

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE,

OCTOBER 2.

We have, strange to say, for we expected no more until next session, had two dances this week, and, unfortunately they both fell on the same night. One was given by Miss Emily Johnston, daughter of the late Hon. John Johnston, at her house in Fitzherbert Terrace, and the other by the Misses Tuckey in Spiller's Hall, Boulcott-street. Miss Johnston's was a very enjoyable affair, all the appointments, as you may imagine, being perfect. It was an 'At Home,' and was especially given in honour of Mr. Earl Johnston, her nephew, who has come out to visit his family from England. His brothers, Messrs Guy and Featherstone Johnston, were both there. Among the guests were Mrs. C. Johnston, Mrs. W. T. L. Travers, Mrs. Coleridge, Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. (Dr.) Newman, Mrs. (Dr.) Collins, Mrs. Barron, Mrs. W. Moorhouse, Mrs. Izard, Mrs. Robt. Hart, Mrs. J. M. Grace, Mrs. E. Williams, Mrs. E. Richmond, E. and L. Izard, Russell (Hawke's Bay), Baillie (Blenheim), Holmes (Dunedin), Duncan, Harding (2), Menzies (2), and Medley, and Messrs C. Johnston, Maxwell, Moorhouse, Travers, Walrond, Buller, Richmond, Ross, Tripp, Kemp, Avise, Battersworth (Dunedin), Barron, Bethune, Anson, and Dr. Grace. The dance began at 9.30 o'clock, which I cannot help thinking too late for the colonies. Ours—I think I may safely speak in this general way, as there are so few exceptions—is such a busy life out here, that it does not do to allow our pleasures to interfere too much with our daily occupations. It seems unkind to say so after having enjoyed our kind hostess's hospitality, but I do think it was a wee bit inconsiderate, and I think everyone shared my humble opinion. We did not get away until 2.30 o'clock, and this is most unusual nowadays. I would like you to have had just a glimpse of the house as it looked that night, for it was exceedingly pretty. Everywhere the eye rested there was something to please it. Huge branches of yellow broom, heaps of flowers, pot plants, ferns, etc., intermingled with fairy lamps, drapery and beautiful shaded lamps helped to give the artistic result. We danced in the drawing-room, and had delicious little screened-off nooks for two, besides an awning to sit in, and had supper upstairs, and altogether it was one of the best private dances of the season. There were no new dresses, but one could hardly expect that at the end of the season. The Misses Tuckey must have had about eighty guests at their dance. Mrs. Werry and Mrs. Friend chaperoned the party in the absence of Mrs. Tuckey. Miss Tuckey wore a soft creamy gown with gold trimming, and her younger sister wore pale blue. Among those present were the Misses Morah, Halse, George, Friend, Barron, Fairchild, Heywood, etc. The floor was beautifully polished, and the music good, so that a splendid dance was the result.

I have not heard of any more gaiety, and think it must be all over. Mr. Prouse, our baritone singer, who has just returned from the old country, where he has been taking lessons, is to give a concert in a few days. We naturally watch his progress with interest.

We are to lose the Rev. Mr. Still and Mrs. Still this month. Mr. Still has resigned the incumbency of St. Paul's, and has accepted a living at home. The family leave almost immediately, Mr. and Mrs. Still following a little later. St. Paul's parishioners, of course, wonder who they shall have next. It is a large parish, and needs a good man for so responsible a position, but up to the present nothing has been decided. The Rev. Mr. Walker has lately been appointed curate in St. Paul's parish. Mr. Walker has quite recently been to Christchurch to be married to Miss Cottrell, and has now brought his bride to live amongst us.

