

THE first of the 'at homes' or open nights of the Christchurch Musical Society took place on Tuesday after an hour's practice. There were an unusually large number of members present, who with the sisters, cousins, and aunts made a great gathering. Songs and solos were given by the members, Miss Dara Mason opening with a prettily played piano solo by Lizst. Mr F. M. Wallace favoured us with a genuine solo on his violin, being unaccompanied by piano. Mrs Kaye gave 'White Wings' with great expression, and looked exceedingly well in one of the latest gowns of very rough tweed of a brown shade with broad stripe and flecked with red and white, a pretty embroidered vest of biscuit-colour, brown and biscuit velvets bonnet; Mrs Rout, Mrs Harrison, and Miss Richmond were the other ladies who sang, and Messrs Barkas and Day. The latter gave 'Margarita' in his best style.

It is expected that the new coinage will reach New Zealand about this time next year. Amongst the artists who are competing for the designs of the new sovereign, half sovereign, crown, half-crown, florin, and shilling, are Messrs Armstead, R.A., Birch, A.R.A., Poynter, R.A., Thornicroft, R.A., and Ford, A.R.A.



SIR EDGAR BOEHM.

MR WOOLNER, R.A., and Mr Gilbert, A.R.A., who were invited to send in their designs, declined, prompted possibly by the remembrance of the abuse which was very justifiably showered on the atrocities in coinage which were inflicted on a long suffering nation by the late Sir Edgar Boehm. Mr Gilbert's refusal is the more to be regretted, inasmuch as he is a very able man, and whatever designs he might have prepared would have borne the stamp of originality and full knowledge of a most difficult subject.

EVERY now and then the fashionable kettle drum is conducted on exceptionally successful lines. Such an one was certainly the afternoon tea given by Mrs Archie Clark, Remuera, Auckland. Her numerous guests were delighted with their hostess, the house and grounds, and the particularly excellent refreshments provided.

NONE of the hotels of St. Louis will have the honor of sheltering Mme. Bernhardt. Not content with a full retinue of maids and servants, Madame is accompanied by a number of dogs, several birds and two or three snakes, whose companionship she absolutely declines to dispense with. Manager Abbey recently telegraphed to the Southern Hotel, requesting that a suite of rooms be reserved for her. The answer was sent that Mme. Bernhardt and her retinue of featherless bipeds would be gladly received, but that for her menagerie no quarters would be provided. For awhile the wires were kept hot with ardent appeals from one side, and heartless refusals on the other, and finally a decision was arrived at that Madame, rather than endure the pangs of separation from her pets, would abide with them in her private car. Sara tried both the Southern and Lindell, but neither place would house her pets.

THE Costley Home, Auckland, has many benefactors, who from time to time provide suitable entertainments for its aged and infirm occupants. Mr and Mrs Pickmere, ably assisted by their two daughters, Miss Baker, Miss Harrison, Messrs Clarke, Norman Bell, McLean, and O'Halloran, gave an excellent concert in the large dining-room of the Home, which seemed to afford great pleasure to the inmates.

THE opening of the Dunedin hunting season on Saturday was a great success. The day was glorious, and the run out to Mrs Jones' beautiful place, Woodcote, was in itself a pleasure, and many vehicles and horsemen were to be seen. After a capital run Mrs Jones, who is famed for her hospitality upon these occasions, entertained the visitors to afternoon tea.

THE Burnham school children had a picnic on Friday, going by lanche to Port Levy. Several Christchurch friends, both ladies and gentlemen, joined the party, and had, I believe, a most enjoyable day. Mr Meers, photographer, Colombo street, also accompanied them, and no doubt took some interesting groups.

THE dancing portion of the Timarites are eagerly looking forward to a Fancy Dress Ball which the Rowing Club has in hand. At first a smoking concert was suggested, but it was pointed out by the ladies that this was a very selfish form of amusement, so it was decided to have the dance after Easter.

MR A. CRACROFT WILSON, of Cashmere, met with a very serious accident last week. Some repairs to a drain were being done near the house, and in the dark, on returning from town, he fell into it and narrowly escaped his death, getting his face severely cut, and otherwise much bruised and shaken. I am glad to say he is progressing satisfactorily.

How far does the admittedly bad ventilation of churches keep people away from their religious duties? A number of people state that the gas and fetid air which lingers from the last service are constantly causing ladies to faint, and that something ought to be done if everybody is not to give up church going for fear of the consequences. But to them rises up a stern moralist, who points the finger of scornful rebuke at the ungodly. How is it, he wants to know, that people stay away from church because the ventilation is bad, but go gaily to the theatre, where the ventilation is ten times worse? Out of that tight place the complainants will find it very hard to wriggle. But the fact remains that most public buildings are exceedingly badly ventilated.

THE Art Gallery at Christchurch opened its twelfth annual exhibition the other evening, and was fairly well attended. Seeing one's friends and listening to the music is more of a first night's business than seeing the pictures, though they are so decidedly good, a visit in the day-time will be an oft-repeated pleasure during the week, especially as there is nothing to be done now but wait for Easter. Mr Maitland Gardiner and friends gave the musical programme, which was much enjoyed.

