

Oliver Cromwell

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enters, opening a letter. It is from her father, and she reads it aloud. In it Cromwell tells of the battle of Edgehill, which was not decisive, and states his intention of returning home to recruit more men.

Soon after he enters with Ireton, who is wounded in the arm. The mayor, who had been sent for, arrives and to him Cromwell appeals for help to assemble an army.

The next scene reveals General Fairfax in his tent with his officers, holding a council of war. It is dawn of the day of the battle of Naseby, on which Charles has staked his all.

There is some misgiving at the absence of Cromwell, who with his veteran "Ironsides" would be sorely needed in the field as an example to the remainder of the troops, who were mostly inexperienced in battle.

In the distance a dust-cloud is seen, and excitement grows, breaking into cheers and exclamations of relief as it resolves into a band of horsemen, led by Cromwell.

It is night. The action has ended, with victory to Cromwell. Ireton is severely wounded, and Cromwell, himself battered and with a slight head wound, stands by the couch.

On being assured his friend will recover, he leaves to dictate a letter to the Speaker of the House of Commons, advising him of the victory.

Outside his Puritan troops are heard singing the 117th Psalm: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him all ye people."

The next scene reveals a room in Hampton Court, where Charles First, now a prisoner with the army, is lodged.

Charles and his secretary, Neal, are plotting to form a secret alliance with Scotland, and to bring about their own deliverance by the invasion of a Scottish army. Charles dictates a statement setting forth his terms, guaranteeing among other things Presbyterian control of England for three years and suppression of all Independents.

Neal has just assured the King that Cromwell will not call on them that evening, when the door opens, and the Protector enters with Ireton. Neal has just time to conceal the seditious document under a folio case before he retires.

Cromwell offers Charles his throne back, assuring him of his fullest support. "Do but give us our guarantees, and you will mount a securer throne, I think, than any king has yet held in England." Charles asks for time to consider, and Cromwell agrees.

They then fall to discussing painters and painting. Charles hands Cromwell a Van Dyck drawing for his criticism and, to support it, Cromwell picks up the folio case. In replacing it, his eye falls on the fateful document, and Charles's iniquity is revealed.

Cromwell's house in London, on the morning of January 30, 1649—the date of Charles the First's execution.

From a near street comes the sound of muffled drums, and Bridget, at the window, can see the heads of the pikes carried by the troops in the procession. She calls her mother, who enters, fol-

ILLUSTRATED MUSIC TALKS

Brilliant Pianiste Broadcasts

LISTENERS to 2YA on Monday night, December 28, heard from that station for the first time a well-known Auckland pianiste in the person of Miss Alice Law, who is at present in Wellington representing her city at the Conference of the Society of Musicians.

Miss Law, who has been associated for some time with station 1ZR, Auckland, makes a speciality of illustrated musical talks. This feature from 1ZR is considered to be one of the finest from that station, and she has received an encouraging amount of commendation as a result. Taking as her subject the notable figures in musical history, she not only presents some of their finest music, but talks about the musicians and their work, adding interest to the recital.

It was along these lines that Miss Law broadcast on Monday night and on which she will again broadcast on January 18, when she will take as her subject Mendelssohn. In this type of work she has given lecture-recitals to the Auckland Lyceum Ladies' Club (of which she is a member), the Penwomen's League and other organisations.

Miss Law has had a brilliant musical career, which was commenced in New Zealand. Going to London, she studied for and gained the L.R.A.M. degree. Returning to New Zealand she took up the teaching profession, but just prior to the War, went back to England and from there to Germany, to study at the Stern Conservatorium, of which

lowed shortly after by old Mrs. Cromwell.

The drums stop, and for several minutes all is quiet. Then, out of the stillness, they commence again, this time to the accompaniment of voices and sounds of movement from the streets.

As Ireton remarked, "He was a king and he despoiled his people. When that is, kings must perish."

The last scene is in Mrs. Cromwell's bedroom in Whitehall, where Cromwell is now installed as Protector. It is six years later, and Mrs. Cromwell, now 94, is on her death-bed,



she now holds a diploma. This is a coveted honour, held by very few musicians.

Whilst in Berlin she was offered a staff position and a request was made that she should not go "back to that savage country where her talent would be wasted."

"Strangely enough," Miss Law said, "my work was more appreciated in Germany than elsewhere." This is a fine tribute as the Germans are probably one of the most musical races and set a very high stan-

dard in music—particularly pianoforte.

Whilst in that country Miss Law heard all the famous artists of the world. She was offered a scholarship—an extremely rare honour—but because she wished to study under a different master, chose not to accept it. "It is as well I made that decision," said Miss Law, "as, had I remained in that country I would have been detained there, probably over the war period, as a few months after I left the country, war was declared."

Miss Law is a well-known Auckland teacher and has coached pupils for the highest musical examinations, including L.A.B., F.T.C.L., in theory and pianoforte. She takes a keen interest in the work of the Blind Institute, several of her blind pupils having received scholarships and medals.

It is to be hoped in future we shall be able to hear more of Miss Law's broadcasts.

She tells her son she is proud of him. "It will be a freer land because you have lived in it, my son. . . . And now, I am tired. . . . I leave my heart with you. A good night."

She falls asleep, and the curtain drops, leaving Cromwell praying at his mother's bedside.

High Efficiency

IN a review of the year's work, the Broadcasting Corporation mentions that its stations transmitted for nearly 68,000 hours, and the percentage of breakdown time was only .03.

Radio in the Islands

A Visitor's Experiences

MR. S. A. HEGINBOTHAM, who has returned to New Zealand after being loaned for six years by the P. and T. Department to the Cook Islands Administration, took the first radio set to the group. Rarotonga alone has twenty to-day, mostly owned by Europeans.

The most sought after broadcasts are the news sessions from New Zealand, which constitutes the white people's daily paper. Only a few natives have sets, and their delight is jazz from America and Australia, which both come in very well in the group. So, also, does Japan. Being in the tropics, atmospheric interference is bad, but that is compensated for in a measure by the absence of induction.

"Radio," says Mr. Heginbotham, "is the greatest invention of the age as far as the islands are concerned, and as soon as they get a little money after depression the natives will buy sets freely. One of the most striking uses of radio in the group has been the furnishing of medical advice from the doctor at Rarotonga to patients on the islands. Then, again, by being in contact with approaching ships we are now able to let the natives know exactly when to pick their fruit. There is no such thing to-day as fruit rotting on the wharves waiting for delayed steamers."

"Pirates" Rife In England

Estimated at One Million

LONDON is leading with radio pirates in quite a profitable manner. The Post Office has been sending out wireless detector vans, five of them identifiable as such by the aerial visible on the roof, and one disguised as a private car. As a result of the voyages of the detector vans through some 5000 miles of London streets, 80,000 licenses have been taken out within a week, in addition to the normal growth of licenses issued.

"Give me a wireless license quickly, the van is in our street," was the frank demand of one householder. Within a week the Post Office has received £10,000 from these evaders, and about a hundred prosecutions have been authorised, while many more are being considered. A Post Office authority estimates that, judging from these London disclosures, there are probably a million unlicensed wireless sets throughout the country.

Ingenuous Transmitters

A RADIO mechanism designed to alter the characteristics of broadcast speech, so that it becomes unintelligible to all listeners not equipped with the proper equipment has been invented by an American experimenter. By his plan the speech is broken up into three parts and transmitted on three channels. At the receiving end the components are combined in the correct relationship.