

ment positions, it is evident they have every faith in the big future before our mining industry. As a matter of fact, Herr Wichmann has engaged both these gentlemen for a term of years. Mr H. A. Gordon, F.G.S., who gives up the position of Chief Mining Inspector, has been in the Government service for twenty-four years. He is now to be the chief representative of the Anglo-Continental Syndicate in the colony, not only as mining expert, but also in financial matters. The head office of the Syndicate will be in Auckland which shows that the main operations will be on the goldfields at this end of the colony. At the same time, such agencies will be started in the South. On Saturday Mr Gordon telegraphed his resignation to the Hon. Mr Cadman, Minister of Mines, and immediately received a reply expressing the regret of the Minister at losing his services. Mr Park, F.G.S., the well known director of the Thames School of Mines, has also accepted an appointment with the Syndicate, so that the Government will lose the services of two most valuable officers. At the same time it is just as well that thoroughly reliable gentlemen should have secured by Herr Wichmann. It is not, however, proposed to prevent the services of these gentlemen being obtained to report upon mining properties, because Herr Wichmann states that this can be done by arrangement with the office, provided, of course, that the demand upon their time is not so great as to interfere with the business of the syndicate. Herr Wichmann will stay here for at least another month to fix things up before he leaves for London. When asked as to his impression regarding the future prospects of the New Zealand goldfields, Herr Wichmann answered 'You can very easily get at our impressions by our action.'

MINING PICTURES.

Our illustrations this week represent various scenes incidental to quartz mining in the Karangahake district. No. 1 is a view of the level put in at the Karangahake mine, with a couple of miners pushing a trolley of stuff to the tip. No. 7 is also a view from the same mine, one miner working at the face, while the other is engaged wheeling out the dirt. No. 4 is also a view from the Karangahake mine with a miner breaking down the face to load the trolley. No. 3 shows the men taking a spell to enjoy a comfortable smoke, and is really a nice sample of the rough bush country in which the hardy gold miner has to hunt for payable reefs. Another picturesque view is No. 5, in which is shown the smithy of the South British mine. At present it is only a *wharf*, but as the mine is developed it will no doubt be replaced by a substantial wooden building. No. 2 shows the mouth of the No. 2 level now being put in for the same company, and the miner is just emerging with a wheelbarrow full of dirt. No. 6 shows a mine manager engaged writing his weekly report of the work done in the mine, a troublesome task unless he is able to announce the discovery of a run of gold. No. 8 shows the mouth of the level put in at the Christchurch Company's mine, the Mariner, where a lot of dead work has been done which should lead to the ultimate discovery of a payable lode.

A general idea of the Karangahake settlement may be gathered by a glance at No. 4, which shows the suspension bridge over the Ohinemuri River, and in the distance the houses of the miners and other buildings. At the rate English capital is coming into Karangahake this scene should soon be a thing of the past when the present modest shanties are replaced by more pretentious structures. No. 1 picture shows the battery of the Woodstock mine at Karangahake—a very complete one—and when the additional stampers now in course of erection get to work, this Company should largely increase its output of bullion. Some idea of the work done may be gathered from the tramways and water race that are attached to the battery. No. 2 is a fine view of the tramway through the Waitawheta Gorge. The ponderous mass of overhanging rock shows how the tram track had to be blasted out of the face of the cliff abutting on the river. No 5 is a view of a wizee, where the hauling is done on the primitive principle of a windlass and bucket, and No. 6 shows a solitary miner resting on his shovel while he indulges in a few whiffs from his pipe. The most picturesque scene of all is undoubtedly No. 3, which shows the dam constructed by the Talisman Company in the Waitawheta Gorge for the purpose of securing ample water supply for the new battery, which is just about to commence the reduction of ore. Here also a tramway has had to be blasted out of the face of the cliff.

The average cost of a man's medical education is £500. That of a woman's—from Mrs Garret Anderson's interesting article in the *British Medical Journal*—£1000. This fact, with the necessity of absolutely robust health for five years' arduous study, is not likely to swell the numbers of lady medicos.

LAWNS & LINKS.

