

# THE STAGE

(By "Comus.")

## BOOKINGS.

### OPERA HOUSE, AUCKLAND

October 30 to November 18—J. C. Williamson  
November 18 to 21—Willoughby and Geach  
December 28 to January 24—Charles MacMahon

### HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, AUCKLAND

September 19 to October 9—Sheridan's Comedy Co.  
October 19 to 28—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 28—American Musical Comedy Company  
October 30 to November 13—J. C. Williamson  
November 28 to December 12—J. C. Williamson  
December 23 to January 23—Anderson's Dramatic Co.

### THEATRE ROYAL, CHRISTCHURCH

Sept. 28 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 18—American Comedy Company  
November 19 and 20—Taylor-Carrington Company  
December 18 and 19—J. C. Williamson

### OPERA HOUSE, HAWERA.

October 17 and 19—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 23 and 24—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)  
March 4, 1904—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)

## OPERA HOUSE.

### THE WOODS-WILLIAMSON COMPANY.

This Company opened last week in that perennial favourite, "Hands Across the Sea," and scored a pronounced success. The story has suffered some modification at the hands of these latest exponents, but the familiar lines of the

plot are adhered to, and the play proved to be very enjoyable. Mr Woods made a fresh and boisterous Jack Dudley, and Miss Williamson as the heroine, Lillian Melford, played with a sweetness and grace that instantly took the sympathies of the audience. The part of the villain, Dick Melford, was exceptionally well taken by Mr A. W. Boothman, a capable actor of the old school, and the other parts were efficiently filled by Messrs Knight, Hassell, Beaumont, Lindon, Buckler, Penley, Misses Carleon, Emery, and the remaining members of a strong company.

On Saturday night the Company staged "The Gates of Bondage," a fine dramatisation by Miss Williamson of Hall Caine's most famous novel "The Deemster." In this the special merits of principals and company were shown to much greater advantage than in the initial play. Mr Woods gave a strong and finely artistic conception of Dan Mylrea. It was a consistently brilliant piece of acting from first to last, and at times rose to the point of grandeur. In the duel scene and in the fit of despair on the lonely rock he was thrilling—using the word in its best sense—while in the love passages he displayed a tenderness that was touching in the extreme. Miss Williamson's Mona is an exquisite study of a woman whose life is dominated by the master passion, and from which all the brightness is apparently robbed. Miss Williamson's face and voice are naturally adapted to the representation of pathos, and she throws herself into her work with an abandon that is one of the highest manifestations of art. Nothing better than the passages between Dan and Mona has been seen on the Auckland stage for many a day. The other characters are capably filled. Mr Boothman as the Bishop, Mr Buckler as the Deemster, Mr Beaumont as Ewan, Mr Hassell as Jarvis Kerrish, Mr Linden as Homny Be, Mr Knight as Davy Rayle, Miss Carleon as Polly, Miss Mascotte as Blind Kerry, are all in their several ways excellent, and provided adequate support for the principals. The scenery is more than usually good, some of the sets being worthy of all praise. The orchestra, too, under Mr Burke, renders valuable service.



MISS MAUD WILLIAMSON.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE CITY HALL.

FULLER'S ENTERTAINERS.

"THE FORTUNE TELLER."

Mr Musgrove's Company have been drawing large houses during the week with "The Fortune Teller," and the opera has given a great deal of pleasure to a host of people. The fine singing of Mr Pringle, the sprightly acting of Miss May Beatty, and the drolleries of Messrs Lauri and Courtenay stand out from the rest of a production in which there is little room for fault finding. "The Fortune Teller" is certainly one of the most melodious and mirth-provoking operas we have seen for some time.

"THE SERENADE."

"The Serenade" will be the second operatic production of Mr George Musgrove's Grand Comic Opera Company at His Majesty's, on Friday next. The music is by Victor Herbert, the composer of "The Fortune Teller," and it has enjoyed most successful seasons in Australia. The music is spoken of as vastly superior to the "Fortune Teller," whilst the dressing and staging is on the same lavish scale. The opera affords much more scope for the abilities of the principals, especially in the case of Mr Lempriere Pringle, who has an admirable singing part in Romero, the Bandit Chief. Miss May Beatty will be seen for the first time in Yvonne, a part which she played with conspicuous success in Melbourne. Messrs Edward Lauri, Foster and Courtenay, Misses Lily Green, Lillian Boanas, etc., will appear in congenial roles. The opera is divided into three acts, opening with a scene outside the ruined castle of the Duke de Saint Cruz, the next a monastery with an adjoining convent, and the final scene takes you back to the ruined castle of the Duke de Saint Cruz. The booking for the opening continues briskly, and a bumper house should be recorded.

"The Serenade" will be staged for six nights only, and "The Daughter of the Regiment" is underlined for Friday week.

Mr John Fuller continues to attract a large share of patronage to the City Hall, where his company provide a genuine reflection of mirth and melody. There was a complete change of bill on Saturday last, and the new items fairly hit the public taste from the jump. The Driscoll Boys' singing and dancing puts them a long way ahead of most entertainers of this class. The other members of the company are seen in new specialties, and Mr Fuller himself introduces a song that has been specially written and composed for him, and which is certain to become immensely popular. Miss Amy Blackie's ballads, as usual, bring down the house. This lady and Mr Fuller sing that old favourite duet, "In the Dusk of the Twilight," with conspicuous success, and all the other vocal items are worth going a long way to hear. The McKissoon's, Miss Delroy, and Mr Will Watkins keep the merriment at high-tide, and there is not a dull moment during the two hours when the curtain is up.

A representative of this journal who saw the Black Family of musicians in Hawke's Bay, speaks in the highest terms of their entertainment. It is of a very refined character throughout, and is meeting with splendid patronage in that part of the colony. The Black Family are slowly making their way Aucklandwards, and judging by all that one hears they ought to be very popular here.

"Quality Street," which will be seen in the colonies shortly, has passed its 300th performance in London.

Mr Henry Ludlow, who returned to London last autumn from a long engagement throughout Australasia, has been specially engaged to support Mr Van Biene on his South African tour. On his return to London Mr Ludlow has been re-engaged by Miss Jennie Maynard to appear in the leading role in "Corinne's Revenge," a three-act society drama, which Miss Maynard has just completed.



MR ALFRED WOODS, in "Barabbas."