

THE STAGE

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

ALLAN WILKIE SEASON.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."

Events move quickly in "The Midnight Wedding," Allan Wilkie's fourth production, and a crowded audience on Saturday night plainly showed that it was a drama much to their liking, the play being frequently held up while they gave vent to their feelings in outbursts of applause. The marriage of the Princess Astrea to an unknown protector (Paul Valmar) at midnight is the basic note of the piece, and the machinations of the villainous Captain Scarsbruck to circumvent the bridegroom and secure the bride for himself keep excitement at fever heat, while the military and picturesque setting adds to the romance of the situations. Mr. Allan Wilkie gives an earnest portraiture of the chivalrous Paul, who suffers much for his lady, and Miss Frediswyde Hunter-Watts in the latter role always suggests the gentle patrician, sublime in her sentiment and appealingly lovable. Mr. Guy Hastings, as the evil genius, leaves no loophole for weakness in that respect, and the opprobrium of the audience is his reward. Miss Lorna Forbes, as Satanella, capably sustains the character of the adventuress. Mr. Gus Neville gives due bearing to the role of the Crown Prince, and the comedy element gets full scope at the hands of Messrs. Henri Dore, Edward Landor, and Fred Patey, and Miss Mildred Carlton. "The Midnight Wedding" will be played on Wednesday for the last time.

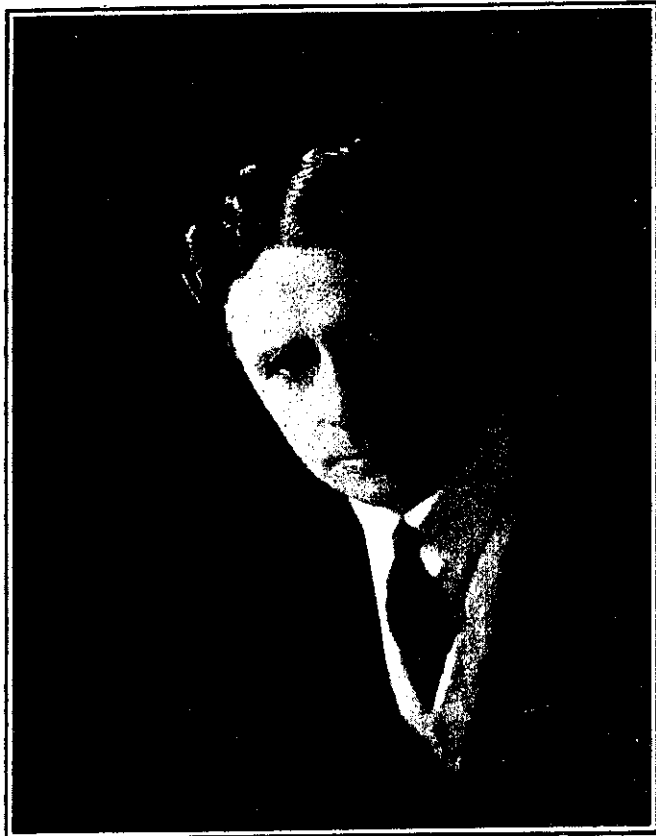
"HINDLE WAKES."

Stanley Houghton's story of genuine Lancashire life, "Hindle Wakes," will be presented for the first time in New Zealand on Thursday night, with two performances to follow. It is described by London critics as a sincere, human drama with the breath of inspiration. It is a play that is bound to create a sensation by reason of its virility. "Hindle" is the name of a small town in South Lancashire. "Wakes" is the Lancashire term for the annual holidays usually lasting about a week, each town holding them independently, but generally in July or August. The title, "Hindle Wakes," therefore simply signifies "Hindle Holidays."

Among the companies read to spring off to New Zealand from Australia are the "Goody Two Shoes" pantomime company (J. C. Williamson, Ltd.), Harry Dearth, the English baritone (J. and N. Tait), Muriel Starr (J. C. Williamson), Sir Harry Lauder (J. and N. Tait), "The Better Ole" (Hugh D. McIntosh), and Emelie Polinie, the dainty American comedienne (J. and N. Tait), and possibly Mirovitch and Piastro (Scott Colville), the Russian musicians, who are back in Australia.



MISS HELEN FERGUS a well-known actress, who is at present appearing with the Allan Wilkie Company.



