

wore brown; Mrs Goldsmith, a pretty biscuit-coloured dress, trimmed with guipure lace over pale blue, and a bonnet to match; Mrs Bull wore black and pink; Mrs Tylee, a dainty black and white dress, and a lace hat; the Misses Nairn were in black, with sailor hats; Mrs Jardine, navy blue; Mrs Randall, black; Mrs Davenport, dark brown and white; Miss Friberg looked well in a pretty pale grey cloth, trimmed with white satin and chiffon, and a large white hat to match; Miss F. Sutton was in lemon colour, with a dark brown hat; Mrs Canning wore black; Mrs Margolionth, blue, with a white bonnet; Miss Mathews, a pretty grey and white costume; Miss Wood, navy blue, and a black hat, with pale blue feathers; Mrs Bowen wore a heliotrope brocade blouse, a lustrous skirt of the same colour, and a toque to match; Mrs Dixon and Mrs Carllie both wore black; Miss Spencer, light brown coat and skirt; Miss Harrington wore a pretty white muslin dress over pale green; Mrs Morris, brown velvet, with a cream silk vest; Mrs T. Moore, a dark green coat and skirt, and a white hat, trimmed with red.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S CONCERT.

held in the Theatre Royal on Wednesday, was a great success, in spite of the counter attraction of the flower show. Miss Lillian Cameron sang 'Comin' Thro' the Rye,' 'Robin Adair,' and several other Scotch songs. Miss Lily Large also contributed several Scotch songs. Mr A. Newton sang 'The Interfering Parrot.' Mr T. Parker recited 'The Cottar's Saturday Night,' and Highland dancing was performed by Mr Mackenzie Forbes, and Messrs Campbell, Smith, Ferguson and Morrison. The music for the dances was played by Messrs E. Smith and S. Finlayson, and the accompaniments to the songs by Misses Amy Large, Newton and Cameron.

THE HUNT.

It was a lovely day last Saturday for the meet of the Hawke's Bay Hounds at Fairfax, the residence of Mr H. H. Bridge, and there was a large number of followers, amongst whom were Mrs J. B. Rhodes, Mrs G. L. Sunderland, Misses Abbott, Daniels and Herrick, Messrs G. E. Groom, Price, J. H. A' Deane, J. B. Rhodes, Abbott, Norris, Giblin, F. White, H. White, H. H. Bridge, Arrow, and F. Herrick. Mr and Mrs Sydney Johnston, Mrs A. Giblin, and the Misses Bridge were driving. Lunch was provided by Mr Bridge, and afternoon tea at 4.30, after an enjoyable run.

MARGORIE.

BLENHHEIM.

Dear Bee,

April 17.

The weather for the two days of THE AUTUMN RACE MEETING was very pleasant, and the run a couple of days before had laid the dust, which added materially to the comfort of those driving to the races. Many also went by train, which, owing to the line being extended, landed the passengers just behind the course, not about half-a-mile away as heretofore. There was a very good attendance on both days, though not so good as would be the case were the course in a more central position. There was some excitement on the second day, just when a race was being started on the opposite side of the course to the stand, and wonder at the delay in getting the horses off. Then someone was seen carrying a jockey, whose leg had been badly fractured by a kick from one of the horses. The poor fellow must have suffered greatly, as there was not a doctor on the ground, and he had to be driven two miles into town in a not-too-easy express, but everything that could be done to ease him was attended to. A subscription was immediately got up, and about £16 collected for the injured man.

AMONG THE LADIES PRESENT

on both days I noticed Mrs P. Doullin, who wore a light fawn gown, black hat with cerise trimming; Mrs Monro, grey costume; Mrs A. P. Green, beaver-coloured double-breasted jacket and skirt, and becoming toque; Mrs A. Farinar, becoming brown costume, handsomely braided with black, brown hat; Mrs Howard, black mercerized with touches of pink; Mrs Clifford, green jacket and skirt, black hat with green; Mrs Richardson, black tailor-made gown; Mrs F. Richmond, black skirt, green and

white checked silk blouse; Mrs Henry (Wellington), prune dress of modish make, hat to match; Mrs Mullen, black satin dress, bonnet of two shades of heliotrope; Mrs Petre, cinnamon jacket and skirt, white sailor hat; Mrs A. Mowat, bluish-grey costume; Mrs Clouston, fawn checked tweed trimmed with fur; Mrs Black, emu-egg green jacket and skirt, black velvet hat turned up in front; Mrs Horton, black jacket and skirt, front of pale pink, with bands of pale green; Mrs B. Clouston, white dress; Mrs Corry, saque jacket and skirt, the latter trimmed en tablier with black braid; Mrs H. Jackson, black dress flecked with magenta, black hat; Mrs H. Dodson, black dress with feather trimming, black hat with violets; Mrs G. W. McIntosh, green jacket and skirt, stylish hat; Mrs Greenfield, jacket and skirt of reseda blue, vest of palest pink; Miss Ferguson, dark brown jacket and skirt, red vest; Miss A. Horton, black; Miss J. Horton, fawn tweed braided with dark brown; Miss E. Carey, pink muslin; Miss Bell, navy blue jacket and skirt; Miss Harding, black dress, with flecks of royal blue, handsomely braided with black, her two sisters, navy jackets and skirts; Mrs R. Goulter, fawn dress; Mrs Griffiths, black dress, black bonnet with pale pink flowers; Miss Goulter, black skirt, pink blouse; Miss E. Goulter, dark skirt, cream blouse with stripes of palest pink and blue; Mrs J. Hodgson, crimson dress trimmed with narrow black velvet, hat to match, and many others.

ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY CONCERT.

On the evening of the second race day the Orchestral Society gave its first concert, which was largely attended, many having to stand, and eminently successful from a musical point of view. The orchestral items were all most enjoyable, but particularly the overture 'Poet and Peasant,' by Suppe; the 'Echo Quartette,' by Hunnusch; and the selection from No. 7 Symphony (Haydn). Mrs Baillie (Para), played Beethoven's Andante with power and sympathy and great expression. Mrs R. McCallum sang 'La Serenata,' the obligato to which was very nicely played by Miss Dobbie on her violin, but was much more successful in 'Softly Sighs,' from 'Der Freischutz,' which she sang beautifully. Miss Rose sang 'Alla Stella Confidente,' with orchestral accompaniment, in which her sweet, full, rich voice was heard to great advantage; she responded to a rapturous encore by singing the latter portion over again. Mr John Rose was very successful in his rendering of 'The Old and Young Marie,' which he sang with great expression, and was encored. Mrs McCallum was encored for 'Softly Sighs,' and in response sang 'Cherry Ripe' very pleasingly. A cornet solo by Mr E. Rose, and a violin duet by the Misses Agatha and Nellie Dobbie were very much enjoyed. The programme was so varied that there must have been something to suit all tastes. Among the audience I noticed Messdames H. J. Howard, Duckworth, Griffiths, Orr, Reid, MacShane, Carey, R. Bell, Lucas, McIntosh, A. P. Green, Dobbie (Picton), Jackson, H. Dodson, Bright, G. Watts, Hay, F. Richmond, Clouston, the Misses McLaurin, Howard (Picton), Greenall (Picton), Mabin, Conolly (Auckland), Bell, E. Carey, Johnston (2), Ferguson, and Messrs Howard (Picton), W. Baillie, R. McCallum, Bell (2), C. MacShane, Mirams, C. Hodson, A. Morton, and many others.

(DELAYED.)

Dear Bee,—

April 19.

My last letter was written early on the morning of Easter Monday, and posted before the amusements of the day began. These were various, and the scene of each widely apart.

THE VOLUNTEER ENCAMPMENT

appeared to be very popular, and attracted the most visitors, who were interested in watching the sham fight, etc., and witnessing the presentation of the Imperial long service medals by Colonel Pitt. Mr Griffiths, until lately the captain of the now disbanded Blenheim Rifles, was presented with one, and Sergeant Ching was entitled to one, but was not present to receive it. Other recipients belonged to contingents from Nelson and the Coast. The volunteer corps from other districts departed by special train on Monday evening.

THE REGATTA

on the Wairau River took next in

popular favour, but was very tame. The Picton Rowing Club annexed the largest number of prizes; the Star Club (Wellington) came next, and the Blenheim Rowing Club, with becoming modesty as the hosts on this occasion, refrained from winning a first prize. I wonder when the cardinal caps and jackets of championship heroes will grace any of the members of the Blenheim Club. In the near future, I hope, for we surely have as good men and boats as in other places; but there must be something lacking, either practice or a proper coach, or they would give a better account of themselves. It is really mortifying to one greatly interested to hear the derisive remarks from the crowd.

The ladies interested in the Spring Creek Church held a

SALE OF WORK

and tea on Monday, and though the room in which the tea was given was rather far from the regatta, quite half a mile, the young ladies who were in waiting were kept busy by a continuous relay of customers. I understand that a substantial sum will recompense those who sacrificed their day's pleasure in working for the church.

THE RACES

at Renwick were but poorly patronised by the public, but were, I suppose, enjoyable to the moderate number present.

The Maori entertainment in Ewart's Hall in the evening, arranged by the Rev. F. A. Bennett, was most successful, the hall being literally crammed and many turned away. The proceeds of this entertainment were for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of an organ for the Wairau Pah, and towards the erection of a social room there, and at Waikawa, Maoris from both places assisting. Among the items on the programme were hakas, war cries, songs of welcome, and poi games, etc., and the last were specially liked. A second performance took place on Tuesday night, when the hall was again filled, and a third in Picton, on Wednesday, so the object aimed at is likely to be achieved.