THE croquet tournament still goes on gaily in the Empire City. Wellington has the decided victory, but each pair being eager to play off their allotted three games, it is being carried through its whole eighteen divisions. On Saturday a large party collected on Mrs Fitzherbert's large double lawn to watch several of the final rounds, and perhaps by virtue of the confidence inspired by so friendly an audience, the Hutt came off victorious in each game. However, that does not affect the final issue, which leaves Wellington victorious and justly triumphant. The various pairs of the winning team now play off against each other, and I hear the 'pair' generally expected to carry off the prize are Mr and Mrs Charles Johnston.

The excitement over the Dunedin to Christchurch cycling record is still high, 22 hours and 13 minutes being the best yet accomplished, and I suppose this will soon be broken too!

Polo enthusiasm in Christchurch has dwindled down with the departure of the team (Messrs R. H. and A. E. G. Rhodes, Beauchamp, Lean, and Alister Clarke (for Wellington on Sunday by the 'Penguin,' with about twenty ponies I should say! I hear they draw Hawke's Bay for their first opponents, and am awaiting with no little interest the results.

'SORRY I DON'T DANCE.'

The dancing season will be here very soon now, and hostesses will be deploring the number of eligible young men who do not or will not dance. There is no hiding it: dancing is on the decline among men, or at least among those men mothers would choose for husbands. It is a hard saying, but none the less true, that skill in dancing varies (says a writer in *The World*) in a direct ratio with the social status of the modern man. Seventy or eighty years ago it was far otherwise, in the palmy days of Almanack's, where Lord Palmerston had the reputation of being a most expert performer, and was one of the first of those who danced the waltz at that historic and exclusive resort. The exploits of Lord Yarmouth, who has achieved some notoriety as a skirt-dancer at the Antipodes, can hardly be taken as a serious modern instance of the successful cultivation of the art by a male amateur. The tyranny of the waltz—a striking instance of a good thing overdone—has of late years been slightly shaken by the introduction of kitchen lancers and the barn dance, but in the interests of grace and good manners it is by no means certain whether the remedy is not worse than the disease. Lady Ancestor's lament in the pages of the *Badminton book*, on the deterioration of ballroom manners, is only too well founded. The very style of dancing is calculated to encourage Boundedom in the literal and metaphorical sense of the word. And yet there are all the materials, so to speak, for a revival of the bygone graces of minuet, gavotte, pavane, and many another characteristic measure. The girls of to-day are both stronger and more active than their mothers, and the great development in the art of figure-skating among both sexes furnishes conclusive evidence of their latent capabilities in the cognate realm of dancing.

SOME years ago an American journal printed a most interesting article which called attention to the fact that babies were not being born in that part of New York where wealth abounds. It showed graphically that the rich people were shunning the duties of fatherhood and motherhood, and that the decrease of birth-rate, which has been said to be the first sign of a nation's decadence, might be laid at the very doors of the people who are most able to provide for children. A statistician has been examining the vital statistics of London for 1892, and he says that they reveal a condition in the English metropolis even more startling than that discovered in New York. In twelve years the number of births to the 1,000 of population has decreased 4.4. Nothing more striking than this, he remarks, has been learned in many years in support of the theory that as the world grows older it also grows more selfish. A glance at the map accompanying the report shows that the situation in London is like that in New York in the fact that the decrease can be traced to the more prosperous of the city's population. Do not these statistics mean, he asks, that women and men are becoming more selfish and are less willing than they once were to assume the pains and responsibilities of motherhood and the cares and worries of fatherhood? This theory alone seems to find ample support in fact. The decrease in births may be traced directly to those who are prosperous. These people have tasted the sweets of the superlative luxury which have come with the end of the century, and which are growing with every year. Ease may become a matter of habit, just as whisky may. Ease is disturbed by the arrival of a child and its subsequent demands upon time and labour, and it is more violently disturbed by the added expense of providing for three instead of two, unless there happens to be a proportionate increase of income. It is not an extravagant statement that the cause of the shutting out of these little ones is selfishness pure and simple, and it is chiefly apparent among the very rich.

Society Gossip.

AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE.

MARCH 23.

The Vice-Regal family attended Divine Service on Sunday morning at St. Paul's Church, and in the evening at St. Mary's pro-cathedral.

