

net; Miss Low, pink dress; Miss Ingleworth, electric blue silk with pink flowers; Miss O'Farrell, black fisherman's net; Miss Perelle, sea foam nun's veiling; Miss (App, crushed, straw dress; Miss M'Quirk, black dress; Miss Butell, white dress and pink flowers; Miss Flannery, white; Miss Woodhead, cream figured lace; Miss K. M'Quirk, white and blue sash; Miss Travis, cream fisherman's net over pink silk; Miss King, black lace; Miss G. King, pale blue.

MAUDE.

MARLBOROUGH.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 22.
We have much reason to feel proud of some of our young ladies. Miss Lena Broughton, who was born at Otagahau, Queen Charlotte Sound, and spent all the early years of her life amongst us in Picton, is becoming quite a celebrated musician, and has lately been appointed one of the musical faculty of the Elmira College School of Music, New York. Almost from babyhood she displayed a wonderful talent for music, which she has persistently cultivated. When quite a child it was a pleasure to listen to her. She studied for three years under the celebrated Klintworth, of Berlin, earning her own living at the same time by giving music lessons to less advanced pupils. I have before me a paragraph of the *Elmira Daily Advertiser*, which says: 'Miss Lena M. Broughton made her debut as pianist last evening. She is, in many respects, the finest resident pianist that Elmira has had for many years. Her interpretations are solid and musicianly, her touch wonderfully clear and facile, and her technique elegant, refined, and correct to a marvellous degree. Her performances were something long to be remembered.' Miss Broughton is a niece of Mrs Beauchamp, of the Grove, and cousin to the Misses Greensill of Picton.

Miss Doustin, of Blenheim, has also won kudos galore for her magnificent play in the recent lawn tennis championship match at Napier. I believe it was a very closely-contested game, but the general opinion is that Miss Doustin deserved to win. I am sure I am glad she won, and offer my heartiest congratulations to the young lady.

A little while ago quite a large party 'surprised' Mrs H. C. Seymour, and spent a very pleasant 'Cinderella' evening, dancing and singing. The party were chaperoned by Mrs Allen, and consisted of the Misses Duncan, Dobson, Allen (2), (A. P.) Seymour, Linton, Scott (2), Philpotts (2), Western (2), White, and Robertson, besides the young ladies of the house and an unusually large number of gentlemen. Mr Seymour was, as usual, full of fun, and sent us all into convulsions of laughter with his comic acting and rendering of 'Doctor Quack.' Miss Mary Seymour also sang 'Dear Heart' charmingly, Miss Robertson playing the accompaniment.

A day or two after the same party, including Mrs and the Misses H. C. Seymour, journeyed to the Grove in two boats kindly lent by the captains of the Lurline and Langstone. We took possession of the bachelor but hospitable residence of Mr John Duncan, and made ourselves at home. After tea, which we had in real picnic fashion on the verandah, Mr Duncan harnessed up his big horse to his big dray, and another Shanroekland-looking vehicle and horse, which I undertook to navigate, and with a young lady on a horse, and a goodly number of young men following, it was really no wonder that all the inhabitants of Mahakipawa turned out to gaze on the novel scene, thinking we were an Irish funeral procession. We called on Mr Cullen, another bachelor, or rather we knocked at his door, but whether the gentleman was scared at the large party, or whether he really was 'Not at home' remains a mystery. We did not get further than the door, so we processed back again to Mr Duncan's, and spent the rest of the evening there, dancing and composing original songs, which we sang on our way home.

We were all hoping that the Loan and Mercantile Company would give us a social in their new stores at Picton, but unfortunately—for us—they were not finished till the wool was being brought in. Perhaps when the wool season is over and the stores are empty again the Company may see their way clear to giving a delayed but welcome house-warming.

Picton is full of visitors, who have much difficulty in finding accommodation. Mr and Mrs W. Sinclair and family are here, also Mr O'Callaghan and family, Mrs Nancarrow, Mrs and Miss Robertson, Miss Dobson, Mrs Grattan Cook (Auckland), Mr and Mrs Frank Allen (Wellington), Mrs Stott, Mrs (Dr.) Macgregor, Mrs Herbert, Mrs Martin and Miss Renwick, and several others. Mr and Mrs Macalister and family are spending the holidays down the Sound on the Yellertown run, where I was invited to join them, but unfortunately could not get away. The Misses Scott and Miss Linton are also camping out at Brooklyn, where there is a plentiful supply of fruit. They are accompanied by Mr Walter Seymour, Mr J. Welford, and Mr A. Scott.

