

has controlled his own touring companies in the United Kingdom, and as a sound actor and comedian enjoyed a widely-spread popularity, both in the business and with the public. In 1902 he accompanied Mr Martyn Harvey on a tour of America, and as late as 1906 was still playing Dr. Manette in "The Only Way." Each member of the Wright family learned their business in their father's companies, and for the most part under his personal direction. That each has risen to a prominent position in the profession denotes how thorough that training must have been.

A Unique Occurrence.

A public reception was tendered the "Gay Gordons" Company on their arrival at the Dunedin Railway Station, when they were welcomed by Messrs. Dugald M'Pherson (chief of the Gaelic Society), W. B. M'Ewan (president of the Burns Club), John M'Donald (president of the Caledonian Society), and Alexander Gillies (ex-president of the Caledonian Society), representing the different Scottish societies and the Dunedin Pipe Band. We believe this is the first time any Comic Opera Company has received a public welcome. The company opens here on November 10.

atre on November 10, by the Clarke and Meynell's new English Comic Opera Company. "The Gay Gordons" is really a Comic Opera in two acts, the book by Seymour Hicks and the music the work of Guy Jones. "The Gay Gordons" has met with phenomenal success whenever and wherever it has been produced. The work is soundly constructed, the plot being pretty and tangible. A spirit of comedy pervades the whole play and the scene in Act I, where the two principal characters make love and partake of a healthy al fresco meal is said to be simply delightful. To say that the staging will be up to the Clarke and Meynell standard is equivalent to saying that it will be perfect, and when it is known that Florence Imeson, Nell Finnis, Nellie Cousens, Frank Lincoln, Tom Graves, Percy Clifton and Dick Shortland will head the new English Company, lovers of light opera will feel confident that the parts will receive adequate portrayals. Batches of Beauty Girls, choristers, Ballet Dancers and supernumeraries will lend their presence and unique and attractive costumes to the different scenes, and an orchestra of eighteen will accompany under the direction of Wynne Jones. The total number of people concerned in the production will number 95.

A Double Character.

"Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," which H. B. Irving staged at Melbourne on Saturday night was never played by Sir Henry Irving. It was first staged by his son in London in January of last year. William Archer, one of the keenest critics, wrote of the performance: "Nothing creepier than Mr. Irving's representation has been seen in our time. Its merit does not end here however. There is something really tragic and profoundly moral in the struggle of Dr. Jekyll against the recurrent and irresistible invasions of the bestial nature, which he has incautiously allowed to concentrate and organise itself within him. Mr. Irving may be congratulated on having done not only a gruesome but a fine and memorable thing."

IN PERSONAL TOUCH.

Mr. G. D. Portus, who is managing Rickards' Vaudeville Company, has received many congratulations on the occasion of his marriage. His bride, too, has numerous friends in New Zealand, who will join us in wishing them all good fortune.

whom she is now seeking a divorce after six months of married life, was originally a slave in Cairo. In the marriage certificate Hassan set out that his father was "Prince of the Ottoman Empire."

It is stated that the booking for the Melba Grand Opera Company during the big racing week in Sydney represented more money than has ever been taken in a Sydney theatre over a similar period.

Mr. J. T. Montague (father of the Auckland Shakespeare Society), and a picked team of members of the said society, are in Wellington just now, and gave their first reading, "Twelfth Night" on Monday to an appreciative audience. The principal readers were: Mrs. Frank Turner, Mrs. McCallum, Miss Zoe Bartley, Mr. Montague, Rev. W. Jellie, Mr. Laurie Abrahams, and Mr. Alan McElwain.

"I have long cherished an idea that Shakespeare is neither dead nor uninteresting (said Mr. Montague to a Wellington interviewer). You may think me mad, but by this time I am more than ever confirmed in my opinion. The Auckland Shakespeare Society has been an extraordinary success from its initiation ten years ago.



AN INTERESTING GROUP IN "THE GAY GORDONS," WHO APPEAR AT HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE ON NOVEMBER 10.

That Beats A'!

