

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE HAWTREY COMEDY COMPANY.

"A Message From Mars" has had a long and triumphant run by the Hawtrely Comedy Company at His Majesty's Theatre, occupying the boards for over a week, and giving place on Tuesday night to Ralph Lumley's farce, "In the Soup," which was presented for the first time in Auckland. It is a broad farce of the boisterous order, full of wildly extravagant situations and characters. The fun is fast and furious throughout, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter. The final production during the Hawtrely season will be "Tom, Dick, and Harry," said to be the best and most laughable comedy yet seen on the New Zealand stage. The play is by Mrs Pacheco, who makes her eccentric characters appear in burlesque situations that are rattled off with the speed of an express train. The comedy is brilliant and mirthful, and Mr Hawtrely's company do it ample justice.

CITIZENS' TESTIMONIAL TO MR P. R. DIX.

It is anticipated that there will be a large gathering of friends and admirers of Mr P. R. Dix at His Majesty's Theatre on Monday next, when a special programme will be presented, in which leading singers and entertainers of Auckland will appear. Mr Dix has done yeoman service in many a good cause and deserving object in the past, and has conscientiously catered for the public amusement continuously for the past four years.

DIX'S GAIETY COMPANY.

The change of programme provided at the City Hall on Saturday night attracted a large and appreciative audience. Arnoldi, whose exhibitions in juggling have earned for him a justifiable reputation, was again highly successful, and was recalled repeatedly. Mr Frank Graham, the tenor singer, continues in popular favour. For his capable rendering of "My Pretty Jane" he was accorded a very hearty encore. "The Mad Musician," a phrase familiarly associated with Mr Alf. Sherwin, suggests at once the character of this clever performer's contributions. He was recalled again and again. Mr Frank Yorke, the Gilardi Sisters, and the Sisters Smith, Miss Annetta Bodin, and the other members of the company all contribute to an entertainment which is both attractive and mirth-provoking. During the week, it should attract crowded houses nightly.

According to the latest London files, Mascagni's next new opera already exists in libretto form. The subject is taken from the French Revolution, and the work, when completed, will be called "Marie Antoinette," the unfortunate queen being the central figure.



MR ABEL ROWE as Greuicheaux in "Les Cloches de Corneville."

A very pleasant function took place at Madame Tree's studio on Thursday evening last. Madame Tree having recently entered the bonds of wedlock, was presented with a very handsome gold chain and greenstone heart by Miss Maude Tobias, on behalf of her fellow students. Mr Hume, in a happy little speech, responded on behalf of Madame Tree, after which a very pleasant couple of hours were spent in music.

Our Christchurch theatrical correspondent writes: "On Friday, April 3, Williamson's Dramatic Company open a most welcome return season at the Royal. During the six nights Gillette's military drama, "Secret Service," will be produced for the first time here, and will be followed by "The Christian," with "If I Were King" and "Sherlock Holmes" to wind up with. The popular Mr Geo. Matheson is still in town completing preliminaries. . . . Frank M. Clark's Theatre Royal season ends to-night (Saturday). . . . Dean and Petherick appear to be making money at the Oddfellows' Hall. The nimble sixpence, again! . . . The Oswald Dramatic Co. are still battling at the Opera House. "East Lynne" is their latest, and (as per usual) it is proving a trump card. . . . The news that Percy, of the Pollards, proposes to sever his connection with the company at Christmas and go to London 'on his own,' has been received here with the greatest regret. With Quealey and Percy both away, what will Thomas do?"

The company which will support Miss Nellie Stewart during her New Zealand tour comprises a number of notable English artistes, all of whom come to us with big reputations. They include the names of Messrs Harcourt Beatty, Albert Gran, Alfred Tapping, Sydney Stirling, Vernon Steele, Webster Lawson, Harry Hill, Claude Fleming, W. J. Beresford, etc., Misses Minnie Sadler, Alice Farleigh, Emily Levettez, Edith Stewart, etc.

"Nice and Men," one of the comedies which will form one of the New Zealand repertoire of the Musgrove Comedy Company, is from the pen of Madeline Lucette Ryley. The piece ran for two hundred and fifty nights at the Lyric Theatre, London. Miss Nellie Stewart's performance of Peggy, the foundling, is said to be equal to that of her orange girl in "Sweet Nell of Old Drury."

"Sweet Nell of Old Drury," with Nellie Stewart in her famous part of Nell Gwynne, the orange girl, will be staged at the Princess Theatre, Dunedin, on Easter Saturday, April 11, with the original caste of characters. The production will be staged with the same completeness as characterised the previous representations in Australia.



