

BENT AND BACHELDER'S ANGLO-AMERICAN CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS

(1881-1882) Following his Kelly and Leon's Minstrels engagement at St George's Hall (Melb) over 1880 and early 1881, Horace Bent joined forces with R.G. Bachelder to form Bent and Bachelder's Christy's Minstrels (later the Anglo-American Christy's Minstrels) for a tour of New Zealand. It was not their first association as Bent had been a member of Bachelder's Colossean Pantoscope Mammoth Combination in the early 1870s. The company, which is first thought to have made its debut in Invercargill in September 1881, included the Hugo brothers (Charles and William), double-voiced singer Amy Rowe, and two performers who later appeared with Bent in Hiscocks Federal Minstrels – Beaumont Read, W. A. (William) Ball. Another member of the Federal Minstrels, Sam Keenan, joined the Bent and Bachelder company for its Australian debut in February 1882. The Sydney season also saw Alf Moynham join the line-up.

Among the burlesque's known to have been staged by the company during its time together and which are believed to have been written or adapted by Horace Bent are: *Bohemian Girl* (after Michael Balfe's opera), *H.M.S. Pin-A-4 in Black*, possibly adapted from an earlier burlesque of his simply titled *H.M.S. Pin-A-4* (1880), and *Maritana*. During this time, too, he staged possibly for the first time one of his most popular-ever musical farces, the old negro sketch *Un Coup De Razoir* (4 Mar.).

S L O A N ' S T H E A T R E .
 Lessees MESSRS BACHELDER & BENT.
 Commencing
MONDAY EVENING, 19th SEPTEMBER.
BENT AND BACHELDER'S
 Revived and Reorganised

CHRISTY	SIXTEEN	MINSTRELS
CHRISTY	STAR	MINSTRELS
CHRISTY	ARTISTES	MINSTRELS

Organised at a great expense with a
 repertoire of the
LATEST MINSTREL NOVELTIES.

P I N - A - 4 I N B L A C K

Full particulars in future advertisement.
Southland Times (Invercargill, NZ) 16 Sept.
 (1881), 3.

PERSONNEL

1. **Principal troupe members** incl. William Ball, W. Horace Bent, T. Farrell, C. S. Fredericks, G. Glider, J. F. Heywood, Charles Hugo, William Hugo, Sam Keenan, Herr Kophs, R. Langdown, W. Leake, R. McSherry, J. Parkes, Beaumont Read, Amy Rowe, Edwin Rowley, F. Vassey, Mr H. A. Williamson.

HISTORICAL NOTES AND CORRECTIONS

O P E R A H O U S E .

Lessee and Manager Mr. W. J. Wilson.
 Business Manager Mr. E. G. Bachelder.
 Stage Manager Mr. W. Horace Bent.

**THIS (Saturday) EVENING, March 11,
 THE BEST PROGRAMME.**

THE BEST PROGRAMME YET PRESENTED.
BENT AND BACHELDER'S BENT AND BACHELDER'S
CHRISTY'S ANGLO-AMERICAN MINSTRELS
CHRISTY'S ANGLO-AMERICAN MINSTRELS

PART 1st.—SALON D'ETHIOPE.
 Introductory Overture and Chorus... .. Minstrels
 Ballad—"In the gloaming" Mr. C. S. Fredericks
 Comic—"Get up and shut the door" Mr. Chas. Hugo
 Song—"Little Bright Eyes" Mr. W. Ball
 Comic—"Over the garden wall" Mr. W. Horace Bent
 Ballad—"When will father come home
 again?" Mr. Beaumont Read

LU-LOO, QUEEN OF THE AIR.
 Full Company.
 Interval five minutes.
3 THE BIG 3
 The Hugo Brothers and Sam Keenan.
DANCING IN THE BARN.
 W. Horace Bent's new Comic Lecture, "WHAT IS ART?"
 "Ars est celare artem."—"Art is the deft application of the
 HORACE. concatenation of side Taffey."
 MISS AMY ROWE'S NEW SPECIALITIES.
 Tenor Solo, "Star of Love;" Soprano Solo, "Tricknam Ferry;"
 Mr. BENT'S NEW SKETCH,
THE SLEEP WALKER.
JAKE W. HORACE BENT.
 Sandford Stocks, Adolphus.
 W. BALL, C. S. FREDERICKS.
 Mr. SAM KEENAN'S New Speciality,
A FUNNY OLD GIRL.
 First production of an Extraordinary, Exciting, and Extravagant
 Extraction of "Pinafore," paraphrased from Gilbert and Sullivan's
 "H.M.S. Pinafore," (by permission)
 H. M. S.
PIN-A-4
I N B L A C K
H. M. S. PIN-A-4.
 The Left Hon. Sir Joe Half-and-Half, M.L.C. W. Horace Bent
 Cap. Cork O'Bam—Commander Pin-a-4 H. A. Williamson
 Ralph Haystack—Able Seaman C. S. Fredericks
 Dead Dickey—Able Seaman William Ball
 Bob Billitray—Boatswain Beaumont Read
 Beck Bobbit—Carpenter's Mate G. Glider
 Fack Tomner—Chief Cook and Bottle Washer W. Leake
 Little Butter-tub—an Orange Woman Chas. Hugo
 Hebe—Sir Joseph's First Cousin S. Keenan
 Shebe—Second Cousin Wm. Hugo
 Josephine—the Captain's Daughter Miss Amy Rowe.
 Dredgers, mud-grubbers, Sir Joe's relatives, &c. Box office
 at Huenerbein's, George-street. Admission 5s, 3s, 2s, 1s. Overture
 at 8 sharp. Terminates at 10.30. N.B.—The pianos used are
 from A. Huenerbein's.

Sydney Morning Herald 11 Mar (1882), 2

R. G. Bachelder: While little is known of R. G. Bachelder at this time, other than he was an American minstrel performer and showman, it appears that he undertook at least two tours of Australia during the 1870s prior to the Bent and Bachelder venture. His first recorded visit was in the early 1870s when he engaged Horace Bent as one the troupe's local contingent (ca. 1873). His second tour is believed to have been undertaken over 1877 and 1878, and included a season at Sydney's School of Arts in 1877 with Bachelder's Pantoscope Company (2 Apr.-19 May). The following year the troupe, billed this time as Bachelder's American Combination Pantoscope Company and played a season at Melbourne's St George's Hall (29 June-10 Aug.).

NB: W. Horace Bent is not believed to have been engaged by Bachelder during this tour. In April 1877, for example, he was in Melbourne while Bachelder's troupe was playing its Sydney season.