

MABELLE.

Ma belle! Right well they named thee,
 beauteous one!
 All constellations pale, and e'en the sun
 Beams with a lesser ray before thy
 smile
 Entrancing! Then but for a little while
 Look on me! Smile and make my life
 sublime!
 Light up these cheerless hours to end-
 less time;
 Enriched by thy sweet voice, in patno-
 mime!

Act Drop.

In consequence of the fulfilment of im-
 portant Australian engagements Miss
 Maud Hildyard's tour is necessarily short.
 Only the leading centres are to be visit-
 ed, with one night each in New Ply-
 mouth, Wanganui and Palmerston North.

Mr. Albert Goldie, representative of the
 "Mother Goose" Co., went South on Fri-
 day last to arrange the advance business
 of the pantomime. Albert is a first-class
 fellow and a "grafter."

Miss Maud Hildyard, who is at pre-
 sent appearing to crowded houses at the
 Theatre Royal, Sydney, under the man-
 agement banner of Messrs. Meynell and
 Gunn, commences her New Zealand tour
 in Auckland on September 16, under the
 direction of Mr. Allan Hamilton. Miss
 Hildyard will be supported by a strong
 company of dramatic artists, amongst
 whom are included Messrs. James Lind-
 say, Conway-Wingfield, Miss Amy
 Singleton, etc. The repertoire for this
 talented star's tour will consist of "A
 Warning to Women," "The Great
 Awakening," and "A Beautiful Fiend."

Richard Mansfield, the well-known ac-
 tor, died worth over £180,000, accord-
 ing to a recent cable. The writer, then
 a youth, first saw Mansfield in the dual
 part of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, and
 few actors ever have created such a
 startling impression as Dick Mansfield
 did in these parts. He was an old and
 dear friend of the pre-Raphaelite Brother-
 hood, and many a happy hour can O. P.
 Cyde recall with Mansfield in Irving's
 dressing-room at the Lyceum, or in Little
 Holland House in Kensington, at that
 time tenanted by his uncle, the late Val.
 Prinsep, R.A. Mansfield was a born
 genius, and was that rara avis, a stern
 business man combined with the dreamer
 and the poet. In later years Mansfield
 transferred his business dealings to
 America, but he will always be recalled
 with tender regrets by those who were
 associated with him in the days of the
 Rosettis, Signor Watts, Burne Jones,
 Irving and other pre-Raphaelites.

The Sheldons are touring the "smalls"
 of the Auckland district under the pilot-
 ing of that supreme genius Derek Man-
 nersley, of whom it is claimed that he can
 command full houses whether he ahead of
 a comic opera company, or only a dog
 fight. We wish him luck all the time.

Miss Madge McIntosh, the new leading
 lady for the Harcourt Beatty Company,
 arrived in Australia from London this
 week under engagement to Messrs. Mey-
 nell and Gunn. Miss McIntosh will ap-
 pear in the leading female role of the
 newly-formed Beatty-McIntosh Company,
 of which Mr. Harcourt Beatty is leading
 man. Mr. Gaston Mervale is also a
 prominent member of the company.
 Miss McIntosh will make her first ap-
 pearance in Australia in "Her Love
 Against the World." At the Theatre
 Royal, Sydney, on the 14th inst. Amongst
 the other plays to be included in the
 company's repertoire is the famo-
 us romantic drama "The Midnight
 Wedding," "Second to None," "Prince
 and the Beggarmaid," etc.

The turn at the Opera House lately an-
 nounced as "The Robbing of the Gods" is
 a decided misnomer, for there was not a
 single God robbed during the whole show.
 The lady who posed represented Goddesses
 only.

The magnificent costumes worn by
 Miss Maud Hildyard—Messrs. Meynell
 and Gunn's recent English importation,
 have been a theme for universal admira-
 tion. Miss Hildyard has brought from
 London for the dressing of her various
 characters over forty lovely gowns, all
 executed and designed by Worth, Paris
 and London.

Miss Priscilla Verne, now delighting
 the Fullerian audiences with sketches in
 which she takes part, together with her
 clever partner Tom Armstrong, appeared
 last Saturday evening in a laughable
 comedy sketch entitled, "The Interrupted
 Singer." Miss Verne wore a beautiful
 robe of real lace, and looked very bewitch-
 ing.

Of the six members of Mme. Albani's
 concert party shortly to visit this city, all
 are perhaps better known to Southern
 music-lovers, by name at all events, than
 the contralto, Miss Mildred Jones. This
 lady nevertheless possesses, to judge by
 the O'd Country journals, the promise of
 an unusually brilliant artistic career. She
 is young and she has a distinguished pre-
 sence. She has a rich, sympathetic,
 "colourful" voice. She has the musical
 temperament. As indicative of Miss
 Jones' quality and the place she has won
 in the esteem of Metropolitan concert-
 goers, the following extract from the
 "London Morning Post" is significant;
 it is no mediocre singer who can appear
 upon the same programme with Mme.
 Ada Crossley and achieve the triumph of
 the occasion." To quote the "Post":
 "The fifth of this season's London ballad
 concerts took place at the Queen's Hall
 last evening, when the audience proved it-
 self as tireless in giving applause as is
 usually the case at functions of this na-
 ture. The most attractive performance
 was that of Miss Mildred Jones, who is
 gifted with a full and even contralto voice,



MISS PRISCILLA VERNE, OF VERNE AND ARMSTRONG,
 NOW APPEARING AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

which she has already learned well how
 to use. So importunate was the audi-
 ence, even after an encore had been
 charmingly sung, that a request had to
 be made that the concert might proceed
 without delay. Madame Ada Crossley's
 singing showed its usual refined finish,
 and Miss Amy Castles pleased the listen-
 ers with both her songs. Miss Edith
 Evans sang, and Miss Vera Cockburn
 gave some recitations with music."

