

Mr. D'Oyly Carte's No. 1 *Pirates* Company

10 Apr – 16 Dec. 1882

10 – 15 Apr. Manchester

THEATRE ROYAL.

After fortnight of phenomenal success, Sullivan and Gilbert's *Patience* has retired from the stage of this theatre, but the joint authors still keep the boards. Their opera *The Pirates of Penzance* was under performance last evening, the engagement being for one week. The company is newly organised. Evidences of this were not wanting from the performance; and, curiously enough, they betrayed themselves most clearly and frequently in the first act. The principals, however, are, several of them, familiar with their parts; and the names of all are pleasantly recognised because favourably known in connection with operatic work in Manchester. They include Mr. David Fisher, junior, Mr. G. W. Marnock, Mr. T. Hemsley, Mr. G. W. Traverner, Mr. G. F. Marler, Miss Esma [*sic*] Lee, and Miss Madge Stavart. It is interesting to notice in connection with the joint productions of Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Gilbert the gradually increasing assertion of the influence of the latter, and the parallel assumption of lessening position by the former, the position becoming almost secondary in *Patience*. There is one step in this direction between *The Sorcerer* and *Pinafore*; a second between *Pinafore* and *The Pirates*; and a third and greater between *The Pirates* and *Patience*. It is not only in the quantity but in the quality of the music that the nature of this third step is made apparent; and while the fascinating character of Gilbert's work in the last-named opera cannot be denied, last evening's performance would show to the casual listener that the musical value of *Patience* is much less than is that of *The Pirates*. The performance last evening possessed considerable merit; and this merit will be much increased after a little united experience has placed band, chorus, and principals more thoroughly in unison with each other and the conductor. The audience was large and enthusiastic. There were several encores, the skill of Miss Esma Lee as Mabel, and of Mr. Marler, in his old part of the police-sergeant, contributing largely towards securing these envied compliments. The opera was exceedingly well mounted, and the dresses and appointments seem to be as new as they are tasteful. The principals were called before the curtain at the close the performance, which was followed by the farce of *Mock Turtles*. [*Manchester Courier*, 11 Apr 1882]

THE THEATRE ROYAL. – It is not always that the Manchester theatres present to the play goer the choice of three distinct courses; but that is the case just now – tragedy, melodramatic opera, and sensational drama being respectively offered. The qualities of “*The Pirates of Penzance*” are too well known to call for more than the mention of the fact that Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company is playing the opera at the Royal for the third time in this city, and that, with not more than two material exceptions, the company is the same as we have seen it here before – Mr. G. W. Traverner, whose merit lies more in his singing than in his acting filling the part of the pirate apprentice, and Miss Esme Lee sustaining the role of the first of the Major-General's daughters, a character which she renders with much grace and spirit, and with a sweetness of voice which training and experience may make even still more enjoyable. [*Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, April 15, 1882; Issue 1266.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Captain Bainbridge. – *Patience* has been succeeded by *The Pirates of Penzance*, an opera already well known to Manchester play goers. The company engaged in its performance is almost identical with that which has before appeared on the boards of the Prince's. Mr. Traverner as Frederic

and Miss Esme Less as Mabel both call for special notice, the latter singing with admirable sweetness and taste. Mr. David Fisher, jun., again creates a favourable impression in the role of the Major General; and Messrs. Marnock and Marler lend capital support. The opera is well mounted, and the choruses ably rendered. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 15, 1882; Issue 2273.]

17 – 22 Apr. Huddersfield

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE” AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.— Last evening Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan’s melo-dramatic opera, “The Pirates of Penzance,” was reproduced at the Theatre Royal, in the presence of a large audience, by one of the companies organised by Mr. D’Oyly Carte. The company, whilst a good one, is perhaps scarcely equal to that which first appeared at the Theatre in this popular comic opera. Some of the characters have undergone a change in their representation, but despite this fact the artistes were well received, and gave a capital rendering of the piece. Mr. D. Fisher, Junr., filled the rôle of Major-General Stanley in a very droll and amusing manner, his patter song being, as usual, loudly applauded. Frederic, the hero of the piece, finds a very good impersonator in Mr. Traverner, and Mr. G. W. Marnock, though scarcely so vigorous and spirited as might be desired, yet plays his part of the Pirate King fairly well. Samuel, the Lieutenant (Mr. F. Hemsley), and the Sergeant of Police (Mr. Marler) are very good, more especially the latter, his songs in the second act being heartily encored. Miss Esma Lee enacts the part of the heroine — if sash a term may be applied — in a most creditable manner, having a very sweet voice, which was heard to great advantage in the ballad “Poor wandering one,” and also in the duet with Frederic. Miss Madge Stavart impersonates the piratical maid of all work, Ruth, and in some portions of the opera her efforts are praiseworthy. Edith (Miss De Valance), Kate (Miss A. Bernard), and Isabel (Miss Findlay) perform the small portions allotted to them successfully, and the choruses run well throughout. A vaudeville, entitled “Mock Turtles,” in which the characters are sustained by Mr. F. Hemsley, Miss B. Millner, Miss A. Bernard, and Miss Vincent, precedes Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan’s work. [*Huddersfield Chronicle*, Tuesday 18 April 1882, p.3.]

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Lessee, Mr. J. W. White. – The tuneful *Pirates of Penzance* have again charmed the ears of the musical public this week. The company has, since its last appearance, seen almost a complete change in its cast, but the representation of the piece is fully kept up to its early standard. Mr. G. W. Marnock, Mr. David Fisher, jun., Mr. Marler, and Mr. F. Hemsley are old favourites here in their respective roles, and amongst the new comers are Miss Esme Lee (Mabel), Miss Madge Stavart (Ruth), and Mr. G. W. Traverner (Frederic). The chorus has been commendable, and the whole production reflects credit upon Mr. Robinson, the conductor. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 22, 1882; Issue 2274.]

24 – 29 Apr. Sheffield

THE THEATRE ROYAL, SHEFFIELD

“The Pirates of Penzance,” which will occupy the boards of the “Royal” during the present week must by this time be sufficiently familiar to most Sheffield playgoers not to need description. Upon previous occasions the “Pirates” has met with a hearty welcome, and although last night the theatre was not so well filled as we had expected to see it upon the third visit of Gilbert and Sullivan’s successful melo-dramatic opera, good “business” will no doubt be done ere the week is over. There are

one or two alterations in the cast since the last visit, Miss Alice Aynsley Cook appearing as the “piratical maid of all work” – Ruth. Although not possessing the buxom charms of her predecessor, Miss Cook has a voice of much greater sweetness and power, and is a careful actress. Mr. David Fisher, Jun., depicts the “modern major-general” with all his former humour; Mr. G. W. Marnock renders the songs allotted to the Pirate King and acts the part as well as ever, and Mr. G. W. Traverner again represents Frederic, the pirate apprentice, with fair success. Miss Esme Lee as Mabel sings her difficult music with taste and displays a charming style; and Mr. T. Hemsley is seen to advantage as lieutenant to the Pirate King. Mr. G. F. Marler, the sergeant of police, again accompanies Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s company, and his most amusing and carefully-studied performance of past seasons has not in the least deteriorated. The chorus, although scarcely so strong as before, is well up to its work, and the piece is well dressed. [*The Sheffield & Rotherham Independent* (Sheffield, England), Tuesday, April 25, 1882; pg. 3; Issue 8592.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. E. Romaine Callender. – Once more Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan’s opera reigns for a week here, Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s *Pirates of Penzance* company having commenced their fourth or fifth engagement here on Monday, 24th, instant. Most of the parts are in the same hands as before; such, for instance, as that of the Major-General by Mr. David Fisher, the Police sergeant by Mr. G. F. Marler, the Pirate King by Mr. G. W. Marnock. Of the alterations in the cast the most important, perhaps, is the engagement of Miss Alice Aynsley Cook as Ruth. Both her acting and vocalism in this part are particularly suitable. Miss Esme Lee as Mabel is earning the warmest praise for her exquisite vocalism, and Mr. G. W. Traverner as Frederic more than sustains the good opinions he has won on the occasion of his former visits. The opera is drawing good audiences nightly. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, April 29, 1882; Issue 2275.]

1 – 6 May. Glasgow

GAIETY. – Proprietor, Mr. C. Bernard; General Manager, Mr. John Heslop. – Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s company commenced an engagement here on Monday evening with *The Pirates of Penzance*, which appears to have lost none of its attractive power if the presence of a large audience is anything to go by. The clever satirical work was capitally represented, and evoked hearty laughter and applause, the pleasing music being as much appreciated as heretofore. Several changes have been effected in the cast since last the opera was performed in Glasgow. Mr. G. W. Traverner, who now assumes the role of Frederic, is a decided acquisition to the company, and his singing finds great favour. Miss Alice Aynsley Cook is an excellent Ruth, and Miss Esme Lee is a very pleasing Mabel. Messrs. G. W. Marnock, T. Hemsley, and D. Fisher, jun., sustain respectively the characters of the Pirate King and his Lieutenant and Major-General Stanley, as before, their clever impersonations contributing largely to the success of the performance. The setting of the stage is fairly good. An amusing vaudeville entitled *Mock Turtles* precedes the opera. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 6, 1882; Issue 2276.]

