

Jubilee, and others had had so much pleasure that they could not feel very enthusiastic over it, but it was worth going to, and (I trust) Kigg himself is very good. At present we have Professor Artemus Colledge, the phrenopsychologist, with us. He is very highly spoken of, and I hope to hear and see him before he leaves Blenheim.

We have invented quite an elegant bad-language code here, and coming home from the Jubilee, whenever the horses thought it was time for a rest, we could hear the gentlemen swearing at them in a most unconcerned way, flattering themselves all the time that we knew nothing at all about it. But of course we knew quite well that, 'Oh! you hymenophilium javanicum aspidium bulbeferum, pteris aquilina,' and so on, had no reference whatever to ferns, especially when accompanied by the whip application and a few interjections relating to an old cow or a pig. We knew our driver had to be cruel to be kind, especially when the horses thought seriously of taking up their abode for the night in the middle of a rather bad river, and we forgave the driver and pretended ignorance of its purport.

JEAN.

AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE,

MARCH 1.

To return to some Auckland amusements. We seem to have lived in a whirl of gaiety this week. Dr. and Mrs. Honeyman have gone to Sydney for two or three months, when they return here again before their trip to England. Before she left, Mrs. Honeyman had an impromptu dance, and it was most enjoyable. The floor was very good, likewise the music. The upper table looked quite a picture, being draped with yellow silk and silk net, and sunflowers, so you can imagine what a pretty effect it gave. About thirty guests were present, the ladies all looking very nice. Our hostess wore a beautifully-fitting gown of apricot-yellow silk, shoes and gloves to match, and a bouquet of pale yellow roses pinned in the bodice; Mrs. Haines looked her best in a soft black dress; her sister, Miss Isaacs, also in black; Mrs. Bloomfield wore white satin trimmed with net, and garlands of green poppies and white marguerites, white ostrich feather fan; you know, Bee, how pretty she is; Mrs. Moss-Davis, in poppy red; and her daughter, in blue-grey silk; Mrs. (Dr.) Lindsay, in white; Mrs. Walker, black; Miss Firth wore white trimmed with gold; and her sister, salmon pink silk and black lace; Miss Anderson, cream; the Misses Hay, black lace dresses; Miss C. Walker, pretty dress of mauve trimmed with violets. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs Sharland, Clark, Kettlewell, Stewart, Felley, etc. There were plenty of gentlemen, and a very delicious supper, so you can imagine every one enjoyed themselves.

We went to see the tennis match between Mr Morrison and Mr Hooper, which the latter won rather easily. Amongst those on the lawn (there was a great crowd) I noticed Mesdames Rock, Warr, Morrison, Carr, Bridgeman, Mr and Mrs Bull, Mr and Mrs Heather, besides hosts of girls. After the match, which was over at 4.30, we went on to polo, and had a cup of tea there. Poor Colonel Dawson had rather an accident. Somebody whirled his stick round very fiercely, and evidently mistook the Colonel's head for the ball. The result was a nasty cut, which Dr. Forbes dressed as well as he could under the circumstances. The interest in polo, judging by the numbers present, doesn't seem to be dying out. Amongst those on wheels I noticed Mrs Walker driving Mrs (Colonel) Dawson; Miss Gordon driving her sister; Mrs Craig, who is up from Christchurch for a short time; Mrs Bilborough and Mrs Buddie; and Miss Firth in her phaeton. On horseback were Mr and Mrs Bloomfield, Misses Firth, Dixon, and Sellers, and several gentlemen. I noticed on the grandstand Mrs Dargaville, Misses Wilkins, Jervis, Fenton, Keer, Berry, etc.

