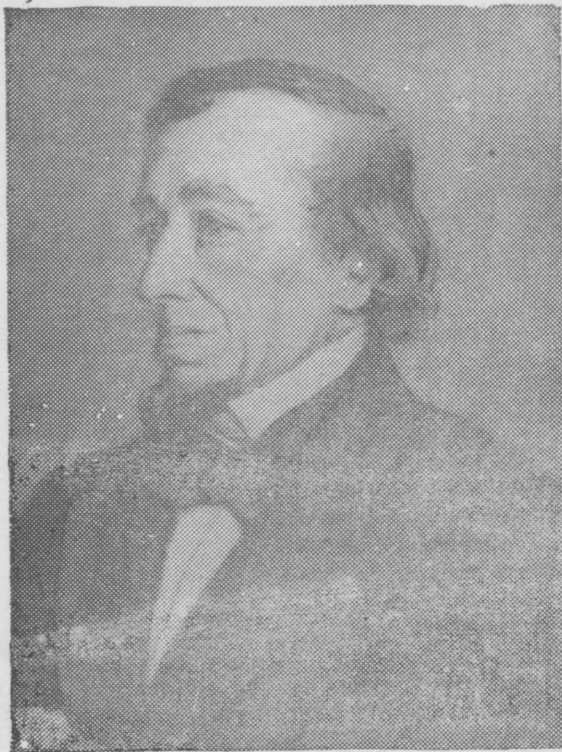




Disraeli at the Standard.

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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OF THE

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(EARL OF BEACONSFIELD.)

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As

D'ISRAEL-I.

FREDA GODFREY

As

LADY CLARISSA.

FLORENCE

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LAURA GUERITE

In

THE NEW REVUE:

"Very Good Eddie!"

at the same time believing that arbitrary and autocratic methods must be made use of. In his interview with the Governor of the Bank, Mr. Celliers is magnificent and demonstrates in no inconclusive manner that the over-dressed, fop-pish dandy of some forty years before, has given place to a statesman of deliberation and ability who has the courage of his convictions and, believing in his own energies, dares to be great. As Mrs. Noel Travers, Miss Dorothy Peters is a revelation even to her greatest admirers and the manner in which this young girl supports the character of a woman of the world moving in the highest circles of society and playing a machiavelian part with ability, shows that she possesses potentialities for future successes that there is every reason to anticipate will be realised. The Lady Clarissa of Miss Freda Godfrey is a sweet and winsome performance, but—according to my reading of it—lacks that dignity of repose which one is led to associate with the daughter of a duke. Though the part is fully intended to be that of an *ingenue* it must not be forgotten that even girls of nineteen whose fathers wear the strawberry leaves, occasionally adopt an attitude of *hauteur* and this was the more customary in the early seventies. Mr. Derrick Neville's Viscount Deeford was an able and intelligent piece of work, while Mr. John Cairns was stately and self-possessed as Mr. Hugh Meyers and though the Sir Michael Probert of Mr. Lawrence Sydney might have been a little more determined and vehement, it was yet an able performance. It is a small part that which Mr. Lawrence Tyndall has as Lumley Foljambe but it is very well rendered and shows that intellectual conception of possibilities that I have become accustomed to associate with this gentleman. There are more than another dozen characters of more or less interest and each is well portrayed, completing a *tout ensemble* that is entirely adequate.

The four scenes are well presented and the staging is good while the production reflects considerable credit upon Mr. Ralph Kimpton. The dresses—the work of Mrs. Fanny Goldstein—are true to date and in the last scene rich and impressive, while the augmentation of the orchestra provides such an improvement that one would regret to see it reduced again. Mr. Weinbren is afforded opportunities under the present circumstances which he takes full advantage of and the excellent music discoursed between the acts does much to enhance the enjoyment of the performance. L. L. G.

His Majesty's.

"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," which is nightly drawing large audiences at the above theatre,

is a delightful play in which comedy and pathos are cleverly and unostentatiously interwoven. The piece is a dramatisation by Anna Crawford Flexner of Alice Hegan Rice's well-known book. The cast is a very long one, no less than twenty-five actors and actresses taking part but there are only a few outstanding characters, foremost among whom is Mrs. Wiggs herself, whose nature strongly reminds one of the Stranger in "The Passing of the Third Floor Back." Mrs. Wiggs is an unsophisticated philosopher, always trying to detect the brightest side of every situation in life, and being a good woman herself, is always trying to do good, to smooth over matters, to make people happy. Miss Florence Roberts, who acts this part, seems to be made for it and presents one of the best, if not THE best, character study she has hitherto portrayed. Her natural acting wins her the heart of every member of the audience, and the enthusiastic applause which is showered upon her, is as genuine as it is well deserved. Another important part is that of Miss Hazy to which Miss Caroline Locke does full justice by her clever acting. Equally important is the role of Stubbins which lies in the able hands of Mr. Ed. Donnelly and of which he makes a great success. The character of Lovey Mary is well drawn by Miss Naomi Rutherford and others well in the picture are Miss Eileen Errol, Mr. Jack Pendleton, Mr. Chas. White and Mr. Richard Scott, whilst the minor parts are also well sustained. Mr. Geo. Montford is the successful producer of this fine comedy which should not be missed on account of its refreshing naturalness.

P. J.

Educational Chamber Concerts.

The third of this excellent series will take place on Thursday next in the Grand National Hotel Hall at 8.15, when Signor Danza will be assisted by Mrs. James Whitehouse, (violiniste) Mrs. George Hollins (violiste) and Mr. Hermann Becker, ('cellist.) The programme is as interesting and edifying as has been the case upon previous occasions and includes Sonata for piano and violin (Cesar Franck,) Two Valses op 34. Nocturne in B Major op. 62 Ballade in G Minor op. 23. (Chopin) Sonata for 'cello and piano, op. 69. in A Major (Beethoven) and piano quartette op. 87, piano, violin, viola 'cello. (Dvorak.) Seats may be booked at Mackay Bros. or at the doors on the nights of the concerts—it is interesting to note that the programme will be repeated at the Town Hall, Pretoria on Sunday August 18th—while with his usual consideration Signor Danza is offering reduced prices to students.

The "Chronicle" Cake.

No. 480.

Col. Sir David Harris, writing to acknowledge the compliment paid him by the presentation of this cake, entirely acquiesces in our forwarding the confectionery in question to the S. A. Jewish Orphanage.

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TOWN HALL, PRETORIA,
Sunday, 19th August, at 8.45.

Assisted by

Mrs. James Whitehouse ... (Violiniste).
Mrs. George Hollins ... (Violiste).
Mr. Hermann Becker ... ('Cellist).

PROGRAMME.

I. CESAR FRANCK, Sonata for piano and violin.

II. CHOPIN, Two Valses, op. 34. Nocturne in B major, op. 62. Ballade in G minor, op. 23.

III. BEETHOVEN, Sonata for 'cello and piano, op. 69, in A major.

IV. DVORAK, Piano Quartette, op. 87, piano, violin, viola, 'cello.

Seats may be booked at Mackay Bros., and may also be obtained at the doors on the nights of the concerts.

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