The Countess of Glasgow, who is always most energetic, was busy last week—amongst other things—in sending off by the 'Prisco' mail her report of the New Zealand Branch of the Mothers' Union, of which she is President.

I told you last week briefly of some of the Squadron festivities which came off too late for detailed description. His Worship the Mayor's

PICNIC TO NIHOITAPI

was an excellent affair. Two large boats met a number of the invited guests at the wharf at nine o'clock, and proceeded to Government House, where the Vice-regal and Admiralty people joined them. His Excellency the Governor, Admiral Cyprian A. Bridge and staff, with as many of the officers from the *Prisco* as could be spared from the onerous task of getting ready for departure on the morrow, proceeded to the Waikoinui ranges. The day was excessively hot, and the rather dapper fry, but a breeze kept the spirits of the party up, and once the falls were reached, the delicious air and lovely scenery fully repaid the toil of the journey, whilst excellent appetites were brought to bear on the succulent tempting luncheon. The party returned to town in time to dine and dress for Lady Glasgow's dance.

THE CRICKET MATCH

cleverly planned by Major Elliot was of a most interesting affair, the Mayor and his wife winning by seven runs and five wickets to spare, the scores being 137 and 120 respectively. A good many people witnessed the game, and nearly all the Government House party were present—His Excellency the Governor, the Countess of Glasgow, the Hon. Augustus the Governor, Admiral Boyle, Hon. Allan Boyle, His Excellency Rear-Admiral Bridge, the captains and various other officers of the warships. Delicious afternoon tea, etc., was provided by Lady Glasgow and served in the pavilion. Of course the cheerful music, rendered by the 'Orlando's' band was greatly enjoyed. Lady Glasgow, who wore a seafoam green gown, with cream silk blouse veiled with exquisite point lace, fawn leghorn hat with upstanding bows of coral pink ribbon, black and white check gown, black bonnet finished with point lace; Mrs Holland, black silk, black lace cape with vandykes of jet, bonnet trimmed with shot green ribbon bows; Mrs Goring in black and white check gown, black bonnet finished with point lace; Mrs Haines, stylish cream alpaca, cream satin square collar, coral pink ottoman silk blouse, brown hat with shaded roses; another Goring in blue and white check gown with hooded and black velvet hat with bunches of shaded poppies; Miss Devereux, pretty pale pink gown, Yankee hat; Miss M. Devereux, pale blue blouse navy skirt, brown hat; Mrs Cotter, smart navy and tan gown, black hat; Mrs Goring, stylish black and white check gown, black hat; Mrs Guthrie, stone grey with tall round yoke of yellow veiled with black, black chip hat; Mrs Hope-Lewis, lemon gown, bodice with black, becoming black velvet hat; Mrs Moran, white gown with black and white check chignon edged with passementerie, black chignon hat; Mrs Kerron, white, black hat; Mrs Lyons, shot tweed gown finished with moss-green ribbon, golden brown toque trimmed with shot green ribbon; Miss Goring, coral and white check gown with large picture white chignon hat; Miss Cotter looked prettily in lemon; Miss Cotter, in pale green frock; Mrs Dacre, black, black and white bonnet; Miss Wilkins white embroidered frock; Mrs Ireland, in black and white check gown with tall round yoke with point lace, hat in white; Miss Kettle Ireland, white spotted muslin, beehive hat; Miss Percival, white, etc., etc.

A most successful dance was given by the Countess of Glasgow last Tuesday evening, the 17th of March, being called an

'AT HOME' AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

for which 150 invitations were issued. It was a brilliant affair. All the trees surrounding the house were hung with Chinese lanterns. Rather a singular *contrivance* took place as the guests arrived at the door. The house was in total darkness, and the carriages were ordered to stand still. The would-be visitors were very much afraid something dreadful had occurred, and there would be no anticipated dance, but soon were very much relieved that the darkness was only a ruse, and the guests had only to wait until candles and lamps were furnished. Some of these were kindly lent by the manager of the Northern Club, which, of course, gave a much pleasanter and subdued light. The evening was excellent, and the guests were much cooled air as possible the windows of the ballroom were taken out. There was a large number of officers of the fleet present, many of whom had attended the Mayor's large picnic to Nihoitapi Falls which was held on the 17th of March. 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