

Pinafore and Pirates Company 1883

1 – 6 Jan. Wigan

THEATRE ROYAL. – Responsible Manager, Mr. George Edwards. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company, with *Pirates of Penzance*, last week proved an enormous success; and this week the theatre has been completely packed each evening by respectable and enthusiastic audiences to witness the excellent production of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Miss Ethel McAlpine appeared as Josephine, and, having a pretty voice with a good cultivation, her rendering of the part received the warmest approval. Miss Bessie Armytage was Buttercup. This lady possesses a sweet, rich, and deep contralto voice, which she knows well how to use. Her song "Dear Little Buttercup" was greeted with loud and continual applause. Mr. George B. Browne did well as Captain Corcoran, and Mr. Edgar Manning was amusing as Dick Deadeye. Sir Joseph Porter found a clever exponent in Mr. John Le Hay. Mr. J. Sydney was Ralph Rackstraw, and his excellent tenor singing fairly brought down the house. The other characters were taken by Messrs. Leonard Roche, C. M. Blythe, Fitzaltamont; and Miss Beatrix Young. The opera was preceded each evening by *The Silent Woman*. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, January 6, 1883; Issue 2311.]

8 – 9 Jan. Leigh

10 Jan. ?

11 – 13 Jan. Lancaster

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE." – On Thursday evening, Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's popular comic opera. "The Pirates of Penzance, " was given in the Music Hall, under the auspices of Mr. Fletcher. There was a fairly good house, considering that the galleries were closed. This is the third performance of the opera in Lancaster, within a short period, but the interest of the audience in the music and the grotesque situations were almost as keen as ever. The company is strong in musical talent, and the solos were delivered in a most effective and pleasing style. The Pirate King had a most able representative in Mr. George Byron Browne, who, we believe, was the original King during the first performance of the opera in London. He is a splendid figure on the stage, and has a rich mellow voice, and his vocalisation is all that could be desired. Mr. John Le Hay as Major-General was admirable. Mabel, Miss Ethel McAlpine, sang sweetly and had a most prepossessing appearance. Miss Bessie Armytage, Ruth, was in excellent voice, and threw into her part a spirit and vivacity which contributed much to the general success. When the curtain dropped the audience testified their appreciation of the performance by most hearty applause. The opera will be repeated tonight (Friday) and on Saturday "H.M.S. Pinafore" will be produced. [*The Lancaster Gazette and General Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland, and Yorkshire* (Lancaster, England), Saturday, January 13, 1883; pg. [1]; Issue 5309.]

GILBERT AND SULLIVAN'S OPERA – "H.M.S. PINAFORE." – This popular opera, by Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan, was given by D'Oyly Carte's provincial company, in the Music Hall, on Saturday evening. There was a very good audience, the body of the hall being inconveniently crowded in some parts in consequence of the closing of the gallery. The opera was well received, and the opera more heartily applauded than was that of "The Pirates of Penzance." Mr. G. Byron Browne, as Capt. Corcoran, was the centre figure of the piece, and though he was evidently suffering from a slight cold, he acquitted himself

most ably. The part puts the powers of the vocalist to a great strain, as the "Commander" has by far the heaviest share of the work, but Mr. Browne was equal to the demand made upon him. Mr. John Le Hay portrayed the First Lord of the Admiralty most effectively, and sang his parts correctly and well. Mr. J. Sidney, as "Jack Rackstraw," and Mr. Edgar Manning as "Dick Deadeye," contributed to make the opera run sweetly, and the latter especially deserves commendation. "Little Buttercup" – Miss Bessie Armytage – sang very sweetly, and her acting was in unison with her vocalisation. The part of "Josephine" was undertaken by one of the understudies (in the absence of the Prima Donna through indisposition), and the lady acquitted herself very creditably. The choruses were not so good as we have heard them in Lancaster, if we except the Policeman's, which, as usual, received an encore. – We suppose this will be the last entertainment of the kind we shall have in Lancaster until some alteration is made in the hall, or a new one is built. Mr. Fletcher had booked two opera companies, but it is not likely under the altered conditions that he will bring either of them. Is Lancaster content to be without a public hall worthy of the town? [*The Lancaster Gazette and General Advertiser for Lancashire, Westmorland, and Yorkshire* (Lancaster, England), Wednesday, January 17, 1883; Issue 5310.]

15 – 20 Jan. Barrow-in-Furness

ALHAMBRA THEATRE. – Proprietors, Messrs Bell and Atkinson; Manager, Mr. F. G. Venimore. – D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company, under the management of Mr. Benbrook, opened here on Monday last, and met with deserved success. *Pirates of Penzance* is announced for the last three nights of this week. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, January 20, 1883; Issue 2313.]

22 – 27 Jan. Southport

THE WINTER GARDENS. – Manager, Mr. J. Long. – Two operas in one week, *The Pirates of Penzance* and *Pinafore*. Although there is a slight change in the company, we have a return of some old favourites such as Miss McAlpine, Miss Bessie Armytage, Mr. G. B. Browne, and Mr. J. Sydney. The operas have been brightly rendered by all concerned. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, January 27, 1883; Issue 2314.]

MUSIC HALL, CHESTER.
MONDAY and TUESDAY, January 29th and 30th, 1883.
MR. D'OYLY CARTE'S
OPERA COMPANY
 Will appear in Messrs. GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S
 most successful Works,
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE AND H.M.S. PINAFORE.
 ON MONDAY, JANUARY 29TH, 1883,
 Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's New and Original
 Melo-Dramatic Opera, entitled
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE,
 OR, THE SLAVE OF DUTY.
 Act 1.—Rocky Sea Shore on the Coast of Cornwall.
 Act 2.—A Ruined Chapel on General Stanley's Estate.
 ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 30TH,
 Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's Popular Nautical
 Comic Opera,
H. M. S. P I N A F O R E ,
 OR, THE LASS THAT LOVED A SAILOR.
 SCENE: Quarter Deck of H.M.S. Pinafore, off Portemouth. Act 1, Noon. Act 2, Night.
 Doors open at 7-30, to commence at 8.
 PRICES OF ADMISSION.—Reserved Seats (numbered), 3s.; West Gallery and Second Seats, 2s.; Side Galleries and Back Seats, 1s.; Upper Gallery, 6d.
 Plan and Tickets at Messrs. PHILLIPSON & GOLDSER'S, Eastgate Row.

