

## GREENROOM GOSSIP.

## "The Glad Eye."

"The Glad Eye," soon to be presented in Australasia by the Beaumont Smith-Louis Meyer English Comedy Company, is an adaptation of "La Zebre" from the French of M. M. Arment and Nancey, who are the two best-known and most popular farceurs in a country where this class of play must be of remarkable merit before it is even tolerated. The story of "The Glad Eye" is a fountain of ceaseless mirth, every incident bringing forth spontaneous laughter.

## The Triumph of Mischa Elman.

From Melbourne papers to hand Mischa Elman's performances have been hailed with unbounded enthusiasm. Says the "Age":—"There are moments—and many moments—when he would seem to be playing upon the very heart-strings of his audience rather than upon one of his two famous violins. Indeed, it would be hard to discover a more apt image to illuminate what must have been vaguely felt by many who were present at the Auditorium on the opening night. Another point—one of many that might be instanced—is the extraordinarily vigorous and inevitable sense of rhythm, upon the waves of which Elman carries an audience whithersoever he will; but, beyond everything else, the rarest of his qualities is beauty and exquisite delicacy of tone.

## Laughter and Tears to Order.

The theatrical claque has ever been an institution in France, especially Paris, where a "chief de claque" enjoys a recognised status and receives a comfortable income. It is a mistake to suppose that the only duty of claquers is to applaud. A well-organised claque includes some members who have cultivated the art of infectious laughter. These, called "chatouilleurs," attend the lighter forms of drama and laugh so heartily and naturally that their neighbours join in, and leave the house convinced that the play must be a most amusing one. Then, too, there are the "pleureuses," who are paid to shake with sobs at the right moment, in melodrama.

## Leads in "Mr. Wu."

"Mr. Wu," the powerful drama dealing with affairs in Hong Kong, will open the Australian tour of the Louis Meyer-Beaumont Smith Dramatic Company, expected to arrive by the R.M.S. Orama soon. Mr. William F. Grant and Miss May Congdon will be the leading people of the combination. Both these artists have visited Australia before. In 1901, Mr. Grant played cleverly the part of the Laird at Her Majesty's, Sydney, with Edith Crane and Tyrone Power as Trilby and Svengali. His appearance in England as "Mr. Wu" earned him uniform praise from the London critics. Miss Congdon made her Australian debut as leading lady in the long run of "The Fatal Wedding" at the Criterion, Sydney, in 1906, under the Meynell-Gunn direction. Miss Congdon is an actress of Shakesperian and other varied experience.

## Popular Pantomimists.

The "Forty Thieves" Company had a great ovation on their last night in Sydney, prior to leaving for Brisbane. The principals lined the footlights with difficulty, owing to the large accumulation of bouquets and presents, which were handed up from all portions of the theatre. Miss Jessie Lennon, who was making her final appearance in Sydney before taking a trip Home, Misses Dorothy Firmin, Marie Eaton, Dolly Harmer, Gertie Latchwood, Maggie Dickinson, Ruby Kennedy, Edwin Brett and others received presents. During the evening Miss Jessie Lennon was presented with a silver chafing set by the company.

## Carl Bentzen's Noted Pupils.

Mr. Carl Bentzen, whose exposition of dancing with Miss Phyllis Lawton is one of the most charming "turns" ever put on at the Auckland Opera House in this line, enjoys the distinction of having taught his art to the daughter of the President of the United States. At the time Mr. Bentzen was appearing at one of the principal vaudeville houses in New York in the same act which he is now presenting at the Opera House. It was just then that the whole of the United States was in the throes of a dance craze which had infected everybody from the Senators at Washington to

the paper boys. One night at the theatre he received a visit from a White House official, who informed him that the President desired him, as soon as he was able, to give his daughters instructions in some of the latest dances. Shortly afterwards Mr. Bentzen was installed in the President's residence in Missouri, and commenced the work of teaching Dr. Wilson's daughters almost as soon as he arrived. So apt pupils were they that in a few weeks they had become sufficiently proficient not to need Mr. Bentzen's tuition any longer.

