

G. Rhodes, a very handsome cloak of deep cream embroidered with gold; Miss Rhodes' was of cornflower blue with gold embroidery; Miss E. Rhodes, deep cream with gold fringe; the Misses Williams (Wellington), pretty grey dresses; Miss Hennah, grey striped gauze; Mrs Campbell and Miss Clarke, in black; Miss Campbell, white Liberty silk; Mrs and Miss Worthly, Mrs and Miss Robison, Mrs and the Misses Stoddart, and many others were present. I must confess to a feeling of disappointment in the exhibition, but the want of colour and the very young efforts must be an answerable for that.

We had not at all a nice day for the opening of the yachting season, and those bidden by the members of the Corinthian Club for a cruise to Parau Bay did not all put in an appearance. Amongst those who braved the weather were Mrs and Miss Kimbell, Mr and Mrs Clifford, Mr and the Misses Maude, Mr and Mrs R. J. Scott, Mrs and Miss Campbell, Mrs Wilson, Miss Lean, Miss Beswick, Miss Studholme. Five yachts and two steam launches went across, and the weather cleared sufficiently to make it pleasant immediately after the start. The tea was much enjoyed, and a few dingy races got up both for ladies and gentlemen.

With the Tugairi Mrs Flavell returned to New Zealand, and gave her friends quite a thrill of pleasure, as no one knew she was coming, but it is only for a short visit, as I hear she returns to England after Christmas.

We had such a day as we would have had if it had been specially ordered for Cup Day, not too glaring sunshine, yet delightfully warm and bright. Never before has such a wealth of beauty and fashion gathered on the Riccarton lawn, the lovely dresses worn by the ladies being displayed to the best advantage. The Earl and Countess of Onslow and party drove out to a perfectly appointed four-in-hand, and were conducted to the stand by the stewards to the strains of the 'National Anthem' from the Garrison Band stationed on the lawn, and which gave some very enjoyable music through the day. The stewards entertained His Excellency the Governor and Lady Onslow and friends to luncheon on the grounds in a marquee at the rear of the stand. The Countess looked extremely well in a cream silk dress with pale pink floral design, the tabs at the foot lined with pink, and bonnet of pink heather, cream gloves, and chiffon parasol; the Hon. Mrs Parker wore a skirt of cream silk with pruned silk short paniers, the bodice of cream and pruned and gold tinselled brocade, gold and cream bonnet; Mrs E. C. J. Stevens, dark heliotrope silk, long circular mantle of black lace, black and heliotrope bonnet; Mrs Rolleston, handsome terra-cotta brocade, black lace mantle, black bonnet with cream roses; Mrs Boyle, a lovely golden-brown soft silk covered with black lace, bonnet to match; Mrs Wilder, a charming costume of pale figured silk and chiffon, with brown velvet streamers, bonnet to match; Mrs Pitman, a white flowered silk, with dark green silk sleeves, and vest covered with rich guipure lace, white bonnet with tips of pink and green, matching the flowers in the dress; Mrs Alan Scott, blue silk trimmed with black velvet lace bonnet to match; Mrs Stead, soft cream dress trimmed with gold embroidery, pretty cream bonnet with black velvet strings; Mrs Rhind, French grey dress with pink vest, bonnet to match; Mrs Henry Mackenzie (Dunedin), grey striped dress with flounce of cornflower blue silk round the skirt covered with black lace, sleeves of the blue silk; Mrs Dalgety, soft white silk; Mrs J. D. Milton (of Birch Hill), fawn coloured brocade trimmed with thick lace; Mrs Heaton Rhodes, an exquisite dress of dove-coloured silk, mermaid trimmed with silver, and long velvet cloak of a darker shade also trimmed with silver; the Misses Williams (Wellington), pretty grey dresses with hats to match, one with white flowers, the other with cornflowers; Mrs K. Wilson, buttercup silk with deep black lace flounce, bonnet to correspond; her daughter, twin-coloured silk with brown velvet Swiss belt; Mrs Smithson, white dress, black velvet trimming; Mrs G. Lee, white cambric and embroidery; Mrs Watrup, a fawn costume; Mrs G. Roberts, a grey dress with brocaded front, grey bonnet; Mrs John Anderson, black and white check dress; Mrs Lewin, fawn and brown, fawn bonnet with pink roses; Mrs Bruges, a flowered green delaine, gold girdle, aeroplane hat with white silk poodles; Mrs R. D. Thomas, heliotrope grey with large spots, gold embroidered vest, black and gold bonnet; Mrs Burns, a cream crepe dress with chiffon and bands of pale blue silk embroidery, gold and white bonnet with pale blue; Mrs Acton Adams, a handsome grey wide-striped satin, grey bonnet with coronet of silver, grey cloak embroidered with silver; Mrs Devenish Meares, serpent green silk with brocaded front, cream lace and gold trimming, bonnet to match, Mrs Common, brown with fancy spot, silk brocaded front, brown three-quarter cloak with gold braiding, brown and gold bonnet; Mrs P. Cunningham, blue silk with cream vest; Miss Cunningham, pale grey dress with cream vest, grey hat; Miss Helmore, cream Liberty silk, cream hat and feathers; Miss E. Helmore, white dress, braided with gold, white hat; Miss Delamain, canary-coloured Liberty silk, fancy straw hat with ostrich tips; Mrs Wilding, white dress, black lace mantle and bonnet; Miss K. Tabart, heliotrope flowered delaine with velvet yoke, pink hat with heliotrope; Miss E. Tabart, grey dress and hat with pink roses; Mrs H. Burns, black dress and hat with pink roses; Mrs O'Brien, gold, black and gold bonnet; Miss Stephenson (Dunedin), a lovely dress of pale blue merveil-lue with silver trimming, black net hat; Miss Otterson, pale green with gold cord trimming; Miss Brett (Auckland) pretty soft grey princess dress, black hat with pink roses; Miss Q. Campbell, cornflower blue flowered delaine with blue silk yoke and trim to the bodice, black and blue bonnet; Mrs Greenwood, navy blue silk, black lace mantle; the Misses Greenwood, grey dresses and hats; Miss Studholme, heliotrope flowered delaine, white hat with flowers to match; the Misses Wynn-Williams, black and white check dresses, white hats; Mrs Wynn-Williams, black; Mrs Cowlishaw, blue corduroy velvet, black bonnet with flowers to match; Miss Cowlishaw, grey dress and hat with yellow wing; Miss I. Cowlishaw, blue flowered delaine, white hat with blue flowers; Miss Way, a fancy check summer tweed of fawn and brown, straw hat trimmed with fawn; Miss Fairhurst, sage green plush and silk dress, grey hat and parasol; Miss Palmer, pale pink satin with frills of white lace, white hat; Mrs Rhodes, handsome grey brocade, black lace mantle, black and gold bonnet; Miss Rhodes, white muslin and very fine embroidery, white hat; Mrs Birch, an embroidered costume of electric blue, cloak and bonnet to match; Mrs J. T. Peacock, black; Mrs McCrae, heliotrope and white spot dress trimmed with lace, white hat; the Misses Bowen, pretty blue dresses trimmed with white lace, black hats