Cheshire Observer (Chester, England), Saturday, January 20, 1883; Issue 1589.

29 – 30 Jan. Chester

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Company.—The *Pirates of Penzance* and the crew of H.M.S. *Pinafore*, with all the relations of the fantastic Admiral, are sure of a cordial reception whenever they visit Chester, and notwithstanding the counter attractions of the New Royalty fairly good houses witnessed the performances of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's most successful works on Monday and Tuesday evenings last. The productions were placed upon the stage with the usual eye to effect, and the various parts were most successfully

rendered by the efficient company. [*Cheshire Observer*, 3 Feb 1883]

MUSIC HALL. – On Monday and Tuesday evenings Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* and *Pinafore* company appeared here for a third time under the local management of Messrs. Phillipson and Golden, booksellers, Eastgate Row. A fashionable audience assembled each night, and the performers were accorded a very hearty reception. Mr. Sullivan's bright and tuneful music was also greatly admired, and elicited frequent marks of approbation, several of the most popular numbers having to be repeated. The company included Miss Ethel McAlpine, who has before won golden opinions here; Mr. Jas. Sydney, Mr. John Le Hay, Mr. G. Byron Browne, Mr. E. B. Manning, Mr. Leonard Roche, Miss Bessie Armytage, Miss F. Harcourt, Miss Freda Bevan, and Miss Beatrix Young. The choruses were splendidly given. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, February 3, 1883; Issue 2315.]

31 Jan. Crewe

1 – 3 Feb. Lichfield

5 – 6 Feb. Burton

At Lichfield last week they had "Pinafore" and "The Pirates of Penzance" for the first time. At least I gather so from the fact that the *Lichfield Mercury* printed two columns of analysis of and extracts from the operas. Fancy "Pinafore" and "Pirates as novelties at this time of day! After this, we may forgive the Londoners for looking down upon us poor provincials. The company that appeared in Lichfield was the same as that which is now appearing in Burton. On April 2nd and 3rd "Patience" will be given at Lichfield and on May 7th and 8th "Iolanthe" will be performed. [*The Derby Mercury* (Derby, England), Wednesday, February 7, 1883; Issue 8769.]

7 – 8 Feb. Loughton

9 – 10 Feb. Macclesfield

12 – 17 Feb. Stockport

PEOPLE'S OPERA HOUSE AND THEATRE. – Proprietor, Mr. W. Revill. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* company, under the management of Mr. E. J. Benbrook, have been drawing good houses during the week, and have met with a most enthusiastic reception. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, February 17, 1883; Issue 2317.]

19 – 21 Feb. Blackburn

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Lessee, Mrs. C. H. Duval. – *Pinafore* and *Pirates* were given the first three evenings of the week; and amateur performances were given on Thursday and Friday. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, February 24, 1883; Issue 2318.]

22 – 24 Feb. Halifax

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. F. Rawlings. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company were announced for the three last days this week in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, February 24, 1883; Issue 2318.]

26 Feb. – 3 Mar. West Hartlepool

GAIETY THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL. – Following close on the heels of "Patience," which was produced here a week or two ago, has come another of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's numerous companies, bringing with him [*sic*] "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Pirates of Penzance," the former of which attracted crowded houses on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Though several changes have been made in the company since its last visit to West Hartlepool, the opera is still in excellent hands, and Mr. Sullivan's sparkling music and Mr. Gilbert's witty libretto continue to be given with excellent effect. The opera, we need scarcely say, is excellently mounted, and in every way satisfactory as regards band and chorus. Mr. J. M. Glover is the conductor. [*The North-Eastern Daily Gazette* (Middlesbrough, England), Wednesday, February 28, 1883; pg. 3; Issue 4895.]

GAIETY THEATRE. – Manageress, Madame Prescott. – The popular *H.M.S. Pinafore* during the first part of the week and *The Pirates of Penzance* in the latter part have been drawing crowded houses. Some of the principals announced have not appeared, their places, however, being ably filled by other artistes, the young lady who played Josephine instead of Miss McAlpine (who has been taken suddenly ill) by her acting and singing winning general admiration. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, March 3, 1883; Issue 2319.]

5th – 7th Mar. Darlington

NEW THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Cavanah. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Pinafore company opened here for three nights on Monday last. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, March 10, 1883; Issue 2320.]

8th – 10th Mar. Bishop Auckland

12th – 17th Mar. Sunderland

"PINAFORE" THE THEATRE ROYAL.

Last night, Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Pinafore Company commenced six nights' engagement at the Royal with that still popular and successful opera. There was a good attendance, and the musical comedy was very enjoyable and was duly appreciated. The principals have not appeared Sunderland before in the characters which they represented last night, but they acquitted themselves very well and are likely to give satisfaction to those who patronise the opera. The numerous airs were finely represented, though one or two of the members appeared to be suffering from cold. Mr. John Le Hay was an excellent "Sir Joseph Porter," the humour of the character losing little in his hands; "Captain Corkoran" [*sic*] was a satisfactory performance by Mr. P. B. Sutton; and "Jack Rackstraw," which was entrusted Mr. Milroy Cooper, was creditably presented, though that important character appeared to be suffering from cold. Miss Bessie Armytage was an excellent "Little Buttercup," singing her songs with taking spirit and vivacity. "Josephine" was pleasing impersonation by Miss Joan Rivers, whose voice, though not of exceptional strength, was sweet and expressive. Mr. Edgar Manning was a capital "Dick Deadeye," and the other characters were well represented. [*Sunderland Daily Echo*, 13 Mar 1883]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. E. D. Davis; Manageress, Mrs. Hunter. – This week Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company occupy the boards, and are meeting with liberal patronage. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, March 17, 1883; Issue 2321.]

19 – 31 Mar. South Shields

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. Fred. Cooke. – This week the frequenters of this theatre have had a treat afforded them by a return visit of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company, who have been appearing in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The opera was most effectively and attractively placed upon the stage, and admirably gone through, eliciting the hearty plaudits of crowded houses. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, March 24, 1883; Issue 2322.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. Fred. Cooke. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company continued their stay another week in consequence of the enthusiastic reception they had. This week they have produced *The Pirates of Penzance* in a splendid manner. There have been crowded houses, and the opera has been received with great enthusiasm. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, March 31, 1883; Issue 2323.]