## Caruso and His Love Affairs.

Signor Caruso, the tenor, has paid £600 in settlement of Miss Mildred Mefferth's £20,000 breach of promise claim, commenced in 1908. Caruso's letters were signed "Baby." They were surrendered to him. The lady asserted that Caruso regularly corresponded with her, "writing in most endearing terms," and that in June, 1910, at his request, she alleges, they visited Italy and England. He frequently informed his friends and associates abroad, Miss Mefferth alleged, that he would marry her on his return to America in November, 1910. Subsequently Caruso postponed the date of the marriage until November, 1911. Instead of marrying her, however, he went to Europe, bidding her to follow him, which she did. He introduced her everywhere as the future Signora Caruso. Finally, in March, 1913, he abandoned her.

the people in front. During the intervals, all over the theatre playgoers have been heard asking each other the question: Who do you think killed John Argyle? "The Argyle Case" comes to New Zealand after the Sydney season, opening in Auckland on July 20.

## Harry Lauder and the Journalists.

Harry Lauder was the guest of honor at a dinner in Sydney given by the New South Wales Institute of Journalists. Responding to the toast to Scotchmen, Mr. Lauder said: "Ye canna get somethin' for naethin'. It canna be done. I cam' here not thinkin' I'd be asked to speak. I suppose 'cause ye gie me some chicken and a wee cup o' coffee I've got to speak to ye? (Laughter.) I said ye couldna get somethin' for naethin'. (Laughter.) But it's a great pleasure to be entertained by you. The press is the great fertiliser of the earth. Naethin' can be done, naethin' can be said without the press. The press is a mighty sword in the battle o' life. An' the press has a'ways been verra kind to me. At all times I have tried to be as courteous as possible to the press, so when you asked me to come and meet you I thought it was the best thing to do. (Hear, hear.) I have travelled a lot, and I like to rub shoulders wi' the press. Ye see, the press gets into a lot of corners where it's not possible for other mediums. And I a'ways like to get into the wee

Alexander, and James Christie, all of Auckland. Messrs. A. S. O'Connor and J. Christie were the architects, and they have given the company a building to be proud of. The theatre is situated next to the Bon Marche, Karangahape Road, Newton. It has 15ft. frontage to Karangahape Road and then widens to 40ft. There is a back frontage to North Street. A good-sized stage has been provided for, so that the building can be used for other purposes, as well as a picture theatre. A new idea in theatre ceilings has been adopted. In the ceiling all the beams are exposed, with dark-stained trimmers spaced between the woodwork. The plaster slabs are fixed on top of the beams and trimmers. In the entrance hall there is oak panelling, with a deep frieze and inset mirrors. Accommodation has been provided for two confectionery stalls, ladies' cloak rooms and lavatories. The building is lighted by electricity all through, and has seating accommodation for over 1000 people.

The directors propose to run a continuous programme of the best pictures from 2 to 5 and from 7 to 10.15. Mr. George Alexander, well and favourably known to most of the picture proprietors throughout New Zealand, will manage the theatre, and Mr. Donald Alexander will be the operator.

## SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, June 22.

This week's programme at His Majesty's Theatre is full of good things, and the business done at this popular vaudeville house must be very gratifying to the enterprising Brennan-Fuller management. Amongst the performers who are deserving of special mention are the Four Casting Lamys, Ray Lawrence, Bevan and Flint, Vernon and Sinclair, Hayes and R'lves, and Millie Doris.

