



[By PAUL FRY.]

"Paul Fry" will be glad to hear from those managers of theatrical companies touring New Zealand who desire that the public shall know the movements of the companies. Any information as to dates, etc., will be acknowledged in these columns, as well as any other items of interest to the theatrical world. All letters should be addressed—"Paul Fry," SPORTING AND DRAMATIC REVIEW, Vulcan Lane, Auckland.

The first representation of "The School for Scandal" was given by Miss Nance O'Neil and the members of her company at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, on Saturday, May 12. Miss O'Neil, as Lady Teazle, was supported by Mr G. Becks (Sir Peter), Mr Kingston (Charles Surface), Miss E. Hughes, Mrs Bracy, Messrs Plimmer, Atholwood, and others, and a fine production was heartily received by a crowded house.

Haddon Chambers's new play, "The Tyranny of Tears," was produced for the first time in Australia, by the Brough Comedy Company, at the Sydney Theatre Royal on Saturday, May 12. The principal roles were admirably played by Mr and Mrs Brough, Miss Grace Noble, Mr Dartrey, and Mr Lovell. The play is full of sparkling dialogue and clever repartee, while the staging and dressing leave nothing to be desired. An enthusiastic audience greeted the first performance, and good houses have been the rule ever since.

The John Fuller Waxworks and Variety has four shows running at the present time. On the 21st a company commenced proceedings at Invercargill. Several well-known artists appeared, and the company was well received. Those old favourites, Miss Georgie Devos and Charles Fanning, are back in New Zealand and showed at Fuller's Dunedin house, the Alhambra, on the 21st, and met with a big reception. Lennon Hyman and Lennon, the clever contortionists who have recently been amusing City Hall audiences, are also at the Alhambra, where they gave their first performance on Monday.

Mr Ben Fuller informs me that business is good with each of the four Fuller companies, notwithstanding the bad weather experienced of late.

Mr C. W. Naylor, who, it will be remembered, used to sing at the City Hall in by-gone days, has settled down in Wanganui, where he will give lessons in music and singing.

Fitzgerald's Circus Company concluded their return visit to Auckland on Monday night. Throughout the season the Big Tent has been filled at every performance. On Friday night there was a very interesting jumping contest for *bona fide* hunters, and in this competition Mrs Kelly's Playboy received first prize, while Mr Selby, the Huntsman of the Pakuranga Hounds, got second and third with Mountain and Albion. All three prize winners jumped well. On Saturday Mr Dan Fitzgerald introduced the champion jumping horse Newhaven, whose feats were really wonderful. On Monday night there was another leaping competition, and this again was well approved of by the crowded audience. The lion and the tiger and the elephant—all old friends of Aucklanders—got through their respective performances in good style, while the horses, the ponies, and the clowns delighted everybody, just as genuinely as they have always done. A circus run by the Fitzgeralds would receive good patronage every night for some months.

Our friend Mr P. R. Dix has been keeping the ball rolling merrily at the City Hall ever since the relief of Mat King. The new arrivals, the Thornton Sisters, have proved a great attraction to the City Hall audiences. Their dancing is exceptionally neat and clever, and their songs are quite as good. They have had to respond to encores at every appearance. Another newcomer, Mr Kearns, has "caught on" immensely. As *vis a vis* to Mr Frank Yorke he is in his element, and the two end men have provided amusement enough to make a cat laugh. That they should provoke the visible facilities of an Auckland audience is not, therefore, surprising. In the Warsaw Brothers Mr Dix has musical artists, who nearly approach the popularity of the Leslies, while in Miss Annetta Bodin, Miss Ida Roslyn, and Messrs Walter Rivers, Dalgleish, and Johnny Collins he has artists who are able to hold their own anywhere. The skit on the cinematograph exhibition of the Corbett and Fitzsimon's fight was a great feature of Saturday's performance. More good things are promised on Saturday, and for every day for months to come, so it will not do to stay away from the City Hall.

The Henry Dramatic Company concluded their visit to Auckland on Saturday night, when a crowded house revelled in the murder riot and sudden death so abundant in "Outlaw Kelly," the melodrama produced for the farewell performance. Earlier in the day the Company had a good house for the *matinee* of "Charley's Aunt." On Monday the Company departed for the Thames, where they will probably play to extremely good houses. "Charley's Aunt" is a sure draw, while "Soldiers of the Queen" ought to be very acceptable to Thamesites at the present period of patriotic fervour. Then if "Outlaw Kelly" is staged for a final performance the season should be a great success. I believe the Company had on their late visit the best season they ever had in Auckland. Mr and Mrs Henry are popular artists, and Mr Coulter,



Photo by Talma, Melbourne.
MISS ADA WOODHILL, of the Bentley-Ancelon Company.

Mr Hodge, and the other members of the Company are all able to hold their own.

The Auckland Banjo and Guitar Club gave its fourth concert of the season at the Opera House on Monday night. The presence of the Earl and Countess of Ranfurly brought an extra crowded house, and the affair went off with great *eclat*.

