



[By PAUL PRY.]

"Paul Pry" 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 Pry," SPORTING AND DRAMATIC REVIEW, Vulcan Lane, Auckland.

George Musgrave, says the London correspondent of the Sydney Telegraph, writing on May 4th, has every reason to congratulate himself he did not, in the expressive Yankee phraseology, "go whacks" with Loderer and Company in "An American Beauty" at the Shaftesbury. The successor to "The Belle of New York" is dull as ditch-water, boasting neither a plot nor good songs. Edna May, the much photographed, looks divinely chic, and has one decent ballad, "The Old Days," but her playmates are lost amidst morasses of fatuous dialogue. I fear even the buxom belles forming the chorus (on whose drawing powers Mr Musgrave placed such faith) will not save this hopeless piece.

Miss Lalla Miranda, the new Australian prima donna, from whom great things are hoped, will make her debut at Convent Garden as Gilda in "Rigoletto," the role in which Melba first introduced herself to English audiences.

Lazerna, the conjurer, was at the Wellington Opera House last week.

The Douglas-Ancelon Dramatic Company after their successful Wellington season, played at Hawera to good houses.

The Ancelon-Bentley Company opened at Christchurch on Tuesday night. The season there will last a week.

John Fuller's Waxworks and Variety Company will open at the Auckland Agricultural Hall on Saturday evening next. The waxworks combine several novelties never before witnessed in New Zealand. The variety artists are all possessed of first-class ability, and there is little doubt that the company will succeed in their undertaking to amuse and interest the Auckland public.

Paul Cinquevalli has just perfected a new trick at the London Empire, which surpasses all his other juggling feats of this nature, and leaves his imitator far behind. A Ralli car with people in it is drawn on to the stage by a pony, he then balances the car on his chin by the point of a shaft, meanwhile nonchalantly spinning the wheels.

Amongst the waxworks novelties to be shown at the Agricultural Hall on Saturday are tableaux representing the Gaton Tragedy, the Boot Trunk Mystery, the Deeming and the Little Bourke-street Murders.

The artists who will take part in the Fuller Variety Entertainment at the Agricultural Hall are Miss Lucy Fraser, Mr Martyn Hagan, Mr Will Stevens, an old friend Mr Will Watkins, and others. Mr John Fuller, junr., manages the show.

The Seale-Payne Bellringers brought their present season at the Auckland Opera House to a close on Saturday evening, when there was again a large attendance to listen to the musical part of the programme and to look on the excellent living pictures. The Queen's visit to Dublin was admirably depicted, and this, with the other pictures, was remarkable for its steadiness. The company will pay a series of visits to the suburbs, and will presently return to the Opera House.

Miss Nance O'Neill played Camille, at Melbourne, at Her Majesty's, on Saturday night, July 7th. So intense did the clever actress make the dying scene that more than one lady fainted from excitement.

Mr Joseph Carne made a hit as the Comte de Varville in "Camille" at Her Majesty's, Melbourne. The Armand of Mr Thomas Kingdon was, according to report, also a fine performance.

In the course of some reminiscences to an interviewer the other day, Paul Chingvalli said one or two out-of-the-way things have happened to him. "Once, at Sydney, as I was balancing a big iron ball at the end of a pole on my forehead I let it fall, as a bit of by-play, allowing the ball to just kiss my head. When I started again a lady got up in the second row of the stalls and cried—'For God's sake, don't do it!' She covered her face till I'd finished. It was in Australia, too, that I escaped being shot by a mad Irishman because I was wearing green."

"M.A.P." tells a good story about two artists well known in the colonies. A hard-working actor and his family were compelled "to take to the sands," and gave a performance on the beach at a seaside resort. The little daughter was put up to sing "Sweet Violets," and as she had not sung in the open air before was very nervous. A well-dressed man in the crowd came up, complimented the little girl, heard the story, and immediately offered to sing himself. He sang "Sweethearts and Wives" and collected 30s for the child. The little girl was Ada Reeve, and the benevolent vocalist the late Charles Godfrey.

Mr Franke Yorke is back again at the City Hall.

Miss Zoe Karkeek, who was a popular member of the Pollard's Opera Company, has been engaged as principal boy in an American Burlesque Company.

The death is reported of Mr McAdoo, of the McAdoo Minstrels.



MISS MURIEL WILSON.  
A Charming and Accomplished English Amateur Actress.

