

husband being an American Planter. Mrs Russell was a Spanish lady; Miss Russell was Priscilla, in naive, with a spindle in her hand, Captain Kriessell being in uniform; Miss St. Hill representing a Dutch girl, in yellow drapes, with art green, and carrying a huge artificial Daffodil. Mrs J. G. Wilson wore powdered hair, and black and black and black. Mrs Grace wearing her Court dress of the present day, Miss Grace having her pretty Japanese dress. Miss Richardson was a Dutch Peasant, Miss Lyngsbach and Miss Neal both being Grecian Ladies; Miss Ruth Atkinson, a Primrose, a pretty dress with a lovely artificial purple on her head; Mrs H. Beetham, Poudre; Mr Beetham, Courtier; Mr G. Beetham, a Bishop; Mrs Beetham, an Italian Peasant; Miss Willis, Mrs Barron and Mrs Burns all represented Night, in black, with silver stars; Mrs D. Riddiford, Poudre; and her husband an American Lasso Man; Mrs Adams, a French Waiting Maid, with large black hat covered with white feathers, and her husband, a very handsome dress of crimson velvet and steel, and coloured silk sash; Miss Studholme, Musie, a cream dress with bars of music, the notes in red; Mrs J. Mills, Lilac, a handsome mauveish satin embroidered with lilac, and quantities of lilac blossoms, and powdered hair; her husband, Negative, that is white dress suit, black shirt, etc.; Mr Young choosing the same character; Dr. Jeffcoat, Old English; Mr Robison, Cavalier dress, large hat with feathers; Mr McGowan, Early English; Mr Hodgdon, a Courtier; Mrs J. P. Maxwell, Poudre; Mr Maxwell, Lord Nelson; Mrs H. Crawford, Marquise de Miramir; Mrs W. Percival, cream lace Spanish dress; Mrs C. Pharyzyn, a last century lady, in pink brocade with velvet shoulder cloak, and large hat with feathers; Miss Pharyzyn, a Milkmaid, carrying a three-legged stool; Mr C. Pharyzyn, a Cavalier dress of black velvet, large hat with feathers; Mrs Newman, a Spanish Peasant; Mrs Travill, Olivia; Mrs Primrose, and her husband, a Courtier; Mrs Coleridge, black velvet and henn, and moose cap; Mrs P. Hunter, a Nurse; Miss Carr, a Red Cross Nurse; and her sister, Ophelia; Mrs Harding, a Magpie; Miss Harding, a Chatelaine; and her sister, Elsie; Mrs E. Izard being a Chinaman; Mr Wilford made a capital Pooh Bah; Mr B. Richmond was Aladdin, of lamp fame, in a lovely pale green dress trimmed with pearl embroidery, and a pink and green high-pointed straw hat; Mr T. Richmond being well got up as a Turk in white figured material with turban, and beads round the neck; Miss Reynolds, old English short pink dress and powdered hair; Miss Dransfield, Joan of Arc, in a handsome dress almost covered with silver sequins, silver helmet with white plumes; Miss Hadfield, Winter; Miss Hall, Elizabethan dress; Mr E. Hadfield, Oliver Cromwell; Mr H. Hadfield, a barrister; Miss Holmes, Poudre; Miss Gore, Liberty; and her sister, Union Jack; Mr H. Gore, black velvet tunic over tan tights; and his brother, a Courtier, in black and red satin, and lace ruffles; Mr Jackson, a Nigger, with huge collar and hat; Mr L. Buller, a Toreador costume; Miss Acland and Mrs Cooper were dressed alike as Students, Miss R. Acland being a Rose; Mrs R. Hart, Helen McGregor, with tartan sash; Miss L. Williams, Tambourine Girl; Miss Bennett, French Drummer; Miss Johnson, a beautiful old-gold and brown brocade; Miss H. Moorhouse, Little Miss Muffit, carrying a huge spider; Miss Barron, Sautarella; and her sister, Maritana; Mr W. Barron, a Turk, as was also Mr H. Guller; Mr G. Beetham, a Druid; Miss Rolleston, a kind of Shepherdess, with large hat with flowers; Mr Avis, Scotch dress; Mr Gardiner, a very good Turkish dress, with pointed shoes; Miss Hector, Miss Girl; and her brother, a Red Indian; Mr Bate and Mr G. Kemp were sailors; Mr W. Turnbull, a white suit; Mrs Parfitt, Poudre; Mr Parfitt, a French Court dress; Miss Darley, an Egyptian dress of scarlet and white; Miss McLean, a boating suit of blue and white stripes, with silver oars in her hair; Miss Knight, Elsie; and among the gentlemen in uniform were Mr Werry, Captain Duncan, Mr Anson, Dr. Collins, Dr. Martin, Colonel Pearce, Mr W. Wardell, Mr McCrae, Mr J. Leekie; Mrs Werry, Poudre, in red satin and white fichu; Mrs A. Bell, Poudre; Mrs Riddiford, Mrs Beetham, Mrs Hawkins, Poudre; Mr T. Cooper, a Yokel; Mr A. Cooper and Mr Biss, boating suits; Miss Medley, Normandy Peasant; and her brother, Admiral, with powdered hair and three-cornered hat; Miss Menzies looked like one of Sir Joshua Reynolds' pictures in black velvet with curls all over her head, her younger sister being a French Peasant; Miss M. Rhodes, Poudre, in white, with bright scarlet ribbons; Miss (Percy) Smith, Italian Peasant; Miss Welford, old English dress; Mr C. Johnston, a handsome Lord Nelson dress, his son wearing very much the same kind of dress; Mr C. Cooper, a Sailor; Mr S. Ludbrook, a Mexican; Mrs Fulton, a beautiful Russian dress, and her husband was in uniform; Mr E. Brown, an Italian dress; Mr Blackett, Student; Mrs Hawkins, Poudre, in lavender satin and pearl embroidery; and her husband, Courtier, in red satin and gold lace; Mr G. Knight, Bomburth; Dr. Fell, Mr C. Pharyzyn, Mr J. G. Wilson, and many others, but it is quite impossible to remember everyone. The house was most beautifully decorated, the ballroom decorations being chiefly carried out in flags draped with greenery, but the billiard room was a work of art, the table being a delightful profusion of drapery, greenery, and flowers entirely lit with pink, yellow, and blue fairy lamps, and a few Chinese lanterns. The supper decorations were carried out with pink azaleas and hanging fairy lamps, and the drawing-room was bright with flowers, ferns, and toi-toi. The Earl and Countess of Onslow came about eleven o'clock, and stayed to see the *minuet*, the tiny Kate Greenaway children presenting her ladyship with an exquisite bouquet of violets and snowdrops. The Countess wore plain white satin with a long train, profusely trimmed with lace and diamonds. The *minuet* was performed twice during the evening, and the ball was not over until half-past two, so you can imagine how tired we felt the following day. As you will see by my description, more than half wore the same dresses as before, and this was at Mrs Williams' special request, for some of the dresses were so handsome it seemed a pity that they should only be worn once.

