

MILLCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARTS (Charters Towers)

AUSTRALIAN VARIETY THEATRE ARCHIVE: RESEARCH NOTES
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(1875-1881)

The Millchester School of Arts opened on 9 November 1875, a little over a month after a call for donations for the purpose of erecting it was publicised in the *Northern Miner*. The first night featured Baker's Grand Hibernicon and Panorama of Ireland, and Concert and Comedy Company. Typical of most Schools of Arts it hosted all manner of theatrical entertainments (minstrel troupes and concert and panorama companies etc), as well as community events (including the local amateur dramatic company) and religious meetings. Companies that visited Charters Towers during the late-1870s to play bigger venues like the Theatre Royal and Oddfellows' Hall sometimes opened for a few nights at the Millchester School of Arts.

- The building was destroyed by fire on 4 January 1881.
- Another troupe to played the venue the Empsons' company in 1880.

1875

The Northern Miner (Charters Towers, Qld. : 1874 - 1954) about: Saturday 16 October 1875 Page 2

A movement has been commenced in Millchester for the purpose of getting up a school of arts. At a preparatory meeting, held last week, names were put down representing about £40—on paper. On Thursday night, another meeting was held, and the sum was augmented to £50. It is the intention, we hear, to establish a museum in connection with the school of arts. This is likely to prove a great success, as Millchester can furnish any amount of "fossils" in all departments. Everything in Millchester is in a "fossil" state, and when the collection has been made and duly ticketed, we shall see it transferred to Charters Towers, with other curiosities, to remind future visitors of the strange past of Millchester. The Millchester "Chicken," preserved in spirits of wine, will form an interesting item in the collection.

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GRAND OPENING
OF THE
SCHOOL OF ARTS!
MILLCHESTER.

For Two Nights Only, commencing
TUESDAY, 9TH NOV.,
The Prince of Wales' Birthday,

BAKER'S
GRAND HIBERNICON
AND
PANORAMA OF IRELAND.

With powerful "Concert and Comedy"
COMPANY!

Change of Programme Every Night.

Front seats 5s., Back seats 2s. 6d.
Doors open 7:30. Commence at 8

Northern Miner 6 Nov. (1875), 3.

The Hibernicon Company had two very successful nights, on Saturday and Monday nights. "The Death of Nelson," sung by Mr Baker, was enthusiastically received and the whole entertainment was on both occasions unequivocally successful. The company performed last night in the School of Arts, Millichester, and had a very good house.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/77041397>

AT THE
ODDFELLOWS' HALL.
To-night! To-night!
FOR THE LAST NIGHT.
SMITH AND CO'S
GRAND PANORAMA
OF THE
FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR!
Great success all through Victoria and New South Wales.
THE only complete work of the kind in the Australian colonies, and accompanied by the Lecturer, Monsieur H. E. Bocchat, who has been an eye-witness of many of those sanguinary battles.
Don't forget To-night, for the Last Night!
Don't forget also that on that occasion the proprietors have secured the talent of a well-known Gentleman, who will sing some of his **VERY LAUGHABLE** Songs which never fail to delight the public.
BRASS BAND.
Under the leadership of
GEORGE CARL SCHMIDT,
STRING ORCHESTRA:
HERR MULLER,
SOLE PROPRIETORS,
SMITH & COMPANY.
Doors open at half-past seven, commence at eight.
Front Seats, 4s.; Back Seats, 2s. 6d.
Children, Half-price.
Thursday Night, Dec. 30,
THE Proprietors will **EXHIBIT** their **PANORAMA** at the **SCHOOL OF ARTS, in MILLCHESTER,** for the **ONE NIGHT ONLY.**
H. E. Bocchat,
AGENT.

Northern Miner 29 Dec. (1875), 3.

The Milchester dramatic amateurs gave a performance in the School of Arts, in aid of the funds, on Wednesday evening. A sum of £15 was taken on the occasion.

**Charters Towers Gold-field
Presbyterian Church.**

—

FIRST ANNIVERSARY SERVICE

WILL be held on Sabbath 9th inst., in the
SCHOOL OF ARTS, Millchester, at 11
a.m. **SUBJECT—**

“Well Guided.”