8 – 13 May. Dundee

THEATRE ROYAL

At the Theatre Royal this evening Dundonians are to be introduced to one of Messrs. Gilbert & Sullivan’s latest and finest creations, Although the “Pirates of

Penzance” did not create such a *furore* as “Pinafore” did when first produced, many critics give it the preference in point of real merit; and had it preceded that inimitable satire on our navy it is not at all impossible it would have gained an equally wide popularity. As it is it ran for many hundred nights in London at the Opera Comique, and wherever it has been performed it has created the greatest enthusiasm. Both in music and dialogue there is a striking resemblance. There is any amount of puns, and funny songs, and happy hits, which follow each other in so quick succession, that the risibility of the audience is never allowed to flag. The music is pregnant with true Sullivan melody, and many of the songs are catching and abiding. Among these may be named the song and chorus, “I am a Pirate King” and the beautiful soprano solo, “Poor Wandering One.” The opening pirates’ chorus and the chorus of police are also engaging numbers. The company which Mr. D’Oyly Carte has brought with him, we understand, is a good one. We notice several old names on the list, as Mr. Traverner and Mr. Hemsley, and we doubt not the Theatre will be crowded during the six nights on which the piece is to be run. [From *The Dundee Courier & Argus* (Dundee, Scotland), Monday, May 8, 1882; Issue 8988.]

Last evening commenced a six nights’ engagement of Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s “Pirates of Penzance” Opera Company. Of the recent novelties which Mr. McFarland has introduced to us, this is at once one of the most important and most satisfactory. The work is essentially both written and composed in Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan’s best mood, and consequently is pleasing to the ear, inoffensive to good taste, and ever laughter provoking. These gentlemen seem to have a thoroughly profound sense of humour, and it is really wonderful how much comicality and fun they get out of a simple situation, movement of the body, catch phrase, or musical strain. All conspire towards the same inevitable end. As already pointed out in our yesterday’s notice, the opera, both as to libretto and music, has a strong likeness to “Pinafore,” and, we might add, that it has many points in common with “Sorcerer.” The patter song of “John Wellington Wells,” for instance, is immediately suggested by the Major-General’s song, “I am the very pattern,” &c. Such instances of resemblances occur throughout the work, and when we consider the strong individuality of the authors, we cannot be the least surprised. The fact is more pleasing than otherwise, as one has just the feeling of meeting old friends in new garbs, and such friends! The company which Mr. Carte has sent round is all round one of the best he has sent this way. The chorus is exceptionally good, particularly in the ladies’ voices. The soprano is bright and full, and has the merit – alas! so often absent – of singing in tune. The male voices are also of fair quality, and barring want of weight in the lower notes, form a good base for the concerted pieces. The leading characters are each and all admirably sustained. Miss Lee’s “Mabel” is a competent performance, whether as to action, voice, or conception. Her movements are graceful, and, so far as is necessary in comic opera, her demeanour as the daughter of the Major is lady-like and natural. Her voice is very flexible, and of pure soprano quality, as her rendering of the beautiful, though exacting air, “Poor Wandering One,” amply demonstrated. She should, however, keep the tremolo stop off as often as possible. “Ruth” had a good representative in Miss Aynsley Cook, her fine contralto appearing to best advantage in her opening solo. The minor parts of “Kate,” “Edith,” and “Isabel” were also all intelligently sustained. The “Pirate King” of Mr. Marnock was in many respects a telling delineation, in others not quite up to the mark. He looked the part to perfection, and, with the exception of a proneness to that most objectionable and absurd tremolo, his vocal efforts were generally satisfactory, though he certainly did not make the most of his principal song, “I am a Pirate King.” This is one of the most catchy numbers in the opera, and

had it been done with proper gusto would have been certain to receive an encore. He is also a little too stagey in his acting. Mr. Traverner gave a good account of the part of Frederic, musically speaking, but was a little stiff in his movements about the stage. Many of the numbers that fell to his lot, from the former point of view, however, were artistically rendered. His finest effort was in the duet with Mabel, in the second act, as indeed in this Miss Lee and he must be said to have made the musical effect of the evening. The Major had a capital exponent in Mr. Fisher, jr. He is undoubtedly the actor of the company. True, he has a good part, but he is so thoroughly at home in it, and delivers his funniest remarks with so much gravity, that he "orphan" fairly convulses the house. The police chorus is also very comic, as are also the choruses of girls, all of which were capitally sung. The band played well under the baton of Mr. Robinson, and the dresses and stage appointments are in keeping with the general excellence of the performance. The theatre should be crowded during the week, as all who like to hear a good opera by a good company will doubtless avail themselves of this opportunity. [*The Dundee Courier & Argus and Northern Warder* (Dundee, Scotland), Tuesday, May 9, 1882; Issue 8989.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. W. McFarland. – *The Pirates of Penzance* was played here for the first time last week. The company is one of the best Mr. Carte has ever organised, and the success of the engagement was deservedly great. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 13, 1882; Issue 2277.]

MR. PAUL'S ELEVEN v. ELEVEN OF THE "PIRATES OF PENZANCE" OPERATIC COMPANY. - This match came off in the Baxter Park on Friday. The weather being very fine there was a large turn-out of spectators. Mr. Paul's team went to the wickets first, and made a total of 46. Sword played well for his double figure, and was ably supported by J. Cameron. The "Pirates" were unfortunate, only getting 27. The strangers were smart in the field and missed no chance. Below are the details of the game:-

PAUL'S ELEVEN		"PIRATES OF PENZANCE"	
T. M'Mahon, c Marnock	0	Marnock, c M'Mahon	4
T. Ritchie, c Cubitt	0	C. Cubitt, b Currie	7
G. Douglas, c W. H. Lloyd	0	Mahoney, b M'Mahon	0
J. Cameron, b Cubitt	7	Lloyd, b M'Mahon	1
G. Sword, b Cubitt	16	R. Cabrit, b do.	6
A. G. Mitchell, b Lloyd	4	Robertson, b do.	3
W. M'Bain, c Hodson	0	Price, b. Currie	1
Miles, not out	4	Marler, b M'Mahon	0
Currie, lbw, b Cubitt	3	Hodson, b Currie	0
H. Mitchell, stumped	2	Stanley, not out	0
Spalding, lbw, b Cubitt	3	Daynall, lbw	0
Extras	7	Extras	5
	46		27

[*Dundee Advertiser*, Tuesday 16 May 1882, p.9.]

15 – 20 May. Aberdeen

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE THE "PIRATES OF PENZANCE."

It is now about two years since the production of the "Pirates of Penzance" at the Opera Comique, and many have been the inquiries of play goers as to when we in Aberdeen were likely to have an opportunity of seeing this famous piece. Though long delayed, it is now performed, we are glad to say, with a completeness worthy of the originality and talent of the author and the composer that have done so much for

our native school of comic opera. It is now almost superfluous to dwell upon the plot of the "Pirates," but we may briefly indicate its leading features. The hero, Frederic, has been in his early youth bound apprentice to a pirate, instead of a pilot, by the error of his nurse Ruth, a character corresponding generally to the Little Buttercup of the "Pinafore." The apprenticeship expires on his twenty-first birthday, and when he has accomplished the score and one year he announces his intention to devote his future efforts to the extinction of the pirates, whose comrade he has previously been. He has just attained the blissful term of his unwelcome servitude, and is wandering among the rocks of Penzance, when he meets the numerous daughters of Major-General Stanley, with the eldest and prettiest of whom he falls passionately in love. We should explain that Frederic is a martyr to his sense of duty, which sense has prevented him from quitting the pirates before the expiry of his indenture, and now urges him to undertake their extermination. In the hour of triumph, however, his hopes are dashed by the information that, as he chanced to be born on the 29th of February, he has only seen five birthdays, and so is bound to the pirates for fifty or sixty years longer. Still bound by his sense of duty, he gives up his love and returns to the pirate band. The pirates, while endeavouring to secure and promptly punish Frederic's prospective father-in-law, the Major-General, are confronted by a body of police. In point of strength the buccaneers overpower the guardians of the law; but being summoned to yield in the name of Queen Victoria, they do so without a murmur, for "with all their faults, they love their Queen." As it is subsequently discovered that they are all "noblemen gone wrong," and as "Britain loves her House of Peers," the pirates give up their evil ways, and marry the numerous daughters of the gallant Major-General, and it is to be presumed, live happily ever afterwards!

