

one from another, but I noticed Mrs Bowen, in brown satin; Miss Sievwright, in French grey with yoke and girle of pink; Miss Halenstein, white; Miss Reynolds, black dress, and long grey opera cloak; Mrs Martin, cream and red; Miss Belcher, grey velvet; Miss Stephenson and Miss Tui, white brocaded opera cloaks; Miss Isaacs, black. We are very grudgingly giving up our theatrical treat. Mr Walter Howe is a splendid actor. You will see a magnificent piece of acting in the furnace scene of 'Maester and Man,' but, as the season progressed, we saw him taking the part of nobler characters, and his Frank Thornhill in 'The Golden Ladder' leaves behind him a pleasant recollection. We looked every inch the brave young missionary he represented. Mr Baker is also a fine actor, and manager, so irrefragable does he make his villains, to carry the sympathies of the audience with him, and although he generally represents a 'good-for-nothing,' still we are always delighted when he comes out safe. Miss Blande need only to repeat her visit to prove how much she has won upon the people. Both she and Mrs Holt were the recipients of some lovely flowers.

A farewell concert was given to Mr John Deaker, who is leaving for Sydney. For ten years past he has always most good-naturedly assisted at charitable affairs, and his many friends gave him a good send-off. Miss Rose Blancy, looking very pretty in pink silk, sang 'Kathleen Mavourneen' in her own sweet way, also, 'My Faded Violet.' Miss M. Graham, wearing a very pretty black evening dress, sang 'Ever of Thee,' and was greatly appreciated. Mr W. Woods was among the soloists, and, of course, Mr Deaker, who received a big ovation. Miss Mary Drumm acted throughout the evening as accompanist playing with expression, and looking very nice in a pretty terra-cotta dress.

Another farewell concert was the one I previously alluded to, given to Mr Arthur Hunter. To tell the truth I was not there. I could not find it in my heart to miss the last night of the theatre, but I hear it was in every way a success. Miss Rose Blancy sang charmingly, and Miss Blanche Joel and Miss Cooper were among the lady vocalists, Mr Charles Umbers, Mr Denzeng, and Mr Manson among the gentlemen, but if I don't leave off writing I shall miss the mail. I wish I were going with my letter as far as Christchurch to be present there at the opening night of 'Maester and Man.'

MAUDE.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE,

OCTOBER 9.

We are having the queerest weather you can imagine. First it is beautifully warm and a few days later we have it just as cold as winter, and a week or so ago we saw the distant hills which surround us covered with snow.

Some of the grass Tennis Courts have opened again, and we have had some excellent play. It is very early, but singularly enough, the ground is in splendid condition, probably owing to our exceptionally mild winter. I think, as usual, Mr and Mrs Charlie Johnston were the first to open theirs, but next month all the clubs open, and we shall soon turn our attention towards tournaments. The late Mrs D. Riddiford's Tennis Court will be greatly missed during the next winter. I have not heard who is to take the house.

Dr Newman has lately bought that valuable property in Hobson-street, which belonged to Mr George Schultz, and the family intend residing there. Dr Adams has also just made a new purchase of that fine residence on the Terrace which belonged to Mr Godfrey Knight.

We have had absolutely nothing going on of interest this week except Mr Prouse's concert. This took place at the Opera House, and attracted a large audience. The programme was a very popular one, including 'Nazareth' and 'The Wanderer' (Schubert), sung by Mr Prouse, and 'Bel Raggio' (Rossini) by Miss McClean. Mr R. B. Williams sang 'An Evening Song,' and 'Smile and Bid Me Live,' and the Misses Hammerton played the Slavonic dances. Miss Grady sang a serenade very prettily. Mr Prouse gave the concert as an announcement of his return from England, where he has been receiving lessons from the best masters. The improvement in his style and voice is great, but I should imagine he hardly allowed himself time to accomplish all he intended with his powerful voice. He will be warmly welcomed back among his brother musicians, for he used always to be so good in helping at concerts, etc. Miss McClean was in capital voice, and sang beautifully, the flexibility of her powerful soprano voice being especially noticeable in 'Bel Raggio.' Mr Williams was just as pleasing as ever. His quiet, sympathetic tenor voice is always listened to with pleasure. Mr McDuff Boyd played a violin solo, and a trio by Miss McClean, Mr Prouse, and Mr Williams was, I think, generally considered the gem of the evening. Miss McClean wore a beautiful black velvet gown made with high puffed sleeves and a very long train, the front being of soft white material laced across with black. Miss Grady wore mauve with bands of dark velvet. The Misses Hammerton, respectively, wore black with white sash, and white with maize sash. Altogether Mr Prouse is to be congratulated upon the evident success of his first concert in Wellington. Mr Parker conducted. Miss McClean had two bouquets thrown to her, and Miss Grady one after her song. Mr Prouse was greeted by prolonged applause on his appearance.

