



# THE STAGE

## AUCKLAND FIXTURES.

### HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Nov. 18-30—Bert Bailey Company—"On Our Selection."

### TOWN HALL.

Nov. 25, 27, 30—Madame Kirkby Lunn.

### PICTURE SHOWS.

Queen's Theatre (Continuous).

### OPERA HOUSE.

Fuller's Vaudeville

### HIS MAJESTY'S.

"ON OUR SELECTION."

### A BREEZY, DIVERTING PLAY.

The Bert Bailey organisation (of which Mr Julius Grant is managing director and Mr Edmund Duggan acting-manager) is to be congratulated on its phenomenally successful exploitation of a real Australian drama. "On Our Selection" is as widely read and enjoyed in New Zealand as in Australia. Dramatised by Messrs Bert Bailey and Edmund Duggan, it has lost none of its setting, and expressed by a real live company, thoroughly permeated with the atmosphere of the piece, the flavour of the bush as the author saw it is brought out in all its piquancy and intensity. An incident recorded at the Palace Theatre, Sydney, proves that "Steele Rudd" (whose real name is Arthur H. Davis) is satisfied with the stage characters of his book. He was sitting with his son Lindsay watching the performance. The boy kept a keen eye on the stage, for he almost knows his father's books backward, and when Bert Bailey, as "Dad," had been on the stage a few minutes Lindsay turned to his father and said, "Ain't he the dead spit of Joe Curtin?" (That isn't the name he gave, but it will do). "Steele Rudd" was satisfied, for "Joe Curtin" was the original from whom the character of Dad was built up. In a few minutes Dave came on. "Hey, dad!" said the boy. "There's —" "Here, that'll do," said the author, "you don't want to give away all my originals."

Comedy and tragedy go hand in hand through the piece, with a romance threading its troublous way through and coming out right in the end. The tragedy is but a small factor, and resolves itself into the death of the villain at the hands of the man whose wife he had betrayed. The humour is part and parcel of the play; in fact, it reeks with the uproariousness of it, and fairly arouses the audience to hysteria. There is a spontaneity about it that is highly refreshing. It is no place for subtle jokes. Dad and Mum and Dave and all the rest of the family are there to the life. No finer piece of character work has been seen here than Mr Bert Bailey's impersonation of Dad. The rugged pioneer of the back-block lives before us; a picture of the old selector as Steele Rudd has drawn him. Of a truth, "Dad" has stepped out of the book on to the stage. Drought or bush-fires—what are they to him? Fate can be fought! And so he comes up smiling every time, ready to begin all over again. As bluff as he is breezy, as kindly as he is keen, bubbling over with good humour and optimism, Dad is indeed goodly to see and follow through all his vicissitudes.

To Mr Bert Bailey we take off our hat!

Mum, too, has an excellent counterpart in Miss Alfreda Bevan, who gives a faithful portrayal of the settler's wife, fearing poverty for the sake of her loved ones, but always looking on the bright side.

Dave is a delightful study. A product of the bush, pure and simple, he is bucolic personified. To see him is to smile, to watch him love-making is a comedy in itself. Mr Fred McDonald eclipses himself in the part. Miss Laura Roberts as Sarah Rudd stands out conspicuously, and causes

much merriment with her love-making proclivities, that are so promptly ruled out by Dad. Mr Alfred Harford, as Billy Bearup, the big man with the little voice, ably aids and abets her to spread the merriment. Miss Mary Marlowe is an ideal Kate, interpreting the role of the heroine with a quiet dignity and loveliness that win her the sympathy of all. Mr Guy Hastings, the leading man, is admirably cast as Sandy. With a fine physique and strong personality, he makes the part of the sturdy young settler one of outstanding merit, and with Miss Marlowe creates the romance of the piece. Mr Edmund Duggan is responsible for much fun as Maloney, the cheery friend of the family, and is always in the picture. Mr George Treloar as Jim Carey, the villain, is as sinister and seductive as one could wish for,

ber 25, 27, and 30, after which she and her company are to leave for Wellington, where concerts are to be given on December 3, 5, and 7. Describing the art of Madame Kirkby Lunn, one critic in Sydney described Madame as "a singer by the grace of God," using the Heine phrase to indicate that Madame has one of those rich and rare voices which only occur once in a generation. And combined with this voice, which has been exotically described as "purple velvet shot with gold," Madame has a style and grace of bearing which immediately captures an audience.

