



THE EMPIRE.

The new company is very popular with Empire patrons and forms, together with the older half, a most acceptable *ensemble*. Three solid hours of genuine mirth, amusement, and pleasant pastime is what the management of the Empire is offering its patrons just now, and whilst the interest never slackens, the audience is kept in the best of humour as the evening progresses. Of course, all the "old" artists have changed their repertoires, but the popular nature of the songs and "turns" causes patrons soon to become familiar with them. Madge May opens the programme with a few good songs having choruses that are readily taken up by the public. Tom Jersey has changed both his conjuring trick and his "performance," and creates, especially with the latter, great amusement, while his card and other tricks are followed with keen interest and are carefully watched. Mabel Green is a confirmed favourite, her attractive stage presence, paired with a beautiful, sympathetic soprano voice, acting like a charm upon the audience who are loth to part from her. The sea-lions go through the full length of their programme under Capt. Woodward's guidance in perfect manner and rouse the audience to enthusiastic applause. Jennie Hartley sings some excellent songs, such as "Hyde Park," "Wishing Well," and others that have "caught on." She is also a good dancer and her imitations, or rather mimicry, of different walks cause much amusement. Frank H. Fox keeps the ball rolling fast and furious. He is a comedian above the average, and his songs find great favour with patrons of the Empire. Lil Hawthorne, who must be styled the "star" of the company, has quickly succeeded in conquering the hearts of Empire audiences, as she possesses everything in her favour—a fine stage presence, a melodious alto voice, and a chic appearance. Such songs as "Little Girl of Monte Carlo" and "Don't Cry Little Girl" are sure to catch on at the Palace, and especially in the latter song her impersonation of an urchin is very clever; so is her Billiken song. Little Ganty is no stranger to many patrons of the Empire, who were pleased to welcome him back again. He is "eccentric" in the fullest sense of the word, but he carries the audience away with him and there is no serious face in front of the footlights while Ganty is on the boards. Ferry Corwey, the musical clown, completes an excellent programme and evening's amusement. He gets music out of table bells, fencing rails (or what look like them), and other instruments of an indescribable nature. He is very clever and skilful, not only musically, but also with his many antics, which keep the audience in roars of laughter. Thus it is seen that the present programme at the Empire yields nothing in all-round quality to its many predecessors, and a genuine evening's amusement is assured to all those who visit it.

STANDARD.

To real lovers of a good play, whether drama or otherwise, it must be a matter of sincere regret that "Bella Donna" was taken off the stage last week, for, we understand, want of that public support which so excellent a production, on which we dwelt at some length in a previous issue, deserved. However, such is the case, and "Bella Donna" had to give way to another production which held the boards of the Standard during this week, entitled "Alone in London," by Robert C. Buchanan. It is in the genuine melodrama style, and may probably suit the tastes of the public better than its predecessor did. The cast was an excellent one, comprising the best talent of the Howitt-Phillips Company, and the performance was on a level with the high quality to which the members of this company have accustomed us. With artists like Messrs. Howitt, Kellaway, Warrington, Lawson, Burton-Seymour, Sparrow, Bigge, and Mesdames Godart, Doris Phillips, Stanbridge, Norman, and Lancaster, the histrionic success of a play may be taken as a foregone conclusion. The season of the above popular company is drawing to an end and Friday (Empire Day) will see a matinee performance of "East Lynne" in the afternoon, and in the evening a revival of "Bella Donna"; whilst for Saturday (the last day), matinee and evening, "Alone in London" will be staged.

STANDARD'S NEW COMPANY.

As already announced in these columns, next Monday evening will witness the opening of a grand Kinemacolor and vaudeville season at the Standard. We have already referred in detail to the artistes—including Messrs. Gilmore, Spessell Bros., and Mack, and Miss Kathleen Gray—and to the wonderful Kinemacolor pictures, which on Monday will show the tour of the King and Queen through India, and we only intend this as a gentle reminder to our readers. There will be two performances nightly at very popular prices. The booking is now open at the Standard Theatre.

THE GRAND.

The programme now being presented to the always "crowded houses" at this popular theatre is one that fully deserves the numerous patronage it receives. The "Five Olracs" are very clever acrobats of the "knock-about" order, and cause a great deal of merriment by their acrobatic humour. Emerald and Dupre make an excellent comedy duo, the lady doing some fine dancing and the gentleman being of a very humorous turn of mind. The old favourites, Barnes and West, the American rag-time dancers, give their usually good performance, and the pictures include some very fine specimens of the bioscopic art, and, in the phraseology of a bygone age, "combine instruction with amusement."

ORTHODOX HEBREW CONGREGATION.

APPEAL TO THE JEWISH PUBLIC.

The Orthodox Hebrew Congregation, Fox Street, more widely and generally known as the *Beth Hamdrash*, appeals for the first time in its history to the Jewish public for assistance.

Founded nearly a quarter of a century ago, this institution has been in the true sense of the word a *Beth Haknesses*, a real "House of Assembly," for the foreign Jews, who form such a large proportion of our Jewish population. Here they assemble to pray, Divine Service being held several times during each day. The sphere of activities of this Congregation does not end here. In the *Beth Hamedrash* our brethren assemble to study the books of our Sages, the Hebrew Bible, and the Commentaries, the *Talmud* and the *Shulchan Aruch*, uncompromisingly orthodox in the strictest sense of the word, deviating in no way from the old traditions. They have done much to maintain those old traditions unimpaired amongst a very large section of the community.

The building in which they assemble has become unsuitable to meet the requirements of the large number of worshippers and students who congregate daily therein; even in the wilderness our ancestors erected a Tabernacle which was beautiful and inspiring. Now we appeal to our brethren in Johannesburg and the Witwatersrand to help us to erect in this "Golden City" a sanctuary worthy of the sacred purpose for which it will be built, and one that will be a source of credit and pride to the community.

The cost of the proposed new Synagogue will be £6,000, upon which the committee propose to procure a loan of £3,500, and they now appeal for £2,500 in order to enable them to proceed with the work.

In the proposed new building there will be greater facilities and ample accommodation for carrying on our Jewish work, and the committee trust that they will not ask in vain, and that a liberal response will be made to their appeal.

All contributions will be thankfully acknowledged in the Jewish Press.

On behalf of the Committee,

M. MELZER,

Hon. Secretary.

P.O. Box 5959, Johannesburg.