

ALL the Timaru Clubs have started football, but there are at present no interesting matches to record.

ANOTHER football club has been started in Hastings, and a great number of the coming men have already joined. The weather is getting a touch of winter already, so I expect the boys will be beginning to practise shortly.

It is currently reported in more than one paper that a scratch team of Australian cricketers will tour England this year for the English cricket season. I am not in a position to positively deny the rumour, but I may say that from information received I think it is to the last degree unlikely that such a team will do any such thing. The great clubs in the Old Country have spoken with considerable frankness on the subject of Australian eleven, saying that unless the teams rest are thoroughly representative it is madness to despatch them, and that it would be well to give Anglo-Colonial cricket a rest. The result of the matches last tour justified this expression of opinion. There is no doubt that the tameness—to use no stronger word—of the display made by Australians on that occasion dampened the enthusiasm of the public, and the games were decidedly poor towards the end of the season. Unless the colonials make a far greater splash on their next visit and stick closer to business and less to the world, the flesh, and refreshment, there is little doubt that they will kill public interest in Australian cricket for many years to come. For a scratch eleven to go for the purpose of playing what are termed minor matches would be not merely mischievous, but positively suicidal.

THE Girls Rowing Club, Christchurch, finished up their season on Wednesday with some rowing matches on the river just above the hospital. The banks were lined with spectators, and as the river is very narrow at that part, only one boat could pull at a time with safety, so all the interest could be given to each crew as they pulled off against time. The prizes were silver medals in the shape of Maltese cross given by Mr. Worthy. The first was won by Miss Alice Moorhouse and Miss Worthy, with Miss Nedwill as coxswain. Mr. Worthy presented the prizes with one of his own happy little speeches. After this interesting performance Mrs. Worthy dispensed afternoon tea in their pretty garden. I saw there Mrs. Cowlishaw, Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. and Miss Campbell, Mrs. Moorhouse, the Misses H. Moore, Henoah, Beswick, and others, in addition to the members of the club, who number over twenty.

I HEAR a ladies' Golf Club is being started in Christchurch. Golf is very fashionable at home, so in the usual course, we follow. The Misses Way, Kinsey, and Harman are very energetic in arranging the preliminary details, and I hear there are fourteen or fifteen others equally anxious to join.

**AUCKLAND CRICKET REPRESENTATIVES.**

THERE is always some hickering and discontent over the selection of "reps," but it cannot be denied that the gentlemen on whom devolved the duty of picking the Auckland "reps" for this season did that duty wisely and well. Only one match was played—that against Canterbury—which, as everyone knows, resulted in a win for Auckland. The team was ably captained by the veteran, J. Fowke. The following sketches are given of the form of the different men:—

J. ARNELL (Auckland C.C.).—An old representative of Auckland, who has done good service for the province. Has been out of practice for some seasons, but is now in fair form again. A sound bat, scoring well all round, and useful slow bowler. A little slow in the field.

J. N. FOWKE (Gordon C.C.).—The wicket-keeper of the team, and the best in the colony. Represented Canterbury for a number of years. Played for Auckland in 1890 against Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, and Sydney. A steady batsman, with plenty of nerve. Probably he or Arnell will captain the team.

W. GARDNER (Parnell C.C.).—Dashing bat, with fine hitting powers, and has scored very consistently for the past 3 or 4 seasons. A fine out field, and can take the gloves at a pinch. Represented Auckland against Otago, Wellington and Sydney in 1888.

W. HAWKINS (United C.C.).—A good man all round, and the only left hander in the team. Bows medium pace, with fair break, and a good bat, though inclined to be nervous. A fine field anywhere. Represented Auckland against Canterbury, Wellington and Sydney in 1889.

J. T. HOWLETT (Auckland C.C.).—One of the best all round men in the team. A fast-scoring batsman, with good defence, and excellent bowler with plenty of pace and good leg hold. An excellent all round field. Lost his cricket in Melbourne, and has not played for Auckland before.

H. W. LAWSON (Parnell C.C.).—An old Wellington representative, and good all-round man. Good bat and field, and successful bowler, varying his pace well. His first match for Auckland.

L. MILLS (Parnell C.C.).—One of the best bats in the team. Though not so consistent as usual this season, is responsible for the largest individual score (100). Has great patience, with fair punishing powers. A safe field and change bowler, with good off break. Played against Sydney in 1889.

R. NEILL (Auckland C.C.).—The best bowler in the team. Has obtained a great number of wickets the last two seasons, and has been a most uniformly successful. A slow bowler with good break both ways, but especially from leg, and keeping an excellent length. A good steady batsman and safe field close in. Played against Sydney in 1889.

W. STREMS (United C.C.).—The fast bowler of the team. Has triumphed with great success for several seasons, and has done some brilliant performances this year. Sure field anywhere, and may hit up a score, but has no in-jinch defence. Played against Otago, Canterbury, Wellington, and Sydney in 1891.

