

Sise, Macansey, Scott (2), Butterworth, Palmer (South Africa), Grierson, Gillies (Sydney), Rayne, G. Roberts, Ulrich, Siowright, Reynolds, Wyatt (Adelaide). Mrs Riding wore cream nun's veiling; Mrs Moore, handsome dress of ivory silk; Mrs Hugh McNeil looked very well in a handsome dress of white figured silk trimmed with silver fringe; Mrs Eardley Reynolds wore white silk trimmed with chiffon; Mrs Grey (Port Chalmers) looked very pretty in black lace over black mervelleux; Mrs Pim looked well in black; Mrs Lindo Ferguson, silver grey silk trimmed with white velvet and silver fringe; Mrs Siowright, pale pink mervelleux with bunches of sulphur green feathers on bodice and skirt; Miss Roland, white figured silk trimmed with chiffon; Miss A. Roberts wore a very pretty dress of white silk gauze with a satin stripe, made with a deep frill round the bodice and skirt; Miss Macneil, cream mervelleux under silk gauze; Miss Dymock, brown mervelleux skirt and bodice trimmed with sprays of pink chrysanthemums; Miss A. Dymock, silver grey satin; Miss Sise, white mervelleux; Miss Wyatt, pale green Liberty silk covered with chiffon of the same colour; Miss G. Roberts, cream mervelleux trimmed with yellow chiffon and roses; Miss Palmer, very pretty white striped gauze; Miss Gertrude Rattray, brown net over pink; Miss Ormond, pretty pale blue nun's veiling; Miss Rayne, heliotrope satin and chiffon; Miss Keep, white and heliotrope; Miss Scott looked well in cream fisherman's net; Miss McLaren, yellow Liberty silk; Miss F. Hodgkins, pale pink Liberty silk; Miss S. Mackerras, white mervelleux and chiffon; Miss Farquhar, cream mervelleux with sprays of cream roses. After such a spell of dullness the dance was enjoyed more than ordinarily.

Everybody unites in saying that there never has been such a quiet time in Dunedin as we have experienced lately. The visit of the Governor and Countess seemed to exhaust everybody, and then came the influenza, throwing a number into mourning.

The Waitahuna race ball was quite an era in the township. The music, under the leadership of Mr Miller, was all that could be desired, and the hall was most tastefully decorated. There were a great number of strangers present, and some very pretty dresses worn, but I can only attach the names of a comparative few. Miss Rose McCorkindale wore a flowered Indian muslin; Miss Macdonald, fawn; Miss Daniels, white, with white flowers; Miss Chapman also wore white; Miss Hughes, white, with pink ribbon; Miss Kirby, cream embroidered with pink, trimmed with cream lace; Miss Oudaille, crushed strawberry; Miss A. Ward, red velvet; Miss N. Ward, very pretty white with old gold trimmings, and a gold butterfly in her hair; Miss J. Ryan, pretty dress of white nun's veiling embroidered with gold, and finished with a gold girdle.

MAUDE.

## AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE,

FEBRUARY 9.