As compared with "H.M.S. Pinafore," it may be said of the "Pirates" that there are not probably so many airs likely to achieve general and widespread popularity, the opera, as a whole, is fully as humorous in conception and execution, and many of the particular numbers are very fetching and attractive. Mr. Gilbert's book is in no way inferior to the libretto of "Pinafore;" and Mr. Sullivan's music is fresh, taking, and effective. Nearly all the principal numbers were encored last night, and the house (a very good one, though not crowded) was very appreciative. Ruth's song and the song and chorus of the Pirate King were loudly redemanded; and the lovely air, "Poor Wandering One," for Mabel and chorus, which forms the eighth number of the first act, and is repeated at the close, was received, and deservedly, with the loudest and most genuine applause. The Major-General's song, always a sure draw, was scarcely so perfect in enunciation as it might have been, there being a slight tendency to slurring in the more difficult passages. In the second act the "Ta-ran-ta-ra" chorus, and the famous solo and chorus by the Sergeant of Police and his myrmidons were effectively rendered, and lustily encored. The gem of the second act, however, is the duet between Mabel and Frederic, "Stay, Frederic, stay," which earned the heartiest encore of the evening.

The opera was very well put on the stage, both scenes being striking and natural. The chorus is strong in numbers and vocal power, the different parts well balanced, and the *tout-ensemble* worthy of high praise. The company is numerous, over forty members of it appearing on the stage in the final scene. The dresses are pretty, those of Major Stanley's daughters being specially tasteful, while the pirates and policemen appear in the conventional uniforms of their respective professions. Of the artists that took part in the performance, the most successful were, on the whole, Mr. G. W. Marnock as the Pirate King, Mr. Traverter as Frederic, and Miss Esme Lee as Mabel. The last named lady has a very pleasing voice, which appeared to special

advantage in her duet with Frederic in the second act. Mr. G. F. Marler gave a humorous rendering of the Sergeant of Police, acted well and sang fairly. Mr. David Fisher was a capable exponent of the Major-General; and last, not least, Miss Alice Aynsley Cook gave a forcible and spirited representation of Ruth, the Piratical Maid-of-all-work, both in singing and acting. Mr Hemsley made up capittally as the Lieutenant of the Pirate gang, and played his part carefully, and the numerous members, male and female, of the chorus were all in their places, and quite ready to respond when called on. [*Aberdeen Weekly Journal* (Aberdeen, Scotland), Tuesday, May 16, 1882; Issue 8487.]

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. W. McFarland; General Manager, Mr. Hodges. – *The Pirates of Penzance* are here this week delighting large audiences. Mr. D'Oyly Carte has never sent north a better balanced company, and this being the first performance of the piece in Aberdeen our play goers, tired of the sensational order of things, are in the best of humour through the present arrangement. The singing of Miss Esme Lee as Mabel, Miss Aynsley Cook as Ruth, and Mr. Traverner as Frederic, is much admired; while Mr. G. W. Marnock and Mr. David Fisher, jun., give acceptable portraitures of the Pirate King and the Major-General. Perhaps, however, the chorus singing may be reckoned the chief feature of the performance. Nothing finer of an operatic character has been heard here, the rendering in particular of the too brief number "Hail! Poetry," being nightly received with enthusiasm and loudly encored. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 20, 1882; Issue 2278.]

CRICKET.

"PIRATES OF PENZANCE" v. ABERDEENSHIRE.

Yesterday a cricket match between teams representing the Aberdeenshire Club and the company presently performing "The Pirates of Penzance" at Her Majesty's Theatre, was played in the Holburn Cricket Ground. There were a good many on-lookers at the game, including several of the lady members of the Pirate Company. The Aberdeenshire team included Messrs. J. Williams, W. K. Burnett, P. J. Blair, J. H. Anderson, J. Thomas, J. C. Mackay, J. C. Myles, D. M. Brown, J. Duthie, J. Ferguson, and C. Shirres. The Pirate team was represented by Messrs. G. W. Marnock, C. Cubitt, W. Lloyd, W. Robinson, R. Cubitt, J. Mahoney, G. F. Marler, G. W. Traverner, S. Price, C. J. Stanley, and A. Ewing. The Pirates went first to the bat, the following being the scores:—

		"THE PIRATES."	
1st Innings		2nd Innings	
G. W. Marnock, c Myles, b Blair	8	b Myles	5
C. Cubitt, b J. H. Anderson	7	not out	4
W. Lloyd, b J. H. Anderson	0	c and b Duthie	6
W. Robinson, hit wicket, b Blair	4	c Brown, b Williams	5
R. Cubitt, b Blair	0		
J. Mahoney, b J. H. Anderson	3	b Myles	0
G. F. Marler, not out	3	c Williams, b Burnett	10
G. W. Traverner, b Blair	0	c Duthie	0
S. Price, b Blair	1		
C. J. Stanley, c and b Blair	0	b Leslie	0
A. Ewing, b Blair	0		
Bye, 1; wide, 1	2	Bye, 1; leg bye 1; wides, 2;	
		no ball, 1	5
Total	28	Total	35

ABERDEENSHIRE

J. Williams, b Cubitt

13

W. K. Burnett, c Traverner, b Marnock	1
P. J. Blair, c Ewing, b Robins	63
J. H. Anderson, run out	0
J. Thomas, b R Cubitt	0
J. C. Mackay, c Ewing, b R. Cubitt	1
J. C. Myles, b Robinson	10
D. M. Brown, not out	13
J. Duthrie, c R. Cubitt, b Robinson	21
J. F. Ferguson, c R. Cubitt, b Robinson	1
C. Leslie, b do.	0
Extras	<u>18</u>
Total	141

[*Aberdeen Journal*, Thursday 18 May 1882, p.2.]

22 – 27 May. Edinburgh

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Logan; Acting Manager, Mr. F. Sephton. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* company, under the management of Mr. Herbert Brook, made a welcome reappearance here on Monday evening before a large and enthusiastic audience. The cast of this now highly popular opera has been materially strengthened by several important engagements since last visit, and we have now a combination which in point of vocal power and artistic ability could not possibly be improved. Mr. Sullivan's bright and tuneful music is heard to increased advantage, and the concerted and choral numbers are rendered with notable brilliancy and effect. Conspicuous among the fresh appearances is Miss Esme Lee, a lady who established herself a first favourite everywhere during the *Olivette* tour, and who now as Mabel gives a truly delightful and captivating performance. Miss Lee acted throughout with appropriate vivacity, and sang her music, particularly the waltz, with great success. Ruth, in the competent hands of Miss Aynsley Cook, is an especial attraction, her acting being admirable, and her rendering of the fine music of her part telling and effective. Mr. G. W. Traverner makes an excellent Frederic, looking well, and singing with his accustomed good taste and artistic expression; and Messrs. Fisher, Marnock, Hemsley, and Marler resume their former roles with renewed spirit and success. The chorus is perfect in every detail, and does its work well, and the orchestra is cleverly conducted by Mr. W. Robinson. The opera was preceded by the vaudeville *Mock Turtles* in which Misses Bernard, Millner, and Vincent, and Mr. Hemsley appeared. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, May 27, 1882; Issue 2279.]

29 May – 3 Jun. Newcastle

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. Charles Bernard. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's (No. 1) opera company opened at this theatre on Monday evening, for a six nights' engagement, in *The Pirates of Penzance* before a full and enthusiastic house. The opera afforded abundant satisfaction to those present, and, having the advantage of an exceptionally good cast and being mounted in the most complete manner, with an efficient orchestra that did ample justice to the music, this need not be wondered at. Miss Esme Lee as Mabel sang with taste and finish, and her acting was well deserving of commendation, Miss Alice Aynsley Cook succeeded admirably in her acting and singing as Ruth, and was warmly applauded. The Major-General of Mr. David Fisher, jun., was a thoroughly enjoyable personation and Mr. G. F. Marler was equally

successful as the Sergeant. Mr. G. W. Marnock was vigorous and effective as the Pirate King, and Mr. T. Hemsley as Samuel and Miss De Vallance as Edith were also meritorious. Mr. G. W. Traverner as Frederic sang with much taste and sweetness, and received a large share of applause. The vaudeville of *Mock Turtles* was performed previous to the opera, supported by Mr. W. T. Hemsley and Misses Milner, Bernard, and Vincent. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 3, 1882; Issue 2280.]

