

'Have you your lifebelt on?' and the last desperate, but happily successful, struggle with the cruel waves was made, and the boat safely beached. In Auckland, the stewardesses were busy buying some necessary clothes, as though supplied in Napier with waterproofs and hats, they had little else. They subsequently went to Wellington, returning to Auckland, and on to Sydney to headquarters by the 'Anglian.' Their future movements are uncertain.

It is often asked, 'Why did not the boats keep together on the night of the wreck?' They could not for fear of being swamped, for whenever the huge waves lifted them towards each other the cry was, 'Keep away; we shall be capsized.' The lights were intentionally put out, for they made a glare immediately round the boats, and they could not see where they were going.

MRS RENWICK, who has been staying in Blenheim with Mrs Cleghorn, returned to Dunedin on Saturday afternoon.

MR WENN-BOWEN, of Wellington, has gone to the Sydney Branch of the Bank of New Zealand.

MRS LINTON, of Picton, has been spending a few days in Blenheim, where she has been the guest of Mrs Howland.

NEW ZEALANDERS AT HOME.

LETTERS from London announce that Mr Townsend, manager of the Bank of Australasia at Dunedin, who died abroad the steamship 'Himalaya,' on her last voyage to London, succumbed to heat apoplexy while in the Red Sea. Mr Townsend had taken part in a cricket match at Aden on the day preceding his death. He was on his way Home accompanied by his wife and little boy, purely on a pleasure trip. Sir George and Lady Whitmore are now in England, where they purpose remaining about a year.

MR JAMES MCGOWAN, M.H.R. for the Thames, has been visiting familiar scenes at Belfast.

MR FREDK. BAUME, barrister and solicitor of Auckland, arrived in London on June 19th, having left the 'Himalaya' by which he was a passenger from Australia, at Brindisi, and journeyed overland. He was present in London throughout the Jubilee festivities, which made a great impression on his legal mind.

SOME idea of the costly character of private entertainments in London may be gathered from the fact that at a party given in London by Mr Harmsworth, of the *Daily Mail*, in honour of the Colonial Premiers, Madame Melba was engaged to sing at a fee of £300, and Paderewski, the famous pianist, received £1,000 for his professional services during the evening. The Hon. Dr. Seddon and Mrs Seddon and daughters were among the guests.

LADY RANFURLY left England in the best of spirits, her only regret being the unavoidable parting with her son, Lord Northland, who is continuing his education at Eton.

BISHOP NEVILL is as much requested in England as are the other Colonial representatives, be they lay or clerical. Prior to his ordination as Bishop of Dunedin, he was rector of St. Mark's, the parish church of Skelton, where he was requested to go thither and preach the Jubilee sermon in his old church. This he did, and was given quite a grand reception. An address in album form having been presented to him at the Town Hall by the rector, the Rev. E. D. Boothman, a grand procession of a mayor, corporation, etc., etc., escorted the prelate to the sacred edifice. He also preached at Romsay Abbey on June 28th, Coronation Day.

MR AND MRS GREENSLADE are expected back in Auckland in the middle of September. They have had a very pleasant time in England, and purpose winding up with a prep at the Continent, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney.

MR S. HALKS, whose mother (from Dunedin) has just joined him in London, has made good use of his three years' study in Parisian studios. A small picture of his has had the honour of being hung in the *Paris Salon*. It is called 'La Nuit.' Mr Hals is the second New Zealander who has had this honour.

THE Primate of New Zealand, the most Rev. Dr. Cowie, and Sir E. Braddon were present at the Ranelagh Club's gymkhana.

THE Colonial Premiers will scarcely deign to visit operas or theatres in their own lands when they return after the way the leading theatrical managers have treated them. Mr George Alexander, Sir Henry Irving and Miss Terry, Mr and Mrs Tree, Mr Hare and Mr Charles Wyndham have all displayed their most attractive acts and actors to delight the visitors, generally winding up with a reception on the s.s.

MR JAMES MCGOWAN, M.H.R. for the Thames, managed to pay a visit to Belfast during his brief stay in the Old Country, to raise a monument over the graves of his father and mother. He is returning via Suez immediately.

TO DARKEN GREY HAIR.

Lockyer's Sulphur Hair Restorer, quickest, safest, best; restores the natural colour. Lockyer's, the real English Hair Restorer. Large bottles, 1/6, everywhere.—(Adv.)

SEED ANNUAL NURSERY CATALOGUE

Every lover of Horticulture needs both from us. Why? Write for Copies—they will answer for themselves. Forwarded to any address by return mail. NOTE! GOODS POST FREE!! OR, ALLOWANCE MADE FOR FREIGHT.

