

NEW
Theatre Royal,
 Corner of Queen and Victoria Streets.
 Lessee - - - - - Mr. Martin Simonsen.

SIMONSEN'S
ROYAL ENGLISH, ITALIAN,
 AND
 OPERA BOUFFE COMPANY.

SOLE PROPRIETOR AND DIRECTOR	MR. MARTIN SIMONSEN.
GENERAL AGENT	MR. M. L. RAPHAEL.
BUSINESS MANAGER	MR. W. S. KEITH.

Grand Opening OF THE **New Theatre Royal,**
 ON OR ABOUT THE 14th AUGUST, 1876.

The Director has much pleasure in introducing to the Public of Auckland, English and Italian Opera under such favourable auspices as those afforded by the new Theatre Royal. After a remarkably successful tour through New Zealand, it affords him great satisfaction to have the honours of Opening such a noble Temple, raised for the service of the Muses. In no city of the Colony is there a building better fitted for the purpose, or one that gives such evidence of the popular appreciation of the graceful Arts.

The Repertoire consists of no less than 18 Operas, several of which will be introduced to the Public for the first time; and being the sole property of the Director, no other opportunity can possibly occur of their representation.

The WARDROBE, purchased in London and Paris at a cost of many thousand pounds, is on the most lavish scale. As no expense nor pains have been spared in perfecting the arrangements, the Director very confidently looks for the support always so cordially granted to really good Artists by the Auckland Public.

The GREAT STAR COMPANY numbers Sixty Performers, the principal members of which have been selected during his recent tour in Europe, and from the best Australian Artists.

HENRY BRETT, Printer, "Evening Star" Office.

Poster advertising Simonsen Co. season at new Theatre Royal. La Trobe Collection, State Library of Victoria. MS 8756 Fanny Simonsen Papers.

Simonsen has kept faith with his patrons in a most liberal spirit' was the verdict of the *Daily Southern Cross*.⁴¹

Fanny and Martin Simonsen were undoubtedly foolhardy to believe they could make money by presenting opera, in so lavish a fashion and with such a large company, in a sparsely populated country already generously supplied with alternative forms of entertainment. But there is equally no doubt that their efforts to please were widely appreciated. Contemporary newspapers confirm the view that the 1876 Simonsen