Town seems so dull now that all the session people are gone. Amongst the last to go were Mrs. and Miss McKenzie, Miss Seddon, Miss Russell, Miss Baillie, and Lady and Miss Hall. Sir John Hall has gone home lamenting. He has worked hard for the Woman's Franchise and almost succeeded. I firmly believe that we will have our 'rights' next year, but after hearing the Hon. Dr. Grace's speech on the subject, I do not feel nearly so anxious for the right to vote, and I always strongly objected to the thought of women entering Parliament. Dr. Grace said he opposed it because he thought so highly of women, and the Hon. C. U. Bowen's gallant speech also won my heart, and was very much to the same effect. But I must say it does seem very hard that women with property, and who have just as much stake in the country as anyone else, should not be allowed a say in the matter of governing the country. One night during the latter end of the session the ladies in the gallery of the House got very enthusiastic, and sent down a long list of names headed, I believe, by the Premier's wife, Mrs. Ballance, thanking Sir John Hall for his energy and sympathy in their cause. It has, of course, been the discussion of most interest to us during the session, and whenever it was expected to come on the gallery was crowded with ladies.

We had the jolliest little dance imaginable at the end of the week. It was quite an impromptu affair given by Mrs. Charles Johnston in honour of her son's (Mr. Earl Johnston) birthday. There were very few besides relatives present. Mrs. Grace was there, and Mrs. Newman, and the Misses Grace, Izard, Menzies, Richmond, Gore, and Barron, and Messrs Tripp, Richmond, Williams, Vogel, and many others.

RUBY.

## PANIATUA.

DEAR BEE,

SEPTEMBER 23.

As you have no correspondent from this part of the world, I thought I would send you an account of a ball which the bachelors of Pahiataua gave us. It really was the very best ball that has been given in this rather dull place, and every credit must be bestowed on the bachelors for the successful way in which they carried out the affair. They evidently spared neither trouble nor expense to make everything go smoothly. They were most attentive to their guests. The hall was prettily decorated, the music (piano and cornet) was good, and the supper, which was laid on the stage, was simply delicious. Now I must tell you the ladies' dresses. Mrs. Bently, black; Mrs. Bryce, white spotted muslin, berths of white flowers, pretty sash at the back; Mrs. Clarke, brown satin trimmed with plush of same shade; Mrs. Hyde, black cashmere, with pretty beaded front; Mrs. Whitcombe, black velveteen;



## CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE,

SEPTEMBER 23.

The late muggy weather has made us vow vengeance against the absurd length of walking dresses of the present fashion, and made many wish they could stalk about in such a one as that lately seen in THE GRAPHIC, just ten inches from the ground. Perhaps this costume will come in with the 'Female Suffrage Bill,' as it will be perfectly impossible to sit for hours in dragged skirts. We are truly a progressive race! But adieu to politics and Parliament for some months. The members have said all the bitter things they had to say to one another, and returned to their homes not so well paid as they would wish to be, and very dissatisfied with the Upper House for using the curb so freely.

The Earl and Countess of Onslow have transferred their distinguished presence to us, and I hope our clerk of the weather will be gracious to them that they may enjoy their visit to this generally-considered most English of colonial towns. The lanes and country round about Christchurch for many miles in their summer beauty are worth driving through, and as I understand the Governor means to drive a four-in-hand here they will make some grand excursions.

I told you of the very excellent performance for the parish of Merivale in my last. The gipsy concert for St. John's, which came off the same evening, was so successful it is to be repeated at the Oddfellows' Hall, the chorus being strengthened by friends. The dresses were most picturesque, while the performers' faces were apparently stained, so that they were the correct colour. Many favourite airs from the 'Bohemian Girl' were on the programme.

At Opawa, on the same evening, Dr. Murray-Aynsley delivered a most instructive and interesting lecture on 'How to take care of Number One,' with several tableaux of the use of St. John's Ambulance Association in any sudden mishap. You know, Bee, there are sceptics now who are inclined to laugh at this most useful Association, but let them get a broken bone and have to be moved a distance, it will soon tell whether a little ambulance knowledge is good or not. The tableaux were interspersed with music—solos on the piano from Mrs. Wilding and Miss Tallot, and songs by Mrs. H. Murray-Aynsley, Miss Fry, and Mr. G. March.