Did you hear about the gentlemen after the last fancy dress ball? *entirely now* they are all in a state of indignation, and are waiting the arrival of the GRAPHIC, and that there was a rush for copies. We found them out beautifully, for they could not help showing that they were pleased as Punch at being mentioned. I really think I must mend my ways and mention some of the gentlemen at the ordinary balls. I do not see why I should not, as I have had proof positive that they like being taken notice of.

in spite of the indifferent way in which they pick up the GRAPHIC and turn their eyes first of all to the ladies' letters.

Next week you will again be inundated with news for I shall have the Star Boating hall to describe, and also Lady Oslow's afternoon reception at Government House. Later on we are to have Mr Robt. Pharyzyn's large ball, and some private theatricals given by Dr. and Mrs Grace in the Theatre Royal.

REBY.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE,

AUGUST 11.

I told you in my last of Miss Gibson's engagement to Mr Baring. Mrs Gibson gave a dance to emphasize the joyful occasion. Quite a number of married people were asked, so that not all the young folks could be crowded into the rooms. It was a most successful affair, and dancing was indulged in till two o'clock, with a respite for a delicious supper. All the rooms presented a most charming appearance, being beautifully decorated with flowers. The hostess was attired in a rich black gown, and Miss Gibson looked charming in white, which always suits her. Among many pretty dresses Mrs Haghill wore a pearl grey broche; Mrs E. C. Reynolds, a lovely gown of green silk; Mrs Hosking looked charming in white silk; and Miss Ethel McLaren, who made her debut, wore a lovely soft-looking frock of white silk and tulle, and excited a good deal of admiration; Mrs Batchelor wore a rich pink silk broche; Mrs Robert Turnbull, yellow watered silk and tulle; Miss Stanford pale blue; Miss Rose black; Miss Nevill, a pretty white; Miss Butterworth looked well in pale pink silk; Mrs Williams, a handsome terra-cotta silk; and Miss Mary Williams, green fisherman's net over white silk. Others among the guests were Mr and Mrs Michie, Mesdames C. Turnbull, Gallaway, Pym, Melland, Denniston, Ogston, Colquhoun, Davies, H. Mackenzie, and the Misses Williams (2), Spence (2), Tui Stephenson, Cutten, Reynolds, Fulton, Kattray, Webster (2), Siewwright, McLaren (2), Roberts (2), Butterworth, Hunter and Macasey. Miss Tui Stephenson looked very pretty in black lace; Mrs Ogston, blue moiré, trimmed with white lace; Miss Cutten, white satin and fisherman's net; Miss Fulton black; Mrs Gallaway, pale terra-cotta tulle relieved with flowers; Miss Siewwright, white silk trimmed with gold embroidery; Miss Spencer, white satin and tulle.