5 – 10 Jun. Bradford

THEATRE ROYAL.—During the week a series of hearty receptions have been given to Mr. D'Oyly Carte's "Pirates of Penzance" Company, who have been performing that popular opera, the joint production of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan. The company has undergone but little change since it appeared in the town before, and the leading parts are still filled by the same artistes. There have, however, been one or two alterations of a minor character. Miss Esme Lee now takes the part of Mabel, having formerly appeared as Olivette. In her new part, however, she has been remarkably successful, and her singing and acting have been much appreciated. Mr. G. W. Traverner's Frederick was a creditable performance throughout, the music being well sung. It would be hard to find an artiste who could give a more finished and comical interpretation of the Major-General's part than Mr. David Fisher now does, while Mr. Manler [*sic*] seems equally inimitable as the Sergeant of Police. Mr. G. W. Marnock, who represents the Pirate King, sings effectively, and is of dignified presence, while Mr. Helmsley as Samuel, the lieutenant also deserves commendation. Miss Alice Aynsley Cook, the representative of the difficult part of Ruth, is all that could be desired. The minor parts and the chorus are well rendered.—Miss Kate Santley in "La Mascotte" will appear at the Royal next week. [*Leeds Times*, 10 June 1882]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Chas. Rice. After a highly successful run, *The Lights o' London* has been withdrawn, and we have now Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company, with *The Pirates of Penzance* as the leading item, in possession. The company has been somewhat changed since the former visit, and is decidedly stronger and more efficient. Mr. G. W. Traverner is now the Pirate Apprentice, and is seen to much advantage, his singing being a treat, and he acts efficiently and naturally throughout. Miss Esme Lee is the Mabel, and must be congratulated on her success in the character. Her singing is always artistic and pleasing, and this, combined with a handsome face and good figure, makes the representation most enjoyable. Her acting, also, is marked by intelligence and finish. As Ruth Miss Alice A. Cook is an improvement on any former representative here, her acting and singing being of a high order. She has been very well received. These are the newcomers in the company. Mr. D. Fisher is again the Major-General, and is as amusing and clever as formerly. Mr. Marnock is the Pirate King, Mr. T. Hemsley is the Lieutenant, and Mr. G. F. Marler is the Police Sergeant, in which he could not be surpassed. The minor parts are all well sustained, and the chorus is stronger and more capable than before. The scenery, too, is very fine, and altogether the performances are now better than at any previous visit of the company here. Large houses have assembled. The opera is preceded by the one act vaudeville *Mock Turtles*. The principal parts are sustained creditably by Mr. T. Hemsley and Miss Millner. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 10, 1882; Issue 2281.]

12 – 17 Jun. Liverpool

ALEXANDRA THEATRE

“The Pirates of Penzance” was given last night at the Alexandra Theatre, and the series of performances of this delightful caricature of the melodramas of buccaneering life will not terminate until Saturday next. The present representation of the Gilbert-Sullivan opera is admirable, much of its success being due to Miss Esme Lee, Miss Alice Aynsley Cook, Mr. G. W. Traverner, Mr. G. W. Marnock, Mr. David Fisher, jun., and Mr. T. Hemsley. The chorus contains many fresh and vigorous voices, and the orchestra plays with effect, the direction of the performance being entrusted to Mr. W. Robinson. The opera is tastefully placed upon the stage. There was a large audience last night. [*Liverpool Mercury etc* (Liverpool, England), Tuesday, June 13, 1882; Issue 10740.]

ROYAL ALEXANDRA THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. E. Saker. – *The Pirates of Penzance*, produced last Monday evening, attracted a very large and enthusiastic audience, and the excellence of the performance was cordially appreciated by all who were present. The company is strong and competent, and the chief parts in the Gilbert-Sullivan opera were taken most effectively by Miss Alice Aynsley Cook, Miss E. Lee, Mr. David Fisher, jun., Mr. G. W. Traverner, Mr. G. W. Marnock, and Mr. T. Hemsley. The bright and telling rendition of the work was much enhanced by the capital orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. W. Robinson, and by the fine style in which the whole of the choruses were given. The mounting of the opera was in every way most creditable to the Alexandra management. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 17, 1882; Issue 2282.]

19 – 24 Jun. Leeds

THE GRAND THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. Wilson Barrett; Acting Manager, Mr. Lee Anderson. – We are favoured this week by a third visit from Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s popular *Pirates of Penzance* company, and it is gratifying to record that Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan’s charming and tuneful opera is as popular and has gone as well as ever. The changes since the last visit introduce Miss Alice Aynsley Cook as Ruth; Miss Esme Lee, Mabel; and Mr. G. W. Traverner, Frederic. The rest of the well balanced cast includes the old favourites, Mr. David Fisher, jun., Mr. G. W. Marnock, Mr. T. Hemsley, and Mr. G. F. Marler, as the Major-General, the Pirate King, his Lieutenant, and the Sergeant of Police. All the old and favourite numbers were encored, and it only remains to add that the chorus was most efficient, the dresses pretty, and the band of the theatre, under the able guidance of Mr. W. Robinson, all that could be desired. The beautiful sets of the Pirates’ Lair and the Ruined Abbey by moonlight were, as usual, loudly applauded. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, June 24, 1882; Issue 2283.]

26 Jun. – 1 Jul. Hull

THEATRE ROYAL

“Major-General Stanley,” with his many daughters and their piratical suitors, has been here upon several occasions, but the visit paid this week to the Royal has proved, in the result, that nothing approaching satiety has yet been experienced by the Hull patrons of the lyric drama. With one or two exceptions, the company is the same as that which presented the opera on the last two visits. Mr. David Fisher, Mr. G. W.

Marnock, Mr. T. Hemsley and Mr. G. Marler have each met with a hearty welcome; Miss Esme Lee, who plays Mabel, is one of those ladies who seem to be full of song, and who with the slightest effort allow the music to bubble forth. Mr. G. W. Traverner, the Frederic, an excellent tenor, and Miss Alice Aynsley Cook, a thoroughly effective contralto. For next week Mrs. Langtry is announced, in "An Unequal Match," and, for one night only, "She Stoops to Conquer." Considerable interest has been aroused in the forthcoming appearance of the lady, and there is no doubt that the house will be crowded each evening. [*The Hull Packet and East Riding Times* (Hull, England), Friday, June 30, 1882; Issue 5098.]

3 – 29 Jul. ?

Break in tour? Esme Lee seconded to "B" (*Pinafore* and *Pirates*) company.

31 Jul. – 5 Aug. Brighton

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – Proprietrix, Mrs. H. Nye Chart. – Gilbert and Sullivan's opera *The Pirates of Penzance* was again produced here on Monday, and although considerably worn, met with a fair reception. Miss Esme Lee's extensive register well suited the part of Mabel, and her song "Poor wandering one" earned an encore. Ruth was efficiently represented by Miss Fanny Harrison, but she looked rather too juvenile. Mr. G. Traverner made the most of Frederic. The Pirate King had an excellent representative in Mr. G. W. Marnock. Mr. David Fisher's Major-General was a success, his patter song meeting with the usual appreciation. Mr. Marler, as the Sergeant of Police, and his squad, had a most hearty reception. The minor parts were ably sustained, and the chorus was exceptionally good. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 5, 1882; Issue 2289.]

7 – 12 Aug. Leicester

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE. – Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Elliot Galer; Acting Manager, Mr. Frank Burgess. – D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* company is the opening attraction here. There has been but little change made in the cast since the last visit, each artist being most efficient. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 12, 1882; Issue 2290.]

14 – 19 Aug. Manchester

THEATRE ROYAL.

The task would a difficult one, but fortunately it is an unnecessary one, of offering any criticism, not trite and stale, upon Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance*, the piece under performance at the Theatre Royal during the present week. The company is practically the same as that which appeared here in the earlier part of the year. It was then newly organised, and evidence of want of united practice were noticeable in the performances. Last evening the interpretation of the opera was developed with most praiseworthy smoothness, and with a spirit, too, that is not always characteristic of that stage in the history of an operatic production in which principals and chorus have acquired the last mastery of their duties and of all the details of the business and by-play. The chief parts are taken by Miss Esma [*sic*] Lee, Miss de Valance, Mr. David Fisher, jun., Mr. Marnock, Mr. Helmsley, Mr. Taverner [*sic*], and Mr. Mailer, whose names have previously appeared in association with their

parts. The band is entitled to a word of praise, and so also is the stage management for the effective mounting of the scenes. The audience, which was considerable, was very enthusiastic, honouring more than one number with an encore, and calling the principals before the curtain at the close of the first act. [*Manchester Courier and Lancashire General Advertiser*, Tuesday 15 August 1882, p.5.]

THEATRE ROYAL

On Monday evening Mr. D'Oyly Carte's Opera Company commenced a six nights' engagement at this theatre with Gilbert and Sullivan's charming opera "The Pirates of Penzance." Mr. D'Oyly Carte has on several occasions presented this deservedly popular production before the Manchester public, and the principal artists who took part in the performance on Monday evening were, with one exception, those who appeared when it was last represented in this city. Mr. G. W. Traverner was again highly successful as Frederic, the pirates' apprentice, and the singing and acting of Mr. G. W. Marnock as the Pirate King were all that could be desired. It is almost unnecessary to say that Mr. David Fisher gained the hearty applause of the audience, which was fairly numerous, in his impersonation of Major-General Stanley, or that the Sergeant of Police was ably represented by Mr. G. F. Marler. The same excellence was to be observed in the singing and acting of the ladies. Miss Esme Lee played Mabel and Miss Fanny Harrison took the part of Ruth. The performance of the opera met with a very hearty reception, and the witticisms went off almost as well as when they were first uttered. Several of the songs were warmly encored. Not a few play goers in Manchester will regret to learn that the present is the final visit of this excellent company. The entertainment concluded with an amusing farce, entitled "Silent Woman." [*Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, August 19, 1882; Issue 1284.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Captain R. Bainbridge. – Gilbert and Sullivan's popular opera *The Pirates of Penzance* is again being produced here, the present visit being advertised as the final. Notwithstanding the great number of times that this opera has appeared here, its popularity does not seem to be in the least degree diminished. Large audiences have gathered together every evening to applaud Sullivan's music and smile at Gilbert's witticisms. The company presenting the opera is a very good one. Mr. David Fisher, jun., is an excellent and amusing model of the Major-General, and Messrs. Marnock, Hemsley, Traverner, and Marler are most competent exponents of their respective roles. Miss Esme Lee sings the music allotted to her in the part of Mabel in excellent style, and Miss Fanny Harrison is a most effective Ruth. The cast also includes Mdlls. De Valance, A. Bernard, and J. Findlay, who are thoroughly satisfactory as Edith, Kate, and Isabel respectively. The performance is followed by a laughable vaudeville, entitled *A Silent Woman*, which is productive of much amusement. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, August 19, 1882; Issue 2291.]

