



[By Amicus.]

BOOKINGS.

OPERA HOUSE, AUCKLAND:

December 26 to January 21—Willoughby-Geach Co.
 January 24 to February 14—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Co.
 March 2 and 5—Madam Melba Concert.
 March 16 to April 4—Hawtrej Comedy Co.
 April 11 to May 2—Anderson's Dramatic Company
 May 25 to June 6—Pollard Opera Company
 June 8 to 26—Geo. Musgrove's "Sweet Nell" Company
 June 27 to July 10—Harry Rickards Co.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, AUCKLAND

December 28—Opening night, J. C. Williamson's Com-
 pany, 4 weeks
 January 27 to February 14, 1903—Frank Thornton
 Comedy Company
 February 16 to March 7—J. C. Williamson's "Sherlock
 Holmes" Company
 March 18 to April 4—Hawtrej Comedy Company.
 April 13 to May 12—Anderson's Dramatic Company

OPERA HOUSE, WELLINGTON

December 26 to January 22, 1903—Anderson's Co.
 January 23 to February 5—J. C. Williamson's Dramatic
 Company
 February 23—Madame Melba
 February 24 to March 14, 1903—Frank Thornton Co.
 April 11 to May 2, 1903—J. C. Williamson Co.
 May 4 to 30, 1903—Hawtrej Comedy Company
 June 1 to 18—Rickards' Company
 June 17 to July 15—Pollard's Opera Company

THEATRE ROYAL, CHRISTCHURCH

January 26 to February 7—Anderson's Dramatic Co.
 January 18 to March 7—Hawtrej Comedy Company.
 February 20—Madame Melba

PRINCESS THEATRE, DUNEDIN:

December 26 to January 22—Pollard Opera Co.
 January 24 to February 14—Hawtrej Comedy Co
 Feb 14 to March 13—Anderson's Dramatic Company

OPERA HOUSE, WANGANUI.

December 24 to January 2—Leigh-Douglas Company
 January 17 to January 21—Thornton Company
 January 26 to February 27—Anderson's Company
 April 11 to 18—Hawtrej Company
 February 9 and 10—J. C. Williamson
 March Races—McMahon's Company
 June 18 to 20—Rickards' Company

OPERA HOUSE, HAWERA.

January 22—Frank Thornton Company (pencilled)
 February 18 and 19—Majeroni Company
 February 23 and 24—Abbott (Auckland, pencilled)
 June 22—Rickards' No. 4 Company

Dix's Gaiety Co. nightly at the CITY HALL, Auckland
 OPERA HOUSE, Christchurch; THEATRE ROYAL, Wel-
 lington.

OPERA HOUSE.

"ON AND OFF."

The Willoughby-Geach Comedy Com-
 pany presented F. C. Burnand's farce
 "On and Off" at the Opera House the
 latter half of last week to fairly good
 houses. The piece abounds with fun and
 laughter, and was excellently staged
 throughout. The brunt of the work falls
 on Mr George Willoughby, who played
 the part of George Godfray, the amorous
 husband. He is handicapped by the fact
 that the character he represents is an ob-
 jectionable cad, even as farce characters
 go, but he certainly makes the most of
 his opportunities. As usual not a point
 escapes him, and he runs through his
 part with dash and vim. Mr Frank Den-
 ton, who plays Alfred Godfray, the real
 railway inspector, whose visit to George
 is the cause of many complications, has a
 great deal to do, and does it very well.
 This young actor seems to improve with
 each appearance, and his work in the
 piece shows what he is capable of, his in-
 terpretation of the part being particularly
 good. Mr Tom Cannam played the part
 of a foolish father-in-law with success,
 and Mr George Leopold and Mr Edwin
 Lester are both responsible for a good
 deal of amusement. Miss Roxy Barton
 looks charming, and plays still more
 charmingly, as the wife of George God-
 fray. Miss Roland Watts-Whillips
 took the part of George's mother-in-
 law in the good old-fashioned way, which
 leaves the poor man little or no peace.
 The part of Lisette, a young lady who
 attracts men by winking, and then when
 they respond to her advances boxes their
 ears and complains bitterly of their con-
 duct, is well taken by Miss Millie Ascoli.