2nd – 7th Apr. Stockton

THROUGH the medium of "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Pirates of Penzance," Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan have introduced to the provinces several gifted sopranos and contraltos; but we question whether two more talented representatives of Mabel and Ruth in the latter, and of Josephine and Little Buttercup in the former, have been put forward than Miss Joan Rivers and Miss Armytage respectively. Miss Rivers possesses a charming soprano voice of wide compass, and sings her music with admirable taste and effect. Miss Armytage is a sweet and powerful contralto; and in addition displays histrionic powers of a high order. Both ladies have been delighting crowded audiences at the Stockton Theatre Royal this week, and we should think, have a good future before them. [*The North-Eastern Daily Gazette* (Middlesbrough, England), Thursday, April 5, 1883; pg. 2; Issue 4925.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee Mr. Fred Cooke. – This week the frequenters of this theatre have had a treat afforded them by a return visit of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company, who have been appearing in *The Pirates of Penzance*. The opera was most effectively and attractively placed upon the stage and admirably gone through, eliciting the hearty plaudits of crowded houses. *Quite an Adventure* has preceded the opera each evening. *H.M.S. Pinafore* is billed for Friday and Saturday. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 7, 1883; Issue 2324.] [Note: cp *Era* comments on South Shields, above.]

9th – 14th Apr. Huddersfield

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Lessee, Mr. J. W. White. – Another of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* companies has been appearing here during the week with considerable success. The piece has been very efficiently presented. R. John Le Hay enacts the part of the Major-General capitally; Mr. B. Sutton made a fair Pirate King; Mr. Milroy Cooper was an excellent Frederic. Miss Joan Rivers as Mabel sang and acted in a clever style; and Miss Bessie Armytage did full justice to the role of the maid-of-all-work. *Quite an Adventure* has preceded the principal piece, and *H.M.S. Pinafore* has occupied the latter's place in the programme during the second part of the week. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 14, 1883; Issue 2325.]

16th – 17th Apr. Stafford

18th – 21st Apr. Walsall

THEATRE ROYAL, AGRICULTURAL HALL. – Lessee, Miss Rebekah Deering; Manager, Mr. Chester Hildon. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company has spent four nights here this week, rendering *Pinafore* and *Pirates* on alternate nights to select and appreciative audiences. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 21, 1883; Issue 2326.]

23rd – 24th Apr. West Bromwich

THEATRE ROYAL. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company have been here, and have given *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance*, both of which have gone well. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 28, 1883; Issue 2327.]

25th – 26th Brierly Hill

27th – 28th Apr. Stourbridge

30th Apr. – 1st May. Leamington

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. P. Tempamy. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comic opera company appeared here to large and enthusiastic audiences on Monday and Tuesday evenings in *Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance*. Mrs. Chippendale and company are announced for Friday and Saturday. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 5, 1883; Issue 2328.]

2nd – 5th May. Worcester

WORCESTER THEATRE ROYAL.—Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company played here in *H.M.S. Pinafore* on Wednesday and last (Thursday) evening, and tonight (Friday) and tomorrow (Saturday) evening will appear in the *Pirates of Penzance*. Mr. Gilbert's humour is so genuine that it never palls, Mr. Sullivan's music is so melodious that it never fails to please; and the pieces, which are the result of their combined labours, seem to have a popularity which is well-nigh inexhaustible. It is therefore quite unnecessary to say anything in commendation of these performances. [*Worcester Chronicle*, 5 May 1883]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. W. Gomersal. – On Wednesday and three following evenings Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company appeared here in *Pinafore* and *Pirates of Penzance*. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 5, 1883; Issue 2328.]

7th – 12th May. Cheltenham

THE POPULAR OPERAS of the *Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* are to be the magnets of the ensuing week at the Old Wells Theatre, and two more attractive could not well have been selected for the entertainment of our martial visitors and the play-going public of Cheltenham generally; and seeing that they are to be performed by Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Company, no surer guarantee could be afforded for the spirit and fidelity with which Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's amusing compositions will be rendered. The *Pirates* are to be performed the first and last two evenings of the week, with an afternoon representation on Saturday; and *Pinafore* on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and in the afternoon of the latter day; each evening performance being preceded by *Quite an Adventure*, to amuse the audience at starting. [*Cheltenham Looker-On*, 5 May 1883]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs. Maisy and Shenton. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates* and *Pinafore* company, under the direction of Mr. J. Benbrook, has been playing to large and enthusiastic audiences. Miss Joan Rivers, the new Mabel, made an immense

hit on Monday by her exquisite vocalism and sprightly acting, and Miss Bessie Armytage made a satisfactory Ruth. The Frederic of Mr. Milroy Cooper was also an excellent performance, and Mr. John Le Hay received a warm welcome in his old part of the Major-General. Mr. B. P. Sutton was a creditable Pirate King, and Mr. Edgar Manning gave good assistance as Samuel, whilst the Sergeant of Mr. Leonard Roche was a most praiseworthy impersonation. Band and chorus were both in good form and the opera was well staged. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 12, 1883; Issue 2329.]

14 – 19 May. Cardiff

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE."

