

Bell, brown dress, and large brown felt hat with feathers, bow of red chiffon at neck; Mrs Michie, black dress and bonnet; Mrs Munro, handsome dress of green corded silk, vest of white silk, and dark hat; Mrs Roberts, brown striped serge, brown felt hat with long feathers; Mrs Allan Holmes, black silk, black bonnet with a touch of eern chiffon, and same at neck; Mrs Neill, navy blue dress, bonnet to match; Miss Neill, white dress and hat; Miss Carr, pretty grey dress, and hat with feathers; Miss Woodward, black dress, and hat with feathers; Miss Edith Shand, peacock blue dress, vest braided with white, white hat; Miss Johnston, light tweed, white hat with feathers; Miss Ethel Carr, white dress and hat; Miss Spence, brown dress and hat; Miss L. Spence, navy blue dress and hat; Miss Ethel McLaren, pale crushed strawberry trimmed with dark shade of silk, hat to match; Miss Ada Sievwright light green dress, vest and cuffs of white silk braided with gold, black hat with pale pink roses; Mrs E. C. Reynolds, fawn tweed trimmed with terra-cotta velvet, bonnet of terra-cotta velvet; Mrs Rose, black dress and hat; Miss Stanford, grey dress with white vest, and white hat; Miss Webster, dark brown serge, fawn hat with brown velvet; Miss Butterworth, grey dress, green hat with pink flowers; Mrs Pim, handsome brown striped tweed, hat to match; Mrs Ritchie, fawn tweed, red velvet bonnet; Miss Sise, fawn and brown checked tweed, brown hat; Miss Gualter, light grey dress and hat; Miss Martin, grey tweed, fawn hat with brown feathers; Miss Macandrew, dark brown serge, fawn hat trimmed with brown velvet; Mrs Batchelor, fawn tweed, black bonnet; Miss Mackerras, navy blue figured silk, black hat; Miss A. Mackerras, green dress, vest and panels of white silk braided with gold, black hat; Miss Morris, navy blue dress and hat; Miss Cimmie, dress of light brown corduroy cloth, black hat; Miss Kenyon, pretty green dress, black hat trimmed with green velvet and wings; Mrs Stilling, black dress and hat; Lady Stout, dark brown dress and bonnet; Miss A. Dymock, grey dress, bodice of white embroidery, white hat.

A delightful time was spent by the numerous guests who availed themselves of Mrs Roberts' kind invitation. One of the most attractive features of the afternoon was the graceful and pretty dancing of little Miss Kettle (Napier), a child of about eight years, who danced several Scotch dances in costume in a wonderfully clever manner. Music during the afternoon was much enjoyed, Mrs Handyside, Mrs Rose, Miss Sievwright, and Mr Kettle being the vocalists. Mrs Kettle played a pianoforte solo.

Mrs Gualter gave an afternoon tea. Among those present were Mrs Henry Mackenzie, Mrs Burns (Christchurch), Mrs Batchelor, Mrs J. M. Ritchie, and Mrs Watson.

Mrs Henry Mackenzie gave a large musicale. Among those present were Mr, Mrs, and Miss Roberts, Mr and Mrs E. C. Reynolds, Mrs and the Misses Spence, Judge and Mrs Williams, the Misses Williams, Mr and Mrs Oliver, Mr and Mrs J. M. Ritchie, Dr. and Mrs Ferguson, Dr. and Mrs Davies, Mr and Mrs Woodhouse, Dr. and Mrs Colquhoun, Mrs and Miss Grierson, Miss Gillies, Mrs Burns (Christchurch), Mrs C. Kettle, Mr and Mrs Henry Rose, Captain and Mrs Boyd, Mr and Mrs Jas. Cargill, Mr and Miss Gualter, Mrs and the Misses Sise, Mrs and the Misses Driver, Mrs Handyside, Misses Reynolds, Johnstone and Roberts.

Mrs Mackenzie wore black brocade, bodice turned back with yellow; Mrs Ferguson, grey silk with silver fringe and cream chiffon; Mrs Davidson, dove grey silk with white brocade front; Mrs Gilerson, yellow silk with chiffon; Miss Gillies, handsome dress of cream satin silk; Mrs E. C. Reynolds, butterfly brocade trimmed with embroidered chiffon; Mrs Burns, black brocade silk; Mrs Leslie Reynolds, handsome dress of black and gold; Mrs Kettle, yellow mervilleux and net; Miss Gualter, bright red nun's veiling; Miss A. Dymock, grey satin with pale pink velveteen; Mrs Spence, black lace over heliotrope; Mrs Woodhouse, black fisherman's net; Miss Reynolds, pale terra-cotta silk; Miss Neill, pink and white striped brocade.

Among those who took part in the music of the evening were Mrs Burns, who sang a duet by Mrs Williams, and Mrs Kettle; Mrs Rose and Mrs Handyside sang solos; Mrs E. C. Reynolds, Miss Roberts, and Miss Gillies played pianoforte solos, Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Kettle playing a duet.

