

VICTORIA THEATRE

MONDAY, MAY 2.

HEBREW AMATEUR DRAMATIC COMP'Y

IN

Leah, the Forsaken

ASSISTED BY

MISS MAUDE HOWE,

For the benefit of the Hebrew School Fund.

:O:

Prices of admission, \$1.00 and 50 cents. Seats now on sale at Jamieson's bookstore.

MUSIC AND THE DRAMA

The following letter speaks for itself:—
CHICAGO, Ill., April 21st, 1892.

Manager Victoria Theatre, Victoria, B.C.

Dear Sir,—I write to inform you that I have just learned through a trustworthy source that a characterless, renowned, inferior and meretricious concern, consisting of eight (8), or at most ten (10), kitchen malodorous darkies, lured by promises made them by a nameless knave, are about to infest your district and give a show under my copyrighted title, using the words "Creole Company." They are said to be aided in this flimsy attempt to injure your business and mine by giving a so-called Creole performance without an act or artist worthy of the name, by a R. R. Co., who will transport their little concern from town to town, and then put a man at the door to secure the R. R. Co.'s money from the first money taken.

This little affair may play in dance halls, but if it gets as far as your town, and bills a Creole Company, it knocks our business, because amusement seekers, instead of being pleased, will become disgusted.

I ask you, therefore, to join me immediately in giving publicity to the fact throughout your district in the newspapers, and by all other legitimate means, that there is but one Creole Company, and that one is Sam. T. Jack's big 50-people organization, and that it is coming on its own train of palace hotel cars, after long runs in first class theatres in New York city, Philadelphia and Chicago.

Publish the fact that a mountebank and scamp, whose proper vocation is throwing three cards, or flim-flamming with a wheel or sweat cloth, is trying to steal your business and mine by false pretences, masquerading in the guise of a manager. Let the public know that I am booked with you, and that Sam. T. Jack's big and only genuine Creole Company will play at

Victoria, July 12th, and bid them wait for the big show.

Respectfully and fraternally yours,
SAM. T. JACK.

Monday evening, May 2nd, promises a treat to the Victoria public, the event being the production of the romantic drama, "Leah, the Forsaken," by the Hebrew amateurs. Elaborate preparations are being made to give this drama a fitting presentation. The scenery, costumes and stage settings will be grand and gorgeous. Miss Maude Howe is a very talented emotional actress, and no doubt her playing will be highly appreciated. Special mention might be made of the chorus from the opera "Queen Esther," which will be sung by a chorus of 20 voices, and also a solo, "Maid of Juds," by Miss Louisa Philo, and the wedding scene, when six small children will act as flower girls. An orchestra of 12 pieces, under the direction of Mr. J. J. Cross, will supply the music. The stage manager and leading man, Mr. Isadore E. Philo, and Miss Maude Howe are endeavoring to give a good production, and they will surely succeed. The proceeds will be donated to the Sir Moses Montefiore School Fund.

The dramatic entertainment given in Victoria West Hall in aid of St. Barnabas Church, was very successful. The farce, "Declined With Thanks," was very creditably given by the following amateurs: Messrs. J. R. Chambers, H. J. Cave, C. Chambers, A. C. Cave and C. Holmes, and Misses Weller, Harris and Nicholson. The rest of the programme was highly enjoyable.

The James Corbett aggregation of pugilistic talent, under the management of Wm. Brady, will appear at the Victoria Theatre, on May 6th, Thursday next. Corbett is touring the country previously to going into training for his battle with Sullivan in September next.

A neat uniform of black and gold has been selected for the Imperial Theatre band, under the direction of Prof. J. J. Cross. The suits are now in the hands of the tailors, and the band will make its first appearance in full regalia next week.

Frank Daniels in "Little Puck," will be at the Victoria for two nights beginning May 9. His company has been highly spoken of all along the line.

The Belmour-Gray Imperial Company were in Golden, B.C., last week, and gave two performances—Hazel Kirke and Fanchon the Cricket.

Eli Perkins holds May 12 at The Victoria.

