

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

WELLINGTON.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, March 25.

The seven nights' season at the Opera House of the Allan Hamilton Dramatic Company is proving a fine box office winner. "Beauty and the Barge" was played for four nights to big business. On Saturday night "Why Men Love Women" was witnessed by another large audience. The season closes to-morrow night with a programme of "A Message from Mars." After seasons in Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill the company return to Melbourne.

It is said that Messrs D. B. O'Connor and George Castle's Comic Opera Company will tour the Dominion during the present year. The repertoire will include "The Merry Widow" and "My Friend Napoleon."

The Dominion tour of the J.C.W. New Comic Opera Company, which was to have opened at the Wellington Opera House at Easter, has been deferred until later in the year.

Jansen, the American conjuror and magician, who opens his Dominion tour at the Wellington Opera House on Wednesday evening, the 27th, will introduce to New Zealanders the new theatrical firm of Portus and Talbot. Jansen, who hails from Chicago, is a young American who is said to be fair, pleasant-faced, and genial in manner. He began practising illusions when he was only a lad of eleven. He was only 16 when he began his work in public, travelling as one of the attractions of the Slaten circuit. In this way he visited early in his career all parts of the United States, his conjuring feats constituting a leading feature. Since then he has extended his sphere of operations to include South America, and latterly India, China, and Japan. Jansen is a partner of Servais Leroy, another well-known conjuror, who made such a hit in New Zealand a few years ago as one of the Leroy, Talma, and Bosco team. Jansen and he control factories in London and Chicago for the production of conjuring novelties.

I understand the attraction at the Opera House for Easter will be Von Arx, the American magician.

The next dramatic attraction for Wellington will be the George Marlow Dramatic Company, which opens a season at the Opera House which will extend from April 27 to May 18.

A company is being formed in Feilding with the object of building a new Opera House.

Mr William MacLean, secretary of the Wellington Opera House, leaves for a trip to America in May.

Mr Walter Monk took up the managerial duties of the Star Theatre, Newtown, on the 18th inst.

Notwithstanding the inclement weather the Town Hall was packed to the doors on the evening of the 18th, the grand Irish national concert in honour of St. Patrick's Day.

The skating rinks at Kilbirnie and the Lower Hutt continue to be well patronised.

The Ethel Irving Company sailed by the Warrimoo last Friday for Sydney en route for London.

I understand that Mr H. B. Irving is presenting to a number of theatres in the Dominion enlarged photographs of himself to serve as memories of his visit.

The printing that Jansen has got for his New Zealand tour is about the very best that has ever been seen in these parts. Some of the pictorials are absolutely in a class by themselves.

Fuller's vaudeville bunch are doing fine business at the Theatre Royal.

The programme given by Mr Maughan Barnett at his organ recital last Saturday evening in the Town

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G String.")

The alleged Beethoven Symphony, which was discovered at Jena, is to be played in numerous German cities. When given recently at Berlin the critics as a whole were doubtful as to whether it really was composed by Beethoven. It is said to be pretty and melodious, and its style is reminiscent of Mozart and Beethoven.

Mr Robert Parker is about to retire from the position of musical conductor of the Wellington Musical Union, a position which he has held

editions that will inevitably flood the market when the copyright expires.

Despite the fact that many superior people nowadays decry the music of Mendelssohn, it is significant that his violin concerto has been played in Berlin more than a dozen times during the late season in that city.

The fund which was recently opened by the friends and admirers of Mr Armes Beaumont, the veteran tenor vocalist, has been closed, and at a meeting held at the Town Hall, Melbourne, a cheque for £483 5/5 was handed to Mr Beaumont.

Once again Mozart is in the ascendant in Germany. Several of his operas are to be performed at the Residenz Theatre during August.

A Brahms festival will be held at Wiesbaden from June 1 to 4, 1912. It will be under the direction of Fritz Steinbach, one of the most distinguished conductors in Germany.

The Bert Bailey Company.

The Bert Bailey Dramatic Company opens its season at the Palace Theatre, Sydney, on March 30, the piece being "The Squatter's Daughter." The new English artists imported to play lead for this new organisation, viz.: Miss Mary Marlowe and Mr Guy Hastings, have arrived in Sydney. The lady is the daughter of a squatter in Victoria, and will be the first imported artiste to take the character of Violet Enderby, a part which was created by Miss Eugenie Duggan, of Mr William Anderson's Company.

A Good Story.

They tell a good story at Melbourne Theatre Royal regarding the keenness for detail that characterises the work of the producer of "The House of Temperley"—Charles A. Wenman. The play is of the period of the Regency (1812), and the illumination is secured by candles in old-fashioned sockets. On the opening, as these burned, streams of melted tallow fell upon the people of the stage underneath, during the scene in Tom Cribb's parlour. This was pointed out to Mr Wenman, while he was busy superintending the setting of the next scene. He looked up absent-mindedly at the streaming candles, and then at the whitened floor, and remarked quietly, "Yes, that's alright. It's just what happened in those days. Now then, boys, up with that border!"

Preparing for "Kismet."

The busy note of preparation for the opening of the Asche-Brayton season at Melbourne Theatre Royal is now to be heard (writes our Melbourne correspondent). Already Mr Fritz Russell and Mr Mat. Coverdale, who came out ahead on the Otranto are hard at work preparing for the production of "Kismet" on Saturday, April 6. "Kismet" is an extraordinarily intricate and difficult piece to stage, comprising as it does an enormous amount of important detail which must be brought out in the production in order to obtain the necessary atmosphere and "local colour." The settings are exceedingly heavy, and a great deal of "built up" stuff is included. As in the productions previously staged by Mr Asche, nothing will be neglected that might add to the effect.



MR. CECIL MANNERING

As he will appear in "Driving a Girl to Destruction" which will be staged next week at His Majesty's Theatre.

Hall was a special request one. During the evening Mr C. H. Stephens contributed several vocal items. These recitals are being well patronised now, though not as well as they ought to be.

The picture shows have been showing during the past week some high-grade films. Amongst those deserving special mention are "Madame Sans Gene" at the King's and Star Theatres; "A Victim of the Mormons" at the new Theatre; "She" at the Paris (late Bijou) Theatre; "Home" and "The Frontier Doctor" at the Skating Rinks; and "Leaves from the Books of Charles Dickens" at Shortt's Theatre.

for many years past. The Union will tender Mr Parker a complimentary concert at which "The Golden Legend" will be performed under his baton. It is likely that Mr Eric Waters, a gifted local musician, will succeed Mr Parker.

At the close of 1913 the copyright of Wagner's works will expire. They will then, of course, be free to publishers and performers. Adolph Furstner, owner of the copyright of "Rienzi," "The Flying Dutchman," and "Tannhauser," has notified that he has reduced the price of the piano scores to three marks, and of small orchestral scores to eight marks each. By this reduction he hopes to get the cream of the trade by forestalling competition in the cheap

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