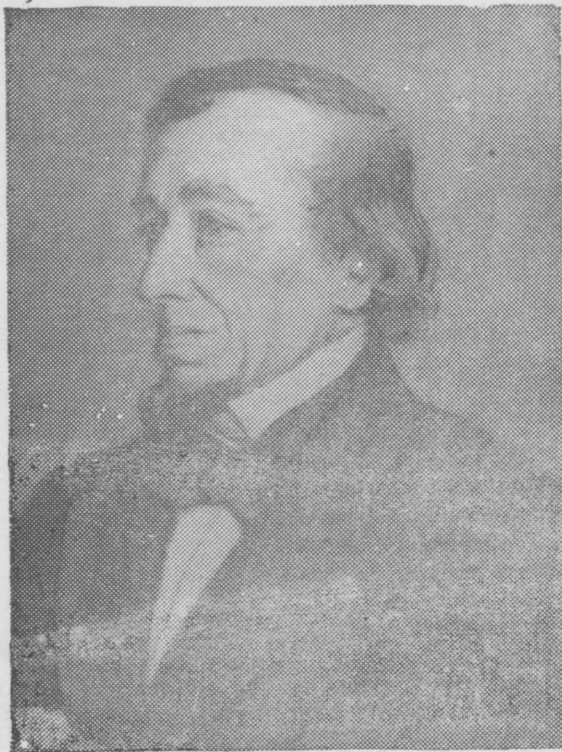




Disraeli at the Standard.

Monday's matinee saw the first production of that charming play by Louis N. Parker for which Johannesburg and the Reef has been so steadily and so assiduously educated during the past few weeks and it is pleasing to be able to record that its success was instantaneous and there is every reason to anticipate that it will be permanent, — or at least as permanent as the evanescent life of local productions may lead one to expect. As I have previously pointed out in these columns the play deals with the acquirement by Mr. Disraeli of the Suez Canal by the purchase of the

lady adds much to the beauty and pathos of the production. Played as the role is by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, one feels under an obligation to Mr. Parker for having transgressed the narrow limits of historical accuracy. In the title role, Mr. Celliers gives a masterly presentation and the applause which greeted every fall of the curtain may well be looked upon as a personal triumph for this popular actor. It says much for the interest which Mr. Celliers takes in his professional work, that in order to acquire the absolutely correct atmosphere, he studied the life and works of the great man he portrays, with the result that not only does he look Disraeli to the life, but he has acquired his gait and mannerisms and conveys the impression that the deceased diplomatist would himself have given. It is a great burden which Mr. Celliers



MR. FRANK CELLIERS AS MR. DISRAELI.

In the play of that name now being produced at the Standard Theatre.

controlling influence in shares from the Khedive of Egypt, for an amount of something over four million pounds, at that time a very large sum of money. The play is not historically correct, but then what play is? And if they are, they lose much of that human interest which is so necessary to attract and hold the attention of audiences. At the time of the occurrence, Lady Beaconsfield had passed away to that bourne

Where the wicked cease from troubling
And the weary are at rest.

Yet she appears in this play and it must be admitted that the presence of the white haired, sweet-faced old

bears since his words are legion and he is on the stage practically the whole time, but he carries his task through with an ability that places him in the forefront of those leading actors, who have from time to time delighted South African audiences. Mr. Celliers presents to us Mr. Disraeli as he was at the time of the purchase of the Suez Canal shares, a man of approximately sixty five years of age, worn with the trials and tribulations of a particularly turbulent political career, yet animated with a sense of his own importance and impressed with the need which Britain had of him while

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As

D'ISRAEL-I.

FREDA GODFREY

As

LADY CLARISSA.

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