BLAND HOLT'S AUCKLAND SEASON.

SAVED FROM THE SEA,

S the end of the Bland Holt sesson in Auckland has drawn nearer, and his departure for Wellington and the South becomes more imminent, the public have displayed their enthusiasm for melodrama more and more markedly. It is perfectly astonishing where all the money comes from. The houses during the season have always been of the best, but during the past few days there has not been a seat to be had for love or money after a quarter to eight, and the old hands at the Opera House declare that such business has never been done in Auckland before either by Saved from the Sea, which was played for the concluding four nights of last week, proved immensely to the public taste. It certainly affords the scenic artists and mechanists admirable chances for the display of their art. The explosive scene and the subsequent tableaux are as good, if not better, than anything of the kind given before in Auckland, and were applianted with the utmost enthusiasm every evening. The fun and jollity of the picnic scene, and the fine opportunities afforded Mr Holt and his ever charming wife for comedy were also much appreciated. And also since the public loves to have its flesh creep on occasion, the gruesome scene in Barchester Gaol, where the hero is led towards the scaffold pinioned, and with the funeral procession, hangman and parson complete, proves very popular, and is probably one of the strongest draws of the melodrama. I do not object to murder scenes. Why should I to this mimic representation of an execution? After all the woman's reason—I object because I object—is the only one I can advance. concluding four nights of last week, proved immensely woman's reason—
one I can advance.

'THE PATAL CARD.'

I do not object to murger scenes, way snound 1 to mis mimic representation of an execution? After all the woman's reason—I object because I object—is the only one I can advance.

'THE PATAL CARD.'

On Monday evening, before the largest audience of the season, save that of Boxing Night, 'The Fatal Card' was produced for the first time in Auckland. This fine play—for it is a play and not a melodrama—is mainly the work of Mr Haddon Chambers, the brilliant young Australian playwright, who in the last few years has given the stage soune of the most powerful drams and plays of his time. In 'The Fatal Card' Mr Haddon Chambers and his collaberateur have reached a very high point of dramatic art. They have written a play as full of moving incidents and sensations as the heart of the most devoted worshipper of old-fashioned melodrama could desire. But these incidents, these situations, these stage pictures are not, so to speak, stuck on to each other with a thin paste of inferior dialogue, but spring naturally from the grim and stirring story which unfolds itself—a story which for strength, truth, and power I have never seen equalled in any production of the sort. I am sure no offence will be taken by Mr Bland Holt if I say, as the easiest way of expressing what I mean, that 'The Fatal Card' is one of those plays which would seem to fall more naturally into the reperdoire of Brough and Boucieculut than his own. It is easentially not a melodrama, but a drama, and indeed but for the comic relief it might easily be atyled a tragedy. Rarely have I seen a play which excited me so keenly and moved me so deeply. From the rise of the Cardina of the season.

The have I seen a play which excited me so keenly and the derivative of the play. He would be supplied to the control of the play and moved meso deeply. From the rise of the furtain on the drinking saloon on West' to the large the control of the play and moved meso deeply. From the rise of the furtain on the drinking saloon on the work of which takes place before our eyes, th

Soriety Gossip.

AUCKLAND.

JANUARY 13.

His Excallency the Governor and party are baving, by all accounts, a very delightful cruise in the Hinemos. They visited Tauranas and Coronnandel, receiving in each place a most logal and cordial welcome. The Ladies Augusta and Dorothy Boyle, properly equipped is oilsatus, descended a mine, and enjoyed the little adventure. I do not know when they return to Auckland.

A LARGE MOUNT ALBERT PARTY

Joycet the little adventure. I do not know when they return to Auckland.

A LARGE MOENT ALBERT PARTY

to Nibotapu Falis came off last work, numbering about fifty. There were two brakes packed with living freight, besides equestrans. The weather left nothing to be desired the sun shone by the property of the last property of the sun shone by the property of the sun shone by the property in thoughout he lay. The masts were in perfect condition. The party left, Mount Albert about eight o'clock, and arrived at their destination at eleven colock, Mrs McLeod's cottage, a little farther up the ranges than the Nibotapu, whose he-pitality is well known. Herses were ried in her yard, etc. On these premises now large sawmills are erected, which also prove attractive to visitors. Luncheon was partaken of noter two large kauri trees, which afforded ample shade. The party late the party has been accorded and shade and shade of out two notes. Such a glorious walk! The first fail is very pretty, but the second is grander, being of a greater height. To reach the bottom of these falls ropes were adjusted to tree to descend by for the track is perpendicular, and so many tourists have gone down here that moet of the branches and shrubs have been worn away. The whole party did not attempt this. About half a dozen lazy onces remained and senat the families of the location of the branches and shrubs have been worn away. The whole party did not attempt this. About half a dozen lazy onces remained and senat the families and strength of the branches and shrubs have been worn away. The whole party did not attempt this. About half a dozen lazy onces remained and east the families and strength of the branches and shrubs have been worn as and arrived about five o'clock, familihed and ready to do full justice to the afternoon meal then they wandered at lift through the swentiles. Such parts have o'clock, familihed and ready to do full justice to the afternoon meal then they wandered at lift through the swentiles. Such parts had been for some

