie Lloyd, the sprightly, who not long ago again ventured into matrimony, recently made her first appearance in Paris before a large and enthusiastic audience at the Marigny Theatre. It was a gala night, and Marie, who had received no less than sixty telegrams from London friends wishing her good luck, immediately got on the best of terms with the "parley-vous." "Tiddley-Om-Pom" brought down the house. Marie Lloyd's English engagements run right up to the end of 1909, with just one tour to America between.

When every audience packs a building like the Melbourne Town Hall to the extent of invading the playing platform and almost sitting on the bandmen's knees, it is not surprising to hear that Messrs. J. and N. Tait decided to alter their announced arrangements for the Besses o' th' Barn Band and to postpone the provincial tour projected this week, so that an extension of the Melbourne season might be secured. Indeed, Melbourne has shown a greater enthusiasm for, and a keener interest in the Besses than any other town in the Commonwealth, and even the matinee performances have been crowded, while the hall has never been large enough to hold all those who wanted to hear the Band in the evening. From Melbourne the Band goes next week to Adelaide—that is, if Melbournians will let them depart—and thereafter to the West. Their tour comes to a conclusion at the end of

October, and there seems very little probability of an extension, despite the strenuous endeavours of Messrs. J. and N. Tait to secure it.

The Mongolia, with Madame Clara Butt on board, will soon be in Australian waters, and towards the end of the month "the greatest contralto of modern times" will be in Melbourne, resting and preparing for her concert tour of Australia under the direction of Messrs. J. and N. Tait, which begins in Melbourne Town Hall on the 10th September.

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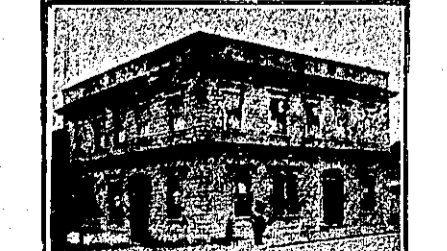
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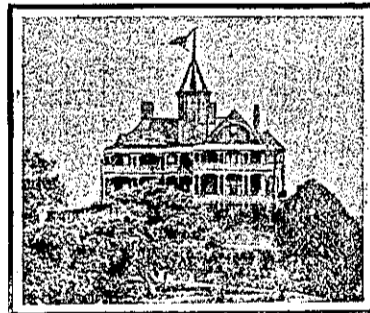
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