Mrs Allan Kerr-Taylor, Alberton, assisted by her son and daughters, gave a very successful impromptu young people's dance. About fifty couples glided round their spacious ball room, the officers of H.M.S. Tauranga and the German ship Hussard making quite a brilliant scene with their gold lace amongst the many beautiful dresses worn by the ladies. The hostess wore black grenadine, while her two daughters wore pink sateen edged with net and silver flowers. Amongst those present were Miss Burchell, who looked extremely well in blue tulle and white rosebuds; Miss Firth, cream; Miss M. Firth, grey sateen; Miss C. Firth, heliotrope; Miss Devore wore a very stylish and becoming costume of white muslin trimmed with black velvet bows; Miss Kilgour, a pretty dress of pink; while her sister wore pale blue, both of them carrying large bouquets of flowers; Miss Rees, white; Miss Stevenson (Ponsonby), black lace; Miss Nashelski, a becoming white dress; Miss Upton, white; Miss Masfield, in a peculiar shade of pink; Miss Evans, white; Miss Beale looked very interesting in black tulle; Miss Brigham, in a pretty cream Indian silk; Miss Birch, in grey shot and blue satin; Miss L. Baker, dark shade of pink; Miss E. Baker, in white, Miss Burrell in blue; Miss McDonald looked remarkably pretty in a handsome costume of cream and gold; Miss Williamson, in white silk; Miss Heekher, in pale blue; Miss Buckland, in white; Miss Rooke, pretty white muslin; Miss Percival, pink; and her sister, cream; Miss Keesing, elegant pale yellow silk; Miss N. Scherff looked very pretty in white; Miss E. Scherff, white muslin, handsome red cloak; Miss Jervis, red tulle; Miss (Gordon), black lace; Miss Sellers, pink; Miss Dixon looked very well in black with white sash; Miss Larkins, blue with gold; Miss O'Brian, in white cashmere; Miss G. Walker, red cashmere; Miss Elliot, pink; Miss Kempthorne, dark shade of yellow. I cannot remember any other young ladies at present, nor can I decide who looked the best, as they all looked so remarkably well. Miss McDonald (Parnell) had a charming afternoon tea at St. Helier's Bay. Some of the officers of the Tauranga were present.

A large number of spectators of both sexes were present at the Auckland Swimming Club's Summer Carnival in the Graving Dock, and a very pleasant afternoon was spent in watching the various events, which were, on the whole, closely contested. The weather was beautifully fine, a pleasant breeze tempering the heat of the sun. The Club had provided ample seating accommodation, so that we could sit in comfort and watch the races, while the Artillery

Band on the ground enlivened the time with selections of music at short intervals. I noticed a number of very pretty dresses. Amongst those whom I remember were Mrs D. K. Cruickshank, wearing a dainty and stylish white muslin gown embroidered with pale grey, pouter hat trimmed with white ribbon, and wreath of tiny white flowers, white silk parasol; her little daughter also wore a pretty white frock and hat; Miss Grey, pretty pale pink gown, black lace hat with pink flowers; Mrs Cosser, black gown, black and gold bonnet; one daughter looked well in black, with tan-coloured vest and hat to correspond, and the other in fawn tweed with brown crossbars, and pretty little hat to match; Miss Porter looked uncommonly well in a cornflower blue gown, large hat trimmed with scarlet poppies and scarf of white chiffon; Miss Dickey wore a stylish white dress trimmed with embroidery, white hat; her sisters wore fawn and grey, respectively, and pretty white hats trimmed with ostrich tips and ribbon; Miss Nellie Edmiston, stylish and very becoming cornflower blue dress trimmed with ribbon velvet, openwork straw hat trimmed with cornflowers and ribbon; Mrs Upton, dark blue flowered sateen gown, black lace bonnet with wreath of cream roses; Miss Upton also wore a dark blue gown and fawn hat; Miss Maggie Stevenson, pretty white dress and hat; Miss Owen, grey skirt, white blouse bodice, and pretty little gold and cream hat; her sister wore a pretty cream dress, and hat trimmed with feathers; Miss Dannel, stylish grey gown, and pretty black and gold hat; Miss Blinnam also wore grey, and black lace hat; Mrs Myers, handsome black gown, black bonnet with white tips; Mrs Goldie, fawn gown, black and yellow bonnet; Miss Lewis, light biscuit coloured dress, white hat trimmed with ostrich feathers; Mrs Banne, handsome black costume, bonnet trimmed with old gold feathers; Miss Stewart, blue cambric gown, sailor hat banded with blue ribbon; Mrs Coutts, dark gown, silk and lace mantle, and bonnet trimmed with flowers; Mrs Burns, black silk dress, and mantle richly trimmed with jet, black bonnet; Mrs Fountain, pretty white flowered muslin dress, cream hat.

The Auckland Society of Arts hold their annual exhibition this week in the Choral Hall. A large number of pictures have been received for exhibition, and the Hanging Committee have been kept busily engaged during the last few days preparing for the opening conversation and private view of members and friends.

The members of the Auckland Choral Society are engaged at their weekly practise in the rehearsal of Mendelssohn's 'St. Paul' for the next concert, which takes place about the end of the present month. The soloists are Miss Harper (soprano), Mrs Burgess (alto), Mr Ferriday (tenor), and Mr Percy Dufaur (bass).

