enel, but misfortune is a test of friendship, and the sympathy extended has consoled Mr McCormick for his bad luck.

Among the visitors to Picton this Easter are Mrs Bunny Nelson, Mrs Riley, Mrs Griffiths, Mr and Mrs C. Earp, Mr Fenwick, Mr H. Baillie, Miss Allen, Mrs Richardson, Miss E. Seymour, Miss N. Greensill, Mr and Mrs Howard, Mr and Mrs H. Howard, Miss Sealy (Nelson), Mr G. Allen, Mr and Mrs Langley Adams (Nelson), and numbers of others.

The Championship Regatta of 1896 is over successfully, I think, as a financial and social meeting. The Committee seems to be perfectly satisfied, though of course had the weather in the Straits and in Wellington not been rather uncertain the amount noted by the Committee by the Union Company of 1s per passenger would have totted up to a tidy little sum. As it was only five or six hundred people faced the horrors of sea-sickness to see the regatta. The port has been quite a busy one with yachts and steamers, which are coming and going all day long. The principal events of course were the Champion Fours, and people crowded on the flagship 'Dunblane,' the freezing hulk 'Prince of Wales,' and all along the embankment and foreshore to get a good view. The first attempt was a failure, the water being considered too rough, and the boats returned, going out again later on. The race was a splendid one, and might have been anybody's, according to the gospel of the backers, but at Mabel Island the 'Geraldine' (Queen's Drive) forged ahead and kept the lead till the finish amid cheers and yells from the spectators. Blenheim again came second, and the other three boats close behind. Most people were sure of Blenheim coming in first, and only a few in 'the know' wore Queen's Drive colours. The honour of the Champion Sculls this year fell to Wairewa, with our own boy, Hugh McCormick, almost touching, and McGrath, to everybody's astonishment, some distance behind. McGrath had been the favorite all along for this race. We are very proud of the success of our boys this year in the small events, they having won several races. They talk of big events next year. McCormick will have to buy a new boat, his own being perfectly useless after the collision with the yacht. The Clinker Fours were pulled off on Tuesday morning, many ladies exerting themselves to get down in time to see the race, which was won by Wellington. Then people began to take their departure by steamer, boat and train, and Picton began very quickly to settle down to its normal condition.