When travelling in Scotland a year or two ago some members of "The Gay Gordons" Comic Opera Company were compelled to stay at a wayside inn on account of the leading hotel accommodation being taken up by visitors to the fair. On returning home after the performance they called for refreshments, and, after consuming one round at the counter, they called for a "nightcap," comfortably seated themselves round the fire, and discussed "shop." After some time a burly Scotsman came into the room, sat down, and cast furtive glances at the actors. A ring of the bell brought the proprietress with the "doch-an-dorrach," and she was asked a whispered inquiry concerning the interloper. "Oh! he's a' richt," said the landlady, "that's only Jock, he's waitin' to pit ye to bed." "But we shall be quite capable of putting ourselves to bed," replied the Thespians, with indignation. "What's that?" said the astonished landlady, "Play-actors' gaein to bed on their ain feet? Weel, what's the wurld coming tae, Jock? A've haird o' mony new-fangled ideas," said the lady, "but that beats a'. An' ye ca' yersel's Gay Gordons? Gang awa tae yer beds, or A'll turn the lights out."

"The Gay Gordons."

"The Gay Gordons," one of London's latest successful musical plays, is to be presented at His Majesty's The-

Melba in her Native City.

Saturday, 28th inst. will be a landmark in the history of the Australian stage, for it will be the occasion of the first appearance of Melba in her native city in grand opera, supported by a complete and representative company of artists. No other theatrical attraction has ever been introduced to Australians under more auspicious circumstances. A magnificent repertoire of the operas in which Madame Melba has achieved her biggest successes has been got together, and each will be played by artists specially picked for their respective roles. The opening performance will be "La Traviata," with Melba as Violetta.

The Lot of a Musician.

Mr. Ernest Toy, the leader of the Melba grand opera orchestra, let drop a remark at a rehearsal recently that throws light on the lot of a musician in a big band. "You must enjoy such music as that," one of the theatre staff said to him, just after a dress rehearsal of "La Tosca." "It must sound great to you," he replied, "but we never hear it, that is as an ensemble. We are so intent on our own individual playing that this is all we hear. We are in a well of sound, which can only be likened to being in some great foundry, where they are rivetting boilers. Each striker in the foundry no doubt hears the sound of his own hammer, but for the general effect one wants to get some distance away."

"The Woman in the Case" Compyony concluded their Auckland season on Saturday night in "A Fool There Was." On Monday they journeyed to Hamilton, where they gave a highly successful performance, picking up the Main Trunk train in the early hours of the morning, and arriving here on Tuesday at 7 a.m. Thence they proceeded by the Tarawera to Gisborne, where they play a three-nights' season.

"The Gay Gordons" are a big success down here," writes Mr. Leo. D. Chateau from Dunedin. "They are receiving receptions and 'send-offs' everywhere.... There is no question about their popularity. They ingratiate themselves everywhere."

"The Mousme" is the name of the successor to "The Arcadians" at the Shaftesbury Theatre, London. The new piece has a Japanese setting, and is written by Messrs Courtneidge and Thompson. It will be duly produced in Australia by the Williamson management.

Messrs John Fuller and Sons have opened a film-hirng department in Sydney.

Tom Wain the inimitable Peter Doody, in "The Arcadians" will appear in the next pantomime.

It is reported that Miss Ola Humphreys discovered that the Egyptian Prince whom she wedded, and from

It has given frequent public readings, and always the hall has been filled. Since it started, Shakespeare societies have sprung up all over the place. Our good fortune may be due to the fact that we have made a direct appeal to the public, rather than to fastidious amateurs of Shakespeare. The public has responded so heartily that I have never once found it necessary to solicit a subscription. People have come and gone away pleased. They have said in their hearts, 'Most remarkable thing, but this chap Shakespeare seems to have something in him after all!'

"The Perplexed Husband" is a woman's rights play that is having a hearing at Home just now. It's enjoyment, of course, depends on whether the audience are suffragettes or non-suffragettes.

George Marlow Ltd now control 3 theatres--the Adelphi in Sydney, the largest in Australia; the Princess's in Melbourne, and the King's in Fremantle, W.A.

Miss Maggie Moore and Mr H. R. Roberts have just concluded a dramatic season in Bendigo which proved a conspicuous success. The three productions presented by the talented company met with the keenest appreciation of Bendigo playgoers. Miss Maggie Moore had sheaves of floral emblems presented her.