

NEWS JOTTINGS.

His Excellency the Governor has certainly worked hard in his efforts to make himself personally acquainted with New Zealand, geographically and topographically. In January he will visit Picton, Blenheim, Nelson, etc., and in March the East Coast district on the North Island. When he has done this Lord Ranfurly will have officially visited every town of any importance in this colony—not a bad record in the few months he has been here.

The Domain Committee decided to allow the Auckland Amateur Athletic and Cycle Club to hold their postponed sports in the Domain on December 3. It is hoped they will have fine weather this time.

A large dark butterfly has lately been added to the fine collection possessed by Mr Percy A. Buller, of Wellington, who has named it Anosia Bolina. It was captured for Mr Buller by a native near Ohau, and is larger than the tropic forms of the same species. Several specimens of the same butterfly have been captured in different parts of the colony, but none of the same species have ever been observed in the Ohau district before by the natives.

The Thames people view with much satisfaction the rapid progress of the main station buildings and station-master's house.

The various military contingents of Auckland have been enjoying a delightful week in camp. Their bell-tents, pitched under the tall manuka trees in the Domain, presented a very picturesque appearance, and, despite the early drill-hour, some time between five and six a.m., the whole affair was by no means unmitigated hard work. Curiously enough, the S. John Ambulance Brigade, under Dr. Dawson, stationed on the ground, had plenty of work, for there was always some small cut or more or less serious injury to be attended to, necessitating some yards of bandaging. At all events, the usefulness of the corps was amply demonstrated.

Mrs Robison, of Nelson, is in Auckland at present with her little son, the latter having had the misfortune to break his arm. Mrs Robison has come to visit her father (Captain Anderson). Mr Robison, of the Bank of New South Wales, has been transferred from Nelson to Hawera. The last-mentioned place Mrs Robison and son will shortly visit to rejoin her husband.

The funds for the Auckland Church Mission to the Streets and Lanes were augmented on Thursday last by a Christmas Tree and Cake Fair, held in St. Sepulchre's old schoolroom, Symonds-street. Captain Torlesse, of H.M.s. Royalist, opened it in the afternoon. Several good musical items were rendered. The children of the Mission, under Miss Black, gave some good patter songs.

There is every prospect of the new Vicarage for St. Paul's Church (Anglican) being commenced shortly, the two cottages standing on the proposed site having been sold at auction.

A London paper states that Mr W. S. Gilbert, of Savoy Opera fame, is shortly to pay a visit to the Hot Lakes, in New Zealand, for the benefit of his health.

At the Ranfurly tea rooms, Queen-street, a few days ago an afternoon tea was tendered to the ladies who took part in the recent performance of "Minerva's Jubilee," in St. Mark's Hall, Remuera. The function went off very well, everyone being unanimous in praising the excellence of the provider and tea room.

The Picton Road Board have appointed Mr Chaytor, of Marshlands, Spring Creek, Mr Bragg, of Koromiko, and Mr Fell, Picton, to represent their interests on the Picton Hospital and Charitable Aid Board.

Mrs Moss Davis gave a musical "At Home" on Monday afternoon at her residence, Princes-street, Albert Park, Auckland, from four o'clock to six o'clock.

Sir James Hector delivered a most interesting and instructive address on "The November Shooting Stars" before the Wellington Philosophical Society, on Tuesday last. During the address he mentioned that in all probability the sight of the falling stars in November next would be made stupendous by the inclusion in it of the head of the comet, but did not think the coming discharge would affect this side of the globe very much.

An unusually severe thunder storm passed over Picton on Friday, Nov. 15th. Several people who had the nerve to watch the storm declare that they saw great balls of blue flame strike the earth in various places. In all probability some trees in the bush were struck, as terrific noises like the rending of timber were heard when the storm was at its height.

A cuckoo, caught at Vogelstown, was exhibited at the meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society on Tuesday last, and Sir James Hector stated that it and another specimen were gorged with young birds when captured. In reference to the surprise this statement excited, Sir Walter Buller said it was not unusual to find that cuckoos had devoured the young occupants of the nests which they appropriated, and stated that he had himself known of several previous instances of it.

Mr James France of the Picton Post and Telegraph Office has been transferred to Lyttelton on promotion. Mr France is an obliging and painstaking officer.