Another very pleasant evening was a dance given to juveniles by Mrs W. H. Reynolds at Montecello. It is scarcely necessary to add it was very greatly enjoyed by those who were fortunate enough to be classed under that heading.

MAUDE.

FIJI.

DEAR BEB, FEBRUARY 23.

I thought you would be pleased to hear from your friend, who is now in the sunny isles of the South Seas. Of course you know this is our summer time, and it is rather warm compared with the summer in New Zealand. You would imagine dancing was quite put aside with us just now, but it is not so, as we have been very gay in Levuka. Three dances took place within three weeks.

The first was a complimentary dance given to welcome the officers from the Nanoroi Rewa River, at which town is situated the second largest sugar mill in the world. The second dance was also complimentary, given to the officers of the Ba River. These dances were pronounced to be the jolliest they have had for some time. Dancing commenced at 9 o'clock, and was kept up with much spirit till 3 a.m. I will try and mention some of the ladies who were present, as it would be quite inquisitive to name them all.

Mrs Drury wore steel grey, and crimson floral fan; Mrs Hennings, black silk; Mrs Johnston, black velvet and bead trimmings; Mrs J. W. Watkins (New Zealand) looked charming in pale blue silk and cream lace, with wreath of spider lilies; Mrs Horne, black silk and lace; Mrs Robertson, black lace and heliotrope flowers; Miss P. Morris, Liberty silk with lace, and cream aigrettes; Mrs Wilson, satin dress; Mrs Robie, black satin relieved with boney-suckle; Mrs Forbes, bottle green silk; Miss Robie wore a very pretty dress of white spangled net, pink roses; Miss Wolf, black lace and ribbons; Miss Johnston looked very nice in cream lace with pink ribbons and flowers; Miss Drury, pale pink muslin and white flowers; Miss Cutlip, pretty salmon pink net; Miss Edwards, flowered delaine and ribbons; Miss Palmer, pale blue and cream roses. The Levuka Band

played most of the dance music, and were kindly relieved by Miss Robie, and Mr Lyons, whose music waltzed the dancers into dreamland.

Now, Beo, I shall not trouble you with a long letter this time, as the steamer is sailing sooner than I expected, and I will only have time to post this.

OLIVE.

LATE SOCIETY TOPICS.

SOME EASTER DRESSES AT ELLERSLIE.

EASTER MONDAY broke somewhat inauspiciously in Auckland. Till about eleven o'clock a chilly wind blew and the sky was overcast. Between that hour and noon, however, the sun decided to come out and to stop out, so that the rest of the day was delightful. The unpromising look of the early morning doubtless accounted for the fact that dark and warm colours prevailed at Ellerslie. The lawns and paddocks looked very gay and animated, however, and some of the autumn frocks were distinctly pretty, and without any exceptions most becoming to the wearers. Navy blue and dark green were the dominating colours, and the number of ladies arrayed in black silks was phenomenal. Amongst those who looked specially well were Mrs Dr. Hope Lewis, in a very pretty grey costume and sailor hat. Mrs Biddle, in a perfectly-fitting navy blue gown, wore the smallest imaginable crimson bonnet, and looked remarkably well, as did Mrs 'Tom' Morris (always one of the best dressed women on the course) in a handsome crushed strawberry mervilleux. Mrs H. Thomson wore one of those rich black corded silks which suit her better than anything else. It was perfectly made, and fitted her admirably. Very smart, indeed, was Mrs Blair in a suitable fawn checked frock, and Mrs Osborne was admirably gowned in dark green tweed with hat, etc., en suite. The new bride, Mrs A. L. Edwards, was one of the most admired ladies on the lawn, and certainly was worth looking at clad in a perfectly-fitting costume of fawn tweed. Mrs H. Jackson was seen to advantage in brown tweed. The very handsome black mervilleux worn by Mrs Brindicombe caused much envy, hatred, and malice amongst those less becomingly befrocked. The dainty little cream bonnet she wore completed a perfect costume. Mrs Lennard, who also wore black silk, relieved her costume with most effective lace trimming; Mrs A. E. Devore wore black silk, with a very becoming lace mantle; Mrs Aitken Carrick, in black silk with jet trimmings, looked as contented as a well dressed woman should; Mrs Woodroffe's, neatly made tweed costume likewise became her; Mrs Windsor, wore a well-made navy blue costume, fawn hat; Mrs Raynes, in black silk, and Miss Harrison, in a very handsome dark brown costume, gold braid trimmings, were both generally admired; Miss Devore's costume of grey tweed was much admired; another grey frock was worn by Miss Masfield, with pretty silver trimming; Miss Johnstone had a gown which was very becoming, pale blue in colour, relieved with silver. A remarkably stylish costume was worn by Miss Hesketh; it was composed of myrtle green tweed, elegantly trimmed with astrachan, and suited the wearer wonderfully well. Navy blue and black gowns were worn, respectively, by the two Misses Firth. Miss Evans' fawn plaid costume and black hat suited her admirably; Miss Wilkins, in navy blue costume and neat sailor hat, appeared to enjoy herself immensely; the Misses Percival were becomingly gowned in maroon and gold, and dark green and crimson, respectively; Miss Jervis was ever so bright and looked very chic in a navy blue dress and sailor hat; Miss Kilgour was, as usual, perfectly dressed in navy blue and cream hat.