21 – 26 Aug. Bristol

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE" AT THE NEW THEATRE ROYAL.

In fulfilment of a promise made to our local managers when the work was last performed here at the close of last year, Mr. D'Oyly Carte's comic opera company commenced last night, at the Park-row house, a brief six nights' return visit with Gilbert and Sullivan's "Pirates of Penzance." We have had many opportunities of noticing, and still more of witnessing, Mr. Gilbert's whimsical conceit, and enjoying

Mr. Sullivan's tuneful and sparkling music, and we do not know that we could say more in commendation of them than that we enjoyed last night with as keen a relish as ever the humorous fancy of the one and the melodious qualities of the other. Since the opera was here in November last some changes have been made in the cast, The Misses Roche and Stavart, who filled in succession the role of Ruth, the piratical maid-of-all-work, have been succeeded in the present engagement by Miss Fanny Harrison, a contralto singer of well recognised ability, who will doubtless be remembered as having held the character of Buttercup during the first engagement of "H.M.S. Pinafore" in Bristol. Miss Esme Lee impersonates General Stanley's daughter Mabel, represented on the prior occasion by Miss Laura Clement, and Mr. G. W. Traverner succeeds Mr. Coventry in the part of Frederic, the pirate apprentice. The other leading characters are filled as they were during the company's prior engagement. It often happens, as most play goers can attest, that a change in the cast means some declension in the quality of the performance. In the present instance there is little in this way to regret. Miss Esme Lee, who may be remembered as having appeared in the "Olivette," is scarcely as graceful as her predecessor in the part, but she proves quite equal to the music of Mabel, exceptionally florid though it is, and she won encores with the waltz song, "Poor wandering one," in the first act, and in the exquisitely plaintive duet with Frederic, "O leave me not alone," in the second. Miss Fanny Harrison acts also effectively and sings well as Ruth, whilst Mr. Traverner, who also appeared here several months ago, has developed, as we at that time ventured to think he would, into a really capital tenor. He sang the music last night with great purity and expression, and acted far better than the majority of operatic artists. Mr. G. W. Marnock's Pirate King must be well known for its robust qualities. His colossal voice, albeit some excess of tremolo, is well suited to the music, and his first air, "I am a Pirate King," gained a vociferous redemand. Mr. G. F. Marler was all himself as the Sergeant of Police, and had to repeat the "Tra-la-la" [*sic*] chorus and the "Policeman's lot" ballad, whilst Mr. David Fisher plays Major-General Stanley as well as it could possibly be played, and, in our judgement, out generals the metropolitan original. His patter song leaves nothing to desire, and never fails to evoke a hearty encore. Apart from the principals, the piece is generally well rendered, and with the aid of an augmented orchestra, a chorus of between thirty or forty well disciplined voices, and effective costumes and scenery, it, with its commingling of humour and pathos, nonsense and grandeur, its rich concerted music, and its masterly orchestration, is done great justice to. It was received last night with much enthusiasm, and ought to attract good houses through the week. [*The Bristol Mercury and Daily Post* (Bristol, England), Tuesday, August 22, 1882; Issue 10693, p.3.]

THE NEW THEATRE.

Last night D'Oyly Carte's company appeared at the New Theatre in the Gilbert-Sullivan opera, "The Pirates Penzance," the middle of the three P's, the others being "Pinafore" and "Patience." Admirers of light and tuneful music are divided in opinion as to the respective merits of these works in which Mr. Gilbert's funny rhymes are so appropriately set by Mr. Sullivan, but with competent performers there is no fear of "The Pirates of Penzance" losing its popularity. True it is some of the characters are very like those in the prior opera; as when Ruth, the nursery maid, to whose care young Frederic had been left by his father, sings "Mistaking my instructions, which within brain did gyrate I took and bound this promising lad apprentice to a pirate" the hearer is involuntarily reminded of Little Buttercup when she says she "mixed those children up, and not creature knew it." Major General Stanley, too, is a similar personage to the First Lord of the Admiralty; and the pirate

'prentice is a second Ralph Rackstraw. The opera, however, is not less diverting on this account, and the doings of the Penzance pirates, a band of miscreants whose savagery is tempered magnanimity, supplied entertainment that was duly appreciated by the audience at Park Row House last night. There had been some changes in the cast since the company were in Bristol before, but the work was presented excellently. Miss Esme Lee took the part of Mabel, which had been assumed by Miss Laura Clement. She possesses fine soprano voice of considerable compass, and has good stage ability. In the gem of the opera, that charming madrigal "Oh, leave me not live," [sic] with its quaint rhythm and graceful melody, which is sung as Mabel takes leave of Frederic, her voice was heard much advantage, and the hero, played now by Mr. W. G. Traverner in place of Mr. Coventry, who previously filled the *rôle*, did his share in the farewell interview with considerable ability, Mr. Traverner's sympathetic tenor voice doing justice to the beautiful music. Another fresh appearance was that of Miss Fanny Harrison, and as the piratical maid-of-all-work, Ruth, she acted and sang in a manner that left nothing to be desired. The Major-General Stanley of Mr. David Fisher was as good as ever, and the clever performer made every point tell the patter song delivered in the first act. The choruses went smoothly; the chattering chorus which the Stanley girls indulge in to afford Frederic and Mabel an opportunity of making love, and the grimly comic chorus of policemen, provoking the accustomed merriment and applause. G. F. Marler, as the sergeant of police, deserves mention for his execution of the song anent constabulary duties. The orchestra was efficient, the sparkling overture and bright accompaniments receiving an interpretation which entitles the instrumentalists to high praise. The opera will be repeated during the week. [*Western Daily Press*, 22 Aug 1882]

28 Aug. – 2 Sept. Nottingham

THEATRE ROYAL.

There was a large and enthusiastic audience the Theatre Royal last night to greet Mr. D'Oyly Carte's "Pirates of Penzance" Company, most of the members of which are old favourites of the local play-going public. The attractive work of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan was again placed on the boards with great care and attention, and its effect was certainly not less successful than upon former visits. The favourite airs were nearly all encored, and the leading artists were, without exception, favourably received. There have been several changes in the cast since the last visit of the "Pirates" to Nottingham, but, so far, only in respect of the fairer portion of the company. Miss Esme Lee has a charming presence, and although her voice was somewhat marred last night by the effects of a cold, the extensive demands which the part makes upon her vocal powers were satisfactorily met. A capital *Ruth* also is that of Miss Fanny Harrison, both as regards singing and acting. The programme announced Mr. John Child as *Frederick*, the pirates' apprentice, but as Mr. Child has not yet been able to join the company, Mr. G. Coventry took this part with all his accustomed success. It need only be added that Mr. Fisher is still inimitable as the "Modern Major-general," that Mr. Marnock, as the *Pirate King*, and Mr. Hemsley as his lieutenant, leave nothing to be desired, and that the remaining characters are all presented in a creditable manner. The chorus work is carefully done, and the scenic effects are good as ever. The opera is preceded by a farce. [*Nottingham Evening Post*, Tuesday 29 August 1882, p.3.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Manager, Mr. Thos. W. Charles. – Once again we have received a call from Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company with the opera *The Pirates of*

Penzance – always a welcome visitor. Miss Esme Lee, an exceptionally brilliant vocalist, now takes the part of Mabel, and Ruth is represented by Miss Fanny Harrison. Both characters were admirably personated, and thoroughly appreciated by the audience, which was lavish in its tokens of approval. Mr. David Fisher was again the Major-General with an extensive family circle; Mr. G. F. Marler was once more the valiant Sergeant of Police; Mr. G. W. Marnock was again the most guileless of Pirate Kings; and Mr. W. T. Hemsley was faithful to his old post of Samuel, the lieutenant. All these impersonations were as excellent as of yore. A new Frederic was promised in the person of Mr. John Child, but, that gentleman being unavoidably absent, the part was resumed by Mr. Gerard Coventry, its representative on the occasions of the company's previous visits to Nottingham. Edith, Kate, and Isabel were delightfully presented by Mdlles. De Vallance, A. Bernard, and J. Findlay. The choruses were given with wonderful precision, the dresses models of good taste, the scenery by Mr. Harry Potts picturesque and appropriate, and the stage management perfection, The everlasting *Silent Woman* was the opening farce. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 2, 1882; Issue 2293.]

