

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

IMPORTANT WILLIAMSON ENGAGEMENT.

WORLD'S GREATEST COMEDY ACTRESS.

MISS MARIE TEMPEST.

The secret of the remarkable success Miss Marie Tempest has achieved in London, America, Australia and New Zealand—a success at least unsurpassed by any other comedy artist who has visited Australasia—is that she acts from her heart. She strives, and absolutely succeeds in making the audience feel what she herself feels. At all events, that is the quality which, according to Australian and New Zealand critics, has won for her a high and enduring fame. Miss Marie Tempest, with the distinguished leading man, Mr. Graham Browne, and a specially-selected Williamson comedy company, are to appear in five brilliantly successful comedies during their nine nights' season in Auckland. The initial attraction, which is to be staged for the first two nights, will be the great London and New York comedy success "Mrs. Dot," a comedy which has proved enormously popular wherever presented. Miss Marie Tempest has been for years the acknowledged queen of English comedy. Her career has been one of exceptional brilliance. She has gone from triumph to triumph in the most notable theatres in both London and New York. Her position in the art world is unchallenged. She is recognised as the head and front of high-class comedy the world over. During her visit to Auckland several plays, new here, are to be presented. The following magnificent programme has been arranged for the nine nights' season: Next Saturday and Monday, the witty and stimulating three-act comedy, "Mrs. Dot"; Tuesday and Wednesday, the spicy and highly amusing three-act farce comedy, "A Pair of Silk Stockings"; Thursday, Somerset Maugham's clever three-act play, "Pene'ope"; Friday and Saturday, everybody's favourite, "The Marriage of Kitty"; and for the last two nights of the season, Monday and Tuesday night week, Clare Kummer's delightful and novel three-act comedy, "Good Gracious, Annabelle!" There is a great deal of truth in the managerial statement that the engagement of Miss Tempest and Mr. Graham Browne is one of the most expensive that the firm of J. C. Williamson, Ltd., has ever made for a tour of the Dominion. Other members who are to support the two principals will include Messrs. Sydney Stirling, Leslie Victor, Ian MacLaren, Thomas Sidney, Victor Tatnall, Roger Barry, Tal Ordell, Len Nugent, Frank Allanby, Misses Gwen Burroughs, Nancye Stewart, Ethel Morrison, Eileen Robinson, and Mrs. George Lauri. Much interest will assuredly be taken in the forthcoming season, primarily because of the reputation which has preceded Miss Tempest and Mr. Graham Browne. The box plans are announced to open at Wildman and Arey's at 8 o'clock on Thursday, when seats for the entire season can be secured.

"MRS. DOT."

In "Mrs. Dot," Miss Marie Tempest's first play, interest is said to be aroused at once by the amusing plot, and it never flags until the final fall of the curtain. Briefly, Mrs. "Dot" Worthley, a wealthy brewer's widow, has conceived a passion for Gerald Halstane, a young man who is about to succeed to a peerage, but he has become involved in an engagement with Nellie Sellenger, which he is loath to break for conscientious reasons. He is in love with the widow, but he does not see his way out. She finds it. She adroitly arranges that Freddie Perkins shall make love to Nellie Sellenger and carries on a flirtation with James Blenkinsop, an elderly sport, so as to arouse the enthusiasm of Hal-

stane regarding herself and his disgust at the waywardness of his fiancée. The plan succeeds admirably. She secures the husband of her choice and the younger folk are pleasurably united. Meanwhile much fun is created for the lookers-on. The dialogue scintillates and sparkles with epigrammatic sentences.

"A PAIR OF SILK STOCKINGS."

"A Pair of Silk Stockings," which follows "Mrs. Dot," deals with the circumstances of the reconciliation of Sam Thornhill with his wife Molly, the pair having been divorced over a silly dispute about a car and a harmless flirtation on the part of the husband. After a few months, during which they pursue their separate ways, they come together in a very strange fashion. At a country house a rehearsal for amateur theatricals has been arranged, and Sam is to play the part of Eccles in "Caste." Molly arrives unexpectedly, and the only bedroom available for her is one that has been formerly occupied by Major Jack Bagnall, an old lover,

OPERA HOUSE.

