



Wrightscort & Binn, Photo.

MR W. J. BLAIR, MAYOR OF WELLINGTON.

THE NEW MAYOR OF WELLINGTON.

Mr John Rutherford Blair, who was recently elected to the Mayoralty of the Empire City, is well known there for his business capacity and his services in connection with the Board of Education. He came to New Zealand in 1869, and some years later joined the late Mr W. Lyon in business in Lambton Quay as publishers, printers, and stationers. In 1894 he disposed of this business to Messrs Whitcombe and Tombs, of Christchurch, and retired. But he has not ceased to take a keen interest in educational matters, with which he early identified himself. In 1880 he was elected a member of the Wellington Education Board, and in 1882 he became Chairman. That position he held till 1895, when he desired to vacate the office; but pressure being brought to bear on him he consented to stand again. For a number of

years he was also Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Wellington College and Girls' High School, and is now Chairman of the School Commissioners.

Fashion decrees that stiff-bosom shirts will be less worn with street attire than usual this season, and will gradually come to be worn only with evening dress. This does not mean that the ordinary negligé shirt will replace the starched garment. The compromise will be effected by a shirt of soft material, of white, pink, light blue, or with slender stripes. A very pronounced colour or design will be found much more comfortable than the one that has been in the fashion for the last half century, and it is expected that it will become universal for men in the course of the next few years. It will be made with either a plain or plaited front, and, of course, will be worn with studs, and not the ordinary buttons like the negligé shirt.

MEN AND WOMEN.

A doctor draws up the following rules for those who wish to live long, and retain health to the end of the chapter:—The man of robust constitution and sedentary habits should live largely upon fish, green vegetables and acid fruits, eating butchers' meat but once daily. He may, in addition, eat bread and potatoes, but these should constitute his limit of starchy foods. Cakes, farinas, oatmeal, and the various cereal breakfast foods should be indulged in but rarely or altogether avoided. Sugar should be used but sparingly, and only as a flavouring for food or beverages, and never as food in itself. If he use wine with his dinner, it should preferably consist of the non-saccharine order; and he should limit the quantity of fluids consumed with his meals to from twelve to sixteen ounces. He should dine between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and at all times eat in moderation, never, under any circumstances, overloading his stomach. In northern latitudes, especially in humid and changeable climates, he should wear an-wool under-garments, including stockings, the year round. In dryer and somewhat warmer climates, silk underwear may be substituted for wool. Warm or tepid baths are preferable to cold ones, and after middle age cold showers and plunges, or even sea-bathing, are not without serious risks.

A correspondent sends us the following amusing story, as recently enacted upon an Australian liner:—A shy Australian major, after spending the first evening very late with his friends in the saloon, suddenly returned to them after saying 'Good night' and requested an interview with the purser. He was very white. "There is a lady," he said, "in my cabin—No. 42." "Rubbish!" exclaimed the purser. "Here's the list. Your companion is Captain Higginson." "Nothing will induce me to go into the cabin again," said the major. "Well, I'll go," rejoined the other. He returned with great celerity, and with a face as white as the major's. "I pon my life, you are right. We'll put you somewhere else for the night, and see about it in the morning." With the earliest dawn they sought the steward and demanded an explanation. "It's all a mistake, gentlemen," he said. "It's Captain Higginson all right. Here's his luggage." "We must have this explained," said the purser. "This portmanteau is unlocked. Let us see what's in it." It contained a lady's wearing apparel. "By Jingo!" cried the steward, "that's what comes of taking names as don't belong to us. She said she was Captain Higginson; but she didn't say as it was only in the Salvation Army!"—Syren and Shipping.