The Ladies' Savage Club met as usual. The first number of the journal appeared, of which there was only one copy. I have not seen it, so cannot tell you of its contents, but I rather fancy these ladies will get tired of the journalistic attempts; perhaps, though, as it is only an amusement, it will carry with it its vitiating influence, like other amusements do that need exertion. The gentlemen and original Savages have got a big ladies' evening on the way. They are always delightful, and I think a supper a week or so later is to close the season. But to return to the Ladies' Club. Mrs Robert and Mrs Charlie Turnbull were present, also Mesdames Boyd, Davis, Rose, A. Bathgate, Pym, Hosking, Lindo Ferguson, Stilling, Melland, Bridges, Driver, also the Misses Driver, Mrs and the Misses Sise, Mrs Sinclair Thomson, Mrs and the Misses Spence, Mrs Eardley Reynolds, Mrs L. Denniston, Miss Roberts, and Miss Reynolds. Among those who contributed to the enjoyment of the evening were Miss Cargill, who gave a reading from Dickens, and Mrs Rose, who sang with her well-known sweetness. Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Monkman sang a pretty duet, Miss Rattray gave a reading, and Miss Siewwright also sang. Mrs Hosking occupied the chair upon this occasion, and a most enjoyable evening was spent.

Now that the violets are coming in again, ladies who are anxious to have pretty complexions can utilize them after they have done service on their gowns, by pouring boiling milk over them and bathing their faces and neck in this preparation for a quarter of an hour each day, as hot as they can bear it. A little violet powder will take off the shine that the milk is sure to leave.

The Juvenile Opera Company still continues to charm. Every night there is a good audience, while the Saturday afternoon matinees are crowded with delighted children, who perhaps never saw an opera before.

A grand concert given by Mr A. J. Barth drew a large audience to the Garrison Hall. The soloists were Mrs Murphy and Miss J. Joel, Messrs Blenkinsopp, J. Low, F. L. Jones, A. Adamson, J. Jago, W. Manson, W. Ibbotson, and W. Densen. Of these I enjoyed Mr Manson's song, 'Will o' the Wisp,' and Mrs Blenkinsopp's rendering of the beautiful and difficult music that fell to him in 'The Desert.' This weird and lovely piece, which I told you of once before, occupied the latter half of the programme, and second hearing making one more in love with it than before. The Liedertafel are to be complimented. Herr Winkelmann and Signor Squarise contributed some of their exquisite pieces. Herr Winkelmann upon the cello, Signor Squarise upon the violin. Miss Busk also performed a lovely violin solo. Miss Blanche Joel, who looked very sweet in pale blue, both sang and performed in the orchestra. Mr Timson accompanied during the performance of 'The Desert,' his excellency in this capacity being well known. Mr Densen gave a grand rendering of 'Honour and Arms' (Samson). Mrs Murphy's name was down for 'In the Chimney Corner,' but was obliged to abandon it as she was suffering with an extremely bad cold. She is always a favourite, and while sympathising with her, the audience were also disappointed. She wore a very pretty gown of cream silk, her hair dressed in Grecian bands. Miss Busk played a violin solo, and Mr Barth a pianoforte solo, 'Grand Fantasia' on Mendelssohn's music to 'The Midsomer Night's Dream.'

Dr. and Mrs Colquhoun most kindly entertained the Juvenile Operatic Company to a picnic. They were taken out in drags, etc., to Tomahawk, where they spent a delightful time running races, etc., their host and hostess leaving nothing undone to make the day a pleasant recollection of their visit to Dunedin, and one cannot help wishing that they may meet with many similar pleasures on their trip north. When they returned to town they were entertained to tea at Miss Mackenzie's tea room, Mrs Colquhoun waiting most kindly upon them. Mr Tom Pullard has added another to his many successes in the production of this juvenile Company.

MACDE.

LATE AUCKLAND NEWS.

Madame Bernhardt spent a few hours in Auckland on her way from Sydney to Friesen. She had a fearfully bad passage, the Mariposa being two days longer than usual over the trip, owing to the gale. Alas! the poor actress was very bad with *mal-de-mer*; indeed, few of the passengers escaped. Madame Sara drove at once to the Albert Hotel, and enjoyed a bath and breakfast, but she absolutely declined all visitors, saying she was *trop fatiguée*. She bought a number of Maori curios, walking down Queen-street attended in a sort of procession by many of her company, also her lovely huge dog. Madame went out for a drive in the afternoon to enjoy the unrivalled view from Mount Eden. Auckland is a singularly unenthusiastic city, and the great actress was left very much to herself all day. She has such a wonderful face, and charming French manners. How we hoped she would have acted here! But the steamer carried her off in the evening.