The Cardiff public have had an opportunity of witnessing Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance" before now but that fact did not in the least militate against the general enjoyment on Whit Monday afternoon and evening. Contrary to the time-honoured adage, they think it quite impossible to have too much of a good thing; a verdict with which, on the whole, we most cordially agree. Having done so before, it is unnecessary for us now to even sketch the plot of the "Pirates of Penzance." There are very few opera-goers who do not know the piece quite as well as we do ourselves. We will, therefore, be content with remarking that the various characters of the piece received admirable interpretation on Monday evening at the hands of the artistes amongst whom they were distributed. Mr. John Le Hay made a most excellent *Major General Stanley*, while Mr. B. P. Sutton showed to advantage as the *Pirate King*. The *Samuel* of Mr. Edgar Manning, Mr. Cooper's *Frederic*, and Mr. Leonard Roche's *Sergeant of Police* are also deserving of notice. Miss Joan Rivers, in consequence of indisposition, was unable to appear in her part of Mabel, an understudy which was efficiently rendered by a lady substitute, whose name has unfortunately escaped us. It is hoped that by this (Tuesday) evening Miss Rivers, of whose powers as an actress and vocalist report speaks very highly, will be able to resume her old place. The other characters included Miss Alice Yorke as *Edith*, Miss Freda Bevan as *Kate*, Miss Florence Harcourt, as *Isabel*, and Miss Armytage as *Ruth*, together with a full chorus of pirates, police, &c. The piece was very effectively mounted, as is invariably the case at this theatre. There was a capital house at both *matinée* and evening performance on Monday. We would again remind our readers that on Friday and Saturday the same author and composer's "Pinafore" will be produced, a special morning performance having been arranged for the last-mentioned of these days. [*Western Mail* (Cardiff, Wales), Tuesday, May 15, 1883; Issue 4370.]

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.

Last evening the "Pirates of Penzance" was replaced by that perennially popular work, "H.M.S. Pinafore." Judging from the reception accorded the revival by a large and fashionable audience, it will be some time yet before Mr. D'Oyly Carte need withdraw the piece from the repertory of his companies. This favourite opera received every assistance from the hands of its interpreters on this occasion, principals, chorus, and band vying with one another to secure an effective ensemble, while the picturesque scene in which the action takes place added materially to the enjoyment of the spectators. Where all were more than efficient we may, perhaps, not be considered invidious in singling out the names of Miss Rivers, who made a most piquant Josephine, her acting and singing coming in for the heartiest applause, of Mr. John Le Hay, whose admirable portrait of Sir Joseph Porter is already well known to Cardiff play goers, and of Mr. Milroy Cooper, whose fine tenor voice was heard to considerable advantage in the music assigned to

Ralph Rackstraw. We would remind our readers that there is to be an afternoon performance of "Pinafore" today at two p.m., while this evening will witness the last performance of the present company. On Monday next "comedy-opera" gives way to romantic melodrama, and the great Adelphi success, "Taken from Life," is to be produced with all original effects. [*Western Mail* (Cardiff, Wales), Saturday, May 19, 1883; Issue 4374.]

21 – 26 May. Swansea

NEW THEATRE. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company will produce Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's very successful comic operas "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "The Pirates of Penzance" at the New Theatre this week. The "Pirates" will be performed on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and "Pinafore" on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's works are ever welcome, and we venture to predict that Mr. Melville's efforts to secure his patrons such rich literary and musical treats will be amply rewarded. [*Western Mail* (Cardiff, Wales), Monday, May 21, 1883; Issue 4375.]

NEW THEATRE. – Proprietor, Mr. Melville. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comic opera company are occupying the boards here this week in the ever attractive *Pirates of Penzance* and *Pinafore*. On Monday night the former was produced to a large and enthusiastic audience. From first to last the piece was admirably presented, and evoked hearty applause. It was repeated on Tuesday and Wednesday, after which *Pinafore* took its place for the remainder of the week with equal success. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 26, 1883; Issue 2331.]

28th – 29th May. Hereford

CORN EXCHANGE. – D'Oyly Carte's talented company opened here for two nights for the production of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's popular comic operas, and met with great success, the hall each night being well filled. On Monday was produced the nautical comic opera *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and on Tuesday *The Pirates of Penzance*. The pieces were splendidly mounted. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 2, 1883; Issue 2332.]

30th May. Malvern

DRILL HALL. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's travelling company was announced to give a morning performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore* on Wednesday, to be followed in the evening by *The Pirates of Penzance*. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 2, 1883; Issue 2332.]

31st May – 1st Jun. Shrewsbury

THEATRE ROYAL. – Proprietress, Mrs. Maddox. – The return of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company for the evenings of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, last week, was signalled by marked success, *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance* drawing crowded houses. A pleasing feature in the last night's performance was the reappearance of Mr. Lithgow James, who, after an absence of three years in America, resumed his original part of Captain Corcoran. The pieces were well staged, and all the parts of both operas were capitally filled. Mr. John Le Hay as the Right Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., brought down the house, while due applause was awarded to Miss Bessie Armytage, Miss Alice Yorke, Mr. Milroy Cooper, Mr. Edgar Manning and the other ladies and gentlemen, all of whom exerted themselves successfully. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 9, 1883; Issue 2333.]

4th – 9th Jun. Liverpool

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE

The large and highly appreciative audience which greeted the reappearance of "H.M.S. Pinafore, or the Lass that Loved a Sailor," at the Prince of Wales Theatre last evening demonstrated the increasing popularity of this lively and sparkling opera. Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Company were the exponents, and they acquitted themselves throughout to the entire satisfaction of the audience. Dick Deadeye found an able representative in Mr. Edgar Manning, Mr. Henry Walsham impersonated Ralph Rackstraw with fidelity, and Miss Joan Rivers was graceful and piquant as Josephine. The other characters found efficient representatives, and the performance throughout was a most enjoyable one, there being a hearty swing and "go" about it which could not fail to produce the applause that was so lavishly bestowed by the audience. "Pinafore" was exceedingly well set, and cannot fail to attract full houses during the succeeding nights of its representation this week. [*Liverpool Mercury etc* (Liverpool, England), Tuesday, June 5, 1883; Issue 11044.]

