Leghorn hat trimmed with pink roses and white tulle; Miss A. Grace, white duck costume large white hat with feathers; Mrs Johnston, black crepon with vest of pink silk, black bonnet with pink rosettes; Miss Johnston, white spotted muslin over pale green silk, and trimmed with ribbon to match, white straw hat with white flowers and green ribbon; Miss E. Johnston, white duck costume; Miss Pearce, blue figured cloth gown with epaulettes of black lace, black bonnet with red and cream roses; Mrs Duncan, black corded silk gown, handsome net cape worked with jet, jet bonnet with black tips; Mrs Baldwin, fawn tailor-made costume, black hat with grass loops and chiffon; Mrs Williams, black silk gown and mantle, pretty bonnet with cream tips; Mrs Beetham, Mrs Travers, black skirt, striped blouse, black hat with poppies and shot ribbon; Mrs Hudson, grey gown trimmed with black braid, sailor hat; Mrs Reid, grey tweed; Mrs Molenieux, brown crepon trimmed with ribbon to match, bonnet to match trimmed with heliotrope flowers; Mrs Joseph, black silk, jet bonnet with white ospreys; Mrs Edwin, blue spotted silk, black lace cape, black bonnet with cornflowers; Miss Brandon, black skirt, check silk blouse, lace cape, black hat with jetted wings and shot ribbon; Mrs C. Izard, Miss Grace, pretty white seersucker costume, hat to match with white satin bows and red roses; Mrs Parfitt, black crepon, jet bonnet; Miss Kebbell, blue crepon trimmed with white silk and ecru lace insertion, burnt straw hat with shot ribbon bows and pink roses; Miss Dransfield, fawn covert coating costume white sailor hat; Miss Rose, cream crepon, black hat with chiffon rosettes and cornflowers; Mrs Rhind, grey tweed costume, white waistcoat, black hat with red roses and shot ribbon; Mrs Watson, navy blue serge gown, burnt straw bonnet trimmed with shot ribbon, grass, and pink roses; Mrs H. D. Crawford, tabac brown costume, yellow silk blouse, white sailor hat; Miss A. Bennet (Sulls), grey tweed, black hat covered with cornflowers; Mrs Hales, Miss Baker (Auckland), Mrs Barraud, Mrs and Miss Barclay, Mrs McTavish, the Misses Hales, Mrs Jellicoe, Mrs Leckie, Mrs Castendyke, Mrs Eberle, Mrs and Miss Tuckey, Miss Coleridge, Mrs W. Reid, Mrs and Miss Nathan, the Misses Fairchild, Mrs and Miss Blundell, and many others. Delicious tea and cake were supplied by the ladies, which is always acceptable at an affair of this kind.