with cream roses; Mrs H. Murray-Aynsley, white; the Misses Murray-Aynsley, flowered delaine; Mrs Tyree, green flowered delaine; Miss McKee, pale grey dress, white hat with feathers. There were many more beautiful dresses, the gold embroideries make such handsome trimmings and most of the bodices in thin materials have a frill round the bottom of lace, I noticed. The three-quarter and princess capes find much favour too, and the bonnets are airy, fairy things. Altogether Cup Day of 1891 was a more brilliant one than any of its predecessors. There were more strangers present too, both from North and South. The racing was an unexpected win in almost every race, none of the favourites coming in first. The C.J.C. ball is to be the ball of balls this year, so I shall be able to tell you in my next.

DOLLY VALE.

## NELSON.

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 20.

The third of the Harmonic Society's concerts for this year came off in the Provincial Hall. The work chosen was 'Samson,' and for a small town like Nelson having a society capable of undertaking such a piece says a great deal for the musical portion of the community, and reflects great credit on Herr Von Zimmerman, the conductor. The chief thing that at once struck me on entering the hall was the great number of ladies in the chorus and the comparatively small number of gentlemen, but the small number made up in vigour for what they lacked in numbers. But twenty gentlemen can't do the work of fifty, and I don't suppose there were more than twenty at the outside in the chorus of the last concert, and there must have been between forty and fifty last night, Bee, you will at once say, like all the ladies in Nelson, 'Where are the gentlemen?' The soloists were Mrs Percy Adams in white cashmere with yellow silk trimmings; Mrs Honiker (who, I believe, has been asked to take part in the 'Messiah' at Wellington), in white silk, brocade panel; Mrs Patterson, flowered delaine, green ribbons; Mrs Harkness, in white; and Messrs Chatterton, Kempthorne, Grace and Fell. Among the chorus I recognised Miss B. Atkinson, black lace; Miss F. Sealy, white, with lace collar; Mrs R. Kingdon, white delaine, old gold plush opera cloak; Miss L. Fell, white, with pink ribbons; Miss Pitt, terra-cotta silk and net; Mrs Mackay, black, with pretty heliotrope plush opera cloak. In the audience were Miss Pritt, pink nun's veiling; Miss Richmond, black lace, white silk opera cloak; Miss C. Richmond, heliotrope, white silk opera cloak; Mrs Preshaw, green brocaded silk trimmed with flowered lace; Miss Preshaw, pale green walking dress; Mrs Thornton, green velvet; Miss Hunter-Brown, pretty pale green Liberty silk, with fashionable frill round the neck; Mrs Fell, grey dress, Indian evening wrap; Miss Watson, green; Miss Gribben, flowered delaine; Miss Catley, white; Miss Cartie, fawn walking dress; and Mesdames Richmond, Wood, Ledger, Mackay, Chatterton, H. Edwards, Kempthorne, and Pitt, also Misses Ledger (2), Heaps, Wood, Jones (2), and Boor.