Chester

MUSIC HALL. – *The Pirates of Penzance* company (No. 1) were to have appeared here on Monday and Tuesday evenings, under the local management of Messrs. Phillipson and Golder; but the engagement, which, in the present dearth of theatrical entertainment here, had been looked forward to with some little interest, although the successful comic opera had already been twice represented here, was on the previous Friday announced as “unavoidably postponed.” [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 9, 1882; Issue 2294.]

4 – 16 Sept. Dublin

THE GAIETY THEATRE

In lieu of Sarah Bernhardt, the Gaiety gave its frequenters last night the now familiar “Pirates,” which the music of Mr. Sullivan and the wit of Mr. Gilbert have made very pardonable freebooters indeed. Although the disappointment occasioned by the sickness of the great French actress was keen, the house which greeted the reappearance of Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company was a fairly good one. The rapturous welcome which the mock policemen received on their appearance gave evidence of a warmer disposition towards the local force than the mass of public had reason to suspect existed. In the personnel of the company which presented the “Pirates” last night there is not very much change to note since its last appearance. Mr. Fisher still presents the Major-General with undiminished aptitude, and the massive Mr. Marnock figures as the model Pirate King with large effect. The Sergeant of Police is portrayed by Mr. Marler with a good taste, a humour and a mock dignity which suffers no abatement by iteration. Mr. Hemsley supports the character of the Lieutenant with the ease of an accomplished artist. The characters of Mabel, Frederic, and Ruth are the only ones which have been entrusted to hands to which we are not used in these counterfeits. Miss Esme Lee, a lady with whom we were familiar during the last pantomime season, appeared as Mabel; and her performance gives evidence of careful study and careful ad interim preparation. Mr. Coventry, whose voice is sweet and flexible, though apparently suffering from a cold, depicted Frederic with such skill as gave promise of much excellence in future. The part of Ruth was played by Miss

Armytage, whose voice, although sweet and powerful, lacks the rich deep contralto notes required by the part. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Jackson, was well up to its work. The music, as well as the vocalism, went “merry as a marriage bell.” Few visitors to the theatre would have imagined that the public had suffered the deep disappointment that it did. [*Freeman’s Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser* (Dublin, Ireland), Tuesday, September 5, 1882; Issue N/A.]

THE GAIETY THEATRE

Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s opera company have been well supported in their representations of the well known and popular melodramatic opera “The Pirates of Penzance.” There will be a day performance today at two o’clock. [*Freeman’s Journal and Daily Commercial Advertiser* (Dublin, Ireland), Saturday, September 9, 1882; Issue N/A.]

GAIETY THEATRE. – Mr. M. Gunn, Proprietor; Mr. M. J. Doyle, General Manager. – Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s opera company opened on Monday with Gilbert and Sullivan’s *Pirates of Penzance* and *A Silent Woman*. Miss Lee made a most favourable impression by her singing and acting. Mr. Marler as the Police Sergeant was A1. Mr. Marnock as the King was very satisfactory. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 9, 1882; Issue 2294.]

GAIETY THEATRE. – Mr. M. Gunn, Proprietor; Mr. M. J. Doyle, General Manager. – Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s *Pirates of Penzance* company are still the attraction here, and are drawing good houses. Mr. John Child made his first appearance on Saturday, as Frederic. He is possessed of a sweet, full, and melodious tenor voice, and his acting is easy and graceful. Mr. G. W. Marnock, as the Pirate King, does justice to his part. Mr. G. F. Marler’s Sergeant of Police is quite up to the mark. Miss Esme Lee’s Mabel is all that could be desired. Miss Armytage’s vigorous acting and fine voice produce a Ruth in every way satisfactory. The choruses are well sung. Mr. W. Robinson conducts with much ability. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 16, 1882; Issue 2295.]

18 – 23 Sept. Cork

THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. – On Monday last *The Pirates of Penzance* paid us a visit for the second time. The clever work commanded the attendance of a large audience, and no doubt will continue to do so for the remainder of the too short engagement. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 23, 1882; Issue 2296.]

25 – 30 Sept. Liverpool

COURT THEATRE

The “Pirates of Penzance” is an exceedingly clever epitomised satire of some phases of modern militaryism, as shown in the highly-cultured “Model Major-General.” The story is accompanied by most attractive music, and when the opera is well performed it is sure to be favourably received. This was the case last night at the Court Theatre, when a most effective representation of the opera was given by Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s company. Mr. David Fisher, as the “Model Major-General” (with a make-up remarkable in its resemblance to the hero of the Egyptian campaign), won, by his admirable acting, great applause. Miss E. Lee’s Mabel was vocally and histrionically an able performance, and her rendering of the air “Poor wandering boy”

was effective. Mr. John Child is a capital vocalist, although his acting was somewhat tame. He sang the different portions of the music of his part with much effect, and his rendering of the air "Is there a maiden fair" secured an encore. The Pirate King found a very effective representative in Mr. G. W. Marnock, and all the other characters were most ably sustained. The chorus was numerous, and the voices well balanced and bright. The band was an efficient one (under the conductorship of Mr. W. Robinson, R.A.M.), and altogether, the performance of the "Pirates" at the Court is one of the most complete ever given of this popular opera in the provinces. [*The Liverpool Mercury etc* (Liverpool, England), Tuesday, September 26, 1882; Issue 10828.]

ROYAL COURT THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. R. B. Bainbridge; Acting Manager, Mr. J. Gray. – On Monday *The Pirates of Penzance* has a most enthusiastic reception, thanks in a very large measure to the exceedingly clever conductorship of Mr. W. Robinson, R.A.M., whose merits in this special department ought to secure for him the highest position in the operatic world. Mr. David Fisher, as the Major-General, and Mr. Marnock, in his vivid role of the Pirate King, were highly successful; and Mr. W. T. Hemsley, a young artist of undoubted talent, secured merited honours in his representation of the Lieutenant. The other leading characters were taken by Miss Armytage, Miss Esme Lee, Miss Vallance, Miss Bernard, Miss Findlay, Mr. J. Child, and Mr. G. F. Marler. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, September 30, 1882; Issue 2297.]

2 – 7 Oct. Southport

THE WINTER GARDENS. – Mr. J. Long, Manager. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company in *Pirates of Penzance* have appeared during the week with success. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, October 7, 1882; Issue 2298.]

9 – 14 Oct. Hanley

THEATRE ROYAL. – Acting Manager, Mr. Charles Elphinstone. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's opera company is appearing in Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's celebrated *The Pirates of Penzance*. The piece is admirably staged, and the artists have been selected with great care and judgement. "The Policeman's Chorus" is greatly enjoyed. The representation is thoroughly good all round. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, October 14, 1882; Issue 2299.]

16 – 21 Oct. Birmingham

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE.

Pending the production here of "Perola," the last new product of the art partnership of Messrs. Sullivan and Gilbert, the lovers of genuine burlesque English opera cannot do better this week than renew acquaintance with the mirth-moving incidents and melodious strains of "The Pirates of Penzance," which was produced at this house in excellent style, last night, by a touring company, under the conductorship of Mr. Robinson. In none of the joint productions of the authors have sense and sound been more happily wedded than in "The Pirates," which contains, perhaps, a larger number of model songs and concerted pieces than any other of their operettas. We need only mention the bright opening chorus of girls, "Climbing over rocky mountain," the "weather" chorus, the Major-General's patter song, Ruth's song

explanatory of Frederic's apprenticeship, the Police Sergeant's songs with chorus, "When the foeman bares his steel," and "When a felon's not engaged in his employment," and Mabel's ballad "Oh, leave me not to pine;" in justification of this claim, and it would be easy to add to their number. The performance last night was, on the whole, not unworthy of the work, though there were a few irregularities inseparable from the cast. Several of the performers have been heard here before, and we need not therefore expatiate upon their efforts. Miss Esme Lee, to whom the part of Mabel was assigned, possesses a clear, pleasing voice and executed well, but a little more articulateness is needed for the full effect of a performance in which the words play so important a part. She was encored in "Poor Wandering One." More dramatic spirit, also, would be a *desideratum* in the personation. The piratical maid of all work represented by Miss Fanny Harrison suffered from a similar defect. In voice and appearance, it was all that could be desired, the singing of "When Frederic was a little lad" being excellent; but the lady somehow missed the humour and spirit of the part. It would be difficult to find a better Major-General than that of Mr. David Fisher, jun., whose performance in the part last night showed that he had not been idle since his last visit here. His singing of the patter song alone, which was as usual, encored, was a treat of no common order. Frederic, the pirate apprentice, found a very competent representative in Mr. John Child, whose sweet and well-trained tenor voice was heard to much advantage in the music of the part, and especially Frederic's naïve appeal, "Is there not one maiden breast," which, with the appended chorus, was repeated in compliance with a hearty encore. Mr. G. F. Marler's Sergeant of Police, however, was perhaps the most perfect assumption of the whole, overflowing with true burlesque humour, and no less satisfactory in a vocal than in a histrionic sense. His singing of "When a felon's not engaged," with its mirth-moving choral echoes, provoked roars of laughter, and was enthusiastically redemanded, and the previous song, with Tarantara chorus, was not less praiseworthy. Mr. G. W. Marnock is an excellent actor, and alike in conception and acting his conventional Pirate King is admirable, but his intonation is somewhat uncertain, and he does not make as much as he might of his opening solo, "I am a Pirate King." The pirate lieutenant, Samuel, is well represented by Mr. Hemsley; and daughters Edith and Isabel find competent exponents in Miss De Vallance and Miss J. Findlay. The choruses generally were capitally well sung, and the changes made in the costumes are all in the direction of improvement; but the playing of the band last night was not invariably faultless.

