## SILVER WEDDINGS.

### MR AND MRS EDWIN MITCHELSON.

THE Hon. Edwin and Mrs Mitchelson, of 'Waitaramoa,' Remuera, were 'At Home' to their numerous friends at a garden party on Saturday afternoon, the occasion being the celebration of their silver wedding. It was a warm spring day, and the lovely grounds, planted with all varieties of native and sub-tropical shrubs, tree ferns, and flowers—the flagstaff gaily festooned with many-hued flags—looked at their best. The anniversary falls at the time of year when Parliament is sitting, and from this cause the present occasion was the first time during a period of fifteen years that Mr Mitchelson has been at home on the anniversary of his marriage. The members of the Opposition were resolved that the auspicious event should not pass unrecognised by them as a political organisation; they therefore sent as a joint gift a solid silver salver, which bore the following inscription:—'Presented by the party in opposition in the New Zealand Parliament 1896, to the Hon. E. and Mrs Mitchelson on the happy occasion of their silver wedding, September 12, 1896.' Mrs Mitchelson has only just returned from Sydney with Miss Mitchelson, who is now completely restored to health. The unavoidable shortness of the notice given between the issue of the invitations and the *fête* prevented a considerable number of friends from attending; nevertheless, there were upwards of a hundred guests present. Among the gentlemen I noticed: Rev. Canon Gould, Rev. H. D. A. Major, Very Rev. Monsignor McDonald, Messrs W. S. Wilson, T. J. Steele, J. Henderson, E. Waymouth, G. Waymouth, Thorpe, W. A. Marriner, E. Marriner, Captain Tilly, Messrs R. Tilly, C. R. Tilley, J. Dennin, A. C. Whitney, R. C. Carr, A. Carr, F. H. Carr, T. Cotter, L. Wilson, R. Wilson, J. Wilson, T. Austin, R. Lusher, C. Westwood, Captain Worsp, Messrs G. Hull, J. Dickson, Wylde Brown, C. Wylde-Brown, L. Wylde-Brown, E. W. Allison, Bellairs, J. Henderson, R. Wigmore, W. Wigmore, E. Wigmore, and H. B. Jones. There were also two gentlemen from Wanganui who accompanied Mr Main, of the *Herald*, one of whom, I think, is the sub-editor of the *Wanganui Chronicle*.

THE earlier part of the afternoon was spent in wandering through the beautiful grounds surrounding the house, in listening to Impey's band, and in pleasant chat over the afternoon tea-tables, which were abundantly spread in a large marquee. About five o'clock the event of the afternoon took place, when Mrs Mitchelson cut a splendid wedding-cake, and the Rev. Canon Gould proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom. Incidentally he gave an account of the wedding, which he had celebrated a quarter of a century before at the residence of Mr Wilson, Mrs Mitchelson's father, on the Northern Wairoa River. The rejoicings, he declared, quite outstripped the celebration which they were gathered here for; the whole township was *en fete* for a week. He expressed the hope that their hosts would live to celebrate a happy golden wedding.

THE Hon. E. Mitchelson spoke with much cordiality and feeling of the pleasure which he and Mrs Mitchelson had derived from the many tokens of friendship which this red-letter day in their lives had called forth. Their happiness was heightened by the home-coming of their daughter, whose residence in Sydney had resulted in complete restoration of health. Mr Mitchelson's speech was repeatedly interrupted by appreciatory applause from the audience, and at the close the host and hostess were accorded a perfect ovation.

MANY congratulatory telegrams and letters were received from distant friends, and the wedding presents were numerous and valuable. After tea many of the visitors returned to town and to their homes in the vicinity, but about forty of the guests remained for the evening and amused themselves with songs and games of various sorts until nine o'clock, when supper was served.