A very large and fashionable audience assembled in the City Hall to welcome the re-appearance of Madame Bahnsen, and to listen again to the charms of her magnificent voice. Upon her appearance on the stage the lady was most cordially and warmly received, and the audience settled down to enjoy the first number on the programme, the lovely Dove Solo, from the 'Marriage of Figaro' (Mozart), which I need hardly add was faultlessly and exquisitely rendered. The audience was enraptured, and the lady was again and again compelled to return and bow her acknowledgments, and eventually had to respond to an encore. Another delightful number was Macfarren's 'Paeck Clouds Away,' with clarinet obligato by Mr S. Jackson, which was also rapturously encored. The gifted lady also gave the beautiful aria 'Casta Diva' from Bellini's opera 'Norma,' and took part with Miss Katherine Hardy in the duet from 'Norma.' Miss Katherine Hardy, in addition, contributed 'Nobil Signor' (Meyerbeer), 'Voie che sapete' (Mozart), and 'Tootli's Good Bye,' and on each occasion the lady was compelled to submit to the inevitable encore and Mr T. M. Jackson was encored for his two songs by Bluenenthal, 'Sunshine and Rain,' and 'The Message.' The programme also included a pianoforte duet by the Misses Power and Hardy, an instrumental quartette by Misses Clough, Triphook, Cook, and Edgar, a charmingly rendered clarinet solo by Mr S. Jackson, and a cello solo by Miss Essie Chew. In every respect the concert was delightfully enjoyable, and those fortunate enough to be present had a rich musical treat. Miss Hardy, in a black satin and lace gown, acted as accompanist. Miss Harding, in a pretty cream dress, accompanied Mr S. Jackson in his solo, and Mr T. M. Jackson in his songs. Madame Bahnsen looked extremely well in a handsome trained gown of cream satin mervelleux; Miss Katharine Hardy wore blue satin veiled with old gold gauze or net; Miss Essie Chew was in a gown of soft pink material. The majority of the ladies in the dress-circle wore evening dresses, some of the costumes being very handsome. Mrs Archie Clark wore a dainty pale blue evening dress; Mrs Ridings, all black costume; Mrs J. M. Butt, rich black silk gown; Mrs J. B. Russell, handsome gown of black brocade and lace, white lace cap; Miss Russell, pretty pink evening dress for her younger sister, wore crimson and blue, respectively; Mrs E. Blair, cream flowered silk gown trimmed with black velvet; Mrs Ching, handsome costume of heliotrope brocade silk trimmed with black lace; her little daughter looked nice in white; Mrs I. Alexander, very handsome gown of silver grey mervelleux with sleeves of black silk, and trimmed with black lace, diamond and pearl ornaments; Mrs Taylor (Parrell), pretty white evening dress; Mrs Kronfeldt, white embroidered costume; Mrs Archdale Taylor, fawn costume; Miss Hesketh looked well in light grey; Miss Brett, pretty electric blue costume; Miss Amy Brett, handsome cream silk gown with gold trimmings; a young lady with the Misses Brett wore pretty pink costume; Mrs Masefield, rich dark silk gown, plush mantle; Miss Evans, white dress prettily trimmed with fine embroidery, Mrs Edgar, ruby mervelleux gown, the bodice relieved with cream lace; Mrs Thompson, rich brown brocade silk costume; Madame Goldenstedt's black gown was hidden with a beautiful opera cloak of apple green silk, the shoulders and fronts trimmed with gold embroidery; Miss Staunton, cream evening dress; Miss Wilson, pretty pink evening dress; Mrs Barrett, rich black silk costume; Mrs Nasheleki, handsome brown mervelleux

silk gown; Miss Nasheleki looked well in a crushed strawberry evening dress; Mrs Herman-Brown, stylish gown of biscuit colour trimmed with brown; Mrs (Prof.) Thomas, handsome black evening dress richly trimmed with jet; Miss Lusk also wore a black evening dress, and a lovely white feather boa, and white feather fan; Mrs Lusk, all black costume; Mrs Hope Lewis, black evening dress, with fawn and full elbow sleeves of white Indian muslin; the effect was both quaint and pretty; Miss Fenton, pink Indian muslin finished with Liberty silk a brighter shade; Miss Anderson, white flowered muslin evening dress; Mrs Goldie, black silk gown; Mrs Harding, black silk costume; Mrs (Dr.) Hooper, rich ruby velvet, was gown, the bodice finished with handsome lace, white and pink cap; Mrs Armstrong, pretty grey costume; Miss Wilkie, stylish costume of cream Indian silk combined with green silk; Mrs (Dr.) Knight, black lace evening dress; Mrs Templar also wore a black evening dress; Miss Chew, pale blue evening dress; Madame Tutschka, cream evening dress; Mrs Donald, lovely gown of apricot silk with pompadour flowers; Mrs Hadley, black mervelleux gown. Many others were present, but I have forgotten the names.

The English steam-yacht, White Heather after a stay of some weeks, resumed her journey, the next port of call being Hobart. During the stay of the yacht in Auckland Mr and Mrs Leigh have made many friends, who sincerely regret their departure. Prior to this event a return cricket match was played on the Domain Cricket Ground between eleven from the White Heather and H.M.S. Tauranga, the latter having won the previous match. On this occasion the fortunes were reversed, for the White Heather won by a very large majority. Mr and Mrs Leigh entertained the eleven and other friends (amongst whom were Colonel and Mrs Goring, Dr. and Mrs Honeyman, Mrs and Miss Moss-Davis, Mrs Lewis, Mrs Bloomfield, Misses Firth, Fenton, etc.) at a splendid luncheon, which was laid under the trees. The day was beautifully fine, and in the afternoon a large number of both sexes were in the Domain interested in watching the match, and for whom Mr and Mrs Leigh kindly provided afternoon tea, which we greatly enjoyed.

The first round of the Lawn Tennis Association matches for the ladies' championship singles has so far resulted as follows:—Miss (Gorrie) beat Miss Atkinson, 2, 6, 0, 6, 1. Miss Whitney obtained a bye from Miss Goodhall. Miss Nicholson beat Miss Rigby, 6, 3, 6, 6, 3. Miss Hall beat Miss Rookes, 6, 4, 5, 7, 6, 4; Miss E. Schaff beat Miss G. Kempthorne, 6, 2, 6, 2; Mrs Chapman obtained a bye from Miss Rees; Mrs Burton obtained a bye from Miss M. Paton; Miss Spiers drew a bye.