A most

ENJOYABLE DANCE AT GOVERMENT HOUSE

was held on Wednesday night. It was, I believe, given for the officers of the Italian warship 'Colombo' now in port. The ballroom mantelpiece looked lovely; it was a bank of rhododendrons and fox gloves, with long streamers of grass here and there. The supper was all that anyone could desire. Small tables were placed about the room, which were laden with every dainty you could think of, and on the centre of each was a bowl of lovely roses. The mantelpiece was also covered with roses. During supper-time Lord Glasgow proposed the health of our Queen, also that of the Queen of Italy, it being the birthday of the latter. In the Vice-regal set of dancers Lord Glasgow danced with Mrs (Dr.) Grace, and Lady Glasgow with H.R.H. the Duke of Abbruzzi. Lady Glasgow wore a beautiful gown of white satin brocade with small pink rose buds, the bodice trimmed with lovely white lace; the sleeves were composed of lace and satin stripes; she also wore her diamonds, and carried a beautiful bouquet of roses; Lady Augusta Boyle (who is now able to dance) looked very nice in a pale blue satin gown, with folded bodice of white and blue satin, which was trimmed with white lace and spray of pink roses; Lady Alice wore a similar gown; Lady Dorothy Boyle wore a pretty white muslin frock trimmed with lace and ribbon. Among the guests I noticed Lady Douglas, who wore a black brocade gown trimmed with lace and jet; Mrs Newman, handsome pale grey merveilleux gown made with folded bodice; Mrs C. Johnston, cream pompadour silk brocaded with scarlet flowers, and trimmed with scarlet velvet, the bodice trimmed with guipure lace; Mrs Duncan, black silk with panels of white silk under jetted net; Miss Butler, pale blue satin with *bebe* bodice of white chiffon; Mrs Crawford, handsome cream brocade, the front of the skirt being entirely composed of lace flounces, the bodice trimmed with lace and crimson roses; Mrs W. Johnston, handsome black and white striped brocade trimmed with jet and black chiffon; Mrs Rhodes lovely black silk handsomely trimmed with jet; Mrs Levin, handsome black brocade with long train; the bodice trimmed with folds of cream chiffon; Mrs Grace, pale grey brocade with handsomely-embroidered front and sleeves of yellow chiffon; Mrs Higgins, white silk trimmed with red and gold embroidery, and angel sleeves of white chiffon; Mrs Beddard, gold and cream brocade with pleated bodice of white chiffon; Mrs Travers, black silk with pink silk bodice trimmed with white lace; Miss Grace, white silk and satin striped gown trimmed with chiffon; Miss A. Grace, pale yellow silk crepon trimmed with jewelled embroidery; Miss Williams, pale grey corded silk, with pink pleated chiffon bodice; Miss E. Williams, white corded silk trimmed very much with lace; Miss Johnston, old gold brocade trimmed with chiffon to match; her sisters wore white figured silk gowns; Miss Douglas, pale blue silk with bertha of white lace; Miss Pearce, black accordion pleated gown, the bodice very much trimmed with white lace; Miss Gore, pale blue satin trimmed with pink silk under ecru lace insertion; Miss A. Gore, white brocaded with full white chiffon bodice; Miss Duncan, pale grey satin with shoulder straps of pink flowers; Miss Cooper, cream gauze over silk, the bodice of violet silk under cream gauze; Miss I. Cooper, pale pink silk; Miss Elliott, pale yellow silk with chiffon frills; Miss McKellar, sage green silk trimmed with bear fur; Miss Wilson, cream silk with folded bodice of sky blue velvet trimmed with lace; Miss Seed, cream silk trimmed with cream lace; Miss Manuel, pale lemon silk with bodice of pale blue silk covered with white lace; Miss W. Menzies, green and white pompadour striped silk trimmed with cream lace; Miss Daniell, white satin with pleated chiffon bodice; Miss Coleridge, pale pink silk with bertha of cream lace; Miss Moorhouse, white silk. Among the gentlemen were the Captain and Officers of H.I.M.S. Colombo, H.R.H. the Duke of Abbruzzi, Sir Henry Norman (Governor of Queensland), Colonel Fox, Sir Walter Buller, Mr E. Pearce, Mr W. Johnston, Dr. Grace, Mr. Duncan and the Messrs Coates, Beddard, Tripp, Hanna, Gore, Pearce, Williams, Butler, Higginson, Duncan, Seed, Cooper, Tolhurst, Wilson, Turnbull, Jackson, Bailey, Tuckey, Dr. Purdy and others.

The Wellington athletic sports were postponed from last Saturday till to-morrow, owing to the rain.

The Italian warship 'Colombo' left Wellington yesterday. During her stay here the Captain and officers entertained a number of ladies on board on Wednesday afternoon to celebrate their Queen's birthday. Lady Glasgow and party went on board on Thursday morning.

OPHELIA.

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DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 21.

This week our thoughts and actions have been primarily revolving round the Italian man-o'-war, the

CHRISTOFERO COLOMBO,

which left us to-day, and will probably be soon resting at peace in the Auckland harbour. They have been both entertained and entertainers during their brief visit, the boat having been visited by crowds of Wellingtonians, who one and all met with great kindness from the officers. Official visits have been changed and interchanged twixt shore and boat, and very friendly relations have been established all round. Wednesday being the birthday of the Queen of Italy, a royal salute was fired in her honour, and in the evening our Governor and the Countess of Glasgow paid her a delicate compliment and entertained His Royal Highness the Duke D'Abruzzi, the Captain and officers at a