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. Frank Emery. – Another of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's operatic combinations introduced an old favourite to the patrons of the pretty "Prince" on Monday evening, when a warm welcome was given by a large audience to a performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore* by a company which embraced several artists whose names are new to Liverpool. The old opera was as much enjoyed as ever, and those who came for the first time in the places of well remembered artists did not suffer in the slightest from vivid comparisons. We were specially glad to again welcome Mr. R. Cummings in his artistic realisation of Bill Bobstay, the boatswain's mate and Mr. C. M. Blythe as Bob Beckett, carpenter's mate; and the crew-cast was undoubtedly made more "taut and trim" by the appearance of Mr. Henry Walsham as Ralph Rackstraw, his acting and singing being better than those of any artist who has yet appeared here in the part. Miss Madge Stavart, one of the pets of "Ye 'Poole" public, gave an impersonation of Little Buttercup which made her a big favourite and "welcome as the flowers in May." Edgar Manning made much legitimate dramatic effect by his acting as Dick Deadeye; Mr. Lithgow James proved a manly, artistic, and capable exponent of the role of Captain Corcoran; and Mr. John Le Hay was an acceptable First Lord of the Admiralty. Josephine was charmingly played by Miss Joan Rivers; Hebe won much favour as portrayed by Miss Alice Yorke; Tom Tucker, the midshipmite, was characteristically played by Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun.; and Sir Joseph Porter's "sisters, his cousins, and his aunts" were delineated by quite an attractive bevy of beauty and talent as embodied in charming young ladies. All the requirements of the shipboard picture were carefully attended to by Mr. Emery, and the rendering of the choral section of the opera was specially worthy of high commendation. The amusing vaudeville *Quite an Adventure*, the joint production of Desprez and Solomon, was played as a preliminary to the opera. A morning representation of *H.M.S. Pinafore* is promised today, and, on Monday, Mr. W. J. Hill and his company will start a week's visit to Liverpool. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 9, 1883; Issue 2333.]

11th – 16th Jun. Newcastle

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Frank Sephton. – Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's popular comic opera *Pinafore* was presented at this theatre on Monday evening before a good audience, and received, as usual, with much favour. An efficient cast, comprising Messrs. H. Walsham, Lithgow James, J. Le Hay, E.

Manning, Miss Stavart, and Miss Alice Yorke. Especial praise is due to Mr. H. Walsham for his clever acting and artistic singing as Ralph Rackstraw, his rendering of the character being certainly the best seen on the Newcastle boards, his efforts provoking well deserved applause. The Sir Joseph Porter was a humorous and enjoyable piece of acting, Miss Madge Stavart a charming Little Buttercup, and Mr. Lithgow James as the Captain and Miss Joan Rivers as Josephine were also well suited. The burletta of *Quite an Adventure* has also been performed each evening. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 16, 1883; Issue 2334.]

18th – 23rd Jun. Belfast

"PINAFORE" AT THE THEATRE

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company produced "Pinafore" last night at the Theatre Royal after a fashion that at once disarmed criticism and secured applause. The cast is practically a new one to a Belfast audience; and the members have been so judiciously selected that, while the best may not be conspicuously good, the worst must be regarded above the mediocre standard. Altogether, the company is harmoniously balanced and thoroughly equal to an artistic rendering of the work of Mr. Gilbert and his collaborator, the newly created knight. With all their popularity, the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan and the libretto of Mr. Gilbert do not, as a general rule, develop new beauties at each successive representation. They are made for the generation, and the same generation is always apt to get tired of being pleased by the same kind of entertainment. But "Pinafore" differs from the rest of this series of operas to the extent of being the most piquant and the least likely to pall by repetition. Proof of this was afforded last night. The audience was large, and if anything disposed to be exacting, but not a scene passed without flattering recognition. Without exception, the applause was well deserved. The singing, if not always brilliant, was artistic throughout, and the acting was never once at fault. Mr. Lithgow James made a capital Captain Corcoran, and the part of Ralph Rackstraw falling to Mr. Henry Walsham was, it is needless to say, cleverly filled. Mr. Edgar Manning, as Dick Deadeye, was like the other Dick Deadeyes we have seen, which, after all, is saying a good deal. Mr. Richard Cummings and Mr. C. M. Blythe (the mates) sang their parts with vigour and good taste, while Sir Joseph Porter (Mr. John Le Hay) was a very acceptable impersonation. Miss Madge Stavart as Little Buttercup received some emphatic recalls. Miss Joan Rivers, playing Josephine, was once or twice a trifle weak, but her manner was winning, and one was disposed to sink her faults in her undoubted merits. Hebe fell to Miss Alice Yorke, who furnished an admirable interpretation. The opera as a whole was produced in a style that ought to attract good houses during the present week. We understand that it is more than probable his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant and suite will be present at the performance tonight. [*The Belfast News-Letter* (Belfast, Ireland), Tuesday, June 19, 1883; Issue 21193.]

25th – 30th Jun. Dublin

THE GAIETY THEATRE

Last night the ever popular opera, "Pinafore," was performed at the Gaiety, before a large audience. Whatever may be thought of the musical and dramatic merits of this celebrated piece, it is unquestionably one of the greatest successes of the age, and has been performed in nearly every city of the world. The company which appeared in "Pinafore" last night was, all things considered, a tolerably good one, though there was a slight falling off in the representation of certain characters compared with some former

performances at the Gaiety. The crucial part of Sir Joseph Porter was cleverly sustained by Mr. John Le Hay, who exhibited a clear and comprehensive grasp of the strong points

PENRHYN HALL, BANGOR.

MR. R. D'OYLY CARTE'S
CELEBRATED
OPERA COMPANY.
SPECIAL VISIT.
ONE NIGHT ONLY.

MR. R. D'OYLY CARTE having been induced to break the journey of his OPERA COMPANY between Dublin & Manchester at Bangor, will give ONE PERFORMANCE of the CELEBRATED OPERA

H.M.S. "PINAFORE,"

Written by W. S. GILBERT; Music by Sir ARTHUR SULLIVAN,

On **MONDAY, JULY 9th, 1883,**
When the following talented Artistes will appear:

Mr Henry Walsham, Mr Lithgow Jones, Mr R. Cummings, Mr J. Le Hay, Mr E. Manning, Miss Joan Rivers, Miss Madge Stavart, Miss Alice Yorke, Miss F. Harcourt, etc., etc., supported by a Chorus of Thirty Performers.

Acting Manager	} For Mr D'OYLY CARTE.	Mr E. J. Benbrook
Stage Manager..		Mr Edgar Manning
Conductor		Mr Ernest Elton
Agent in Advance		Mr Frank Howard

H.M.S. 'PINAFORE,'

OR,
The Lass that Loved a Sailor!

Written by W. S. GILBERT. Composed by Sir ARTHUR SULLIVAN.

