



### MR. JOHN LAWSON.

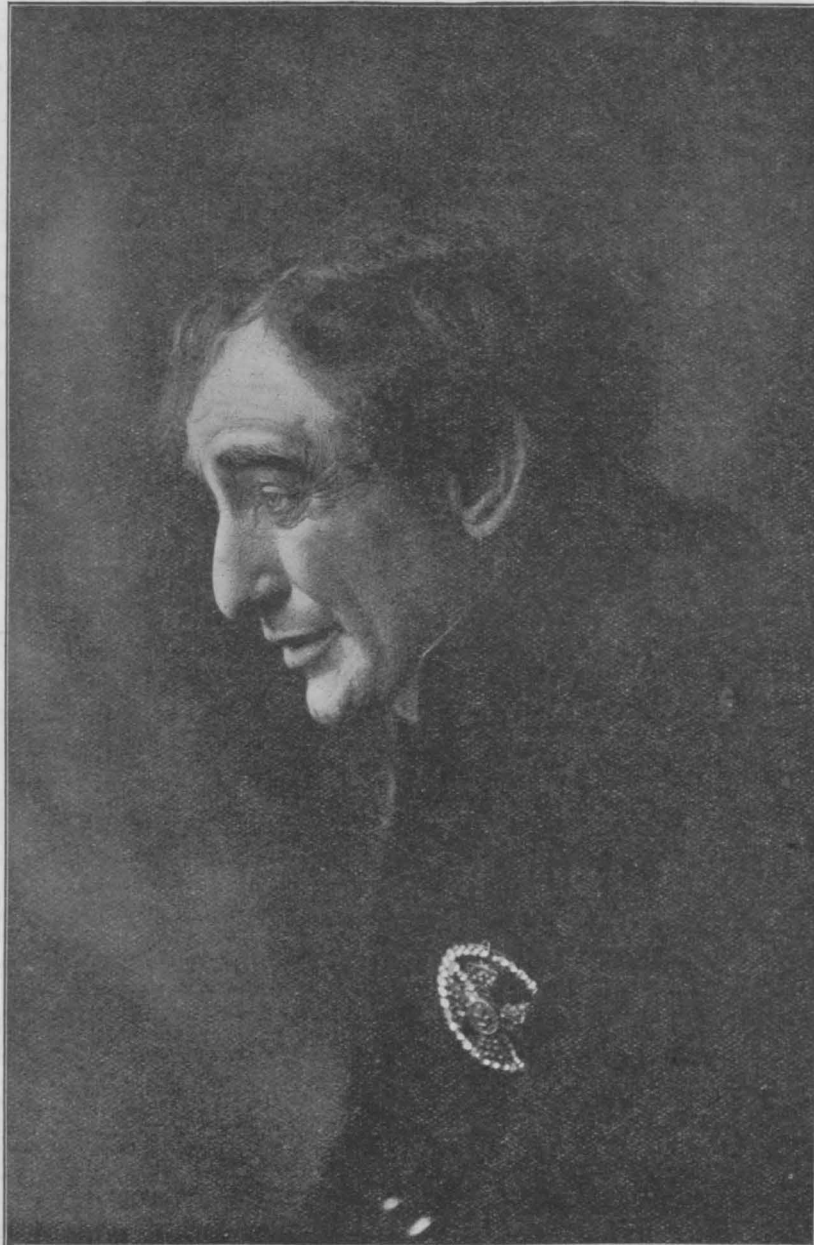
A theatrical event specially appealing to the interests of the readers of this journal takes place on Monday next, at the Standard Theatre, when and where the world-renowned actor, Mr. John Lawson, opens but too short a season of a fortnight's duration, supported by a good company of artistes. Mr. Lawson has achieved success and

fame on the music-hall stage ever since he produced "Humanity," wherein he sings the world-famed song, "Only a Jew." The sketch achieved success the first night it was produced in London, and its fame soon spread. Apart from everything else, purely and solely as a dramatic piece of work—with the smashing of the furniture and the throwing of lighted lamps that forms part of its performance—"Humanity" is a notable production, whilst the championing of the Jew and his religion, that is the main theme of the playlet, lifts it into specially-deserved prominence in the eyes of the Jewish public. It was very courageous on the part of John Lawson to produce a sketch of this kind at the time it was first played, for the Jew as a music-hall artiste and as the hero of a music-hall sketch were none too popular at that time, both behind and in front of the

footlights, among

a large section of the non-Jewish public in London. Mr. Lawson began his successful career at the old Britannia Music Hall, where he was engaged at thirty shillings a week to sing comic songs. His first appearance was so successful that he was immediately engaged to play with Maud Branscombe, the first of the picture-postcard girls, at Coventry. Since then Mr. Lawson has appeared continuously in all the most important English theatres. "Humanity" has been his biggest financial success. He lately produced "Beaconsfield," which presents a problem on the character of Disraeli. His repertoire at the Standard will include all his successes. The programme is as follows: Monday and Tuesday, "Humanity," and "Men Must Work and Women Must Weep"; Wednesday and

