

BLENHEN.

Dear Bee, March 18.

If the weather had been specially ordered for the occasion it could not have been better than what was allotted to us for St. Patrick's Day. Brilliant sunshine, the gentlest of zephyrs from the east, and a large grassy field, free from dust, in which the annual sports were held, inclined all who were present to amiability and enjoyment; added to which was the excellent management, the programme being completed before six o'clock; and the lively music played by the Hibernian band in its usual tasteful manner. There was a large number of officials, and Mr P. Meehan was judge, and Mr A. McAllister an admirable clerk of the course. The strictness of the latter in enforcing the rule that men should not crowd into the ring added to the enjoyment of the feminine portion of the spectators, as hitherto these chivalrous lords of the creation would stand in front of the ropes and intercept all view of some of the competitions, quite oblivious of requests to move away or sit on the ground. A. B. Melford, of Masterton, won all the heats of St. Patrick's Handicap, and the hurdle race, also the maiden race. A capital luncheon was provided by the Catholic ladies, in a tent on the ground. Very few of the spectators were known to me, but I noticed Mrs J. Wragge, who wore a handsome black dress and becoming heliotrope toque. Many white dresses were worn, though some in delicate shades of blue, pink, and heliotrope were to be seen. The day was finished by a concert, got up by the Hibernian Band, and most of the songs partook of national character. Miss Clare sang "The dear little shamrock," Mrs F. Hale, "Kate O'Shane," and Miss A. Morrison, "Kathleen Mavourneen," very pleasingly indeed; but "Love's Request" sung by Mrs Marks, and "Killarney" in response to an encore, were delightful, especially the latter. Time seems to have little effect on this lady's voice, which is lucrally impaired, in spite of many years' singing. As may be supposed, after a holiday comic songs were more appreciated than those of a sentimental kind, and rapturous applause greeted Mr Gerald Otterson, who was encored twice. Mr S. Conolly, Mr R. Hay, Mr Watson, and Mr Edwards received their meed of approbation in the shape of encores for their songs, and the last named gentleman, who has only recently arrived here, possesses a fine voice, and will no doubt be in great demand for future concerts. An exhibition of club swinging was given by Mr A. Jackson, and was very clever and interesting. The comedietta "Box and Cox" filled the second half of the programme. Mr S. Conolly being Cox, Mr J. Fitzgerald Box, and Mr H. Mears made a capital Mrs Bouncer.

Friday being Mrs Conolly's afternoon for tennis, a number assembled in her pleasant grounds, amongst whom were Mesdames Gard, Greenfield, Black, Stacey, Horton, G. Robinson, P. Doustin, G. W. McIntosh, Currie, Hubbard, J. Mowat, Griffiths, the Misses Conolly (Auckland), Mirams (Nelson), Stace, A. Horton, Mabin, Hubbard (Nelson), Ferguson, Waddy; and Messrs. Stubbs, L. Griffiths, Mirams, Black, Stacey, Stoney, Greenfield, D. Chaytor, Harris, Bunting, Fish, C. Hodson, etc. The visitors were arranged in a group and photographed by Mr G. W. McIntosh, whose photograph of the visitors to the Golf Links, a week ago, was a remarkably good one. Miss Gard is suffering from a slight attack of pleurisy, so neither she nor her sister were present at Mrs Conolly's. They are staying with Mrs J. Mowat for a short time, till they can move into their own house.

FRIDA.

ROBIN HOOD BAY.

Dear Bee, March 22.