—

And in **CHRIST CHURCH**, Charters Tower
at 7.30 p.m. **SUBJECT—**

“Jehovah Tsidkenu.”

—

Also a **SERVICE** will be held in the **ODDFEL-
Lows' HALL**, on **MONDAY NIGHT**, 10th inst.
at 6.30. **TICKETS 5s.**

—

Collections in aid of Christ Church
Building Fund.

Northern Miner 5 Jan. (1876), 3.

Milchester.
SCHOOL OF ARTS.

Public Notice.

THE **READING ROOM** of the above Institution is now supplied with a first instalment of Papers and Periodicals, and will be **OPEN** to the Public **THIS (Saturday) EVENING**, and every evening following, Sundays and general Holidays excepted, from 7 to 11 o'clock. Under **Rule III.**, the subscription is **One Pound per Annum**, payable **quarterly IN ADVANCE**. The first quarter's subscription was due and payable on the 1st February last. Intending members will please pay their subscriptions to the Librarian or Treasurer, in the reading-room, and enter their names in full in the "Subscribers' Book." Each will be supplied with a copy of the Rules and Regulations.

(By order of the Committee.)
W. G. KELLY OUSACK,
Hon. Sec.

Northern Miner 11 Mar. (1876), 3.

A GRAND CONCERT

WILL BE HELD

IN THE

School of Arts,

MILLCHESTER,

By the Ladies and Gentlemen of St. Paul's
Church Choir, assisted by other Lady and
Gentlemen Amateurs, on

Tuesday Evening, 9th October.

At 8 o'clock,

In aid of Funds for Painting the Church of
England, Milchester.

A PROGRAMME is in preparation, consisting
of CHORUSES, DUETS, BALLADS, NEWSONGS,
&c., &c.

Musical Conductor ... Mr. C. D. MYLES.

Pianist... ... Mr. W. A. JUCKER.

Front seats, 4s.; Body of the Hall, 2s. 6d.;
Children, Half-price.

Doors open at 7.30; to commence at 8 p.m.

Northern Miner 3 Oct. (1877), 3.

SCHOOL OF ARTS,

MILLCHESTER.

THURSDAY NIGHT,

NOVEMBER 29th.

Grand Double Programme.

RECOLLECT,

THURSDAY NIGHT,

AT

MILLCHESTER.

ONE NIGHT ONLY.

Admission, 4s. and 2s. 6d.

Northern Miner 28 Nov. (1877), 3.

SCHOOL OF ARTS.
Last Night! Last Night!
 THE LAST APPEARANCE OF
THE EMPSONS
 AT CHARTERS TOWERS,
On Monday Night
 THEY WILL PLAY IN THE
SCHOOL OF ARTS,
 Millchester,
ONE NIGHT ONLY.
TUESDAY NIGHT.
School of Arts,
 CHARTERS TOWERS,
 In Aid of the Irish Distress Relief Fund.
 UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF THE COMMISSIONERS.
 Doors open at half-past Seven, Overture at Eight. Admission—Front Seats 4s.; Back Seats, 2s.; Children half-price.
 W. C. KAST, Agent.

Northern Miner 21 Feb. (1880), 3.

A DESTRUCTIVE fire broke out in the School of Arts, Millchester, shortly before 6 o'clock on Tuesday evening. The lamps had been just lighted in the building. The whole building was quickly destroyed, Mr. F. Arscott's butchers shop and cottage and Mr. McKenzie's shop, the adjoining buildings, were also destroyed. None of the buildings were insured, and the damage is estimated at £1400. All the furniture, books, &c., of the School of Arts were destroyed, the rapidity with which the fire spread rendering it impossible to save anything. The loss of this institution to a small community is much to be deplored, and very general sympathy is felt on Charters Towers for all the sufferers.

Northern Miner 6 Jan. (1881), 2.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/7577503>

ter had been kept on the ground previously. The first School of Arts on the field was at Millchester, but was destroyed by fire. The first School of Arts on the Towers was in a building about where Bradshaw's office is at present.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/page/8105622>

Australian Variety Theatre Archive: Research Notes

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