The ball, like Saturday's entertainment, was for the benefit of the Institute, and was socially and financially a very great success. The floor was in splendid condition, and voted by visitors to be the very best in New Zealand. The flags, kindly lent by Nelson Brothers, were the only decorations, the ladies for once finding their hands too full to attend to everything. The supper was provided by the lady subscribers, and the table was prettily arranged by the ladies' committee, so that the promoters will have £20 from the ball alone to add to the building fund, and about £15 from Saturday's entertainment. There were so many candidates for the honour of being the belle that it is difficult to say who really was that distinguished individual. Miss Stace (Robin Hood Bay) looked very pretty in a lovely white silk frock, the bodice and ribbons embroidered with white beads and pearls; Miss Balfour also wore a handsome white corded silk, and looked stylish; Miss Ethel Seymour (*à debutante*) was in white silk with white flowers in her hair; Miss Allen, in black surah silk and jet, wearing white tree anemones; Miss Mary Seymour, yellow silk with pearls and chrysanthemums; Miss Melllish (Christchurch) was handsomely dressed in black silk and jet; Miss Fell looked very nice in black velvet with soft white silk, lace fichu arranged prettily around the square cut bodice; Miss Nora Allen was admired in cream crepon with gauzy lace fluffed round the bodice; Miss Waddy looked pretty in cream crepon and lace; Miss Marion Speed, black silk and jet; Miss A. P. Seymour, black velvet and white lace; Miss Horton (Blenheim), pink crepon with large black lace sleeves; Miss Philpotts, a very pretty shade of pink heliotrope silk with lace and gold-brown leaves on the bodice; Miss Western looked very stylish in white silk, with lace bodice brightened with pink velvet; Miss Conolly, white silk and lace; Miss E. Greensill, pretty white silk and soft lace; Misses Sealy and Mirrie Philpotts were dressed alike in yellow silk, and looked very nice; Miss Isabel Seymour, black lace with large yellow sleeves; Miss K. Howard, pink with jet; Miss Hay, net over pink; Miss Fuller, fawn silk; Miss Lilly Fuller, pale blue; Miss McCormick, pink; Miss M. Webster looked pretty in pink; Miss K. Seymour, salmon pink silk; Miss Moran, white; Miss Scott, black lace with lace epaulettes; Miss Falconer (Pahiatua), white; Miss M. Fell, black velvet; Miss Fisk, black velvet; and her sister in white; Miss F. Western, white silk with yellow velvet sleeves, yoke, and rosettes; Miss Webster looked very nice in a well-fitting cardinal frock; Miss Johnston, pink; Miss Ewart (Blenheim), white; Miss Kenny, white with pink sash and ribbons; and her sister in white with blue; Miss Millington, fawn and cardinal; Miss Johnston (Blenheim), white Empire frock with red sash; Miss M. Jeffries looked pretty in white; Miss Nosworthy (Blenheim), cardinal, etc., etc. Of the married ladies Mrs Riley (Spring Creek) was much admired in pale pink, with puffings of gold gauze on the bodice; Mrs Rutherford, black silk, with gauze bodice covered with sequins; Mrs A. Duncan a very stylish gown of black broche and lace brightened with cardinal bows on the bodice and in her hair; Mrs Greensill, black and red; Mrs Bunny (Nelson), black with heliotrope sleeves; Mrs Allen, black velvet, jet, and white lace; Mrs C Earp (Blenheim), dark red velvet and silk; Mrs Griffiths (Blenheim), black silk with old point lace; Mrs Richardson (Meadow Bank), black silk with pink ribbon bows; Mrs Richmond (Richmond Brook), black lace; Mrs H. C. Seymour, black merveilleux with yellow sleeves; Mrs H. Howard (Tua Marina), cream crepon with pale blue velvet sleeves; Mrs Lucas (Blenheim), black; Mrs Oxley, black; Mrs Falconer (Pahiatua), black with white lace; Mrs J. Fuller (Blenheim) looked very nice in black lace and gold; Mrs McNab, black; Mrs Fell, black silk gown with gold brocaded sleeves; Mrs W. Harris (Kito Bay), black with point lace front; Mrs Adams (Nelson), black; etc., etc. Some of the gentlemen were Messrs Rutherford, H. C. Seymour, Arrowsmith, Hodson (two), Richmond, Kenny (two), Greensill (two), Seymour (four), Maclaine, C. Earp, Hordinott, Mears, Lloyd, Millington, Cragg, Maling, Scott, Temple, Speed, Richardson, Wilson, Fuller (two), Jeffries, Waddy, Fell, Baillie, Wytchell, Stowe, Lewis, Radcliffe, Duncan, Riddell, Western (three), Kilgour, Harper, Cowlishaw, Wilson, Oxley, Harris (two), Howell, and many others whose names I could not learn. The dance was a most enjoyable one, and was kept up till the early hours of the morning, though most people had professed themselves dead tired after the regatta.

On Tuesday the entertainment was repeated for the benefit of the Brunnerton relief fund, with some new songs and other items. Unfortunately the larrikin element was in full force and no policeman present, so that it was utterly impossible to hear either Mr Radcliffe or Mr Powell (Blenheim). Miss Mary Seymour sang 'Say Au Revoir but not Goodbye' better than she has ever sung before, and Miss Greensill's music would have been even more appreciated than it was had not the dreadful noise drowned it. Other committees will do well to place a prohibitive entrance charge on boys. 'The Mouse Trap' and 'The Waterman' both went better on Tuesday night, and as a few gentlemen took up their position amongst the boys, peace was in a measure restored for the last portion of the piece. A small dance was held afterwards, but most people were really too tired to stay. Amongst those who did were Mrs and Misses Fell (two), Mrs C. Earp, Mrs and Misses H. C. Seymour (three), Misses Philpotts (3), Misses Kenny (two), Miss Thompson, Mrs Sealy, and Miss Millington, Messrs Seymour, Blakiston, Scott, Lloyd, and Kenny.

The bazaar held in the goods shed kindly lent by the railway authorities was in aid of the English Church. The refreshments were presided over by an energetic band of ladies. The bran-pie was ably served out by Mrs H. C. Seymour, and a sale of work by Mrs Sealy realized a nice little sum.

