

THE STAGE

(By "Comus.")

BOOKINGS.

OPERA HOUSE, AUCKLAND

October 30 to November 13—J. C. Williamson
November 16 to 21—Willoughby and Geach
December 26 to January 24—Charles MacMahon

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, AUCKLAND

September 19 to October 9—Sheridan's Comedy Co.
October 12 to 26—J. C. Williamson
November 23 to December 5—J. C. Williamson
December 28 to January 22—J. C. Williamson

OPERA HOUSE, WELLINGTON

September 9 to 26—American Musical Comedy Company
October 30 to November 13—J. C. Williamson
November 28 to December 12—J. C. Williamson
December 23 to January 28—Anderson's Dramatic Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHRISTCHURCH

Sept. 29 to October 7—American Comedy Company

HIS MAJESTY'S, DUNEDIN.

November 4 to 14—J. C. Williamson

OPERA HOUSE, WANGANUI.

September 5 to 10—J. Sheridan Company
October 14 to 16—American Comedy Company
November 19 and 20—Taylor Carrington Company
December 18 and 19—J. C. Williamson

OPERA HOUSE, HAWERA.

October 17 and 18—American Comedy Company
December 21—J. C. Williamson

THEATRE ROYAL, NEW PLYMOUTH.

September 16 and 17—J. F. Sheridan
October 22 and 23—American Musical Comedy Company (pencilled)
October 27, 28, and 29—G. Musgrove
November 27 and 28—Willoughby-Geach Company
December—Show dates Taylor Carrington
November 16, to 21—Willoughby-Geach Company (pencilled)
December 28 and 24—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)
March 4, 1904—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

"THE FORTUNE TELLER."

When we go to see anything Mr Musgrove sends us we may be sure of several things. We are certain to witness a magnificent display of scenic effects, gorgeous dresses, and all the other accessories of the play, whether it be comedy, grand opera, or that modern mixture of farce and music called comic opera. We may also take it for granted that we shall have the best of what is going in the way of productions, the latest London and Australian successes, and that it will be interpreted by the most competent artists at the command of the moment. Anticipating all these, from long use, those who thronged His Majesty's Thea-

tre on Tuesday night were in no wise disappointed. "The Fortune Teller," indeed, exceeds anticipations. It certainly rises above the level of "The Chinese Honeymoon" and "The Thirty Thieves," and so far as the music is concerned it is distinctly better than anything of the same kind we have had here for a considerable time. Much of the composer's work is excellent. The choruses are especially good, while the song melodies are sweet and haunting, and—oh, rapture!—not "catchy." I do not think the boy in the street will ever manage to learn one of them, and so we shall be able to enjoy them hereafter in the concert room and in the privacy of home. If the libretto but equalled the score in point of merit—but that is too much to expect. Where are all the new jokes to come from with a new opera every day? We ought to be satisfied that the disparity is not even more marked. The company is a strong one dramatically, but of singing voices that rise above the level of mediocrity there are only two, perhaps only one. Mr Pringle goes unchallenged, of course, and for her winsome ways, her lovely face, and her exceptionally brilliant acting, Miss May Beatty may be allowed to accompany him, but there are no others, not even Mr Pidcock, for whom the soul yearns. Mr Pringle's songs, in the character of the Gipsy musician, "Oh, Ye Townsmen," "Gipsy Love Song," and "The Song of the Sword," were all splendidly rendered, and may be said to be the only striking solos in the opera, though there are many others that charm in their way. The comedy acting of Mr Lauri is especially fine, and the touch of this capable actor is apparent everywhere, and especially in the Hungarian ballet and other dances, of which the audience do not get half enough. The orchestra, under Mr Zelman, is of full strength and thoroughly competent. "The Fortune Teller" is one of those productions that promise to grow on the affections. There is plenty to satisfy the better tastes and to gratify the milder, and we may easily forgive the few blemishes, which are mostly old jokes.

THE STINE AND EVANS COMPANY.

