

That the moral condition of Christchurch must stand in desperate need of improvement when its Bishop feels called upon to make the statement that people in Christchurch will grovel to wealth even when embodied in the person of an ardent blackguard.

That volunteering is certainly coming into fashion again in this colony, for the Defence Department has lately been almost, if not quite, inundated with offers of service from proposed volunteer corps.

That the Government Entomologist, Captain Brown, purposes dealing very strictly with the importers of scale-infected fruit.

That the members of the Hastings Liedertafel held their first practice on a recent Wednesday evening, and that it passed off successfully.

That Miss Calvert's (Christchurch) recent fancy dress dance was well attended and proved itself a very enjoyable affair.

That H.M.s. Tauranga arrived in Picton on Monday afternoon. She will remain about ten days.

That the Auckland ladies are seriously addressing themselves to the business of finding funds for the purchase of the colours which they have undertaken to present to the Auckland Infantry Battalion.

That Mr Richard Reynolds, of Trearne, Cambridge, has returned to his home after an absence of some eight months in Mexico and England.

That if Mr Seddon's efforts can achieve it the Local Government Bill will be passed this session.

That the Wellington Post Office buildings are at last getting that hydraulic lift for which there was such need.

That some of the Australian press are of opinion that before New Zealand tries any more experimental legislation it should wait and see how the dose it has already had is going to agree with it.

That Mr Payton has been re-elected President of the Auckland Society of Arts.

That Mrs Gregg's beautiful residence at Mahakipawa, Picton, was totally destroyed by fire on Friday evening. Mr and Mrs Gregg were at dinner when they noticed a peculiar noise, and going out into the hall, found the whole of the house upstairs in a blaze. A fire had been left in the drawing-room. Mrs Gregg's loss is very great, everything being burned — heirlooms and other valuables.

That those entertainments styled 'Lugesides,' which are held under the auspices of the Ashburton Caledonian Society, are earning the reputation of being most successful of any way.

That the distribution of prizes for the Woodville District School took place recently, and was held in the Drill-shed. Miss Barkwith, a pupil teacher who is leaving, received a presentation consisting of gifts from the pupils and teachers and an illuminated address in which were expressed regret at her departure and good wishes for her future happiness.

That they are starting a bacon factory at Ohaupo.

That there is a horrible tale going the round of the newspapers of how New Zealand school inspectors may be hoodwinked by an artful conspiracy between teachers and scholars.

That Mr Dignan, the Mayor of Auckland, who is now in Wellington, is battling on behalf of his City Council against the Auckland Electric Lighting Bill, which, it is believed, would seriously hamper the Council were it to pass.

That it is a pity that modest and generous donors, such as the gentleman who the other day, under the veil of anonymity, gave the Mayor of Wellington £100 for the benefit of the young, form so rare a species of the genus homo in this colony and elsewhere.

That Mrs Bankart, of Parnell, Auckland, gave a most enjoyable euchre party last week.

That Mr Duthie, M.I.R., Wellington, in agitating for the reduction of the taxation of the people, should scarcely fail to obtain a New Zealand-wide popularity.

That they are making considerable additions and alterations to the buildings of St. John's College, Tamaki, Auckland.

That it would be interesting to discover the precise amount of ambiguity indicated by the words of Dr. Grace, of Wellington, when, the other night in the House, he warmly thanked God that the Ministry did not yet exercise the prerogative of mercy.

That Mr Jamieson and Mr Boyle, of the Hauraki mine, Coromandel, had a most marvellous escape from death in the mine last Thursday.

That the ball to be given by the officers of the Auckland Volunteer Corps on Friday, September 16th, is to be called the Garrison At Home.

That Mrs William Thornton of Maungakawa, is away on a visit at Wanganui.

That there are still thirty voices wanted to bring the Auckland Exhibition choir up to its desired strength of 200.

That the Auckland Women's Political League is interesting itself in the extension of the North Island Main Trunk Railway.

That the Hibernian Band, conducted by Mr F. Hale, rendered a musical programme on the new rotunda in Seymour Square, Ilhenheim, last Sunday afternoon. The day was exquisitely fine, and the pleasing sounds attracted a very large number of persons.

That one of our Stipendiary Magistrates gives it as his opinion that farmers are quite justified in destroying dogs caught in the act of worrying any kind of live stock.

