

the Theatre Royal this week; but I fear they will be sadly out of pocket by it, which is not encouraging to stage another. Among the audiences were Mr. Mrs. and Miss Blouman, Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Potts, Miss Dobson, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Common, Mr. and Mrs. Meredith-Kaye, Mr. and Mrs. G. Way, Mr. and Mrs. de Renzi Harman, Mrs. and Miss Denniston, Miss Steele, Mr. and the Misses Hargraves (2), Mr. and Mrs. Fowler, Mr. and Miss Ruppel, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hunt, Mr. and Mrs. Fountain Barber and party, Messrs. Walliek, Denniston, Ormsby, Mrs. Pritchard, Miss Connal, Miss Godfrey, Miss C. Lean, Miss M. Strouts, Mr. and Mrs. W. Reece and party, Mrs. Morton Anderson, Mrs. R. Anderson, Mr. and Mrs. Tyece, Mrs. and Miss Wither, Dr. Mrs. and Miss Thomas, Messrs. Guise and F. Brittain, Mr. and Mrs. Izard, Mr. and Mrs. F. Graham, Mr. Acton-Adams, Mrs. and Miss Bickerton, Mr. and Miss Bonington, Mr. and Miss Deamer, Miss Zairhurst, Grant, etc.

On Sunday those who had gone up to Wellington to witness the departure of the troops returned to Christchurch, some very sad, others only deeply impressed. Amongst them were Mr. C. Louison (Mayor), Mr. Mrs. and Miss Lewin, Mr. and Miss Dampier-Crossley, Mr. and Mrs. Rutcliffe, Mr. and Mrs. Neave, Mrs. Cardale, Mrs. Anderson (2), and others.

DOLLY VALE.

PICTON.

Dear Bee, October 23.
This has been rather a gay week with us, and the young people in particular have been excited over the

FANCY DRESS BALL.

given by Miss Hallet for her pupils and friends. It was certainly the ball of the season, and quite eclipsed all others in interest and arrangements. The decorations were Miss Hallet's own design, and with a little assistance from one or two pupils, her own work, and everybody awarded her the palm for artistic beauty and arrangement. The nikau palms and kei-kei were lightly arranged on the walls, and lycopodium festooned from corner to corner, with Chinese lanterns hanging here and there, and Japanese paper fans and flowers scattered about in seemingly careless fashion. A large mirror occupied the lower end of the room, which was draped with curtains and furnished with couches, etc.

THE SUPPER

was beautifully laid out on the back of the stage, the table for visitors being in the centre, and for the pupils at the end, the front of the stage being furnished with easy-chairs for the guests.

THE DRESSES.

Miss Hallet represented the "Village Belle" in her gavotte dress of pink and white, with high sash, and hat profusely trimmed with pink, white, and cardinal roses, with long streamers of cardinal ribbon floating down her back. The belle was unanimously voted to be Miss L. Cragg, as "Little Miss Muffitt," in pale blue and white, with high sash, and pretty hat, and a monstrous spider on her frock; Miss Kathleen Owen came next as a nurse, but, indeed, all the little people looked so quaint and pretty that it seems hardly fair to specify any one in particular. Miss Eileen Sealy was "Ho Peep"; Miss Irene Sealy "Spring"; Miss Nash "School Girl"; Miss Susan Cragg "Stars and Stripes"; Miss Maud Morris "Cinderella's Fairy Godmother"; Miss Jeannie Seymour "French Fishwife"; Miss Rose Greenhill "Gran'ma"; Miss Carrie Humber "Bride"; Miss Olive Oxley "Red Ridinghood"; Miss Laura Oxley "Kate Greenaway"; Miss Moira McNab "Italian Peasant"; Miss Mary Cragg "Maid of Normanby"; Miss Olive Cragg "Folly"; Miss Una Wilkins "Stewardess"; Miss Alice Curd "Swiss Peasant"; Miss M. Robertshaw looked very pretty as "Clematis" in her white gavotte frock, and a spray of native clematis in her hair, while a charming bunch of that beautiful flower curled naturally round a staff in her hand. The only two visitors who responded to Miss Hallet's desire to see them in fancy dress were the Misses Nora and Grace Allen, the former as a "Hungarian Peasant," and the latter, who was much admired as "The Grisha Girl"; Master Fell was a "Turk"; Master Len, Robertshaw "The New Woman"; Master Roy Robertshaw "Brigand"; Master Tennyson Greensill "Little Lord Fauntleroy"; Master George Blizard "Picton Volunteer"; Master Jos. Robertshaw "French Cook"; Master Alan Oxley "Guy Fawkes"; Master Frank Oxley "Little Boy Blue"; Master C. Persano