THE VACHTING PICNIC

this year was blessed with most satisfactory weather, and was a successful and enjoyable affair. About forty-five yactis made Reach whither the 'Eagle' had already conveyed a large nomber of visitors. Tea was liberally provided by the Yachting Club, and eatables were carried by the members and friends. Hunter's band added its music to the ripple of the waves, and a capital water tournament. Herworks, etc., aided greatly in passing a pleasant time. At nine o'clock a start was made for the water tournament affection of the may present, I noticed Miss MacCormick, in a black costume; Mrs Windsor, white musin blouse, dark skirt; Miss Issaes, navy and white yachting costume; Mrs Haines, pink blouse, grey skirt, sailor hat with feathers; Miss Dunnett, stylish brown costume, hat to make relieved with white; Miss H. Worp, dark skirt, pink blouse, white sailor costume; Mrs W. Bloomfield stylish cream dress; Mrs Sharland, fawn tweed, black hat with pale green ribbon; Miss Otway, fawn skirt, pretty blue blouse; Miss A. Wylderrown, white with heliotrope sash; Miss P. Joare looked pretty in navy skirt, pink blouse; Miss Bull, white pinue, white white blouse; Mrs Barland, fawn tweed, black hat with pale green ribbon; Miss Gordon, black, pink blouse; Miss E. Hughes, grey skirt, Miss Gordon, black, pink blouse; Miss E. Hughes, grey skirt, Miss Gordon, black, pink blouse; Miss E. Hughes, grey skirt, white blous; Miss G. Whitelaw black skirt, pink blouse; wis My Seiler-holland costume; Mrs Hudeon, hellotrope blouse dark skirt, Lighton electric blue; Miss G. Bellotrep blouse dark skirt, Lighton electric blue; Miss G. Bellotrep blouse, dark skirt, Jiss Dudley, cream blouse, red ite, sailor hat with red band; Miss K. enerd; spotted pongee; Miss F. Hart, striped band, Miss L. Heighton electric blue; Miss G. Bellotrep blouse dark skirt, Yankee hat; Mis

POLO MATCH

was played at Poiter's Paddock on Saturday between Remuera and the City. Messis Hanna Whewell, Tonka, and Gordon represented Remuera, captained by Mr H. Tonka, and Gordon represented Remuera, captained by Mr H. Tonka, and the City by Drs A. C. Purchas, Sharman, and Messre Purchas and Colegrove, captained by Dr. Purchas. The weather was fine, and a large number of players, as at this sepectators, wonded their captained by Dr. Purchas. The weather was fine, and a large number of players, as at this sepectators, wonded their captained by Dr. Purchas. The weather was fine, and a large number of players, as the sepectators, wonded their captained by the players of the weather was fine, and a large number of players, as the second of the table was chic, consisting of red geraniums and green ferns. Now for the gowns: Mrs O'Rorke in a recherche gown of brown seaweed crepon with eliver thread, the bodice of which was pink and green shot silk finished with lace, brown silk Loyer, the bodice of which was pink and green shot silk finished with lace, brown silk Loyer. Dawson looked well in a neat fitting nil green costume; Miss Elliot, dark skirt, striped pink blouse; and her friend, a pink striped gown; Mrs Makglil, terre skirt, bright pink blouse; Mrs Colegrove, dark skirt, cream China blouse; Misses Kerrayloe were similarly gowned in white, bats to match; Miss Smith, pretty white apoited missin, cream hat with ribbons; and her slater, grey check, white bat with wings; Mrs Ware, grey skirt, blist blouse; Miss Matth, and her slater, grey check, white bat with wings; Mrs Ware, grey skirt, white blouse; Mrs Hanna, dark skirt, spotted blouse; Mrs Rath Jackson, black crepon, cream salior hat; and her slater, grey check, white bat with wings; Mrs Ware, grey skirt, white blouse; Miss Churton, black crepon skirt, pink blouse; Mrs Wordy, black la

Miss M. Purchas, white skirt, beliotrope blouse: Mrs C. Purchas, sliver grey ceahmere: Miss Morse, dark skirt, cream slik blouse, that with canary-coloured trimmings: Miss Whistler, dark skirt, white olouse profusely trimmed with canary ribbons: Miss Hilds Bloomfield, cream Liberty sitk marked with red and blue crescents, white bebe hat; and a few others whose names I did not know.

presents, white bebt hat, and a few others whose names I did not know.

Tenois tourpaments are raging like an epidemic just now. Tenois tourpaments are raging like an epidemic just now, atmost every lawn being spoil for ordinary and steady play by these exciting contests. They are far too numerous to mention, especially as the scores eppear so quickly in the daily papers. A very pleasant little tennis party was held on Saturday after-noon at Mr Herti's pretty residence, Lake Takapuna. The gress was in excellent order, but the attention of the players was somewhat diverted by a capital game of golf which was going on at the same time just above the tonnis court, and at imminent risk to the windows of the house.

