

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE”

CHELMSFORD SOCIETY'S FINE SHOW

Major-General Stanley...Mr. Harold J. Hinde
The Pirate King.....Mr. Sidney Perrott
Samuel (his Lieutenant).....Mr. Jack Myall
Frederick (the Pirate Apprentice)

Mr. E. T. Parfitt
Sergeant of Police.....Mr. Cecil Bocking
Mabel } General { Miss Rose Rowbotham
Edith } Stanley's {Miss Vera Cannon
Kate } Daughters. {Miss Muriel Turner
Isabel }Miss Mabel Norrington
Ruth (a Pirate Maid of all work)

Miss Peggy Green
Musical Director.....Mr. F. H. Spivey
Producer.....Mr. H. Ashley Cooper
Hon. Chorus Master.....Mr. Lawrence Hey

Chorus of Pirates, Police, and General Stanley's Daughters.—Ladies: H. A. Alden, D. Bocking, E. Brazier, O. Catt, E. Chisnell, J. H. Hutton, E. M. Hey, K. Johnson, E. G. Lummis, L. Y. Marshall, E. M. Phillips, L. Smyth-Tyrrell. — Gentlemen: G. A. Barlow, H. A. Carrington, W. R. Catt, F. F. Christy, A. H. Hutton, A. J. Hobart, R. Jaquet, E. G. Jolley, G. Newcombe, K. G. Woodhouse, M. Phillips, A. C. Sticklen, A. W. Ward, G. N. Wilson.

Long skirts, the experts tell us, are to be the vogue. No more are we to see the dainty English girl in her short dresses. She is to wear long and flowing garments that cling to the figure. So long as those who determine the fashions do not reinstate those tortuous tight laced things which have been called “improvers,” and allow the modern girl to retain the freedom of movement which is hers to-day, all should be well. To see the dainty chorus of the Chelmsford Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society in their presentation of “The Pirates of Penzance,” at the Empire Theatre, this week, supports that prophecy, for they move about the stage in the charming, gay, old-fashioned dresses, free from the monstrosities their great-grandmothers had to wear—bewitching in this union of a past decade and modernity.

The Chelmsford Society have staged a real success. It may fairly claim to have put on at the Empire as good an amateur show as would be seen anywhere in Essex.

It was but a few weeks ago that the jubilee of “The Pirates” was celebrated at Paignton, where it was first produced. Fifty years—and still fresh as ever, with the exaggerated burlesque of the melodrama, and the happy wanderings in the kingdom of romantic fantasy.

The cast is good, and the choral singing admirable. The finale in the first act, especially in the unaccompanied part, was rendered delightfully, while Major-General Stanley's song, describing his varied accomplishments, was a great hit.

Set in a colourful scene, there is not a dull moment in the second act. When the policemen hold the stage we are treated to a piece of real, rollicking clowning, and when the pirates return we see Gilbert and Sullivan at their best.

Miss Rowbotham's beautiful voice was heard to great advantage. Mr. Parfitt sings well. Mr. Harold Hinde portrays the Major-General almost to the letter. The pirate chiefs, Messrs. Perrott and Myall, swagger as good pirates should. Miss Peggy Green is of course good and

very popular, and Mr. Bocking can always be relied upon. The Misses Cannon, Turner, and Norrington are all charming.

Of the music, “Poor Wandering One” (Rose Rowbotham and chorus); “When the foeman bares his steel” (Rose Rowbotham, Vera Cannon, and Cecil Bocking, with chorus); “When a felon's not engaged in his employment” (Cecil Bocking and chorus), and the Pirate Chorus at the end are the successes of the show. The whole piece is admirably done. The orchestra is exceptionally good, under Mr. F. H. Spivey. The chorus-master, Mr. Law-

rence Hey, has performed his work well. Mr. H. Ashley Cooper is the producer.

The Orchestra.—1st violins, Madame Edith Whitney (leader), Miss Maryon-Wilson, Mr. G. Ryder; 2nd violins, Dr. E. V. Slaughter, Mr. V. F. Waldau; viola, Mrs. Price-Smith; violoncello, Mr. B. H. Keall; double bass, Mr. W. L. Barclay; flute, the Rev. F. C. Blower; clarinet, Mr. V. de Camillis; oboe, Mr. E. M. Gough; bassoon, Mr. J. Stanley; cornet, Mr. S. Bianchi; trombone, Mr. F. J. Appleton; harp, Miss Lottie Bacon; tympani, Mr. W. H. Wareham; piano, Mr. L. Hey.

Hon. prompter, Major F. W. M. Powley; hon. call boy, Mr. B. E. Howes.



Photo: Spalding.
MISS ROSE ROWBOTHAM AS MABEL.

Myall, swagger as good pirates should.
Miss Peggy Green is of course good and

Photo: Spalding.
MISS ROSE ROWBOTHAM AS MABEL.



MAJOR-GENERAL STANLEY'S DAUGHTERS, the three principals in front being—Isobel (Miss Mabel Norrington), Edith (Miss Vera Cannon), and Kate (Miss Muriel Turner). Photo: Cossar.



THE PIRATE KING (Mr. Sidney Perrott) and his band. Photo: Cossar.