Mrs Mitchelson, who looked exceedingly well, wore a black satin gown with jet canvas yoke, jet ornaments on bodice, black and gold bonnet; Miss Mitchelson looked exceedingly pretty in a hot tweed frock, with full collar, belt and cuffs of a rich shade of red velvet, black hat with feathers; Miss Bertha Mitchelson, cream chiné silk blouse, cardinal skirt with rows of black lace insertion, cardinal felt picture hat; Mrs West, black figured satin cloth gown, black bonnet; Mrs Kenrick, black moire gown, black velvet cape, black bonnet; Miss Kenrick, new shade of blue cloth costume; Miss — Kenrick was charming in black silk striped grenadine over silk, large black hat with a huge bow of shot ribbon; Miss M. Kenrick, navy serge trimmed with braid passementerie; Mrs Brett, very handsome black silk gown, yellow and black embossed velvet bodice, pretty black bonnet with yellow narcissi; Miss Brett, who was much admired, wore one of the prettiest dresses, which was of vieux-rose bengaline, bodice veiled with tussore lace insertion, black velvet picture hat with black feathers; Miss Emily Brett, very stylish tailor-made brown tweed, brown beefeater hat with ribbon and shaded yellow roses; Mrs Dargaville, black merveilleux with yellow silk bodice veiled with black lace, bonnet *en suite*. Miss Dargaville wore a smart fawn check costume, feather boa, brown velvet hat with frilled shot silk beefeater crown and upstanding bows of ribbon; Miss McLachlan, violet bengaline gown, bodice trimmed with black velvet, black hat with reseda green ribbon bows; Mrs S. Morrin looked *chic* in blue chine silk blouse, black merveilleux skirt, black chip hat trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Worsp, pale green crepon gown, front of bodice profusely trimmed with black chiffon, toque to match; Miss Worsp, black gown, red cloth bodice, black velvet hat; Mrs Gorrie, black silk; Miss Gorrie, sea-foam blue and pink brocade blouse, boucle cloth skirt; Miss M. Gorrie, pale blue and grey check costume; Mrs Whitney, stylish black satin gown with brocade bodice with a scroll design of the new shade of blue, black jet bonnet; Mrs Wilson, handsome black silk; Mrs Thorpe, black; Miss Thorpe, brown cloth with brown velvet sleeves, brown felt hat; Miss Flora Thorpe looked pretty in navy serge, black felt Alpine hat; Mrs Lusher, fawn satin, white toque; Miss Westwood, Gobelin blue bengaline finished with black; Mrs Wylde-Brown, black brocade gown, revers of heliotrope under black lace, black bonnet with large bow of heliotrope in front; Miss Wylde-Brown looked dainty in a chiné muslin blouse, dark green skirt, white straw hat coquettishly trimmed with ribbon and a feather at the side; Miss Bellairs, cardinal coloured frock; Mrs Whitson, fawn check tweed costume; Miss Whitson, red and blue striped tweed, black velvet hat; Miss Cotter looked very well in shot tweed, full vest of pink silk, hat *en suite*; Mrs Tilly, fawn and brown check tweed gown and cape trimmed with fur; Miss Tilly, silver-leaf green shimmering brocaded satin gown, toque to match; Mrs E. W. Allison, shot silk gown, 'Truby' velvet sleeves, jet bonnet; Mrs Carr, brown and black costume; Miss Carr, Chartreuse green velvet blouse, dark skirt, white hat; Miss Alice Westwood, fawn cashmere, fawn plush epaulettes, blue and brown brocade full vest; Miss Winnie Westwood, fawn and brown check tweed, frills falling over sleeves; Miss G. Westwood, grey; Mrs Beattie, brown check tweed; Miss Henderson, a pretty cream blouse with vandykes of heliotrope silk over sleeves, also band round square yoke, black skirt; Mrs Austin, brown cloth gown and stylish cape; Mrs Norton looked very stylish in a black silk crepon, black hat trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Hull, black; etc., etc.

### MR AND MRS GEORGE RAYNES.

MR AND MRS GEO. RAYNES must certainly be heartily congratulated over the result of their last social re-union, the occasion being the celebration of their silver wedding, which event took place in London, at Old Paddington church, on September 7th, 1871.

