

ON THE STAGE

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

WAT, AUCKLAND.—(1) Oscar Asche was playing in Auckland in September, 1912. (2) Miss Constance Collier was engaged by Beerbohm Tree in 1901, and remained at His Majesty's, London, for nearly six years, where she played Minerva in "Ulysses," Roma in "The Eternal City," Portia, Trilby and Viola. She toured with Beerbohm Tree in the title role of Trilby and on returning to His Majesty's played Cleopatra in Tree's revival of "Antony and Cleopatra."

HIS MAJESTY'S.

"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

There are always new generations of theatregoers coming along to justify the presentation of an old play like "Under Two Flags." With its military atmosphere depicting the French and British armies rubbing shoulders in Algiers, the present European crisis makes it particularly apropos, and a crowded house at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday night showed the wisdom of its selection by the George Willoughby Dramatic Company for their opening piece. Most people are familiar with the story Ouida has made famous so many years ago. Bertie Cecil Royellieu, in an act of self-abnegation renounces his inheritance and bears the burden of his weak-spirited brother's guilt. He escapes from the country, leaves the Guards and fights under the French flag, hiding his identity for twelve years in Algiers under the name of Louis Victor. Here he makes himself conspicuous for bravery, and finds a most ardent worshipper in "Cigarette," the vivandiere of the regiment. The Englishman is hated by the colonel of the regiment, "Black Hawk," who eventually forces him into a duel as the price to pay for the former's chivalry in defending the honour of Princess Corona. Louis Victor is court-martialled and condemned to death. Cigarette pleads for his life and obtains a pardon, which, after fearsome traits, she succeeds in reaching through on the morning of the execution. But she pays the penalty. She interposes her body between the hero and the rifle, and gives up her life.

The play provided plenty of scope to purvey the dramatic abilities of Mr. George Cross and Miss Vera Remeé, who naturally portrayed the parts of the wronged Englishman and Cigarette respectively. Mr. Cross, whose work is always of noteworthy merit, left no point unplaced, reaching them home to his sympathetic audience with an easy effectiveness and commendable restraint. Miss Vera Remeé characterised the role of Cigarette with infinite success, emphasising all the charm and camaraderie of the vivandiere. Mr. Frank Neil as the hero's valet, Rake, imparted a welcome dash of humour to proceedings and was quite one of the approved figures on the stage with his audience. Mr. Ronald Riley as Lord Rockingham and Mr. Maurice Nodin as Bertie Cecil's brother, kept well in the picture. Miss Blanche Macpherson's services were secured at the last moment in place of Miss Oriol Hotson, who was seriously indisposed, and she lent distinction to the part of the Princess Corona.

"Under Two Flags" will be replaced on Saturday by George R. Sims' play "The Ever Open Door," a piece that is said to appeal to the best in men and women.

"THE EVER OPEN DOOR."

The door is that of a London mission house, at which poor and orphaned children can find a haven of rest. The mission is presided over by Father Clement, who is assisted in his good work by a number of sisters of mercy.

"The Ever Open Door" is a human drama that touches the heart. It begins with the aristocracy and human frailty. Lady Dereham is a woman



LEO CHERNIAVSKY, violinist of the gifted trio of instrumentalists who inaugurate an important musical event at the Town Hall, Auckland, on February 16.

with a past. The villain of her period has, for his selfish purposes, led her to believe that, in a fit of madness, she has killed her own child. Suffering from remorse and melancholy, she joins Father Clement's Mission, of "The Ever Open Door," for the rescue of London waifs, and is largely instrumental in the resurrection and saving of her son, and how the relationship be-

comes apparent is the main thread of the story.

Miss Vera Remeé will be seen as Lady Dereham and Mr. Cross as Father Clement, their work in these parts being specially commended by the Australian press.

The Napier Operatic Society has booked the opening dates of the Hastings Syndicate's new theatre for a production of "The Cingalee."



JAN CHERNIAVSKY, Pianist.

OPERA HOUSE.

RANDELL-JACKSON CONCERT PARTY.

With the engagement of the Randell-Jackson English Concert Party for a tour of their circuit, the Fuller-Brennan management should increase the number of patrons to the vaudeville ranks. Each member highly gifted, the little combination of five gives an entertainment of unusual excellence, imparting an elevating tone that should be deservedly recognised. They are all artists in their own particular line, and also work collectively. As Mr. Jackson says, "each member of the party is a sustaining unit." The party made their first appearance before an Auckland audience on Monday, and were accorded a gratifyingly demonstrative reception. "Pierrot Land" by the company, served as a pleasing introduction, other fine concerted pieces being "The Blacksmith's Wedding" and "The Land of I Dunno' Where." Miss Florence West, who has a sympathetic soprano voice, sang with much charm "When You Come Home," and for an encore "Wake Up." Mr. Randell Jackson had a clamorous recall for his rendering of "Up From Somerset." Miss May Windsor, accompanist and monologist, gave a delightful cockney sketch of "The Girl Next Door," which had an encorious acclamation. Mr. Herbert Winter established himself as a sound humorist, his burlesque of Italian opera causing a riot of laughter, which was only appeased by a double offering. "Piracy" was another screamingly funny item, in which Mr. Winter was abetted by Mr. George Nash. The latter also aired his fund of merrymaking in a fascinating duet, "The Bookie and the Quaker Girl," associated with Miss Windsor. Altogether the company won golden opinions for striking a new note. Toplining the second half of the bill were the Dental Risks, aptly named. A man and a merry maid, they performed numerous hair-raising feats with their teeth, presenting horrifying suspension acts with amazing naturalness and enjoyment. Max Martin again made good with ragtime ditties and Hebrew impersonations, finishing off his turn with nimble step-dancing. Welcome re-appearances were made by Mann and Franks in a musical comedy duet of refreshing hilarity, and by the French artistes, Williams and Warner, in their unique musical melange, which made a bigger hit than ever. Variety was lent by Mr. Elton Fox, a cartoonist, who displayed his skill in lightning sketches of Kitchener, Lauder, H.M.S. New Zealand, amongst others of popular taste. Mr. E. J. Burke's orchestra contributed their quota to an excellent entertainment. Miss Rose Lee Ivy will star next week's bill.

Mischel Cherniavsky to-day is recognised as being amongst the first three greatest 'cellists in the world. The 'cello in his hands becomes a stringed organ, expressing every gamut of the emotions.

The Randell-Jackson English Concert Company who are now delighting audiences at the Auckland Opera House, have performed at Margate for 12 consecutive seasons. The company was formed by Mr. Jackson. He is an old chorister, and was first trained by Henry J. Dutton at St. Paul's London, and later by Edwin Holland at the Royal Academy, and subsequently at Milan. He has fulfilled important engagements throughout the length and breadth of Great Britain. He is a great friend of Mr. Peter Dawson, the well known Adelaide artist, and has frequently appeared on the same programme as the popular Australian. Miss May Windsor, the lady humorist, is the author of many of the concerted numbers done by the artists in their performances.