Mr Tenynson Smith, the temperance advocate, has been delivering a series of temperance lectures here to crowded audiences. The lectures were brought to a close by a literary and musical entertainment, in which several well-known local amateurs took part, as well as Mr H. B. Williams, of Wellington. Mr Williams, who possesses a soft, sweet voice, gave three songs, and one of them being encored. There were a great many ladies in the audience. Amongst them I noticed Mrs Bowen, Mrs Pitt, Mrs Lightfoot, Mrs Sealy, Mrs J. Oldham, Mrs Isitt, Mrs Gillow, Miss Pitt, Miss L. Fell, Miss Cook, Miss F. Sealy, Miss Worsley, Miss Bell, and Miss Morgan.

There was a special general meeting of the Lawn Tennis Club to decide whether we ladies should pay a subscription or not. You will, no doubt, think us behind the times, Bee, in allowing ladies to belong to the club free of subscription. Anyhow, this rule has now been altered, and nobody is allowed on the ground but those who are subscribers to the club.

Nelson is going to make a regular carnival during the first week in February next in celebration of the jubilee of the settlement. A special feature of the week will be the number and variety of the amusements provided for the children. On the 1st February, anniversary day, a salute will be fired by the artillery, and there is to be a procession which is expected to include three thousand children, who are to be entertained afterwards at an *al fresco* feast. On Tuesday there will be the Regatta; on Wednesday races at Richmond Park, and a children's fête in town; on Thursday, more races, and a children's concert at night; on Friday there will be a fire brigade demonstration and grand display of fireworks for the children. There is also to be a plain and fancy dress ball and a dinner to the old settlers who came out in 1842. It seems that when the Duke of Edinburgh was here he left £50 in the hands of Mr Curtis, who was then superintendent, to provide at some future time a treat for the Nelson children. This money has been lying at interest in the bank, and now there is quite a respectable sum, which will be expended in some special form or other upon this occasion for the entertainment of the children.

Nelson gave to the colony many of her most distinguished public men, including Sir E. W. Stafford, Sir D. Monro, Sir W. Fox, Sir F. Dillon Bell, Sir F. A. Weld, Mr Jollie, and others, and has in other ways occupied in the past an important place in the history of the colony. So it was decided to have a history of the settlement prepared for its foundation in 1842 to the present time, but the difficulty was to find anyone to write it. The time was so short, and there was such a mass of material to be sifted, that it was felt justice could hardly be done to the work. Then there was a further difficulty in finding a printer willing to undertake the risk of publication. However, both difficulties have been overcome. Mr C. T. Fell undertook to collect information, and after a good deal of persuasion Judge Broad agreed to write the book, and the proprietors of the *Colonist* accepted the risk of printing and publishing it. So we are looking for an interesting account of the struggles of the early settlers, and we are promised a true account of the Wairau massacre, in which Captain Wakefield and many other brave men were massacred.

I hear that already most of the hotel accommodation has been bespoken, but the Committee are determined to do all they can to provide for the accommodation of visitors. Our

quiet little town will hardly know itself during this very gay week.

PHYLLIS.

## NAPIER.

(Delayed by non-arrival of steamer.)

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 12.

There is not very much going on in Napier just at present, but we are all looking forward to the great tennis tournament, which is to be held next month, when I expect to have some lovely gowns to tell you about, as visitors come from all parts of New Zealand, and our women folk, and the strangers too, are sure to don their brightest and prettiest gowns. A local tournament is going on at Farndon now. The matches are played off every Saturday, and great is the interest taken in them, as we are anxious for our men to appear in good form. Last week we had a most perfect day, and numbers wended their way to the courts. Amongst the ladies I noticed Mesdames Pat McLean, Wood, Hamlin, Logan, Hoadley, Carlisle, and the Misses Laacelles, Roy, Hamlin, Hitchings (2), Cotterill, Taylor, Ormond, Innes, Spencer, Fraser, and numbers of others. Amongst the gentlemen players are Messrs Ross, A. Kennedy, Anderson, Whitcombe, Logan, C. Kennedy, Fenwick, Fabner, Tipping, King, Carlisle, Hoadley, J. A. Fraser, and Robinson. The courts are looking very lovely, and it is to be hoped will not lose their pretty green appearance before the big tournament comes off. Some of the matches were to have been finished, but as the weather turned very cold and threatening, it was thought wiser to postpone playing. I really don't know what we should do without our tennis in the summer time; it is a regular god-send.

