



ENGAGEMENTS

MISS MAGGIE STEVENSON, daughter of Mrs Robert Stevenson, Great North Road, Auckland, to the Rev. Bruce Todd, son of the well known Presbyterian minister, of Oamaru. Mr Todd's home will probably be made in Geraldine.

MISS M. GODDALL, of Park Road, is betrothed to Mr Harrison, master of the Grammar School.

MISS NANCY GILFILLAN, Jermyn-street, and Mr H. Wilson, of Whangarei.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, MAY 4.

From all accounts we may expect a very gay session, and already there is great talk of the coming winter frivolities, and friends from all parts of New Zealand seem to have quite made up their minds to visit us then. We are therefore hoping that Mr Walter Bentley's scheme of keeping the Opera House occupied throughout the year will work successfully, for during the session it would be greatly appreciated by those in search of amusement.

DRESSES AT THE LEAP YEAR CONCERT.

This concert was a most charming affair. The ladies are to be congratulated on their great success, for everything went off without a hitch, and the large and critical audience were highly delighted. Mrs Holt and Miss M. Gore played the accompaniments. Mrs Holt wore a black lace evening gown trimmed with mauve chiffon and mauve ribbons; Miss Medley, cream figured gown with side sash of cream moire; Miss Gore, black, with front of yellow and yellow chiffon frills; and her sister, white with yellow chiffon trimming; Miss George wore white, and also Miss Holt, and Miss Kennedy black. Miss Henry, I believe, was to have played, but was too ill to appear.

In the audience were Mrs Pysant (who has recently returned from Home), Mrs Medley, Mrs G. Beetham, Mrs E. Reid, Mr and Mrs Wardrop, Mr and Mrs Rous Marten, Miss Dransfield, the Misses Cooper, Miss Hart, Miss Knight, Miss Graham, Mr and Mrs Gore, Miss Stowe, Mrs Edwin, the Misses Harding, Miss Alice Grace, Miss McClean, Miss P. Smith, Miss Hector, Miss Macdonald (Nelson), and many others.

I lately heard of a leap year concert in another part of New Zealand, but gentlemen were not even allowed to take part in the programme. I fancy I prefer our way, for one can hardly introduce instrumental music without the aid of the sterner sex.

RUBY.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, MAY 5.

There has been nothing but the mildest dissipation to take note of. To-night there is a ball given by eight bachelors residing in Park Terrace, and there is great excitement over that, and we are looking forward with much pleasure for the arrival of the Opera Company. The Ladies' Golf Club met for its first trial on Thursday at Captain Marshall's, Fendalton, when six girls turned up, including Misses Way, B. Cunningham, and Kinsey.

On Monday afternoon a very large party of ladies met at the invitation of Mrs A. H. Turnbull in the Art Gallery, and spent a most cordial and pleasant time. Our little hostess was most energetic and sweet flitting about here and there looking after everybody. I heard eighty invitations were issued. The pictures were a great attraction, and were on view for the very last time this season. Tea was laid on one large table in the centre, and numbers of small ones on either side, where groups of friends discussed the delicious cakes and tea, and made merry chat. The decorations were very tasteful on the centre table. A high bamboo stand was filled with brown and yellow chrysanthemums and autumn leaves, which are so beautiful when touched with the frost, and baskets and jars of the same flowers in yellow and white were scattered about. Miss Gibson and Miss Van Asche played some very pretty and dainty music. Mrs Hacon, Mrs John Anderson, Mrs Garrard, and Mrs Lightfoot (Nelson) pleasing everyone with their singing. Mrs Turnbull, who, by the way, once belonged to Auckland as Miss Lawson, wore a pretty silver grey dress with silk vest of the same colour, brown jacket, and brown felt hat; Miss Raymond, who ably assisted Mrs Turnbull as well as a number of her other girl friends, wore a bright crimson dress trimmed with black astrachan, black hat; Mrs J. Gibbs, handsome embroidered black cashmere made with train, black and gold bonnet, black fur boa; Miss Gibson, dark dress, and long sealskin jacket, bonnet with white flowers; Mrs Elmslie, brown and white check dress; Mrs G. Merton, light tweed gown; Mrs C. J. Merton, grey tweed dress, fawn cloth cloak, black bonnet with crimson roses; Mrs Hacon, terra cotta dress with handsome gimp trimmed vest, bonnet to match; Mrs John Anderson, black and

