

It is very probable that "In Dahomey," the successful "black" production at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London, will be seen in Australia next year with the original company.

Williamson's Musical Comedy Company opened at Brisbane with "The Circus Girl." This company will add "Floradora" to their repertoire.

Miss Munro's departure for England left a vacancy for Miss Susie Vaughan to play the part of Mrs Bloodgood in the Melbourne production of "Are You a Mason?"

Miss Ida Gresham and Messrs C. R. Stanford and Lumsden Hare have been engaged for the Jeffries-Knight Company. Mr Stanford is to assist Mr Meynell in the stage management.

Jahannesburg's new theatre, His Majesty's, was opened with "Djim Djin" by the Royal Australian Comic Opera Company (the Pollards) on Saturday, July 11. All the papers appreciate the gorgeous mounting, which seems to come as a revelation to South African playgoers.

Edward Terry has returned to London, and speaks glowingly of South Africa as a theatrical field. He helped to form the South Africa Actors' Benefit Association, and gave sundry shows in aid of it. Between the intervals of mummery he visited Colenso, Spion Kop and other battle fields.

The French are at last beginning to appreciate English drama. Versions of "Gus," "The Second Mrs Tanqueray," and "The Admirable Crichton" are running to good biz. at the leading Paris theatres, while the American colony is charmed by "The Belle of New York," which seems popular with Parisians.

"Reeling off pages parrot-like does not constitute an actress. As a matter of fact I never knew a first-class actor or actress who had a good memory," thus Miss Milton to a Melbourne interviewer. Also "the silly fashion of lionising actors and actresses is only done by notoriety hunting society entertainers, and no benefit can be gained on either side."

Miss Linda Raymond is an Australian actress who does her country credit (says the "Newsletter"). She is a native of Carlton, Melbourne, and has played Galatea, Arrah-na-Pogue, Lady Teazle ("School for Scandal"), and nearly every stock part. She is a most versatile artist.

My Christchurch dramatic correspondent writes: "The Caste Comedy Company (amateurs) propose to reproduce "Jane" and "The Magistrate" at the Royal here next month. I hear the sale of tickets is already in full swing, and that the ad-



JOHN F. SHERIDAN, as the millionaire, in "The Lady Slavey."

vance demand for seats is most satisfactory. It will only be a two-night season. Fuller's Entertainers are as entertaining as ever. The last night of Fred Bluett is announced, Mascotte's Marionettes are still a draw, and Dr. Rowe, the magician, is still mystifying Opera House patrons every night. On Monday we are promised the first appearance of the Stagpoole Trio, and the re-appearance of Amy Blackie. The Taylor-Carrington Company play Lyttelton Monday and Tuesday, September 14 and 15, and then visit Rangiora, Amberley, Kaiapoi, Ashburton, Temuka and Timaru. The old Oddfellows' Hall, in Lichfield-street, has been sold, and will vanish ere very long, to give place to a large warehouse. Chas. Clarke (the Rev.) lectured at this hall when he first came to New Zealand, and a whole host of show men have appeared in it from time to time. On September 28 the American Comedy Company opens at the Royal, and will be followed by a number of companies in rapid succession. Dix's Gaiety Company makes a welcome

re-appearance here this evening. The bill to be presented is as strong as gunpowder, and includes Tod Callaway, also Emmie Smith, ofcoon songs fame. The season will only be a short one. Mr Dix is now in Christchurch.

The Sheridan Musical Comedy Company, who commence a season at His Majesty's Theatre, on Saturday night, with "The Lady Slavey," have just concluded a highly-successful season in Wellington.

"Dagonet" tells a dog story: "The most extraordinary stage dog I ever knew was one named Spot, who toured with Mr Alfred Hemming's 'Crutch and Toothpick' Company, the first play of mine that went round the provinces. Spot played the blind man's dog in the burlesque of 'Carmen' which followed 'Crutch.' He was very proud of his performance, and used to swagger about the provincial towns in quite a professional manner. In Leeds, at the house in which his master, Mr Hemming, lodged, he made friends with another dog. One night when Spot came on for his scene at the Grand Theatre a loud bark was heard from the back of the pit. Instantly Spot walked to the footlights, peered across the audience, and wagged his tail. The dog at the back of the pit was the dog from the theatrical apartments. He had come in on Spot's invitation to witness his friend's performance, and had given him a reception which Spot duly acknowledged at the footlights."

The Countess Russell, who has adopted the stage as a profession, authorises the announcement that her husband and herself have become reconciled. In a communication which the husband has written for publication, and which has been approved by the Countess, he says that he and the Countess decided to "forgive and forget the horrors of the past few months." He goes on to say, "The innumerable accusations and reports regarding myself made to the Countess by supposed friends caused her the greatest distress, but, unlike most people, she has behaved as a true and noble-hearted woman on hearing the other side of these accusations. I trust I may be able to repair the past by devoting my life, heart, and soul to her." He denies that he has ever contracted any other marriage, or that he has been in league with anyone in a conspiracy to injure her. The Countess has been rejoined by her husband at Bray.

Mr Walter Monk, of the Fitzmaurice Gill Company, writes from Cobar (N.S.W.): "Our tour on the Western line, despite the opinions of people in the know in Sydney, who advised us against this line, has turned out fairly successful. We played two good nights at Bathurst and Orange, three at Dubbo, which was really immense, and are now doing a five nights' season at Cobar, so far real good. On

our way back to Sydney we do Nyngan, Wellington, Lithgow, and return to Dubbo and Bathurst, arriving in Sydney on September 8, and opening Newcastle on Saturday, September 12. 'The French Spy,' 'Prodigal Parson,' and 'Man to Man' are suited to the taste of the public; they are decidedly enthusiastic over them. The local papers are very eulogistic over the scenery and dress. They say it is the best ever seen out here."

The Hawtreys Company have been playing to satisfactory business on the West Coast of this Island, where "Fauntleroy," with little Addie Lorking in the title role, has been warmly welcomed.

Charles Reade was vice-chancellor of Magdalen, but no one was less cut out to be an Oxford don. One of his theatrical friends at this time was Mrs Stirling, who went to Oxford and visited Reade in his rooms. The advent of a highly popular actress at her zenith, stylish, attractive, and dressed in the height of fashion, fluttered the dovescotes of Philistia. Snobbery was rampant, and Mrs Grundy up in arms. Some good-natured friend wrote to Reade's mother that the Vice-Chancellor of Magdalen had been seen trotting about with a play actress. "The next day," writes Charles Reade, "just as my fair friend and I were sitting down to lunch in my rooms the mater descended upon us. She did not wait for any introduction. It was the first and only time I ever knew her to forget herself. I must do the other lady the justice to say that she did not—indeed, she never acted so well on the stage as she did on that occasion. 'You are his mother, madame, and he is my friend,' she said. 'Don't trouble, sir; you are needed here, and I am not. I can find my way.' I drove home with mother that night, and next day (Sunday) we went to church together. When she said 'Forgive us our trespasses' she clasped my hand. I returned the clasp, and from that time forth the incident was closed."

Little Gulliver, the midget comedian who accompanies John F. Sheridan's organisation, was afraid to go out in Wellington lest he should be blown away.

The Fitzmaurice-Gill Company have been doing excellent business in the Western towns of New South Wales. During the representation of the "French Spy," at Wellington (N.S.W.), Mr Blake met with a serious mishap, one of the curtain rollers falling on his head and inflicting injuries that necessitated the services of a medical man. After some delay, Mr Blake pluckily went on with the piece.

John F. Sheridan, who opens at His Majesty's on Saturday night, has played the part of Widow O'Brien nearly 6000 times.

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