

that Australians lack sentiment," he asserted. "As soon as I saw 'Milestones' the thought came into my mind, 'This is just the play to succeed in Australia.' We undoubtedly are sentimental, though we do not show it, perhaps, on the surface. The success that 'Milestones' achieved in Sydney and the enthusiasm with which it has been received in Melbourne indicate that playgoers are extremely partial to the play which embodies a certain amount of sentiment and a display of the light and shade in the phases of life. The only fault I have to find with 'Milestones' is that seats were booked up so far ahead for the London production it took me nearly a fortnight before I could get in to see it."

Faint Praise!

The following review from an American journal proves that an attraction that played there recently was thoroughly appreciated: "The show at the Opera House last night was pretty good, all but the songs, dancing and jokes."

Money Turned Away.

Here is an echo of "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford" from a London paper: In response to numerous requests from patrons of the pit, Mr. Arthur Collins has decided to adopt a popular price pit at the Queen's Theatre. The price of the unreserved seats, therefore, will be gallery 1s, pit 2s. The unanimous praise lavished by the Press and public on that screamingly funny farce, "Get-Rich-Quick Wallingford," has been more than justified. Money is being turned away nightly from the doors of the Queen's and the advance booking is very heavy. Since the opening night over 20,000 people have witnessed this extremely amusing and entertaining farce, receiving it with whole-hearted enthusiasm and applause. The reputed bad luck of the Queen's seems indeed to have changed.

Gifted Theatricals.

Apart from their stage work, there seems to be quite a number of principal artists under the J. C. Williamson management who are gifted in other directions. Mr. Eardley Turner is a facile writer of verse, stories, and has made a name for himself by his contributions to the Australian and English Press. Miss Irene Browne is an accomplished pianist, and has a singing voice that would win for her a foremost position on the concert stage or in musical comedy or comic opera. Leslie Victor is a clever writer of short stories, and has had many of them published in Australian papers. Herbert Ford, the English actor who made his first appearance in Melbourne in "Milestones," is a journalist of note, and his contributions to the London Press have placed him in the front rank of "freelance" writers for the London leading newspapers. W. S. Percy is a clever black-and-white artist, and designer, and were he to desert the stage for the studio at any time, it is certain he would achieve as big a success in that sphere. Julius Knight, as is well known, is a remarkably clever sculptor, some of his work with the mallet and chisel having attracted the approval of critics of note.

SOUTHERN STAGE NOTES.

WELLINGTON.

(By "Lorgnette.")

WELLINGTON, March 31.

Wellington theatregoers are anxiously awaiting the coming of Maurice Maeterlinck's fairy phantasy, "The Blue Bird," which J. C. Williamson stages at the Opera House on Saturday evening, April 19th. Mr. John Farrell, the energetic touring manager, is due to arrive in Wellington about the end of the week to complete arrangements. The box plan for the season opens at the Dresden on Wednesday morning, the 16th April.

Mr. W. A. Low left for Christchurch last Wednesday evening to take up the duties of touring manager of Geo. Marlow's "The Monk and the Woman Company" which is at present playing a highly successful season in the City of the Plains. Since he joined the profession the genial "Billy" has managed successfully various

nights of the season will be devoted to "The Parish Priest" (three nights) and "A Romance in Ireland" (three nights).

The Town Hall Concert Chamber has been booked by Mr. Edward Branscombe from June 9th until July 16th, and from July 21st to July 25th, when seasons will be played by "The Dandies."

Last Friday night's gale did considerable damage to the Kilbirnie Skating Rink, with the result that this popular resort is closed indefinitely whilst undergoing repairs.

Business at the Theatre Royal this week is very fine. The programme includes some real good turns including the Stagpooles, the Serenaders, the Lyntons, the Dentines, the Marsdens, the Esma Duo, and Miss Louie Duggan.

The Olympia Skating Rink is being well patronised at each session.

The Wellington Liedertafel purpose tendering a complimentary concert to Mr. W. D. Gorham, the hon. secretary and treasurer of the Society, on Thursday evening, April 10th.



A star turn with Hugard's Entertainers at His Majesty's on Monday.

shows of Mr. Tom Pollard, Mr. Allan Hamilton, Mr. George Stephenson, The Brennans, etc.

The Stagpooles, after a very successful tour of America, returned to New Zealand by the Tahiti last Thursday, and immediately "signed on" for a tour of the Brennan-Fuller circuit. They open at the Theatre Royal this evening.