The North Shore Lawn Tennis Club entertained the Auckland Lawn Tennis Club on their ground upon the holiday afternoon. The lawns were looking both fresh and green after the recent rains, and presented a gay and bright appearance with the many light and dainty costumes worn by the ladies, and the light tennis suits of their masculine friends. With members, visitors, and friends there must have been quite one hundred and fifty present, and the afternoon was most enjoyably spent in watching the games and conversing with the players. Some really excellent games were played during the afternoon, the contests at times between the rival clubs being most exciting. The North Shore ladies provided a splendid tea, and I can assure you we all enjoyed the delicious cakes, fruit, etc., which were present in such abundance. The members of the Club, both ladies and gentlemen, were indefatigable in looking after and attending to the wants and comfort of their visitors. Amongst the North Shore ladies were Mrs Frater, who looked well in a pretty cream costume; Miss Hill looked exceedingly nice in pale blue skirt, white blouse, and large white hat; Mrs Nicol wore an all white dress, and pale green hat trimmed with red; Miss Patterson, navy blue skirt and small sailor hat; Miss Annie Scott, pretty pale blue and white costume, white hat; Misses Harvey looked nice in all white costumes; Miss Sibben, stylish mourning; Miss N. Biddle also wore a pretty mourning costume; Miss Russell, dainty cream tennis dress; Mrs Keals, all white; Mrs Allport, Mrs Scardon, Miss Murchie, Miss Mason, and numerous others. Amongst the visitors from the Auckland Club were Mrs Chapman, Misses Atkinson (3), Misses (Marie) (2), Miss Pierce, Miss Woolter, Misses (Gretchen) (2), Misses Nicholson (2), Miss E. Scherff. The majority of the ladies wore their club colours (red and gold). Miss Gorrice's costume being perhaps the most admired. It was composed of soft cream material, with belt, collar, and cuffs of red and gold, and small cream hat. Amongst the lady visitors were Mrs Logan, Mrs Philcox, Mrs E. Queret, Miss Buddie, Miss Bates, Misses Cameron, Miss Cook, Miss Chapman, Mrs Duder, Miss Cave, and many others whose names I did not know.

The marriage of Miss Ada Hills, daughter of Councillor Hills, of Onehunga, to Mr W. T. Court, eldest son of Mr F. W. Court, was solemnized at St. Peter's Church, Onehunga, by the Rev. W. Mulgan. Although the wedding took place at the early hour of 8 a.m., the sacred building was well filled with the many friends of the young couple, who are both well known in the district. The church looked very pretty, the harvest festival having taken place the day previous, and the decorations had not been removed. The bride was given away by her father, and wore a trained gown of white cashmere prettily trimmed with lace, ribbon, and sprays of orange blossoms, wreath of orange blossoms and long tulle veil, and carried a lovely bouquet of white blossoms and maiden-hair ferns. The bridesmaids were the Misses Flora Hills and Court (cousin of the bridegroom). Their dresses were exceedingly pretty—of shrimp pink cashmere, the skirts finished with a ruche (shell pattern), the same trimming also finishing the bodice and sleeves. Their hair was tied with shrimp pink ribbon, and each carried a pretty bouquet to correspond with their gowns. Mr Butler Hills acted as best man. A large number of guests were entertained at a splendid wedding breakfast by the parents of the bride. The newly-wedded couple left by the morning train for Rotoura and Okoroite, where the honeymoon will be spent. The bride's travelling dress was of French grey cashmere trimmed with white silk, and white hat with ostrich tips. The bride's mother wore a black silk gown veiled with black silk lace; Mrs F. W. Court wore a rich black silk gown trimmed with jet; Mrs Mulgan, also wore a handsome gown of black silk; Mrs Chappell, black satin gown trimmed with jet; Mrs Gilmour, fawn silk costume; Mrs Stych, black satin costume; Mrs W. Hills, crushed strawberry gown trimmed with brocade; Mrs Hutchinson, black silk costume. Amongst the wedding pre-

sents, which were numerous and handsome, was a beautifully-bound Bible, presented to the bride by the Rev. W. Mulgan.

MURIEL.

NAPIER.

DEAR BEE,

FEBRUARY 23.

I think I told you in my last that a boating picnic was on the tapis, but as the weather proved so unfavourable, it was decided to give a dance instead. Miss Lascelles and Mrs Heath managed the affair between them, and the result was a grand success. The dance was held in Mrs Heath's schoolroom, and refreshments were served in the dining-room. The floor was most delightful. Messrs Von Sturmer, Ross, and others worked like Trojans to bring about the desired result. Most of the Napier girls were invited, but some were not able to be present, as they were up the country. This was a slight drawback, as there were more men than girls, but this is a fault on the right side. Miss Lascelles looked so nice in a bright pink gown; Miss Flo Peacock looked charming in a handsome black gown; Miss Locke looked extremely well; Miss Hamlin was much missed; she was not able to go, as her mother was laid up with the influenza. I am glad Mrs Hamlin is better again, and has been able to get out.

