



[By Amicus.]

BOOKINGS.

OPERA HOUSE, AUCKLAND:

January 24 to February 14—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Co.
 March 2 and 5—Madame Melba Concert
 March 16 to April 4—Hawtrely Comedy Co.
 April 11 to May 23—Anderson's Dramatic Company
 May 25 to June 13—Pollard Opera Company
 June 14 to 26—Geo. Musgrove's "Sweet Nell" Company
 June 27 to July 10—Harry Rickards Co.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, AUCKLAND

January 24 to February 14, 1903—Frank Thornton
 Comedy Company
 February 16 to March 7—J. C. Williamson's "Sherlock
 Holmes" Company
 March 16 to April 4—Hawtrely Comedy Company.
 April 13 to May 12—Anderson's Dramatic Company

OPERA HOUSE, WELLINGTON

February 23—Madame Melba
 February 24 to March 14—Frank Thornton Co.
 March 19 to April 9—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company
 April 11 to May 2—J. C. Williamson Co.
 May 4 to 30—Hawtrely Comedy Company
 June 1 to 13—Rickards' Company
 June 17 to July 3—Musgrove Company

THEATRE ROYAL, CHRISTCHURCH

January 26 to February 7—Anderson's Dramatic Co.
 February 19 to March 7—Hawtrely Comedy Company.
 February 20—Madame Melba
 April 1 to 25—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company
 April 27 to May 9—Musgrove Company

PRINCESS THEATRE, DUNEDIN

January 24 to February 14—Hawtrely Comedy Co
 Feb 14 to March 13—Anderson's Dramatic Company
 April 11 to 25—Musgrove Company
 May 4 to 14—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company

OPERA HOUSE, WANGANUI.

February 9 and 10—J. C. Williamson
 Feb 26 and 27—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company
 March 23—McMahon's Company
 April 11 to 13—Hawtrely Comedy Company
 June 6 to 10—Musgrove Company
 June 18 to 20—Rickards' Company

OPERA HOUSE, HAWERA.

February 18 and 19—Majeroni Company
 February 23 and 24—Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company
 June 22—Rickards' No. 4 Company

Dix's Gaiety Co. nightly at the CITY HALL, Auckland,
 and THEATRE ROYAL, Wellington.

Mr Oscar Asche, the clever Australian actor, has been recalled to London from America by Mr Beerbohm Tree. His place in the American production of "Iris" has been taken by a Mr Edwin Stevens.

Mr G. H. Barnes has arrived in New Zealand to arrange for Madame Melba's concerts. This up-to-date advance agent will probably be in Auckland about the end of next week. The diva's tour will commence at Dunedin on the 18th inst., Christchurch 20th, Wellington 23rd, and Auckland 2nd and 5th.

An exchange gives news of Mr Howard Chambers, an Auckland boy, who was a member of Mr Harry Rickards' Company for some years, and who is at present in America. He has been engaged as basso with the Bostonian Opera Company (one of the oldest established companies in the States), and is at present on tour with De Koven's "Rob Roy" and "Maid Marian" in both of which the young New Zealand basso plays the role of Will Scarlett.

The Westminster Abbey Coronation Choir intends visiting New Zealand shortly. The company consists of four boy sopranos, Madame Marie Hooton (contralto), Mr Percy Coward (male alto), Mr E. Branscom and Mr George Pownall (tenors), Mr Albert Archdeacon and Mr Herbert Hilton (basses), and Mr Dudley Caulton (a humorous musical sketch artist). For the past five months the company has been touring Canada and the United States with the greatest success. The manager, Mr F. J. Robson, is on his way from San Francisco, and expects to be in Auckland about February 17th. The entire party will start from the same port on March 12th.

Mr Gus. Neville, after fulfilling the dates with the Neville-Oswald Company, joined Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Dramatic Company for the tour, and is taking a prominent part in the dramas being played at the Opera House.

The Black Family of Musicians have just finished a very satisfactory tour of the West Coast. The family consists of six members (all accomplished musicians) as follows:—Mr J. Black (Scotch comique), Miss N. V. Black (contralto, pianiste, mandoliniste, and trick violiniste), Miss Elsie (flautiste and danseuse), Miss Doris violiniste and vocalist), Master Bertie (cornetist, dancer, etc.), and Mrs Black (pianiste). They intend touring the North Island and will shortly be in Auckland. Mr J. A. MacDonald is in advance.

In "Zaza," Miss Nellie Stewart has as big a chance as in "Sweet Nell of Old Drury," and like the lady in the Marchioness of Headfort's song, should get right there, as the heroine of the French play. The character is a complex one, and during the four acts, into which the play is divided, strikes many notes. The story of "Zaza" is a human and deeply interesting one, and deals with a poor actress who, cast off by her lover, becomes famous, and in turn repulses the man who deserts her.—Melbourne "Punch."