Mr. Baxter Buckley will submit a varied and interesting programme of piano music in the Concert Chamber of the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, the 19th April. The programme includes the Liszt Concerto, which will be heard for the first time in Australasia. It is a work requiring extraordinary power. Madame Gower-Burns, of Christchurch, will be the vocalist, and her selection of songs includes the famous jewel song from "Faust." Mr. J. H. Johnstone will also play Rubenstein's "Cello Sonata," which will be heard for the first time in Wellington.

The Allen Doone Dramatic Company is playing a very successful season at the Opera House just now. "The Wearing of the Green" ran for six nights. Last Saturday evening "Molly Bawn" was staged to a large audience. On Wednesday evening "Sweet County Kerry" will be put up for three performances. The last six

MUSIC NOTES.

(By "G" String.)

Mr. Fritz Hart, formerly conductor of the J. C. Williamson theatre orchestras, (is to direct the Marshall Hall Orchestra and Conservatorium during the absence of Professor Marshall Hall in Europe.

Mr. John M'Cormack, the Irish tenor, who re-visits New Zealand this year, has been arousing fresh enthusiasm in America. One of his most recent concerts was at Trenton, New Jersey, where his singing of Irish songs was received with rapturous applause. At the Pabst Hall, Milwaukee, he gave a special recital, and was again warmly greeted. His programme included the beautiful songs of the poet in "La Boheme," Lado's "Aubade," from "Le Roi d'Ys," and a Leonca vallo aria, as well as such ballads as "Mother Macree," and "Molly Brannigan."

The Paris correspondent of the "Standard" says:—The "Temps" publishes an extract from a letter sent by Madame Emma Calve to one of her friends who had heard she was unwell. The great prima donna says:—"Let me reassure you at once about my health, and about my dear pretty voice, always sonorous and strong,

and more touching and intensely expressive than ever, doubtless just to make me regret it the more. Alas! Like myself, my voice is in its autumn. It will go on slowly weakening, as if reluctantly. I shall cry over it as over a sister. I have come to look upon it as being independent of my own, something winged and mystic—how strange a thing! I fancy that even if I lose it, it will come back to me at the moment of death, and I shall sing my last breath. Think that so far back as I can remember it used to sing with us two, my father and I, 'Portant Pour La Syrie.' Later, in my poor old convent, in the chapel on Christmas nights it gave me my first emotions and my first success! How far away all that now seems! Well, it is not happiness. I would rather have been the mother of five or six little ones, and my voice would have been their lullaby!" How often is this the case, yet nothing seems to be able to cure the stage-struck girls when once the fever has entered their blood. If Madame Calve has not found true happiness in her career, who else can look for it in that thorny path.

Miss Rosina Buckmann, the New Zealand soprano has been singing at the London Palladium in a concert programme which included Miss Ruth Vincent, the well-known opera singer. Miss Buckmann has secured several engagements, and recently took part in a concert in Londonderry.

Eugen d'Albert's one-act opera "The Dead Eyes" is to be produced in Berlin at an early date. The subject matter of the libretto is described as follows:—The central figure is that of a blind young Greek woman, who lives on the scene, and at the time of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. The New Testament incident forms the background of the whole work. The Saviour himself will not be portrayed in person, His presence being expressed by the music and the phantasy of the work. Touched by the healing hand of Christ, the blind woman regains her sight, and her eyes, filled with the light of love and passion, fall first upon a magnificent Roman, whom she believes to be her husband. Her husband, however, is really a most repulsive figure, and it is in giving expression to the conflict of emotions in the woman's heart, when she discovers her mistake, that the music of the new opera finds its vent. The final occurs at sunset on the same day. The woman, troubled and disturbed in spirit, stands gazing into the blazing glory of the western sky until she again becomes blind, and with her loss regains her peace of mind.

A French journal recently instituted a popular tribunal to vote on the merits of the repertoire of the Paris Opera Comique. "Carmen" received 26,000 votes, "Manon" 20,000, "Louise" 15,000, "Lakme" 14,000, "Werther" 13,000, "Mignon" 12,000, "Mireille" 10,000, "Barber of Seville" 9,000, "La Boheme" 6,500, and "Traviata" 5,000.

"If there were many singers who could employ English with the facility that Madame Clara Butt, the English contralto, displayed in her recital in the Carnegie Hall (comments a New York paper), opera in English would be as inevitable as sunrise. Madame Butt sang a number of English songs with such clean cut diction that it was possible to hear every word. For the rest, her voice is phenomenal in range and power."

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