"Clown." The guests were greatly pleased at the dancing of Miss Hallet's pupils, and especially with the gavotte, which was well executed by the pupils. The guests were Miss Flower (Kai-koura), in cream frock and ribbons; Miss Ethel Greensill, in pink silk; Miss M. Fell, in white muslin, with pretty lace sleeves; Miss Isabel Seymour, black velvet skirt and pink silk bodice; Miss Harris, black and pink; Miss Mackenzie, black; Miss Speed, black skirt and cream silk bodice; Miss Jackson, pink brocade; Mrs. Riddell, heliotrope silk; Mrs. Thompson, black silk and lace; Miss Hay, black lace, with red; Mrs. J. Scott, black lace, with black chiffon; Miss Western, pink silk, with chiffon frills and sash; Miss H. Dart, black, with pale blue; Miss E. Dart; Miss E. Phillipotts, white silk; Mrs. Beauchamp, black silk, with white lace; Miss Johnston (Blenheim), white silk; Miss Greensill, pale blue, with pink chiffon; Mrs. Howard (Springlands), cream, with cream lace; and Mesdames (Dr.) Scott, Allen, Sealy, Wilkins, Philipotts, Cragg, Godfrey, Jackson, Mathieson, Fell, Buick, Robertshaw, Oxley, Blizard, etc., and Messrs Robertshaw, Fell (2), Cragg, Nash, Seymour, McCormick, Peck, Greensill (3), Beauchamp, Anderson, Western, Oxley, Malfroy, Blizard, Morris, and a little crowd on the stage who came to look on.

On Friday evening a crowd congregated on the wharf to see off lucky friends and neighbours who were going to see the N.Z. contingent off in Wellington. Several others were disappointed, as the steamer was full up, and the agent refused to issue any more tickets. The spectators on the wharf gave their quota of cheers for the contingent and groans for the Boers, and then sang "Rule Britannia" and "Soldiers of the Queen." Among those going across was Mr. Edward Chaytor, captain of the Marlborough Mounted Rifles, whose heart is with his men, and who would dearly like to follow their fortunes—or rather lead them—to South Africa.

The Picton Rowing Club formally opened the season on Saturday last. The Afro-American Minstrel Company gave a short programme on Sunday evening after service. A fair house collected, though no notice had been given of the entertainment, which was good.

JEAN.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, October 23.

On Monday afternoon Miss Nina Jones entertained a number of her friends at a

"WISTARIA AFTERNOON TEA."

which was quite a novel form of entertainment, but was much enjoyed by all present. Each guest wore a spray of Wistaria, and on arrival was presented with a card, in the corner of which was a beautifully painted Wistaria flower, and written across were the words "Wistaria Chienensis." From the letters of these words each guest had to make as many other words in ten minutes as possible. The prizes, two photo frames, on which sprays of Wistaria were beautifully painted by Miss Nina Jones, were won by Miss Nellie Gibbs and Miss Julie Tomlinson, who each made over ninety words. A most faintly and delicious tea was partaken of in the charming garden, amidst bushes of wistaria and other sweet scented flowers.

Miss Nina Jones wore a pretty gown of soft white muslin over a wistaria coloured slip, becoming hat to match; Mrs. Jones wore a handsome black costume; Miss Jones also wore black. Amongst those present were Mrs. Worthington (Invercargill), the Misses Trith Atkinson, Burnett (2), Boor, Cuthbertson, Barneocot, Gibbs (3), G. Jones, King, Marsden, Preshaw (2), Pike (2), Rayner, Robertson, Sexton, Stodhart, Tomlinson, Talbot (2), Mules and others.

