

Mrs John Robertson, of Sydney, is at present in Auckland.

Mrs F. Brooks and family, of Cambridge, have gone to spend part of the Christmas holidays in Auckland.

The Misses J. and E. Chaytor, 'Marshlands,' Spring Creek, drove in to Picton on Wednesday to meet their sister, Miss Constance Chaytor, returning home for the holidays. Misses Rutherford (2) and Allen (2) are also home again for the holidays.

Miss Gannaway, of Nelson, has gone to visit friends in the Wairarapa.

Miss Seymour, Mr A. P. Seymour, and Mr F. Seymour returned to Picton from the Sounds on Saturday for the Christmas holidays. Mr Walter Seymour is also in Picton.

Mr and Mrs T. Gresham and family, of Te Awamutu, are spending three weeks in Auckland.

Miss Empson, Cambridge, has been on a flying visit of a week to Auckland.

Mrs Rutherford, Picton, spent a few days in Wellington last week.

Mrs McLaughlan, of Waitekauri, has been staying with her mother, Mrs Banks, at 'Gwynnelands,' Cambridge.

Mr H. Baillie, Bank of New Zealand, Curterton, is in Picton for the Christmas holidays.

Mr and Mrs F. C. Brown, of Komata, are spending a week in Cambridge.

Among the numerous Wellington visitors to Picton just now are Mr and Mrs Menteth and family, Miss Allen, Mr R. Laery.

Miss Amy Jones has left Cambridge on a visit to her sister, Mrs J. C. Graham, of Gisborne.

Miss Gibson (Girls' College, Nelson) has gone to her home in Christchurch for the holidays.

Miss Freda Downes, Dunedin, is in Picton for a month or so visiting her relations at 'Brooklyn.'

Mrs Pearson, of Wellington, is staying with Mrs Pitt of 'Muritai,' Nelson.

Mr and Mrs Gillfillan and family, of Parnell, Auckland, are staying in Cambridge at present.

Mr and Mrs Robert Scott, Spring Creek, are spending the Christmas holidays in Picton with Dr. and Mrs Scott.

Mrs Sweet (Nelson) and her little boy have gone to visit the Auckland Exhibition.

Mr W. Carey, of the Loan and Mercantile Company's office, Wellington, arrived in Picton on Saturday, and proceeded down the Sound to enjoy camp life for a brief holiday.

Mrs J. R. S. Richardson, of Cambridge, is spending the Christmas holidays in Auckland.

Miss Livesay, Kaikoura, spent a few days in Picton with Mrs Robertshaw on her way to Nelson.

Mr and Mrs Rout, of Cambridge, have been visiting Auckland.

Mrs A. H. Thorpe and her daughter left Auckland for the South last week. Mr and Mrs W. Birch of 'Erehwon,' Hawke's Bay, returned to New Zealand by the Mokoia and are staying in Wellington with Mrs William Pharyzyn in Hobson-street, for some weeks prior to returning to their station in Hawke's Bay.

The Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, with his wife and daughters, was in Christchurch for the New Year. After visiting Temuka, thence the Premier returns to his West Coast home to enjoy a brief family holiday.

Miss Cunningham (New Plymouth) has gone for a trip to Auckland.

Mr and Mrs Ernest Izard (Hawera) are paying a short visit to Mr Izard's parents, Mr and Mrs Charles Izard, in Wellington.

Miss E. Spencer, of Napier, has gone into the country for a few weeks' visit.

Mrs Hursthouse (New Plymouth) is visiting her sister, Mrs Lattey, of Auckland.

The Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., of Napier has been made an honorary member of the Royal Geographical Society.

Miss Edith Ball, who has been staying in Christchurch for some time, returned to Blenheim this week.

Mr J. Hourigan is staying in Auckland. He has come over from New South Wales for a visit and to appreciate the milder New Zealand climate.

Miss Webb-Bowen and Miss Leggatt, of Nelson, have gone to spend Christmas and New Year with Mrs W. Adams, 'Langley Dale,' Marlborough.

It is much regretted that the health of Father Luck is in such a dangerous state that the last rites of his church were administered to him at the residence of Bishop Lenihan, Ponsonby, Auckland, last week.

Miss Hilda Moorhouse (Wellington) is the guest of Mr and Mrs W. Bidwell, Pahiatia, for the Wairarapa races.

