

THE STAGE

AUCKLAND FIXTURES.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Oct. 23—Rickards' Vaudeville Coy.
Nov. 10-25—Clarke and Meynell's
"The Gay Gordons."
Nov. 27-Dec. 9—Auckland Competitions Society.
Dec. 16-Feb. 15—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.

1912.

Feb. 16-March 2—Plimmer-Denniston Company.
March 4-15—J. C. Williamson, Ltd.
March 18-April 3—George Marlow Dramatic Company.

THE KING'S THEATRE.

Fuller's Wide-World Pictures—In season.

THE OPERA HOUSE.

Vaudeville—In season.

THE WINDSOR RINK.

Skating—In season.

HIS MAJESTY'S.

SPARKLING VAUDEVILLE SHOW.

CROWDED HOUSES — PLEASSED AUDIENCES.

The Auckland theatre-goer revels in light, clever, and blithesome variety entertainments, and it is consequently little wonder that His Majesty's Theatre has been filled every night this week with laughing audiences, vigorously applauding the many excellent turns provided by Harry Rickards' Vaudeville Company. The circle is pleased because the entertainment is smart without being in the least degree vulgar; the stalls are gay because they see bright eyes, and dainty dances without monotonous repetition or mediocre turns; and the gallery is overjoyed because they get humorous patter, lots of movement and intrepid skill without any gloomy interludes.

A CONSTELLATION OF STARS.

The graceful gymnastic art of Alcide Capitaine was the last thing so far seen in Auckland of trapeze work and balancing. Binns and Binns are two particularly bright stars giving something at once original and distinctly clever. Sydney Bach is the best "thing" we've had from Wales. He's simply immense. His personality soon gets him on terms of intimacy with the audience, and he scores greatly with his musical monologues. Clarke and Mostol were refreshingly clever "patterists" with nothing stale to work off, while their lightening dancing simply brought the house down. Alfred Holt is a talented whistler and imitator of birds and animals. He is particularly successful in a dog fight without dogs.

NO LACK OF VARIETY.

Carlton Max gives a delightfully clever ventriloquical sketch. Fanny Powers is a dainty comedienne, and makes a striking success of her Jewish impersonations. Godfrey James is possessed of a splendid tenor voice, and renders his numbers with exquisite taste. Camille Cornwall pleases best with her ballad contributions. The Marlow Sisters do two serio turns creditably. Tom Dawson is a success as a droll balladist.

The excellent programme concludes with a laughable eccentric turn, including singing, dancing, and tumbling which sends the crowded houses away nightly thoroughly pleased. The same artists will remain at His Majesty's for another week, giving frequent changes of items. A special matinee will be held on a Saturday afternoon, when children will be admitted to all parts at half-price.

THE OPERA HOUSE.

FULLER'S VAUDEVILLE ENTERTAINERS.

Large audiences are attesting to the merit of the current programme at the Opera House, where vaudeville holds its merry sway. "The World's Trio" are proving themselves immense favourites in their musical

demand for their acrobatic feats and vocal items. Nada Moret is a monologist of a high order, and entertains all with her music, song and story powers. Delavale and Gilbert score heavily in their sketch, "The boy who will argue" bringing down the house. Mabelle, the Australian dancer, the Willis Sisters, Jessie Lee, Lily Vockler, Tim Howard and that excellent whistler, Sam La Mert all assist by their capital work towards presenting



ALCIDE CAPITAIN, Intrepid Trapeze Athlete at His Majesty's Theatre.



GODFREY JAMES, Popular Collier Tenor at Rickards'.

playlet "The Duke's Visit," giving a sketchy but bright and original.

That old favourite Harry Sadler is back again and is receiving an uproarious welcome, and his budget of comicalities seems to be inexhaustible. Another popular artist to reap is Miss Nellie Searle, who is heartily received for her enjoyable numbers. The "Three Tit Bits," wonderfully clever juveniles, are in good

one of the brightest and best programmes yet given at the Opera House. Miss Ivy Akerstein's orchestra lends additional enjoyment to the whole.

Friday night has been chosen for Amateur trial night, when aspirants to the vaudeville stage are invited to appear. Judging by experiences at previous trials, plenty of diversion can be promised.

Greenroom Gossip.

Dickens in America.

Mr. Alfred Tennyson Dickens, who is a son of the great Charles Dickens, lately left England for America, where he has been engaged to appear as a lecturer on his father's life and works. His tour commenced in Boston at the beginning of this month, and subsequently he is to lecture in the principal cities throughout the Union. Recently writing to J. and N. Tait, of Melbourne, to whom he is under engagement, Mr. Dickens expected that his tour would be immensely successful, especially as the admiration for his father's books is greater in America than it is even in England. Mr. Dickens further stated that he was being overwhelmed by invitations to dinners and receptions arranged in his honor, and had been asked by President Taft to visit him at the White House, Washington.

A Painful Experience.

A strangely painful experience was undergone by Mr. H. B. Irving when playing "Louis XI," at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London. As those who see the play will note, there are many references to the dying king. It so happened that the news was received that Edward's life was despaired of when the play was running, and at one performance the management expected every minute to receive a message that would require the curtain to be lowered. As a consequence, Mr. Irving hurriedly cut out many of the lines in "Louis XI" that appeared too distressing to be spoken under the circumstances. Louis dies on the stage, and the last words delivered are: "The King is dead. Long live the King!" No sooner had the audience filed out of the Shaftesbury than the newsboys came running down the street with "extraordinary" editions telling that King Edward had breathed his last.

Lewis Waller Coming.

Lewis Waller, who comes to Australia next year under the J. C. Williamson, Clarke and Meynell management, has been secured to star in the big New York production of the dramatisation of Robert Hitchens' "Garden of Allah." About £15,000 is being spent on the production of the play, and the author and producer have added "local color" to a most realistic extent by visiting the places that figure in the piece.

Death of a Veteran English Actor.

Mr. Bertie Wright, "Timothy Gibbs" of "Our Miss Gibbs" fame, received cable advice on Saturday of the death of his father, Mr. Fred. Wright, sen., who up till quite recently was the oldest English actor in active work. The deceased actor was the father of the family of noted players, which includes Messrs. Huntley, Fred, jun., and Bertie Wright, and Misses Marie and Haidee Wright. Born in 1826, the late Mr. Wright did not take to the stage until he was fairly well advanced in years, having made his first appearance on the stage in 1854.

His Pioneering Days.

He was known as the pioneer of the touring system. It was he who first travelled with his entire company, scenery and effects, the first sensational scenes carried being the real water scene in "The Colleen Bawn" and the ballroom scene, adorned with massive cut glass chandeliers and mirrors reflecting thousands of lights, in "The Quarter of a Million of Money." Thereafter he experienced the usual trials and vicissitudes of mid-Victorian actors, but gradually worked his way into popularity in the English provinces as an actor, and later as an actor-manager. He became lessee and manager of a theatre in Edinburgh, and at other times