white check dress, with a little pale blue in her bonnet; Mrs Lightfoot, long black cashmere, the train edged with astrachan, bodice similarly trimmed, bonnet composed of black embroidered chiffon; Miss D. Meeson, dark green cloth gown, black hat; Mrs Gammoek, long black silk dress, the front handsomely jetted, jet mantle, black and yellow bonnet; Mrs Garrard, navy blue diagonal serge with fawn silk vest covered with gimp of navy and gold, small black velvet bonnet with crimson and fawn; Miss Mysie Aikman, white Liberty silk, grey cloth jacket, and large white hat; the Misses Van Asche, pretty delaine and white hats; Miss Pratt, dark dress, and three-quarter cloak of black velvet, the hood lined with crimson, high Medici collar, white silk blouse, and small black hat; Miss N. Pratt, pale grey gown, and large white hat; Mrs G. Lambie, navy blue, with wide stripe in fawn, bonnet to match; Mrs Van Asche, Mrs Fisher, Miss Packer, Mrs A. Cuff and her daughter, Miss G. Aikman, and many others. This is all at present from yours, etc.,

DOLLY VALE.

BLENHEIM.

DEAR BEE, MAY 5.
Last week I promised to tell you a little more about the

ROWING CLUB'S SOCIAL,

which was most enjoyable. The decorations were most tasteful and appropriate, and two four-oared racing boats were suspended by ropes of lycoperdium from the roof, which, together with quantities of red draperies, flags, Chinese lanterns, toi-toi, rauupo, and nikau palms, had a lovely and most novel effect. The music supplied by Mr Vannini's band was first class, and the floor was in splendid order. The supper was excellent, and the table prettily decorated with mirrors, Liberty silk, chrysanthemums, and foliage.

THE DRESSES.

Besides those I mentioned last week I noticed as looking well Mrs McIntosh, in heliotrope Russian net over satin, the bodice prettily trimmed with violet ribbon velvet; Miss Vivian, in pale blue silk and lace; Miss Rees, in black; Miss Worthington, in white; Miss Girling, pale blue with chiffon frills, and dark velvet bows and streamers tied between the shoulders; Miss Carter, white; Miss Gresham, pink; Mrs Brown, lemon silk; Mrs Tausley, heliotrope silk; Mrs Mullen, black, with handsome coloured embroidery; Miss Mullen, black and silver with corselet bodice; Miss Muir, black merveilleux; Miss Braze, pink and white; Miss Eva Draper, white and pale blue; Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Snodgrass, Mrs Earp, Mrs Healey, Mrs Allen, and Miss Madeline Brown all wore black; Mrs Tait, pink and blue; Miss Mackenzie, white and yellow; Miss Gordon, red and cream and gold. There were very few

FANCY DRESSES,

and the only ones I particularly noticed were Miss Fryer, in the handsome black and red silk robes of a Doctor of Music, and Mr H. Horton, who was capitally made up as a Chinaman. Miss Dodson, who presented the trophies, looked very pretty in white. A case of handsome carvers was presented to Mr de Castro by Miss Dodson on behalf of the Rowing Club, who in Mr de Castro are losing not only a good captain, but a good oar and an energetic supporter of the club. Mr and Mrs de Castro and Miss A. Vixon left last Saturday morning for Nelson, carrying with them the regrets and also the good wishes of a large number of friends and acquaintances.

CHORAL CONCERT.

