morning of the same day the members, thinking it would be wet, posiposed it until Saturday forteight. Eome of those I noticed grey silk embroidered in front with oream passementerie, small let bonnet with yellow roses; Mrs Garland (Genaru), tallor mede faver with oream passementerie, small let bonnet with yellow roses; Mrs Garland (Genaru), tallor mede faver with member hack chirt for one termined with helion to tripped print trimmed with black falls, large black lace hat; Mrs Finiser, black crepon skirt, heliotrope blouse, black respon skirt, heliotrope blouse, black respon skirt, hendeome black velvet cape, delirty jet bonnet with plint bows; Mrs Hoyse, black loth, white turned-down collar and caffs, black bonnet; Mrs Satronach linvercargill, gown elaborately banded with oream insertion over pale blues elik, cape to match, black bonnet; Mrs Satronach linvercargill, gown elaborately banded with oream insertion over pale blues elik, cape to match, black bonnet were paled to enabled a complete fall, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon dress, panel of crushed atrawberry in Napier Bell, black respon skirt, handene black satio cape bordered with heavy lace, small black bonnet; Mrs Gargood, blue and white figured blouse, white sation hat trimmed with yellow ownsipas dwith magenta and pink; Miss K. Royse, white music dress and with magenta and pink; Miss K. Royse, white music dress and with magenta and pink; Miss K. Royse, white music dress and white sation thous, blue crupon skirt, bright pink white active tips and white sation phase in the pink rose; Miss B. Salek Sathens; Miss G. Webster, black serge skirt and sacket faced with black silk, bright pink white sation hat trimmed with white eather the panel white sation hat tr

SMALL EUCHRE PARTY.

The top prizes were won by Miss S. Graham and Mr Lesite Williams. The boobles were Miss E. Melaren and Mr Pyke. The Ladies booble prize consisted of a penny balloon and the gottleman's of a fully pips. Those present were Mrs Shaad in black agared clott; Miss Shand, black crepon skirt, lemon coloured agared clott; Miss Shand, black crepon skirt, lemon coloured blue evening bodice trimmed with black lace; Miss I. Shand, white figured dolains trimmed with cream lace; Miss I. Shand, white figured dolains trimmed with cream lace; Miss Graham, sparrows' egg blue trimmed with pearl trimmings; Miss E. Graham, pink figured slik blouse, black clott skirt; Miss E. Lirich, pruse coloured velvet; Miss E. McLaren, black slik sirt, hellotrope evlevt blouse; Miss S. Bartleman, sage geen silk blouse, black skirt; Miss K. McLaren, pink blouse, white muslin fields.

AILEEN.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE.

NOVEMBER 5.

THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROVINCE

THE ANNIVERBARY OF THE PROVINCE was altogether a disappointing day—wet enough in the early morning to put a veto on all excurcions, and then clearing up when too late into a most beautiful summer's day. The cricket match of the season, Wairau v. Waitohi, was to have been played in Nelson Square, but the ground was in too soft a condition, so coming down by train to picule in the bays looked at the cloud-iaden sky, and preferred cold lunch under shelter to rain and misery; also the Blenheim Church of England Sunday-achool children, who were to come down by train to Koromiko sad spend the day in Capitain Dalton's grounds, shed many hitter tears over their disappointment. Everybody went out in the afternoon, and cricket matches going on at once, the seniors playing a grand game with picked sides, then the rising generation of big boys in one cornor, and the little ones in another, and the girls' club playing most energetically in another, so that flying balls made it rather lively for the spectators.

THE READING SOCIETY

met in the Institute and spent a pleasant and instructive evening. Mrs McIntyre's reading of Scott's Lady of the Lake 'was greatly appreciated, and that lady was careestly becought to finish the story by another reading next week. Mr Howard read a portion of 'The Jivals,' and gave much pleasure to bis audience by bis inimitable acting in the different parts. Others present were Mr and Mrs Sedgwick, Mesdames Duncan, Allen, H. C. Seymour, Williams, McShane, Howard, H. Howard, Seely, and the Misses Seymour, Seely, Allen, Williams (two, Balfour, Howard, Greenstill, Jackson, etc.)

ODDS AND ENDS

Mrs Liston gave a small afternoon tea for the returned travellers—Meadames Allen, H. C. Seymour, and Andrews—on Wednesday. Mrs Andrews was looking prettier than ever in black crepon frock with orange surah silk front and coller, and small hat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shadhat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shadhat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shaded hat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shaded hat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shaded hat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shaded hat trimmed shaded silk bows and cluster of conage shaded shaded hat trimmed shaded sh

heim intend holding the accurate and other attractions, summare excursions steamers from Wellington and other attractions, summare her philes are the summare and the summare are the summare of that the Messish, so that they may assist in the performance of that they may assist in the performance of that great oration in Bienheim shortly. The woestly practice is lowed forward to with much pleasure by all.