T. H. WILSON (Auckland C.C.).—Stylish bat, with good hitting powers. Has scored largely this season. A good out field. His first rep match.

H. J. YATES (United C.C.).—The veteran of the team. Has represented Auckland since 1875, and has scored more runs for the province than any other player. Is getting past his best, but can still be depended on for runs. Somewhat stiff in the hand now, but still safe.

**THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT RACE.**

(SEE ILLUSTRATION FRONT PAGE.)

THE great struggle for victory in the inter University boat race is not witnessed by the thousands of people who congregate upon the day to view the contest, but by those enthusiasts who consistently follow the rival crews in their training. The fight is for 'form,' for skill, and that fight takes place under the coaches' eye and direction. The result of the race itself, follows as a natural consequence. On our front page are some sketches of the training of the Oxford and Cambridge crews, that should prove interesting to many. In making his choice of sketches this month, our English artist has been especially happy, for of all events aquatic that of the University Boat Race is most popular.

This year all previous records have been broken, for Oxford pulled home in 19min 22-sec, which is just thirteen seconds shorter time than that in which Cambridge did the distance in 1875. Between these two great educational institutions 47 eight-oared races have taken place, the first one being rowed in 1839. Of these Oxford has won 25 and Cambridge 21, a dead heat being the result of the race in 1877.

**✻ TENNIS ✻ TOPICS ✻**

MRS C. B. SHANKS, of Christchurch, had a number of friends for tennis on Saturday. Among the players were Mr and Mrs Ansley, Miss Campbell, Miss Webb, Miss Shurey (Asbbarton), Messrs Styche, Chapman, Bell, Mitchell, and several others. The lawn was in good order after the rain, but the grass very soft. After Easter tennis, on the grass courts will have to be abandoned.

THE Canterbury Lawn Tennis Club opened for the winter season at the Cranmer Square Courts last Saturday afternoon. The day was a real autumn one, bright and sunny. The ladies came out once more in their pretty summer costumes, and the men for the most part being clad in tennis flannels. It was difficult to think people were there to open for the winter. There were fully two hundred members and their friends present. The President, Dr. Nedwill, was warmly welcomed. The many visitors greatly appreciated the tea and cake so kindly provided by Mrs. Nedwill and her daughters. The courts have been much improved in the holiday season, all the fittings having been done up and repaired, newly-laid tan displacing the turf borders of some of the courts. This will be a decided advantage during the wet weather. Some very good play was shown in a single between Mr R. D. Harman and Mr E. J. Ross, the former winning two sets, 6, 1 x 6, 2. In a double Messrs R. D. Harman and Ridings won three sets against Messrs Ross and T. D. Harman, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4. Numerous other combined games were played.

It is hoped this year some of the ladies will enter for the Status Tournament, a form of competition comparatively new to tennis, and only introduced in Christchurch last season. It proved very popular, however, and, it is thought, much improved the standard of play in the Club.

MR J. M. MARSHALL'S friends greatly regretted his absence on the opening afternoon, as it is always a pleasure to see him with a well-matched opponent. Among the many present were Mr and Mrs Bruges, Mr and Mrs Harrison, the Misses Moorhouse, Rhodes, Delamain, Kinsey, Poits, Harman, Gordon, Helmore, and others. Some good photos were taken by Messrs Standish and Preece, one of the gentlemen players, and another mixed group where one's friends are distinctly recognisable.

THE tennis tournaments at New Plymouth have now come to an end, and the last year's champions—Miss Emily Hamerton and Mr Morton Lightfoot—are still unbeaten. Truth to tell this redoubtable twain carried all before them, and did what they liked with each and every antagonist. Strangely enough, and rather unfortunately, they were drawn to play together in the doubles. Both, of course, won trophies, Miss Hamerton's being a pretty little gold bangle with gold chain, and Mr Lightfoot's an electro plated guitar with clock in the middle and a barometer up the handle.

TENNIS on asphalt courts is to begin shortly in Christchurch.

In some parts of New Zealand the Female Franchise questions is being again brought to the fore. An English writer says: 'The much-dreaded dominance of the fair sex, which haunts the minds of some old women in breeches, seems a long way off yet.' This may be so in Conservative England, but the colonies are nothing if not radical, and, in all probability, we shall have women on the electoral roll here long before they obtain a like privilege in the old country.

Customer: 'Mr Baggs, there seems to be a good deal of sand in the sugar this week.' Grocer: 'I'm very sorry, I'm sure.' Customer: 'And the butter is three quarters oleo.' Grocer: 'Well, I must look into that.' Customer: 'But what surprises me the most is that the tea is pure, and weighs sixteen ounces to the pound.' Grocer: 'By gracious, Mr Snooks, I'll be more careful in future!'