The children are having a lovely time. Three picnics in one day ought to be satisfaction enough for anybody. The most important was the Blenheim Church of England Sunday-school picnic to Tasmaraia, and about five hundred children and 'grown-ups' went by train, and spent a glorious day in a large paddock kindly lent by Mr Boyes. The teachers worked very hard to make the affair a success, and they were well rewarded for their pains by the verdict given by all who were present, that the day could not possibly have been better spent. The little ones were amused with lolly men and races, and the bigger ones joined in botanical expeditions to the bush, in search of ferns and wild flowers, which I hope will result in a great deal of competition in wild flowers at the next show. There was also a picnic at Para, and another in Picton for the Catholic Sunday-school. We hold broad views in Marlborough, so that it was not surprising to see the few members of the Catholic Church supported and assisted by Protestants, who endeavoured to the best of their ability to make the picnic a success. Amongst others I noticed Mrs Gudgeon, Mrs Grattan Cook, Mrs Herbert Godfrey (of Okukuri), Mrs Allen, Mrs W. Sinclair, Mrs O'Donnell, Mrs F. Godfrey, Mrs C. Godfrey, Mrs Miles, Mrs Jeffries, Mrs McMahon (of Kenepuru), Mrs 'ard, and the Misses Speed, Duncan, Allen, O'Callaghan, Sinclair, Waddy, Jeffries, Fell, and many others trying to amuse the children. To Messrs Gudgeon, Fredrick, Petherick, and J. E. Heaver is in a great measure due the success of the affair.

Mrs Waddy is still away nursing her sister, Mrs C. Redwood, who remains in a critical condition.

Mrs J. O. Western, of the Lindens, also gave a picnic. The married ladies invited were Mrs Stott and Mrs Macgregor, and the young people the Misses Seymour (4), Allen (2), Philpotts (3), Greensill (2), Duncan, Linton (3), Western (3), and the Messrs Haslet, Fox, Howard, Greensill, Scott, Griffiths, and some others. The afternoon turned out rather boisterous, but I really think the young people here enjoy boating all the more the rougher the sea is. The party were to have gone to Karaka Bay, but in face of a strong head wind and a lumpy sea they thought 'discretion was the better part of valour,' and camped in Laughing Bob's Bay instead, where they played teazle and other games peculiar to picnics.

I had a peep at the world-renowned traveller, Mr H. M. Stanley, as he sat in the deck cabin of the *Mangana*. He was on his way to lecture in Nelson; afterwards he is coming to lecture in Blenheim. I dare say he was not so obvious as he pretended to be of the prying eyes or the whispered comments. As regards myself, I felt like the little girl did who went on the Picton wharf, on the occasion of a gubernatorial visitation, expecting to see an illuminated personage with wings. 'That the Governor' she said with an upward curl of a *retrousse* little nose, when quite a common-looking man in pepper-and-salt tweed was pointed out to her as that august personage. 'That the Governor! That can't be the Governor. That's only a man.'

