

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pinafore* and *Pirates* Company

26 December 1883 to 2 February 1884

26 Dec. – 12 Jan. Bath

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frederick Neebe; Acting Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Henry Ferrand.—On Saturday last there were two performances of *The Pirates of Penzance*, and upon both occasions there were capital audiences. On Monday *H.M.S. Pinafore* was put on, and it is repeated every night this week. It is rendered very completely. Mr. David Fisher takes the part of Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B., and is very successful, although there is a tendency to burlesque the character. Captain Corcoran is played by Mr. George Byron Browne very efficiently. He looks the part, and his voice is well adapted to it. Mr. James Sydney as Ralph Rackstraw is careful in singing and acting the part with vigour. Mr. Geo. Marler is very good as Dick Deadeye. As Josephine Miss Clara Merivale acts with care and sings with taste and judgement. Little Buttercup is nicely rendered by Miss Elsie Cameron, and Miss Josephine Woodward is well adapted to the part of Hebe. [*The Era*, 5 Jan. 1884, p. 3.]

“H.M.S. Pinafore” and “Pirates of Penzance” are being played alternately at Bath this week. Amongst the company are Messrs. James Sydney, Byron Browne, G. W. Marler, David Fisher, jun., and Mesdames Clara Merivale and Elsie Cameron. Next Monday they open at Devonport for two weeks. [*Western Times*, 9 Jan. 1884, p. 3.]

THEATRE ROYAL, BATH.—THIS EVENING (THURSDAY) and SATURDAY, D'OYLY CARTE'S Opera Company. PIRATES OF PENZANCE. FRIDAY, H.M.S. PINAFORE, preceded by the Comedietta, MOK TURTLES MORNING PERFORMANCE, SATURDAY NEXT, Jan. 12th, PIRATES OF PENZANCE, at 2.30. Doors Open at Two o'Clock.—On MONDAY, Jan. 14th, 1884, Messrs. SHIEL BARRY and WILLIAM HOGARTH'S LES CLOCHES DE CORNEVILLE Company. MORNING PERFORMANCE, SATURDAY, Jan 19.

Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette, 10 Jan. 1884.

14 – 26 Jan. Devonport

NEW THEATRE, DEVONPORT.

Lessee and ManagerMR. FREDERICK NEEBE.

TO-NIGHT and During the Week,

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S Popular COMIC OPERA,

H.M.S. PINAFORE.

SPECIAL TRAINS TO-DAY TO PLYMOUTH

at CHEAP FARES, returning at 11 p.m.

Tram Cars from Plymouth to Devonport free to visitors of Mr. Neebe's New Theatre.

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Daily Telegrams, 15 Jan. 1884

NEW THEATRE AND PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Neebe; Business Manager, Mr. F. Holt.—On Monday, the 14th, Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company appeared in *H.M.S. Pinafore*. The opera was produced under the able conductorship of Mr. Geo. Arnold. [*The Era*, 19 Jan. 1884, p. 3.]

NEW THEATRE, DEVONPORT.

Lessee and ManagerMR. FREDERICK NEEBE.

TO-NIGHT and During the Week,

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S Popular Comic Opera, The

PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

SPECIAL TRAINS TO-DAY TO PLYMOUTH

at CHEAP FARES, returning at 11 p.m.

Tram Cars from Plymouth to Devonport free to visitors of Mr. Neebe's New Theatre.

Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Daily Telegrams, 22 Jan. 1884

NEW THEATRE AND PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Neebe; Business Manager, Mr. F. Holt.—Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company commenced a second week of a successful engagement on Monday with *The Pirates of Penzance*. [*The Era*, 26 Jan. p. 3.]

28 Jan. – 2 Feb. Exeter

THEATRE ROYAL.

The "Pirates Penzance" was reproduced last evening before a fairly numerous and decidedly well pleased house. The members of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company are thoroughly at home in one of the most fascinating of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's operas. Indeed, would difficult to imagine a more complete and finished representation than that which held a judicious audience in constant admiration last evening. Leading and minor parts were alike admirably sustained. The varied and tuneful music was most artistically interpreted, songs, duets, and choruses eliciting rapturous plaudits, while *encores* were frequent. The unity characteristic of the entire production lent it its most effective charm. Whether as regarded the rendering of the well-known airs, the weirdly burlesque visitations of the rollicking pirates, the lugubriously humorous complaints of the police, the tender anxieties of General Stanley's pretty daughters, or the love-making episodes of the principal couple, a certain perfection was always noticeable. Art was concealed, but its presence was felt in the intelligence and completeness of the performance. The acting was marked by good taste, the setting was picturesque, and the music bewitching—even the clashing of the blades of the pirates' swords made melody. Miss Clara Merivale was a delightful Mabel, a winning and lucid vocalist, and the Piratical Maid-of-all-Work found a clever and characteristic exponent in Miss Elsie Cameron. Mr. George Byron Browne was first-rate Pirate King, and Frederic the Apprentice was most adequately impersonated by Mr. James Sydney. The parts the other members of the company fitted them like gloves. Mr. Weathersby was Major-General Stanley; Mr. John Morris took Samuel; Mr. George Marler the Sergeant of Police; and Edith, Kate, and Isabel had graceful representatives in Miss Josephine Woodward, Miss Marie Wynter, and Miss Carr Shaw. Laughter was plentiful all the evening. Mr. Carte's company will appear in "H.M.S. Pinafore" to-night, and reappear in the "Pirates" on Wednesday evening. [*Exeter and Plymouth Gazette Daily Telegrams*, 29 Jan. 1884, p.4.]