On Tuesday, 28th February, the annual school sports were held at Robin Hood Bay. The competitors and most of the guests were early on the field, and the latter were delighted to find erected for their convenience a small pavilion, the roof and sides of which were composed of nikau palm leaves, and in which were placed comfortable chairs, and also a supply of delicious pears, which served as a light refreshment for guests and competitors dur-

ing the afternoon. H. J. Stace, sen., acted as judge of the races; E. V. Stace, time-keeper; J. Haughey, starter; H. J. Stace, jun., assistant starter. The races were won as follows:—R.H.B. Handicap: Frank Chaytor, Nelson, 1; David Mackenzie, Balclutha, 2; Cusack Mackenzie, Balclutha, 3. Jump Handicap: Lewis Clouston, Blenheim, 220 yds. Hurdles: Francis Clouston, Blenheim, 100 yds Handicap (Miss Stace's Prize, Scott's 'Ivanhoe'): Lewis Clouston, Blenheim. Spectators' and Officials' Race: T. H. Clouston, Blenheim, 1; J. Haughey, Robin Hood, 2. Blindfold Race: David Mackenzie, Balclutha. Consolation Race: Cusack Mackenzie, Balclutha. About 3.30 p.m. a delicious tea was served in the bush near at hand, and, needless to say, everyone did full justice to the dainties set before them. Great credit and thanks are due to Mrs Stace and the Misses A. and B. Stace for the delicious tea provided, and also for all their kind assistance in helping to further the comfort and enjoyment of everyone present. Mrs Stace wore a pretty pink blouse, dark skirt, and sailor hat; Miss Stace green skirt, pink blouse, large white picture hat trimmed with white chiffon and bows of pretty green and pink shot ribbon; Miss Bertha Stace, white blouse, dark skirt, sailor hat. I noticed from the colours worn that there were from the field old pupils from three of our finest scholastic institutions, viz.: Nelson Girls' College, Wellington Boys' College, Christ's College, Christchurch; and I admired the spirit which prompted these young people to wear upon this gala day the silent yet sure signs of the pride felt for their respective old colleges. Contrasting prettily with these colours were the black and orange of the 'Robin Hood' boys. Before I close I would like to say that Kenneth Mackenzie, who has played so important a part in previous sports held at Robin Hood Bay, has gone Home to England to finish his education there, and is winning laurels for himself at the large school he attends in London. We all join in wishing him every success, and trust he will do as well in 'turning the race of life' as he did in running the races held at the Robin Hood School, and that he will carry off all the best prizes due to the man who lives a good and honest, upright manly life.—Yours, etc.,

MAORI CHIEF.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, March 23.

There is great lack of gaiety of all description in Wellington just now, but it is always so at this time of the year. It seems particularly so now, owing I suppose to the absence of Lord and Lady Ranfurly and party from Wellington. However, the season will be coming on soon, and then we will make up for lost time.

There were a lot of people at golf last Saturday, when the Miramar Golf Club opened their season. Among those present were:—Mrs H. D. Bell, Mrs A. Pearce, Mrs Lees, Mrs Todd, Mrs Turnbull, Mrs Adams, the Misses Bell (2), Izard, Calder (Australia), Cooper, Duncan, Dransfield, Williams, Johnston, Hutchison, Rattray (Dunedin), and the Messrs Todd, Tripp, Pearce, Duncan, Lees, Kirkby, Gore, Higginson, Turnbull, Hadfield, Chapman, etc.

The members of the Thorndon Tennis Club seem to be particularly keen this year. A great many club tournaments have been played and are still going on. I hear that a team of four gentlemen from Christchurch are coming up at Easter time, and invitations have been issued from the members of the Thorndon Tennis Club to witness the matches between the visitors and some of the chosen members of this club.

The Wellington Golf Club opened the golf season at the Miramar Links on Saturday last, a very large attendance of golfers being present, including the members of the Hutt Club. Dr. and Mrs Martin entertained all the visitors and players on the links at afternoon tea, and much interest was taken in the foursomes contest for prizes presented by Mrs Arthur Pearce, who eventually won with Mr Todd with the good score of 93, handicap 2, net 91, but waived her right to the prize to Miss Morrah, who was second with Mr Ian Duncan.