**THE MONTAGUE-TURNER OPERA COMPANY.**

THE Montague-Turner Opera Company arrived in New Zealand yesterday by the S. A. Marston from Sydney, and now hold themselves in readiness to open their season of English Opera on Monday next at the Auckland Opera House. The arrival of this Company may be fairly considered an event in musical and theatrical circles, in New Zealand, and that such is the case is evidenced by the interest created from the first announcement of the management. It is now over three years since we had a first class Company in our midst as far as legitimate ballad opera is concerned, and there is no doubt we are longing to see it again. Comic opera we have had, and that of the best, with all its attendant spectacular display in the shape of elaborate scenery, brilliant costumes, and living pictures.

The Montague-Turner Opera Company is headed by three of the best artists who have appeared on the Australian stage during the last decade, and this is evidenced by the fact that it has outlasted other companies which have appeared from time to time, and have since disappeared from public notice. Miss Annis Montague is the *prima donna assoluta*—the bright particular star of the Company, and whose name is a household word amongst musical people in the colonies. It may be safely said that no opera company can last without an eminent *prima donna* a great musical and dramatic artiste at its head, and that such is Miss Annis Montague admits of no dispute. A lady by birth, the daughter of a Boston clergyman, and a highly educated woman, she is gifted with a voice of exceptional purity, which has been brought to perfection by four years' tuition in Paris under the famous Wartel, one of the greatest European masters. It is an acknowledged fact amongst Australian musicians that no one knows more about the production of the voice than Annis Montague. Her voice is level from the highest to the lowest note in an extraordinary register. The Australian press has time after time been enthusiastic in its praise, and even the *Sydney Bulletin*, admittedly the severest of critics, says: 'English opera with Annis Montague for an exponent carries all before it. This is as it should be.'

Mr Charles Turner stands second to the *prima donna* in the Company's roll call. His voice is a pure tenor 'robusto.' Every note comes from his chest with a power and quality that are alike surprising. In a critique of 'Maritana' the *Sydney Morning Herald* says: 'Mr Turner dressed very richly, acted with all that dash and finish which the part of Don Cesar demands, and sang splendidly. Let Me Like a Soldier Fall, is Mr Turner's triumph. That he has a full round tenor voice most people know, and he imparts to this song an amount of martial expression which exactly corresponds to the chivalrous expression of the word.'

Mr Edward Farley completes the famous trio who have stood the test of time in the Montague-Turner Company. This gentleman has always been exceedingly popular on the Australian stage. Gifted with a clear, sonorous, ringing baritone voice, he combines a dramatic power with a highly artistic stage presence, which never fail to make their effect upon his audience. The *Sydney Morning Herald* says of his appearance in 'Maritana': 'His Don J. se excelled his Devilhood, and that is saying a great deal, whilst his song, 'In Happy Moments,' is given with purity of tone and telling emphasis which well earn him the applause he receives.'

Of the artists who support the three 'stars' in the Montague-Turner Company we have no time at present to speak, but we can say that Miss E. A. Lambert (contralto) has for years been the typical 'Lazarillo' of Australia. Miss Maud Lita *secunda donna* is a young 'society' lady of Sydney who has made her debut under the tuition of Miss Montague, and has a very fine soprano voice. Mr Alec Marshall is second tenor, and Mr Fred England is basso. The conductor of the orchestra is Mr Harold Lee, whose name is well known in opera both as conductor and chor-master.

**A B B O T T S' O P E R A H O U S E.**

The MONTAGUE-TURNER OPERA SEASON, Commencing

MONDAY NEXT, 25th APRIL  
A NEW DEPARTURE  
In the annals of the operatic stage.  
FIRST-CLASS OPERA AT POPULAR PRICES.

Dress Circle and Orchestral Stalls	4s
Family Seats	2s 6d
Box	One Shilling

**MANAGERIAL NOTE.**

In calling attention to the above announcement about prices the management beg to say that they are animated with the desire to meet a very wide expressed wish on the part of the musical world of Auckland. It is so long since legitimate English Opera has been here, interpreted by G. E. F. Artists like Miss Annis Montague, Mr Charles Turner, and Mr Edward Farley, supported by an efficient and homogeneous company of known performers and sustained by a complete Chorus and Orchestra, that most people desire to attend every Opera to be produced during the season. With this end in view the prices have been arranged at a lower figure than has ever been charged before in any part of the world by the

**MONTAGUE-TURNER OPERA COMPANY.**

The initial performance of the season will be Wallace's ever-popular, romantic, and charming opera,

**MARITANA!**  
MONDAY NEXT, 25th APRIL

'Scenes that are Brightest'.....  
MISS ANNIS MONTAGUE.....  
'Let Me Like a Soldier Fall'.....  
MR CHARLES TURNER.....  
'In Happy Moments'.....

MR EDWARD FARLEY.....  
Box plan at Wildman's. Prices: 4s 2d. 6d. 1s.  
DUNCAN McCALLUM, Business Manager.