BALL AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

The rooms seemed quite gay with uniforms and brass buttons. Everyone was in the best of spirits, and consequently everything passed off very much to everybody's satisfaction. The ball was opened by the usual 'square,' in which His Royal Highness danced with Lady Glasgow, and His Excellency the Governor with Mrs Grace. Others in the set were Lady Augusta Boyle, Lady Douglas, Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs C. J. Johnston, Mrs Rhodes, and Mrs Levin, and Sir Henry Norman, Capt. Bertolini, Hon. W. P. Reeves, Dr. Grace, Mr C. J. Johnston and Colonel Fox. Dancing was kept up with great spirit till after twelve o'clock, and our foreign guests appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Lady Glasgow was gowned most elegantly in a very handsome cream silk, rich and rare, embroidered in exquisite shades of pink, green, and yellow, forming sprays of tiny flowers; the gown was finished with frills of real lace, and set off by Lady Glasgow's handsome diamond ornaments; the Ladies Augusta and Alice Boyle wore silk dresses of a very pretty pale blue shade trimmed with lace which was caught on one shoulder with a spray of pink flowers; Lady Dorothy wore a pretty simple dress of white spotted muslin with pink ribbons. Among those present were Mrs P. Baldwin, wearing a lovely yellow silk dress with horizontal bands of vague pompadour floral designs; Mrs Beddard wore a handsome pink silk dress shot with white flowers, the bodice and sleeves being edged with white lace; Mrs Butler wore a shimmering blue silk, which bespoke England in its style and elegance; Mrs Coleridge wore pink; etc.

Sir Henry Norman is a guest at Government House during his stay in Wellington, which will be terminated when the 'Ruapehu' sails for England, and in his honour are dinners at Government House given almost daily.

Sir Henry Norman arrived on Wednesday morning, in time to attend the first race meeting at the Hutt. A great number of people collected on the course, and lost or won according to racing custom. Mr Edward Pearce entertained a large party at luncheon in a marquee on the grounds, and afternoon tea was also provided.

Next week I hope to tell you about Miss Burnett's marriage to Mr Pearson, which takes place at her father's place at the Lower Hutt on Tuesday. A great many invitations have been issued for the 'At Home' in the afternoon, and the interest usual on such occasions is evinced by all the Hutt residents.

Another wedding which will shortly disturb the usual monotony of the Hutt is that of Miss Lilian Lee to Mr Heywood. The young couple expect to leave us then, and take up land in the country, probably in the Rangitikei district.

No epidemic of engagements has broken out, as was expected, at the close of the season, but a rumour is everywhere on the wing, and gossip keeps a sharp look-out.

Miss Florence MacKellar is here on a visit. At present she is staying with Mrs Elliott in Hawkestone-street.

Mrs Robinson is also here, come over from Nelson to pay a visit to Mrs Hislop.

Mr Izard and Miss Izard have gone up country for a few days.

Mrs Walter Johnston, with two daughters, leaves town on Tuesday for the country house they have taken for the summer.

Mrs Bell does not go Home with Mr Bell and his daughters. The latter leave for Australia at the end of the month, and Mrs Bell goes to Lowry Bay for the summer. Miss Sydie Johnston accompanies her there.

Our musical education is evidently not going to be neglected during December. The rival societies, under the conductorship of Mr Maughan Barnett and Mr Parker, are both rehearsing 'Messiah' for performance next month. Mr Barnett holds his on the 15th, and Mr Parker's will take place, as usual, about Christmas time. Mr Parker, I hear, has accepted an offer of assistance from the well-known Newbury-Spada Company, who will certainly be a great acquisition.

The Bland Holt Company are here at present, and are drawing crowded houses. Miss Frances Ross, who for the last four months has headed a company on its colonial tour, and, owing to financial failure, was obliged to disband, has joined Bland Holt, and is filling a vacancy caused by the departure of Miss Vivien, who was obliged to leave on account of her mother's serious illness.

The Committee of the Unemployed Relief Fund are making arrangements to hold a ball at the Drill Shed on the 5th of December, by which they hope to increase the treasury. His Excellency the Governor and the Countess of Glasgow have consented to be present, so I have no doubt that the scheme will meet with universal favour.

