

THE STAGE

(By "Comus.")

BOOKINGS.

OPERA HOUSE, AUCKLAND

October 30 to November 13—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 12 to 25—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 23—American Musical Comedy Company
 October 30 to November 13—J. C. Williamson
 November 18 to December 12—J. C. Williamson
 December 28 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.

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.

October 22 and 23—American Musical Comedy Company (pencilled)
 October 27, 28, and 29—G. Musgrove
 November 27 and 29—Willoughby-Geach Company
 December—Show dates Taylor-Carrington
 November 18 to 21—Willoughby-Geach Company (pencilled)
 December 23 and 24—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)
 March 4, 1904—J. C. Williamson (pencilled)

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

THE MUSGROVE OPERA COY.

On Friday last the Company replaced "The Serenade" with Donizetti's famous "Daughter of the Regiment," and, all things considered, gave a satisfactory presentation. The music is naturally a little above the capacity of the principals of the company, with the distinguished exception of Mr Lempriere Pringle, whose Sergeant Sulpice was a magnificent piece of acting and singing, worthy to be ranked with the major triumphs of the operatic stage. Miss May Beatty's Maria was exquisitely done, and a daintier or more delightful heroine it would be difficult to find, and if her vocalisation does not overwhelm the senses, at least it charms and captivates, and Melbas do not grow on gooseberry bushes. Mr Hallam's tenor is still very sweet, and he made a very acceptable Tonio, while the parts of the Countess and Babette were made somewhat more than interesting by Misses Bessie White and Boanas. Mr Lauri, as the Countess's factotum, supplied some refined comedy, and the chorus was admirable. The mounting of the opera, it is perfectly unnecessary to add, was perfect.

Last night the Company produced Auber's favourite opera, "Fra Diavolo."

THE SHERIDAN COMPANY.

"THE LADY SLAVEY."

On Saturday next, Mr John F. Sheridan will open at His Majesty's in "The Lady Slavey," a musical comedy that has achieved unbounded success in Australia and the South. This piece records the story of the financial troubles of Major O'Neill, an Irish landowner of the old school, who has three daughters, and steers a difficult course of hiding his poverty from the millionaires on the one hand, and satisfying the bailiffs on the other, for he wants the rich American to marry one of his daughters. "The Lady Slavey" is his youngest daughter, Phyllis, who takes the place of the domestic so as to hide the fact that her father was too poor to pay one. The millionaire arrives, is welcomed by the major, pays great attention to the two daughters, and is waited upon by the lady slavey. Enter then upon the scene two bailiffs, the chief of which, Mr Sheridan, is wheeled to the door of the house in a barrow by his assistant, a broken army officer. The lady slavey, by gentle persuasion, induces them to don the liveries of servants, and thus remain in possession in disguise. This leads to many laughable situations, of which Mr Sheridan makes the most. The next complication is the arrival of Miss Flo

Honeydew, of the Empire Theatre, with her lover, Lord Lavender. She determines to have the millionaire, and great rivalry between the ladies follows. However, the millionaire falls in love with the supposed slavey, who refuses the offer of his heart and hand on the ground of the disparity in their positions. He discovers her secret, meets plot with counterplot, and announces that that gentleman is present in the disguise of the bailiff (Mr Sheridan). This is the third character taken by Mr Sheridan, for having been transformed from Roberts (the bailiff) to Jeems (a flunkey), he now assumes the role of Pier Pots Morgan, a millionaire. The ladies transfer their attentions to the new millionaire, and in this part Mr Sheridan is said to do his best work. Finding that her lover is poor, the lady slavey confesses that she has loved him all along, and they are married, after which everything is found to be right.

The cast is one of exceptional brilliance, and the young ladies of the ballet are acknowledged to be a group of genuine belles. The scenery and the whole of the stage appointments are on a scale of magnificence rarely seen in Auckland, and I expect to see a bumper house on Saturday night.

the vivacity and grace which we are now accustomed to expect from her. One likes her better in other plays, but her Glory is a thoroughly satisfying performance. The other roles are ably sustained, in particular that of Canon Wealthy by Mr Boothman, Mr Dale by Mr Buckley, and Lord Robert Ure by Mr Hassell. The female interest is not strong in the play, but the cast is admirable all through.

Last night the Company produced "A Woman's Sin."

The death is announced of the mother of Robert Brough, the famous comedian. The deceased lady, whose stage name was "Miss Romer," will be remembered as a prominent member of the Brough Company in years gone by. She had been in bad health for some time, and was on her way Home, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Brenda Gibson, when she died at sea, two days' out from Colombe.

