



THE EMPIRE.

Without question the company now occupying the boards at the popular Commissioner Street playhouse is one of the strongest combinations yet placed before pleasure-seekers in Johannesburg, and that Messrs. Hyman's patrons were well aware of this fact was proved by there not being a vacant seat in the house during any performance this week. Spectacularly, La Pia's turn is one of the best we have yet seen, while as an artiste the title given her on the programme, "The Enchantress," is quite the most appropriate which could be applied. In the Japanese dance, which opens her act, La Pia appears in a veritable blaze of colour, out of which the artiste gradually evolves in an impression which is framed by silvery showers of glittering beadwork. The Palace Girls appear in a Phantasy in Black and White after Phil May. The beauty of the setting of this act is its simplicity, and they quickly had their audience in a good humour, their beautiful dancing and posing being very attractive. As the Surf Bathers in a bathing scene they achieved a veritable triumph, the setting of this act being most realistic, whilst their catchy songs and graceful dancing made their turn all too short for their admirers. Miss Marie Wilton, who opened the programme, is a lot in front of the average first turn, whilst Great and Good, comedy acrobats, are well above the average. The Phillip Sisters confirm their first impression, and the curtain is only allowed to fall at the conclusion of their turn after some trouble. Sterling and Love, who conclude to-morrow evening, still go strong, while Miss Marie Courtenay is established as the favourite of the gods. Helm and Cozens, and The Grays, who conclude their engagements to-morrow, will be missed, both turns being much appreciated.

CONCERT IN AID OF THE "R.D. MAIL" XMAS FUND.

Miss Le Marchant, assisted by her pupils, gave a sacred concert on Sunday night last at the Orpheum, in aid of the above fund, and we are pleased to be able to state that the concert was a thorough success, as well from a musical as also from a financial point of view, for, thanks to the support of the public, the lady was able to hand over quite a nice little sum to swell the funds. If this undertaking of the *Mail* is a very laudable one, the public also deserve every thanks for the assistance they are rendering to enable poor children to have a real treat at least once a year, to which no doubt these little ones are eagerly looking forward at a time when "goodwill among men" ought to reign supreme. Although space does not allow us to dwell on the different items or the performers individually, we will here give the items presented, with the names of the performers, and wish to state that the concert was thoroughly enjoyed by all those present. The following programme was submitted:—Overture, the Orpheum Orchestra; vocal duet, Messrs. Brown and Hemsworth; song, Miss Edith Smythe; song, Mr. Gillman; violin solo, Miss S. Schoenland; song, Miss Chloe Retallack; song, Mrs. Hemsworth; piano solo, Miss Constance de Beer. In the second part vocal solos were rendered by Miss Boshoff, Mr. Browne, and Miss Smythe, and Mr. Gillman, another violin solo by Miss Schoenland, and a duet by Misses Boshof and Retallack.

THE ORPHEUM.

Last night there was the usual weekly change of bill at the Orpheum, and one of the chief attractions offered was a film of the Balkan war, showing actual fighting. During the taking of this film two operators were killed and two others contracted enteric fever, from which they afterwards died. Another film that proved of great interest was the Springbok-Cambridge University match, while as usual Pathe's Gazette with the news of the world was screened. The artistes comprised The Frohmans, a delightful musical act; Young and Evans, comedians; and The Robins-Collier Trio, who will be remembered by patrons, and who introduced little Violette, the very clever child contortionist and dancer.

THE GRAND.

At this popular place of amusement an entire change of photo plays was made last night, the new films including "The Springboks v. Cambridge," "Pathe's Gazette," and "The Balkan War," in which exciting series a cinematograph operator was killed. Pathe's Gazette is particularly interesting. There are also two feature films in the form of dramas, viz., "The Fires of Driftwood," a full Christmas production by the Vitagraph Co., and "An Irish Girl's Love," taken by the Kalem Co., on the shores of the Emerald Isle. The present variety turns continue until after Saturday evening, giving place on Monday to the charming musical comedy actress, Miss May De Sousa, and the speciality act of "The Doraine Sisters and Wood."

THE CARLTON CINEMA

Here good houses are noticeable each night at this popular place of amusement and the Ogle-Dandridge Company are still delighting the audiences with their excellent presentation of their sketch "Confusion." Miss MacIndoe is a vocalist of considerable ability, and her beautiful contralto voice is heard to great advantage nightly. Last night there was an entire change of the picture programme, of which the star play is "Zika," a film packed with astonishing and novel incidents, thrilling escapes, and sensational episodes. The central figure in the drama is Zika, the gipsy queen, who is served well and faithfully by a troop of gipsy Amazons, and her male supporters.

STANDARD THEATRE.

At this popular theatre "The Sign of the Cross" entered upon its second week, and, judging from the audiences who flock nightly to witness this famous play it seems as if the management could run same for an indefinite period, as there seems to be no lack of interest in the play. Mr. Vincent plays in his usual capable manner the part of Marcus Superbus, while Miss Freda Godfrey gives a very tender yet forceful study of Mercia. The company is well balanced, and the various powerful situations are given with fine effect. Great attention is paid to the scenic details, which, in a play like "The Sign of the Cross," are an important matter. This evening that evergreen drama, "East Lynne," from the novel by Mrs. Henry Wood, will occupy the boards, and as this play, like the one aforementioned, has never yet failed to draw, we can predict crowded houses nightly at the Standard Theatre for the ensuing week.



The Rev. Gerald Friedlander, whose work on *The Jewish Sources of the Sermon on the Mount* appeared last year, has just issued two new volumes. One deals with "Hellenism and Christianity," embodying a course of lectures delivered by the author some time ago, and the other is entitled "Rabbinic Philosophy and Ethics," which is based mainly on that excellent compendium of the Rabbinic Agadah, edited by Rabnitzky and Bialik.

Prof. Herman Gollancz's book on Syriac Charms is promised to appear very soon under the title of "The Book of Protection." This will contain a number of texts taken from manuscripts and other sources, specimens of which were submitted at the International Congress of Orientalists.

Dr. J. Abelson, principal of Aria College, London, has just published an exhaustive work entitled "The Immanence of God in Rabbinic Literature." Jewish theology has been but scantily treated by Jewish scholars, and this new volume will be welcomed as an exhaustive treatise on an interesting subject.

VITALITY OF JUDAISM.

He who assumes that Judaism in our own day and generation has outlived its vitality and is without influence on other beliefs is absolutely unfamiliar with the true state of affairs. The continued existence of Judaism and the Jewish people is in itself a strong and convincing refutation of the teaching that Judaism has outlived its mission as well as its utility. According to the doctrines of the Church, Judaism should long since have passed out of the lives and the thoughts of the Jewish people, who were to be completely absorbed and assimilated, or were to accept the new teaching even if they remained together as a distinct body.—*Jewish Exponent*.

LIBERAL JUDAISM.

Liberal Judaism here is still keenly conscious of itself, full of life and fight, less sicklied over with the pale cast of thought, more sure of itself, more hopeful, more promising, preferring anti-Semitism as a reflex to its own determined activity to an amiable fellowship in that dim light, amid lotus-eating friends where differences disappear, emotions cease, and the world is enveloped in a haze of changeless grey.—*Jewish Comment*.