POPULAR OPERA AT THE THEATRE.

Last evening Mr. D'Oyly Carte's very competent Opera Company inaugurated short visit to this city at the Theatre Royal by a magnificent performance of "The Pirates of Penzance." There was larger attendance in every part of the Theatre than probably some might have expected so soon after the Pantomime, but the people of Exeter have again and again shown that they will heartily support and appreciate good opera efficiently represented—and after last night's splendid performance there can little doubt about the brilliant success of the rest of the representations this week. There wasn't a weak point in the performance. Mr. Geo. Byron Browne was once more on our stage a robust and inspiring Pirate King, the vigour of whose stirring air in the first act was exceedingly exhilarating, and well merited the hearty encore it won. Mr. Weathersby made a pleasing major-general, gaining a warm encore by his capital rendering of the well known ditty associated with his appearance in the first act. Mr. John Morris efficiently seconded the Pirate King as his lieutenant, his sweet and effective tenor voice being frequently admired. Mr. James Sydney's portrayal of the Pirate 'Prentice pleased everybody. The representation was natural and unaffected. Mr. Sydney sang his airs very finely indeed; especially was his beautiful and well-

disciplined tenor voice heard to advantage in the bright trio “An ingenious Paradox.” Miss Elsie Cameron’s Ruth was a finished performance. This lady is a rich and powerful contralto, and sings gracefully and impressively. But perhaps the chief place in this very talented company of artistes must be assigned Miss Clara Merivale, whose embodiment of Mabel was indeed a treat. Throughout the performance, in the concerted music as well as in her solos, she held the admiration of her audience either by her brilliant bravura singing or by her graceful and expressive vocalization in the more pathetic passages. Her “Poor Wandering One” was an especially clever performance, more particularly in regard to the successful manner which the unusually high notes were reached. Miss Merivale won by her very fine performance an enthusiastic encore. Miss Merivale’s assumption of Mabel was also noticeable for its frequent indications of true dramatic feeling and skill. All the choruses in this delightful opera were well rendered—some of them, indeed, exceptionally so. Tonight “Pinafore” will be represented; to-morrow evening *Pirates* will be performed; on Thursday night “Pinafore” is again to engage attention; for Friday night “*Pirates*” is announced, and the week will be wound up with a performance of “Pinafore.” It should be added that on Friday there will be a morning performance of “Pinafore.” [*Western Times*, 29 Jan. 1884, p. 5]

“PINAFORE” AT THE THEATRE.

Last evening Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s able Opera Company produced Gilbert and Sullivan’s popular work “H.M.S. Pinafore,” and the performance, it is scarcely necessary to add after what we said yesterday, was satisfactory to the minutest detail. The audience, a fairly numerous one, were delighted—as they frequently testified by their hearty applause. Mr. Weathersby was exactly fitted in style and in figure for the character he portrayed—that majestic official, the First Lord of the Admiralty. Mr. Geo. Byron Browne made a right good Captain Corcoran, being dignified and pleasant in all that he did. Mr. Jas. Sydney’s Ralph Rackstraw was entirely satisfactory. Mr. Geo. Master’s [*sic*] Dick Deadeye was amusing. Miss Elsie Cameron made a charming Little Buttercup, and Miss Josephine Woodward as Hebe had again opportunity for the use of her sweet and well-trained voice. The Josephine of Miss Clara Merivale was a charming impersonation. This graceful actress and refined vocalist several times roused the audience to enthusiasm by her splendid singing. Encores were numerous. To-night the ever-welcome “*Pirates*” will be performed—also Friday night; on Friday afternoon and on Saturday evening “Pinafore” will be repeated. It may be added that each performance by this highly creditable Company of artistes is preceded by the comedietta, “Mock Turtles.” Next week theatregoers may look forward—and they will anticipate the opera with unfeigned pleasure—to “*Les Cloches de Corneville*.” [*Western Times*, 30 Jan. 1884, p. 4]

THE THEATRE—There was a large attendance last evening at the Theatre Royal, when Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s able Opera Company performed Gilbert and Sullivan’s attractive work, “H.M.S. Pinafore.” The performance was extremely satisfactory, notwithstanding that two at least of the leading artistes were troubled with a cold, and the audience frequently gave emphatic evidence of their exceeding pleasure. In noticing on Wednesday a performance of “Pinafore” by this company on the previous night, we omitted to mention the very efficient exponent *Dick Deadeye* has in Mr. George Marler, who really plays the character to the life. It is also due to state that Mr. Marler is a capital *Sergeant of Police* in the “*Pirates of Penzance*.” Country visitors will be delighted if they attend the Theatre this afternoon, where at half-past two this splendidly-trained company will give a representation that popular

opera, "H.M.S. Pinafore." "The Pirates of Penzance" will be represented is the evening. [*Western Times*, Friday 1 February 1884.]

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frederick Neebe; Business Manager, Mr. M. Russell Rosse.—Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company have been playing on alternate evenings the popular operas *Pirates of Penzance* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* in a manner which has never been excelled here, if, indeed, it has been equalled. [*The Era*, 2. Feb. 1884, p. 3.]