On Saturday there will be rival attractions on land and sea, —the opening of the Port Nicolson Yachting Club, and the Amateur Sports on the Basin Reserve. Both being popular amusements, we shall be rather torn between a desire to be present at both. The 'Oamaru' is to be the flagship, as it was last year, and refreshments will be served on board. In the Basin Reserve we are always sure of getting good tea, and plenty of it, being provided with lavish generosity by the friends and relations of the members of the club.

At Miramar links on Saturday the players were few and far between. The second competition for the Boyle Medal was, nevertheless, played by those who so bravely ventured so far in rain and wind, and the medal was transferred to the worthy hands of Miss Sidey Johnston, who, by the way, is rapidly gaining a most honourable place among local golfers.

We seem to be living in the very midst of shows—Agricultural, Dog, and Rose, a motley trio verily, but they all meet with warm public support. Our gracious Governor and Lady Glasgow attend them each and all, a fact which in itself marks them as successful.

The Flower Show came on us daintily as an odour of sweet incense, and was distinctly good. The collections of pot plants were especially noteworthy, and in the amateur classes the bouquets and decorations were artistic and beautiful. Lady Glasgow was present the first day, on Tuesday, accompanied by her daughters. Lady Glasgow wore a very handsome dress of figured grey silk with revers and sleeves of black corded silk, and a small jet bonnet; the Ladies Boyle wore neat blue serge costumes and sailor hats. I also noticed Mrs Cameron, who wore a very neat and becoming dress of Gobelin blue with brown facings, and a pretty hat to match, in which brown and blue blended harmoniously; Mrs Hales wore black, with a stylish blouse of striped silk smartened with lace and small black bonnet; Miss Campbell wore a brown and yellow costume with soft silk vest; Mrs Izard, in black, handsome black velvet three-quarter cloak; Mrs W. Johnston, in a handsome black costume, small bonnet with pink roses; Miss Johnston, black with cream lace revers and cuffs, and light silk vest, small black bonnet; Mrs E. J. Reid wore a brown costume, with bright braided edging and coffee lace, small lace bonnet; Miss Ross wore black crepon prettily trimmed with lace insertion, black hat with roses; Miss Seddon, a black dress trimmed with pink silk and lace, and small rose-trimmed hat; Miss M. Seddon wore black with pretty white bodice, and white straw hat; Miss Skerrett wore a dark blue costume with trimmings of brown silk, brown straw toque with ospreys; Miss Shirley-Baker looked well in navy blue; Mrs Tolhurst wore black trimmed with silk, short velvet cape lined with heliotrope silk, and heliotrope flowers in her bonnet; Miss L. Tolhurst wore a pretty blue costume and floral toque. Very acceptable was the tea, which was dispensed during both days of the Show under the able management of Mesdames Castendyke, Eberle, Reid, and Travers, and Misses Gore, Johnston, Pearce, and others.

A large dance—I may as well call it a ball—is being held tomorrow evening in Tinakori Road in the Ministerial Residence, which in former times was considered sacred to the Premier. The hostesses are Mr and Mrs Beddard, Mrs Higgins, Sir Walter Buller, and Messrs Coles and Hanna.

Last Monday the members of the Catholic Schools sewing classes were entertained by Mrs Grace during the afternoon.

Mrs Waldgrave gives a children's party on Saturday evening.

Very successful *tableaux vivants* were held at the Skating Rink last week. 'The Sacrifice of Iphegenia,' 'Death of Marguerite,' 'The Vision,' and 'At the Ball,' were specially fine. The performers included Misses Barber, Glover, Hill, Liddle, Pownall, and Seddon, who worked under the superintendence of Miss Watson, to whom be all praise.

MEYE

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# CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 22.

Everything is horribly quiet after the race week, and our ordinary associations seem uninteresting now the carnival is over.

On Friday afternoon the

GIRLS BOATING CLUB

had a great gathering up the river. The Misses Cowlishaw provided a capital tea. A number of visitors besides members of the club were present, including Miss Keller, Misses Tolhurst, Williams, Butler, and Gibson.