MISS MIRIAM WRIGLEY (Mrs Abel Rowe) as Christophe in "Les Cloches de Corneville."

Our New Plymouth correspondent writes:—The New Plymouth Amateur Opera Club must be heartily congratulated upon two splendid performances of "Les Cloches de Corneville," which were given in the Theatre Royal, 11th and 12th March. To Mr. J. D. Stoye, as stage manager, and Mr. Fred Stevens, as scenic artist, a large measure of the success achieved is due. The Club on this occasion were assisted by three well-known Auckland amateurs, viz., Mr. Geo. Warren, Mr. Abel Rowe, and Miss Miriam Wrigley (Mrs. Abel Rowe), who filled the same characters as in the Auckland production. Mr. Geo. Warren, as Gaspard, the pivot character of the opera, must be warmly congratulated upon the pronounced success which he achieved. Mr. Rowe's singing as Grenicheaux, was one of the most delightful features of the production. His first song, "On Billows Rocking," established him in the audience's favour, and he retained his hold throughout the evening. His last solo, "That Night I'll ne'er Forget," late in the third act, was heartily encored, and it is indubitable recognition of a singer's ability when it is redemanded at such an hour. As Christophe, Miss Miriam Wrigley both looked and acted the part to perfection. Miss A. Teed, in the exacting role of Scroplette, made a decided hit, the part suiting her to a nicety. Miss K. Murphy, who made her debut in the part of Germaine, was also another well-chosen character. Mr. J. Ryan (an old Auckland), was very successful as the "Baillie," and both in physique and voice suited the part in every way. Mr. J. D. Stoye, as Gobo, in conjunction with the Baillie, was the life and soul of the piece. All the minor parts were capably filled, and the chorus work was first-class. Mr. W. Perry, in the part of the Marquis, did not appear to such advantage as in former operas, but sang the music allotted him with his usual ability. At the close of the season, the performers met upon the stage, when Mr. J. Paul, president of the Club, congratulated the members on the success of the performance. Referring to the Aucklanders, he thanked them for their assistance, and assured them of a hearty welcome whenever they returned to New Plymouth. Mr. G. Warren and Mr. A. Rowe, in reply, briefly thanked the Club and New Plymouth people generally for their hearty welcome and many kindnesses received during their stay. Mr. Stoye, stage manager, thanked the performers for their attention to rehearsals, which was the key-note of their present success. The little function ended with cheers for the Aucklanders, Mrs. Hempton (pianist), Mr. Perry, and others. A picnic and social was tendered the Auckland Contingent on the following Thursday.

Miss Ada Reeve is said to have made a great hit in the Old Country with a new song entitled "The Lover of the Lady-bird."

STAGE DOOR NOTES.

Anderson's Dramatic Company open a lengthy season at Abbott's Opera House on Easter Monday.

Miss Fitzmaurice Gill has received the manuscript for the "French Spy," which is to be put into active rehearsal at once, and will be played as the "star" production on their return visit here.

The Westminster Abbey Glee and Concert Party at the Opera House on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday next.

Change of programme by the Hawtrely Comedy Company at His Majesty's this week. "In the Soup," a farcical comedy, was introduced on Tuesday night.

Complimentary Testimonial Benefit to Mr P. R. Dix at His Majesty's on Monday evening.

Sacred concert to be given by the Steele-Payne Bellringers on Good Friday Night, at Abbott's Opera House.

Mr Arthur Nelstone, who came to New Zealand with the World's Entertainers, and afterwards fulfilled a long engagement with Mr P. R. Dix, was at latest advices in South Africa.

Bland Holt will conclude his long and successful season in Sydney on April 3, removing to Melbourne and opening at the Theatre Royal in "The Prodigal Daughter" on Easter Saturday, and will produce three new dramas during his Melbourne season—"The Prince of Peace," "The Great Millionaire," and "The Best of Friends."

Oswald Dramatic Company, under the Fuller management, are appearing at the Opera House, Christchurch.

The Pollard Opera Company will open the South African tour at Capetown on May 4 with "Djin-Djin."

Mr George Musgrove's Comic Opera Company is doing immense business with "The Fortune Teller" at the Princess's Theatre, Melbourne. The opera will run right through the entire season.

The military drama, "Two Little Drummer Boys," played by Anderson's Dramatic Company, is pronounced to be an excellent piece by the Southern press and critics. The company is due to open here on April 11.

"Lorgnette" says Mr J. Nevin Tait, touring representative for Mdle. Dolores, intends shortly to proceed to England, where he will enter upon business as a theatrical agent.