

tests for the prize of £5. About 15 men and the same number of women composed the party, which was under the leadership of a chief named Ngawharau Pukauae, belonging to the Ngatinaho tribe, from Takapu, on the Waikato river. These people gave several dances, one of which was a very amusing imitation of an Irish jig. The second dancing party then went through their share of the work. This party consisted of the members of the 'Ngavanga' Band (King Mahuta's), headed by old Parukan, attired in native costume, and by a chief named Puhī Rauwaho, from One-whero, both of whom brandished fine 'patua,' or 'meres,' and acted as masters of ceremonies. One or two haka were danced by these natives, and they sat down amidst loud applause. The Arawa contingent, from Rotorua, then came forward, and the athletic, stalwart appearance of the men was much admired. The women were headed by a woman named Kiri Matai, who is a splendid leader of a dance. The Rotorua contestants danced one or two excellent haka, and the women then gave a very pretty 'poi' dance, with balls of gauze held by a short string.

The judges awarded the first prize for the haka to the Rotorua party, who were undoubtedly the best as regards costume and dancing. The Ngavanga party secured second prize, and the Kia Ora third.

THE CANOE RACES.

The canoe hurdle races in the Callopie Dock caused great amusement and were witnessed by thousands of spectators from the terraces of steps around the dock basin. The hurdle was a pole about a foot above the water in the centre of the dock, the ends of the hurdle resting on floating platforms. For the first event, a canoe hurdle race for men, two in each canoe, three crews competed. The 'kopapa,' or small canoes, which competed were the Maori, Romana, and Kahiraitei, all from the Waikato river. The Maori, manned by Paul Aubrey and Hori Paki, won after a very interesting and amusing contest.

The next event was a canoe hurdle race for women, two in each canoe, which gave rise to intense excitement, owing to the frantic efforts of the winners to get over the hurdles and the frequent capsize of the canoes. The Kahiraitei won the event. The winning crew were two women named Pungapunga and Whakara.

A canoe hurdle race for men followed, the course being two and a-half lengths of the dock. Kahiraitei won, the crew being Kerapa Rotana and son. A canoe tug-of-war, three in each canoe, also took place, the Kahiraitei winning after a tough struggle.

But the event of the Carnival, which was looked forward to with the greatest interest was the war canoe race on Saturday afternoon. Three war canoes—the Tahereikitihi (Waikato), and the Onapere and Tawatawa, from the Bay of Islands competed, and each was decorated in ancient style, and carried between 40 and 50 men. Seeing that it was probably the last contest of its kind that will take place in New Zealand, the number of spectators assembled to witness it was very large.

In connection with the war canoe race we reproduce a picture from the 'London Illustrated News' of October, 1862, taken of the Waitemata Harbour on Regatta Day of that year. As the engraving shows, there was a great Maori war canoe race that year. To the left of the picture is seen Her Majesty's steamship Miranda, and on the left is Her Majesty's steamship Fawn. Both vessels had been ordered up from Taranaki by Commodore Seymour after the cessation of hostilities. 'The very unsettled state of the colony for nearly two years,' says the 'News,' 'prevented the natives from joining with the Europeans in their amusements; but the timely arrival of Sir George Grey very soon produced an amount of confidence sufficient to cause a belief that the odious 'Law for Fighting' would soon be rendered nugatory; therefore a native tribe living near Auckland, on the Coromandel coast, was induced to bring their war canoes and warriors to join with the Pukehas (or white men) in the amusements of the regatta. Many other more distant tribes would have joined, but they ascertained that only one prize was to be gained, however numerous the competitors; consequently they declined to undergo the great exertion necessary to compete with their brethren unless a prize was guaranteed to every crew that enter-

ed, without which they could see no fun in undergoing so much fatigue merely for amusement; and the tribes which was persuaded to participate in the regatta agreed among themselves beforehand that the amount of money gained as a prize was to be equally divided among them in consideration of the labour endured by each individual in the exertion of his utmost strength. The sight of this extraordinary canoe race was not one to be easily forgotten by those who witnessed it. The chiefs performed hideous antics and gesticulations, acting as fuglemen, and going through the most remarkable contortions of the body combined with frightful screams and yells, which were responded to in perfect cadence by all those in a sitting posture (women even included).'

IMPROMPTU JUSTICE.

The 'St. James' Budget' tells the following somewhat unbelievable story gleaned from the columns of the 'Times':—

'Herr Wolff, special correspondent of the "Tageblatt," having an idle day somewhere between Kiao Chou and Tsing-tau, went out in quest of adventures with his dog, Schuster, and his clerk. Arriving at a courthouse he found a mandarin preparing to try thirteen Chinese, charged with murdering German missionaries. Waving a piece of paper, which he declared was his warrant, he promptly took the highest seat, ordered 'Herr Von Schuster' to take the next in dignity to his right, placed his clerk on his left, waived aside the bewildered mandarin (who doubtless thought that this was the 'nailed fist' in person) and called for the prisoners, whom, without hearing evidence, he promptly acquitted. He then rode off, followed by Herr von Schuster and the clerk, declaring that the order of the day was at an end.

PIGEON SHOOTING.

There was a large attendance at the recent handicap pigeon shooting meeting held at Potter's Paddock, Auckland, under the auspices of the Northern Gun Club. The match was a nine bird one, and there were six prizes given, the first being £45, the second £25, the third £15, the fourth £7, the fifth £5, and the sixth £3. The acceptors numbered 65. Major Morrow, hon. secretary, made all the necessary arrangements, and Mr James Russell acted as referee. The results were as follow:—

Dr. Owen, 30yds, and Mr H. Cutts, 29yds, divide first and second.
Messrs C. D. Kennedy, 27yds, and A. Bull, 23yds, divide third and fourth.
Mr George Parsons, 28yds, fifth.
Mr Claud Young, 29yds, sixth.



