

knew how to behave as gentlemen, or whether the University of the buildings over-awed them, I know not; at all events they allowed the proceedings this time to be conducted without interference. Wasn't it sweet of them? On the platform I noticed the Misses Coleman and Edger, who have already taken their degrees. The Grammar School furnished one M.A., Mr F. J. Carter, who with Messrs George Lippitt (Master of Arts, with honours, chemistry), F. E. Baum (Bachelor of Laws), D. Jackson (Bachelor of Arts), H. C. MacLaurin (Senior Scholarship in Mathematics, Bachelor of Arts), all received diplomas. Two young ladies Miss Isabella Ecclesfield and Miss Jessie Knapp (Nelson), were not present to receive their diplomas. Miss S. E. Gifford, a daughter of the artist, Mr Edward Gifford, has taken the degree of Master of Arts. Mr T. J. Nott, another M.A., was not present. Professor Pond complimented the New Zealand University on the high standard set for its degrees. This, of course, makes our educational honours worth winning. Refreshments were kindly provided in the lower hall, and were much appreciated. The absorbing question now is, will they give us our right—the Franchise? We were very hopeful. But 'men were deceivers ever,' and, dear Bee, how can we trust them? They are so good in promising, but—

Miss Brigham, of 'Marino,' Parnell, gave a large afternoon tea to all her girl friends. Their house is beautifully situated, overlooking St. George's Bay, and the view is really enchanting.

The Pakuranga hounds met at Mr E. McLean's residence, Bleak House, Howick, where a sumptuous luncheon was provided, Miss Bailey making a charming hostess. She was prettily frocked in black (mourning). It was really a glorious day—when we started. Everybody you met greeted you with, 'Spring has come.' We reached our destination, had our horses nicely housed, and were seated comfortably at luncheon, and down came the rain in torrents. But of course none of us should have been surprised, as the name of the house ought to have been quite sufficient. The name is not appropriate as far as the appearance of the house goes. It stands on top of a hill surrounded with trees, and really it looks very snug. Those whom I saw coming riding were Mesdames Bevan, Browning, Bloomfield, Misses Backland (3), Hesketh (2), Dunnett, Hardie, Percival, McLaughlin, Garrett (2), Bull, Wilkins, Firth, Herald, Ireland, and Messrs McLaughlin, England, Garrett, Yonge, Kettlewell, Lockhart, Johnson, Shera, Halstead, Percival, Dunnet, Tonks, Gorrle, Bloomfield, Ware, Haultain, Colonel Dawson, and his two sons, and others. I saw Miss Ireland with her mother steering her dogcart cleverly through the crowd. Mr Stewart was also driving, and so were Mr and Mrs Ching.

As for costumes, I have only a few street dresses for you. Mrs Ching, handsome brown dress and bonnet to match; Mrs Bloomfield (Parnell), stylish black dolman, and black bonnet; Mrs (Dr.) Haines, striking black coat, and gem hat; Miss H. Ruck, brown plaid dress, and hat en suite; Miss E. Scherff, a pretty dark green dress, becoming but trimmed with red flowers; Mrs Bloomfield (The Pines, Epsom), navy dress and grey jacket; Miss Mary Firth, all black; Mrs F. D. Fenton (Kaipara), stylish mourning, a very pretty long cloak; her daughter, Mrs Lewis, was also in black.