The young people were all made very happy on Friday evening when Mrs. Sclanders gave a

DELIGHTFUL DANCE

at her residence at The Port. There were a large number present, and all spent a most enjoyable time. Mrs. Sclanders, who received her guests in the dancing room, wore a handsome silk blouse of black and white, black silk skirt; Miss Kathleen Sclanders looked charming in a pretty frock of soft white muslin over blue, blue silk sash; Mrs. Richmond wore black, white lace cap with pink ribbons; Mrs. Kinsling, light grey silk blouse, black skirt; Mrs. Alex Sclanders was much admired in white muslin over bright

pink, pink silk sash; Miss Richmond, pretty light silk evening blouse, black skirt; Miss Greenfield, who supplied most of the music, wore a light evening blouse and dark skirt; Miss Florrie Richmond, yellow evening dress; Miss Phyllis Buchanan looked handsome in bright red; Miss N. Fisher, white silk lustre with bands of white satin ribbon; Miss Booth, pink with trimmings of white lace and narrow black ribbon velvet; Miss M. Glasgow, buttercup silk; Miss E. Ledger, Nil green; Miss M. Mackay, white muslin with trimmings of red velvet; Miss E. Sealy, pretty green veiling; Miss Robinson, yellow; Miss Phyllis Fell, green and white striped silk; Miss N. West, heliotrope, with silver trimmings; Miss S. Blackett, pink muslin; Miss V. Leggatt, pink and white; Miss Edith Kempthorne, pink; the Misses Reece, Kelling, C. Edwards, I. Preshaw, Bailie, Enright, Marka, J. Tomlinson and Trent all wore white, brightened with different colours; Miss Ruth Fergusson and Miss Maginny wore pale blue. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs Sclanders, A. Sclanders, Sclanders (3), Kinsling, C. Levien, Kempthorne (2), Blackett, Leggatt, Houlker (3), Robinson, Mackie, Heaps, Preshaw, Fell, Richmond (2), Adams, Rowie, Edwards, Watts, and many others.

PHYLLIS.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee, October 27.

The annual athletic sports in connection with the Boys' High School took place at the Recreation Ground on Thursday, and were in every way most successful. The weather, though windy, was fine, and the influx of visitors was fairly large. Afternoon tea was provided by Mrs. Wood, who wore a holland coat and skirt, and a black toque relieved with crimson poppies; Miss Matthews had a black costume and hat to match; Miss Macebe wore grey; Mrs. P. McLean's dark brown dress was trimmed with guipure lace; Mrs. Warren wore a gipsy fawn cloth costume with a white yoke, and a sailor hat; Mrs. Bowen was in grey and white check; Mrs. Logan wore a black and grey blouse and a dark skirt; Mrs. Hall's grey cloth dress was trimmed with white braid and a white yoke; Mrs. Lines had a brown coat and skirt, a rose pink vest, and a black hat relieved with pink roses; Mrs. Wenley, with a black coat and skirt, also wore a black hat trimmed with pink; Mrs. Jarvis wore green braided with white, a scarlet vest, and a black hat trimmed with scarlet; Miss Braithwaite was in navy blue, with a lemon-coloured waistcoat and a sailor hat; Miss Louie Hoadley looked well in a green costume, and she wore a pretty black hat with a profusion of mauve flowers; Miss Hamlin wore a fawn jacket and a navy blue skirt; Mrs. Rutherford was in black relieved with white; Miss Severn had a white dress and sailor hat; Mrs. Carlile wore grey.

It was a most disagreeable day for the opening of the tennis season on Saturday afternoon, but in spite of the wind and dust all the principal members of the Club were present, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent.

MARJORIE.

HASTINGS.

Dear Bee, October 27.

The Town Hall, Waipukurau, was well filled on the occasion of a delightful concert in aid of the Waipukurau Hospital. Mr. George Hunter, M.H.R., made an opening speech, in which he complimented the Hospital staff, after which the concert commenced. The first item on the programme was an overture, "Torquato Tass" (Donizetti), by the Waipawa orchestra of sixteen performers, namely, Miss M. Moroney, pianist; Miss Buchanan, Messrs H. Liddle and O'Halloran, first violins; Messrs S. Buchanan and Kate O'Halloran, Messrs W. Arrow and Bone, second violins; Mr. W. Golder, tenor horn; Mr. J. J. Cosgrove, euphonium; Mr. J. Golder, bass trombone; Mr. F. J. Shanly, cello; Mr. H. Steere, flute; Mr. M. Murray, clarinet; Mr. J. Stone, side drum. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. James Cosgrove. As an encore to his "Yeoman's Wedding Song," Mr. G. M. Hall, of Christchurch, gave "Soldiers of the Queen." Miss Lillie Large, who came from Napier, sustained her reputation for singing by giving a charming rendering of Testi's "Serenade," "Lads of the Village," "Ye Banks and Braes," and Arne's "The Lass with the Delicate Air," and was always heartily encored. Miss Tanager gave Bragi's