SYDNEY GOSSIP.

DEAR BEE,

AUGUST 10.

The shops just now possess quite a charming appearance, especially noticeable after the dull sale windows of the last month or two. Now that the new spring goods are on view everything is bright and pretty—excepting the weather. Dainty figured delaines in all shades and designs, form the chief light dress material, while for heavier wear there are soft light tweeds with large patterns in various colours and shapes—spots, cone shapes, and others much resembling the old-fashioned Paisley pattern. The prettiest tweeds are called Epsom, Kicker, Camel, and Côtéte. I am told at the leading shops that spotted fabrics and very little else are to be worn, from the best French cantries to the most expensive costuras. Millinery seems to have reached perfection, as all the necessaries for that—surely it can be called nothing else—appear to be levelled each year, especially as regards artificial flowers. They are so natural that in some cases it is really hard to tell them from nature. This spring field flowers are to the fore, blue cornflowers and buttercups being the favourites. The hats are decidedly airy, and quite large again, I am happy to say. One I saw to-day had a large brim, and small cone-shaped crown, the whole being composed of sprays of lilies-of-the-valley; an edging of palest green chiffon, and velvet bows of darker green at the back, gave an effective finish. One thing our mothers, I'm sure, will be delighted at is the return of the good old-fashioned flower-brocaded ribbon, which they so much admired, and which is well adapted for and most effective in both hats and dressy cape. For wear just now the Bond-street hat (so suitable with a tailor-made costume) is ultra-fashionable. The trimming is simple, generally a broad band of velvet, with bow and quill feather at the side. Gloves and stockings are always expensive items in a lady's wardrobe, and I am afraid are going to be still more so. The correct thing is now to wear silk stockings with open-worked fronts to match each costume. In gloves, gauntlets, which had a run some seasons ago, are again in vogue.

Madame Bernhardt is to leave us by the Mariposa to-morrow. Her season closed on Saturday night with a scene not easily forgotten. On the fall of the curtain at the pathetic conclusion of 'La Dame aux Camélias,' the applause raised on the artiste was continued long after she had bowed her acknowledgments. The audience were asked to keep their seats, and a few moments later the curtain was raised, showing the stage occupied by Madame Bernhardt, surrounded by the members of her company, and many well-known Australian actors and actresses. After immense cheering, the waving of the French flag, and numerous floral tributes being handed to the great actress, the curtain was again lowered.

At a ball given at Pott's Point lately, there was something quite new to be seen in the way of table decorations. The long supper-table, instead of having the customary white damask tablecloth, was covered with crimson cloth, the flowers used (of which there was a perfect show) being buttercups, daffodils, and beautiful variegated leaves. The candelabra and other accessories were perfect, the whole making, indeed, a handsome sight.

New Zealanders can compliment themselves on their being ahead of Sydney people in some things—Sydney people, who flatter themselves that they are so quick at picking up anything new. The barn dance, which you have enjoyed for the last two seasons, is only just being heard of here, and is, as elsewhere, quickly becoming greatly favoured among enthusiastic dancers.

A well-known Sydney lady has evidently found, as many others have, a difficulty in suiting herself in the way of servants. From this has sprung a new idea, and the question, 'Why have half-educated, and sometimes in a big place like this, objectionable servants about one's house? Why not employ ladies?' It certainly does not sound practicable, but Mrs Daley is determined to try her 'scheme,' and if it is to be a success, she is the one to make it so. The three ladies she has at present are well considered, and of course, they do not do the rough work. They have a private sitting room of their own, and once or twice a week are invited to spend the evening with their mistress and her friends. It all sounds very nice, but do you think it can last?

AROMA.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

DOLLY.—Thank you. Address 'Lady Editor, NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC Office, Auckland.' Leave all MSS. open at the end, and the postage is only one penny per two ounces. Will other kind correspondents bear this in mind? I shall be glad to hear from Interregill. Are there no society ladies there?—BEE.

A MEAN JOKE.—'They say Chollier's injuries were the result of a practical joke.' 'Yes. The boys told him that a big, burly fellow in the bar-room was deaf and dumb, and Chollier walked over to him, and with a sweet smile told him he was a 'blank fool.' 'Well!' 'The man wasn't deaf and dumb.'

'ORB' CORRUGATED IRON is the best Iron manufactured it has no equal.—ADVT.