That it certainly gives us some idea of the large scale on which the Union Steamship Co. carries on its business when we learn that in Wellington alone its annual expenditure is over £150,000.

That Miss Wilford, the lady golf champion, is going to Dunedin some time before the Championship meeting.

On page 136 we give a picture of Messrs A. Hattrick and Co.'s stern paddle steamer Manuwai, as she recently appeared on the occasion of an excursion trip up the Wanganui River. There were no fewer than 400 persons on board at the time represented, a large number to accommodate on board a vessel which from the nature of the river must be very shallow in the draught. At present there are three steamers of different dimensions available for passenger traffic on the Wanganui, and year by year as the unique beauty of the river becomes better known the demand for transportation facilities increases.

Among the most comfortable of tea and luncheon rooms in Auckland are the Ranfurly, conducted by Misses Hickson and Collas. These ladies have recently gone into new premises a few doors below the place which they occupied before in Queen-street. The new rooms are more retired than the old ones and much cosier, while there is a marked enlargement in the variety of the menu.

Mr William Perrier deserves great praise for his excellent production of his original opera 'Natisha' in Auckland this week. The work is entertaining and full of catchy music, while the ballets and stage business are very clever. The marvel is that Mr Perrier could in so short a time as was at his disposal have trained the company to the standard of excellence they have attained. With the exception of his own daughter, Phyllis Perrier, who is a little marvel in her way, none of those who took part in the performance can be said to have had any experience on the stage till Mr Perrier took them in hand. The opera has been performed on two consecutive nights, and if succeeding representations continue to show as marked improvement as the second performance did on the first, the piece should be good for a successful run through New Zealand.

On Monday evening the Auckland Liederkranz gave the first concert of the present season. Several members of the Auckland Liedertafel Society contributed to strengthen the choral work, in which some 70 singers took part. An interesting programme was rehearsed, including Rossini's 'Carnovale,' Cusini's 'Venetian Boat Song,' Longhurst's chorus 'The Bells they are Ringing,' Mendelssohn's 'Ave Maria,' Bishop's 'Chough and Crow' chorus, and Piusuti's 'Good-night, Beloved.' The soloists of the evening were Madame Chambers, Miss Aylett, Mr A. L. Edwards, Mr M. Keating, Mr Chas. Kissling, while Mr C. Towsey contributed a piano solo, 'Automne,' and Mr Innes gave Wallich's 'Andante and Polacca' on the Flute. Mr A. Towsey conducted. The stage arrangements, which were carried out on the designs of Mrs Alfred Nathan, were very beautiful, there being a wealth of greenery and flowers.



Mr Clement Dixon's (second son of Mr J. Dixon, of 'Rainshaw,' Mount Albert) engagement has just been announced to Miss Hume, daughter of Mr Hume, of the Bank of New Zealand, Hamilton, Waikato.

The engagement is announced of William Lorian, Esq., mine manager Hauraki Syndicate, and Miss Adeline Barnett, youngest daughter of the late Mr Thos. Barnett.

The engagement is announced of Miss Kate Kingsford, of Cambridge, to Mr F. C. Browne, of Komatiu, Paeroa.

The engagement is announced of Miss Cochrane, eldest daughter of W. S. Cochrane, Esq., Arundale, Epsom, Auckland, to Mr G. O'Halloran, Auckland.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS.

There was a large attendance at the Onehunga Wesleyan Church on the occasion of the marriage of Mr Wm. Ferrier McIntyre and Miss Mary Jane Snell. The bride, who wore a dress of ivory white cashmere, trimmed with silk and lace, with the customary bridal veil and wreath of orange blossoms, was attended by four bridesmaids—Miss Lucy Snell, Miss McIntyre, Miss Hilda Blakey and Miss Gillman, and was given away by her father. Messrs T. Barr and G. Jeffery acted as groomsmen. The church was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and special music was provided by the choir, under the able leadership of Mr G. H. Douglas. The Rev. S. Lawry was the officiating minister. Among the numerous presents was a handsome Japanese lacquered table and work box, presented by the officers and teachers and choir of the Wesleyan Church and Sunday school, both of which bodies the bride has been connected with for some years. The steamer in port were gay with bunting in honour of the event, as Mr McIntyre is well known in shipping circles as a highly respected employee in the Union S.S. Co. Mr and Mrs McIntyre left for the South by the s.s. Takapuna on their honeymoon trip.