Three great lecturers have visited us—Mark Twain, Michael Davitt, and Rev. Hasket Smith. The first is so known and talked of that people were some what disappointed, funny as he was at his lectures. Still more amusing was the complimentary supper tendered him by the Christchurch Savage Club, at which he was elected honorary member. I saw at his 'At Homes' the Bishop and Mrs Julius, Judge and Mrs Denniston, Professor and Mrs Hanham, Mr Martinearty, Dr. Campbell, Mr and Mrs P. Campbell, Mr and Mrs Embling, the Misses Julius, Mr and Mrs Gibbs, Hon. and Mrs Parker, Mr and Mrs Stead, Mr and Mrs Burns, Mr and Mrs Gould, Mrs and Miss Meares, Archdeacon and Mrs Lingard, Mr and Mrs Pitman, Mr and Mrs Rhodes, Dr. and Mrs Irving, Mr and Mrs Cowlishaw, Dr. and Mrs Jennings, Dr. and Mrs Murray-Aynsley, Miss Henry, Miss Gibson, and others.

On Friday evening Canon, Mrs and Miss Stack were entertained in the parish school-room at Fendalton by a number of friends to wish them *bon voyage* and *au revoir*. Amongst those present were Mesdames Denniston, Cotterill, Turnbull, Ross, Neave, Wood, Portal, Mellish, Misses Neave, Turton, Turnbull, Gerard, Mellish, Ronalds, Latter, Macpherson, Meeson, on Messrs Cotterill, Latter, Turnbull, Wood, Ross, Macpherson.

On Thursday Mrs Geo. Gould gave a

CHILDREN'S LAWN PARTY.

A merry time was spent by a number of little ones.

The rain on Saturday put a stop to the opening of the summer tennis club, also polo meeting, and various cricket matches. A few enthusiasts ventured out to polo. I believe Mrs Archer kindly provided tea.

On Tuesday afternoon Miss Amy Wood was

'AT HOME'

to all her friends prior to her marriage. Owing to recent bereavements in both families, no guests were invited. The wedding collection of presents is unique for number, use, and value. Among the visitors were Mesdames Wilson, Brown, Macfarlane, Cook, Appleby, Hawkes, Gibbs, Inglis, Jameson, Allan, Marsden, Garland, Turner, Tribe, Matson, the Misses Cox, Hargreaves, Graham, Cuff, Robinson, Marsden, Freeman, Allan, Ross, Hewlings, Heywood, and others.

DOLLY VALE.

# NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 19.

We are about to lose the services of Mr Arthur Sidey, who is giving up his position of teller in the local branch of the National Bank to start business in Dunedin on his own account. Mr Sidey has made a host of friends socially, and his loss will be severely felt, but hopes are entertained that he will succeed in business. He has lately become engaged to Miss Ella Hall, of Napier.

Mr Fanfax Fenwicke of the Colonial Bank, is to be made manager of the New Zealand Bank in Napier, whilst Mr Sommerville will be appointed to some other town.

The event of the week has been the

HORTICULTURAL SHOW,

which was held in the Gaiety Theatre on Wednesday and Thursday. The magnificent weather enabled the members to make a grand display, and the general opinion of visitors is that the exhibition of flowers was by far the best Napier has yet produced. The collection of roses was large, and attracted a great amount of attention. The ferns on exhibition sent by Messrs Coleman and Tiffen were universally admired. Many bouquets, sprays, buttonholes, and gaily-festooned epergnes added to the beauty of the Show. Messrs Ilman, of Wellington, and Lyall, of Maraekakaho, were the judges in the general classes, and Mesdames J. H. Coleman and Randall awarded the children's classes. Miss Florence Carr carrying off two prizes. Mrs Nairn displayed great taste in the arrangement of her exhibits. Afternoon tea was provided on Wednesday by Mesdames Coleman and Nairn assisted by the Misses Watt and Nairn. On Thursday Mesdames Wood and N. Pierce presided at the tea table. During the evening music from Clarke's band enlivened the proceedings. Among those who visited the Theatre on this occasion were Mesdames Yates, McLean, Tylee, Nairn, Bower, Osmond, Williams, Carr, Bennett, Walker, Wenley, White, M'Leod, Close, McVay, Coleman, Rhodes, F. Williams, Pierce, Margoliouth, Bowen, Dixon, M'Leod, Laurence, etc.

