

Tea Table Gossip.

Although we were promised such a very dull session, and letters were written to the papers advising us to refrain from the iniquity of buying ball dresses, &c., we have had, as far as it has gone, one of the gayest sessions that have been experienced since the dear extravagant old Stout-Vogel days. Entertainments have succeeded one another with alarming rapidity, and have been given upon a more elaborate scale than of yore; the decorations more elaborate, flowers more plentiful, and gowns richer and more varied than I ever remember to have seen them.

The first great social event of August was the ball given by the Wellington Club. The ball-room, which is not very large, was crowded. The whole building was thrown open to the guests, and the rooms beautifully decorated with daffodils, scarlet and white camellias, and wattle. The supper, which was laid out in the billiard room, was excellent; of course, club suppers are always so. Every delicacy that could be procured was to be found, and the champagne and other wines of the very best. His Excellency the Governor and a party from Government House were present. They were met by the President of the Club, Mr. Edward Pearce, and Miss Pearce, who stood at the top of the first staircase and received the guests. Some of the dresses were extremely handsome. Mrs. Johnston Stewart wore a beautiful gown of silver grey brocade, with clusters of pink roses; Lady Augusta Boyle, a white silk, trimmed with strips of flowered embroidery; Mrs. T. C. Williams, a handsome brown brocade, trimmed with ecru lace; Mrs. Arthur Russell, a beautiful sage green silk; Mrs. Larnach's gown was a beautiful combination of peacock blue silk and canary satin; Mrs. Collins wore a dress of black moire and white silk; Mrs. Werry, a costume of sage green silk and velvet; Mrs. Tolhurst, a gown of brown velvet, with petticoat and shoulder trimmings of cream and gold brocade. There were a great many other beautiful dresses, but it would take too long to describe them all. Amongst the guests were also Mrs. and Miss Russell, Mr. and Mrs. A. Brandon, the Misses Brandon, Dr. and Mrs. Grace, Sir Walter and Miss Buller, Captain Stewart, Major Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Phazarzyn, Colonel Fox, the Misses Holmes, Gore, Duncan, Gibson, Cooper, Johnston, Williams, Carrow, &c.

On the next evening (Friday), Mrs. Johnston Stewart gave her second At Home at Government House. The decorations were very tasteful, the mantelpieces being built up with banks of maiden hair fern, and camellias, palms and pot plants filled the corners; the conservatory was thrown open, and dimly lighted with coloured lamps. Mrs. Johnston Stewart assisted His Excellency to receive the guests. She was beautifully dressed in a pretty gown of white and silver striped gauze over white satin, and with pearls in her hair. Lady Augusta Boyle looked very well in a slightly trained gown of pink satin. Amongst other handsome gowns I must notice that of Mrs. Newman, a lovely creation of pale blue and pink, and that of Mrs. Wilson, a beautiful cream satin embroidered with pearls. Miss Clara Russell wore a pretty white spotted gauze over white satin. Miss Whistler, white covered with blue and gold striped gauze. Mrs. G. Hutchison, silver grey trimmed with steel. Others present were Mrs. Dan Riddiford, Mrs. Mantell, Mrs. C. Izard, the Misses Dransfield, Graham, Friend, Duncan, Medley, Brandon, Allan, Baker, &c. Colonel Fox, Dr. Cabill, Messrs Cooper, Gore, Todd, Buller, &c.

There were several large and fashionable audiences at the Opera House to hear the Montague-Turner Company, "Maritana" drew a crowded house, including His Excellency the Governor, and a party from Government House.

The Belle Cole concerts also obtained a good share of patronage, Madame Cole's exquisite singing of "The Lost Chord" being particularly appreciated. It would be almost impossible to describe all the entertainments, so I must content myself with a few of the more important.

On the 18th Mrs. George Hutchison gave a most delightful At Home at her residence in Hill street. The rooms were a dream of loveliness decorated with wattle and drapings of yellow silks, and everywhere great clusters of daffodils. Mrs. Hutchi-

son received her guests in a very handsome gown of dark green velvet. The supper was excellent. Music and floor all that could be desired.

