

## OUR SPECIAL ARTIST AT THE EASTERN EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.

### GREAT CLOG DANCING CONTEST FOR THE WORLD'S CHAMPIONSHIP.

[SUBJECT OF ILLUSTRATION.]

LATE on Saturday night, at the Empire Theatre, Bow, the clog dance competition which has been carried through during six nights (drawing no less than twenty-eight competitors) came to a close. Amidst shouts of applause the manager, Mr. J. H. Wood, came forward, and in the name of the jurors declared the favourite to be Mr. James G. Burns, of Glasgow, now champion clog dancer of the world. In addition Mr. Burns won the prize of £20. He is one of the neatest and nimblest dancers we have ever seen, and evidently has exceptional powers of endurance. Mr. Martin Melia made a good second, taking a gold medal and £5. Third man was Mr. Michael Hannaway, who took a silver cup and £2. The competition has been highly attractive, large numbers having been nightly turned from the doors. When the curtain was drawn up a special platform was found to occupy the centre of the stage, whilst several gentlemen with a pre-occupied air were seated round it at a respectful distance from each other. These were the judges, and among them were the two veterans, Ben Ray and Hasberry Howard. A great ovation awaited the redoubtable Burns, who throughout was the dark horse of the competition. It appears that he has practised clog dancing for twenty years. His dancing was a revelation. The judges said they had never seen the like before, and we can add with all veracity, neither have we. The points the judges go by in clog dancing are as follows:—Good: 1, execution; 2, original steps; 3, time; 4, carriage. Bad: 1, mistakes; 2, misbeats. The Americans have invented a large number of new steps. The North of England is the home of clog dancing. Very pretty dance music was composed for this event by Messrs. Thomas and Peterson.

Space does not permit of our entering into full details of the reunion. So it must suffice to print the result.

Championship Belt of England.—Final Heat: James C. Burns, Glasgow, first (champion belt and £20); Martin Melia, St. Helens, second (gold medal and £10); Michael Hannaway, Scotland, 0. The above trio were left in to compete for the first three prizes. Hannaway was the first to appear. He started in a graceful style, but unfortunately broke down when going well. Next to appear was Melia. He stepped off in grand style, keeping well to beats and time, and amidst loud cheers danced out his allotted steps. The last up was Burns, who, on commencing, at once showed both grace and perfect dancing. His style was considered best of all. The judges declared Burns the winner, and placed Melia second, as Hannaway broke down. The third prize is held over, and the fourth prize went to Joe Nixon, of Birmingham, and the consolation first prize, a handsome cup, awarded by T. W. Royal, of Manchester. Second

prize (gold centre medal), John Lannon, Rotherham; third prize, John Langon, Dublin. The stage arrangements, in the hands of Mr. T. W. Davis, proved all that could be desired. In the absence of Dick Burge, Mr. George Ware presented the winner with the belt. The third prize and £5, as stated above, is held over.

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