## NELSON.

We have had the most wretched weather for the Easter holidays; in fact, for about three months now Nelson has not had one wholly fine day. Notwithstanding the incessant rain, however, all the volunteers went to their usual Easter Encampment, which this year was held at Stoke. Besides the local corps there were several from the West Coast, as well as the Blenheim Mounted Cavalry, altogether making about 600 men under canvas, the whole force being under our able commander, Lieut.-Colonel Pitt. The great day, of course, was Easter Monday, when a sham-fight took place. Fortunately it was fine until late in the afternoon, so numbers of visitors went out from town, and the camp presented quite a gay scene, the bright dresses of the ladies and the uniforms of the force rivalling each other, the picturesque white tents forming an appropriate background. Some of those present were Mrs Pitt, in a becoming gown, with bonnet of pale heliotrope flowers and ribbon; Miss Pitt, serge coat and skirt, large black hat; Miss G. Pitt, becoming green cloth gown with dark velvet bands on the corsage, beefeater hat with velvet and quills; Mrs Pearson, black crepon, stylish hat; Mrs Sclanders, grey cloth gown, becoming bonnet; Mrs Kissling, dark blue serge coat and skirt, black hat; Miss Richmond, black crepon, hat with roses; Mrs Blackett, Mrs Tomlinson, Mrs A. Glasgow, becoming blue cloth gown, the vest being richly trimmed with passementerie, toque of blue forget-me-nots; Mrs Percy Adams, black crepon and silk gown, large black hat; Mrs R. Kingdon, Mrs J. Sharp, Mrs Cooke, Miss Watt, becoming pink blouse veiled in white muslin, stylish toque; Miss Gribben, black crepon, picture hat; Mrs and Miss Perrin, Miss Tomlinson, pretty gown of grey tweed, becoming beefeater hat of black with black and white trimmings; Mrs Oldham, Misses Oldham, Travers, Ollivier, Mackay, etc.

Mrs Fell, from Wellington is at present in Nelson staying at St. John's; Mr G. Fell, of Picton, is also a guest here, both having come for their niece's wedding. Mr and Mrs E. P. Bunny are also visiting Nelson from the Kaipara City, as is also Mr E. Jackson.

I am sorry there was no space last week for Mrs Lyall's delightful dance, given for her nephew, Mr W. Squires, who was visiting Nelson.

## BLENHEIM.

I must not forget to give an account of the second day of the Marlborough Autumn Race Meeting. The day was cooler than the preceding one, but the dust and wind were not so pleasant. The harmony of the meeting was somewhat marred by the constant protests, which ought never to have been entered, and by the length of time taken in starting some of the events. The starter beat the record by being over an hour starting one race, and after all that there was a protest entered against the winner. Otherwise the meeting was very enjoyable, and certainly went off most successfully on both days, the attendance being larger than for years past. Mrs Richardson looked well in white pique skirt and cape over white muslin and lace blouse, sailor hat; Mrs G. Watts, brown and green fancy tweed with green velvet, small black boat-shaped hat with feathers; Mrs M'Intire, black, becoming jet bonnet with tea roses; Mrs Cleghorn, black and white check dress, sailor hat; Mrs F. Robinson, fawn lustre skirt and coat over white blouse embroidered with gold, brown hat; Mrs Herbert Seymour (Picton), black crepon, and black hat with shot bows; Mrs Greenfield, brown tweed, black toque with feathers; Mrs T. Redwood, black and purple; Mrs Vavasour, black; Mrs Griffiths, grey, black bonnet with violets; Mrs Horton, grey, pretty pale blue and brown velvet bonnet; Miss J. Horton, blue, large hat; Mrs Kellas, prune tweed, black and white hat; Mrs G. Robinson, cream and yellow crepon, small bonnet; Miss Itees, white and yellow blouse, black skirt, becoming hat of black chiffon with pale green shot ribbon and foliage; Mrs Thompson, white pique, sailor hat; Misses A. Farrell, navy silk blouse smocked, dark skirt, sailor hat; Miss L. Horne, yellow crepon, cream feather hat; the Misses Clouston were much admired in lovely white cashmere smocks worked in cream silk; Mesdames C. Redwood, Redwood, Goulter, McIntosh (two), Mowat, Snodgrass, J. Redwood, P. Doulsin, Park, Petre, Cave, Fuller, Ryan, Corrie, Draper, H. Dodson, Jackson, C. Earp, Lane, Tait, Addison, A. Rayner, Matheson, Burns, Cheeseman, Misses Redwood (seven), Sinclair (three), Ferguson, Aimes, Gordon, Fuller, Mackenzie, Ryan, Ward (three).

