

the United States she is warmly welcomed by the Scandinavian portion of the population.

THE first genuine attempt at organizing a theatrical circuit in British Columbia has been undertaken by Mr. John E. Rice. Whether it will turn out successful or not, remains to be seen. One thing, however, is certain, it should receive the support of every lover of the drama in the Province. The circuit, Mr. Rice tells me, will include the cities of Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Nanaimo. I pronounce the Imperial Company, from what I have seen of it, vastly superior to the majority of combinations which have visited this city during the past season. This brings me to the point that there appears to be a mistaken impression as to the capability of a stock company to produce first-class plays. In every big city on this continent where there is a stock company, such as is now being played by Mr. Rice, they are better patronized than the travelling combination. Any ham can pull through the same piece six nights a week for a year, but it requires an artist of considerable versatility to take up two or three new pieces every week, and sustain his or her role creditably. That the members composing the Imperial Company are capable of doing this, I have no doubt. Miss Kate Dalgleish, the leading lady, is well known to Victoria theatre-goers, having made many visits to this city. She has always resided on the coast, and her name is all that is required to fill any theatre in San Francisco, Portland or Seattle. Miss Dalgleish is one of the purest and most refined women on the stage to-day. She has a sweet voice, and does not require any make-up to create a good impression. I have no hesitation in saying that Miss Dalgleish is an infinitely superior artist to any that has appeared here this season. Kitty Belmour is not so well known here, but, already, she has stamped herself as a favorite. Miss Belmour is a character actress, and has been connected with some of the best companies on the road. Last year, she played repertoire with the peerless Lewis Morrison. I do not remember of ever having seen a more artistic Francesca Remini than Miss Belmour, and I have seen some of the best actresses in the United States in the part. The soubrette is Miss Ella Damaris, who, although young, has already made a name for herself. Miss Ada Wheeler has travelled with several of the leading opera companies, and I am told that she is an artist in her line. Of the male members of the company, much to their credit can be said. Mr. Frank Armstrong, the leading man, has been on the stage for several years. He came out to the coast with the Si Plunkard Company, and was secured by Mr. Cordray to play leading parts at his Portland theatre. Mr. Armstrong has done everything he has undertaken with the Imperial Company creditably, and is said to be equal to any part in the extensive repertoire. Of the other members of the company, I may have something to say later on; but, in conclusion, I desire to remark that the most critical will find much to please them, by paying the Imperial people a visit. It is the intention, I understand, of Mr. Rice to overhaul the

Philharmonic Hall and convert it into a first-class family theatre. If this is done, it will place the opportunity of witnessing first-class plays at popular prices, by an excellent company, within the reach of all.
ARTHUR O'LEARY.

WE WERE very much surprised at your criticism of Thomas W. Keene's performances at the theatre last week. You state that in Keene's impersonation of the cunning King Richard there was a slight suggestion of rant. THE HOME JOURNAL puts it very mildly, indeed. We contend, and we are backed by the best critics in the city, that Mr. Keene's conception of Richard III. is not in accordance with the historical one. We can not be influenced in expressing our opinion. 'Tis true that while in this city the Keene company fitted themselves out with our heavy Cheviot suits, but they cannot act.

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