The Roman Catholics, who intend having a bazaar here on New Year's Day, are insultuting quite a sensation doll-dressing competition, a prize for all-comers being fills, and other prizes according to age.

tilion, a prize for all comers being £10, and other prizes according to age.

Mr and Mrs Ssinton (Blenheim) are still hore staying at Mrs Allport's in High-street. Mr Ssinton is in charge of the Peet and Telegraph till Mr Gudgeon, or Queensown, who arrived just too late to Mr Cyril Godgeon, or Queensown, who arrived just too late to Captain and Mrs Bisillia (Para) returned home from Wellington last week. They were accompanied by Miss Stavely, who is encaged to their eidest son, Mr W. Haillio.

Pleasant letters have been received by friends here from Mr and Mrs John Mowat, posted at different ports of call. They exceed the control of the meaning of the meaning of the meaning meaning meaning the meaning mea

OBITUARY.

I have to record with much regret the death of Mr J. H. Gud-con, which occurred on hist Colober at Blenheim. For some bouthe past Mr Gudgoon has been patiently and resignedly a wait-ing the end. That he bore his terrible affliction with almost vine patience, and underwest operation after operation for ancer with almost unheard of courage, has made everyone mourn

that so good and so brave a man should be cut off in the very prime of life—at the early age of 41. Mr Gudgeon entered the Postal and Telegraph Department in the Wellington office, and worked his way up till all years ago he succeeded Mr J. G. Ballard as Postmaster at Picton. He was respected and e-tremed by all who had dealings with him for his uprah and honourable character, and those who know him best fored him for his social was born in the Auckland district, his father being the late W. E. Gudgeon, author of 'Herces of New Zealand.' Besides three brothers—Major Gudgeon, of Tologa Bay; Mr Gudgeon, of Melbourne; and Mr C. Gudgeon of Queenstown—Mr Gudgeon leaves a wife and seven children to mourn his loss.' The funeral, which took placeat the Picton centerey on Saturday, waslargely attended by Blenheim and Picton friends. Wreaths from the Wellington, Dunedin, Thames, Blenheim, and Picton offices decorated the coffin, besides many others from private friends. Mr Gudgeon was a member of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, and services in memorium were hold in that church on Kundsy. In the encest to Mr Gudgeon 'Christian life and character, and after the evening service the organist, Miss May Groensill, played the 'Dead March.' evening service Dead March.

GRAPHOLOGY OR PEN PORTRAITS.

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Piano. —You have a most sympathetic and affectionate temperament. Your tastes are refined and well cultivated. You have great musical ability, and are very fond of children and flowers. You are truthful and sincere, reserved with strangers, and seldom betray your strongest feelings, but in congenial society you can be a charming and agreeable companion. You are very unselfish, and rarely consider your own interests or advantage where those whom you love are concerned. Your energy and devotion in their behalf are perfectly tircless, but you are highly sensitive, tenacious of their affections, and a little disposed to fancy yourself neglected. This trait is accentuated by absence of vanity and self-esteem. You are scarcely just in the estimate of your own attractions. A little more firmness and perseverance would tions. A little more firmness and perseverance would also be beneficial. You are very industrious, nevertheless, and skilful with your fingers.—MARCELLA.

THE BREAKWATER OPENING FESTIVITIES AT

AST week two pictures were given of the opening of the Napier Breakwater by His Excellency the Governor. This week we 'follow on' with a couple of views of the procession in the streets on that occasion. The Governor, it will be remembered, arrived at the station at 10.30 from Wellington, and was met at the station by Mayor Swan, the Councillors, and the members of the Harbour Board. A very large procession was formed, the various local bodies taking part. There were volunteers, firemen, friendly societies, and numbers of others, so that the affair was of quite an imposing The weather was beautiful, and the opening nature. passed off in the most satisfactory manner possible. The route taken was round the Bluff road to the breakwater. On arrival there His Excellency was escorted to a dais gaily decorated for the occasion. The Mayor apologised for the absence of the Hon. Mr Ormond, Chairman of the Harbour Board, who had taken such an active part in starting the works, and read congratulatory telegrams from the Gisborne Harbour Board. Lord Glasgow congratulated the district upon the breakwater having been carried to such a successful issue, and trusted the inhabitants would greatly benefit there-by. It gave him the greatest pleasure to declare the breakwater open. Mayor Swan, with His Excellency's sanction, christened the wharf 'Glasgow Wharf.' Charts were presented to the Governor and to Captain Waller, of the Flora. The party then adjourned for luncheon aboard the steamer, where congratulatory toasts were proposed and drunk, and a pleasant time was apent.

ONE MAN ONE VALUE.

(A CRICKET REFLECTION.)