On the same day Mrs. Cunningham had a most enjoyable evening at her house, Merivale, Captain Kidley, of the Ionic, being among the guests. Prior to the departure of that fine steamer two luncheon parties were much enjoyed by friends of the genial Captain on board, and though the weather was decidedly cross-grained, nothing else was, and every disagreeable was forgotten in the kind hospitality of our host and his officers. Among those present were Mr. and Mrs. P. Cunningham and Miss Cunningham; Mrs. Stead and her niece (Miss Palmer), Mr. and Mrs. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Callender, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Thomas, Mrs. and Miss Graham, the Hon. E. V. Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Chynoweth, the Misses Akman, and others. Captain Anderson was also present, and a most enjoyable time was spent, as after luncheon music and recitations passed the afternoon all too quickly.

I am glad to tell you Mr. J. T. Matson has sufficiently recovered from his recent illness (a narrow escape of rheumatic fever) to go to the Hot Springs at the Hanmer Plains. He is accompanied by Miss Matson, Mrs. (Dr.) Thomas, Mr. Hockley, and one or two other friends. I hope the genial air, companionship, etc., will soon restore him to his usual jollity.

A very interesting wedding took place at St. Mark's, Opawa—that of Miss Ethel Harley, eldest daughter of Mr. E. T. Harley, Manager of the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Company, to Mr. J. D. Millton, of Birch Hill. The day was as miserable as it well could be—just that soft rain that makes everything so dirty, but the church and the bride looked lovely. Mrs. A. M. Olivier, with a number of willing assistants, are to be congratulated on the very effective decoration of the church. The altar was almost covered with a bank of white camellias, the vases being filled with the graceful snowflake and delicate Narcissus. The lectern was covered with white flowers, beginning with the heavy ones and fern fronds at the bottom, finishing with snowflakes. The altar rails and pulpit were alike beautifully decorated. The bride wore an exquisite dress of the richest ivory white duchesse satin, with high puffed sleeves, a long bodice having frills of embroidered chiffon, long full train, the front of the skirt edged with a tinkled tulle. A half wreath of orange blossoms and plain tulle veil, with magnificent bridal bouquet with long streamers, completed a most tasteful toilette. Her bridesmaids, six in number, made a pretty group, all attired in primrose-coloured Liberty silk. They were the Misses Nellie, Ella, and Pearl Harley, Miss Millton, Miss Banks, and Miss Delamain. The dresses were made with pleated bodices, full sleeves, and paniers, plain full skirts; the younger girls' skirts were tucked. They wore hats of Tulle lace straw trimmed with folds of primrose *cripe de chine* and white ostrich tips. They carried lovely bouquets of primroses tied with long white streamers, and each wore a moonstone bangle, the gift of the bridegroom. Mrs. Harley was handsomely dressed in a pale heliotrope beguine silk trimmed with gold embroidered galon; bonnet

of gold and heliotrope, and bouquet of yellow jonquills made a strikingly handsome costume; Mrs. Banks (the bride's aunt) wore a charming dress of shot-grey silk with trimming of fine black lace and jet, black lace straw bonnet with pink flowers, and posy bouquet of hyacinths; Mrs. Taylor (aunt of the bride), dark silk dress, three quarter cloak of white Limerick lace, black bonnet with heliotrope, and bouquet of primroses; Mrs. W. V. Millton, an elegant dress of a soft grey satin merveilleux trimmed with fine black lace, bonnet *en suite*, and a lovely bouquet of violets and snowflakes; Miss Millton, peacock blue dress with toque to match. Mr. E. B. Millton acted as best man, and Messrs F. and A. Millton and the three brothers of the bride as groomsmen. As the bridal pair left the church four little girls in white strewed their path to the gates with primroses. A very large number of guests were present, among whom were Mrs. Peacock, in a dark ruby silk dress, with black silk and lace mantle, black bonnet with white flowers; Mrs. P. Cunningham, brown silk with fawn embroidered vest, ruby velvet bonnet; Mrs. Stead, pretty tweed, with jacket to match, lace straw bonnet trimmed with fawn and beaver; Miss Palmer, a very pretty costume of flowered foulard trimmed with lace, lace straw hat with vieux rose ostrich feather; Mrs. Rhodes, an exquisite silver-grey brocade, black and steel bonnet; Miss Rhodes, an electric blue, with brown vest bordered with fawn and two rows round the skirt, tiny black and yellow bonnet; Mrs. Townsend, dark green cloth with embroidered vest, black bonnet with pink roses and foliage; Mrs. A. M. Olivier, a fawn costume, lace straw bonnet with pale blue, and a lovely bouquet of pink camellias and sprays of forget-me-not; Mrs. Staveley, black merveilleux, with maize front veiled with beaded net, bonnet to match; Mrs. Murray-Aynsley, black, with pink ostrich tips in her bonnet; Mrs. H. Murray-Aynsley, handsome black brocade, and cream hat; Mrs. and Miss Cowlishaw, Mrs. and Miss Tabart, Mrs. and Miss Withnall, Mrs. J. Anderson, Mrs. F. Robinson, Mrs. Enbling, Mrs. Charles Clark, the Misses Newton, Mrs. Winter, Miss Thomson, and several more. At the house a large marquee had been erected, and it was splendidly managed so as to seem just like another room. Here the bride and bridegroom, under a horseshoe of primroses, stood to receive the congratulations of the numerous guests. The bride's travelling dress was a perfectly-fitting blue-grey corduroy cloth, with vest of gold embroidery, hat to match with white ostrich feathers. They left for the South about four o'clock, and instead of a stinging shower of rice, soft sweet primroses. It was called a primrose wedding, and they certainly were in profusion. The table decorations were composed entirely of them, ferns, and soft silk. The presents were very handsome and choice, numbering about a hundred and fifty, but it would take too long to tell. Two days later a dance was given at Birch Hill in honour of the occasion. The wool shed was gaily decorated, and guests came from all the neighbouring stations. During the evening Miss Millton and her brothers, with several friends, joined the dancers, when the health of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Millton was drunk with three cheers.