The opera was followed last night by a graceful little musical bagatelle by the conductor, Mr. W. Robinson, entitled "My Luck," in which Miss T. Findlay as Mrs. Lionel Jones, Miss Emily Vincent as Angelica, Mr. W. T. Hemsley as Mr. Owen Jones, an unlucky speculator; Mr. C. J. Stanley as the stockbroker, Lionel Jones; and Mr. F. Leon as the cabman, Grummock, found scope for some humorous acting and singing. [*Birmingham Daily Post* (Birmingham, England), Tuesday, October 17, 1882; Issue 7578.]

PRINCE OF WALES THEATRE. – Proprietor, Mr. J. Rodgers; Acting Manager, Mr. C. M. Appleby. – *The Pirates of Penzance* was performed by Mr. D'Oyly Carte's company during the week. The cast was an excellent one. Miss Esme Lee as Mabel sang with ease and freshness, and Mr. Child – an acquisition to the operatic stage – made a distinct impression as Frederic. He possesses a tenor voice of surprising flexibility and power, and was encored for his rendering of the air "Is there not one maiden fair?" Mr. Marnock as the Pirate King was vigorous. Mr. David Fisher as the Major-General was delightfully droll. The choruses were tunefully rendered, and the opera has proved very successful. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, October 21, 1882; Issue 2300.]

23 – 25 Oct. Scarborough

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.” – This attractive opera, with Dr. Sullivan’s music, special scenery, and a cast of over fifty selected artistes, will be produced at the Londesborough Theatre this and two following evenings. [*The York Herald* (York, England), Monday, October 23, 1882; pg. 6; Issue 9810.]

LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE. – Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. A. Waddington. – The proprietor of this place of amusement, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, continues to provide excellent entertainment for his patrons. Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s opera company, with *The Pirates of Penzance*, have appeared for three nights, commencing on Monday, with the most encouraging success, Miss Esme Lee is deserving of more than ordinary praise for her charming vocalisation in the character of Mabel, and she is admirably supported by Mr. John Child as Frederic, the apprentice. Messrs Marnock, Fisher, Hemsley, and Martin [*sic*] are also good, the latter especially so as Sergeant of Police. The chorus is strong, and the applause given by capital houses showed how highly the company was appreciated. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, October 28, 1882; Issue 2301.]

26 – 28 Oct. York

THE THEATRE ROYAL. – Tomorrow, Friday, and Saturday, No. 1 Company of The Pirates of Penzance will appear at this theatre. There are in all fifty performers, and among them will be noticed many York favourites. In point of ability the company is particularly strong. Messrs. David Fisher, G. W. Marnock, G. F. Marler, the well known tenor Mr. Jno. Child, and last, but not least, Miss Esme Lee, are certain to acquit themselves to the satisfaction of any audience, however critical. [*The York Herald* (York, England), Wednesday, October 25, 1882; pg. 3; Issue 9812.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – On Wednesday in last week Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s No. 1 company opened at this house in the *Pirates of Penzance*. The company is almost the same as on its previous visit, the exceptions being Miss Esme Lee and Mr. John Child, who in the parts of Mabel and Frederic scored a decided success. The chorus and orchestra were most efficient, and it is generally admitted that the piece has never been so well performed as on this occasion. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 4, 1882; Issue 2302.]

30 Oct. – 4 Nov. Newcastle

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. Charles Bernard. – Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s *Pirates of Penzance* company opened at this theatre on Monday evening for a week’s engagement with very nearly the same cast as on the previous visit of the company a short time ago, and was heartily enjoyed by an appreciative audience, the following being especially selected for hearty and well deserved applause: – Mr. David Fisher, jun., as the General; Mr. G. W. Marnock as the Pirate King; Mr. Hemsley as Samuel; Mr. John Child as Frederic; and Mr. G. F. Marler as the Sergeant. Miss Esme Lee sang in the most charming and finished manner as the heroine, Mabel. A musical eccentricity by B. J. Hughes, and music by W. Robinson, entitled *My Luck*, concluded, supported by Messrs Hemsley, Stanley, and F. Leon; and Misses J. Findlay and E. Vincent. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 4, 1882; Issue 2302.]

6 – 11 Nov. Sunderland

“PIRATES OF PENZANCE” THE THEATRE ROYAL.

“The Pirates of Penzance” comic opera was produced the Theatre Royal last evening by Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s No. 1 Company. The prettiness of the music and the pungency of the dialogue were portrayed with full effect, and the warm applause and hearty laughter which marked the progress of the opera betokened the thorough enjoyment of the audience. Mr. David Fisher, jun.; again sustained very cleverly his well-known Major-General Stanley, the “Major-General” song, usual, provoking much enthusiasm. Mr. W. T. Hemsley, as Samuel, the Pirate King’s Apprentice [*sic*], acted with effective ability, and sang the music allotted to him with precision. The beautiful tenor voice of Mr. John Child, with whom opera-goers are always pleased to renew their acquaintance, rendered the character Frederick, “the Pirate Apprentice,” very popular, his song “Oh, there not one maiden breast,” and the part he took the farewell duet of Frederick and Mabel, being especially melodious and enjoyable. Miss Esme Lee, as Mabel, demonstrated the possession of a full and exquisite soprano voice. Her acting, too, was commendable, and her reception was of the most cordial description. “Poor wandering one” was rendered with grace of diction which appealed very forcibly to the musical susceptibilities of the audience, who were not slow marking their appreciation of the lady’s talents. In the duet already referred to, too, Miss Lee sang in a sweet and touching manner. Mr. G. W. Marnock appeared as the Pirate King, and Miss Fanny Harrison in the part of Ruth, the piratical maid-of-all-work. Miss Harrison’s fine contralto voice was particularly well heard in “When Frederick.” Edith, Kate, and Isabel were respectively represented Miss De Valence, Miss A. Bernard, and Miss J. Findlay. Mr. G. W. Marler was a capital Sergeant of Police. The execution of the chorus work was generally complete, the two most noteworthy portions being “Hail poetry” and the first *ensemble* in the second act. The opera was preceded by “The Silent Woman,” in which the histrionic powers of Mr. Hemsley formed the leading feature. [*Sunderland Daily Echo and Shipping Gazette*, Tuesday 7 November 1882, p.3.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. D. Davis; Manageress, Mrs. Hunter. – Comic opera, always popular in Sunderland, again holds sway at this house, where the *Pirates of Penzance* is being produced by Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s No. 1 company, much to the delight of the patrons. Mr. G. W. Marnock appears as the Pirate King, Mr. W. T. Hemsley as his Lieutenant, Mr. David Fisher, jun., as the Major-General, and Miss Fanny Harrison as Ruth, each with success. Mr. John Child is Frederic, and in the rendering of the music allotted to the character his fine tenor voice is heard to great advantage. Miss Esme Lee, who appears in the role of Mabel, has a sweet and full soprano voice. The chorus work and orchestration are efficiently executed. The *Silent Woman*, in which Mr. Hemsley, Mr. C. J. Stanley, and Miss J. Findlay appear, precedes the opera. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 11, 1882; Issue 2303.]

13 – 15 Nov. Darlington

DARLINGTON THEATRE ROYAL. – Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s “Pirates of Penzance” opera company appeared here before a crowded and delighted house in the above theatre last night. They appear again tonight and tomorrow night. [*Northern Echo* (Darlington, England), Tuesday, November 14, 1882; Issue 3980.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Proprietor, Mr. George Hunter. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's No. 1 *Pirates of Penzance* company are fulfilling a three nights' engagement here. House crammed from floor to ceiling each night. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 18, 1882; Issue 2304.]

16 – 18 Nov. Carlisle

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE. – Lessee, Charles Bernard. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's No. 1 company, with the *Pirates of Penzance*, have been here for three nights pleasing audiences. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 18, 1882; Issue 2304.]