The Right Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., First Lord of the Admiralty Mr John Le Hay Captain Corcoran, Commanding H.M.S. 'Pinafore,

[Mr Lithgow Jones Ralph Rackstraw, Able Seaman.. Mr H. Walsham Dick Deadeye, Able Seaman.. Mr Edgar Manning Bill Bobstay, Boatswain's Mate.. Mr R. Cummings Bob Beckett, Carpenter's Mate.. Mr C. M. Blythe Tom Tucker, Midshipmite.. Mr Fitzalton, Jun. Little Buttercup, a Portsmouth Bumboat Woman, [Miss Madge Stavart Hebe, Sir Joseph's Cousin..... Miss Alice Yorke Josephine, the Captain's Daughter.. Miss J. Rivers First Lord's Sister, his Cousins, his Aunts, Sailors, and Marines.

Scene:—**Quarter Deck of H.M.S. "Pinafore," Portsmouth.**

ACT 1, NOON ACT 2, NIGHT.

Doors open at 7.30; Commence at Eight.
Plans of Reserved Seats and Tickets may be had of Messrs HUGHES & PARRY, Booksellers, High-street, Bangor.
PRICES: Reserved Seats, 4s.; First Seats, 2s. 6d.; Second Seats, 1s.
Carriages may be ordered for Ten.
N.B.—The Company will pay a visit to RHYL on **WEDNESDAY, July 11th.** 993

in the character. Whether the original of Gilbert and Sullivan's First Lord of the Admiralty possessed any of Sir Joseph's peculiarities we cannot say, but the point of the satire can even still be appreciated despite the changes in the political atmosphere. Mr. Walsham as Ralph Rackstraw sang remarkably well, but his acting was rather indifferent. Mr. Lithgow James gave a good representation of the part of Captain Corcoran. Miss Madge Stavart as Little Buttercup did ample justice to her somewhat difficult part. Miss Joan Rivers, who appeared as Josephine, has a weak voice, but her manner is piquant and graceful. Mr. R. Cummings as Bill Bobstay and Mr. Leonard Roche as Dick Deadeye acted and sang remarkably well. [*Freeman's Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser* (Dublin, Ireland), Tuesday, June 26, 1883; Issue N/A.]

2nd – 7th Jul. Cork

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.— This being the opening week of the Cork Industrial Exhibition there is a healthy competition for public favour in the matter of amusements. *H.M.S. Pinafore* cast anchor here on Monday last. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, July 7, 1883; Issue 2337.]

9 Jul. Bangor

LAST Monday evening the Penrhyn Hall, Bangor, was crowded from floor to ceiling when Mr D'Oyly Carte's Opera Company performed H.M.S. "Pinafore." There was not a single hitch throughout the whole of the entertainment; the applause afforded to the performers was thoroughly genuine; and we very much doubt if there was one present who did not feel that they had provided for them a rich musical treat. Mr D'Oyly Carte can always rely upon a bumper house in Bangor, and we hope before long to welcome the "Pirates of Penzance." The receipts were £53.

PENRHYN HALL.— An esteemed correspondent writes to us as follows:—"Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta, 'H.M.S. Pinafore,' was performed by one of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's travelling companies on Monday evening last to a crowded audience, who seemed able and willing to enter into the fun and enjoy the ever fresh music. Little Buttercup decidedly scored for honours, and the Admiral ably supported his part. The choruses appeared to us to be taken at too great speed, rendering it difficult to distinguish the words, and certainly not adding to the *correct* rendering of the music. We have seen a

superior company in London and elsewhere, but perhaps it is only right to remember that the performers had had a rather unpleasant crossing from Ireland, and even 'sailors' are sometimes sick at sea, though 'hardly ever.' This may account for some shortcomings, and a single piano is scarcely support enough for so many voices in a large hall."

We understand that when "H.M.S. Pinafore" was performed about a year ago, by an amateur company for the benefit of two local charities, viz., the Nurses' Institute and the "Clio" training ship, Mr D'Oyly Carte took one-half of the profits, but there was some hope given he would return a part to be divided between these institutions, and we think we are correct in stating that the lady to whose efforts that performance was due has recently written to Mr D'Oyly Carte telling him of the urgent need for help in which both charities stand at present, and appealing to him, in consideration of his success in Bangor with the operettas of "H.M.S. Pinafore" and "Patience," for some contribution. We trust we may have to report that Mr D'Oyly Carte has responded handsomely, and we feel sure, if he does so, it will considerably enhance his future success in Bangor and the neighbourhood. [*North Wales Chronicle* (Bangor, Wales), Saturday, July 14, 1883; Issue 2906.]

10 Jul. Llandudno

LLANDUDNO

"H.M.S. PINAFORE." – On Tuesday evening last, Mr D'Oyly Carte's opera company gave a performance of "H.M.S. Pinafore," to a crowded and fashionable audience. It is hardly necessary in these columns to criticise a work which is so popularly known, or to refer to the manner in which Mr D'Oyly Carte's able company impersonated the various characters of the piece. We will simply say that one and all did their part well, and the entertainment throughout afforded the greatest delight to the numerous audience. [*North Wales Chronicle* (Bangor, Wales), Saturday, July 14, 1883; Issue 2906.]

12th – 14th Jul. Manchester

PRINCE'S THEATRE

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's "Pinafore" Company is the attraction at the Prince's Theatre this weekend. The attendance at the opening performance on Thursday was proof enough that the popularity of the favourite opera is by no means on the wane. The house was full in all parts, and the now familiar songs and music had the same heart greetings as of old. Miss Joan Rivers was Josephine; Miss Madge Stavart. Little Buttercup; Mr. Lithgow James, Captain Corcoran; Mr. Henry Walsham, Ralph Rackstraw; Mr. J. le Hay, a conspicuously able Sir Joseph Porter; Miss Alice Yorke, Sir Joseph's cousin; and Mr. Edgar Manning, Dick Deadeye. Everything throughout the performance went with admirable smoothness and spirit. The amusing vaudeville "Quite an Adventure" agreeably opened the programme, Miss Florence Harcourt, Mr. Lorraine, Mr. R. Christian and Mr. H. Melbourne being responsible for the respective parts. [*Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, July 14, 1883; Issue 1331.]