Cell. photo. MR H. CUTTS AND DR. H. OWEN.
Winners of the Pigeon Shooting Handicap in Auckland.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS

The formal installation of Mr J. G. Trevor as Mayor of Blenheim took place on Wednesday, and the proceedings were unusually brief, as apparently most of those making speeches were under the impression that 'brevity is the soul of wit.'

Mrs Harry Jackson, of Wanganui, is in Auckland at present on a visit to her parents, Capt. and Mrs Worsp.

Miss Farnum, of Johnsonville, is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents in Blenheim.

Mr and Mrs Thornton, of Waikato, were in Auckland during the holidays.

Miss G. Fisher arrived by coach from Nelson on Wednesday, and after spending a day or two in Blenheim with Mrs Carey, left for 'Birch Hill,' where she will stay for the Christmas holidays with Mrs Lambie.

The editor of 'Maori Art' is working hard at his MS. in the Urewera Country. Mr A. Hamilton is publishing it by arrangement with the New Zealand Institute.

Mr Ward, of New Plymouth, was in Blenheim on Thursday on his way to Havelock, where some of his relations are living.

Mr T. Wilford is visiting Auckland from Wellington.

Mr R. A., Mrs and Miss Lusher, of Auckland, have returned from their trip to the Old Country.

Mr and Mrs W. R. Bloomfield, of Auckland, are visiting Gisborne.

Miss M. Douslin, head mistress of the Blenheim Girls' School, left for Wellington on Wednesday on a holiday trip, which she will extend as far as Auckland.

The Rev. W. G. Ivens, of the Melanesian Mission, passed through Auckland last week on his way to Lyttelton.

Miss M. Ewart has returned to Blenheim after an enjoyable visit to the Pelorus Sound.

The Auckland races attracted a number of Southern visitors, amongst whom are Mr G. G. Stead and Mr Wilfred Stead.

Mrs Goodson, of Hawera, is in Auckland.

Mr Colenso, of the Norfolk Island Melanesian Mission, is at present in Auckland.

Mrs and Miss Richmond, of 'The Cliffs,' Nelson, have gone to visit friends in Dunedin.

Mr G. G. and Mr Wilfred Stead (Christchurch) left for Auckland on Tuesday evening.

Mr H. Watson, who is a master in the Wanganui College, arrived in Blenheim on Thursday, and started to bicycle to Nelson early on Friday morning.

After visiting the Hot Lakes, the ex-Mayor of Coolgardie, Mr James Shaw, with his family, remained at Rotorua for the holidays.

Mrs R. McCullum has gone to visit her parents, Mr and Mrs Grady, in Wellington, and left Blenheim, with her children, on Wednesday. Mr McCullum leaves by the steamer to-night to join them.

Mr and Mrs D. Nolan, of Auckland, are once more at home, after a pleasant European visit of some months.

Mr and Mrs John Beaumont (London) left for Wellington on Saturday, and thence to Auckland, returning South before leaving again for England.

The many friends of Mr J. R. Carey, of Sydney, are glad to see him again in Auckland.

Miss Mabin, of Blenheim, has gone to spend Christmas in Wellington.

Dr. L. L. Smith, of Sydney, who has a perfect alphabet attached to his name, will visit New Zealand shortly.

The Hon. J. McKenzie may return to the Cabinet after his trip to England, if his health allows of his doing so.

Miss Broad, of Wellington, who has been spending a few weeks in Nelson, arrived in Blenheim on Thursday, where she stayed at the Vicarage with her aunt, Mrs Grace, until Saturday, when she drove out to 'Langley Dale' to spend Christmas with Mrs W. Adams.

The Rev. Hector Hawkins, who was educated at Te Aute College, Hawke's Bay, has been ordained deacon for mission work amongst the Maoris on the East Coast of the North Island.

Mr H. Burden, of Blenheim, has gone to spend the usual vacation for lawyers, at Napier, where his parents reside.

Among the visitors to Auckland this holiday season is Miss M. E. Bush, of Christchurch, the well-known solo pianiste and accompaniste. Miss Bush, who is staying with her brother in the Northern city, has the best appointed studio in Christchurch, and is looked upon as one of the most talented musicians and efficient teachers in the South.

Miss Brabant, who has been on a long visit to her sister, Mrs Richardson, of Nelson, returned to her home in Auckland this week.

Miss Bourne is visiting her brother and Mrs Baillie at Para, Picton.

The Mayor of Nelson (Mr F. Trask) gave an enjoyable fishing excursion to the City Councillors and others this week. The party left by special steamer on Tuesday night, and a pleasant time was spent next day in Titirangi and Admiralty Bays, fishing being the chief amusement. All returned home on Wednesday night, having greatly enjoyed the excursion. Mr F. Trask has been installed as Mayor of Nelson for the ninth year in succession.

Mrs H. M. Haslett, Auckland, is spending a few months with her people in Picton. All her old friends are glad to see her again.

Miss G. Broad, of Wellington, has been on a short visit to her grandmother, Mrs Colt, of Nelson, and has now gone to join Mrs W. Adams' Christmas party at 'Langley Dale.'

Mr Philip Mulex left Nelson last Wednesday for England, and thence to Edinburgh, where he will continue his medical studies.