An excellent entertainment tendered to Mr Harcham has just taken place at the Opera House. The first part was musical, and consisted of songs by Miss Trehair (Osborne), Mrs Parsons and Mr Nairn; violin duets by Misses Cable and Pilcher, and Messrs McDuff Boyd and Maginnity; a zither solo by Herr Theo Geizer; pianoforte pieces by Miss Louise Wilson (late of the Royal Academy of Music), and a sketch by Mr C. Hale. An overture was then given by Jupp's private band, and then came the second part, which consisted of a farcical comedieta called 'A Happy Pair,' which was acted by Miss Moeller (Mrs Honeyton) and Mr A. S. Patterson (Mr Honeyton). Mr J. Maginnity accompanied the vocalists, and Messrs Patterson and Stansfield acted as joint secretaries.

Next week you shall hear of the Harmonic Society's concert. They are to have 'The Revenge' again. The soloists are to be Mr R. B. Williams, Miss Stanford, Miss Grady, and Miss Upham. Mr Parker, as usual, will conduct. Let me think of some of the new spring dresses I have seen lately. Mrs E. C. Reynolds, who is visiting us from Dunedin, and staying with her mother, Mrs Ed. Richardson,

is wearing a pretty silver-grey tweed with white shirt front, and black hat with feathers, and a fluffy grey fur boa. Mrs C. Pharaayn and Miss Pharaayn have also been visiting Wellington, the former wearing a handsome fawn Phaeton cloak with silk hood looped with gold cord, and a large brown hat. Mrs Newman is wearing a handsome fawn tweed made with a long basque, and bonnet to match; Miss Medley, a light grey tweed, with Newmarket coat, and black hat with light feathers; Mrs Travers, dark blue, the sleeves and trimmings brocaded with large dull red spots, and jet bonnet; Mrs Wardrop, terra cotta cloth braided with black, and tiny jet bonnet; Miss Kemp, fawn three-quarter cloak, and fawn hat with feathers; Miss McClean, a handsome Scotch green and blue plaid, and black jet bonnet with bright green velvet; Miss George, a grey tweed; Miss M. George, a pretty fawn gown, and small fawn hat; Miss Dransfield, a dark blue gown and shirt front; Mrs G. Knight, black three-quarter cape, and jet bonnet; the Misses Harding, fawn three-quarter capes, and large hats.

The Star Boating Club opens with a large afternoon tea at the sheds. There is also to be a procession of boats. It is always a fashionable gathering.

The Wellington Football Club have just had their annual sports at the Basin Reserve. Unfortunately, the weather was unpleasant—cold and windy—but there were still a great number of people present. The Ladies' Bracelet Race was won by Mr Morrah, and amongst others who distinguished themselves were Messrs Barnett (2), Pownall, W. Turnbull, Heywood, Anderson, Hume, and Critchshank. We were most hospitably entertained with afternoon tea by the Club. It was served in the grandstand, and proved most acceptable.

RUBY.

NAPIER.

(Delayed in transmission.)

DEAR BEE,

OCTOBER 2.

The Cinderella dance takes place to-night, but as I want to catch the mail, I am afraid I cannot wait to tell you about it. Next week I shall hope to do so. I believe it is to be a splendid ball. The town is certainly full of country people if that is any criterion, but, at any rate, the more the merrier, and I think I may safely predict a great crowd.

Mr and Mrs Kettle gave a fancy dress ball last week. It was a most enjoyable dance, and not only a dance, for there were charades, too, during the early part of the evening, and then dancing, which was kept up until a late hour. The house is delightfully planned for a dance. The large covered-in verandah affords so much extra space, and then the garden is so delightful. The dresses were very quaint and pretty. Mrs Logan and Miss Minna Chapman both looked exceedingly well, so did Miss Ida Tiffen. Mrs Pat McClean's costume was much admired; it was that of a Greek Girl; and Miss Dixon looked very charming in her pretty costume. Miss Leslie Thompson looked so nice. She went as an Iris, and had her white flowing robes trimmed with these very effective flowers; she also carried a large bouquet of the same. Everyone seemed to enjoy the dance very much indeed. Miss St. Hill, Miss A. St. Hill, and Miss Nelson were there from the country. Miss St. Hill looked one of the best in the room.