"La Serenata" very pleasingly, and as an encore "Hushen." Mr. Mannerling, who has a fine tenor voice, gave with ecstacy Blumenthal's "My Queen," followed by "The City by the Sea," which left little to be desired. The solo, admirably sung by Mr. Slade, "Will-o-the-Wisp," concluded the first part of the programme. The second part, in which the accomplished performers again distinguished themselves, had a brilliant finale in the beautiful Italian duet, "Giorno d'Amore," in which the Misses Lillie and Amy Lange were vociferously recalled. Some delightfully amusing recitations were also given during the evening by Mr. J. T. Swan. After the National Anthem, the company entertained themselves by dancing until an early hour on the following morning. Some of those present were—Mesdames Gilbertson, Paul Hunter, R. Johnson, and White, and Messrs J. Ormond, jun., J. W. Harding, D. H. Potts, Hunter, White, Norris, R. Johnson, L. Mackersey, etc.

DOROTHY.

BLenheim.

Dear Bee, October 23.

The Afro-American Minstrels opened here on Wednesday night, when they had a large and appreciative audience. At noon, on each day of their stay, the band, brought by the Minstrels, passed through the principal streets to Market Place, and on the Rotunda there played some lively music. They also played outside the hall in the evenings, as soon as the doors opened, and the crowd thus attracted quite blocked the street. The Company is a large one, and the grouping on the stage, when the curtain rolled up, was very effective. The lady members, in gay attire, occupied seats in the middle of the stage, behind them on raised seats, the band in uniform, and towards the front on either side the black-coated minstrels. Instead of having programmes, each item was announced by one of the ladies. The performance had the charm of novelty, was extremely mirth-provoking, and Black Dante performed some conjuring feats very cleverly. Mr. Ernest Hogan is a clever comedian, and his representation of a preacher at a camp meeting was exceedingly good. (On the first night Miss Madab Hyer, the "Bronze Patti," was encored for "Merri-ly I Roam," and in response sang "Life's Dream is O'er," with Mr. Soulsbury, who sang from the middle of the hall; which gave, at first, the impression that one of the audience was joining in, but had an excellent effect. Great interest was taken in the "Cake Walk" on the first night, when the cake was taken by New Zealand, though I think that it should have been awarded to South Australia, whose dress of black satin with gleams here and there of vermilion was very striking, and dancing graceful. The minstrels had a season of four nights, and a matinee on Saturday, all of which I believe were well attended.

The Musical Helpers arrived here at the same time, and gave two entertainments in Wesley Hall, which were, I hear, exceedingly good. A merry-go-round, with a steam organ, has taken up a position in the centre of the town, and the insistent, strident notes of the organ are to be heard far and near. A special interest is attached to this particular one, for it is that which a councillor of a little town not far distant, wished to have placed in position to play the National Anthem on the arrival of the Governor. It is needless to say that his wish was not realised, though it would be quite as consistent to have our loyal sentiments ground out by an organ, as to have our hymns of praise sung by a choir. The Wairau Tennis Club opened their courts on Saturday afternoon, to which the members of the Marlborough Tennis Club were invited. There was a high wind all the morning, which moderated in the afternoon, and the courts being well sheltered a pleasant time was spent. The President of the Club, Mr. R. McCallum, made a brief speech. Mrs. R. McCallum, who provided the afternoon tea, was assisted by several young ladies in dispensing the dainty refreshments. A party of nine of the Stoke Rifles, from Nelson, came to five a match against the Blenheim Rifles, and met at the Butts on Saturday afternoon. The visitors were defeated by 9 points, but it is only fair to say that owing to the high wind, they could not fire at the long ranges, only the 200 and 300 yards ranges were fired over, which may have made a great difference, as they may have excelled at the longer ranges.

FRIDA.