There have come to hand some further particulars concerning the wedding of Mr Thornton Walker to Miss Hester Newmarch, of Cambridge, Waikato, a short notice of which appeared in these columns last week. The bride, who was led to the altar by Mr Richard Reynolds, of Trearne, wore a beautifully made, brown cloth coat and skirt costume, with a canary-coloured silk front, brown Alpine hat to match. Miss W. Walker acted as bridesmaid, and wore a grey costume. The bridegroom was attended by his brother, Mr George Walker, of Pahiatua.

On Wednesday, July 20th, at Napier, the marriage took place of Mr P. Ashcroft to Miss Gaucher-Goddard, of Greenmeadows. The bride, who was led to the altar by Mr Goddard, wore a becoming dress of dark green, relieved with white, and a pretty white hat. She was attended by one bridesmaid (Miss Storkey), who was in a dress of deep lemon colour, trimmed with white and wore a hat of black velvet with white feathers. The wedding ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. Parsonson, and the service was fully choral. Mrs C. Saunders presided at the organ and played a beautiful wedding march.

If the native women of Sumatra have their knees properly covered the rest does not matter. The natives of some islands off the coast of Guinea wear clothes only when they are going on a journey. Some Indians of Venezuela are ashamed to wear clothes before strangers, as it seems indecent to them to appear unpainted.

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SOME TESTIMONIALS.

Newlands, Waiuku, N.Z., Mar. 26th, 1898. Dear Sir.—I received Watch and Chain in good condition, and am obliged. The watch is working splendidly.—Yours truly, L. N. Wizer, The Globe Watch Co., 105, Pitt St. Sydney.

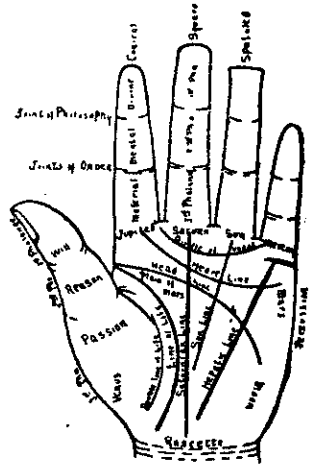
Kent Farm, Port Albert, Auckland, N.Z. March 9th, 1898. Sir.—I received the Gent's Silver Watch and Chain quite safe. My son is delighted with it. I enclose remittance for Lady's Gold Watch and Chain; if it gives as much satisfaction as the silver one, we shall be very pleased to recommend your firm.—Yours respectfully, MAR T. HOORN.

The Globe Watch Co., 105, Pitt St. Sydney.

CHIROMANCY

Or the SCIENCE OF READING HANDS.

THERE has been so much interest taken in the Graphology Column, that it has been decided to start a 'Chiromancy' Column, under the able guidance of Madame Vero. This lady has devoted a great deal of time and thought to this very interesting subject, and has thoroughly studied it in all its branches. Her 'readings' have been extraordinarily successful, and 'The Graphic' is fortunate in securing her services. A sketch of a hand with all its lines is given, as a guide to those wishing their hands to be read. No one has all the lines indicated on the specimen hand, but some few of them will be found on each hand. The following suggestions will help in drawing the hand:—



Lay your hand, palm downwards, on a piece of clean white paper, the fingers as far apart as they will comfortably go. Then with a pencil trace all round it. Next hold it up against the window, and reverse it so that it will appear with the palm uppermost, as in the sketch. Then ink it carefully all round, taking pains to have the fingers the exact length. In the first sketch indicate the joints as you come to them by dots; this makes it much easier to get the correct distances when filling in the lines. Draw all the lines you see, as far as possible at correct distances from each other. Put no names in. Then send your hand with 24 penny stamps, to

'MADAME VERO, Care of the Lady Editor, "New Zealand Graphic," Auckland.'

SISTER DORA.—Rarely indeed is it my good fortune to receive so interesting and uncommon a hand as yours for interpretation, and I only hope I can render my 'reading' as interesting to you as it will be to me. As usual I find it most difficult to decide on the ascendant mount, without the distinguishing mark of 'fullest' to guide