

**[1878 newspaper report of the funeral of William Campbell, the Scottish Giant at Jesmond Cemetary].**

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June 2nd 1878

## DEATH OF THE SCOTTISH GIANT.

William Campbell, landlord of the Duke of Wellington public-house, High-bridge, Newcastle, and known as the Scottish Giant, died on Sunday morning, the 26th ult., after an illness of ten days. The deceased was a native of Glasgow, and was only twenty-six years of age. He took up a residence in Newcastle about six months ago, his extraordinary dimensions attracting many visitors to the levees which he regularly held. He was ninety-six inches round the shoulders, seventy-six inches round the breast, forty-seven inches round the thigh, and thirty-five inches round the calf of his leg; he weighed fifty-two stone, and stood six feet three inches in his stockings. The deceased had been for some time on exhibition at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, and returned to Newcastle only a few weeks ago. Campbell was married, but has left no children.

The funeral took place at Jesmond Cemetery on Tuesday. The death of this extraordinary man excited great curiosity throughout the district, and the High-bridge, where he lived, was crowded with spectators. Campbell, while confined to his bed, occupied a room on the third storey, and overlooking an open square at the end of his premises. It was there he expired; and it at once became a problem how to convey his huge body to the ground floor. Mr Joseph Howe, undertaker, Westgate, was called in to perform the difficult task. To carry the corpse downstairs, was, he discovered, entirely out of the question, and he had no alternative but to coffin it in the room and take other means to get it out of the apartment. Notwithstanding the brief time at his disposal, Mr Howe had an immense coffin ready on the Monday. It had become known that he was employed in making the gloomy receptacle, and from time to time groups of persons gathered around his workshop in Pitt-street, until he was obliged to call in the aid of the police to maintain order. In putting together the coffin Mr Howe could pay no regard to conventional modes of construction; he was compelled, by reason of the enormous bulk of deceased's limbs, merely to make it in the form of an oblong box. Elm, two inches thick, was the wood of which he made it. The inside he lined with thick sheet-lead, and the outside he covered with black cloth, set off by brass mountings. The inscription on the lid was of the simplest character, only giving the name, age, and date of death. The coffin, which was seven feet long, three feet six inches wide, and two feet ten inches in depth, was taken to the Duke of Wellington inn at half-past eight o'clock on Monday night, and after considerable difficulty and labour it was hoisted to the third storey of the house, where the corpse lay, by means of a pulley and tackle. The window had been taken away, and a portion of the adjacent masonry was removed to enable the coffin to be taken into the room. During this operation a large crowd had assembled, and did not disperse till a late hour. Between four and five o'clock on Tuesday morning the thoroughfare began again to be alive with people to see the coffin lowered. No hearse in the town being large enough to hold it, a lorry was engaged, and shortly after twelve, after arduous labour, the coffin, which, together with the body, weighed about a ton, was deposited on the waggon, which was covered with black cloth drapery, the coffin itself being overlaid with a pall. The procession started shortly after half-past two o'clock, preceded by the Buffalo band playing the Dead March in *Saul*, and 100 members of the Buffalo Society, of which the deceased was a prominent member. Mr Campbell, it appears, took a great interest in the Society, and his brethren, with whom he had been on terms of familiar social intercourse, followed him to the grave, as a mark of the high esteem in which they held his many amiable qualities. Next came the coffin containing the body, drawn on the before-mentioned lorry by two strong horses; and then succeeded five mourning coaches and a number of cabs. The first coach contained the mother of the deceased (Mrs Campbell), a retiring lady of average mien; the widow; Mr David Campbell, brother; Mr H. Russell, and Mr Chapman. The other coach contained friends and business acquaintances of the departed. The pall-bearers were Mr John Thompson, of the Pine Apple Inn, Westgate, where the "Buffaloes" meet; Mr W. F. Jewson, Mr James Boston, and Mr Ralph Masterman, all members of the order.

The windows and roofs of the houses along the route were crowded by spectators, and, the afternoon being fine and clear, many ascended to the top of Grey's monument to obtain a view of the cortege as it passed, and it is calculated that between 30,000 and 40,000 people were astir in consequence of the event. In the cemetery upwards of 2,000 persons had assembled, an equal number being on the road outside, and much disorder and confusion prevailed. One hour was occupied in lowering the coffin into the grave. The burial service was read by the vicar of Newcastle. The ceremony having been concluded, the large concourse gradually dispersed.

Wagner's Opera LOHENGRIN. Lisa di Brabant, Signor Cotogni; Ortruda, Madame Saar; Federico di Telramondo, Signor Cotogni; L'Araldo del Re, Signor Capponi; Enrico l'Uccellatore, Signor Scolara; and Lohengrin, Signor Gayarré. Conductor, Signor Vianesi.

Madame Adelina Patti. Saturday (first time this Season), Verdi's Opera AIDA. Aida, Madame Adelina Patti; Amneris, Madame Scalchi; Una Sacerdotessa, Mdle. Cottini; Amonasro, Signor Graziani; and Radamès, Signor Nicolini. Conductor, Signor Bevilacqua.

Doors open at Eight o'clock, the Opera commence at Half-past. Visitors are respectfully informed that the only authorised Box-office is under the Portico of the Theatre, under the Direction of Mr Edward Hall.

## THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE,

TO BE LET, for Five Years, from

the 18th of August, 1878, wanting Eighteen Days.

The terms on which the Theatre will be Let may be seen at the Office of Messrs WILLOUGHBY and Cox, 13, Clifford's-inn, Solicitors, who will furnish particulars and explanations and forms for Tenders.