The Misses Rhodes gave a progressive euchre party, which was great fun. I don't know whether you have ever heard about these euchre parties, Bee; they are quite a new institution. You have four tables. One is called the 'Booby's table,' and you play for prizes. Periodically at eight the bell rings and you start, and woe betide any player who is late! But to be serious, it is a terrible crime to be late, and it is worse to accept an invitation to one of these euchre parties and then not to turn up. You put the whole business out, so, ladies and gentlemen, say 'yes' or 'no' when you are invited, and keep to it. Mr Von Sturmer has been very fortunate so far, and has won some really useful little prizes.

Mrs Hamlin gave a progressive euchre party, and everyone enjoyed the evening immensely. Amongst those present were Misses Lascelles (Clive), Rhodes, Locke, Cotterill, Hitchings (3), Mrs Logan, Miss Taylor, and Mr and Mrs McIntyre, Messrs Dacent, Von Sturmer, Ross, A. Kennedy, J. Parker, and other gentlemen were present also.

Mr Von Sturmer has left the Bank of New South Wales, and will shortly be leaving Napier for good. He will carry away the good wishes of everybody. We shall all be so sorry to lose him.

Miss Milly Rhodes evidently finds the air of the Ruataniwha Plains very salubrious, as she is still staying with her sister-in-law, Mrs Joseph Rhodes. I believe a dance is to come off shortly at Ashcott, which ought to be great fun for the people on the plains. It was to have been last week, but was unavoidably postponed for a month.

A cricket match was played on the Recreation Ground—Christ's College v. English Public Schools—and was great fun. The English Public Schools won, although the other side played up well. Messrs Ludbrooke and Willie Studholme really batted splendidly. Mr Logan surprised all of us by his remarkably good style, and Messrs Peacock and Ernest Tanner made some very good catches. A great number of people assembled on the ground in spite of the threatening appearance of the weather, and a number of ladies rolled up, some of whom most kindly dispensed afternoon tea, which was much appreciated. I was very busy watching the game but I managed to notice a few who were there, amongst them being Misses Della, Kate, Hilda, and Una Hitchings, Bower, Iness, Hughes, Locke, Weber, Rhodes, Taylor, Cotterill, Lascelles, Heath, Hamlin, and Mesdames Logan, Williams, Hamlin, Hoadley, Gore, Kearn, and Miss Nelson (Hastings), and several others. We are looking forward to seeing a match played shortly between Napier and Pahiatahi. I believe a return match is to be played at Fardon soon between Christ's College and English Public Schools.

Miss Lascelles (Clive) is staying with Mrs Peacock at present.

Mr and Mrs Marcot (England) have been in Napier on a short visit. They expressed themselves as delighted with our very pretty town.

Mr and Mrs Douglas McLean are staying at present at their country residence at Marekakahe.

I noticed Mrs Hamlin in town, looking as nice as usual in a pretty navy blue gown with white spots, black hat with yellow flowers; Miss Lascelles I also saw one day, in a pretty cream gown, sailor hat; Miss Una Hitchings looks very stylish in a white gown, white Tom-tug hat; Mrs Vickerman (Hastings), a pretty cool-looking pale pink gingham, stylish little hat. Although navy figured materials are having their day, I must say I like the pretty pale blues and pinks and charming heliotropes. I hear they are very much worn in Melbourne in turns with the darker colours.

GLADYS.

DEAR BEE,

FEBRUARY 22.

Looking round Napier at the present time one would think it spring time instead of the end of summer, so beautifully green are the hills, and the foliage round about looks its best. Sheep farmers are rejoicing over the abundant rain which has fallen, while farmers with crops have lost a great deal.

Mr and Mrs J. W. Carlie have left for England. Mr Carter, who is married to Mrs Carlie's sister, has been promoted to the Customs in Dunedin after a residence of many years. He is a most energetic officer, and his familiar figure will be missed, being, one might say, quite a landmark.

Mr Patten, Collector of Customs, has retired on a pension after a service of thirty years. This new Government gives nothing but changes. Let us hope it is for the better! Mr J. H. Hempton got such short notice of his removal to the Customs in Wellington that it prevented his friends here from making him a presentation before he left. A handsome gold sovereign case, suitably inscribed, has now been procured, which has been despatched to Mr Hempton, at Wellington, accompanied by an illuminated address. The latter expresses regret at the champion athlete's departure from Hawke's Bay, where he had made numerous friends, and wishes him every success in the future.

In my next I hope to have more news.

JACK.