After the Henry Dramatic Company have played at the Thames, Karangahake, and Waihi the Aroha will be visited, and after the last-named town has been played to the Company will journey up to Whangarei for a short tour in the North.

The Walter Bentley and Douglas Ancelon Company open at the Auckland Opera House on Monday night with "The Silver King."

"Outlaw Kelly," which was staged by the Henry Dramatic Company on Saturday last, was about the weirdest *pot pourri* of improbable situations and impossible character that I have seen for a long time. As a melodrama, it falls with a dull thud, but as a new brand of burlesque it bangs Bannagher. Lance Linton, once a *doyen* in the realm of witty "curtain risers" and laughable "end pieces" in Australia, is accused of the authorship. Lance, my dear fellow, what have you been doing? And pray don't tell me that the attack is liable to become chronic. Needless to say the members of the company made the most they could of the production, and extracted all the amusement possible from it.

After an absence of over six years, Mr Walter Bentley, one of the most popular and talented actors that has ever visited the colonies, will open at the Opera House next Monday evening, June 5th, for a short season, supported by Mr Douglas Ancelon's powerful dramatic company. The opening production, "The Silver King," the greatest of all modern melodramas, will be staged for three nights, on Thursday "Garrick" will be played, Friday, "Othello," and on Saturday "Dr. Bill" will be submitted. "The Silver King" is no stranger here, and is certain to be welcomed most heartily by all lovers of a really high-class melodrama, powerfully written and strongly constructed. In this drama, Mr Bentley scored a success some years ago in the United Kingdom and in America. Messrs Williamson and Musgrove, with their usual enterprise, entered into an agreement with Mr Bentley, shortly after his arrival in Melbourne, and the crowded audiences which assembled at their theatre (the Princess) added fresh laurels to the actor's wreath of fame, while stamping "The Silver King" as the most powerfully magnetic melodrama of modern times. It has been eulogised alike by the press, the public, and the pulpit. It has never failed to attract large numbers of the discriminating public who approve of the play because of its sterling qualities. Mr Bentley will, of course, appear as Wilfred Denver, and will be supported by Miss Ada Woodhill as Nellie Denver, Miss Helen Gibson as Olive Skinner, Miss Ethel Hunt as Busey, Miss Ivy Gorrick as Tabby, Miss Lynn Lyndsay as Mother Gammage, little Ethel looking as Cissy Denver, Mr Orlando Daley as The Spider, Mr Leo De Chatou as Jakes, Mr Johnson weir as Coombs, Mr Wilton Power as Cripps, Mr H. Hannell as Geoffrey Ware, Mr Rowland Stanley

as Baxter, Mr E. F. Gallagher as the Tippy Passenger, Mr O. Daniels as Henry Corkett, Mr O. Hales as Railway Inspector, Mr E. B. Woodhouse as Tubbs, Mr Sid. Kevey as Binks and Mr J. M. Hume as Parkin. The scenery has been specially painted, and the mechanical and lime-light effects are controlled by a first class operator.

At the Hall of the Y.M.C.A., Wellesley-street, on Monday night, the Rev. Charles Clark gave the first of his farewell nights. Dicken's charming "Christmas Carol" was the work which Mr Clark recited with beautiful feeling, tender pathos, and fine eloquence. The lecturer's success a fortnight ago was enough to attract a large number of people, and the limited space at the Y.M.C.A. Hall was crowded to excess. The audience greatly appreciated the exquisite manner of the lecturer, who gained a great triumph with the "Christmas Carol" as with any of his previous recitals.

Mrs Howie, the Christchurch contralto, who is leaving New Zealand next Monday, has been singing at the Rev. Charles Clark's entertainments during the week. On Tuesday night, when the lecturer gave his celebrated discourse on "Westminster Abbey," Mrs Howie sang the Aria "O Rest in the Lord," from "Elijah." Mrs Howie has a fine voice, but on Tuesday night she gave the impression that she could do much better if she wished. Last night, Wednesday, Mrs Howie was down to sing Blumenthal's charming "Sunshine and Rain," Felix Corbut's "The Time of Roses," and Sir George Macfarren's "The Beauty of My Own Heart." As the *Review* goes to press early on Wednesday evening it is impossible to say anything more. Mr Clark's description of Westminster Abbey was delightful to those who know the historic pile, and it must have seemed wonderful to those who have no acquaintance with the resting place of some of England's greatest men—kings, clergy, poets, soldiers and statesmen.

New Zealand's warm and lovely climate is not without its sudden changes, More noticed in the winter time When hail and snow fall on the ranges. The wind blows hard and biting cold, And finds our weakest parts for sure, And gives us coughs until we're told To take some Wood's Great Peppermint Cure.

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Photo by Talma, Melbourne.
MR E. D. HAYGARTH, as "Charley's Aunt," in the Henry Dramatic Company.

Cricketing and Tennis Shirt