

Mr. Charles Ryley, the most popular baritone who ever appeared on the operatic stage of Australia, receives a complimentary matinee at the Princess Theatre, Melbourne, this afternoon, prior to his departure to London by the mail steamer which sails to-morrow. The programme opens with the first act from *Dorothy*, in which Miss Nellie Stewart will appear with Mr. Ryley. Then Miss Violet Varley will sing "One Between Three," the merry little ballad from *La Cigale*, and Mr. Lauri will give the character song, "The Dashing Militaire," from *The Old Guard*. The performance will conclude with the second act of *The Gondoliers*, Mr. Ryley of course being Giuseppe, and Miss Flora Graupner reappearing in her old part of Gianetta, and Miss Violet Varley as Tessa. Miss Elsie Cameron, Miss Ida Osborne, Mr. Wallace Brownlow and Mr. Henry Bracey also give their services. Last Friday the audience thought they were bidding farewell to Mr. Ryley, and though his part in *The Vicar of Bray* was a poor one they applauded vociferously, insisting upon his coming before the curtain to make a speech. Mr. Ryley commenced in a self-collected way, but in a moment he broke down and stammering out that he would see them once again before leaving, he just managed to gracefully bow himself off the stage.

Mr. Bland Holt commenced his season at the Sydney Lyceum Theatre last Saturday with the magnificently mounted drama, *A Life of Pleasure*. The cast is the same as that which appeared in Melbourne, and the success of the piece was assured as soon as the curtain fell on the first act. This drama was the last written by the late Mr. Pettitt in collaboration with Sir Augustus Harris. Mr. Holt had not completed the purchase of the Australian rights when Mr. Pettitt died, and the delay which ensued led him to fear that he might not be able to get the manuscript in time to produce the play this year. Sir Augustus Harris, however, pushed on the negotiations, and sent not only the manuscript but drawings to scale of the original scenery and photographs of the tableaux formed by the actors.

BOUCICAULT'S famous sporting drama, *The Flying Scot*, will be withdrawn to-night from Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, and to-morrow (Saturday) evening the sensational drama *After Dark* will be presented. Mr. George Rignold promises a novelty in the great scene where the hero is rescued from being run over by a train in the London underground railway. A locomotive so proportioned as to appear of the full size, with steam rushing from the whistle and carriages illuminated with electric light, will dash across the stage at an express speed of 40 miles an hour. Mr. George Rignold gives credit to his special mechanist, Mr. Osborne, for much ingenuity in executing his ideas. The motive power is obtained by a ton of counterweight which runs on wire cables from below the stage level to the top of the building. Directly the engine-driver removes the check, the motor will be rushed forward at lightning speed into the "buffer," consisting of a solid rampart of sawdust, prepared for it behind the scenes. The impact will, of course, telescope the carriages, a casualty provided for by the mechanist.

THE Brough and Boucicault company closed their season at the Sydney Lyceum Theatre on Friday, June 15. After the curtain had fallen on *The Amazons*, there were loud calls for the company, and yielding to the vociferous demand, Mr. Brough addressed the audience. He said:—"As his friend Tweenways would say, 'they ought never to make speeches.' However, on these valedictory occasions, he believed that something of the kind was expected, and in his character of the Rev. Robert Minchin—excuse his minchin-ing it—he offered them his warmest thanks for their presence that night, and for their consistent support throughout the season. It might interest them to know that the company would return in the near future. Since they were last in Sydney they had had an enjoyable time, and they had been right glad to renew their friendship with Sydney audiences. They were now off to Newcastle—(A voice—"Where the coals come from!")—"Did any gentleman say where the nuts come from?"—(roars of laughter)—and would then journey on to Brisbane, where all the bad weather came from, then to Melbourne and Adelaide, and finally to Tasmania. He believed the Government Geologist of that tight little island was pretty busy just now—(laughter)—but there would be more work still for him when the company hove in sight, for they intended to take with them several tons of salt. He was glad he had made a few poor jokes. He believed that most comedians reckoned their services at a pound a laugh, in which case, as the Rev. Robert Minchin, he must have earned that evening certainly not less a sum than one and threepence! Seriously, he thanked them with all his heart, on behalf of the whole company, for their presence, their enthusiasm and their inspiring sympathy. Mr. Boucicault, in response to protracted applause, referred to the production of such great plays as the *Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and *Lady Windermere's Fan* in one short season, and, amidst responsive enthusiasm, mentioned the triumphs achieved by Mrs. Brough during the past few weeks. There were many calls for Mr. Titheradge, but that actor resolutely declined to appear, and the proceedings terminated.