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

Richard (a Pirate chief).....	Mr. C. Rowlands
Samuel (his lieutenant).....	Mr. Martin
Frederick, (a pirate apprentice).....	Mr. White
Major Gen. Stanley.....	Mr. C. A. Lombard
Edward (sergt of police).....	Mr. H. Kent
Mabel.....	Miss M. Heathfield
Kate } daughters {.....	Mrs. Goepel
Edith } of {.....	Miss Pauline
Isabel } Gen. Stanley {.....	Miss Johnson
Ruth, (a piratical maid of all work).....	Miss Wolff

Conductor..... Prof. E. Pfordner
Stage Manager..... Mr. C. Rowlands

In fear and trembling do I usually attend an amateur theatrical performance, although it does not take much of an effort to stay out the ordinary concert. My wife the other morning woke me up in a terrible hurry. I thought the house was on fire, or that baby had got the croup, or perhaps that the gas man had called. But she only told me that the box office for the amateur performance of the Pirates of Penzance opened that morning, and I had better not lose a moment but get right

down town and secure the seats, the very best seats. I was bundled off without any breakfast, filled only with the expectation that I would have to wait my turn at the tail-end of a clamorous line of what is called the public.

In due course we went to the theatre, and found that the amateurs were quite equal to the professionals in one thing, and that was the time they kept the audience waiting for the rise of the curtain. The opera is well known; it has nothing much attaching to it beyond the usual catchiness and lightness that should be a feature of all comic operas. There is a good deal in its construction that will not bear criticism, but then comic opera, like poetry, has a good many licenses. As put on by the Victorians, it was a success. The honor attending that, if any, belongs to Mr. Clement Rowlands, who also sustained the part of the Pirate King with a vigor and manliness very becoming the part. The male chorus was excellent, the ladies a little lacking in strength, musicalness and spirit. There was not what may be called a really good voice in the ladies' chorus, and if there was it was not brought forward. Miss F. Pauline was in reality the star of the evening, although given only a minor part. She was at home, lively and entertaining; but her voice was weak, although sweet, and at first she was inclined to be a little nervous. Miss Heathfield, as Mabel, was a success so far as the acting of her part went, but her voice is not adapted to stage singing; I have heard her frequently in concert, and she is very acceptable. Her presence is pleasing, her musical knowledge and, so far as her capabilities go, her execution is good, but then if a person has not the natural qualification of a good voice, backed up by good lung power, all the taste in the world will not make him or her a good singer. Miss Heathfield has all the spirit necessary, all the vim, all the happiness of nature, all the will and spirit of captivation, but providence has afflicted her with an indifferent intonation, an imperfect enunciation, both insurmountable obstacles to public singing in general and operatic singing in particular. She was very poorly supported, too, by Mr. White, in the role of the Pirate Prentice. She had to work hard to prevent both her own and his part falling flat through his want of activity and life, and credit must be given her for the amount of success she had in the effort. Mr. White was the typical amateur; loggish, spiritless and automaton-like. His voice is gone, and he was out of place in trying to act the part of a boy at 21, fresh, innocent of the world and women, a flower of the sea, so to speak. His love scene with Mabel was indifferently acted to a degree of sleepiness. He tried to wake up on one or two occasions but the effort was only temporary, and at one time made a bad blunder. Mr. Rowlands was a rattling good Pirate King. Bluff, hearty, jolly, rollicking, with all the natural qualities for such a life, he threw himself into the part with a lifelike naturalness. His superb voice, too, lent presence and power to his acting. I have never heard that solo and chorus of the "Pirate King" better or more manfully rendered. Mr. Lombard, as the Major General, was very entertaining, and nearly funny. He was in love with the part, and did it remarkably well. Mr. Kent made a good sergeant of police, a little inclined to overdo it, but better too much conscientiousness than too little. His singing was not up to his usual, but then to the ordinary vocalist, it is always difficult to sing and move about as required by acting. The police force was comical to a degree, and, at the risk of being invidious, I would say that Mr. Rhodes should have had a more prominent part. We hope, however, to see him shine in the Mikado which I understand is shortly to be produced under the able managership of Mr. Clement Rowlands.

Taken all in all, the Pirates was a great success, and those who worked to the end deserve all the commendation that can be given them.

THE BYSTANDER.