THE little township of Brighton, Dunedin, was the scene of unwonted excitement, the other day, on the occasion of the marriage of Mr David Finnie, of Moorlight, eldest son of Mr Thomas Finnie, of Saddlehill, to Miss Mary Christie, niece of Mr and Mrs Alex Christie of Brighton. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Watt, of Green Island, and nearly the entire population of Brighton was present at the church. The wedding guests to the number of about forty, including several from Dunedin, were afterwards most hospitably entertained by Mr and Mrs Christie, and in the evening a dance took place in the hall attached to Brighton House. The bride wore a very pretty gown of white cashmere, draped on the bodice with silk and lace. The two bridesmaids—Miss Finnie and Miss Hoelap—also wore white.

MRS MOUNIER is staying at the North Shore, and came over to Auckland city in a russet-brown dress, lace mantle, and black lace straw hat, trimmed with black.

To be twenty; to be a Prince; and to have £60,000 a year: are, whether jointly or severally, very agreeable things indeed. But unless the youthful possessor of these triple delights be reasonably level-headed he is likely very soon to own somebody else's experience while the other man will have the cash—or a good deal of it. In the instructive case of Prince Alexis Soltykoff which was before the Queen's Bench Division the other day, there seems to have been a liberal expenditure even for a Prince with something more than £1,000 a week. Among other gallant trifles there was a diamond-mounted parasol bearing the monogram of the happy lady to whom it was given. That stood the princely revenues in a bagatelle of 250 guineas. Then there was a necklace of sapphires and brilliants, which totted up to £3,610—a little *gage d'amour* which (let us hope) went to the same lucky damsel. If we may take these outlays as a fair sample of the expenditure of the Russian young man of the day who is 'gilded on both sides,' we need not wonder that the Czar's paternal Government is anxious to retain Prince Alexis Soltykoff at home, where it can keep its eye upon him.

MRS JOHN RICHMOND, of Mount Eden, Auckland, is looking very well just now, the terrible neuralgia of the eyes from which she suffered so intensely some time ago, having apparently left her. She is wearing a pretty grey plaid skirt, with white silk blouse almost concealed by a black jacket, and a black feathered hat.

NOW that the game season is commencing, the following hint from *The Seasons* should prove acceptable to sportsmen, and their lady friends:—Should the bag contain anything very pretty—a bird of rare plumage, for instance—the best feathers are selected, labelled with the date, place, and sportsman's name. They are then kept until there are sufficient to make a commemorative fan. When it is at last mounted, the name, date and particulars respecting each feather should be placed on each of the divisions it forms. The frame is wood or ivory. The letters are best done in black or gold. In every case they should match the owner's monogram placed outside the handle.

MANY people who will remember the very pleasant 'At Homes' given by Miss Janet Achurch during her stay in New Zealand, will be glad to learn that Miss Annis Montague, the *prima donna* of the Montague-Turner Opera Company, intends to follow her example. It is confidently expected the same success will attend her efforts.

THE widow of General Grant has written a volume of autobiography and reminiscences, for which she has received £10,000 from her publisher, whose liberality has no doubt been stimulated by the enormous success of her husband's memoirs.

MRS COLERIDGE, of Wellington, gave an 'At Home' in honour of the anniversary of Mr and Mrs W. T. L. Travers' wedding day, at which a large number of guests assembled. It took the form of a musical evening, and Miss Gore, Captain Barclay, Mr Wardrop, and Mr Beesley (a visitor to Wellington) all gave great pleasure by their singing. Mrs Coleridge received in a handsome black gown, trained, and Mrs Travers wore her beautiful wedding dress of cream satin and lace, and carried a bridal bouquet. Among the guests were the Hon. Charles and Mrs Johnston, Miss Johnston (Fitzherbert Terrace), Dr. and Mrs Newinan, Mr and Mrs George Beetham, Mr and Mrs W. Ferguson, Mr and Mrs Parfitt, Miss Holmes, etc. The rooms were prettily decorated, as was also the supper table. A very pleasant evening was spent.



AFTER a long period of almost deathly silence Louise Michel, the famous 'Red Maid' of the terrible day, of the last French Commune, is heard from again, and now on English soil. She is still at her old business of instigating anarchy, although her mission was hands at present. An idea of the means chosen by her to ameliorate their condition may be gathered from extracts from her speeches, which are so modest that they merely suggest, in a sense, the almost wholesale destruction of all the life and property in sight of those who do not exactly coincide with her views. Like many others of the same ilk, she makes the balls, but to roll them, oh, no! That is for the poor fellows of the rank and file to do. While they are displaying their devotion to the cause by starving themselves, Louise is living on the fat of the land. It seems that there must be grave errors in the laws of both America and England that a clapper cannot be put on the mouths of such creatures as Louise Michel, Herr Most and others of their kind until they have practically done their mischief.