I very much enjoyed the sacred concert and *tableaux* given in the schoolroom of All Saints', Ponsonby, which witnessed another triumph of the energy and skill of that indefatigable community. The building, brightly lit and decorated with evergreens, was crowded to the doors, seats having to be placed along the aisles to accommodate the increasing influx of visitors. Shortly after eight the performance opened with an overture, 'The Golden Gates,' excellently rendered under the able conductorship of Mr Philpot, Mr A. Bartley accompanying. It followed 'Habemus and Artistic Drama,' 'Angels.' The curtain was raised disclosing the limelight effect on a group so faultlessly arranged as not to offend the most artistic eye. It elicited warm demonstrations of appreciation from the audience, whose behaviour throughout was characterised by perfect orderliness and rapt attention. A solo, 'If With All Your Hearts,' by Mr A. Edwards, the popular tenor, and an aria, 'Angels Ever Bright and Fair,' by Mrs Kilgour, were rendered with the usual finish of these favourite vocalists. The following *tableaux* were exhibited intermittently throughout the evening:—'The Little Pilgrim,' 'David Singing Before Saul' in two scenes, 'Rebecca at the Well,' 'Simply to Thy Cross I Cling,' and 'Listening Angels.' The angelic expression on the 'Little Pilgrim's' face reminded one of the cherub productions of a Rubens or a Titian. The difficult postures in the two following were marvellously sustained. 'Simply to Thy Cross I Cling,' represented by a woman clinging to the cross, produced a subdued hush, in which a pin might have been heard to drop. The last, 'Listening Angels,' was the gem of the evening. It comprised a statuesque group as nearly resembling the heavenly host as our poor mortals can conceive of. Poised seemingly in mid air, the sacred light played and flickered on the flowing robes, wings and faces of the young aspirants in a manner that as the curtain fell drew forth deep sighs of delight and a ringing murmur of applause. All Saints' is, indeed, to be congratulated on the nerve and power of these amateur performers. All the *tableaux* were twice repeated, ensuring everyone a good view. The musical portion of the programme was further contributed to by Miss E. Chew, a 'cello solo, 'Ave Maria' (Gounod); baritone solo 'When Night is Darkest,' Mr F. Whitaker; another overture, 'March Pontifical,' by the orchestra; contralto solo, 'Calvary,' by Mrs Coates; solo, with violin obligato, 'The Angel's Call,' Miss Warren; baritone solo, 'The Prodigal Son,' Mr P. Dufaur; duet, 'Side by Side to the Better Land,' Mrs Coates and Mrs Kilgour; and a tenor song, 'Consider the Lilies,' Mr McGregor.

One of the most enjoyable private dances of the season was given by the Misses Hill and Miss Howard at the Victoria Hall. There were about eighty young people present, the gentlemen and ladies being equally divided, and everybody entered into the dance with zest. The floor was in excellent condition, whilst the music, which was played by the guests, was all that could be desired. The supper was something to dream about. The ladies were very becomingly dressed. Among the most noticeable were Miss Hill, wearing white and cardinal, Miss E. Hill, handsome rose satin and black net; Miss Howard, lovely dress of white sarah silk; Miss Ethel Hill, black silk and lace; Miss K. Hill, pretty dress of pink veiling and ruby plush; Miss M. Hill, pale green silk net (very becoming); Mrs Howard, handsome black silk; and

Pittar, black silk; Mrs Bell, lovely blue silk; and her sister, Mrs N. Pierce, very pretty mauve silk; Miss Pittar, pretty white muslin; Miss Bullen, white satin; Miss Ryan, very pretty mauve muslin; Miss Buchanan looked well in white silk; Miss Berry, black; Miss C. Berry, a lovely dress of white cashmere braided with silver; Miss Kennethorne, black lace; Miss M. Fenton, green satin and black net; Miss Atkinson, cream; Miss M. Atkinson, a most becoming dress of pink sarah silk; Miss Wyde-Brown, pale green; her sister, black; Miss Williamson, pink; Miss Cook and Miss Blades, pink; Miss Clarke, pale green (very becoming); Miss Bingham, pale blue. Dancing was kept up until an early hour in the morning.

HIMEMOA.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE,

AUGUST 28.