20 – 25 Nov. Glasgow

THE ROYALTY

“The Pirates of Penzance” are paying us a farewell visit at the Royalty Theatre this week, Mr. D'Oyly Carte announcing that the six performances are to be the last in Glasgow, which indicates that the company is about to be disbanded, or at least turned over to something else. The opera was performed last night to a large audience, and the principal solos and choruses now so familiar to all were received and applauded in a way which proved that they are still listened to with much pleasure. The principal members of the company, with one or two exceptions, are so well known by this time that little requires to be said of them further than that the old favourites got an extra share of the very hearty greeting which was accorded to all the leading performers. Mr. Fisher had to repeat the Major-General's ditty, and Miss Esme Lee was also encored more than once, her execution of the music allotted to the part of Mabel stirring up the audience to something like enthusiasm several times. The Sergeant and his followers were as enjoyable as ever, and an inclination was shown to hear as much as possible about the disagreeable duties of the constabulary. The choruses throughout the piece were evenly sung, the orchestra did its work well, and altogether the closing representations of the opera here are likely to give as much pleasure and satisfaction to all who visit the Royalty as when the work was first introduced. [*Glasgow Herald* (Glasgow, Scotland), Tuesday, November 21, 1882; Issue 278.]

THE ROYALTY. – Lessee, Mr. E. L. Knapp. – Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* company has been here. There is little change in the cast, the Pirate King being still in the hands of Mr. G. W. Marnock, and the Sergeant of Police in the care of Mr. G. F. Marler, and the excellence of their exposition goes without saying. The same remark applies to Mr. Hemsley's Pirate Lieutenant. Mr. John Child makes a tuneful Frederic, his singing being marked by great expression. The female parts were also ably taken, Miss Lee and Miss Harrison being all that is required in their respective characters of Mabel and Ruth. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, November 25, 1882; Issue 2305.]

27 Nov – 2 Dec. Edinburgh

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE” AT THE THEATRE ROYAL.

There is almost a fresh enjoyment in re-hearing a work by Messrs. Gilbert & Sullivan when it comes just the week after the latest opera-bouffe has been produced. Only after hearing the feverishly gay music of piece like “Bocaccio” and witnessing its sickly straining after indecency, aggravated by offensive fooling on the part of the players, can playgoers truly appreciate what they owe to Gilbert for his vigorous and healthy nonsense, and his insistence on subordination on the part of the actors; and to

Mr. Sullivan for the fresh simplicity of his music, which always succeeds in being what it is meant to. The change from the one entertainment to the other is like passing from a noisy taproom into the open air. The D'Oyly Carte Company, who are this week playing "The Pirates of Penzance" at the Edinburgh Theatre Royal, give about as good a rendering of the opera as could be looked for in the provinces. Since their last visit a few months ago the cast has undergone two changes, both of which are for the better. The Frederick is now Mr John Child, who has a good tenor voice, and sings capitally, if he is a trifle expressionless in his impersonation; and the part of Ruth is assumed by Miss Fanny Harrison, who has a really fine contralto, which she uses with excellent effect. Mr Fisher is as amusing as ever in the character of the major-general, and Mr W. T. Helmsley as formerly makes a good Lieutenant; but Mr Marnock sings no better as the Pirate King, though he continues to look the part well and act carefully. Miss Esme Lee's pretty style of playing and vocalisation as Mabel continues to please the audience; and the ladies of the chorus are as charming as ever in their lovely dresses; but handsome is as handsome does, and they are growing rather careless about some of their business. The orchestra, under the lead Mr. Robinson, is all that could be desired. [*Edinburgh Evening News*, Tuesday 28 November 1882, p.2.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessees, Messrs Howard and Logan; Acting Manager, Mr. John J. Gray. – This week brings a welcome visit from Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* company, and we are glad to see the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, with its melodious music and refreshing fun, still remains an unfailing source of attraction to the public. The cast again shows some changes, but these only tend to strengthen the representation, which on Monday evening gave ample satisfaction to a capital house. Mr. David Fisher, jun.'s, Major-General remains the prominent comic feature of the performance, and his rendering of the well known patter song is given with undiminished spirit and marked distinctness of enunciation. Mr. G. W. Marnock's Pirate King, and Mr. G. F. Marler's Sergeant of Police, are as excellent as ever; and Mr. John Child, who now impersonates Frederic, acts with ease and self-possession and sings the tenor music with unusual success. Miss Esme Lee has appeared with increased success as Mabel, her charming presence and tasteful acting realising the character to perfection. Miss Lee was in splendid voice on Monday, and sang her music with captivating brilliancy and delightful effect. Miss Fanny Harrison had a friendly reception on her entry as Ruth, and it is sufficient to say this favourite artiste played and sang throughout with her well known histrionic and vocal ability. The opera, which Mr. Robinson conducted with scrupulous care, was preceded by the farce *A Silent Woman*. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, December 2, 1882; Issue 2306.]

4 – 6 Dec. Leeds

THE GRAND THEATRE. – Lessee, Mr. Wilson Barrett; Acting Manager, Mr. Lee Anderson. Mr. D'Oyly Carte's *Pirates of Penzance* company fulfilled another engagement here during the past week, and, judging from the attendance and enthusiasm of the audience, the attraction of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan's amusing and tuneful opera is as powerful as ever. We again welcome Mr. David Fisher, jun., as the inimitable Major-General, Mr. G. W. Marnock's unrivalled Pirate King, and Mr. G. F. Marler's irresistible Bobby. Miss Esme Lee is again the attractive and pretty Mabel. But we have a new Ruth in Miss Fanny Harrison, and a fresh Frederic in Mr. John Child, both of whom are highly efficient, and sing the music allotted to them

with skill and taste. All the familiar numbers were encored, and the principals recalled after every act. [*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, December 9, 1882; Issue 2307.]

7 – 9 Dec. Doncaster

11 – 16 Dec. Sheffield

“THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE” AT THE THEATRE

Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s opera company commenced a week’s engagement at the Theatre Royal last night, producing the popular and now well-known opera, Gilbert and Sullivan’s “Pirates of Penzance.” Considering the inclement state of the weather, and the dense fog which prevailed, there was a good house. The opera, which by this time has grown very familiar to Sheffield theatre-goers, went exceedingly well. Mr. David Fisher, Jun., again appeared as the Major-General, and not only in the humorous song in which he details his varied accomplishments, but also in his grief at the possible loss of his daughters, he was inimitable. His pathetic plea that he was an orphan boy lost none of its effect, although he has repeated it here so often, and he was applauded by the house, as well as spared by the pirates. The stalwart, bold, and yet tender-hearted pirate king had an admirable exponent in Mr. G. W. Marnock, who has taken this *rôle* so long that one naturally associates him with the character, and expects to find him waving the black flag, and singing “I am the pirate king,” whenever the opera is put upon the stage. Mr. John Child appeared to great advantage as Frederic, the unfortunate young man who ought to have been apprenticed to a pilot; and Mr. G. F. Marler delighted everyone with his personation of the sergeant of police, who is not merely a monument of official dignity, but can make love, and has hopes and fears like ordinary mortals. The character of Mabel (who so confidently, and at such short notice, gives her heart to Frederic) was gracefully taken by Miss Esme Lee, who has a very sweet, pleasing voice. Miss Fanny Harrison was announced to appear as Ruth, the piratical maid-of-all-work, but was called to London to rehearse the part of the “Fairy Queen” in Gilbert and Sullivan’s new opera “Iolanthe; or the Peer and the Peri.” The part was consequently represented by Miss Bernard, who was a very capable substitute. The chorus and orchestration were very good, and the piece was well mounted. Owing to the intense cold, however, it was impossible for the occupants of some part of the house to thoroughly enjoy the performance; and we venture to suggest that a curtain of heavy drapery should be placed across the doorway leading to the boxes. Should this suggestion be adopted, or some other mode of preventing the draughts be devised, the frequenters of this part of the house would be thankful. [*The Sheffield & Rotherham Independent*, December 12, 1882; pg. 2; Issue 8790.]

THEATRE ROYAL. – Lessee, Mr. E. Romaine Callender. – Once more Mr. D’Oyly Carte’s *Pirates of Penzance* company is occupying the boards here for six nights. The company is very much the same as on former visits, the only notable change being that the part of Ruth is in the hands of Miss Bernard, who is very successful in her delineation of the “massive” maiden. Mr. G. W. Marnock’s performance as the Pirate King is as popular as ever; and Mr. John Child as Frederic strengthened his hold on an audience to whom he is now quite familiar. The part of Mabel is still in the able hands of Miss Esme Lee, and that of the Sergeant of Police would seem strange to a Sheffield audience if played by any other than Mr. G. F. Marler, whose excellent make up and humorous conception of the character cause

roars of laughter. In spite of the inclement weather the opera is drawing good houses.
[*The Era* (London, England), Saturday, December 16, 1882; Issue 2308.]