There have also been several delightful musical "At Homes." One given by Mrs. Travers was a very large affair, both rooms and the hall being filled with guests, amongst whom were Captain and Mrs. Stewart, Lady Augusta Boyle, Major Elliot, and Mr. Clayton, Mrs. Russell, Mrs. Arthur Russell, Hon. B. and Mrs. Phazarzyn, Mr. and Mrs. Pynsant, Mr. and Mrs. Olliver, the Misses Johnston, Grace, Buller, Williams, Izard, &c.

On the next evening Mrs. Collins gave a small dance at her residence in Boulcott street. Daffodils again formed the principle of decoration, and the beautiful hostess resembled one of these flowers herself, wearing an exquisite gown of maize-coloured mervilleux trimmed with ecru lace, and carrying a bouquet of daffodils and ferns. Lady Augusta Boyle wore white silk trimmed with strips of embroidery. Miss H. Williams, white brocade embroidered with pearls and trimmed with mauve velvet. Miss Gibson (who is staying with Mrs. Collins) wore pink silk. Amongst others present were Mrs. and Miss Russell, Mrs. Walter Johnston and the Misses Johnston, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pearce, and Mrs. Dowell, Mrs. H. Crawford, Mr. and Mrs. A. Crawford, Miss Holmes, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wilford, Mr. and Mrs. Bell, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Riddiford, the Misses Gore, Buller, Whistler, Duncan, Tolhurst, Mills, Medley &c.

On the following night everybody met once more at the Theatre Royal to see the Amateur Theatricals in aid of the Roman Catholic Orphanage. The dress circle presented a brilliant appearance; gay dresses and gayer flowers lighting up the somewhat dingy old place most agreeably. "Our Bitterest Foe" was the principle piece and was extremely well acted, every character being extremely well and carefully played. Those who took part in the three pieces were the Misses Grace, Dr. and Mrs. Purdy, Mrs. T. Wilford, and Mr. Ross, Gore. Mrs. Grace entertained all the performers at supper after the performance. His Excellency the Governor and a party from Government House were amongst the audience.

The very gay week was finished up by a most enjoyable dance given by Mrs. Adams, on the Saturday night. The verandah was covered in and softly lighted with coloured lamps, and the decorations consisted chiefly of red and white camellias. Dr. and Mrs. Adams received the guests, the latter wearing a very handsome black silk gown trimmed with jet. Amongst the guests were Captain and Mrs. Stewart, Lady Augusta Boyle, Major Elliot, Colonel Fox, Mrs. and Miss Russell, Mrs. Bell, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Pearce, Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson, Mr. and Mrs. Wardrop, Mrs. Rhodes, the Misses Grace, Johnston, Buller, Harding, Duncan, Mills, Gore, Cooper, Williams, Dransfield &c.

On Monday, August 20th, a pretty wedding took place at St. Paul's Cathedral. It was that of Miss May Carrow, to Mr. Edgar Ward, Mayor of Riverton. The bride wore a pretty costume of grey with trimmings of white and gold brocade, large grey hat with white feathers, and carried a bouquet of white flowers and maiden hair. The bridesmaids were Miss Heywood and Miss S. Heywood, who wore dresses of gobelin blue and brown, with hats to match, and carried bouquets of daffodils. Mrs. Carrow wore a beautiful costume of gobelin blue and gold brocade. There were very few guests. Mr. Browning acted as best man, and the ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Sprott.

On Monday evening the "Living pictures from Punch" attracted a large audience at the Art Gallery. The entertainment was got up by Miss Holmes and Miss Williams in aid of the building fund and consisted of tableaux with appropriate music. "Auld Robin Gray," and "Paradise and the Peri" were particularly good. Those who took part in the performances were the Misses Williams, Izard, Johnston, Gibson, Duncan, Williams, Gore, Holmes, Mrs. A. Pearce, Messrs. Newton, Gore, Tripp, Hadfield, Patterson &c.

Mrs. Walter Johnston gave an At Home on the 22nd and Miss Pearce on the following night. On the 27th Mrs. Johnston Stewart gave another most delightful At Home at Government House.