Thursday, "The Monkey's Paw," "The Devil's Sunday"; Friday and Saturday, "The Morman's Wife," and "Sally in Our Alley." Mr. John Lawson will be supported by a powerful company, including the well-known London actress, Miss Lucille Sidney. The programme will also be contributed to by Miss Nellie Ganthony, London's favourite entertainer; Francis Midgets, the smallest conjurers and illusionists in the world; and the Barnes Comedy Company. The Grand Theatre, Ltd., are responsible for Mr. John Lawson's season at the Standard, and the enterprise deserves crowded houses at each performance. The box plan is now open at the Standard Theatre, and readers are advised to secure seats as early as possible. Matinees are announced for Wednesday and Saturday of next week.



JOHN LAWSON, in one of his characters.

### THE EMPIRE.

A visit to the Palace of Varieties at present affords a genuine pleasant pastime and recreation to the business man and the Randite generally. For there is a treat in store for him on account of the excellence of the programme submitted which, thanks to untiring efforts of the energetic management, yields in no way to anything lately given there. It may be difficult to keep up the standard of that all-round perfection to which we have for some considerable time past been accustomed, but it is well-nigh impossible to better or improve it. From this point of view the present programme is again one of the greatest variety, with positively no weak number in it.

### THE NEW PROGRAMME

is opened by Mdle. Harkanyi, a transformation dancer of great grace and up-to-date style, and one is in a quandary as to which one

should give the preference, to her Terpsichorean art or to the exquisite get-up of her toilette and smart costumes. After that we are treated by Frank H. Fox to the latest comic songs, all of which are of a "taking" nature. Next comes Will H. Kuming, who has this week completely changed his programme. He sings some excellent songs in the style and manner specifically his own, playing his own accompaniments on the piano. Some of the numbers are positively irresistible; for instance, "Daddy was a Grand Old Man," "Father Wasn't Always Bald-header," "The Boy who Stuttered and the Girl who Lisped," and others. By way of a change he delighted the audience with a telephone conversation, held by a German with an imperfect knowledge of the English language with his

landlord, which effort created roars of laughter. Kuming is a great favourite. The next number is occupied by Miss Mabel Green, a star of the new company and a musical comedy artiste. She is a pretty, graceful maiden with a fine mezzo-soprano voice, who looks a perfect Grecian beauty in her simple, but highly becoming white frock. Her songs will be as popular as she herself already is, having captured the hearts of old and young alike of the vast audiences at the above favourite pleasure resort. Tom Jersey, is a conjuror and "shadowgraphist," in which latter act he is unsurpassable, being very clever indeed. He creates genuine amusement and admiration by his skilful performance and earns rich applause. The first portion of the programme closes with Beth Tate, who is still the outstanding feature of an excellent performance. She has entirely changed her repertoire, which comprises, among other songs, "Take a little bit off when you want to get on," "That would never do for me," "Innocent Bessie Brown." Her songs are certainly "spicy," but the simple, perfect manner of her rendition takes the sting out of them all and the audience is absolutely loth to part with her.

### THE SECOND PORTION

of the programme is no less interesting than the first; in fact it is of a greater variety, because Captain Woodward's talking and juggling seals are taking a prominent part in it. Captain Woodward's return visit was eagerly looked forward to alike by those who had occasion of admiring the wonderful sagacity and training of these animals on his previous visit, and those who had not. As an introduction to his exhibition, the Captain has thought out a very ingenious innovation by showing a bioscope picture representing his sealing expedition, with hundreds of sea-lions jumping about in the sea. This becomes very realistic through his animals making themselves heard behind the screen in an unmistakable manner. The curtain is then raised and shows a beautiful arctic scene, with the trainer and his assistants among his pets. In addition to their former tricks, the animals have learned some new and equally clever ones, the whole performance being much admired and applauded. The Sisters Bradford are performing a pantomime dancing sketch, entitled "An Indian's Love Dream," amidst gorgeous scenery and dressed in phantastic costumes. We have previously enlarged upon the cleverness and gracefulness of these two ladies, to exhibit which further they have every scope in their new act. The Miles-Stavordale Quintette come next in their wonderful imitation of the human voice on their banjos with harp accompaniment. The public have taken a very great fancy to these clever musicians' performance, and the audience is never satisfied until a number of encores, among which "Redwing" must not be missing, have been given. A highly enjoyable evening's entertainment is brought to a successful conclusion by a bioscope picture.