THERE is something quite remarkable in the influence which, in a team of talented cricketers, the presence of a single individual may have upon the fortunes of a series of matches. Numerically he is but an eleventh part of the whole side; but actually, as has been proved over and over again, he represents something far above his mere fractional value. As a batsman or a bowler he is probably superior to his colleages, yet not to such an extent as to lead the critic to suppose that his loss would be irreparable. And yet it is a little singular to observe the melancholy gap which his absence creates.

The present season has witnessed the return of Lohmann to the ranks of the Surrey Eleven. Up to date, although he has been unquestionably useful, and although there seems to be little likelihood of his being dropped from the ranks of the county which will presumably be again champion, he has scarcely assumed the unique position which he once held. One can remember the time when he was the great piece de resultance of the Oval contingent. From his departure it took Surrey at least a season to recover. In 1693 the side seemed at sixes and sevens, and we are inclined to think that much of their depression was due to Lohmann's absence.

The greatest instance in all the history of cricket of

mann's absence.

The greatest instance in all the history of cricket of one man standing in the breach and restoring the for-tunes of the fight is Dr. W. G. Grace. When he first appeared upon the scene the gentlemen of England never presumed to have the least chance in their annual appeared upon the scene the gentlemen of England never pressumed to have the least chance in their annual battles with the professionals. After his rise to greatness, for many summers the professionals lost match after match. Quite apart from his own unique performances he inspired confidence into his fellow-amateurs: Mr Hornby, Mr Yardley, Mr G. F. Grace, and Mr Ottaway all got runs, and Mr Appleby and Mr Buchanan took many wickets. So that an extremely powerful side arose, centred about the champion, and won for ten or fifteen years, so long as he was in his zenith—if there he any zenith of a fame so durable as Dr. Grace's. If we trace still further the history of the Gentlemen and Players' matches, we might almost add additional evidence to our case by pointing out that it was the advent of Shrewsbury which eventually made the difference. He found the professional batting of the seventies in a tolerably poor way. A complete inability to play the leg-breaks of Mr A. G. Steel was especially noticeable; there were hitters like Ulyett and Selby, but the stars of Daft and Lockwood were on the wane. With Shrewsbury began a new era, during which professional cricket reasserted its old superiority. His loss to Nottingham meant far more; his absence meant an altered order and consequent confusion.

With University teams the case is the same. The value

consequent confusion.

With University teams the case is the same. The value of Mr S. M. J. Woods to Cambridge was felt immediately he went up. Directly he joined the eleven things began to go well at Lord's: without him the team appeared invertebrate and lifeless. Mr C. T. Studd held at one time a similar eminence on the Light Blue side, and Mr F. S. Jackson in the last year of his captaincy. If in University cricket the phenomenon be less noticeable, it is because it is more natural; there is always an untried element in these elevens, and the aid of some players of proved skill and experience cannot fail of its good effect.

element in these elevens, and the aid of some players of proved skill and experience cannot fail of its good effect.

In county elevens, where there is bound to be a fairly widespread amount of experience, you would scarcely expect to find one-man teams as often as you do. Yet an observer may discriminate fairly accurately between elevens of solid and equally distributed merit and elevens wherein one Triton disports himself among minnows. Gloucestershire, needless to say, is the great case in point. But this summer we have seen it urged against Lancashire that they depend too much upon the defeuce of Albert Ward, and this despite Mr Maclaren's runs against Somersetshire the other day. Sussex now place their complete reliance upon Prince Ranjitsinhji; and when he issis the rest fail contendedly.

We would not, however, have it thought that the star of the side must necessarily himself be everywhere successful. That is not precisely part of the programme. The main factor in his worth is his presence and the direct encouragement which this gives to his colleagues. A star has a moral value to the side, beyond his own personal achievements. He stands a living instance of glorious possibilities which he has himself demonstrated over and over again. He has shown that such and such bowling can be made to look amazingly simple; he has proved that such and such batsmen may he readily bowled out. Hence you no sooner find a lamous player constituting himself the mainstay of his side than you discover other useful and successful cricketers accompishing feats which the presiding genius of the eleven has rendered possible. Doctor Grace seemed to create batsmen in the old Gloucestershire team. Mr Townsend and Mr Moberley might never have been heard of but for the champion. As it was, they did performances of starting ment on their own account when the Gloucestershire captain himself failed; Lohnann made bowlers for Surrey; Beaumont and Howley and Lockwood were invaluable men, trundling from the opposite wicket to Lohnann himse

The typical eleven of solid talent is Yorkshire. may take away any single man there without incapaci-sting the side. I'eel is their most valuable man, per-naps; but Wainwright and Hirst can be relied upon to hapa; but Wanwright and rivist can be reien upon to be dangerous bowlers, and the batting is good all through. Remove Richardson from Surrey, Mr Stoddart from Middlesex, Prince Ranjutainhji from Sussex, Dr. Grace from Gloucestershire, and Ward from Laucashire, and the whole issue of the County Championship would be

Possibly this consideration may throw some light upon that misused phrase, 'the glorious uncertainty of the game.