THE Shakespearean season at the Sydney Criterion Theatre commences to-morrow (Saturday) evening,

when Miss Hilda Spong will appear as Rosalind in *As You Like It*. Mr. Greenaway takes the part of Orlando; Mr. Charles Hall, Jacques; Mr. Harry Leston, Touchstone; Mr. J. Stark, Adam; Miss Annie Moore, Celia, and Miss Flora Anstead, Audrey. The incidental music is arranged by Mr. Consterdine, of the Austral Quartet Party, and the scenery, which comprises more changes than usual, has been painted by Mr. W. B. Spong, who is unrivalled as a landscapist.

THE Brisbane Gaiety and Pantomime Company are giving good performances of *Sinbad the Sailor* in Dunedin.

FILLIS' circus opened at Brisbane on Wednesday, June 20.

Mr. Slade Murray seems able to hold his own at the Brisbane Gaiety Theatre. He has secured two new artists, Marvin brothers, banjoists.

THE Darrell Dramatic Company are now in Brisbane.

MAGGIE Moore and company are playing *Arrah-na-Pogue* at the Brisbane Opera House this week.

POLLARD'S Lilliputian Company commenced their return season of six nights at the Theatre Royal, Rockhampton, on Tuesday, June 19. The operas staged are *Les Cloches de Corneville*, *The Little Duke*, *The Gondoliers*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Woman's Franchise*, *La Mascotte* and *Pinafore*.

Mr. Bland Holt and company will open at the Adelaide Theatre Royal in September, and on October 8 the Brough and Boucicault company return for a season.

Mr. Wybert Reeve has got together a considerable amount of talent for his operatic season, which will commence on Saturday, July 7, at the Adelaide Theatre Royal. Mr. Leumane, who intends settling in Adelaide, has secured for Mr. Reeve the services of Miss Ida Osborne, Mr. Josephs and Miss Sherwill, an accomplished vocalist. A large and capable chorus has been engaged, and Herr Heinicke will conduct the orchestra. The chief operas to be performed are *Faust*, *Maritana*, *The Bohemian Girl* and *Il Trovatore*.

Friends made way for *Our Boys* at the Adelaide Theatre Royal on Saturday, June 16, which was capably performed by Mr. Arthur Gamer's Dramatic Company.

Mr. Hudson received a very hearty welcome on Saturday night at the Adelaide Bijou Theatre, from a densely packed house.

Mr. Walter Bentley opens at the Launceston Academy of Music on Monday, July 2. After a short season there he proceeds to Hobart en route to New Zealand. Mr. Manfred Rose acts as business manager through the tour.

THE Empire Specialty Company are at the Bijou Theatre, Launceston.

THE Fisk Jubilee Singers gave their final performance in Perth on Thursday, June 8. After touring about Albany and surrounding townships they leave for the Eastern colonies, after which they visit England, taking China, Japan and India on the way.

THE Montague-Turner season at Auckland commences on June 29.

FANNING and Mooney's Minstrel Variety Company are now touring in the North of New Zealand, after a most successful season in Auckland.

THE Thornton-Arnold Company opened at the Theatre Royal, Christchurch, on June 9.

MR. W. J. Holloway has taken Terry's Theatre London, for the season, and will open in September.

MR. J. F. MacMahon, the theatrical entrepreneur, arrived in Melbourne last week after an absence of 15 months in search for novelties in Great Britain and America.

THE following circular has been issued:—"Many of the friends of Mr. Alfred Dampier being desirous of testifying to his worth as a citizen, and their appreciation of his work as an actor during the last 20 years in Australasia, and his constant endeavour to encourage Australian drama, propose tendering him a farewell testimonial prior to his departure for England. Your attendance at a preliminary meeting, to be held at the Hotel Australia (Sydney) on Monday afternoon, June 18, at 4.30 o'clock, is respectfully invited.—Yours, E. W. Richards, honorary secretary pro tem." At the meeting held on Monday last, at which the Hon. W. J. Trickett presided, it was decided to give Mr. Dampier a benefit performance this (Friday) evening, when *Robbery Under Arms* will be produced.

Mr. Harry Plimmer, one of the leading members of Mr. George Rignold's company, was married to Miss Josephine Thynne, daughter of Mr. J. Thynne, of the New South Wales Public Wharves department, on Wednesday June 13, at St. Mary's Cathedral, Sydney. Mr. Thynne was at one time lessee of the Sydney Theatre Royal. Miss Daisy Thynne was the bridesmaid and Mr. Irve Hayman acted as best man. Mrs. Hayman, sister of the bride, and several members of the theatrical profession were amongst the wedding party. Mr. George Rignold sent a letter of congratulation, and Miss Roland Watts-Phillips presented the bridal bouquet.