JEAN.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE, JANUARY 18.
The Auckland Concert Company gave two most enjoyable concerts here, and had good houses. The music-loving people here have had a heavy strain on their pockets lately, one company succeeding each other so quickly, otherwise the theatre would have been packed. The first night's programme opened with a pretty instrumental trio (Schleppergrell) by Messrs Arthur Eady (violin), S. Jackson (clarinet), and Alf. Bartley (piano). Mr P. E. Dufaur, who possesses a fine baritone voice, sang, 'Who Deeply Drinks of Wine' (Ginden), and so captivated his hearers that he had to give an encore, and sang in response the trying song, 'The Devil's aw' wi' the Excisemen,' and was applauded. Mrs Kilgour, who has a well-trained voice of fair range, sang 'The Prima Donna,' and not being able to escape a recall, gave 'Waiting.' Kowalski's 'March Hongroise' was capably played by Mr Alf. Bartley. Mr Tom M. Jackson sang 'Mona' (S. Adams), with great expression, and in response to a pronounced encore he gave 'My Sweetheart When a Boy.' His voice is a powerful one, is well suited to staccato and decided passages, but lacks the great sweetness of Mr R. B. Williams, of Wellington. He was, however, a favourite with the audience, and was warmly applauded for all his numbers. Mr S. Jackson, one of the best clarinet players I have heard, played 'Fantasia on Scotch Airs' (Lazarus), and charmed the audience, and had to reappear. Miss Alice Rimmer, who has a charming mezzo-soprano, sang with feeling Jude's setting of 'The Better Land,' with violin obligato splendidly played by Mr Arthur Eady. Having to give an encore she sang the 'Last Rose of Summer.' Messrs T. M. Jackson, Bartley, and Dufaur, sang well the trio, 'Were I a Maid,' from 'Princess Ida' (Sullivan). The second part of the programme opened with a trio for violin, clarinet, and piano. Mr T. M. Jackson sang Blumenthal's 'The Message,' and not being able to escape a recall gave 'There is a flower that bloometh.' Miss Alice Rimmer was recalled for 'Scenes that are Brightest' (Wallace), and gave 'There's no One Like Mother.' A violin solo, 'Il Trovatore,' evoked great applause; Mr Dufaur sang Poinatowski's 'Yeoman's Wedding,' and had to reappear, and sang 'The Gauntlet's Down.' Mrs Kilgour was encored for her next number, Ganz's florid, 'Sing Sweet Bird,' and sang archly, 'The Stile.' The concert closed by the quartette 'The Angelus,' well sung by Mrs Kilgour, Miss Rimmer, and Messrs Jackson and Dufaur, with accompaniment by Messrs S. Jackson (clarinet), Bartley (piano), and Eady (violin). Among the most noticeably successful pieces on the second night's programme, which was well arranged and each number artistically given, were Mr Dufaur's 'Curate's Song,' from 'The Sorcerer'; Mr Tom M. Jackson's, 'Tell Her I Love Her'; Mrs Kilgour's, 'Tell Me, My Heart'; and Miss Alice Rimmer's very sympathetic rendering of 'The Blind Girl to Her Harp.' The programme was as follows:—Instrumental trio, 'King of Diamonds' (Lavalee), Messrs A. Eady, S. Jackson, and A. Bartley; song, 'Only Once More' (Moir), Mr T. M. Jackson; song, 'Dear Heart' (Mattei), Mrs Kilgour; violin solo, 'The Old Folks at Home' (Christie), Mr A. Eady; song, 'The Death of Nelson' (Brahms), Mr P. E. Dufaur; song, 'Heaven and Earth' (Pinsuti), Miss Alice Rimmer; duet, 'The Fishermen' (Gaubuss), Messrs Jackson and Dufaur; instrumental trio, 'March from Henry VIII.' (Alexa), Messrs A. Eady, S. Jackson, and A. Bartley; song, 'Tell Her I Love Her' (Robertson), Mr T. M. Jackson; song, 'Blind Girl to Her Harp' (Glover), Miss A. Rimmer; clarinet solo, 'Fantasia (Brepant), Mr S. Jackson; song, 'Queen of My Heart' (L'ellier), Mr P. E. Dufaur; song, 'Tell Me, My Heart' (Bishop), Mrs Kilgour; chorus, 'The Angelus' (Wallace), the company. The concert was most enjoyable. A very sad buggy accident occurred in Eimneson-street, last week, Mrs Davis and young Mrs McKinnon being very much hurt. Both are getting on as well as possible under the circumstances. The great explorer, Mr H. M. Stanley, lectured here. The theatre was crowded, and everyone delighted. It seems strange to think the man so short a time since we sometimes thought would never emerge from darkest Africa, was standing before us on the platform in full evening dress, looking as if all the trials and hardships he had gone through were but a summer's dream. He looked every inch a man born to command, and his white hair and moustache made me think of an army officer. He has a military style. On his appearance for some minutes the applause was deafening.

The annual Caledonian Sports took place, being a great success in every way. Five thousand people were on the ground, and competitors from all parts of New Zealand. The weather was simply perfection. The event which evoked most interest during the day was the Amateur

Hurdle race of 100 yds., which was run in two heats and a final. The first heat was won easily by Mr Jack Hempton in 12secs. from scratch, with H. M. Rathbone (13yds) second, and C. S. Whiteman (10yds) third; H. Cronley (10yds.) also ran. The second heat was won by E. Cowan (10yds.), with E. Cronley (7yds) second, and J. H. Swan (10yds.) third. In the final Hempton (scratch) and Rathbone (13yds.) ran a dead-heat for first place in 9 4/5secs., with Cowan (10yds.) a fair third. In the run-off between Hempton and Rathbone the former won with a bit to spare in 9 4/5secs., thus doing the distance twice in succession in such wonderful time. Great care was taken with the time-keeping, experienced men being at the work, and the track was measured before and after the run. Mr Hempton was carried shoulder high after the races. The prizes went as follows:—Cup valued at £9, Jack Hempton; Cup valued £7, Rathbone; Cup valued £3, Cowan.