Lincoln, N.J., is said to be 'the woman-governed town,' and perhaps

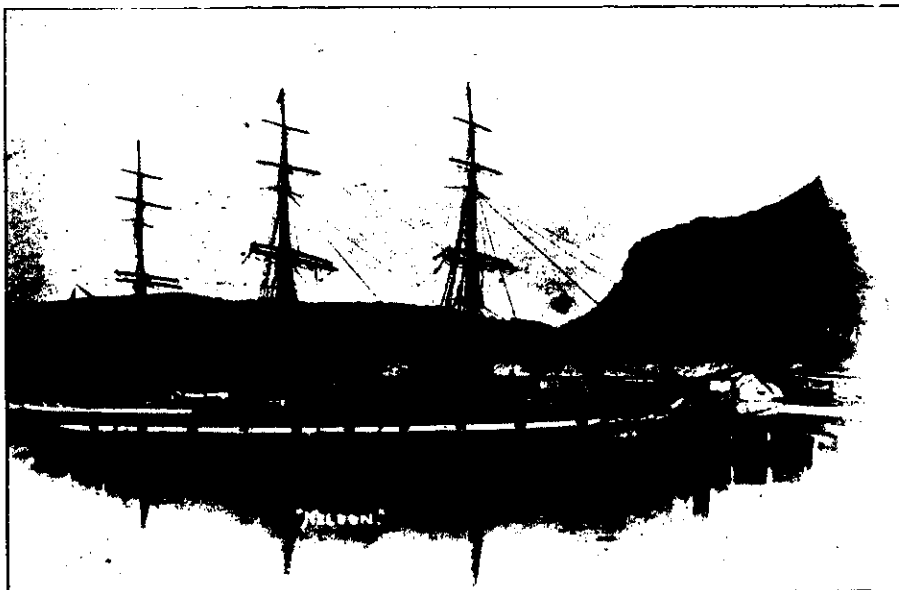
the charge is true, for the Common Council is made up of members of the gentler sex, with one man, T. W. Sheldon, to preserve the balance of power. On September 4 (says 'Leslie's Weekly') Lincoln had the most exciting day in its history, and Miss Hattie Morre, who is described as a sweetly pretty maid of eighteen summers, even if she is ambitious to be a legislator, was the heroine of it all. A special election was held for choice of two members of the Council. There were three names on the ticket—Mr Sheldon, a Miss Moore's and that of a Mrs Catherine Myers. Mr Sheldon's election was conceded before the voting began, and the contest, therefore, lay between the two ladies. All day long the battle raged. When the votes were counted the result was announced:—Sheldon, 67; Morre, 47; Myers, 20. The first two were duly declared elected. Miss Morre thus enjoys a distinction that is rare enough in her part of the country. She is described, among other things, as 'an ardent church worker, a Christian Endeavourer, and a believer in moderation.'

When may a lover consider that he is encouraged? It is impossible to dogmatise on the matter. Of course, there are some general rules which would meet all cases. For instance, when a girl accepts a man's attentions and his continued hospitality, and openly wears the presents he has sent her, he may certainly begin to believe that he has found favour in her eyes, and that her answer to the momentous question will be a satisfactory one. Then, again, if the girl appears happy and contented in a man's company, if she greets him with pleasure, and bestows more than half her programme upon him at a dance, he may reasonably trust that her heart is wholly his. Men are frequently very say. In spite of an apparent show of easy confidence, they are, as a whole, far more self-distrustful than women, and it is this same bashfulness which often costs them dear. It is said that by far the greater number of proposals, though not actually made by the girl, are helped on in such a way as to make it much more easy for the man to lay his hand and heart at her feet.

There is not an editor in the United States who would not give all he possesses, from his boots up, to be a duchess. They profess to despise titles and to have souls above the aristocracy, yet they chronicle the happenings in connection with every American heiress who has married an English title with greater display and offensiveness than are given to Royalty in England. For genuine flunkeyism, for genuine love of titles, for genuine worship of titled persons, commend us to the United States, and especially to the editors of the United States.

THE SHIP "NELSON."

Messrs Shaw Savill and Co.'s fine ship 'Nelson,' which was towed into Wellington the other day had a more severe experience in her passage from the Old Country to the colony than fortunately falls to most vessels. When some 45 days out from Liverpool she met with tremendous gales off Cape Leuwin. The seas swept her deck, carrying away one of the boats and smashing the deck-houses. The jib-boom and the fore-mast stays were also carried away, and the fall of the fore-top-gallant mast was only prevented by the brave conduct of the chief officer, Mr Davis. When the gale subsided the vessel enjoyed good weather till abreast of Cape Farewell, when it became somewhat thick, and later on a gale blew. In the midst of this the vessel touched on a rock, and some time afterwards it was found that she was making water rapidly. The pumps were manned, but the water continued to gain, and to make matters worse the gale had increased to a hurricane. Fortunately, when the ship was in this perilous position, near Cloudy Bay, the Tararua was sighted. Captain Perriam at once signalled that his vessel was sinking, and the Tararua, with great difficulty, and at considerable risk, took the damaged craft in tow. At Wellington Heads the steam tug Duco came along, and conveyed the Nelson to port, where she was examined by a diver. The injuries proved not so bad as had been anticipated.



De Maua, Photo.

THE SHIP "NELSON."