When the Bowling Green was opened the weather promised to be fine, but I am sorry to say the fine weather did not last, and it came on most intensely cold and bleak. Notwithstanding this drawback a large number of people assembled on the ground, and during the afternoon some of the ladies dispensed tea, and handed round cake and bread and butter. I noticed Mrs Balfour looking very nice in a becoming dark gown, and Miss Hitchings and several others. The Bowling Green is looking very nice; the lawn is a perfect picture now. It will be a pity if it gets dried up, although we cannot expect it will retain its lovely present green appearance all the hot summer. We think the courts will be well patronised when once the fine weather sets in.

Napier is looking most lovely at present; indeed, I really think this is the time of year for a stranger to visit our pretty town. The hills are beautifully green, and there are a number of acacia trees in bloom. The contrast of the green against the yellow is very charming, with an occasional glimpse of blue sea thrown in.

The Napier Operatic Society are very busy rehearsing for 'Madame Favart.' We are looking forward to a glorious opera season. The performers are all well up in their parts, and are sparing no pains to make it a success. During the opera a Court *minuet* is to be danced by Misses K. Hitchings and Guy, and Messrs Von Sturmer and Arthur Kennedy. The ladies are to wear exceedingly handsome dresses with very long trains, which it has taken considerable practice to learn how to manage. I believe there are to be more than a hundred new dresses made especially for this opera—in fact no stone has been left unturned to make the season one of the most enjoyable that has ever been in Napier. I will tell you more about it after it is over.

Mrs W. Tabuteau gave an afternoon tea last week, and varied the usual entertainment by inviting gentlemen as well as ladies. I do not see why the men should not be invited to afternoon tea sometimes. They come out of their office tired and hungry, as a rule, or at any rate thirsty, and I am sure must bless the good Samaritan who asks them to a most enjoyable afternoon tea and cake *ad lib.* Amongst those present at Mrs Tabuteau's were the Misses Fulton, Iris Fulton, Millet, Hughes, Humphries, Hamlin, Hoy, and others, and Messrs Arthur Kennedy, Von Sturmer, and another. Miss Tabuteau is a charming hostess, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent.

I must tell you of yet another engagement—that of Miss Welsman to Mr Tennent. We believe the engagement is not to be a very long one, and is to terminate shortly in matrimony. Mr Tennent is fortunate in having secured an exceedingly nice girl for his wife.

I am glad to be able to tell you that Mrs Harry Warren is a little better, and has been able to walk about a little just for a short time each day. I heard that Mr and Mrs Warren are going to reside for a time at that lovely place, 'The Lawn,' at Clive, but cannot say if the report is a correct one. Miss Thompson is still with her sister. Mrs and Miss Hamlin have returned from Wellington, and are looking all the better for their trip. Mrs Hurace Baker is also back.

She took her young daughter to Wellington to Mrs Swainson's school.

I noticed Mrs Howley in town looking very nice in grey gown, stylish hat; and Miss Kate Hitchings, in salmon pink flannellette; also Miss Lascelles, in navy gown, fawn jacket, large hat with feathers.

DEAR BEE,

OCTOBER 8.