Mr. W. F. Warner, of the Commercial Hotel, and known, I suppose, throughout the length and breadth of New Zealand, was also married the same day as the marriage of Mr. Millton to Miss Little, of Nelson. The ceremony took place at Avonside Church, the Rev. W. A. Pascoe officiating. It was a quiet wedding, the bride and bridegroom leaving that evening by the steamer for Wellington.

Mrs. W. B. Common had a pleasant little supper party that evening. The table looked most dainty with its decoration of pale green Liberty silk and spring flowers. Mr. Rolland, Miss Wm. Black's brother, sang several songs.

Mrs. Michael Campbell, Papanti, had a dance for young people the previous evening, which was a great success. The music was supplied by the lady guests, and there were no programmes, so it proved one of those old-fashioned, informal, thoroughly enjoyable affairs. The house was made a perfect bower with flowers, and Mrs. Campbell, in a black lace dress, a most gracious hostess, ably assisted by her daughter in a cream gown. Mrs. J. R. Campbell wore white with sprays of japonica; Mrs. F. Hittan, in yellow; Mrs. George Harper, black; Miss I. Cowlishaw, white silk; Miss Loughnan, blue; Mrs. H. Murray-Aynsley, black lace and crimson; Miss L. Murray-Aynsley, black, with knots of yellow ribbon; Miss Maude, black; the Misses Helmore, one in cream, the other heliotrope; Miss Palmer, cream; Miss Hutton, black, with tan shoes.

The annual athletic cross-country steeplechase came off at Plumpton Park. It was a very cold day, and a long way from town, yet a goodly number of ladies were on the stand. It is astonishing, if our brothers or cousins, or even friends are taking part, what we will not endure. Mrs. Cunningham chaperoned a large party in a drag driven out by Mr. Douglas Kimbell.

You know the old saying, it is impossible to please everybody, but for once it is very near pleasing everybody when I speak of the appointment of Mr. W. B. Perceval as Agent-General. Their departure will be a great loss to Christchurch.

DOLLY VALE.

## MERRYTHOUGHT SLAVES.

HAVE you ever made any merrythought slaves? They are very comical in appearance, and readily bring in sixpences at bazaars. The merrythoughts must be thoroughly cleaned, and have little heads and feet added in black sealing-wax, the eyes being formed of white chalk beads. Little cloth coats and collars and undershirts complete the outfit of the little creature, each one of which should bear a label inscribed with the following rhyme:—

Once I was a Merrythought,  
Now I'm a little slave,  
Sold to wipe your pen.