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Mr Stanley presented himself before the audience, and was received with laid and prolonged cheering and applause from all parts of the house. After it had subsided, Mr Stanley spoke as follows:-

Ladies and Gentlemen - I am proud and happy to welcome you to this new theatre (Applause). I have to apologise for my appearance (Mr Stanley was in undress). I have been hard at work till the eleventh hour and the fifty ninth minute. The building, unfortunately, is not yet finished yet I trust, Ladies and Gentlemen, that in a few days time it will be so, and then I think it will give you every satisfaction (Applause).

Of the work of the architect, Mr Parnell, I need not speak, the building itself is the best testimony, both to his professional skill and his ability. To the enterprising contractors for the building, Messrs J and W Lowry and Mr Walter Scott, I am under deep obligations, not only for the substantial and workmanlike manner in which they have completed their work but also for the earnestness and energy with which they have exerted themselves to complete the work in time, and to enable me to keep faith with the public by opening the house tonight.

To the other tradesmen who have been engaged upon the building, I have also to return my grateful thanks to Messrs John Abbott, especially to Mr Richardson the painter and decorator, to Mr Pearson, the slater, to Messrs Walker and Emily of the Neville Ironworks, to Messrs Walker and Son of the Percy Ironworks, to Mr Smith and to Messrs Jones and Co., gas fitters and plumbers - to all these gentlemen, I am very gratefully indebted. They have all cheerfully exerted themselves to perfect their different parts of the work in time and enabled me to open tonight.

I must mention how deeply I am obligated to the foreman - the intelligent foreman - of Messrs J & W Lowrey and Mr Scott. Their names are Mr John Mitchell, Mr John Nichol, Mr Aitken and Mr Grisdale. To the eagerness and energy of these intelligent foreman, and to their indefatigable labours, I am indebted for opening the theatre this evening,

and I beg thus publicly to express my acknowledgements to all these gentlemen for the services they have rendered (Applause).

To my old friend Mr Fox, the scene painter, I am indebted for a beautiful new act drop which you'll shortly see. To Mr Browning, the chief scene artist, and likewise to his assistant, I am very much obliged for the perseverance with which they have worked in preparing the scenery for the opening night.

Even in an old established theatre, ladies and gentlemen, to produce a piece like this is no slight labour, but with a new theatre and a new company, the work is much greater - doubly greater. Consequently I must crave your indulgence for any imperfections you may see in the entertainment this evening. I assure you that all that is defective shall be remedied, and everything that is good shall be improved (Applause).

I wish, ladies and gentlemen, to speak a word or two in reference to the state of the drama in Newcastle upon Tyne and believe, ladies and gentlemen, that there is not another district in the United Kingdom equal in population to that of Newcastle, Gateshead and the neighbourhood but has more than one theatre (Hear, hear). It may be a matter of opinion, how far two theatres can be supported, but I believe myself, judging from what other towns do, and also for the intelligence and spirit of the people of Gateshead, I think there are sufficient patrons of the drama to patronise two theatres successfully (Applause).

Of this at least, ladies and gentlemen, I am certain that no other theatre and its respected lessee, Mr Davis, I have no feeling of antagonism (Applause). All I recollect of Mr Davis is, that I have fulfilled three engagements under his management, I have never received anything at his hands but the most fair, courteous and gentlemanly treatment - (loud applause) - and I trust, ladies and gentlemen, that he may be long spared to conduct the theatre in Grey Street, not only with continued but increased success (Applause). And at all events, I can assure him and my brother shareholders of that establishment that they will find the Tyne Theatre a generous and a manly rival (Loud Applause).

With respect to the future, ladies and gentlemen, I will say nothing, I would rather leave my efforts to speak for themselves (Hear, hear). All that I can say is that I have secured a very numerous and very able, and respectable company, and I am certain they will do their best, both to give you amusement and to give you instruction (Applause). I am not a native to the manor born, but for some years past I have been closely identified with Tyneside. It is now 13 years since I fulfilled my first engagement at the Theatre Royal and for the last 10 years I have been actively engaged as a manager in the principal districts round the North of England.

I may say that for the last 7 years I have conducted a place of amusement in this town. To the prolonged and energetic support that I have received from all classes of people, and more especially to the intelligent and industrious artisans I am greatly indebted for being placed in the position which I now am in.

Ladies and gentlemen, you must excuse the hammering (alluding to the work going on behind the scenes). It is an absolute necessity in order to commence the performance (Hear, hear). I can assure you it is so very unpleasant for me to hear it, that I scarcely know what I am saying (Hear, hear).

Well, ladies and gentlemen, I don't wish to detain you any further. I know but little more that I can say than to assure you that I intend to make this theatre a place of popular and rational amusement and that I trust that I shall receive the same amount of support that I have previously done (Applause). Of this I am certain, that if my management deserves your support it will receive it (Applause).

But whether it is gained or whether it is not, this at least I shall say - that I shall always have a grateful recollection of the Newcastle public (Applause). When I opened the Tyne Concert Hall, I was both literally and professionally "a poor player" like many, though very strong in faith I was poor in pocket. From the support I have received, I have been able to clear myself of the liabilities that I have incurred during previous unfortunate speculations, and also to maintain myself and my family in comfort (Applause).

I assure you, ladies
and gentlemen, that I shall always have a grateful recollection
of your kindness, and that everything that can contribute to
the welfare of the industrious, energetic and independent
population shall always have my warmest sympathy and
warmest encouragement, for I can truly say, with one of your
local poets: -

“Tyne River, running rough or smooth,
Brings bread to me and mine.
Of all the rivers, North and South
There’s none like Coaly Tyne”

(Great cheering).