16th – 21st Jul. Edinburgh

THEATRE ROYAL. —Lessee and Manager, Mr. John Heslop. – The engagement of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera, company has been a decided boon to the public here, and the welcome announcement that *Pinafore* would be the feature of the week drew an overflowing audience to the theatre on Monday evening. The programme opened with the pretty vaudeville, by Desprez and Solomon, entitled *Quite an Adventure*, cleverly acted by

Messrs Lorraine, Christian, and Manning, as Wallaby, Frazer, and Policeman X; Miss Florence Harcourt ably assisting as Mrs. Wallaby. As regards *Pinafore* the management has evidently intended to make the cast as imposing as possible, and in this they have been eminently successful, no stronger array of artists having appeared in this city in the work since its representation at the Princess Theatre, now nearly five years ago. The reception of the opera on Monday evening was of a highly demonstrative character, and the Sullivan music and Gilbertian humour were appreciated with a keener zest, and applauded with a heartier enthusiasm, than ever. The most striking performance of the evening was certainly the Captain Corcoran of Mr. Lithgow James, who looked the part to the life, and acted and sang splendidly. Mr. John Le Hay gave an admirable representation of Sir Joseph Porter, and Mr. Walsham, despite severe hoarseness, made a capital impression as Ralph Rackstraw. Mr. R. Cummings resumed his old part of Bill Bobstay with signal success, his great "Englishman" song receiving an enthusiastic encore. Mr. E. Manning played Dick Deadeye with marked power, and Mr. C. H. Blythe and Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun., sustained the remaining male characters. The vocally exacting role of Josephine was undertaken with complete success by Miss Esme Lee, a charming actress and singer, who has all along greatly distinguished herself here in similar parts. Miss Lee acted the character, which is quite new to her, with her accustomed charm throughout, and sang the music with brilliant effect. Buttercup has always been one of Miss Madge Stavart's best parts, and on this occasion she did herself full justice, singing in a specially praiseworthy manner. Miss Alice Yorke made an excellent Hebe. The chorus was fairly good, but was deficient in female voices, and the orchestra, conducted by Mr. Ernest Elton, did its work well. The scenery was as usual characteristic, and the mounting perfect in every detail; while in the front of the house Mr. E. J. Benbrook, the energetic acting-manager, was able to cope successfully with the enormous crowds of visitors who have nightly besieged the doors eager to take advantage of the brief duration of this seasonable and refreshing engagement. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, July 21, 1883; Issue 2339.]

23rd – 28th Jul. Glasgow

GAIETY. – Proprietor, Mr. A. Livingstone; General Manager, Mr. T. T. Brindley. – One of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's companies is at this house with *H.M.S. Pinafore* at present, and, notwithstanding the fact that the opera is not now by any means a novelty, the audiences are large and very liberal with applause. The cast is not the best one Mr. Carte has sent us, but it is efficient nevertheless, and gives a fair account of the work. The company includes several favourites, who are particularly well received. Foremost amongst these is Miss Esme Lee, who enacts the part of Josephine in a graceful way, and sings her music very cleverly, gaining several encores. Miss Madge Stavart is an excellent Buttercup, and Miss M. May is equal to the role of Hebe. The First Lord of the Admiralty has an artistic exponent in Mr. John Le Hay, and Mr. Lithgow James as Captain Corcoran is thoroughly up to his work. Mr. R. Cummings is, both as an actor and vocalist, most artistic as Bobstay, and contributes materially to the success. Mr. H. Walsham sings fairly well as Ralph Rackstraw, but only acts indifferently, and Mr. Manning is only passable as Dick Deadeye. The performance goes well. *Quite an Adventure* precedes. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, July 28, 1883; Issue 2340.]

30th Jul. – 4th Aug. Blackpool

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. – Manager, Mr. Segenson. – Theatre goers are this

week provided with a more than average bill if fare. D'Oyly Carte's opera company appears tonight in *H.M.S. Pinafore. The Pirates of Penzance* was announced for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 4, 1883; Issue 2341.]

6th – 11th Aug. Preston

LOCAL NEWS.

THEATRE ROYAL. – After being closed for a week for re-painting and re-decorating, this popular place of entertainment will be opened for the autumn season on Monday evening. Mr. Ramsey has, at great expense, secured the services of a succession of brilliant companies, and, seeing his endeavours to place before the Preston public some of the best operas and plays that can be produced on the stage, it is to be hoped that abundance of pecuniary support will be bestowed on him by the public. A perusal of the list of companies engaged for the season will give an idea of what may be expected; they are highly spoken of by the London press. On Monday and the two following evenings the successful opera "H.M.S. Pinafore," by Mr. Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, will be produced by Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Opera Company. On Thursday and the two remaining evenings of the week the public of Preston will have their first opportunity of witnessing Gilbert and Sullivan's celebrated opera, "Pirates of Penzance." Mr. D'Oyly Carte's companies are always found to be of a high class character, and on this occasion it may be taken for granted that they will not be found wanting. A rich treat is in store for theatre-goers during next week. [*The Preston Guardian etc* (Preston, England), Saturday, August 4, 1883; Issue 3673.]

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Ramsey. – After being closed five weeks, during which the house has been thoroughly cleaned and renovated, Mr. Ramsey reopened for the season on Monday last with Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* company. The piece, always popular in Preston, has been received with more than usual favour, and has drawn capital and enthusiastic and houses. The principals are good, the mounting is excellent, the chorus strong and tuneful, the dresses are all that could be desired, and the opera has gone with a swing and crispness that could scarcely have been improved. *The Pirates of Penzance* was announced for the latter half of the week, and the engagements made up to the end of the year are an earnest of Mr. Ramsey's enterprise, and a proof of his determination to deserve success. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 11, 1883; Issue 2342.]