Madame Goldenstedt (nee Miss Staunton) has announced her concert in the Opera House shortly. A feature of the programme will be the prison scene from 'Maritana' in character. Madame Goldenstedt will appear as Lazzarillo, Mr T. M. Jackson as Don Cesar de Bazan, and Mr G. M. Reid, Don Jose.

Mr W. L. Rees gave a most successful dance at her residence. The evening was, for the time of year, quite a cool one, and so excellent were all the arrangements, that though in the middle of summer the rooms were kept at a comfortable temperature the whole evening. The genial M.H.R. was simply indefatigable in seeing that the floor was kept to the highest possible pitch of slipperiness consistent with the preserving of the perpendicular, and the music was excellent. You may easily imagine, therefore, that everyone enjoyed themselves immensely. Mrs Rees was handsomely gowned in black silk, Miss Rees also being in black; Mrs H. B. Lusk wore cream, and looked her best; Miss C. Brien wore rose-leaf green; Miss Rookes looked remarkably pretty in white, and Miss Power wore a pretty frock of white silk; Miss Whewell, Miss George, Miss E. Rees, and Miss Jarvis all wore white; Miss Lusk, in black net, looked pretty, as did Miss M. White. There were others who no doubt looked just as well, for indeed everyone appeared to look their best, but I have mislaid my memory, so to speak. The supper was a most enticing one, and very prettily arranged.

One of our University College staff—Professor Brown—did a very kind act in taking the children of the Chapel-street—formerly called the Trueant School, down to the island of Motuhi in the p.s. Victoria. We have so many charming islands and bays for water picnics that it is hard to choose a destination. However one large party have decided on a trip to the island of Motutapu, and I hope to tell you all about it next week.

Whilst we are on matters aquatic, I may mention that a very delightful little dance was given to Mr and Mrs Leigh, of the attractive White Heather, by Mrs Moss-Davis at her residence, Princes-street. The great charm of the affair was its complete impromptness. There was no time for long formal invitations, the White Heather was anxious to blossom in other climes, and so a few easily-procurable friends were asked to drop in to meet the fugitive guests. But despite that, or I should say, because of the unexpectedness of the dance, it was the more charming. A carpet was whittled off one of the up-stairs rooms, the breakfast-room converted into a much-appreciated snugger and smoking-room for the gentlemen, a delicious supper appeared by magic in the dining-room, the drawing-rooms were thrown open, and the house was ready. Concerning that same supper, a little bird told me that the very prettily arranged table, with its soft folds of yellow silk and white flowers, was the work of Miss Moss-Davis, but I believe this, seeing I don't tell, Bee. The dancing-room looked pretty, I thought, the mantelpiece and fireplace embowered in greenery and crimson tigers-lilies, Chinese lanterns hanging in convenient nooks. Our hostess was handsomely gowned in a trained black silk and black lace, with lovely cream feather fan; Miss Moss-Davis wore cream, in which she looked very well. The guest of the evening, Mrs Leigh, wore a fascinating dress of white silk and white chiffon, with exquisite diamond ornaments; the lady who is her *compagnon de voyage*, Miss M. Jones, was in black. There were many guests, and I can only give one or two, as I was too happy dancing to take the mental notes I fully intended for you, Bee. Mrs Carré wore black; Mrs Honeyman, green silk with black lace; Mrs T. Morrin, grey, every detail of her elegant toilette being *en suite*; there were also the Misses Firth, Russell, Thomson, etc., etc., with several officers from H.M.S. Tauranga.

A dinner party on the yacht was the next festivity. We were fetched from the wharf in the gig, and arrived on board to find ourselves in a blaze of electric light. The dinner, *a la Russe*, was a most *recherché* affair. After it had been done ample justice to we found an Auckland band had arrived, and there was to be dancing in the drawing-

room, as they call it. It is a large saloon all hung in daffodil-coloured Liberty silk, a grand piano, soft couches, and photographs and flowers everywhere. The whole vessel is fitted up like an English house, so the usual nautical terms seem quite inappropriate. Colonel and Mrs Goring, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Moss-Davis, Mr J. Coates, Mr Philson, and two lieutenants from H.M.S. Tauranga—Messrs Pelly and Aaby—were there. Mrs Leigh looked well in blue *crêpe de Chine*, with her diamond ornaments, Miss Jones wearing heliotrope.

Mr Aaby and Mr Pelly gave a very enjoyable little luncheon on the Tauranga to Mr and Mrs Leigh, of the White Heather. There were present Mr and Mrs Leigh, Miss Jones (Sydney), Mrs Bloomfield, Mr Featherstone, and several other gentlemen whose names I did not know. After coffee on deck we all adjourned to the White Heather, where Mrs Leigh entertained quite a party at afternoon tea, and accordingly we saw Mesdames Bloomfield, Honeyman, T. Morrin, Mrs and Miss Moss-Davis, Mrs and Miss Isaacs, etc., enjoying that refreshing beverage on deck. Altogether our charming visitors quite roused us up. There are two ladies on board and six gentlemen, one of them being a medical man, Dr. Crose. We wish them heartily *bon voyage*.