Vegetable and Flower Seeds Free by Post to any address in the Australasian Colonies (Peas and Beans 3d. per lb. extra). Trees and Plants—with every order of reasonable size extra plants will be sent, thus practically paying freight to any port in North or South Island.

H. C. GIBBONS & CO. WELLINGTON.

LADIES WILTON'S HAND EMOLLIENT!!

The expenditure of 1s. on Wilton's Hand Emollient will keep your Hands Soft and White. Sold by all Chemists at 1s. per jar. JUST TRY IT!!

A Trial Jar Posted to any Address on receipt of 1s. in Stamps, or Postal Note. KEMPTHORNE, PROSSER & CO., WHOLESALE AGENTS.



SOCIETY + ON + DITS.

THAT near the scene of the wreck of the 'Tasmania' is a safe little inlet known as Happy Jack's. Some twenty years ago an Auckland resident visited this locality, and found an old whaler bearing that title living in a wharf. He had a big lamp on condition it was always burning. As long as he lived Happy Jack regularly lighted his lamp, which could be seen three or four miles off. Had that light been burning on the night of July 29th, in all human probability the wreck of the 'Tasmania' would have been averted.

That the Picton young men are forming a volunteer corps. About 25 names are already sent in, and if the Defence Department allow them, they will at once proceed to drill. At one time there was a splendid volunteer corps in Picton under the command of Mr Nepean Kenny, and people who remember that time hope to see the new venture succeed.

That unexpectedly cold weather has been experienced in some parts of New Zealand. At the Big River, Reefton, four feet of snow fell, and in consequence work in the mines there has been suspended. Snow also fell at Greymouth and Hokitika, a rather unusual occurrence.

That the Marlborough Land, and Railway League mean business. When the railway is extended to Christchurch Picton will be an important place. Everything comes to those who know how to wait, and Picton has waited patiently for its share of the spoil.

That many Thames people are greatly regretting the departure of Mr H. P. Stark, who for the last eleven years has been working for the Thames branch of the Bank of New South Wales as accountant and assayer. Mr Stark is going to Greymouth to relieve one of the Bank officials there for a month. After that he goes to West Australia to a branch of the Bank there.

That a country constable who was drafted into Dunedin at the time of the Jubilee, lost himself one night while on duty, and had to ask a passer-by the way to the police-station.

That a handsome gold bracelet was presented to Miss Bowden, lady assistant teacher of the Kihikihiki School for three or four years, on the occasion of her resignation of her position. The scholars also gave her a very nicely got up address.

That the late postmaster at Feilding, Mr J. H. Stevens, has received another mark of the esteem in which he is held in that town. Fifty ladies and gentlemen met in the Council Chamber at Feilding to make the following presentations. The Mayor presented Mr Stevens with an illuminated address, which bore 70 signatures, and also informed him that he was requested to select 200 books, which would be ordered from Home at once and suitably inscribed. The Mayor also, on behalf of the local post officials, presented Mr Stevens with his own portrait, with those of the employees in the office. Mr Greenwood, on behalf of the Debating Society and Library Committee, presented Mr Stevens with a handsome copy of Mr Fitzgerald's account of the New Zealand Alps.

That various little stories in connection with the wreck of the 'Tasmania' are now afloat. One of them is to the effect that a passenger, Mr Ayden (from Colombo), who landed at Mahia, was simply clad in a shirt, an overcoat, and a hat, all of the most fashionable and handsome material and style. His genuine cheerfulness under these trying circumstances was infectious, and of great assistance to his fellow sufferers in the same boat. When he landed he declined to walk up to Mr Ormond's station as an important garment. He was supplied with muleskins, and boots to match. The incongruous appearance he now presented, with his nether limbs habited in shabby old trousers and boots, and his upper man costumed *à la Poole*, was so quaint that his companions laughed immensely, and he was too good-natured not to join in the merriment at his own expense.

That Mrs Cromwell Tewsley gives an 'At Home' on Thursday, 12th, at 'Sheen House,' Farnell, Auckland.

That Miss Todhunter, Christchurch, goes to India to visit her brother, probably extending her visit to England.

That invitations for the wedding of Miss Gore and Mr Marjoribank are issued for August 18th.