MR. AUGUSTUS NEVILLE, of the Allan Wilkie Company, who will produce this week the notable play "Hindle Wakes."

"There can be no hesitation in asserting that 'Hindle Wakes' is the most original, daring and extraordinary play that has ever been presented to a New Zealand audience," says Mr. Allan Wilkie.

A cable message from London states that, the Australian actress Miss Dorothy Brunton, has scored a success in Mr. Harold Brighouse's farce "Bantam, V.C.," at the St. Martin's Theatre. London newspapers applaud Miss Brunton for her clever and vivacious acting in a non-musical part.

Mr. Bert Bailey, accompanied by his wife and daughter, has left for England to secure new things for Australia, and also to see if conditions are opportune for the production of the Australian play "On Our Selection."

Mr. Graham Moffat, of "Bunty Pulls the Strings" and "A Scrape of the Pen" memories, has returned to Scotland after a tour of the world, taking four years to complete. While in Japan he wrote a new play in collaboration with his wife, and he hopes to produce this in England shortly.



MR. GUY HASTINGS, of the Allan Wilkie Company, appearing at His Majesty's Theatre, Auckland.

OPERA HOUSE.

A varied programme meets the approval of Opera House patrons this week, vaudeville and revue being seen at its best. The Delevantes strike the topnote in sensations with their fearlessness and agility on the flying trapeze, while the juvenile member gives one fresh thrill. Wendy and Alphonse make a visit worth while with their smart musical act, comprising a duet, "Maryland," a pianologue, "Jones of the Lancers," by Alphonse, and a burlesque on "Sympathy." The Harrington Reynolds Dramatic Company put on a playlet, "The Divorce Question," which opens up debatable problems of the day. A youthful juggler in Edgar Benyon provides an interesting few moments with his celerity, and Jolly John Larkin contributes songs and jokes. Mr. Bert La Blanc's Revue Company have the second half of the entertainment in their own hands, and their popularity is never in doubt. Mr. La Blanc sets the pace for unrestrained laughter, and Mr. Jake Mack makes a trusty foil. Miss Queenie Paul is a dainty asset to the company, and she and Mr. Mike Connors have the main portion of the vocal offerings. Miss Olga Ray, Miss Maggie Buckley, Tilton and West, and Mr. Ray combine with the energetic chorus and ballet dancers towards the enjoyment of this latest frivolous, "Then They Woke Up." Miss A. Henry, who directs the ballets, figures gracefully in a Scottish dance.

MR. EDWARD LANDOR.

A special note of interest attached to "Hindle Wakes" is that Mr. Edward Landor, who has a marked penchant for character drawing, and who will take the part of Sir Timothy Farrar in the Allan Wilkie production, created the role in the original presentation at Home, when the Horniman Repertory Company played it before the Stage Society at the Aldwych Theatre, London. Such was its immediate success that Mr. Cyril Maude at once secured it and transferred to the Playhouse, where it had a long and successful run, a triumphal revival taking place later on at the Royal Court Theatre. It has also proved a big draw in America.

"It is the most realistic play of its kind ever written," says Mr. Landor. "Daring in its theme, skilful in its construction, and powerful and gripping to a degree. Anyone who knows his Lancashire will find in it a real everyday portrait of Lancashire life."

Miss Helen Fergus, who plays character parts with the Allan Wilkie Company so excellently, will be remembered by playgoers of a couple of decades ago, when she visited New Zealand periodically as a leading member of Chas. McMahon's dramatic companies. She has passed on her talent to her daughter, Miss Nellie Ferguson, who was the female spy in "Seven Days' Leave," and creator in Australia of the title role in "The Bad Girl of the Family." Miss Fergus finds it pleasant renewing her many old Auckland friends before the footlights.

Mr. Scott Colville reports steady success with the Dandies, who have been strongly reinforced since their last appearance in Auckland.

Mr. Victor Beck drops a line from Christchurch regretting that he has had to cancel several good propositions in the attraction line owing to the impossibility of getting companies over.

Wish Wynne, the famous English comedienne, whose characterisations stood out as cameos, is going to America to appear in musical productions under the Charles Dillingham management. Miss Wynne toured Australia and New Zealand some three years ago under the Fuller banner.