

"THE ROSE WITHOUT A THORN."

REPERTORY PLAY.

The Brisbane Repertory Theatre Society has established a reputation for productions of outstanding quality, and their most recent offering, "The Rose Without a Thorn," presented at Cremorne last evening maintained the usual high standard. "The Rose Without a Thorn" is really Katherine Howard, the romantic title being bestowed upon her by that variable monarch, Henry VIII. The poor "rose," however, finds many thorns in her path when she becomes a queen. It is true that the lady, through her mischievous dallying with other lovers invites troubles, but the author of the play, aided by the actors, makes the audience feel that poor Katherine's drastic punishment is far beyond her deserts.

The dialogue has the color of the times, and the settings enhance the atmospheric effect. The players essayed their roles with smooth finish, notably in the case of Miss Dulcie Scott, as the luckless Katherine. Always a brilliant performer, Miss Scott made Katherine a fascinating witch, a vivid human character, rather than a meek and mild heroine. Mr. J. Pendleton, although not a blustering King Henry, lent an effective touch of irony to his role. Mr. Tom Stephens, as Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Mr. Fred Ebbels, as the Earl of Hertford, also did notable work. The lesser roles were well sustained.

Incidental music was provided by a band of players under the direction of Mr. Erich John. Miss Rhoda Felgate was the producer. The play will be repeated again to-night.