Sealed Tenders in the form provided for taking the Theatre on Lease, to be addressed to the Committee of the Theatre Royal Drury-lane Company of Proprietors, care of Messrs WILLOUGHBY and Cox, 13, Clifford's-inn, and to be sent in by Twelve o'clock at noon, on Thursday, 13th June, 1878. The Committee do not undertake to accept any particular offer.

By order of the Committee.

## THEATRE ROYAL, HAYMARKET.—

Reappearance in England of Mr SOTHERN, and production of a New Drama, in Five Acts, entitled

A CRUSHED TRAGEDIAN,

a Tale of the Footlights and the Fireside,

altered from Henry J. Byron's Domestic Drama called

"The Prompter's Box."

De Lacy Fitzaltamont, Mr Sothern.

Messrs Howe, Conway, George Holland, George F. de Vere, Everill, Crouch; Mesdames Marion Terry, De Vere E. Thorne, J. Ashley.

Doors open, 7.30; Overture at 8.0; commence at 8.15.

## PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—

Lessee and Manager, Mr WALTER GOOCH.

Last Three Nights (for the present) of JANE SHORE. Messrs C. Warner, W. Rignold, Howard Russell, &c.; Mrs Alfred Mellon, Mrs R. Power, Misses Illington, Coote, &c. Preceded at Seven by OUT TO NURSE. Mr Harry Jackson and Miss Pollie Randall. Great Snow Scene (Winter by Night).

"Elfinella."—Thursday next, June 6th, First Re-appearance of Miss HEATH after her severe indisposition, in Ross Neil's New Play ELFINELLA, supported by the Princess's Company. New Scenery by Julian Hicks. Costumes by Mons. and Madame Alias. Fairy Chorus and Dance, under the direction of Messrs W. C. Levey and John D'Auban. Music expressly composed by Alfred Celli. Preceded by the laughable Farce MR AND MRS WHITE, in which Miss Fannie Leslie, with her successful Song "White Blossoms," and Mr Harry Jackson, with his Celebrated Imitations, will appear. Doors open at 7.0, commence at 7.30. PRINCESS'S THEATRE, Thursday, June 6th.

## L Y C E U M.—

Last Three Nights of LOUIS XI.

Mr HENRY IRVING,

Messrs Mead, Tyars, Bentley, Clements, Lyons, Archer, Andrews, &c., and Mr Fernandez; Miss Virginia Francis and Mrs Chippendale. At 7.30, TWO CAN PLAY AT THAT GAME. Messrs E. Lyons, Pinero, &c. Concluding at 11.0. Box-office open daily.

Will shortly be produced a New Poetic Drama entitled "Vanderdecken," in which Mr Henry Irving will appear.

Lessee and Manager, Mrs S. F. BATEMAN.

## PRINCE OF WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE.—

Lessees and Managers,

Mr and Mrs BANCROFT (Miss Marie Wilton).

Every Evening, punctually at Eight, the New Play

DIPLOMACY.

Principal characters by Mr Kendal, Mr Arthur Cecil, Mr Sugden, Mr Teesdale, Mr Bancroft, and Mr John Clayton; Mrs Kendal, Miss Le Thiere, Miss B. Henri, Miss Ida Hertz, and Mrs Bancroft. Box-office hours Eleven till Five. No fees of any kind. Doors opened at 7.30.

## ROYAL ADELPHI THEATRE.—

Sole Proprietor, BENJAMIN WEBSTER; Lessee and Manager, F. B. CHATTERTON.—This Theatre, Redecorated by Mr James Macintosh, open for the Season. Every Evening, the Powerful and Emotional Drama, in a Prologue and Three Acts, entitled PROOF; or, a Celebrated Case. Adapted to the English Stage by F. C. Burnand from MM. d'Ennery and Cormon's "Une Cause Célèbre." Characters—Pierre Lorange, Mr Charles Kelly; Chamboran, Mr S. Emery; Lazare, Mr Arthur Stirling; Raoul, Mr Luigi Lablache; Count d'Aubeterre, Mr Charles Harcourt; Seneschal, Mr James Johnstone; Valentine, Mrs Bandmann; Madeline, Miss Louise Moodle; Madame Deprets, Mrs Arthur Stirling; Duchess d'Aubeterre, Mrs Billington; Julie, Miss Hudspeth; Child, Miss Kate Barry; Adrienne, Miss Bella Pateman. Preceded by the popular Farce of SARAH'S YOUNG MAN. Messrs E. J. George, F. Moreland, Waring; Mesdames Hudspeth, J. Coveney, and Bentley. To conclude with the laughable Farce of SHRIMPS FOR TWO. Messrs Fred. Hughes, F. Moreland, Waring, and Miss Kate Bentley. Scenery by Stafford Hall. Costumes by Mr Vokes. Stage-Manager, E. Stirling. Doors open at 6.30; commence at 7. Prices from 6d. to £4 4s. Box-office open from Ten to Five Daily.

## OLYMPIC THEATRE.—

Sole Lessee, Mr HENRY NEVILLE.—For a few Nights only, Belphegor the Mountebank; or, Woman's Constancy. Belphegor, Mr Henry Neville; Madeline, Miss Leighton; Henri, Miss Katie Ryan; Fanfaronade, Mr G. W. Anson; Lavarences, Mr Flockton; Montbazou, Mr A. Elwood; Hercule, Mr Forbes Robertson; D'Arpignol, Mr R. Pateman; Zephyrina Petitpas, Miss Alma Stanley; Misses Cranston, May, Rimbault; Messrs Yarnold, Bauer, Warren, Harmond, Leworthy, &c. Preceded at 7.30 by THE LITTLE VIXEN. Conclude with GOOD FOR NOTHING. Miss Kate Phillips. Box-office