On Friday Mrs Conolly had quite a large party at tennis. She received in a grey and white checked coat and skirt over a pink blouse, sailor hat; Miss Conolly, cream blouse; Mrs G. Watts, petunia crepon with bodice of petunia and black striped silk and guipure, black toque; Mrs M'Intire, grey and black tweed, and becoming bonnet; Mrs Rovers, fawn tweed with black silk; Mesdames McIntosh (two), Carey, Snodgrass, Greenfield (looking pretty in black and heliotrope), Bull, C. Earp, Thompson, Sharp, G. Robinson, Kellas, Misses Livesay (two), Bull (two), Moore (two), Horton (two), McLauchlan (two), Kitto and Carey; Dr. Stack, Messrs Snodgrass, McIntosh, Greenfield, Black, Bunting, Wytchell, W. Baillie, H. Horton, G. Waddy, etc.

A good deal of interest has been taken in the Tennis Club tournament and handicap matches now going on.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union have been giving a series of very successful *tableaux* under the able management of Miss Yeomans, of Wellington. They are to be repeated on Wednesday evening in aid of the Brunnerton Relief Fund. That terrible catastrophe has cast a gloom over the place, and everyone here will do their best to raise money for the widows and orphans.

## NAPIER.

Stainer's 'Crucifixion' music was sung at the Cathedral on Wednesday evening, to a meagre attendance. It was a pity, as Mr Rupert Gibson's solos were worth going a long distance to hear. His enunciation was very distinct, and his beautiful tenor voice was heard to much advantage. Mr Thornton, too, was in good voice, and sang his recitatives and solos in good style.

A number of ladies attended the political meeting, when Captain Russell, Dr. Newman, Mr P. S. McLean and others spoke. I observed Mesdames Russell, de Lisle, Wood, Cornford, Heath, Kettle, McLean, Coleman, and the Misses Watt, and Ormond, Hill, etc., etc.

The Sunflower Minstrels gave their first concert at the Working Men's Club on Tuesday. The first chair business part was not distinguished by any novelty, but the corner men were very good. Mr Alf Boden was extremely funny in his song, 'My Dainty Little Darling,' and Mr H. Bear was in good voice for his song, 'The Sleeping Camp.' Songs were also sung by Messrs H. Edmonds, W. Hargrave, and H. Andrews. Mr C. Wilson was an efficient accompanist. A collection was made for the Brunnerton relief fund, and over ten pounds was the result.

At the golf links last week Mr Hubert Moreton won the gold medal presented by Mr W. Dymock, the President. This game is 'catching on.' Every day brings out fresh members.

## CISBORNE.

In my last week's letter I omitted to tell you of a very pleasant afternoon tea given by the Misses Bradley at their residence, 'Riverslea.' Miss Bradley wore a pretty dark blue gown; while her sisters, Miss Esther and Miss Mary Bradley, looked cool and fresh in white frocks. Amongst the guests were Mrs C. White, in a grey costume; Miss Gurr, cream dress, black hat; Miss Johnstone, becoming pink gown; Miss Evans, black and white check; Miss Reynolds, black serge skirt and coat; Miss R. Reynolds, blue serge, sailor hat. Messrs Dewing, W. Kenway, and K. Crombie were also present. Unfortunately the heavy rain of the day before had made the ground too wet to allow of tennis being played. However, Mr Kenway was kind enough to sing in the drawing-room during the afternoon, his songs being greatly appreciated.

Miss Gurr has re-opened her gymnastic class at the City Rink, and has, I believe, a great many pupils. It is one of the quaintest sights imaginable to see the small children going through their drill.

The bad weather during the last week has compelled most of us to stay indoors, but though it has kept us most aggravatingly dull, it has done an immense amount of good to the country stations, where rain was badly needed to bring on the winter feed.

In the intervals of bad weather I have noticed in town Mrs King looking very pretty in a pale blue blouse, dark skirt, and sailor hat; Miss Grey, fawn tweed costume; Miss B. Campbell, dark jacket and skirt, small sailor hat with becoming strings; Miss MacLean, dark gown, white cuffs and collar, sailor hat; Miss Watson, stone grey coat and skirt, sailor hat.

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