Gilbert J. Smith, whose death occurred at Nyngan (N.S.W.), May 20th, was a well-known figure in the Australian theatrical world. In 1883, he started in Brisbane as a theatrical wigmaker, and soon he became lessee of the local Gaiety Theatre, which he successfully conducted for some time. Later on he established a theatrical costume business known as "Noah's Ark" in the same city. In 1891 he opened in Sydney, and remained there until the time of his death, with the exception of occasional tours which he took with different companies. While lessee of the Gaiety Theatre in Castle-reagh-street, says a Sunday Times writer, Mrs Keightley appeared under his management in "Bailed Up," a piece which had been specially written for her. The deceased made his will a couple of hours before his death, leaving his business to Miss Lily Smith and Miss Harrie Courtney, his manager (Lieutenant Stephen J. Byrne) and Mr B. F. Brentnall being appointed the trustees. The remains were interred at Nyngan with Masonic honours, the local band and that of Eroni Brother's circus heading the funeral procession. A monument will be placed over the grave by the local Masons. Fortunately the deceased left ample provision for his mother, wife and family.

Miss Trixie Leamar is the newest artist at the City Hall. This versatile singer and dancer made her first appearance last night. I shall be able to say more about her turns next week.

Mr Jimmy Bain made his last appearance at the City Hall last night (Wednesday). Throughout his season he has been immensely popular, and I shall not be at all surprised if Mr Dix prevails on him to pay a return visit.

The Christchurch Kinematograph Syndicate commenced a season at the Auckland Opera House last night (Wednesday). I cannot say anything about the pictures shown, as the Review goes to press before the Opera House opens, but I know that the war pictures exhibited are really excellent. They are the latest from the seat of war and all are moving; there are no slides on view. The artists with the company are Miss Amy Vaughan, a very accomplished serio comic artiste and a very neat dancer, and that old favourite, Mr Harry Baxter, who gives some smart up-to-date songs and sketches.

During the week the City Hall has been extremely well attended. Mr Bain has kept up his end of the stick in splendid style, and every evening has been rewarded with an enthusiastic reception. Miss Annetta Bodin is back again after her trip to Wellington. Patrons of the Gaiety Company have enjoyed themselves heartily, for they have had the following artists to amuse them: Miss Lulu Zetch, Miss Malvena Moore, Miss Daisy Chard and Messrs Bob Hall, Tom Edwards, Arthur Hahn, Tom Leonard and Joe Watts.

The Pollards have had a highly successful season at Dunedin.

A very enjoyable smoke concert took place recently at the Post Office Hotel, Wellington, to bid good-bye to Mr A. S. Levy, who has been for the past six years licensee of the well-known Central Hotel, Wellington, and is now leaving for Melbourne. The hotelkeepers were in strong force on the occasion, and through the President of the local Association, presented Mr Levy with a gold sovereign case and gold match box. With eating, drinking, smoking, singing, recitations and speechifying, a very pleasant evening was spent and regret was expressed that more of these social gatherings did not take place.

Mr Arthur Blanchard is the advance agent for the Christchurch Kinematograph Syndicate. He is an enterprising and energetic young gentleman and thoroughly understands his business.

Mr T. Edmond Leonard, whose portrait appears this week, is at present at the City Hall with Mr Dix's Company as comedian and stage manager, where his efforts to amuse have met with every appreciation. Mr Leonard has the advantage of a ready pen to help his sense of humour, as his new version of "The Wearin' of the Green" and "So Runs the World Away" exemplifies. He is a many-sided artist, and has run the gamut of his profession from Shakespeare to end man, and has also contributed two plays to the dramatic stage, "The Passion of the Hour" (Sydney) and "The Fatal June" (Melbourne), both of which were favourably received and criticised.

The many friends of Miss Gertie Campion will regret to learn that she has for some time past been suffering from a serious throat trouble. Acting under medical advice, Miss Campion underwent an operation lately, and has since been confined to her room. She is, however, I am pleased to hear, improving daily, and will probably be able to resume her professional duties very shortly.

Mr Harry Rickards has introduced a very clever and charmingly graceful dancer in Miss Isabel Landon to the audiences at the Melbourne Bijou.

The "Quo Vadis" quarrel between Mr Wilson Barrett and his American rivals, now happily settled, has so familiarised the piece and its name that no protests are likely to be heard from the masses against titles in unknown tongues. Mr G. R. Sims ("Dagonet," of the London Referee) labels the following street scene "a fact":—"First Dustman (On Cart to Mate): Hello, Bill. See Jim Cully togged up? Second Dustman: Where's he off to? (Jim Cully, a coster, in his Sunday best, approaches). First Dustman: Arrest him, Bill. Second Dustman (to Cully): Wot ho, Jim—Quo Vadis?"

Miss Ada Ferrar has lately been playing the Duchess of Strood in "The Gay Lord Inex" in Mr John Hare's English Provincial Company. Lord Quex was played by Mr Gilbert Hare, who is said to have given a very excellent imitation of his father in the same character.



Photo by the Edwards Studio, Auckland.  
MR TOM LEONARD, now at the City Hall