The last of the Cinderella dances has taken place, and was one of the very best balls that have ever been held in Napier. Great credit is due to Mr W. Anderson for the pains he took to ensure the comfort of everyone. (On the morning of the ball he actually got up about four in the morning and went down to the theatre to see what he could do. I am sure he must have felt gratified when he saw the result of so much trouble. To begin with the supper table was exceedingly pretty. All our lovely spring flowers are now in full bloom, and evidently nobody grudged sending their best and choicest blooms. Prominent on the table were an exquisite basket of jonquils, lilac lilies, and other flowers most tastefully arranged by Miss J. P. Hamlin, who, as everybody knows, has the knack, if anybody has, of arranging flowers. When the curtain drew up the supper-table looked very tempting, the dishes being many and varied, and seemed to be endless, for as fast as one dish was emptied another was put in its place. We had oysters, too, Bee, and delicious soup, with cream. Now I must tell you about the gowns. There were so many people at the ball it is almost impossible to remember every frock, so those who are not mentioned must forgive me. However, I will do my best. There were numbers of country people in for the dance, and some of the frocks were exceedingly handsome. Mrs John Moore, from Rakamoana, looked exceedingly well in a black and yellow gown; the sleeves were so pretty, being caught together by tiny yellow bows; Mrs Hamlin looked very nice and natty in yellow silk, high collar, red rose in her bodice, and red flower in her hair; Mrs Gore looked very well in white silk trimmed with exquisite chiffon edged with gold; she wore a diamond star in her hair; Mrs W. Tabuteau was much admired in bright pink silk elegantly made; her two sisters, Miss Fulton and Miss Iris Fulton, also wore pink; Miss Fulton, a very pale pink; Miss Moss (who has come down from Mrs Joe Rhodes) wore white trimmed with chiffon; Miss Large, white, with red flowers (a pretty frock); Mrs J. Rhodes, from Ruanuiwha, wore cream; Miss Glendinning, an extremely stylish gown of white satin with over-lying of soft grey net (one of the handsomest in the room); Mrs Glendinning wore black and red; Mrs Walker, bright blue silk, white front; Mrs Oliver, pale blue; Miss Millet, cream, with heliotrope spots; Miss Nelson looked very nice in her pretty heliotrope gown; Miss Lucy Williams, her lovely mauve silk with red flowers; Miss Newton, blue; Miss Daisy Newton, bright cardinal net; Miss Beamish, dark green net spangled with silver; Miss Fanny Beamish, white and silver; Miss Weber, pink fisherman's net; Mrs Logan looked very charming in white; it suited her to perfection; her sister, Miss Taylor, wore black; she looked exceedingly well; Miss Rhodes, pale pink; Miss Locke, pretty pink frock; Miss Milly Rhodes very handsome white silk trimmed with white and gold chiffon (Christchurch gown). To my mind Miss Ida Tiffen and Miss Hewson were decidedly the belles. Miss Tiffen did look really quite bewitching in a most lovely white gown glistening with dew-drops; Miss Hewson wore a very pretty pale pink net, with silk bodice (an English gown); Miss Mary Lowry, a lovely heliotrope with sprays of real elderknit; Mrs P. S. McClean, red underskirt, black lace overskirt. We were so pleased to see Mrs Vickerman at our dance. She was such a favourite with us when she lived in Napier—always so bright and merry. As on her redy remarks, it did not seem to her amongst us once more. She wore black and rose (a pretty gown); Miss Shaw looked very handsome in pale blue; Miss Hughes, black net, with a very handsome red sash; Miss Thompson, graceful white gown; Miss Jago, black embroidered with yellow; Miss Minna Chapman, a becoming gown of pink trimmed with silver braid; Miss Flossie Bell, heliotrope; Miss Dixon looked very charming in pink. This ball might well be called a pink ball, for so many were the pink gowns worn. Mrs Balfour looked extremely well in eau-de-nil silk; her niece, Miss Barton, wore white with marguerites, and carried an exquisite bouquet of the same; Miss Hitchings looked well in white; Miss Hilda Hitchings, pink; and Miss Kate Hitchings, white and yellow striped net; Mrs Kells also wore a very handsome gown—white silk covered with spangles; and Miss Bower, a very becoming gown of pale pink silk, shoes to match. For a wonder we were short of men, which is not usually the case, and in consequence there were rather more wall-flowers than usual. I missed several of our dancing men, and I also missed Miss Hamlin and Miss Lascelles. The latter young lady has recently lost a niece, and we presume kept away on that account. We had a real good gallop to wind up with, which everyone seemed to fully enjoy, and before leaving the ball-room three cheers were given for the energetic secretary, which were heartily responded to.

I am told the boating season is to open shortly. Our young men are busy getting their boats painted and done up ready for the opening of the season, an auspicious day, and generally looked forward to by both sexes.

We are losing another of our residents Mr. P. A. F. Birch and family. We much regret their going. Mr Birch was some little time ago reduced by the Government. He accordingly went to Australia, to look round, as the saying is, and succeeded in getting a really good billet. He returned last week for his wife and children, and I believe leaves again for Australia to-morrow. It seems a pity our old residents are going from us in this manner. Napier is not what it was a dozen years ago. We don't see the same old faces now that we saw then.

Well, Bee, no time for more, I am afraid, so must leave the rest of my news for my next letter.

GLADYS.

JOURNALISTIC LOYALTY.

Lucy (indignantly): 'To think of our names appearing in this paper—your paper—as being engaged! And there's not [sob] a word of truth in it!'
 Von Favart (calmly): 'Then, as a loyal scribe, let us make it true. Will you see my wife?'
 Lucy (faintly): 'Well, for the dreadful paper's sake—yes.'