MR. G. W. Anson writes to a Sydney friend under date May 1, of the success of *A Bunch of Violets*, Grundy's version of Feuillet's comedy-drama, *Montjoie*. Mr. Anson takes the part of Jacob Schneartz, a truculent labour leader. Mr. Anson states that his reception was very hearty, although the part is a small one, and he attributes his welcome to the popularity he gained as Eccles in *Caste*, the applause he received in that character being "even more enthusiastic" than when he played it to Australian audiences. It may be added in connection with *A Bunch of Violets* that Miss Audrey Ford, who made her debut in the ingenuous part of Violet, is the daughter of Miss Lottie Venne, the creator of Betsy and many other comic roles. Mr. Anson writes:—"I am still looking forward to a return to the antipodes some day, but when—ah, there's the rub! I must wait until I can command the attention of the best dramatists to write one or two plays for me, though even then the risk is appalling, for the 'best' have been turning out so many failures lately that one knows not where to look."

Miss Adey Brunel resumed her course of readings on Wednesday evening, June 20, at her rooms 271 Collins-street, the subject chosen being Ibsen's "The Lady from the Sea." The evening proved thoroughly enjoyable, the majority of those present being ardent admirers of Ibsen.

MR. Walter Bentley delivered a lecture yesterday evening at the Masonic Hall, Collins-street, upon "The Church and the Stage." The Rev. Charles Strong presided, and a collection was made for the funds of the Tucker Village Settlements and the Social Improvement and Neglected Children's Aid Society of the Australian Church.

A DRAMATIC entertainment, in aid of the Scots Church Neglected Children's Aid Society, will be given by members of Mrs. G. B. W. Lewis' Academy, at the Hiberman Hall, Swanston-street, next Thursday evening, June 28. They will perform the sketches, *A Naval Engagement* and *A Quiet Family*. As the committee are most anxious that the funds of the society should be augmented during the winter, they trust that, in view of the excellence of the entertainment provided, the contribution to the collection taken at the doors will be a large and liberal one.

AN amateur dramatic performance, in aid of the Sydney Hospital for Sick Children, will be held in the Standard Theatre, Sydney, to-morrow (Saturday), June 23, at 8.30 p.m., under the patronage and in the presence of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Duff, and the president and committee of the hospital. The pieces comprise *Sunset* and *My Lord in Liverly*. The performers consist of Mrs. Hotham, Miss Robertson, Miss Gilles and Miss Pearl Lamb; Major Hon. R. Leigh, A.D.C., Captain Geoffrey Feilding, A.D.C., Captain Horace Dangar, N.S.W.A., Mr. Fernyman and Master B. Docker.

THE Japanese *fête* which recently proved so successful at Kew, is to be repeated at the Hawthorn Town Hall on Friday and Saturday, June 29 and 30, on a much larger and more complete scale. Over a hundred ladies and gentlemen, as assistants, will appear in Japanese costume, whilst numerous entertainments are being arranged for, including a repetition of the Japanese operetta, *Miss Chrysanthemum*, music by the Mandolin Club and an efficient orchestra, Japanese tableaux, the Japanese twins, with other attractions, whilst on Saturday afternoon special provision will be made for the entertainment of juvenile patrons. Mesdames Hickman Molesworth, Cropper, A. Motine, Jas. Westley, Hamilton, Hellicar, Bready, Taylor, Duval, Howell, Loch, Russell, Cymber and Beaver, with Mr. Cecil McCrae as honorary secretary, are actively engaged in preliminary preparations.

A VERY successful concert was given in aid of St. Peter's Church, Box Hill, on Thursday, June 14, and was attended by a crowded audience. The following ladies and gentlemen contributed to the programme:—Miss Plaisted, pianoforte solo; song, Mr. McCubbin; violin solo, Miss Sergeant; song, Mr. Darney; song, Mr. Brierly; song, Madame Cremani (encored); song, Mr. Brierly; song, Miss Amanda Corcoran (encored); song, comic, Mr. Player (encored); song, Miss Alicia Burton (encored); song, Mr. T. O. Hartley; song, Madame Cremani; song, Mr. Brierly; song, Mr. Player; glee, by choir.

NOT ONLY KIDNEY COMPLAINTS ARE rendered powerless for harm, but rheumatism, constipation, liver derangement and dyspepsia are overcome by Wolfe's Schnapps.—[ADV.]