MISS WADDY'S FIRST CINDERELLA DANCE

this season took place at Mrs Waddy's house in Maxwell Road, the hall being engaged by the Maoris, and a very pleasant evening was spent by those present, among whom were Mrs Waddy, who wore black; Mrs A. P. Green, black satin skirt, evening bodice of yellow silk enriched with chiffon and point lace; Mrs Griffiths, black satin skirt, bodice of black and white silk trimmed with black lace; Mrs Greenfield, black velvet and pink chiffon; Mrs Black, black over heliotrope; Miss Ferguson, yellow satin, the low bodice filled in with handsome lace and finished with black velvet; Miss Anderson (Christchurch), white bengaline, the bodice finished with white net and lace; Miss Fell (Picton) and her sister both wore pretty white muslin dresses, much trimmed with Valenciennes lace; Miss Hourne, handsome white brocade; Miss G. Reid, white satin, touches of scarlet on the bodice; Miss G. Fisher (Wellington), white bengaline and deep, soft frills of white chiffon; Miss Waddy, white silk; Miss Essie Waddy, white; Miss Ethel Carey, pink with white lace fichu; Miss A. Horton, white veiling dress, with trimmings of white satin and gold; Miss MacInnes, pink; Miss Rogers, heliotrope silk and white lace; a lady from Wellington wore a handsome green satin dress with pearl trimming; Miss Viva Robinson, yellow, and Messrs Lloyd, S. Fell (Picton), Fish, L. Griffiths, H. Hodson, H. Robinson, Hamilton (Nelson), Stubbs, Bourne, MacInnes, M. Horton, B. McIntosh, Park, Wynock, etc.

This will be a gay week, beginning with the Gun Club pigeon match at Spring Creek to-day; two days' racing of the Marlborough Racing Club to-morrow and next day; to be followed by the collie dog trial, which will take place at Meadowbank on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday evening the Orchestral Society will give a concert, at which Miss Rose, Mrs R. McCallum, and Mr J. Rose will be the vocalists. We have had three or four moist, unpleasant days, beginning with rain but ending with thick Scotch mist, which penetrated everywhere. This, fortunately, cleared off last night. This morning dawned brightly, and the stirring breeze will soon dry the roads.

FRIDA.

PICTON.

(DELAYED.)

Dear Bee,

April 12.

Mrs Greensill's AFTERNOON TEA AND TENNIS on Wednesday was very successful, and quite a large number besides those who played gathered under the trees and enjoyed a pleasant chat with their friends. Among those present were Mrs Sealy, Mrs F. W. Thompson, Mrs Welford, Mrs Haslett, Mrs Smith, Mrs Andrews, Misses Sealy (Nelson), Allen, Philipotts, Western, Scott, Hay, etc.

Mrs Rutherford's day was also most enjoyable, chairs being set on the verandah, with the pretty garden in front, gay with all sorts of flowers in full bloom. Among Mrs Rutherford's visitors were Mrs Speed, Mrs Allen, Mrs MacKenzie, Misses MacKenzie, Speed, Poynter (Dunedin), Miss M. McGregor (Wellington), etc.

On Wednesday evening the Rev. F. A. Bennett and his Maori troupe gave

AN ENTERTAINMENT

on behalf of several charities. Some of our Waikawa Maoris and some belonging to the Wairau pa assisted. The hall was crowded with a very appreciative audience, and the Maoris were very pleased at the way the pukehas received the different items. The programme consisted of several hakas, war-cries, poi games, tablenut and songs. The best of all was, perhaps, the Rarotonga tune adapted to a Maori hymn. The voices blended together so beautifully and the time was an object lesson to Europeans. Mr Bennett, who looked very handsome in his Maori dress, was presented with a lovely bouquet by an admirer in the hall. Among the audience I noticed Captain and Miss Chapple, Dr. and Mrs. Scott, Mrs. and the Misses Allen (3), Mr. and the Misses Rutherford, Dr. and Mrs. Owen, Mrs. Duncan, Miss Speed, Mrs. and the Misses Sealy, the Rev. A. H. Sedgewick, Miss Greensill, Mr. Mrs. and Miss Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Stuart, Miss Bell, Misses Smith, etc., etc.

Miss Flo. Western's marriage to Mr George Kenny, nephew of Captain Kenny, M.L.C., takes place next Wednesday at Holy Trinity Church.

JEAN.

A VALUABLE CUR.

Overheard in a train:—First Passenger: Expect they had some fine pups up at the dog show, but I have a dog at home I wouldn't give for the best of 'em.

Second Passenger: What breed is he?

'Don't exactly know, but I call him a coaly.'

'Collie, you mean?'

'No; I mean just what I say—coaly. Money wouldn't buy that dog. He's a cur, but we couldn't keep house without him. You see, several years ago I trained him to bark at the railway trains as they passed our house. That's his sole business, barking at trains. He does just whoop her up, especially at coal trains. Well, he annoys the railway men so that every driver and fireman on the road has sworn to kill him. Oh, but he's a valuable dog.'

'I can't see where the value comes in.'

'You can't? Well, you could if you were in my place and had all the coal you could burn and some to sell thrown right off at your back door free of cost.'

STOPPED THE EXODUS.

A well-known London clergyman once preached rather a long sermon from the text, 'Thou art weighed in the balance and found wanting.' After the congregation had listened about an hour some began to get weary and went out; others soon followed, greatly to the annoyance of the minister. Another person started, whereupon the parson stopped in his sermon and said, 'That's right, gentlemen, as fast as you are weighed just out.' He continued his sermon at some length after that, but no one disturbed him by leaving.

Miss Brett, of Lake Takapuna, has returned home from her trip to the South.