The polo members again gave one of their large afternoon teas to their lady friends. It was an extremely pretty sight to see the front of the stand lined with vehicles of every description, most of the drivers' boxes being occupied by the fair sex, who all seem to handle the ribbons with great effect. Amongst the members who played were Messrs Wansborough, Lockhart, Stewart, Daveney, Francia, MacKellar, Whewell, Gilmour, Colegrove, Dr. Purchas and Dr. Forbes. In order that the spectators could distinguish easily the sides, one side wore a bright scarf of turkey red, which seemed to brighten up the whole lawn, making such a charming picture. Amongst those present I saw Mr Cottle driving with the Misses Burchell and Von Sturmer; Mr Greenaway and Miss Firth, Misses Kerr-Taylor, Mrs Bilbrough and her brother, Mr MacKellar, Miss Purchas and a friend, Mr Noble, Mr Stubbings, and Miss Forbes, Mrs Gorp and daughter, Mrs Walker and daughter, and Miss Wylie-Brown, Miss Marks and her friends. There were a great many others driving round, but I cannot at present recall them. On the stand I saw Misses Rookes, Jarvis, Kilgour, and riding round were Mr and Mrs Bloomfield, Mr Ware, Miss Dixon and Mr Chalce.

I noted some pretty street dresses. Miss Masefield, cream delaine; Miss Dunnet, a handsome blue grey cashmere edged with gold braid, very pretty gold and brown parasol, black lace hat with black and gold ribbons; Miss Burchell, grey skirt, pink blouse, and fawn hat; Miss Hill pale green trimmed with fawn; her companion, grey tweed, grey hat with feathers; Mrs Wine, handsome silk, fawn dolman, hat *en suite*; Miss Thomson ('Rocklands', Epsom), a pretty flowered delaine; Miss Jarvis, navy frock and jacket lined with red, gem hat; Miss Rookes, white muslin, and charming white hat; Mrs Dixon, handsome black costume.

A very interesting memorial service in connection with the death of the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, Baptist, of London, was held at the Auckland Tabernacle. Two of the outside pillars of the building were tied with crape. Inside, the pulpit was draped with crape, whilst a bust of the late preacher occupied a prominent position. Many churches were represented at this impressive gathering, and the speeches were listened to with respectful sympathy. Resolutions of condolence with the widow and bereaved family were carried unanimously, by the congregation standing. The most interesting speech was that of the Rev. Thomas Spurgeon, for some time Baptist Minister here. In affectionate terms he spoke of his father's life-work, and his comparatively early death at Mentone. Mr Spurgeon said that his message from Home read: 'Father in Heaven; mother resigned.' He was thankful for that. During this address many people were quietly weeping. At the conclusion, after the Hymn, 'He fell asleep in Jesus,' Professor Lambert played a beautiful 'Dead March,' which he had composed himself.

MCRIEL.

## LONDON.

DEAR BEE,

DECEMBER 30.

We have had some severe fogs this month. Curiously enough the fogs have kept pace with the country's increase in population, etc. Someone says that whilst from 1805 to 1810 there were only twenty-four fogs, now we have thirty a year! There was one sad case in which we were all interested—almost everyone receives telegrams some time or other. The terrible fog proved directly fatal to a local telegraph boy. He started with a telegram to Park Bridge at half-past six, but the poor little lad was never seen again alive; his body was found in the Manchester and Ashton Canal the next morning; owing to the foggy evening he could not see the road and had evidently walked into the treacherous water.

I have been to one or two charming 'at homes' at some of the lady artist's studios. Such a quaint and pretty idea of 'We are Seven,' by Miss Helena Fisher, attracted me greatly. It was just seven rabbits nibbling grass! There was a pretty 'Eucalyptus' by Miss C. M. Wood, rather grey in tone, but good. Is the artist from your part of the world?

I wish Londoners could have warmers in their public conveyances! I hear that our Parisian neighbours are likely to be in a position to defy the elements to a great extent this winter by the possession of comfortably warmed railway carriages and omnibuses. A system of heating these vehicles by means of hot air pipes placed under the seats and supplied with steam generated in a small boiler fixed on the top of the train or omnibus is at present under trial, and if successful will immediately be applied on certain railways and subsequently the omnibuses of the city.

We are all so interested in the approaching marriage of the Duke of Clarence and Avondale. It is to be on the 27th or 29th of February, and at St. George's, Windsor. To make up to the city folks, a procession is to take place in the afternoon. The wedding-dress will be a work of art, a present from the National Silk Association. It is whispered that the Queen at first opposed her grandson's marriage with Princess May, but the young people were really in love, and at length gained the wished-for consent.

A CITY MOUSE.