As above stated, the greatest *éclat* was given to the affair, and over 150 friends gathered together to express their delight at the whole proceedings, which passed off without a single hitch. The *cusine* was one of the best, and the supper table was what, with the pretty decorations, handsome dresses, and general *coup d'oeil, once* seen, never to be forgotten. The floor was in excellent trim for votaries of the light fantastic, and if ever they exerted themselves they did that night. The music, too, a most critical part, was excellent, and was ably supplied by Messrs Reid and Davidson's String Band. A programme of over twenty dances was gone through with great verve and animation, evidently showing their hearts were in it, and, as stated previously, the whole was pronounced a most enthusiastic success. At interludes songs were sung, and Mr C. Winks proved himself a most proficient M C Supper was served in Mr A. F. Stillwell's best style, and was done full justice to.

MR AND MRS GEO. RAYNES were greeted with the heartiest of congratulations, and they were the recipients of many handsome presents, including souvenirs from all their employés.

FOR the elderly folk who did not dance, considerate forethought was shown by allotting them a portion of the room fitted up as a drawing-room, in which they could entertain themselves in a manner suitable to their tastes.

Now for the dresses, which would take too much of your valuable space to adequately describe, contrast, colour, and rich trimmings being seen in rivalry on all sides. Suffice it to say the following list met with chief approval, and must not be passed over:—

Mrs Geo. Raynes looked quite bewitching dressed as she was in white satin, pearl and chiffon trimmings; Miss Raynes, white striped silk, a most brilliant effect being caused by not only the beauty of the dress, but also by that of the wearer herself. A good many thought, in fact, that the palm was carried off between Miss Raynes and Miss Finch, who also looked charming in yellow silk trimmed with white chiffon; Mrs J. Raynes, black and heliotrope silk; her daughter Lily, a pretty white striped silk; Mrs Schaap, white satin; Mrs Howard, yellow satin; Mrs G. Brook, pink satin beautifully trimmed, and looking one of the best in the room; Miss M. Raynes, heliotrope; Miss Winks, pale green, velvet trimmings; Miss Kilfoyle, all white; Mrs W. Speight, black velvet; Miss Speight, white trimmed with violets; Mrs Dawson, pale green; Miss Dash, green silk; Miss Smith (Walwera), white trimmed with red poppies; Mrs Copey, pale blue; Miss Copey, yellow cashmere, black trimmings; Miss Maxwell, silver grey; Mrs Lonergan, white silk velvet; Miss Harkins, black lace dress.

Mr Gilmer, town clerk of Parnell, in a neat speech proposed health and happiness to enable both Mr and Mrs Geo. Raynes to celebrate in the future their golden wedding, to which Mr Geo. Raynes ably responded, and with hearty congratulations from all quarters, the social given in St. Bonaventura Hall on Monday, 7th September, is not likely to be soon forgotten.

Taken as a class, women learn their parts much more quickly than men do, but, in accordance with the usual rule as to 'quick studies,' they are generally said to forget them much more quickly. In nine cases out of ten the women of the stage commit the words of their parts to memory by copying them out in their own handwriting, and amongst other distinguished disciples of this method are Miss Ellen Terry and Mrs Patrick Campbell. As regards learning parts in the open air, whilst walking, driving, and so on, the system has fewer advocates amongst women than it has amongst men; but Mrs Bernard-Beere and Mrs Langtry are both accustomed to this form of study, and many younger actresses adopt it, railway and even 'bus journeys being utilised. Both Mrs Kendal and Sarah Bernhardt sit down to serious study, and allow nothing whatever to interfere with them during the time they are learning a part by heart. They study and consider every word as they go along, and mark and score the book containing their words in every possible manner.

## AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE, SEPTEMBER 14.

We spent a

### CHARMING AFTERNOON

last Tuesday at Mrs McMillan's pretty residence, 'Ardstrath,' Remuera. The day was simply perfect, and a few spring costumes heralded the coming slipping off of our winter chrysalis clothes, and appearing in our summer butterfly brilliancy. The very *chic* tea tables also spoke of spring, the one laid in the dining-room being uniquely decorated with lovely purple-blue anemones in numerous specimen glasses, standing on folded silk of the same rare shade. Round were arranged cakes, sandwiches, and *confitures* of every alluring variety, diluted, by the appreciative guests, with tea or coffee. In an alcove off the large music-room was another tea-table, lighted by pink-shaded lamps, where, on a ground of crimson velvet, anemones of the crimson to pink order were exquisitely displayed, flanked by delicious eatables. Just inside the ante-room, where we were welcomed by our pleasant hostess, was a large bank of pure white camelias most tastefully arranged. Other floral decorations graced the spacious rooms. Mrs McMillan is fortunate in having three excellent supporters to aid her in her many agreeable parties (besides various friends), and these three daughters were as attentive as their mother to their very numerous guests—and that is saying a great deal. Good music is, of course, expected at 'Ardstrath,' and we enjoyed the following excellent selections:—Miss Ludwig, song, 'White Wings;' pianoforte quartette, 'Moszkowski,' Miss Hudson and the Misses McMillan (three); Mrs Upton song 'The Gift,' and 'With the Sunshine and the Swallows;' Miss Tilly, song, 'Bid Me to Love;' Miss Burstill, song, 'Last Night;' Mrs Foster, song, 'Children's Home;' selection by the 'Ardstrath' mandoline and guitar band; Miss Hudson, piano solo, Paderewski's Minuet; Mrs Roberts, song from 'Faust;' Mrs Archdale Tayler song, 'Rose Marie;' selection by the 'Ardstrath' orchestra; Mrs Kilgour, song, 'Waiting;' duet for two pianos, 'Gottschalk,' Miss Hudson and Miss McMillan; Miss Greenwood, song, 'Two Voices.' Mrs McMillan, wore black silk brocade and black lace, rich gold ornaments; Miss McMillan, stylish fawn costume trimmed with velvet bordered by silver passementerie; Miss Essie wore a soft white Liberty silk artistically relieved with Empire sash of Mandarine or yellow silk, the same colour ruching the neck, gold ornaments; Miss Kassie, red Liberty silk made Empire style, subdued with touches of black ribbon velvet; Miss Hudson (a visitor), purple velvet skirt slightly trained, white silk blouse relieved with violet; Mrs Nelson Gribble, very smart black skirt and sleeves with gold brocaded bodice; Mrs T. Morrin looked exceedingly well in striped black and white silk skirt and sleeves, the bodice covered with silk figured chiffon and trimmed with green velvet, toque to match; Mrs Alfred Nathan was handsome in pale lavender silk, deep collar of embroidered grass lawn, black velvet hat with black feathers relieved with orange; Mrs Brewer looked pretty in pale fawn, with V-shaped points of green silk at the neck, the same silk on the cuffs, black and white large straw hat touched with colour; Mrs Beatty wore a mixed green and brown cloth trimmed with velvet and passementerie; Mrs Seager, becoming scintillating toque of fairy-like lace structure, very pretty brown dress figured in silk and trimmed with shot silk and passementerie, large primroses buttonhole; Mrs Matthew Clark, stylish dark peacock-blue faced cloth and velvet, capotte to match; Miss Devereux looked nice in grey with white silk front relieved with touches of magenta; Miss — Devereux, pretty walking dress; Mrs (Colonel) Dawson, black cloth and silk costume, white shirtlet, *chapeau* to correspond; Mrs Roberts (Christchurch), grey silk blouse, dark skirt, pretty bonnet; Mrs Thomson (Rocklands), black