Mr Leo De Chateau, who is at present stage manager for Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Dramatic Company, playing at the Opera House, is an actor who has become popular on the Australasian stage. He has had a considerable theatrical experiences. Starting some



MR CHAS. LAWRENCE, who is playing with Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Company.

seven years ago with the Alf. Woods Company as a "super," and by dint of hard work and attention to business has managed to forge his way to the front, and now holds a leading position in the theatrical world. After two years in different branches of the profession, under Charles Holloway, Alfred Dampier, George Darrell and others, he toured Australia and New Zealand as stage manager and leading character actor with Walter Bentley, afterwards touring Australia in a like capacity with Geo. Rignold, Charles McMahon and the Woods-Williamson Company, and is now in Auckland stage manager and leading comedian for Miss Fitzmaurice Gill, taking the part of Plumtree in "Man to Man," Barney Flannigan in "Work and Wages," Tom Dossiter in "Harbour Lights." Among other parts and characters taken by Mr De Chateau during his professional career are notably, Jakes in "Silver King," Polonius in "Hamlet," and Hans in the "Bells," with Walter Bentley, Dr. Ceneri in "Called Back," Glabrio in "The Sign of the Cross," Major in "My Partner," Pistol in "Henry V.," John Stofel in "Struck Oil," the name part in "Golden Giant" and "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with Miss Maggie Moore, besides a number of leading parts with different Australian managers. Mr De Chateau is very popular with the members of the company as well as with Auckland theatregoers, who testify their appreciation of his work by the rounds of applause accorded him each evening. This clever and promising actor is quite a young man, being only twenty-eight years of age, and should have a good theatrical career before him, being Australian born. Colonials will watch his advancement with interest.

Walter Monk, the advance agent for Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Dramatic Company, has left for the South to arrange for the New Zealand tour. The following dates have already been booked:—New Plymouth, February 17th, 18th and 19th; Stratford, 20th and 21st; Hawera, 23rd and 28th; Wanganui, 26th and 27th; Feilding, February 28th and March 1st; Palmerston North, March 3rd, 4th and 5th; Masterton, 6th, 7th and 9th; Dannevirke, 10th and 11th; Hastings, 12th and 13th; Napier, 14th, 16th and 17th; Wellington, March 19th to April 9th; Christchurch, April 11th to 25th; Ashburton, April 27th and 28th; Timaru, April 29th and 30th; Oamaru, May 1st and 2nd; Dunedin, May 4th to 14th.

Our Wellington correspondent writes under date of February 5th:—Dix's Gaiety Company are booming along in good style at the Royal, and the acrobatic balancing of the Schenk Bros. being a brilliant turn. The head-balancing of this clever pair is without an equal in the colonies, and they fairly convulse their admirers nightly. Miss Ethel Clifford comes back to us with improvement in her sweet voice, and her excellent ballads are sung in good style. Rose Devella also hits the popular taste with some well chosen serio-comic efforts. The last nights are announced of John Kearns, Vera Kearns, and Ida Rosslyn, and a re-appearance of Fred Rivenhall. Miss Emmie Smith is also in popular demand with her coon songs, which she knows how to sing.—Williamson's Dramatic

Company are in their last nights at the Opera House, and Mr J. C. Williamson's banking account should be considerably swollen at the conclusion of the New Zealand tour. "If I were King," is, like its predecessor, drawing in the shekels in double quick time. Mr Cuyler Hastings is an actor that one could never tire of listening to, and a large amount of the success depends on the capable portrayal of the various characters he assumes. There is also a very strong company supporting him. Mr Geo. V. Beck is settled down to work in connection with his pictures of New Zealand scenery for the St. Louis World's Fair. Mr Beck is, perhaps, the most able man at present in the colonies with regard to managing a show, at home or abroad. His varied experience in all parts of the States, from call boy to manager, will stand him in good stead in this country, although it is some years since he was connected with a colonial venture. Pollard's Opera Company are to open a two weeks season at the Opera House with "The Toreador" on Friday evening. They come with an excellent list of Press notices from various places, and should have a very prosperous season here.

OPERA HOUSE.

Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Dramatic Company are recording good business at the Opera House. The choice of such a favourite play as "Harbour Lights," which has held the boards since Thursday last, and the manner in which the drama was produced, has added popularity to the already popular company. The staging and acting is the best the management have tendered to their patrons, and was fully appreciated, as shown by the crowded houses. The principal characters were all well cast. Mr Charles Blake as David Kingsley made the most of the hero part. Miss Fitzmaurice Gill, as Dora Vane, looks and acts the part in a sweet and natural manner. Mr Leo De Chateau made a capital Tom Dossiter, the faithful old quarter-master, throwing life and fun into the whole play, he being ably assisted in his comedy work by Miss Roberts, as Peggy. The other parts were all creditably taken. An item of extra interest was the cutlass drill in the third act by a squad of twenty seamen from the warship Archer, now in port. The exercises were loudly applauded, and an encore was demanded each evening. The scenery deserves a word of praise. I am given to understand that the work was done and mounted at a very short notice, but Mr W. Diamond, the local scenic artist, was evidently equal to the occasion, and had everything up to time, and produced the whole as we saw it. The ship scene is especially worthy of mention, and the applause that greets the rise of the curtain each evening testifies as to the audience's opinion. Last night "East Lynne" was to be produced for one evening only. To-night Miss Gill is going to introduce to the Opera House patrons an entirely new play, viz., "Nancy and Her Sailor," which has never been played in New Zealand, although well-known and successfully played by Mr Rignold in Australia.



MISS NELLIE MYLRAE, who takes the part of Lena in "Harbour Lights," with Miss Fitzmaurice Gill's Dramatic Co.