Mrs Robert Pharazyn gave a splendid large ball at Thomas' new hall. It turned out such a wretchedly cold night—a very good thing for the cabmen, I have no doubt, for everyone had to have a carriage—but it made not the slightest difference after we got there, and were received with such warm welcome from our genial host and hostess, who stood at the entrance of the ballroom. The hall looked so pretty, the dais at one end being one mass of oriental-looking curtains, huge palm branches, ferns, and flowers, and fairy lamps of different colours were lit among the greenery. Then huge comfortable velvet lounges and chairs were scattered about, greatly to the comfort of the chaperones, of whom there were a great number. Then the ballroom was large enough to allow seats being put all round the wall intermingled with fern stands and curtains, so that one was never at a loss for a seat. The room adjoining the ballroom was prettily furnished as a drawing-room, the walls being artistically draped with art muslin, and hung with pictures, mirrors, etc., large screens chiefly ornamenting the room. The supper table was a mass of flowers, ferns, fairy lamps, and good things, all of which, you may be sure, were done ample justice to. King's band of four performers supplied the best of music, several extras being played at supper time, one by Mrs Charles Pharazyn, and another by Miss Borlase. Our hostess wore a magnificent gown of old rose silk with a long train, the high Medici collar and front being of jewelled embroidery, and both Mr and Mrs Pharazyn were indefatigable in their efforts to promote the enjoyment of their guests; indeed, this ball is looked upon as one of the greatest successes of the season, the dancing being particularly spirited from beginning to end, and that is saying a good deal of a ball with between three and four hundred guests present. There was a dinner party at Government House the same night, which kept several people away until late. Lady Hector wore a very handsome old rose silk, with broad satin stripe and long train, and Lady Buller was in black velvet trimmed with beautiful old lace; Madame de Loetalot wore blue silk covered with black lace, and crimson bows; Mrs (Dr.) Newman, a lovely light copper-coloured silk, the long basque edged with jewelled embroidery, and the long train quite plain, the openwork stockings and satin shoes and openwork silk net sleeves exactly matching, the completeness being its great charm; her sister, Mrs Charlie Johnston, was very handsomely dressed in palest sky blue, the same lovely trimming also appearing on the bodice and sleeves; Mrs H. D. Bell wore a beautiful combination of pale green silk and pink chiffon, the bodice being green, edged with a deep flounce of chiffon; Mrs Izard was richly dressed in black, and Mrs C. Izard, in silver-grey silk with rosettes of narrow black velvet ribbon; Mrs C. Pharazyn, (Wairarapa), bronze brown satin over a petticoat of cream lace, and a filigree pearl necklace; Mrs A. Russell, white satin brocaded with yellow, and draped with green tulle, moonstone ornaments; Mrs Coburn Hood, cream brocade, and lovely garnet necklet; Mrs Pratt, black and white, and pearl ornaments; Mrs Balance, black, with white lace; Mrs Valentine (Otago), a beautiful pale blue gown with pink roses; Mrs Maxwell, maize, covered with black velvet and lace striped; Mrs T. C. Williams, a handsome black dress; Mrs G. Beetham, black and white; Mrs J. Mills (Dunedin), brown net and moiré; Mrs H. Crawford, lemon surah draped with black Chantilly lace; Mrs J. G. Wilson (Rangitikei), a handsome black dress with coloured embroidery; Mrs Gore, crimson velvet and pink brocade; Mrs Cyril Tanner, a lovely cream silk gown with long train; Mrs Capt. Russell was also there, and Mrs Butts, Mrs Coleridge, Mrs Barclay, Mrs Rawson, Mrs H. Rawson, Mrs Fitzherbert, Mrs F. Allen, Mrs Fell, Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Borlase, Mrs Harding, Mrs Knight, Mrs L. Reid, Mrs Brandon, Mrs Fisher, Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Mantell, Mrs Blair (Tauranga), Mrs Acland, Mrs Cooper, Mrs Gudgeon, Mrs Treagar, Mrs Halse, Mrs Irvine, Mrs Beere, Mrs Parfitt, Mrs M. Richmond, Mrs Elliot, Mrs P. Hunter, Mrs Friend, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Janich, Mrs Amelia Smith, Mrs Douglas, Mrs Lingard, Mrs Rotherham, and Mrs Burns. Miss Johnston wore a lovely pearl grey brocade beautifully trimmed with pearl passementerie, and diamond ornaments; Miss Holmes, black; Miss Noake, a handsome black gown softened with cream lace; Miss R. Reynolds (Dunedin), her pretty mauve gown trimmed with pansies; Miss E. Bennett, her lovely mauve satin brocaded with a deeper shade, and trimmed with a deep flounce of mauve chiffon; Miss Clairmonte, a beautiful moss green silk trimmed round the long basque with handsome jewelled embroidery; Miss Rhodes (Christchurch), a lovely crushed strawberry silk, prettily trimmed with tiny deep crimson pompons; Miss W. Menzies, white; Miss Baillie (Blenheim), white; Miss Buller, black and white; Miss Duncan, pale blue; Miss Hector, white tulle and ribbons; Miss Izard, her lemon net with pearl embroidery; and her sister, pink and silver; Miss Cooper, mauve; and her sister, pink; Miss Lysaght (Patea), pink silk; Miss E. Richmond, buff net with black velvet ribbon; Miss Rolleston, black, with flowers, and moonstone necklet; Miss Gore, pale blue silk and silver; and her sister, white silk; the Misses Hawkins, cream silk and lace; Miss Robinson (Christchurch), white; Miss Hadfield, blue net; Miss Hall, pink; Miss Pharazyn, (Wairarapa), white; Miss McMaister (Maerterton), black, with turquoise blue bows; Mrs Russell (Hawke's Bay), white net prettily embroidered with flowers; Miss St. Hill (Hawke's Bay), soft white gown; Miss Medley, turquoise

