

undertake for us. I thank all these good fellows heartily."

"But to return to 'Much Ado,'" I said; "let us go a little into detail as to the number of scenes, cloths, flats, properties, and changes there are in the work. To have got through the piece, without a hitch, within three hours on the first night, is a very remarkable performance."

"Well, then, there are five acts in the play, thirteen scenes. Every scene is a set, except two, and they are front cloths; there is not a carpenter's scene proper in the entire representation. To begin with, there is the opening scene,—the bay, with Leonatas' palace built out twenty-four feet high,—a solid-looking piece, that has all the appearance of real masonry. I am giving you these details now from a cold, practical stage-manager's point of view,—fact without colour. Well, this scene—the outside of Leonatas' house—has to be closed in two minutes and a half, discovering the inside, the ball-room, which extends right round the walls of the theatre. This finishes the first act.

"Now, the second act was rung up in eight minutes, showing Craven's beautiful garden scene,—terraces, glades, and arbours,—in which set the business of the entire act occurs.