### 'THE MAN FROM MEXICO.'

Mr. Charles Howitt and his admirable company opened their season on Monday last, at the Standard Theatre, with a laughter-provoking farce, "The Man from Mexico," from the pen of H. A. du Souchet. Intended to be broadly farcical, the artistes, from Mr. Howitt downwards, performed their respective roles in the spirit of farce, and gave a highly amusing entertainment. The plot matters very little in a piece of this kind, the main thing being the skilful arranging of a number of cross-purposes, no matter how improbable their foundation, and their providing humorous situations and laughter-provoking dialogue. "The Man from Mexico" fulfils this requirement very fully, and as the piece is well presented and admirably acted, the result is all that is to be desired. The scene of this farcical comedy is laid in America, and the second act introduces us to the prison on Blackwall Island, where "Benjamin Fitzhugh" is incarcerated what time he is supposed by his wife to be in Mexico. He has quite a comfortable time on the whole in the prison, smoking the warder's cigars and drinking his whisky. Mr. Charles Howitt, as "Benjamin Fitzhugh," the bogus Mexican, gives an admirable presentation of the chief role of the piece. Mr. Cecil Kellaway in the part of a "Tammany" Deputy Sheriff is excellent and very successful, whilst Mr. Charles Warrington as the friend who with the best inten-

tions in the world gets everybody into trouble, plays his part very well. Mr. Charles Sparrow is a very aesthetic-looking prison warder, who passes his leisure time in the pursuit of the arts. Mr. W. E. Burton Seymour acts the role of an excitable German admirably, whilst Messrs. Carl Lawson, Clarence Bigge, Garston and G. Edwin do very well in their respective parts. The "Clementina Fitzhugh" of Miss Gertrude F. Godart is a good piece of farcical acting, though a bit too serious in parts, and the other feminine roles are well played by Miss Doris Phillips, Miss Venn Lancaster, and Miss Jessica Barnes. Mr. Howitt's season at the Standard is being postponed after to-morrow night to allow of Mr. John Lawson's company occupying the theatre for a fortnight.

### THE GRAND.

Week by week we chronicle the doings of this most popular of bioscope theatres and every time it is our pleasure to record "crowded houses." This week has been no exception to the rule, and the programme of artistes and pictures is thoroughly deserving of this popular patronage. Seeley and West, those two clever musical artistes were encores again and again, and the audience still kept on asking for more at the conclusion of their "turn." Madame Lucelle and her parrot "Cockie," were as popular as in the previous week. Harold Heath, a very skilful dancer and an excellent comedian, was given an enthusiastic reception, one which his performance fully deserved, while another member of the company, Billy Brown, who treated the audience to some very clever "patter" and songs, was also well received. The pictures are all up to the high standard of excellence for which the Grand is deservedly noted, and, in all, the visitor to this theatre is assured of a very pleasant couple of hours.

### 'THE ANCIENT MARINER.'

The Johannesburg Philharmonic Society, together with the Johannesburg Concerto Society, under the conductorship of Mr. Lawrence R. Glenton, who supplied the orchestra, gave a highly praiseworthy rendering of Barnett's "Ancient Mariner," at the Wanderers' Hall on Wednesday night. There was an appreciative audience, from whom the soloists, chorus, and orchestra deservedly elicited enthusiastic applause. The principals were: Miss Elsa Partiss (soprano), Miss D. Allum (contralto), Mr. Herbert Matthews (tenor), and Mr. Fellows (baritone), the last-named taking the place of Mr. Alfred Wood, who was unable at the last moment to appear. The soloists rendered their respective parts very well, and the chorus, numbering nearly ninety voices, did their share of the evening's work admirably, as did also the orchestra.

## Johannesburg Permanent Mutual Building and Investment Society and Savings Bank

### NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Boardroom of the Exploration Building, Commissioner Street, Johannesburg, on WEDNESDAY, THE 24th DAY OF APRIL, 1912, at 8 o'clock p.m.

#### BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED.

- (1) To receive Directors' Report and Financial Statements to the 31st of March, 1912, and to confirm proposed Dividend of 8 per cent.
- (2) To elect three Directors in the place of Messrs. G. Sheffield, A. Michael, and S. G. Bennett, who retire by rotation, but are eligible, and offer themselves, for re-election.
- (3) To elect Auditors for the ensuing year.
- (4) General.

By Order of the Board.

ALEX. C. MOSES, Secretary.

Johannesburg, 15th April, 1912.

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