



HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.

Veni, vidi, vici—In such words can Mr. Lewis Waller legitimately describe his advent on the Rand for on Tuesday night a crowded house accorded him a welcome such as is but seldom given to a new arrival and the enthusiastic calls which followed each fall of the curtain augurs well for the season which has just commenced. As far as this community is concerned it is interesting to note that Mr. Waller is one of our own people and withal one who identifies himself with us and, unlike many who have attained popularity and recognition, Mr. Waller has never ceased to not only admit but glory in his Jewish ancestry. "A Marriage of Convenience" is not only a pretty play which requires faithful staging and magnificent dressing but it bristles with subtleties and is complete in its last century portrayals. The presentation on Tuesday last was more than adequate and the charming comedy adapted by Sydney Grundy from the original of Alexandre Dumas was so performed as to bring into relief the sparkling wit of both the original writer and his adapter. We do not think that anyone could be found willing to defend the system or method of domestic life of that time, still it is educational to know the circumstances under which our immediate ancestors "lived and moved and had their being." As M. le Comte de Candale, Mr. Waller presented a fine study and his character was better understood during its gradual unfolding throughout the four acts as the apparent indifference of the forced participant in a marriage of convenience gave place to the manly gentleman who was willing to guard his wife's honour as his own. As Madame le Comtesse, Miss Madge Titheradge gave us a charming picture not a little added to and enhanced by the beauty of her dresses. There is no doubt as to the possession of marked histrionic ability by this lady and though in "A Marriage of Convenience" she looked sweet and acted prettily, she was yet hardly afforded that scope which other plays, such for instance as "The Butterfly on the Wheel" will accord. The other parts were adequately portrayed, Miss Alma Vaughan gave a particularly able rendering of the part of Marton and Mr. Edmund Waller as Jamin was good, Mr. Reginald Dane played the role of the Chevalier de Valclos although his conception of the part was not exactly as we would have had it while, on the other hand, Mr. Halliwell Hobbs presented the old-time general in a natural and impressive manner. At the conclusion of "A Marriage of Convenience," Mr. Waller and Miss Titheradge gave the courtship scene from "Henry V." in which both added to the excellent impression which they had already created and induced the hope that the complete play of Henry V. is included in their repertoire.

THE STANDARD THEATRE.

On Monday, April 6th. Mr. Leonard Rayne will present Mr. Alfred Paumier in his original role in that latest of modern successes "The Story of the Rosary." This play is a response to the desire of the public for life-real life and in "The Story of the Rosary" they can find no mawkish sentiment, no *double entendre*, no far-fetched heroics, and no impossibilities. Never since "The Flag Lieutenant," "A White Man" and "The Woman in the Case," have the public had a play so free from the improbabilities which mark many of the productions of the present day and "The Story of the Rosary" is indeed refreshing as a successor to the so-called modern "discussion" plays with their morality problems. With Mr. Paumier comes an able and evenly-balanced company so that there is every likelihood of the Standard Theatre being filled in the same way as it has been during the recent very successful season of his predecessors.

THE EMPIRE.

"Never in the history of Johannesburg, has such a magnificent combination of vaudeville stars been presented." With these words the advertisement of the above music hall is headed and we fully endorse the claim. We even add that our Empire can easily and successfully compete with any kindred theatre anywhere. The present combination is so strong that there can be no question of a "star" turn, although for novelty Darracy takes an easy lead. He is a certified aviator, to our knowledge the first who ever performed on a local stage, and the inventor of this act which he performs and which consists of "Whizzing the wheel," in a motor car. We quite believe that this is "the only act of its kind in the world" and for daring we doubt whether it has its equal. We consider it good judgment on the part of the management to put this act at the end of the programme, for it is so exciting and nerve-stirring for the audience that they would probably be unfit to pay sufficient attention, were there anything to follow. An earlier portion of the programme is taken up by the Corinthians. This is a troupe of highly talented artistes, consisting of two ladies and four gentlemen who, in their many-sidedness leave nothing to be desired. The comic element is very strongly represented, in fact, each member has a strong touch of it, but the leader in this respect is undoubtedly, Ambrose Barker who, besides, has a fine tenor voice. Mr. Harry Stogden is the accompanist and handles the piano in a masterly manner; he also gave a solo on the phono-fiddle which is more especially a stage instrument which he manipulated in a very artistic manner. Miss Isabel Gindici possesses a fine contralto, her voice has a big compass and she is equally good in the higher register. Miss Nellie Carlyle is a sweet soubrette being equally good as a singer and an actress; her song "You made me love you" was much appreciated. Mr. Ernie Shannon is the light comedian and Mr. Harrington Weeks the humorist. The company finish their

entertainment with a burlesque entitled "The Coster Millionaire," of which Mr. Barker is the author, with which they put the crowning effect on their performance. Another outstanding feature of the present programme are the Golden Troupe of Russian Singers, Dancers and Instrumentalists who are giving a unique combination of these respective qualities. In their dancing exhibition, if indeed one can call their performance in this respect "dancing," they are executing the most dazzling whirls, indescribable pas which one must see in order to form a proper opinion of their marvellous skill. Frantic applause rewarded their efforts, for such they were, despite their wonderful dexterity and flexibility of body and limbs. The remaining artistes are also quite up to the present high standard of the Empire. Carmencita, the Spanish singer, renders some pretty songs in her fine and cultured soprano voice. Williams and Parker are a pair excellent Welsh humorists and vocalists and the former has a falsetto voice, so wonderful that listening with closed eyes, the sound absolutely equals a good lady's voice. Their patter is amusing and clever, with a big learning to local events. Fred Arthur is a refined comedian with a fine stage presence and good delivery and he scored particularly well in his recitals of the Clergyman a la ragtime. Finally, there is Harry Taft, the American comedian and whistler, a most original artist who entertains his audience with songs, stories and whistling. From the foregoing our readers can form an opinion of the quality and attractiveness of the present Empire programme which they will find confirmed upon a personal visit.

A Society For The Publication Of Hebrew Scientific Literature.

We learn that a Publication Society entitled "Mado" has just been established at Moscow. This society which has been founded with a working capital of 50,000 roubles, intends to publish books on natural science and physiology in the Hebrew language, which are to serve as a means of preparation for the proposed Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The greatest scientific works of literature on these two subjects are to be translated into Hebrew. A great number of medical men, *inter alia* the Drs. L. Rosenthal and W. Münz, who lecture at the Moscow University, take a lively interest in the enterprise. The works published by this new society will be of great significance for the creation of a scientific terminology. By the foundation of this Society one of the greatest steps towards the establishment of the Jewish University has been made.

Refined natures, whose power finds employment in a higher sphere, are deficient in that shrewdness which is never at a loss for a shift or a scheme; their genius is chance; they do not seek opportunities, but light upon them.