VERY DESIRABLE.

CARLYLE refers, with just severity, to the fact that a man once characterized another as 'a gentleman,' on the ground that he 'kept a gig.' A similar guarantee of respectability was that quoted in *Murray's Magazine*, in regard to a Russian servant Koris, whom the maid of the family intended to marry. Says the mistress of the household:

Koris, both as a soldier and a servant, is the soul of fidelity and trustworthiness, but he has his failings, and they are such as to make me doubt his merits as a husband.

Koris, like too many of his countrymen, loves vodka to excess, and in his cups Koris is Koris no longer. A raving, howling madman takes his place; a madman who roars, sings and yells until he falls, a shameful inert mass, on the ground, there to lie until he can rise and shake himself free from the murderous liquor.

With shaking limbs, he staggers off to the bath, and first boils and then freezes himself, in orthodox Russian fashion. However, this refreshing process restores his senses, and ere long, arrayed with military neatness and precision, he presents himself composed and taciturn, before his master. Vain are reproaches or advice.

'A man must enjoy himself sometimes, excellency,' is invariably his calm reply.

But such being the habits of the suitor, I thought it my duty to speak to the girl.

'Anticks,' said I, 'are you going to marry Koris?'

'Indeed, yes, little mother.'

'Do you love Koris?'

'How should I know, little mother?' was the bashful reply.

'But surely,' continued I, 'if you do not know whether you love him or not, why not wait till you find a better man?'

'A better man than Koris, little mother? No, that would not be possible. Koris has a horse, little mother, and a cart. Oh, there is no one like him!'

A MODEST REQUEST.

HE was standing on a barrel with a rope around his neck and over the limb of a tree.

A wild crowd had hold of the loose end and the leader was about to kick the barrel.

The victim held up his hand for attention and they extended the courtesy.

'May I prefer a last request?' he said with singular audacity, considering the circumstances.

'What is it?' inquired the floor manager, gruffly. 'Let's have it.'

'I want to say to you, gentlemen,' he continued, with a nod of thanks, 'that I do not enter a protest against your actions at this time. (Applause.) Having lived in your midst, as it were, and associated with you for some six months past, I am ready and willing—nay, anxious to die. (Chorus of disapproving yells and a voice, 'Kick the barrel from under him!') That's right gentlemen, you always were a lot of kickers, but wait till I get through speaking,' he said, when quiet was restored.

'Let him finish his speech and we'll finish him,' said the leader, soothing the crowd.

'Thanks,' continued the speaker. 'As I was saying, I am willing to die, but I don't want to do it in this infernal old-fogy way. A quarter of a century ago they used just such appliances as these are, and are you willing, gentlemen of this grand old commonwealth, to remain unprogressive?'

'Do you want a wire rope and a painted barrel?' howled the crowd.

'No, gentlemen,' he went on, 'I do not. If you are really bent on putting me out of the world all I ask is that you ship me to New York, where the chariot of progress is not dragged along on sled runners, and let me be electrocuted in the most approved and mod—'

At this point somebody kicked the barrel and the old-fogy appliances did the rest.

WILDMAN & LYELL.

GREAT SALE

OF BOOKS, STATIONERY,

AND FANCY GOODS.

REDUCTION OF STOCK.

WILDMAN AND LYELL

Have decided to hold a Sale of their extensive Stock of Books, Stationery, and Fancy Goods, which will be offered to the public at such prices as must effect a speedy clearance.

THE STOCK OF BOOKS

is one of the

LARGEST AND MOST VALUABLE IN THE COLONY.

Comprising upwards of 10,000 volumes.

INCLUDING A GREAT NUMBER OF HANDSOMELY-BOUND EDITIONS.

THE FANCY GOODS DEPARTMENT

Contains a choice variety of

Photographic, Scrap, and Stamp Albums
Photo screens
Wood and Leather Writing Cases
Ladies' Handbags, Purse, Card Cases
Photo Frames, etc., etc., etc.

STATIONERY DEPARTMENT.

A splendid collection of Boxed Stationery, Note-paper, Envelopes, Account Books, Copy Letter Books, Invoice Files, Business Envelopes, Etc., Etc., Etc.

Will be submitted

AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES.

The Stock is in excellent condition, entirely new, and will be offered to the public on and after

WEDNESDAY, 20th INSTANT.

WILDMAN & LYELL,

VICTORIA ARCADE & QUEEN-STREET.

AUCKLAND.



CHRYSANTHEMUMS.
CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

AUCKLAND CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SHOW

Will be held in the CHORAL HALL

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, and SATURDAY,

April 21, 22, 23.

A. E. DEWES, Hon. Sec.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.
CHRYSANTHEMUMS.