The musical Kennedys, after a successful season in the South Island, opened their North Island tour in the Grand Opera House on Saturday, and met with a most hearty reception from a large and appreciative audience. The Kennedys are a most talented combination, who supply an entertainment that appeals to all classes of the public but those of exceptionally vulgar tastes. That they are versatile may be judged from the fact that Mr. Keith Kennedy is the violinist, Mr. Lance Kennedy is a flautist, and the possessor of a very fine baritone voice; Mr. Laurie Kennedy is a cornetist and 'cello player of exceptional ability; Madame Bertha Kennedy is the pianist of the combination. The Kennedys are assisted by Miss Dorothy Grace, who possesses a soprano voice of excellent quality, and Miss Rose Fitzgerald, whose contralto voice is sweet and mellow. Mr. Keith Kennedy, who is a pupil of Professor Seveik, is a violinist whose tone is pure and almost infallibly true, and his solos were enthusiastically applauded. Mr. Laurie Kennedy's 'cello solos proved that he is a thorough master of that instrument. Endowed with a high technical mastery of the 'cello, he plays with the spirit and impetuosity of happy, aspiring, passionate youth. As a flautist, Mr. Lance Kennedy is in the front rank, his solo work being a genuine treat to listen to. Taken all through, the Kennedys give an entertainment that is artistic, bright, and decidedly versatile. The North Island tour of this talented combination ought to be a highly successful one in every way.

The two lectures given by the celebrated English actress, Miss Ellen Terry, in the Grand Opera House, were listened to by very large and fashionable audiences.

Mr. George Buller arrived from Sydney last Wednesday to complete the final arrangements for the Dominion tour of "The Rosary," which opens at the Grand Opera House, Wellington, on June 25.

The projected return tour of the North Island of the George Willoughby "Uncle Tom" Company has been abandoned. The company return to Australia from the Bluff, where I understand they disband.

Mr. J. B. Mcutrie, who is well-known in the Dominion, has been appointed treasurer for the Dominion tour of "The Rosary" Company.

Mr. Alf. Linley returned to Wellington last Wednesday after a lengthy stay in Australia. He informs me that he has secured several attractions for New Zealand, including another pantomime company.



BARRY LUPINO, as "Ali Baba," EDWIN BRETT, as "Cogia," and WILLIAM HASSAN, as "Silverheels," the donkey, in the "Forty Thieves" Pantomime, opening in Auckland on June 29.

## "Bunty Pulls the Strings."

J. C. Williamson, Ltd., in conjunction with E. J. Carroll, will present, for the first time in Australia, at the Theatre Royal, Sydney, on June 27, "Bunty Pulls the Strings," the Scottish comedy by Graham Moffatt. The piece has had a phenomenal run in London, and will be staged by the original London company, including Graham Moffatt as Tammas Biggar and Kate Moffatt as Bunty Biggar.

## Success of "Pinafore."

In view of the forthcoming Gilbert and Sullivan season at Her Majesty's, Melbourne, it is interesting to note that "H.M.S. Pinafore" has been staged in New York at the Hippodrome on a big scale, and has proved enormously successful. The "Dramatic News" thus refers to the production:—"Pinafore" has attained success at the Hippodrome such as was never anticipated. It was supposed that this opera, having been revived so frequently, had more or less worn out its welcome, but there are no signs of this at the Hippodrome, which has been crowded every night since the opening."

## "The Argyle Case."

"The Argyle Case," at the Criterion Theatre, Sydney, has proved a mystifying thriller. The audience have been kept in the dark as to who committed the murder of John Argyle right up to the finish, and the result has been something in the nature of a guessing competition amongst

corners. It's the wee things that tell. (Laughter.) Awa' oot on the hills and the plains the news of the press goes. That's what makes ye so mighty and so strong."

## THE ARCADIA THEATRE.

## A SUCCESSFUL OPENING.

The opening of the new theatre took place on Thursday evening last, when, at the invitation of the directors, the Arcadia was filled with Auckland's leading citizens. Mr. George Reid, in the absence of the Mayor, during the course of a brief opening speech, stated that the management intended to procure the best films possible for the public benefit and entertainment, and he felt sure their enterprise would meet with every success. The films screened during the evening were very clearly shown, and included Arabian types of travel, a very fine set of scenic pictures. "Plain Jane" and "The Gambler's Oath" supplied the dramatic portion of the pictures, whilst the "Two Messages" and "The Awakening of Snakeville" filled the bill in the comedy portion to everyone's satisfaction. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Chas. Thompson, provided the accompanying music and lent additional pleasure to the evening. There will be a change of programme every Monday and Thursday.

A few particulars regarding the construction of the theatre will be of interest. The company was promoted by Messrs. George Alexander, Donald