That at the football dinner on Thursday night, July 29th, Mr A. E. A. Clarke's health was drunk with musical honours, it being the gentleman's birthday. Mr Clarke, in reply, expressed the great liking he had for Taranaki ever since he came here a weak diminutive lad, who was not expected to live. Under the genial influence of the Taranaki climate Mr Clarke said he became robust and strong, and in three years and a-half he grew to six feet in height. Since that time he has been three times through New Zealand, but those first recollections of Taranaki, coupled with his past seven years' residence here, were the brightest and happiest in his life. Mr Clarke was warmly applauded on resuming his seat.

That Arthur's Pass and the Otira Gorge are still blocked with snow, but a track has been cleared with shovels, and for that stage mails and passengers cross on horseback.

That the Hon. A. J. Cadman and his sister, Mrs McShane, were in Napier a few days ago.

That owing to the large increase of pupils at the Nelson Girls' College it is found necessary to obtain an additional resident teacher.

That the rescue of the boy Hutchinson from drowning in the Auckland Harbour on Sunday week whilst watching the approach of the s.s. 'Taranaki' with the survivors of the wreck was bravely effected by Mr J. W. Holland, son of Mr J. J. Holland, M.H.R.

That Mrs Macquarrie (Nelson) gave one of her pleasant afternoon teas last Friday. Amongst those present were Mesdames Clarke, Heaps, Robinson, Booth, Fraser, Seal, Misses Frere, Olliver, and others.

That Dr. Marsack, Auckland, is recovering from his carriage accident to the satisfaction of his friends.

That at Hawera Mr J. F. Martin, post-master of that place, who has been removed to Feilding, was presented with an address and a handsome silver biscuit-barrel, with suitable inscription on it, by the members of the local post office and telegraph staff.

That the fixing of the date of the Wellington Garrison Ball has been left to His Excellency, Lord Ranfurly. The committee are to wear rosettes of red, white and blue with a touch of Kharkee.

That in spite of the bad weather on Thursday afternoon a fair number of shootists were present at the opening of the New Plymouth Gun Club. Mrs J. B. Roy, the Mayores, released the first bird, and Mr Seed, Vice-president of the Club, had the first shot. Undoubtedly, in the near future, the Gun Club will be one of the largest of its kind in New Zealand. It has a total at present of sixty members, and from the enthusiasm manifested it promises to be a great success.

That the Blenheim Poultry and Dog Show, which lasted three days, was exceedingly successful.

That Mrs James Russell, Auckland, gave a large children's dance on Thursday evening.

That the preparations for the bachelors' ball in Blenheim on August 13th are already in progress, and that it is on a scale unsurpassed before.

That Mrs Andrew Hanna, of Remuera, Auckland, gave a large euchre party this week, to which there were about forty guests. The prizes given were very handsome, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

That Mr Wigram, Christchurch, gave a most enjoyable card party and supper last week to a few of his gentlemen friends, amongst whom were the Hon. R. W. Parker, Messrs Rolleston, Palmer, Moorhouse, Lane, Ryne, and a few more.

AN ELECTRIC HORSE.

HORSELESS carriages, while favoured by many persons, are equally an eyesore to many others. These latter are, as a rule, ardent lovers of horses, and it naturally pains them to think that the day is evidently quickly coming when the horse, as a beast of burden, will be rather an unusual sight in any large city. The former, as a rule, have never cared much for horses, and consequently they naturally welcome any mechanical contrivance which is able to take the place and do the work of the animal.

Mr Blackmore, an English inventor, has been trying to make peace between the two factions, and with that object in view he has patented a one-horse electric carriage. This contrivance, he claims, should be welcomed by all—both by those who want a horse as well as by those who want an electric motor. He styles his invention the electric horse and he insists that no other motor for carriages can equal it. In the body of this not uncommonly quadruped there are stored, not armed warriors, but peaceful electric accumulators. The ordinary horse requires a goodly ration of oats before he will do a long journey; all this horse needs is a few volts of electricity. Two conductors transmit electric energy to a motor, which is placed between the legs of the animal, and power is then transmitted to the hind wheel by means of a chain similar to the one used on bicycles. But this is not all. If it were the horse would be a mere dummy. The horse, however, can walk, trot, amble, pace, gallop, and even canter. The automation on the box seat has only to manipulate the reins cunningly in order to produce any desired motion. These reins communicate with the front wheel, and are the most important part of the whole contrivance. They must be managed properly, or otherwise the electric horse will prove as unmanageable as any living *Bucephalus*. The tail, too, plays an important part. I assume that the animal will not trot unless the tail is moved a good deal to one side, and that it will not gallop unless the tail is removed altogether. Anyone, therefore, who desires to become an expert driver of the electric horse must carefully study the various uses of the reins and tail.