Mr Thomas Buddle, of Auckland, has returned from his trip to Sydney.

Mr and Mrs Wood, of Napier, are at present in Wellington and have taken a house there for several weeks.

Mr and Mrs E. W. Mills (Wellington) are paying a short visit to the South Island.

Mr Jourdain, of Napier, has gone up to Auckland to see the Exhibition.

Miss Hewlings (Christchurch) is the guest of Mrs Rhodes, at the 'Grange,' Wellington.

Mr and Mrs Turnbull, of the Bluff Hill, Napier, have gone for a visit to Nelson.

Mrs Ferguson and Miss Moorhouse (Wellington) are paying a short visit to Otaki.

Mrs James McLean, of Napier, is staying at Wairoa.

Mr and Mrs Cranston Wigley (Christchurch) are the guests of Mrs Rhodes, at the 'Grange,' Wellington.

Mrs P. H. Lowry, of Havelock, has been staying in Napier and spending Christmas with her mother, Mrs J. H. Coleman, of Napier.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Green, Mr and Mrs Henry Howard, Mrs Carey, Miss Waddy (Blenheim), Mr and Mrs John Duncan (Mahakipawa), Miss F. Turner (Queen Charlotte Sound), and many others were in Picton for the Christmas holidays.

The Rev. F. B. Comins arrived in Auckland from Norfolk Island last week.

Miss Mules (Australia), a niece of the Bishop of Nelson, is staying at Bishopdale, Nelson.

On the occasion of his transference to Wellington, Mr Thomas Tillman was presented with an address and purse of sovereigns by the employees of the Public Works Department and the staff of the Asylum, at Porirua.

Mr Fraser, New Plymouth, is staying for a short time in Auckland.

Mrs Thompson, wife of the Minister for Justice, is still so unwell that she cannot leave Wellington. Mr Thompson, after visiting Masterton, returned to the Empire City last week.

Mr and Mrs Alfred Ranson, of Sydney, are paying a brief visit to Auckland. Mr Ranson is a brother of Mr Charles Ranson, of the Northern Steamship Company.

Prior to the departure of Mr John Fisher, of the Pukekohe Public School, to his new scene of labour at the Kaureranga School, Thames, he was presented with a silver top-pot and cream-jug, two silver serviette rings, and a cut-glass jam dish mounted in silver. The school children gave Mr Fisher a gold scarf-pin.

The French Consul in Wellington, Count de Courte, accompanied by the Comtesse de Courte, is paying a visit to Masterton and Otaki this week.

The Bishop of Waiapu, the Right Rev. W. L. Williams, was in Auckland last week.

Mr Charles Griffiths has returned to Auckland from England.

Mrs J. Carlisle (Napier) returned to New Zealand by the Mokoia, via Australia, last week.

The Official Assignee, Mr James Ashcroft, left Wellington on Monday for a trip to Canterbury.

Mr Charles Macfarlane, well known in the musical circles of Napier, is at present in Auckland, and will play banjo and mandolin solos at some of the Exhibition concerts.

Mrs McKellar Wix, of Wellington, spent a few days in Nelson this week with her mother, Mrs Dodson.

Mr G. M. Burness, Remuera, Auckland, gave chase the other night in a most plucky manner to a supposed burglar. The latter, however, declared he was an innocent miner, traumping to Howick in the cool night hours, and had only stopped at this house to get a drink of water. Mr Burness and Mr J. A. Pond let him off with a caution.

The many friends of Mr J. B. Heywood, Secretary to the Treasury in Wellington, will regret to hear that he is confined to his bed with an attack of jaundice.

Preparations are being made in Nelson for the Governor's visit on the 12th of January.

Miss Hilda Moorhouse, Wellington, is visiting Mr and Mrs W. Bidwell, Pahiatia, for the Wairarapa race week festivities.

The Government Mining Inspector, Captain Richards, was in Auckland last week, having left the West Coast for a few weeks.

Mr W. S. Moerin presided on Wednesday night at a dinner given by the students of the Thames School of Mines in the Royal Mail Hotel.

The Hon. John McKenzie, Minister of Lands, is about to pay a visit of a few months' duration to his Highland home, which he has not visited for 39 years. During his absence from the colony his ministerial work is to be undertaken by his colleagues.

Dr. and Mrs Moore, of Napier, have returned after a very pleasant visit to Wellington.

NEWS JOTTINGS.