THE CITY HALL.

FULLER'S ENTERTAINERS.

The programme at the City Hall continues to keep fresh and blooming, and to give pleasure to a growing class of

lady pianists yet heard in New Zealand. If any instrument requires a consummate artist to reveal its capabilities it is the piano, and Miss Vartha, it is said, makes it speak and sing. The player throws herself heart and soul into the music as though she were inspired. Her execution is described as wonderfully fine, her touch light and polished, while, at the same time, with all the necessary power. Miss Vartha will be assisted by Herr C. Lehmann, the eminent violinist, Miss Florence Marelle (contralto), and many of the leading vocal and instrumental artists.

"The Lady Slavey" has been described by one critic as "comic opera on the drunk."

At St. Patrick's Cathedral, on Sunday last, Madame Lilian Tree gave a magnificent rendering of "From Thy Love as a Father" (solo and chorus) from the "Redemption." There was a very large congregation, and the item created a deep impression.



SCENE FROM "BARABBAS," BY THE WOODS-WILLIAMSON COY.

OPERA HOUSE.

"THE CHRISTIAN."

Miss Williamson's dramatisation of Hall Caine's hectic novel seems to have hit the popular taste. The reason for this lies, no doubt, partly in the fact that the playwright has departed somewhat from the original model, and has striven, not unsuccessfully, to make the hero more a man of flesh and blood with religious convictions, than an ascetic with a mania. In taking such liberties with an author there is always a danger of falling into inconsistency. John Storm, under the new conditions, is no more convincing than under the old, but he squares better with the commonly accepted idea of the hero of romance. He is still a considerable distance below the level of your true Nature's gentleman, but, on the other hand, he has enough of the true Britisher in him to ensure that he will "stand no nonsense," while his standing invitation to the world in general to tread on the tail of his coat suggests the presence of blood of another nation. With all its limitations, however, the part is splendidly played by Mr Woods, and it is perhaps in no small measure due to the actor that the character has become so frankly heroic. In the passionate scenes he is exceptionally fine, especially in that where the climax of the drama is reached. Miss Williamson is a delightful Glory Quayle, and invests the impersonation with all

patrons. The first part presents a prettily painted scene called "Our Rural Retreat," and the music is in keeping with the happy setting. The Driscoll Boys, Hugo Lear and "Bob" Bell fill the end chairs, and Ted Herbert makes a fine gruff "Mr Johnsing" in the middle. The songs and dances of Miss Minton, the Dashing Elmores and the Boys above mentioned is much above the average. Miss Annie Kinnaird has a sweet mezzo-soprano, and can use it with effect in ballads of the better class, and Mr Fuller creat's the same old enthusiasm. "Bob" Bell is an aggressive comedian, who wants a little toning down in order that the humour, which is undoubtedly in him, should enjoy a wider scope. The second part is bright, and interesting, and generally wholesome. Mr Fuller's sixpenny pit scheme has evidently caught on, but the show is worth more than any man's sixpence.

Mr Charles MacMahon, who during the past two months has had a lease of the Opera House here, has secured the theatre for the Xmas season. He will commence on Boxing Night with a very strong attraction, particulars of which will be announced shortly.

My Napier correspondent writes:—The Grattan Company have returned to Napier after a successful two weeks' campaign of the Wairoa district. The company are making this town their head-quarters for a time, playing a couple of nights a week here, and filling in the other nights by showing in the suburban townships.

My Wellington correspondent writes:—Fuller's Entertainers are still doing well at the Choral Hall. Albert McKisson, Clarie McKisson, and Ada Duval are to make a re-appearance this week, and Mr Will Watkins is also shortly due. . . . Dix's Gaiety Coy. are to open up a host of revivals on Friday. Val Vouden, Harry Hall, De Wynne Bros., and the Delavales being amongst the number. . . . Maggie Moore Coy. closed up an unsatisfactory season on Monday last, and went on tour of the West Coast. . . . Stine and Evans Comedy Coy. opened to a splendid house last night, and were received with marked favour. The quaint originality of the various performers is something out of the common, and a splendid season should ensue.

BEATRICE VARTHA CONCERT.

Miss Beatrice Vartha, the young and brilliant pianist, who has achieved so much success in New Zealand, and has received an engagement to tour in America, will give a Grand Concert in Abbott's Opera House, on October 19th, when an excellent programme will be presented, consisting of gems of musical art. Miss Vartha is one of the finest