The increasing success of Mr. Philip Newbury and Miss Amy Murphy was evidenced on Monday night, when the brilliant vocalists again had a tremendous reception from a large audience. Miss Murphy's solos were, "When the World's a Garden Again" and "My Hero," Mr. Newbury's numbers being "Bianca" and "I'll Sing Thee Songs of Araby." While in the duet "Parted" their voices harmonised to telling effect. Another welcome addition to the ranks of singers has been made by the management in the engagement of Private Robert Bell, a returned New Zealand soldier, who delighted everyone with his tuneful and expressive baritone voice, a slight nervousness on his first appearance being soon overcome. Private Bell, who has brought back a limp as a souvenir of the war, had a rousing reception and delivered two numbers in cultured style. The Musical Bentleys are back again and were enthusiastically applauded for their masterly manipulation of the xylophone, their pieces including operatic

Gold set the ball rolling with ditties and a piano, and Merton and Rydon, with their versatile powers of entertaining, closed a diverting bill.

KENNETH CARLISLE'S RECITAL.

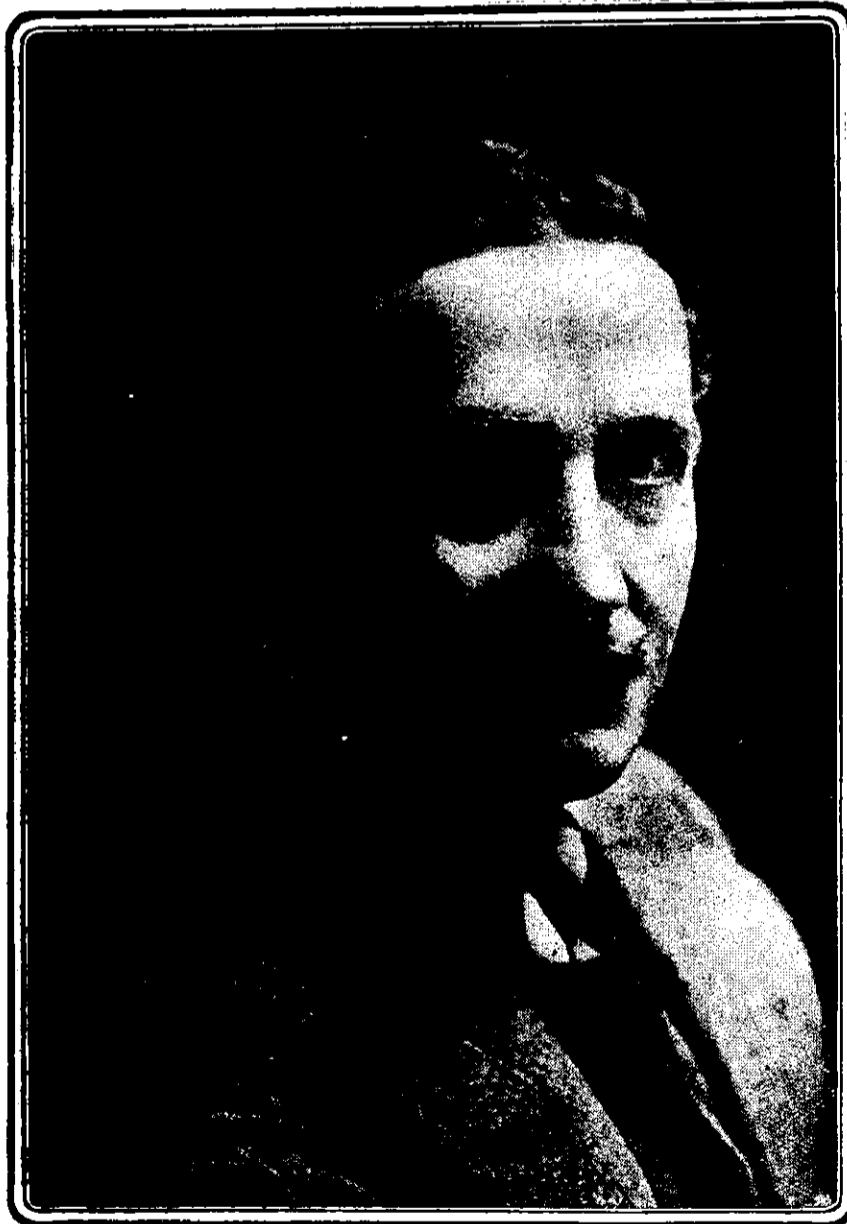
There was an enthusiastic rally of his old admirers at King's Theatre on Saturday night when Mr. Kenneth Carlisle, the popular heavy lead of the recent Brandon-Cremer company, gave a dramatic recital, featured with an original one-act drama entitled "The Awakening of Montague Crane." The story concerns an old man who has married late in life to secure an heir, and finds that his young wife, answering the insistent call of youth to youth, has fallen in love with his nephew. There is a strong dramatic scene where the husband denounces the wife and the lover, but the death of the child—the one being whom he really loves—brings about his awakening to the possibilities of life to other people, and eventually he determines to set his wife free. Mr. Carlisle drew a clever and impressive picture of the wealthy old husband, Montague Crane, his work being distinctly approved. Miss Stella Gray looked charming as the frivolous young wife and handled the situations with innate delicacy. Mr. George Henderson as the nephew and Miss Nellie Pearson as the maid completed the cast. Mr. Carlisle also gave effective characterisations of the libertine, Luke Dezzard, in the vault scene of "As Midnight Chimes," and Danny Mann, the hunchback, in "The Colleen Bawn," while his elocutionary gift was put to the test in "Not Understood" and "The Day." The programme was agreeably supplemented by Miss Linda Murphy, who sang "Tu Tu" very piquantly; Miss Dorothy Richardson, a dainty little dancer; Master Jack Hulme, whose violin solos were trebly encored; Mr. Liddle, a pleasant vocalist, who met with a similar fate; Kodama, a Japanese wire-walker, and Mr. O. James. At the conclusion, Mr. Carlisle thanked the audience for their appreciation, his announcement that he might continue these entertainments at intervals being received with loud applause.