The annual session of the Nelson Diocesan Synod was opened last Thursday by the Bishop. The evening before a full choral service was held at the Cathedral.

Mr and Mrs Lawrence D. Nathan (Auckland) have issued invitations for Wednesday, December 7th, for the wedding of their daughter Miss Sybil to Mr Stephen D. Myers at Synagogue, Princes-street, at half-past two. The reception at St. Kevan's, Karangahape Road, 3.30 to 6. With the invitations tickers have been forwarded to admit the invited to the Synagogue.

SOCIETY ON DITS.

That it is very discreditable to all concerned that the Auckland Government House should not have been ready for the occupation of the vice-regal party this week. His Excellency the Governor and the Countess of Ranfurly would probably have stayed there for some days had the house been in fit state to receive them. It now presents a curiously clean appearance, with its shining new white paint, which is a great improvement on the dingy walls of many years. The dining-room and drawing-room rejoice in tasteful papers of a blue tone and design which, with the crimson cretonne paper, were chosen by the Countess of Ranfurly. The new furniture is also to be selected by Lady Ranfurly during her flying visit to Auckland. If the powers that are supposed to control matters re Government House will only hurry up a very little the vice-regal party will make Auckland their head-quarters in March next. Of course no one would dream of expecting any official to over-exert himself this hot weather, but as there are three clear months till March, it is just possible that sufficient energy might be infused into the proper authorities to enable the papering and painting of the rooms to be completed, and the new furniture moved in. But let us remember the Maori motto, "Taihoa."

That Picton people intend to make their New Year's Regatta a success if possible.

That it is incorrectly circulated that Captain McLean, s.s. Mapourika, has resigned from the U.S. Company's service.

That Picton rowing people are anxious to send a crew to compete in the Auckland Championship Regatta next year, and are talking of having a floral fete to raise funds for that purpose.

That a Mrs Strooch of Christchurch, who takes a great interest in the Women's Social and Political League, says the famous cauliflowerers sent in to Messrs Pirani and Duthie, M.H.R.s, during the sitting of Parliament, were forwarded by the Wellington Women's Political League, of which Mrs Seddon is president. The latter lady, it is stated, knew nothing previously of the affair.

That all who have had occasion to come personally in contact with His Excellency and staff in arranging for the various functions in connection with the Auckland visit speak enthusiastically of the courtesy and consideration shown by the present Queen's representative and his genial private secretary.

That the Countess of Ranfurly was wearing a stylish and useful travelling costume on her arrival in Auckland on Saturday night, navy serge coat and skirt, with cream cloth revers, collar and vest, white straw sailor hat with navy band. Lady Constance Knox looked charming in turquoise blue with a white Leghorn hat.

That the Whiteley church bazaar, New Plymouth, was opened on Thursday afternoon by the Mayor (Mr E. Dockrill) and was a great success.

That Mr E. Dockrill has been re-elected Mayor of New Plymouth, and Mr C. E. Major, of Hawera.

That a grand benefit concert tendered to Mr Charles Tash, victim of the late railway accident, New Plymouth, was held in the Theatre Royal last Thursday evening.

That a grand opening concert by the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club, New Plymouth, will be held on Monday evening in the Theatre Royal.

That an All Nations' Fair will be held in the Drill Hall, New Plymouth, on December 1st and 2nd. Proceeds in aid of the Primitive Methodist Church and Parsonage Fund.

That the Central School entertainment, under the patronage of His Excellency the Governor and Lady Ranfurly will be held in the Theatre Royal, New Plymouth, on Monday evening, December 5th.

That Mrs Carthew, of New Plymouth, gave a very pleasant dance at her residence, Devon-street.

That Mrs J. B. Roy, New Plymouth, has issued invitations to a large garden party, to be held at her residence, Vivian-street, December 5th.

A story of an enterprising financial genius was recently current in London. Following the news of the Sirdar's victory in the Sudan, he at once mapped out a prospectus of the "Omdurman Development Syndicate." His idea was to acquire the captured Sudanese town at a 'bed rock' price, and then realise when the value of the place had been substantially augmented by the British occupation and the consequent impetus given to trade. The financier was reported to be rushing hither and thither, with the object of having his scheme underwritten, but with what success has not transpired.

GRAPHOLOGY

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