A pair of handsome brass vases have been presented to Holy Trinity Church by the ladies of Picton, who subscribed 1/ each to purchase them. They were much needed in the church, where a pair of black bottles did duty for vases. Mr Dobbie carved and presented the rare table for holding the vases.

To give an instance of the strong wind felt in Auckland on Monday last, a farmer residing in Mt. Albert while crossing a paddock with a load of hay had his horse and cart overturned. A sudden gust of wind catching the off wheel turned it completely over. Happily neither horse nor driver was hurt.

The members of the Wellington Garrison Band left for the South last week to compete in the brass band contest at Dunedin.

Mrs Brett, of Lake Takapuna, presented S. Paul's Church, Auckland, of which she was for a long time a member, with a pair of very handsome brass vases for a Christmas gift.

Mr Alfred Scott, a son of Dr. Scott, of Picton, has had the misfortune to have his cottage at Kaurua, Pelorus Sound, burned down during his absence in Picton. He had just laid in a quantity of stores and other necessaries from Wellington, and everything was destroyed. There was no insurance on anything, so Mr Scott's loss is a very heavy one.

A presentation of a silver tea service has been made to Miss Richards, of Auckland, who has so ably filled the position of organist of St. John the Baptist's Church, Parnell, and who is now about to be married.

The surveying work in Norfolk Island by a New South Wales Government surveyor is causing some interest in the island. Mr Murphy has a wonderful knack of keeping his own counsel as to the object of his work.

The Blenheim Operatic Society is practising 'Rip Van Winkle,' and at a meeting held after the last practice, Mr L. Griffiths was elected stage manager. The scenery for the opera, which has been specially painted by Messrs Hutchins and Ward, has been tried on the stage of Ewart's Hall and found very satisfactory.

In Hawke's Bay the codlin moth has begun to show a preference for plums, many of the trees in the orchards at Hastings having been attacked by the rapacious moth.

SOCIETY ON DITS.

That His Excellency the Governor and the Comtesse of Ranfurly entertained the following guests at dinner at Government House on Friday night: The Very Rev. Father Moore, Mr and Mrs Riddiford, Mr F. Riddiford, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Stowe, Mrs and Miss Madge Douglas, the Right Hon. R. J. Seddon, Mrs and Miss Seddon, Col. and Miss Pennee, Mrs and Miss Pharyzyn, Sir Walter and Miss Buller, and Miss Richmond.

That on Boxing Day numbers of pleasure-seekers were present at the sports held at Plumpton Park, Meeanee, Hawke's Bay, and many of them took out refreshments from town and had picnics on the ground. The Garrison Band was in attendance at the Park and added much to the visitors' enjoyment. The races, which included bicycle races, cross-cutting competitions, running and leaping contests, etc., were well contested and watched with great interest.

That the programme for the coming championship regatta is being circulated in Picton by lovers of the sport.

That the Hon. E. W. Parker, so long known in connection with Messrs Dalgety and Co., Christchurch, is not returning to New Zealand.

That Picton is lively just now, being full of visitors for the holidays, besides which, the steamers calling every day are crowded with visitors.

That the prizes for the best kept gardens at the Picton Borough Schools were awarded to Maggie Heberley 1; Olive Cragg 2; Annie Birch 3; and Sarah Searle 4. The Chairman of the School Committee presented the prizes.

That the Auckland Exhibition is attracting an immense crowd of visitors.

That, thanks to the promoters of an open-air concert in Clive Square, the proceeds of which amounted to ten pounds, the inmates of the Napier Children's Home enjoyed a sumptuous Christmas dinner, and had a very happy time indeed.

That steamers have been plying to and fro between Picton, Nelson, and Wellington at a fast and furious rate lately.

That a strong gale, accompanied by clouds of dust, was blowing in Napier on Boxing Day, and greatly spoilt the pleasure of many of the various picnickers. A number of people who had intended to join in the Napier Sailing Club's picnic were disappointed, for it was impossible to convey them in the yachts across to Maraetara, the spot selected for the picnic. One boat managed to reach its destination, but was shipping water all the way, and several others which started were obliged to turn back. One of the day's events was to have been a yacht race from Maraetara, but of course this had to be abandoned. Several cycling picnics also had to be given up on account of the strong wind.

This evening (Wednesday) the Polar's Company will stage 'Djin-Djin' for four nights.