The highest scores were:—Mr Todd and Mrs A. Pearce, score 93, handicap 2, net 91; Mr Ian Duncan and Miss Morrah, 110, 18, 92; Mr Jackson and Miss Rattray, 107, 13, 94; Mr K. Duncan and Miss Bell, 105, 11, 94; Mr Lea and Mrs Collins, 97, 1, 96; Mr Pryde and Mrs Turnbull, 98, scratch, 98.

OPHELIA-CLARISSE.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, March 20.

THE MISSIONARY SALE AND GARDEN PARTY.

which was held on Wednesday afternoon in the grounds of 'Wainui,' the residence of Mr and Mrs Lightband, was in every way a success. The weather was perfect and the attendance was good, so all the stall-holders had a very busy time, and towards the end of the afternoon nearly all their pretty wares were sold. Stalls were held by the following: Curios, Mrs Lightband, Mrs and Miss Filleul; fancy work, the Misses Humphries and Kempthorne; cakes and sweets, the Misses Heaps and Trix Atkinson; produce, Mrs Mirams and Miss E. Mules; missionary literature and carving, Miss Holloway; afternoon tea, Mrs Mirams and a number of assistants.

Amongst those present were the Bishop and Mrs Mules; Miss Mules, white pique, with red ribbons; Miss E. Mules also wore white; Rev. J. P. and Mrs Kempthorne; Rev. F. and Mrs Chatterton, the latter wearing a green coat and skirt, straw hat; Mrs Filleul, handsome black costume; Miss Filleul, Holland dress, sailor hat; Mrs Lightband, black, with jet trimmings; Mrs Humphries; Miss Humphries, pretty heliotrope cambric, with white lace fichu, sailor hat; Miss Kempthorne, cream muslin; the Misses Heaps and Atkinson wore white; Mrs Mirams, white pique, black hat; Mrs Blundell, Mrs Holloway; Miss Holloway, white; Mrs Sealy, black; Miss Sealy, white pique, white chip hat, with pink roses beneath the brim; Mrs Renwick, black costume, smart bonnet, with heliotrope flowers; Mrs Robertson; Miss Marsden (Stoke), black mourning costume; Mrs De Castro, grass lawn, with white vest, small black hat, with red roses; Miss Browning; Mrs Hudson, pretty combination of black and white; Mrs Vining, green flowered muslin, sailor hat; her little daughter was much admired in white; Mrs Gibbs; Mrs and Miss Pogson; the Misses Burnett (2) wore costumes of cream cashmere, hats to match; Miss Leggatt, white muslin and lace, white chip hat, with pink roses above and beneath the brim; Miss V. Leggatt, green and white striped cambric; Miss M. Day, who has just arrived from England, wore a well-cut coat and skirt of grey cloth, becoming black hat, trimmed with violets; Miss Rayner, fawn cambric, black hat, with red roses; Miss Saxton, light muslin; Mrs Fell, green silk blouse, black skirt, bonnet to match; Mrs Bunney, navy costume, with front of cream chiffon; Miss M. Bunney, red and white striped cambric; Mrs Gascoyne, handsome black satin; the Misses Gascoyne (2); Miss Tomlinson, white muslin blouse, black skirt, sailor hat; Miss Poole, white and black muslin, hat en suite; Mrs Lewis; Mrs Rochfort; Miss Pearce; Miss Lightfoot, white, with red belt and band on her hat; Miss Pauka, dark green coat and skirt, red and white striped blouse, sailor hat; Miss Pasley (Gisborne), light blue cambric, white chip hat; and many others.

On Tuesday evening, at the Theatre Royal, Miss Elsie Hall gave a

PIANO RECITAL.
when her exquisite playing charmed all her hearers. Miss Hall wore a simple gown of white silk. Amongst the audience were noticed Mesdames Fell, Cook, Atkinson (2), Houliker, Humphries, Blackett, Melhuish, Moore, the Misses Houliker, Gibbs (3), Griffiths, Trix Atkinson, Gibson, Hayter, Webb-Howen, Fell (4), Humphries, Sealy (2), Kempthorne, Culbertson, Lightfoot (2), D. Bett, Ledger (2), Melhuish, Leggatt, Robertson, Stephens, Pearce, Moore (3), Judge Denniston, Messrs Cook, Wing, Denniston, Handke, Fell, Miles, Kempthorne, Wratt, King, Duncan, Mackay, Atkinson, Webb - Bowen, Moore, Dr. Talbot, Dr. Gibbs, and many others.