net; Miss K. Acland, the same; Miss Williams, pale yellow chiffon with long flounced bodice, and long crinkled chiffon sleeves; Miss Dransfield, black net embroidered with gold; Miss Spensley, white, with girle of coloured flowers; Miss Hart, pink, with chiffon frills; Miss Barclay, cream; the Misses Harding, white; Miss Morrah, blue net; Miss M. Quick, grey velvet and white lace; Miss Barron, pink, with white bead embroidery; and her sister, white; Miss Elliot, white; Miss McLean, pink; Miss Allan, cream net, and the Misses Kennedy, Duthie, Hartmann, Knight, Sunka, Ezzard, M. Reid, Halse, Carr, Jury, Borlase, (Porey), Smith, etc., and Sir Kenneth Dunlop, Captain Russell, Captain Duncan, and Messrs C. and W. Johnston, Walrod, Guthrie, Valentine, Rhodes, S. Mackenzie, Bell, C. Pharazyn, J. G. Wilson, etc., but I must not go on any longer, else I shall not have any room left to describe the private theatricals, which were given by Dr. and Mrs Grace two nights afterwards in the Theatre Royal, which was crowded with guests. Our host and hostess took up their position in front of the orchestral stalls, where they received His Excellency the Governor and Lady Onslow, and Captain Guthrie and Miss Ruth Atkinson, of Nelson, who made up the Government House party. The Countess was handsomely dressed in pink silk and coffee-coloured lace, with train, the low bodice and hair flashing with diamonds, and she carried a bouquet of violets, and wore a blue opera mantle bound with white fur. Mrs Grace was in dark slate silk, with quantities of slate passementerie and white satin, and wore a fur mantle and diamonds, Miss Grace looking well in a black lace dress and peacock plush cloak. The pieces chosen was Simpson's 'Scrap of Paper,' and the cast was as follows:—Prosper Couramont, Mr Riversdale Walrod; Baron de la Glacière, Mr W. H. S. Moorhouse; Brismouche, Mr Ernest Hadfield; Anatole, Mr E. Izard; Baptiste and François, both taken by Mr Tancered Cooper; L. de la Glacière, Miss Buller; Susanne de Ruseville, Miss Maude Grace; Mathilde, Miss Elsie Williams; Mdlle. Zenobie, Miss Hilda Williams; Madame Dupont, Miss H. Moorhouse; Pauline, Miss Cooper. Without doubt Mr Walrod was by far the best on the stage. One could hear every word distinctly from one end of the theatre to the other, and he displayed no mean amount of dramatic talent in the clever interpretation of his part. Miss Grace was good, especially in the last act, when she fairly excelled herself. Then Miss Moorhouse also came in for a large share of praise, and her acting was really excellent. Miss H. Williams had an ungrateful part, but did it well, and Miss E. Williams acted her childish part very prettily. Miss Buller's voice was hardly strong enough for the building, some of her speeches being entirely lost, but her acting was very spirited. Miss Cooper did the Nancy Maid very well. All the gentlemen were good, Mr Hadfield looking so funny as the old naturalist, and Mr Izard making us roar with laughter at his boyish freaks. Mr Moorhouse was exactly suited to his stern part; indeed, Mrs Grace was most fortunate in her judicious choice of actors and actresses, the result being most happy. There were no 'hitches,' and the voice of the prompter was rarely needed. Mr Peter Parfitt