

Miss Irene Ainsley

Probably no musical event in our history has so stirred the people of Dunedin as the forthcoming visit of Melba's great protegee, Miss Irene Ainsley. The great contralto, who claims New Zealand as her birthplace, and therefore also claims the affection of New Zealanders as her birthright, is due to appear in His Majesty's Theatre next Monday and Tuesday. This musical event has absorbed local interest for some time now, and the reason is not far to seek. The contributing causes to Miss Ainsley's great popularity in New Zealand are as potent and forceful as they are natural. In the first place she is a native of New Zealand, and received her early musical tuition from the Sisters of Mercy, Auckland, and though it has delighted princes and people in distant lands to do her honor, she still comes to the New Zealanders as a gifted daughter of our own country. Again it can be said with all the force of truth, that Miss Irene Ainsley has not been spoiled or in any way detrimentally affected by her experiences in those upper realms of song and old-world circles, which might so easily have turned the head of a less-balanced and natural celebrity. Her naturalness and charm of grace are amongst her most valuable assets—valuable by the very reason of their naturalness. She is described as 'charming to meet, and a child of nature, both as regards her gift and her happy disposition.' All these phases tend to enhance the interest in her first appearance amongst us on Monday next. But in addition to these things is the consideration that she has not awaited the declension of her vocal powers before coming to us. Even if she felt any trepidation in coming back to sing to her own people, her great success during the past few weeks must have entirely dissipated all traces of misgiving. She has had splendid receptions, and has delighted her New Zealand audiences. Miss Ainsley has written a story on the records of New Zealand minstrelsy, and it is 'The glory of a great success.' The programme for her Dunedin season is a varied and excellent one. She is supported by the finest talent obtainable, including Mr. Hamilton Hodges. The box-plan for the local concert is open at the Dresden.

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Late Burnside Stock Report

Cattle.—There was a big yarding of 264 forward. Prices were firm at late rates. Best bullocks, £10 10s to £12 2s 6d; medium, £7 10s to £9 10s; inferior, £4 to £6 17s 6d; best heifers, up to £8; inferior and light, £4 5s to £7 10s.

Sheep.—2629 penned, a large yarding. Sales were fairly brisk, and prices for prime fat was better than those ruling last week. Best wethers, 20s to 22s 6d; extra, 23s 6d; medium, 17s 6d to 19s; inferior, 11s 6d to 16s; ewes, from 10s 6d to 17s 3d.

Lambs.—32 forward, which sold at up 22s.

Pigs.—125 forward. Suckers, 19s to 21s 6d; slips, 23s to 27s; stores, 32s to 36s; porkers, 37s to 42s; light baconers, 46s to 51s; heavy do, 56s to 58s; choppers, up to 84s.

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The Redemptorist Fathers' New Church, Wellington.



The Redemptorist Missioners, who have been doing great work for souls in the Dominion, are now about to open a new Church, and are appealing to their friends for financial aid to liquidate their heavy debt.

Those who wish to aid them may send their subscription to the Father Superior, Mount St. Gerard, Oriental Bay, Wellington.

The following is the copy of the appeal:—

We, the Redemptorist Fathers, take the liberty of sending you the following statement and appeal in connection with our new Church at Mount St. Gerard, Oriental Bay, Wellington.

Since our arrival in New Zealand, some four years ago, to labor for the people of the Dominion, we have striven hard to pay off the initial debt incurred in securing a permanent home at Oriental Bay, Wellington. The house, though in a good state of preservation, had to be altered and enlarged in order to accommodate the community, whilst we were forced to hold all the religious services in two of the rooms. The inconvenience of this became so great that, notwithstanding our lack of funds, and the already heavy debt incurred in the purchase of the property, we ventured, with the sanction and encouragement of his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M., to erect a new Church, placing our confidence in the good Providence of God and on the generosity and charity of the people for whom we labor.

As the special nature of our work prevents us from taking any parochial charge, we have no parishioners to whom we might appeal or who would share the burden of debt with us. Therefore, we reluctantly make our first public appeal to friends, benefactors, and the charitably-disposed to enable us to pay off the £6000 debt which we have been compelled to take on ourselves, without having any private resources whatever to draw on.

The many tokens of sympathy and kind appreciation that we have received in the past, both from the clergy, secular and regular, and from the laity in and outside the Dominion, make us hopeful that the response will be a generous one.

The new Church will be solemnly blessed and opened on Sunday, 22nd November, 1908, at 10.30 a.m., by his Grace Archbishop Redwood, S.M. Should you be unable to be present at the ceremony, any offering you may wish to make will be gratefully received by any of the Redemptorist Fathers, and your name will be inscribed on the list of our honored benefactors.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK J. CLUNE, C.S.S.R.,
Superior.

His Grace the Archbishop of Wellington will perform the ceremony of blessing and opening the Church, and will also preach the occasional sermon. His Lordship Bishop Grimes will pontificate at High Mass, and preach in the evening.

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