MISS ELSIE MOORE, of Mr J. C. Williamson's Musical Comic Opera Company.



MISS BLANCHE WALLACE of Williamson Musical Comic Opera Company, now playing at His Majesty's Theatre.

Miss Marie D'Alt makes the utmost of
 the small part of Julia. The other
 characters were well taken. The piece
 can be voted one of the best.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

"SAN TOY"

Mr J. C. Williamson's Musical Opera
 Company have been scoring a distinct
 success with the musical opera "San
 Toy." The piece, as staged by the pre-
 sent company, is gorgeous and well
 mounted. The story is a pretty one, and
 carries its interest right through. The
 music is delightfully bright and tuneful,
 and much of it reaches a distinctly high
 level. Both scenic sets are exceedingly
 fine, and it is difficult to say which is the
 more beautiful, the street in Pinka Pong,
 in Act I., with its electric light effect, or
 the Emperor's palace of the second act,
 with its effective oriental ornamentations,
 both scenes, with the bright colouring,
 rich and beautiful dresses, being tasteful
 in the extreme. Miss Rose Musgrove, as
 San Toy, daughter of Yen How, who has
 been disguised as a boy to prevent the
 Emperor attaching her to his harem, and
 whose discovery and adventures lead to
 all the fun of the play, established firmly
 the reputation gained in the "Runaway
 Girl," that she is one of the brightest
 and cleverest actresses who have visited
 New Zealand. Mr Fred Graham, as Li,
 makes a great hit, and is responsible for
 the fun and laughter of the comedy, his
 impersonations and mimics are extremely
 clever. Miss Lilian Digges has an ad-
 mirable part as the maid Dudley, her
 singing, acting, and dancing quite capti-
 vating the hearts of the large audiences.
 Nothing more finished or more fresh and
 delicate has it been our lot to see in this
 class of work than the excellent perfor-
 mance, by this little actress. Miss Elsie
 Moore, as Poppy, is another excellent
 performance. Her sweet voice is heard

to full advantage, and is much appre-
 ciated. Mr Bantock gives a very clever
 interpretation as Yen How; his make-up
 is perfect, and his work of high class
 order. As Bobbie Preston, the English
 lover of San Toy, Mr Arthur Crane is
 seen at his best, and he does full justice
 to his fine voice in the songs and duets
 allotted to him, earning well merited ap-
 plause. Mr A. Lissant, as the Emperor;
 Mr Maurice Dudley, as Sir Bingo Pres-
 ton; Mr George Lyding, as Lieutenant
 Tucker; Miss Blanche Wallace, as Ko
 Fan; and others of the very large cast,
 acquitted themselves very creditably in
 their various characters, the whole per-
 formance making one of the best,
 brightest, and prettiest comic operas
 ever produced in Auckland.

Mr George Dean writes me from Wel-
 lington in a very cheerful tone, saying
 that he has started on the seventh week
 at the Choral Hall with the Royal Wax-
 works, and is doing good business. I
 have to thank him for his new year greet-
 ings, and wish him and his company a
 prosperous new year.

Last week Mr George V. Beck, well
 known in theatrical circles and for many
 years connected with the famous Bessie
 Doyle Concert Company, passed through
 Auckland en route for the South, after
 an absence of five years, during which
 time he has been travelling in the States
 and Canada as business manager for the
 well-known firm of Webber-Burton, of
 Chicago, Ill. Mr Beck states that the
 present theatrical season in America has
 very little attraction to offer in the way
 of novelty. Vaudeville takes the lead,
 but it is a repetition of the previous pro-
 ductions; in fact it is a hard matter to
 find interesting features for a drawing
 card at the present time. Mr Beck was
 fortunate enough to find a few novelties
 suitable to the colonies, which will be
 presented at an early date.