held this responsible post, and moreover, after the performance both Mr and Mrs Parfitt took all the performers home to their house, and provided a delicious champagne supper in honour of the event. How we all wished to join them, for they were a very merry party. Mr Parfitt, Mr Walrod, and Mr Hadfield made complimentary speeches, and various toasts were honoured. Most of them kept to their stage dresses with very curious effect. Mrs Parfitt was in black trimmed with pale blue brocade. Now let me think who was there—not at the supper, but at the theatre:—Mrs Charles Johnston and several of her little ones; Mrs Williams and her little girls; Miss Williams, in black velvet, with high collar and ruffles of white chiffon; Miss Johnston, in a handsome black jetted dress and diamonds; her sister, Mrs Percival, a lovely crimson brocade, with high collar and lining of pink; Mrs J. Mills, a very pretty black dress trimmed with maize satin, and diamonds; the Misses Izard, velvet gowns, and cream opera cloaks embroidered with old; Mrs Ed. Richardson, a long red plush cloak; Miss Robson, white; Miss Rhodes, bright red with angel sleeves, and fawn fur cloak; Miss Russel, a tan cloak bound with white goat; Mrs J. G. Wilson, black silk with stripes of old rose and gold tinsel plush, and pink feathers in her hair; Miss Duncan, black; Lady Hector, white fur cloak embroidered with steel; Miss Hector, Mrs A. Smith, Mrs Waldegrave, Mrs Howitt, Mrs Hislop, Mrs and the Misses Cooper, Mrs Mantell, Mrs and the Misses Harding, Mrs and Miss Kemp, Mrs and Miss Stowe, Mrs and Misses Hawkins, Mrs Newman, the Misses Menzies, Madame de Loetalot, Mrs Adams, Mrs Ferguson, Mrs Maskell, Mrs Irvine, Mesdames Robinson, Rous-Marten, Longhnan, Balance, Higginson, Brandon, Richmond, Barron, Beetham, Crawford, Bell, Fitzherbert, Butts, Carrow, Fell, Acland, Gore, de Castro, Duncan, Rose, W. Moorhouse, P. Hunter, Still, Werry, Valentine, Fisher, Knight, Edwin, F. Allen, Friend, Tanner, Maxwell, Burns, Holt, Pratt, Buckley, A. Russell, and the Misses Hall, Baillie, Hadfield, Allan, Johnston, Graham, St. Hill, Henry, Reynolds, McLean, Holmes, Moorhouse, Tanks, Jury, Duthie, Lysaght, Richmond, Halse, Barron, Killestone, Gore, Fitzgerald, Dransfield, Bennett, Medley, Colleston, Spensley, Carr, Kennedy, Willis, Guter, Huxtable, Borlase, Valentine, Easton, Morrah, Cuming, etc. Miss Grace wore a lovely dress in the last act—a ball dress of palest sky blue silk, the long basque and train edged with deep flounce of black lace, the necessary touch of colour being given by one or two deep crimson roses here and there. Miss H. Williams wore a lovely wine-coloured satin trimmed with vandyked velvet of a deeper shade. Miss E. Williams looked very pretty in her riding habit, and large picture hat covered with feathers, and her hair flowing. Miss Buller looked best in a pretty gobelin blue tea-gown with a soft pink silk front. The stage was wonderfully pretty and bright, what with pot plants, ferns, drapery, and in the last scene amid the greenery were coloured fairy lamps. Too much can hardly be said of the appointments of the stage, which were perfect.

Next week you shall hear of Mr Elkington and Miss Clairmonte's wedding from

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