A little excitement was caused one Sunday evening by the discovery that a fire had broken out on one of the large wood ships (the *Castor*, Captain Whitson) in the bay. It proved more serious than was at first anticipated, as it was discovered that the fire was raging in the sail locker (I believe a very bad place for the fire to get a hold in), and that it would take a great deal of time and labour to extinguish it. This proved to be the case, for in spite of every effort made to get it under the fire raged all night, and was not put out until Monday afternoon. I believe the damage is very serious indeed, as not only are all the sails destroyed, but a great deal of the wood has been much damaged by the water. Our firemen worked splendidly, although at times some of them fainted, the heat was so intense and the smoke so stifling. At one time it was feared the ship could not be saved, but thanks to the exertions of the brave firemen and other outside help, it was at last got under. It has not yet been ascertained what the loss will be, but it is sure to be something considerable.

Early this month a very enjoyable evening was spent in St. John's schoolroom, when a social gathering took place under the auspices of the Guild of St. John and the ladies Dorcas Society. Amongst the performers were Mesdames Spackman, (who sang in her usual charming manner), Heron and Owen, the Misses Hitchings, Carter, and Mountford, and Messrs Andrews, Mountford, and Spackman. During the interval refreshments were handed round, which were much appreciated. I noticed amongst others Mesdames Howell, Cornford, Spencer, and the Misses Stuart, Williams, Fraser, and Rev. J. Hobbs, from Hastings. These social gatherings are much looked forward to, and much praise is due to Misses Mountford and Leash for all the pains they took to forward the proceedings.

I hear that Miss Violet Bogle has returned from Australia, and is taking charge of Mr Vigor-Brown's little children. Only fancy, Bee, six little things, the eldest only ten, being left without a mother! However, I am quite sure Miss Violet Bogle will be the right woman in the right place; she is so sweet-tempered and kind. Mr Brown is very lucky in having secured her services.

Mrs Balfour and her young children, of the Bank of New Zealand, have gone on a visit to Mataipiro, Mr Shrimpton's station. I believe the change is doing her little ones a great deal of good. When one is living in the heart of a town there is nothing like a sniff of country air for setting one up.

Miss Barton, Mrs Balfour's niece, has gone for a change to Springhill, Mr Joe Rhodes' station.

Miss Hitchings has returned from Springhill, and appears all the better for her trip. I saw her in town looking very nice in a most cool-looking gown (green and white check). I do envy girls who can wear green; it is such a charming summer colour, and so is heliotrope. I noticed Miss Innes in town looking very nice in a pretty cornflower blue gown, white hat; Miss Gleeson, grey gown, small hat; Miss Hamlin, charming grey gown, pretty white hat; Miss Roy Wilson, fawn skirt, white blouse, sailor hat.

Miss Ada Ormond has gone on a visit to Oakawa, Mrs Lowry's residence, and Mrs Sibley has been staying with Mrs Beamish at Hastings.

GLADYS.

## HASTINGS.

(Delayed by non arrival of steamer on due date.)

DEAR BEE,

NOVEMBER 10.

Our first grand Choral and Orchestral concert is now a thing of the past, but I am quite sure the remembrance of it will long live in the minds of those who had the good luck to be present. The songs, all of them, I am told, were a treat to listen to, and the choruses and part songs were really excellent. Miss Annie St. Hill sang an exceedingly pretty song, called 'The Fairy Voyage.' Her sweet, clear voice was heard to great advantage in this dear little French ballad. The fair singer looked very nice in a pretty cream evening gown with cream roses, and she was the recipient of the only bouquets thrown during the evening. Miss M. Collings sang that grand song, 'Calvary.' She has a truly wonderful voice, and with cultivation it will develop considerably. This youthful cantatrice was gowned in pale blue, and wore quantities of roses. Miss Wylie, a young lady from Napier, sang some Scotch songs in a very taking manner, and with great archness. She wore black evening dress. A rare treat was afforded in listening to Mr Hosking, a stranger to Hastings. Oh, Bee, I feel so angry to think I was not there to hear him, for I am told his voice was simply divine. I do love a pure tenor voice, and it is so seldom one hears it now. We are all hoping we shall have