PHYLLIS.

PICTON.

Dear Bee, March 20.

An epidemic of tea fights and cricket matches have been our only dissipations lately, and you will agree with me in thinking that these affairs are very mild. The Kenepuru and Manarou settlers had a pitched battle with bat, ball and wickets at Kenepuru, which resulted in favour of the Manarou men; and on Wednesday the Pictou cricketers went down the Sound to Tory Channel and played a match with the settlers round and about Te Awaite—the whaling station. The match was played on Mr Temple's land, and resulted in a win for the Pictou men, who agree that of all the jolly outings they ever had 'this capped everything.' They did not invite their lady friends to accompany them, so the ladies feel hurt about it, naturally.

On Wednesday the teachers of Holy Trinity (Anglican) Church Sunday School held their

ANNUAL TREAT

up Esson's Valley. The weather was perfect, and a goodly crowd assembled to do justice to the good things provided and enjoy an afternoon out in the fresh air, and see their children enjoying themselves.

On St. Patrick's Day a party came into town from the country and hired the s.s. Elsie to go off down the Sound picnicking and fishing, where they spent a jolly day.

Mr Aymer Kenny, owner of the ketch Lizzie, found some wreckage at Tory Channel Heads on Tuesday last, which he supposes was caused by the gale of Saturday and Sunday last. The gale was only equalled by the celebrated gale which blew down the sheds and broke up the skiffs at the Pictou Championship Regatta meeting some few years back, so that it is only to be expected that we shall hear of marine disasters somewhere.

Mosquitoes are very numerous in Pictou this season, almost as numerous as they were in the very old days when mosquito curtains were a necessary part of the furnishing of a house.

JEAN.

HASTINGS.

Dear Bee, March 18.

The pretty racecourse at Hastings was the scene of a gay gathering on last Wednesday and Friday, when the Hawke's Bay Jockey Club held their Autumn Meeting. After the recent rains the grounds were at their best. The grass was beautifully green and the willows gave a pleasant shade near the lake. The pretty dresses of the ladies added colour to the scene. Mrs Fenwick wore a dainty dress of soft cream silk, relieved with black velvet, and a big cream hat trimmed with white feathers and chiffon; Mrs Donnelly was in black; Mrs Wenley wore black chiffon over pink silk, and a stylish black and pink hat with feathers; Mrs Coleman was in green silk covered with black tulle, and a black bonnet; Miss Florence Watt was in bright blue, and her vest was white satin, white chip hat trimmed with violets; Her sister (Mrs T. H. Lowry) was in mauve; Miss Beamish wore a tailor gown; Mrs Laurence was in black, with a lace mantle and a becoming black bonnet with cream flowers. Some others present were Mesdames Luckie, Fitzroy, Rathbone, Gordon, Gore, Smith, etc.

We are all sorry to lose Mr and Mrs Philson, of the Bank of New Zealand, who are leaving here on account of the Hastings branch of that bank having been closed. They are very popular and will be much missed in Hastings.

Miss Russell has returned from England by the s.s. Papanui, and Captain Russell has gone to Wellington to meet her. His sons, who have been ill with typhoid fever, are, fortunately, recovering, but Miss Winnie Simcox, daughter of the Rev. S. Simcox, of Waipukurau, is at present suffering from an attack, and is in the Waipukurau Hospital.

DOROTHY.

CHRISTCHURCH

Dear Bee, March 18.

The great event we have all longed and looked forward to has taken place and it is almost with regret I write to tell you about it; for one and all wish