The art of Kirkby Lunn is always distinguished art, whether the matter in hand be a ballad, operatic aria, or a classical song. She has risen to supreme height in many things, but it has been said that no finer piece of singing could be imag-

be seen to be described. The Aviation dance, invented by Mdlle. Cecile, is a masterpiece of skill. In a word, the trio give one of the best acts ever put on. Albert Morrow, the actor-magician, also made his first appearance on Monday, and executed some mystifying feats very cleverly. Miss Bessie Slaughter, with her beautiful voice, adds to her laurels, likewise her list of admirers, while others contributing to a meritorious programme are Black and Bronte, the National Duo, and the Harmonious Huxhams. The first half is devoted to the Serenaders, who give a delightful budget of fresh songs and concerted items. They are an entertainment in themselves.

## QUEEN'S THEATRE.

This attractive picture house adds to its popularity daily, and draws the crowds like a magnet. Two first-class programmes a week are presented, covering a wide range of subjects, for the aim of the proprietary is to keep abreast of the times. The pictures are all up to star standard, two particularly fine ones screened on Monday being "Vanda" and "Shanghaied," both revolving round a woman and her love. "Robin Hood Outlawed" was another subject that created much interest, the well-known incidents in the life of the notorious outlaw being excellently depicted.

The usual change takes place today, when the following bill will be presented:—"The Laurel Wreath of Fame," depicting the life tragedy of one of the world's greatest musicians, "The Black Sheep," "Life in Aden Camps," "Tilly at a Boardinghouse," "Cats' Cup Final," "He Must Have a Wife," "Vaniman's Airship Disaster," "Ardath Great Tobacco Works" (London).



M. ANDRE DE RIBAUPIERRE,  
Violinist with Madame Kirkby Lunn, whose opening concert will be given at the Town Hall on Monday.

handling the part with artistic and convincing effect. Clever character studies that stand out prominently are presented by Mr Jack P. Lennon as Cranky Jack (the avenger) and Mr Willie Driscoll as Uncle Rudd (the stranger to work), while Miss Lillias Adeson as Dave's wife, and Miss Queenie Sefton as his mother-in-law cause plenty of diversion with their own particular methods of handling men.

"On Our Selection" will be played for several more nights. We can strongly recommend a visit to the Rudd family.

## TOWN HALL.

### MADAME KIRKBY LUNN.

As the date of the visit of Madame Kirkby Lunn grows nearer interest in this great artiste quickens. For some weeks now she has been charming huge audiences in Australia, but her double visit to Melbourne and Sydney is now drawing to a close, and on the 25th of November the New Zealand tour is to commence at Auckland. The concerts there will be given at the Town Hall on Novem-

ber 25, 27, and 30, after which she and her company are to leave for Wellington, where concerts are to be given on December 3, 5, and 7. Describing the art of Madame Kirkby Lunn, one critic in Sydney described Madame as "a singer by the grace of God," using the Heine phrase to indicate that Madame has one of those rich and rare voices which only occur once in a generation. And combined with this voice, which has been exotically described as "purple velvet shot with gold," Madame has a style and grace of bearing which immediately captures an audience.

Among the members of the Kirkby Lunn Concert Company is the brilliant young Swiss violinist, M. Andre de Ribaupierre.

Herr Wielaert, of Auckland, has been engaged as accompanist for the New Zealand tour.

## OPERA HOUSE.

Never has there been such a galaxy of artistes at the Opera House as this week's programme can boast. The Brennan-Fuller proprietary are maintaining the highest possible standard of vaudeville, and the public are showing their appreciation in the right way. Head-lining the programme is the turn provided by Mdlle. Cecile, Eldred and Carr, an American combination of dancers, singers, globe-rollers, and comedy athletes. It is a turn bristling with novelties and specialties, and must



MISS ETHEL RAE,  
Of Auckland, who made such a success as Maia in "A Greek Slave," produced by the Napier Amateur Operatic Society. "As Maia" (said a Napier paper) "Miss Rae was charming. She possesses grace and power of sympathetic interpretation, and her singing was excellent. She well merited the applause showered upon her."