

THE EMERALD ISLE.



THE WISBECH AMATEUR
OPERATIC & DRAMATIC
SOCIETY

Feb. 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 1930

"THE EMERALD ISLE"

OR

"THE CAVES OF CARRIG-CLEENA."

The Story of the Opera.

The play attempts to give a picture of superstitious and ignorant Irish peasantry jealously upholding their ancient customs and rights, and resentful of the methods and manners of a Saxon Viceroy. Their cause is championed by Terence, who, unfortunately for this rôle, has had an English education, speaks English without a brogue, and has acquired English tastes even to falling in love with Rosie, the Viceroy's daughter. Terence's chief grievance seems to lie in the fact that the English acquired Terence's home for the Viceroy's residence, and Terence, descendant of the Boru's, Kings of Erin, proposes to restore to the peasantry their Irish brogue and manners. For this purpose he secures the services of a stranger, Professor Bunn, who professes every art (and deception) under the sun, and him, Terence resolves to initiate into the Clan na Gael that night at the Caves of Carrig-Cleena, which is alleged to be haunted by fairies. Terence leaves Bunn in charge of Blind Murphy, a fiddler, who is affianced to Molly, a peasant girl; and Murphy is anxious to get "cured" of his "blindness," which Bunn offers to attempt. Meanwhile, the Lord Lieutenant gets an anonymous letter giving information that Terence is in hiding in the Caves of Carrig-Cleena, but Rosie is able to warn her lover of his danger. Murphy is engaged by the Lord Lieutenant to be his piper in the march against the rebels, much to the disgust of Molly, who by this thinks Murphy is the traitor who has informed the Viceroy.

Bunn disguises himself as an old man, and gets on very well with Susan, who is maid to Rosie, and Terence suspects this stranger as the informer, but Molly begs to differ, offering no names. Anyway Molly conceives the idea of frightening all the soldiers, who are only Devonshire yokels, by appearing as the Fairy Cleena, who, according to the legend, inveigles men to her cave, and keeps them there for fifty years. Bunn offers to add colour to this artifice by appearing as a very old man and stating he has been one of the victims. This ruse causes the soldiers to refuse to go to the caves after the rebels, and all get panic stricken, either feigned or real, when they see Molly in the guise of the Fairy.

Nevertheless, Blind Murphy resolved to have his sight "restored" by some means, risks a visit to the caves, and is thereby more than ever suspected by Molly as being the traitor, especially as he has piped the Lord Lieutenant and his followers there. Bunn gets to the caves, not in his disguise, but in his first dress, and gets on very well with Molly, but unfortunately is seen by Susan. He pacifies her, but the next difficulty for them all is to deal with Blind Murphy. Bunn undertakes to settle him once more by the ruse of an apparition, and when Murphy appears determined to return to his Molly with a tale of his miraculous cure by the Fairy Cleena, Bunn, by means of his trickery, really makes Murphy believe that he sees the Fairy, which illusion is really Molly's image and Rosie's voice singing a love song to her lover Terence. Murphy swoons and is discovered by the rebels, charged with being a spy, and tried. Molly acts the part of the prisoner's friend, and is herself surprised to learn that he never has been blind. For this deception he is sentenced to banishment.

When the soldiers arrive with the Lord Lieutenant and the Countess, Bunn by further artifices is able to show the Viceroy that the caves contain not rebels but fairies. Asked to explain the anonymous letter, to learn the writer of which the Viceroy has offered a thousand guineas, Bunn as an expert on handwriting confesses that he wrote it himself and claims the reward. The Lord Lieutenant in giving the reward to Bunn, orders his arrest as one of the rebels, and shot. Murphy and the men appearing, they are ordered to be arrested and shot; finally Terence appears and claiming all responsibility on behalf of the rebels, is ordered to be arrested and shot. Rosie intercedes for her lover's life, but the Lord Lieutenant points out that Rosie must look higher than a rebel, as she has American blood in her veins. On hearing this, Bunn explains that had the rebels known that the Viceroy and his family had American blood, the rebels would never have risen against them. This explanation or apology is accepted by the Viceroy, all are forgiven, and the respective couples pair off for final curtain.

Programme

Dramatis Personae.

Earl of Newtown, K.P. (Lord Lieutenant of Ireland)	J. W. Fletcher
Dr. Fiddle, D.D. (his Private Chaplain)	R. V. Haddow
Terence O'Brien (a young rebel) L. W. Teed
Professor Bunn	George Deacon
Pat Murphy (a Fiddler)	A. W. Collett
Black Dan	} Irish Peasants {
Mickie O'Hara	
Sergeant Pincher	} H.M. 11th Regiment {
Private Perry	
The Countess of Newtown W. G. Crump
Lady Rosie Pippin (her Daughter) M. E. Lock
Molly O'Grady (a Peasant Girl) M. Levers
Susan (Lady Rosie's Maid) E. Coupe
Nora	Dora Cornaby
Kathleen	} Peasant Girls {
	... G. L. Coupland

Ladies of the Chorus:

The Misses E. M. Cooke, M. E. Russell, M. Littlechild, M. Frost, Claxton, N. Cornaby, R. Loveday, D. Whitby, M. Hammant, D. Fletcher, E. M. Bland, F. I. Smith, I. Miller, E. Coupe, G. V. Kilham, Kitchen, Thompson, Farrar, Harradence, Gibbs, Waling. Mesdames D. Smith, Gay, C. Warner, L. Ride, L. Ward, Gray, G. Deacon, Wray, J. M. Levers.

Gentlemen of the Chorus:

C. W. Dann, R. S. Free, E. H. Goodwin, J. R. Jenkinson, E. H. Marshall, K. C. Sharpe, L. Ride, J. L. Preece, R. Gray, Thomas, H. A. House.

Act 1 Outside the Lord Lieutenant's Country Residence

Act 2 The Caves of Carrig-Cleena

Scenery by Messrs. G. M. Bridges Ltd., King's Lynn.

Costumes and Wigs, etc., by B. J. Simmons & Co., Ltd., London.

Palms and Ferns kindly lent by Mr. Walter L. Bassett.

Lighting and Electrical Effects under the direction of Mr. H. B. Heath.