The news of the death by cancer in the throat of the Hon. J. N. Wilson came to hand to-day by cable advice. He was senior partner in the old legal firm of Wilson and Cotterill, and he practised in Napier for upwards of thirty years, and was for years Solicitor and Crown Prosecutor in Hawkes' Bay. He was highly respected, and the various lawyers' offices were closed on Monday afternoon as a mark of respect to the deceased gentleman, who till lately was a member of the Legislative Council of New Zealand.

Polo, cricket, and tennis are in full swing, and each Saturday the

VARIOUS SPORTS

are well patronised. At the latter courts the present New Zealand Champion, Miss Hilda Hitchings, is practising with a view of competing at the coming tournaments at Wellington.

Mr H. Parker, of the Empire City, is spending a few weeks in Napier. He is spoken of as being a likely winner at Christmas in the tennis world.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Mrs W. R. Blythe has returned from Sydney to nurse her daughter, who has been taken ill.

Mrs Hartley left for Christchurch to visit her mother, whose death occurred a day or two after her daughter's arrival.

Dean Hovell has returned from Gisborne.

Miss Birch has returned to Christchurch.

Miss Nellie Mundy, from Christchurch, is paying a visit to Mrs Charles Palmer.

Mrs J. W. Carlisle is on a visit to Christchurch and Dunedin.

Mr and Mrs Lelievre have gone to Wellington, also Miss Miller.

Miss Watkis is on a visit to Auckland.

GLADYS

# PICTON.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER 19.

The Roman Catholics held a very successful

CHILDREN'S PICNIC

on Friday last at Shakespeare Bay. The arrangement had to be postponed from Wednesday on account of the weather, but that did not affect the enjoyment of the young people, nor yet of the many 'grown ups' who accompanied them. Captain Fisk conveyed the youthful portion of the party free in his steam launches, it was little wonder that he received so many hearty cheers when they were all landed safely on the wharf. The promoters of the picnic also came in for a goodly share of demonstrative applause. The Committee of the Borough Schools granted a half-holiday for the occasion, and about two hundred joined the party. Games were played on the grass under the manuka trees, and the botanists came home laden with ferns and orchids from the bush.

THE READING SOCIETY

meet this week at Mrs Linton's residence on the Wairau Road. Mrs Sedgwick read a pathetic little story taken from the life of a world-famed London doctor, entitled 'Laddie,' and Mrs Linton being unable, through illness, to read Longfellow's 'Miles Standish,' Mrs Allen filled the gap by reading a humorous sketch from Wilkie Collin's Miscellanies, entitled 'A Shockingly Rude Article.' Among those present were the Rev. A. H. and Mrs Sedgwick, Mrs Linton, Mrs H. C. Seymour, Mrs Maashaue, Mrs Seely, Mrs Howard, Mrs Speed, Mrs Allen, and the Misses Young, Thompson, Hay, etc, etc.

THE CRICKET MATCH,

girls v. boys, was postponed on account of the weather. Everybody had been looking forward to Saturday, especially as the girls' friends were providing afternoon tea on the Square in honour of the occasion, and everybody was disappointed, for though a match was being played by the men out at Spring Creek, it was too much to expect young people to brave such demonstrative elements for the sake of a cricket match.

ODDMENTS.

Miss Speed and Miss Marion Speed returned from a visit to the Empire City on Saturday. Both have enjoyed themselves muchly.

Miss Carey has gone to join the staff of nurses in the Wellington Hospital.

Miss Mildred Fell has gone to Wellington for a holiday and change.

Miss Conolly (Auckland) is here on a visit. At present she is guest of the Misses Greenall at Brooklyn.

Mrs A. Duncan went to Wellington on Thursday, partly to see the Bland Holt Company perform.

The genus larrikin has broken out in fresh places here, and