"Miss Hook of Holland" is generally
 regarded as the greatest musical success
 of the year in London, is shortly to be
 presented in Australia by Messrs. Mey-
 nell and Gunn, who are importing a com-
 plete musical comedy company for the
 production of this and other musical suc-
 cesses, amongst them being "The Girl
 Behind the Counter" and "The Belle of
 Mayfair."

"Something of the quality of voice
 possessed by Mr. William Green, the dis-
 tinguished tenor, to be heard shortly
 with Mme. Albani's company, may be
 gathered from this extract from a late
 critique appearing in the "Midland Ex-
 press":—Mr. William Green, who sings
 better than ever, gave Beethoven's famo-
 us "Adelaida" and "O Vision Entranc-
 ing," by Goring Thomas, in his usual ac-
 complished style. In point of the velvety
 quality, his voice comes nearer that of
 Sims Reeves than any we ever heard." Besides
 Mr. Green there will be heard with
 Mme. Albani in her concerts, the popu-
 lar English contralto, Miss Mildred Jones;
 Miss Myrtle Meggy, solo pianiste; and
 Mr. Haydn Wood, solo violinist. Mr.
 Theodore Flint is the accompanist and
 conductor.

The Harcourt Beatty-Madge McIntosh
 Company will commence the first season
 of Messrs. Meynell and Gunn's ten
 years lease of the Theatre Royal, Mel-
 bourne.

The Victoria brings to Australia yet
 another of Mr. J. C. Williamson's recent
 London engagements in the person of
 Mr. Wybert Stamford, who has been sent
 out to take up work as a stage manager.
 In that important department of stage
 work Mr. Stamford has had wide experi-
 ence both on the musical and dramatic
 side, and his capabilities are vouched for
 not only by the best London managers,
 but also by the pieces he has produced—
 these including "The Dairymaids," "The
 Three Little Maids," and several
 others.

Besides possessing a ten years' lease
 of the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, Messrs.
 Meynell and Gunn have secured a lengthy
 tenancy of the Criterion Theatre, Syd-
 ney, and will retain attractions in these
 theatres simultaneously.

A fellow passenger of Miss Beatrice Ir-
 win will arrive by the Victorian in the
 person of Mr. Howard Carr, who shares
 with Mr. Andrew MacCunn, the retir-
 ing (temporarily retiring that is conduc-
 tor of the Royal Comic Opera Company,
 whose place he is to fill), the advantage of
 being young in years but old in ability
 and experience. The Australian public
 have had practical proof of Mr. Mac-
 Cunn's capability as a conductor, and Mr.
 Carr, according to report, will prove a
 worthy successor to the chair. Certainly

he will have excellent material to work
 upon so far as the contemplated pro-
 gramme of the company for the immedi-
 ate future is concerned.

Messrs. Meynell and Gunn are import-
 ing twelve English beauties as show girls
 for their forthcoming season of musical
 comedy in Australia. "Miss Hook of
 Holland," "The Girl Behind the Coun-
 ter," and "The Belle of Mayfair," will
 form the initial attractions of the tour.

In accordance with its usual custom,
 the pantomime has added still another to
 its list of records in regard to the box
 office returns, nearly 2000 seats having
 been booked in Auckland on the day the
 plan opened for the season initiated there
 on September 2.

Miss Maud Hildyard is part author of
 two plays in her repertoire for New Zea-
 land, viz.: "A Beautiful Fiend" and
 "The Great Awakening." Miss Hild-
 yard appears as Wanda Lubinoff in "A
 Beautiful Fiend," and Lola Selby in
 "The Great Awakening."

Miss Beatrice Irwin, who, as already
 announced, has been engaged by Mr. J.
 C. Williamson, comes with an excellent
 reputation, and soon after her arrival will
 join Mr. Knight's company as leading
 lady. She already has the script of the
 part she is to take in "Raffles"—that of
 Gwendoline Conran, and by the time she
 reaches Melbourne she should be well-
 versed in it, especially as she has had
 the advantage of seeing the piece played
 in London. The role is one in which she
 should appear in the very best light, re-
 quiring as it does both emotional depth
 and sympathy in its treatment, and these
 are qualities which Miss Irwin has al-
 ready proved herself capable of handling.

There is a good story told by the pas-
 sengers of the Mongolia. At service one
 Sunday Madame Clara Butt joined in the
 singing. Now it is not every day that
 the greatest contralto in the world can
 be heard thus, and naturally the whole
 congregation stopped to listen—except
 one of the ship's officers, who is five
 foot three. He, brave man, manfully
 kept his end up, and the passengers were
 treated to one of the quaintest duets it
 would be possible to listen to.

Everybody who has been inside a
 theatre has noticed that in the dome over
 the gallery there is an open place from
 which the light is flashed on to the stage.
 This is a sight for speculation and won-
 der to many theatre-goers, especially to
 the children, who are inclined to regard
 it with awe. The man in charge of this
 strange region is furnished with a
 "plot," or written description of the
 lights required and the cues at which he
 is to precipitate them on to the stage.
 These lights must harmonise with those
 on the stage, and here we find the elec-
 trician's science being applied to the mak-
 ing of a pantomime. The chief electri-
 cian occupies a position on the stage
 where he is in charge of a great switch-
 board, at which, by the use of the simpl-
 est buttons, he can manipulate all the
 lights in the theatre. How remarkable
 it seems, for instance, that in such a great
 building it is so easy to blacken out
 everything excepting, perhaps, the
 figure of a single person on the stage!
 This is done by what is termed a "spot



SOME OF THE BEAUTIES IN THE "MOTHER GOOSE" CO.