

◁ OPINIONS OF THE PRESS. ▷

The following are a few extracts from the more recent of the numerous lengthy criticisms and articles on Mr. Belford's performances in public.

THE LONDON (ONT.) FREE PRESS said of Mr. Belford's last Recital here a year ago:—"Mr. Belford fairly took the audience by storm. Few were prepared to discover the towering dramatic ability and elocutionary accomplishments which he displayed last night for the first time here. His power of recital is, in one word, grand. He seemed to hold his audience spell-bound by the combination of great magnetic force, perfect and graceful action, and masterly articulation. He never refers to a book, but seems to have studied his parts like a thorough actor, presenting them to the audience as finished works of the most conscientious elocutionary art. Nothing so good of the kind has been heard here for many a year."

TORONTO MAIL:—"Mr. George Belford, of London, England, who has a reputation on the other side of the Atlantic of being an elocutionist of considerable merit, appeared for the first time last evening before a Toronto audience. For three hours Mr. Belford entertained the audience entirely unassisted, at one time holding them spell-bound by vivid narration, and at another convulsing them with laughter by his droll recitations or clever mimicry. Every number on the programme was equally well rendered, and each time Mr. Belford re-appeared he was given a hearty reception."

MONTREAL GAZETTE:—"Mr. Belford more than pleased the large and select audience who assembled here to greet his first appearance. His accent and enunciation are unadulterated; his gesticulation is perfect, and his mannerism is, above all, easy and graceful. He is an accomplished elocutionist, and to see him is to learn a lesson in the art."

OTTAWA CITIZEN:—"Mr. George Belford gave the first of his two humorous and dramatic recitals in the Grand Opera House last night, under the distinguished patronage of His Excellency the Governor-General. Notwithstanding the numerous other attractions there was a large attendance, and the efforts of the celebrated English elocutionist were greatly admired. Mr. Belford's splendid elocutionary style and excellent stage presence make it a pleasure to listen to him, and the audience of last night were not chary in testifying their approbation. To a voice capable of great modulation Mr. Belford adds a thorough knowledge of the art of which he is so clever an exponent. He has a genuine sense of humor and a strong perception of the pathetic, large dramatic ability, and a wonderful capacity for interpreting the tragic, so that during an evening's entertainment he is enabled to appeal to varied tastes, and to excite varied emotions. As an entertainer he stands in the first rank, and of his talents it is almost impossible to say too much."

TORONTO GLOBE:—"Mr. Belford is tall, with fair hair, an English cast of features, and a very refined manner. He uses no books or notes, but recites entirely from memory. He has a voice of considerable power, which he uses with discretion, and his action is particularly graceful."

HAMILTON SPECTATOR:—"The Midnight Charge at Kassassin' was recited in a style so full of fire and dramatic intensity that the audience was thrilled by its stirring lines."

BELLEVILLE INTELLIGENCER:—"The scene from Richard III. in which the unhappy Duke of Clarence relates his terrible dream, kept his audience spell-bound."

COBOURG WORLD:—"It is doubtful if any elocutionist ever furnished two such charming literary evenings to a Cobourg audience as did Mr. George Belford on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week. He is an accomplished English gentleman, possessing a voice of remarkable flexibility and silvery richness of tone. All his selections were enthusiastically received. His return at an early date will be heartily welcomed by all who had the privilege of hearing him."

OTTAWA FREE PRESS:—"Mr. Belford is an accomplished speaker; he possesses a powerful, pleasing, and well trained voice, combined with great facial flexibility. He keeps the audience thoroughly *en rapport* with himself, and carries them from grave to gay, from the burlesque to the pathetic, in a way which probably no other elocutionist could accomplish."

THIS IS MR. BELFORD'S LAST APPEARANCE IN LONDON PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FOR ENGLAND.