WEST END ROWING CLUR'S 'AT HOME,'

There was large gathering on the grounds of Mr Holmes, Ring Terrace, Ponsonby, on Saturday last, when the trophies presented by Mr T. Pearock, patron of the Club, were presented. The grounds were precitify decorated with featoons of flags, Afternoon tes was served in a large marques, the members of the Club and their ladd friends being most assideous in their attend with interest. Impey's band played a number of musical selections during the afternoon. Among those present were:—Mrs S. Hanna, in a dark skirt, destric blue blouse, gent hat; Mrs S. Hughes, light grey gown, bonnet en swife; Mrs Holmes, fawn cropon, frill of saimon pink silk over the huge sleeves; Mrs D. Tole, cream croponets with allk stripe blouse, dark skirt, saifor strong the same property of the same property

PHYLLIS BROUNE

DUNEDIN.

JANUARY 10.

Like the rest of the colony, we have had bad weather. and were therefore quite prepared to enjoy an

AFTERNOON TEA

AFTERNOON TEA
indoors, given last Wednesday by Mrs James Cargill at her residence, 'Novada,' It was in honour of her sider, Miss C. Fraser, of Palmerston North, who is at present staying with her. The table was most artistically arranged with vases of nasturitum and grass. The drawing-room looked exceedingly pretty, the whole of the room being decorated with cream lines. Those preent were Mrs J. Cargill, in a neat white spotted print shirt, black respons skirt, Mrs Ciboon, Mrs Turton, stylent black cropon bleck kerge jacket and skirt, beliotrope print, blows, amall whee sailor hat; Mrs Stilling, charming black cropon, large black hat trimmed with black lace and pink rows; Mrs Ozston, neathing and vicuns cloth, black help hat with yellow roses and chiffon; Miss C. Fraser, dark navy blue print with white spots savely jacket and skirt, white shirt, black hat trimmed with black in the proper of the property of the pr

On Wednesday Mrs Henry Williams also gave a small

AT ROME.

The tra, cakes, etc., were most delicious. Delectable raspherries and cream were kept going during the afternoom. The guests were to have amuset themselves playing croquet, but owing to the weather all attempts at playing were put an end to. Those whom I remember prosent were off an Williams, the Misses Pearce (Avillands, Orabian, S. Grahim, Hearry (Wellington, K. Henry, Ratchelgon, and others (Respondant), S. Reynolds, V. Reynolds, Turton, On Thursday Mrc MacGowan (Roslyn) gave a

SMALL LUNCHEON PARTY

for Miss Gertie Neill, who is to be married early in February, The table looked very gay, being decorated with sweet peas, Those preaent were the Misses Hattray, I. Hattray, Williams, Hodgkins, G. Neill, K. Neill, etc. "The same day the Misses Williams (Anderson's Bay) had their

AT HOME.

The day was bright, but very windy. Nevertheless a goodly number turned up. Tea was served in the drawing room. Some of those I recoilect were Messamer Williams, Grisson Cutten, Gibson, Turton, Bridgenian, Neill, the Misses Williams, Thomson, (Christchurch) Graham, Henry (Wellington), K. Henry, Pearce (Auckland, Cutten, Rattray, A. Rattray, Greenwood, A. Greenwood, Fuller Wellington), Mills, Reynolds, M. Hoynolds, Webster, S. Webster, Prosser, I. Prosser, Nell, K. Neill, etc., etc.

5. Webster, Prosser, I. Prosser, Nelli, K. Neili, etc., etc., Our Christmas holidays were simply perfect, and I am sure everyone must have enjoyed their outing very much, as there is root doubt about it, that if the weather is good, it helps a great deal of the enjoyment of picuics, etc. The weather was not so good at New Year time, but it was not too had to prevent picasure trips. On Saturday (28th) the Bi-hop and Mrs Nevill, gave

A LARGE 'AT HOME'

for the Sisters, who have lately arrived from the Kilhourne Sistershood, London. The Bishop and Mrs Nevili received their guests in the hall, the latter being gowned in black erepon latinhily trimmed with jet, liny white lare cap. The rooms and hall were most instelluif decorated with flowers and pol plants. Croquet was kept going all the aftermoon. Those present were Caucon and Mrs Roblinson, Mrs Walton, Mrs Davey, Mrs Karquhar, with jet, dainty black bonnet; Mrs Grienesconely rinners with jet, dainty black bonnet; Mrs Grienesconel is grieb black velvet hat with white ostrich feathers; Mrs Urlver; Mrs Grienesch, and atraw hat trimmed with pale blue flowers; Mrs Webster, handstraw hat trimmed with pale blue flowers; Mrs Webster, handstraw hat trimmed with manile solged with jet, frill of lese round flowers; Mrs Webster, handstraw hat trimmed with sunches of purples flowers; Mrs Balchelor, royal black straw bonnet with white violets; Mrs Balchelor, royal