silk with salmon pink silk vest; Mrs Meins, widow's weeds; Mrs Cottle, black, with touches of stylish magenta in bonnet; Mrs and Miss Thorne-George, stylish English dresses; Mrs H. Nolan, Mrs Ching, dark mixed tweed; Miss Burstill, lilac pink cashmere, which fitted her admirably; Mrs Lonsdale Pritt and Mrs Williams wore very handsome black silks; Mrs E. W. Payton was well dressed in soft brown silk, hat *en suite*; Mrs Stevenson (Ponsonby), black silk; Mrs Peacock, dark blue; Mrs Scherff, black silk, black bonnet with yellow buttercups; Mrs (Dr.) Roberton looked charming in Gobelin blue; Mrs Arthur Taylor was *chic* in a stylish combination of mode grey and white finished with silver passementerie; Mrs Archdale Tayler, black gown with bodice and sleeves of lilac silk; Mrs Tait, black silk; the Misses Stevenson (Glenholm); Mrs Herbert Thompson, black silk, white vest; Miss Thompson, dark skirt, green velvet blouse; Mrs Tilly, dark blue cloth; Miss Tilly, dark skirt, striped taffeta silk blouse, bright magenta ribbon round neck, black hat; Miss Ware, nice grey cashmere; Mrs Wigmore, black silk; Mrs Whitney, black, with blue bodice; Mrs Reed (Koramarama); Miss Whitson; Mrs Heywood, black with black broche revers; Miss Allie Buddle, navy serge; Mrs Ryan, black silk, brown bonnet; Miss Ludwig, dark cloth flecked with red; Mrs Prouse, black silk; Mrs Street, handsome black merveilleux; Miss Thomson (Rocklands), black gown, becoming hat profusely trimmed with pink roses; Mrs Upton, black silk, black bonnet relieved with white; Miss Cheeseman, dark green cashmere; Miss Lucas, Mrs and Misses McFarlane, Mrs T. F. Uffill, Miss Harding; Miss Carr, green cashmere skirt, velvet blouse; Mrs Coleman, black silk; Miss Coleman, navy serge; Miss Myers, dark gown, striking fawn lace hat; Mrs Ashton Bruce, navy serge; Mrs Clifton, navy serge; Mrs Winstone, grey figured broche; Miss Alexander, brown; Mrs Atkins, black silk; Miss Atkins, brown tweed; Mrs Bull, very handsome black silk, white silk sleeves veiled in black lace, becoming bonnet *en suite*; Mrs Noakes looked remarkably well in white serge, black lace toque with flowers; Mrs Shirley Baker, black gros-grain silk with jet trimmings, black bonnet with white marabout, black feathers, pink flowers relieved this charming bat-shaped *chapeau*; Miss Maud Buckland, slate-grey tweed; Mrs Bamford, dark silk gown; Mrs Bliss, black silk, bonnet to match; and her daughter wore a pinky lilac cashmere, bonnet *en suite*; Mrs Blazzard-Brown, combination of black with white lace; Miss Shirley Baker, brown gown relieved with slate grey; Mrs Chambers, black silk, bonnet *en suite*; Mrs Colbeck, Mrs Conolly, stylish black silk with bead trimming, black bonnet; Mrs A. Clark, grey check with brown trimmings; Mrs Cheeseman, fire flame red shot silk, black velvet sleeves to elbow, tight fitting silk cuffs, bonnet to match; Mrs Cotter, stylish black silk relieved at the neck with buttercup silk; Miss Cotter looked smart and summery in a coral pink cashmere; Mrs Devereux, combination of black silk and white profusely trimmed with black beads; Mrs Dignan looked *distinguee* in a fawn gown, fawn beefeater straw hat trimmed to one side; Miss Dolly Davis, black; Mrs Dargaville, black silk, canary silk blouse trimmed with black net and beads, fur boa; Mrs Robert Dargaville, black mourning costume; Mrs Foster, brown tweed; Mrs Gordon, black silk; Miss Gordon; Mrs Gillies, black; Mrs Greenwood, blue fancy cloth, dainty bonnet of black and white; Miss Greenwood, navy serge, sky blue trimmings, Tam o' Shanter cap; Mrs Gorrie, black silk with jet trimmings; Mrs Edward Russell, Gobelin blue cashmere, brown jacket; Mrs Browning, black silk; Miss Horne looked well in dark green with striped green silk sleeves and trimmings, *chapeau* of green velvet and silk, etc.; Miss Mary Gorrie, grey cashmere tailor-made gown; Mrs Hardie,