The theatre was crowded in the evening, when the annual Caledonian concert was held, and each item was applauded. Those who contributed were Misses Wylie, Greig, and Bowen, Messrs Simpson (2), Wensley, Pollock, Halliburton, Collins, Neilson, Sheath, and Sayera. Mr R. Smith evoked great applause for the manner in which he gave the sword dance. Between the first and second parts of the programme Mrs P. S. McLean presented the successful competitors with the prizes they had won during the day, and as each stepped forward to receive the reward of his prowess he was received with hearty and prolonged applause, especially in the case of Mr Jack H. Hempton, and the two young sons of Mr K. Smith.

After the conclusion of the concert the members of the Caledonian Society met in the Masonic Hotel for the purpose of making a presentation to Mr K. Smith, who is leaving the district. After full justice had been done to a capital spread provided by Host Moeller, Mr P. S. McLean, the chairman, proposed the usual loyal and patriotic toast, and then made the presentation, consisting of a gold watch and handsome illuminated address. In making the presentation Mr McLean referred to Mr Smith's services as founder and secretary of the society, and on behalf of the members wished him a long career of prosperity in his new sphere. The gathering broke up with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne.'

The Kowalski Concert Company open next week. I hope they have a successful season. I hear they are good.

JACK.

LONDON.

DEAR BEE, NOVEMBER, 25.
We have been laughing over a copy of an auctioneer's bill of the sale of Lord Randolph (churchill's effects in Mashonaland. Amongst the items are:—Mules, 1 span; donkeys, a troop; spirits, champagne, whisky (very old); Kathir truck (great variety), etc. Some one told me you had no donkeys in New Zealand. Here is a chance for you then.

We had a grand wedding at St. George's, Hanover Square, when the youngest daughter of the late Duke of Marlborough, and sister of the above mentioned Lord R. Churchill, was married to Mr Gordon C. Wilson, eldest son of Sir Samuel Wilson. The bride, who arrived punctually at half-past two, was accompanied by her mother, the Dowager Duchess of Marlborough, who in due course gave her away. Mr Wilfred J. Ricardo, of the Horse Guards, acted as best man. The wedding gown was a combination of white satin and silk, rich white moiré striped, with full satin, and a chiffon veil fastened with diamond studs. Her other ornaments were a pearl necklace, and a diamond and pearl brooch, the Prince of Wales' present. The bride carried a bouquet of exotics. Eight bridesmaids followed the bride. They wore rose-pink sicilienne trimmed with vieux-rose velvet and dark fur; their hats were of rose-colored velvet edged with sable and bearing five ostrich tips. The bridegroom's presents were a pearl and diamond heart-shaped brooch and bouquet of tea-roses. There were two pages—the Hon. Francis Curzon and the Hon. Reginald Fellows, costumed as in Charles I.'s time, in white silk, with slung capes of pink velvet.

I am sorry to see that tailor-made dresses of Cheviot serge or tweed are painfully mannish, consisting of coat, waistcoat and skirt. The waistcoat generally contrasts with the rest of the costume. Some one declares that the short-pointed and banded bodices is even now superseding the long bodice. I hope so.

To be ultra fashionable, dear Bee, you must, says a London authority in the *Full Mill Budget*, part your hair in the middle. Do not make a pronounced parting, and do not try to do away entirely with your fringe. Wear your hair waved on both sides and wear a very slight fringe. Lady Randolph Churchill, and Mme. Nilsson, too, I think, generally wear their hair done in this fashion in their photographs, and if you copy them you can't go wrong. Most of the smartly dressed women at the theatre affect partings; so do the principal actresses in Mr Pinero's new comedy 'The Times.' The tendency at present is for wavy hair. Fringes are getting smaller. Those to whom parted hair is the most becoming are women with round faces and low foreheads. It is almost impossible to wear a parting if one's hair is not thick on the temples. The Grecian style seems to have almost worn itself out. There are adaptations of it to be seen still, but the correct style now seems to be to fasten the hair in a loose knot on the neck. Ornaments are not much worn, even on dressy occasions. I have, however, seen some new ones lately in jet. They would look rather pretty in fair hair.

In place of the conventional flat wreath of orange blossoms or brides, a stylish milliner is making tiaras of mixed white flowers, which are lighter and vastly more becoming. They are almost the same shape as diamond tiaras, the flowers being made to stand up by wires. The newest buttonhole consists of a crescent with a few flowers in the centre. It looks pretty made of violets or mimosa.

I have given you quite a long gossip, and have told you nothing about the Prince of Wales Jubilee. But it was very quiet, and there is nothing new to tell. Another engagement has been given out lately—that of Miss Mee to Mr Smith, of Wellington, and I believe that it is not to be a long one. We shall all be sorry to lose Miss Mee, who is one of the most popular girls in Timaru, but since she will go we all wish her every happiness.—*Timaru Correspondent*.