13th – 18th Aug. Leeds

THE GRAND THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. Wilson Barrett ; Acting Manager, Mr. Lee Anderson. – *H.M.S. Pinafore*, after a long interval, has been played at this theatre to very appreciative audiences. The public are evidently not tired yet of listening to Sir Arthur Sullivan's pleasing melodies or Mr. Gilbert's witty dialogue. The present company, under Mr. D'Oyly Carte's management, we think, is one of the very best that has appeared in the provinces in the popular nautical opera. For instance, the First Lord of Mr. John Le Hay, vocally and otherwise, is a capital performance and Mr. Fred. Billington is also a good vocalist, and his acting as Captain Corcoran is very praiseworthy indeed. Mr. Henry Walsham is heard to great advantage in the part of Ralph Rackstraw and Miss Esme Lee sings charmingly as Josephine. Miss Madge Stavart was lively and spirited, and in all respects very successful as Little Buttercup. The rest of the cast includes Mr. Edgar

Manning as Dick Deadeye Mr. Richard Cummings, Bill Bobstay; and Mr. C. M. Blythe, Bob Beckett. Miss Marian May was the Hebe. The chorus was large and well-up in the music, the whole performance going off with a crispness and animation quite refreshing. The dresses, evidently all new, were very bright and pretty, and it is almost needless to add that the quarter-deck of the "Pinafore," was as perfect as things usually are here. Encores were frequent, and the principals were twice recalled. Mr. Ernest Elton conducted with ability. The opera was preceded by the vaudeville *Quite an Adventure*, in which Miss Florence Harcourt and Messrs Lorraine, R. Christian, and Edgar Manning took part, and sang the incidental music with great spirit. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 18, 1883; Issue 2343.]

20th – 22nd Aug. Harrogate

23rd – 25th Aug. Derby

CORN EXCHANGE, DERBY

"H.M.S. PINAFORE"

The representation of "H.M.S. Pinafore," given at the Corn Exchange last week by the members of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comic opera company, was in many respects enjoyable. The absence of an orchestra could not, of course, be compensated for by the presence of a pianist, however skilful and careful he might be; but, this apart, there was little in the performance to which exception could be taken. We have seen more finished Sir Joseph Porters and more effective Dick Deadeyes than Mr. Le Hay and Mr. Manning; we have seen Captain Corcorans with more sprightliness than Mr. Billington displayed, and have heard Hebes more vocally competent than Miss Marian May proved herself to be. It further seemed to us that the female portion of the chorus did not at times sing or comport themselves with quite sufficient spirit. These, however, were points which did not interfere with the general acceptability of the reproduction. Taking the performance for what it practically was – a sort of drawing room costume recital – one can commend it for its excellence as a whole. The company is fortunate in possessing in Miss Esme Lee a chief soprano whose efforts as a singer and actress would in themselves make any entertainment of the kind agreeable. Miss Lee has a voice of much sweetness and considerable compass, and she knows how to use it with exceptional skill; she is also an actress of unusual intelligence; and, above all, she has a natural charm both of manner and of vocalisation which is likely to make her, in time, one of the most popular members of her profession. She is competent for higher things than such a part as Josephine, whose music is sung by her with an ease and power not usually communicated to it. The scena in the second act is one of the most elaborate passages in all Sir Arthur Sullivan's operettas, but it presents to Miss Lee no difficulty whatever, and her brilliant rendering of the morceau was, on Thursday, deservedly encored with enthusiasm. Miss Madge Stavart is, in her own line, as accomplished a vocalist as Miss Lee, and her assistance is always of the most valuable kind. She has had much experience in comic opera, and Little Buttercup is one of the most effective of her parts. Last week she sang with all her old mastery and acted with all her old aplomb, and her various efforts were heartily applauded. In the absence of Mr. Walsham, the part of Ralph was taken by Mr. Sydney, a tenor who has obtained much popularity in connection with Mr. Carte's companies, and who was well able to give force and expression both to the words and music of the role. He entered into the part with much vigour and vivacity, and did much to impart the requisite "go" to the performance. Mr. Richard Cummings repeated, as the boatswain, a success which he has often had before, the part being one in which he has always been a favourite. "He is an

Englishman" was sung with great sonority and humour, and was of necessity encored. Mr. Billington interpreted the music of the Captain with skill and judgement, and Mr. Le Hay had to give again the solo of Sir Joseph. He looked the part very well, and spoke the lines with evident appreciation. The Dick Deadeye showed a keen sense of the parts requirements, and Miss May acted with intelligence as Hebe. The chorus was sufficiently numerous, and, apart from the slight negligence named above, proved very efficient, helping to secure an encore for the charming concerted number immediately before the finale of Act I. The company was under the able management of Mr. E. G. Benbrook, and the local arrangements had been satisfactorily made by Mr. Harwood. [*The Derby Mercury* (Derby, England), Wednesday, August 29, 1883; Issue 8798.]

27th – 29th Aug. Newport (Mon)

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE. – Manager, Mr. H. G. Brickwell. – This theatre, after most extensive alterations and decorations, was reopened on Monday last by Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company. The piece selected for Monday and Tuesday was *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which was put upon the stage in a style of grandeur rarely witnessed in Newport. The cast was as follows;– The Right Hon. Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., Mr. John Le Hay; Captain Corcoran, Mr. F. Billington; Ralph Rackstraw, Mr. James Sydney; Dick Deadeye, Mr. Edgar Manning; Bill Bobstay, Mr. R. Cummings; Bob Becket, Mr. C. M. Blythe; Tom Tucker, Mr. Fitzaltamont, jun.; Little Buttercup, Miss Madge Stavart; Hebe, Miss Marian May; and Josephine, Miss Esme Lee. The honours of the evening fell to Sir Joseph, Captain Corcoran, Ralph Rackstraw, Dick Deadeye, Little Buttercup, and Josephine. The remaining characters, however, as also the full chorus, left little to be desired, whilst the band under Mr. Ralph Elton [*sic*], was as near perfection as possible. On Wednesday *Pinafore* gave place to *The Pirates of Penzance*. The house was densely crowded each evening. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 1, 1883; Issue 2345.]

3rd – 4th Sep. New Cross

PUBLIC HALL. – Lessee, Mr. W. Morton. – On Monday and Tuesday D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* and *Pirates of Penzance* company (No. 1) attracted the largest audiences ever assembled in this spacious building, which, as we noticed last week, has just been enlarged to seat 1,000 people. Every seat was occupied on both occasions, and many had to go away disappointed with their efforts to get admission. The Egyptian Hall being closed for a fortnight enabled the lessee to give his personal attention to the management, which was perfect in every detail. The performances were all that could be desired and thoroughly appreciated. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 8, 1883; Issue 2346.]

5th – 6th Sep. Kingston-upon-Thames

8th – 9th Sep. Richmond

Company Disbanded.