This company concluded their Auckland season on Monday, with a programme of all the vaudeville items of the Company, showing the members at their best in this variety of entertainment. I am not quite sure that Vaude-



MR. C. BATES, Of the Stine and Evans Co.

ville is their true forte, though they certainly do shine at it. I should like to see Mr Stine and Miss Evans and Miss Marshall in plays of a higher type than those in which they have appeared here. All three are genuine comedians, who seem to me to have been cramped and choked in some measure by the inanities and absurdities of the dialogue and plot. All that devolved upon the performers themselves was well done, in many cases excellently done, but it is beyond the power of man to make jokes and locutions that have grown stale on the lips of street gamins amusing. "Say, here now," "I guess so," "rats," "I don't think" (with the accent on the "don't") are really hopeless. Then again, the worst and certainly the most irritating styles of alleged American accent are depended on. No one will make me believe that educated Americans say "oppertoonty" or "peccooneyary" (pecuniary), yet these and other eccentricities were current in every alleged play. Much might perhaps be done to improve the productions, but "Mama's New Husband" and the rest can never be twisted into genuine vehicles for satisfying humour such as "Are You a Mason?" or "The Lady of Ostend," or "A Little Ray of Sunshine." I hope, nevertheless, that the Stine and Evans class of fun will catch on, and this for the sake of the company themselves, who are a genuine lot, and for that of the manager, Mr Stephenson, whom everybody likes. I wish them all good luck.

OPERA HOUSE.

THE MAJERONI COMPANY.

The Majeroni season closed on Saturday with a representation of "East Lynne." On the two preceding evenings the play in which the company made one of their greatest successes, "Brother Against Brother," was staged. The plot of the piece is simple and effective, and shows the play of the emotions rather than a series of acrobatic performances, as is the case with too many melodramas. The interest centres round a merchant and his two sons, the elder, the son of a former marriage, who is of the heroic type, and the other, who is a waster. The chief merit of the play is that the heroic people are avenged by the coals of fire process, and the disreputable concomitants reform. It is a sound, wholesome drama, and George Majeroni as the father, Mario as the hero, and Miss Ogden as the heroine were exceptionally good. The others made up an excellent cast.

On Saturday the season closed with "East Lynne," and the company are now touring the country districts.

THE WOOD-WILLIAMSON COMPANY.

This company appeared last night in the perennial favourite, "Hands Across the Sea," but the hour at which this journal goes to press precludes the possibility of noticing the performance in detail in the present issue.

THE CITY HALL.

FULLER'S ENTERTAINERS.

The new programme at the City Hall serves admirably to carry on the interest in Mr Fuller's efforts to please the public. Amongst the new faces are Mr Ted Herberts, who sings two capital songs, which have gained him the hearty applause of the audience. These are "Long Live the King" and "Ring Down the Curtain," with encore numbers, which could not be denied. The Misses Ruby and Daisy Elmore, in their pretty song and dance, "Will You be Mine" have rapidly caught on, and the old favourites appear in new items, and give the same satisfaction as of yore. Miss Blackie's ballads are immensely popular, and the quaint humour of Mr Will Watkins never seems to pall. The Jones Brothers, too, are comical, and the McKissons are a very clever pair. Miss Duval's songs are taking, and Dr. Rowe, the conjurer, provides a happy change. The sketches and farces are quite up to the standard, and lastly, the genial boss of the show sings that ever popular and wonderfully touching ballad, "Ben Bolt." It is a good all-round show.

Phil May shone as an actor. A year or so ago he played Pistol excellently in "Henry V."

The Greenwood Family are at present on the Northern Rivers of New South Wales, where, in spite of the recent heavy rains, they have been meeting with splendid biz. They are at present playing "Little Lord Fauntleroy," in which little Charlie Williams—Miss Maribel Greenwood's little son is appearing. His performance of this difficult part is said to be "simply marvellous." The Greenwoods next go to Queensland.

I hear that Mr Michael Josephs, late manager of the Anderson Company, and now with Miss Maggie Moore's combination, is to be married on September 2, at St. Paul's, Wellington, to Miss Gow, the daughter of the popular landlord of the Central Hotel. Congratulations.



MISS ADDIE LORKING,
The Auckland child-actress as "Little Lord Fauntleroy."