



**"The Lady of Ostend."**

The new English Farce Company made their first bow to a Johannesburg public at the Standard Theatre on Monday last, under the aegis of the African Theatres Trust. There was an excellent attendance on that occasion, the reception being flattering and encouraging and it must be gratifying to the management that the good attendance was fully maintained on every succeeding night. In a farcical comedy of the type of "The Lady of Ostend," where everything that happens revolves around one incident and where a critical observer would often term the happenings most improbable, it is absolutely essential for the success of the play that the "ensemble" should be excellent, and this expectation the Company has fulfilled to a degree by putting a performance before us that goes with a swing from start to finish. Another factor that adds considerably to the fine success is that each actor is physically eminently suited for his part; the unfortunate husband who has become entangled in a net of domestic trouble, from which it takes him the better part of two acts to extricate himself—slight and nimble; the amorous French Baron—slender and elegant; the sympathetic, because understanding, father-in-law—stout, with a congenial, good-humoured countenance; and the ex-prize fighter, the husband of the lady who has caused all the trouble that threatens to end in divorce—a big powerful fellow who could easily strike terror into the heart of a weaker opponent. The four parts just alluded to are taken by Messrs. Sam Lysons, Archie Selwyn, Frank Harrison and Cecil F. Calvert respectively, the lion share of the work falling of course to the unfortunate husband, and Mr. Sam Lysons keeps the audience in fits of laughter by his bright and breezy acting and a great display of nimbleness and agility. Mr. Archie Selwyn extracts a good deal of humour out of the difficulties in which he, as a Frenchman, finds himself, when trying to express himself adequately in a foreign language. To the ladies only minor parts have been assigned, even the young woman to whom the play owes its title, is not called upon to say much, but Miss Hope Wynne makes a great hit, whenever her presence on the stage is required. Miss Hilda Vaughan, as the young wife who has lost all patience with her husband who relapses continually into his gay, bachelor ways, makes the best of a none too thankful role, and the

same applies to Miss Gwendoline Jesson, as her mother, Miss Mary Mayor-Cooke, as the object of the Baron's affections, to which she turns a cold shoulder, until almost the very end, and Miss Marie Ault, as the housemaid, also acquit themselves very ably. The production lies in the hands of Mr. Ralph Kimpton, who can be well satisfied with the success of his efforts.

**German Activity.**

Striking proof of the watchful eye which the German newspapers keep even upon such an insignificant affair as the production of a new play has just been noticed. A cutting from the "Vossische Zeitung" reveals the fact that Mr. Stuart's presentation of "Kultur at Home," at the Court, has not escaped the attention of that far-seeing journal "Auntie Voss," which ends a long and wholly inaccurate notice of the play with the assertion that the plot is "cribbed" from a German book published in 1913, the only difference being that the perfidious English authors have wrongfully laid upon the shoulders of the German characters all the misdoings rightly attributable to the English. It is very reasonably concluded that the article must have been inspired by the Wolff Bureau.

**A Popular Pianiste.**

There was an exceedingly large attendance of relatives, friends and other well-wishers on Saturday evening last when Miss Rose Levinson took her departure for the United States where, we understand, she is to proceed with her musical studies. Apart from the fact that her services have always been at the disposal of any committee working for a charitable object, Miss Levinson's own ability entitles her to special recognition and in addition to her own personal friends there were present not a few who admire her playing. As is generally known, owing to the unfortunate war, New York has taken the place hitherto occupied by Milan and Leipzig and is now the Mecca of musicians so that, in proceeding thither, Miss Levinson is taking the best means of enhancing her already admitted ability.

**The Palladium.**

To-night, to-morrow night and the afternoon performance will be the last occasions upon which the local public will have an opportunity of witnessing "Jannie Kortbroek," the piece that is so adequately described as the "play that is making the whole of Africa laugh." At the time of its first production at the Standard Theatre, we not only congratulated the author, Mr. J. P. Acland Bischoff, on the cleverness of its conception, but we dealt in detail with the presentation of the different parts. Since then there have been several changes in the cast, but all the

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roles are portrayed with such ability that it is obvious that the portrayals have a thorough conception of what they endeavour to demonstrate to the audience, while they have the additional advantage of the author of the play touring with them to give them, at first hand, his views upon their renderings. As Jannie Kortbroek, Mr. Justus Gerard is distinctly good and Miss Armored Kemp plays the part of Miss Moneybags in a very able manner. To the coloured servants, played by Miss van Hulsteyn and Messrs. Bob Matthews and F. Paget, is entrusted most of the humour of the piece and, as we have before stated, they respond in a most thorough manner creating screams of laughter during the whole time that they occupy the stage. Altogether "Jannie Kortbroek" provides an interesting sketch of South African life and one which is well worth seeing.

**"To-Night's the Night."**

At His Majesty's this remarkably clever musical comedy still attracts large audiences and this fact is not surprising when one considers that the merits of a really amusing play are added to by very able acting. The management are correct in their claim to six important features in the presentation of what is undoubtedly one of the greatest successes of the year. These are described as the costumes, the chorus, the scenery, the ballet, the Company and last, but not least, the production, upon which Mr. Wybert Stamford is to be heartily congratulated. If one has not yet seen "To-Night's the Night" it is well worth going to, providing as it does a charming evening's entertainment.

**NEWS OF THE DAY.**

As the Russian Upper House has confirmed the election of M. Weinstein as one of its members, he will be the first Jew to sit in the House.

The Russian Assistant Minister of Finance has announced in the Duma that M. Bark, on learning of the anti-Semitic circular issued by his Department, ordered its withdrawal.

It is reported that at the All Russian Military Commercial Conference, which was attended by many Jewish delegates, expressed itself in favour of the emancipation of the Jews, and, amidst prolonged applause, it adopted a resolution rejecting with contempt all charges made in certain circulars, accusing Jews of "creating artificial disturbances in the economic world for the benefit of the eternal foe."

The Russian Cabinet has decided to permit Jewish companies which produce articles useful for the defence of the country to acquire

small tracts of land in the provinces to the East of Moscow and Siberia with the exception of Amur.

We learn that in consequence of the war the headquarters of the Pro-Falashas Committee has been removed from Frankfort to Basle, and that Dr. Faitlovich will shortly proceed to Eritrea, accompanied by a Falasha who has been trained in Europe as a teacher for a Falashas' school.

**NEXT WEEK:**—We are requested by Messrs. Lewis and Hill, Ltd., of Jeppes, to express their regret that the current issue of this journal contains no announcement relating to their business, but they hope to be in a position to place further bargains before the public on the arrival of their anticipated shipment.

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**May Holidays:**—Excursion Tickets will be issued as follows:—Victoria Day, 23rd and 24th May, Union Day and Ascension Day, 30th and 31st May and 1st June

**NATAL WINTER SEASON.**  
Cheap Fares to Durban, etc., in operation on certain days during the months of May, June, July and August.

**MID-WINTER EXCURSIONS.**  
(School Vacation).

Tickets at Single Fare for the Return Journey, during period 22nd June to 13th July. Return Journey (distance over 25 miles) to be completed by 13th August.

**SOUTH-WESTERN DISTRICTS OF CAPE PROVINCE.**

Cheap Fares to Mossel Bay, George Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred, East London, on certain days during period 14th to 31st July.

**LOURENÇO MARQUES SEASON.**

Reduced Fares from Stations in Transvaal, on 14th, 21st, and 28th July.

**VICTORIA FALLS TOURS.**  
To leave Capetown 26th June—Fare £24.

To leave Johannesburg 8th July—Fare £15.

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W. W. HOY,  
General Manager.

Johannesburg,  
March, 1916.

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