Mr. Robert Williamson has been in Auckland the past few days spreading the glad tidings of Miss Marie Tempest's advent.

Mr. George Stephenson, manager at the Auckland Opera House, is advancing the Allan Wilkie season, which opens shortly.

Miss Kathlene MacDonell, the brilliant young American actress of "Daddy Long Legs" memories, caused something of a sensation at the first performance of "The Willow Tree" in Sydney. Just at the end and in the saddest part of the play, someone in the gallery laughed, and Miss MacDonell, who has worked enormously hard during the whole of the present season, sustaining one heavy role after another, became so upset that she at once left the stage. Just afterwards it was apparent that the young actress had been seized with illness, and there was nothing to do but ring down the curtain. Next day Miss MacDonell recovered sufficiently to appear, and gained a full measure of enthusiastic applause for her artistic acting in the quaint Japanese legend.

Recently in Sydney the Minister for Education, Mr. James, made a tour in order to personally acquaint himself with the welfare of the children of tender years who, under his permits, are appearing on the stage. Mr. James said that he was delighted with the attention given to the welfare of the juveniles, who seemed to enjoy their stage experiences. After each matinee the younger children were put to bed, and were not awakened until 7 o'clock, when they got ready for the evening performance. His instruction that their parents were to have charge of them was also being observed.



MR. GRAHAME BROWNE, leading man with Miss Marie Tempest, who will appear in "Mrs. Dot" at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland, on Saturday, under the J. C. Williamson direction.

who has gone to town. Sam, with a view to getting an interview with his wife, hides in a wardrobe in his (Eccles') "make-up." Bagnall, missing his train, returns to the room through the window to find Molly there, and Sam afterwards comes to light from the wardrobe. The situation is a bit "risky," but delightfully humorous. Sam, in his disguise, is not recognised, and he is captured as a burglar and tied up with a curtain rope and Molly's silk stockings. He escapes from a room in which he is placed, and then Bagnall's fiancée, Pamela Bristowe is scandalised to find Bagnall with Molly. The story of the supposed burglar, who has disappeared, will not suffice. The matter is cleared up the following morning by the discovery of the silk stockings on Sam's legs, and the ensuing explanations are accepted as satisfactory.

excerpts and ragtime melodies. Mr. Gus Blake and Miss Maud Granby exploited their comedy bent in a vigorous playlet entitled "The System," a domestic argument, which evoked screams of laughter. The five dainty little Lewin maids appeared in another attractive turn combining melody and dance, the smallest of them all getting an ovation for her sweet piping song and step dance. The act is excellently dressed, and is a big feature of the bill. Mr. Arthur Croxon made top score as usual with a budget of humorous songs and an inimitable style of getting them over. Mr. Ernest Pitcher, with that confiding way of his, had everyone in ripples of merriment. Mr. Sidney Jones and Miss Agnes Raines kept things going cheerfully for a quarter of an hour or so with their clever nonsense, Mr. Jones bringing down the house with his musical melodrama. Harris and