At the choral concert some pretty dresses were worn. Mrs Lucas looked very graceful in a black and gold evening gown with a spray of yellow chrysanthemums on her bodice; Miss Vivian wore a becoming black ball gown, with cluster of pink dahlias, and her hair beautifully dressed in a chignon of French curls; Miss Mullen wore black and silver; Mrs Snodgrass, black lace relieved with cream; Mrs Kerr, pink. Among the chorus I noticed Miss Clark, Mesdames Powell, McIntyre, Brown, Fuller, Misses Brown, Stratford, Simson, Clare, Gresham, Madeline Brown, Girling, Tausley, Maccabe, and Messrs Rogers, Barnicoat, G. Robinson, McIntosh, L. Redwood, J. B. Green, Fulton, Penny, Stratford, etc. Among the audience I noticed Mesdames McIntyre, Watts (Nelson), Tom Redwood, Hanna, Kellas, McIntosh, Holmes, G. Robinson, Collins, Hiley, C. Earp, Clouston, T. Carter, Vivian (Dunedin), Reynolds, Orr, Thompson, H. H. Dodson, Dodd, De Castro, Purkiss, Mullen, Webb, and Misses J. Pitt (Nelson), Horton, Mulgan, R. Clark, L. and A. Pasley, Robertson, Brown, Linton, Chaytor, Redwood, Girling, and Messrs Clouston, De Castro, Cololly, Rowe, Richmond, Kennedy, P. Clark, H. Douglas, and many more. The concert was quite one of the best given by the society, who are to be congratulated upon the local musical talent.

DUNEDIN.

DEAR BEE, MAY 4.

Dr. Lucas has been delivering very interesting lectures at the City Hall. 'The Indian Tribes of Canada' was one that attracted a good deal of attention.

BALL AT BLACKSTONE.

The bachelors of Hill's Creek, in the neighbourhood of Dunedin, resolved to show their gratitude for past favours and sense of more to come in the approaching winter season, and gave a very enjoyable ball at Blackstone. About sixty guests were present. The hall was nicely decorated, and the music was good, supplied by (piano) Mr Gallagher, Messrs Pirrie, T. Dillon, and McLean (violins). The refreshments, which were excellent, were provided by Mrs Inder. Mr P. Dillon acted as M.C. Among those present were Misses Spain, Salmon, Haurahau, M'Enner, M'Therson, Cochran, Dillon, A. Dillon, Mrs T. Dillon, Miss Johnstone, Misses A. Inder, E. Inder, S. Inder, Alice Inder, M'Devitt, H. M'Devitt, M'Keenan, Mason, Forsyth, E. Forsyth, M'Lennan and M'Lennan, Fitzander (Clyde), Jones, and M. A. Wilkinson.

ORCHESTRAL CONCERT.

The Dunedin Orchestral Society gave a splendid concert. Miss Nellie Stevenson, a *debutante* and a pupil of Mrs Wilkie, was a great success in 'Happy Days' and 'Lovely Spring.' She looked very nice in a gown of white. Mr W. H. Corrigan's clarinet solo, 'Morceau de Salon,' was another treat. The gentleman soloist was Mr D. E. Packer, who sang with great expression 'Come to Me,' and 'Margarita.' The orchestral pieces were, as usual, very fine, opening with the March 'Turque.' They also gave the Overture 'Oberon,' and Symphony No. 8 (a) Allegro con brio (b) Allegretto, 'The Gondoliers,' and the waltz 'Hydropeant.' The Garrison Hall was packed, as it usually is upon these occasions. The opening of this, the fifth season, promises that the concerts will gain not lose in the popularity which they have undoubtedly attained. It has often caused surprise and comment from visitors that Dunedin should possess a society of such merit, and on such a large scale. During an interval Mr A. Bathgate asked the patronage of the audience for a concert which the Orchestral Society is about to give in aid of the Dunedin and Suburban Reserves Conservation Society, commonly called the Amenities' Society.

DANCE AT HILL FLAT.

Leap year balls are intensely popular. Another is recorded in the vicinity of Dunedin, this one evening taking at a place rejoicing in the opposing name of Hill Flat. It was a huge success. Miss Murphy efficiently acted as M.C. till twelve o'clock, when Miss Stewart, in a nice little speech, gave over the charge of matters to the gentlemen, Mr J. Carroll acting as M.C. for the rest of the night. Dancing was kept up till daylight, and all present declared it the most enjoyable dance ever held in the place. Among the ladies present were Misses Kemp, Stewart, Crossan, Murphy (Alexander), Burton (Dunedin), Fisher (Alexander), Crossan (Roxburgh), Short, Wilkinson, Brown, Rahill, E. Brown, and Galvin.

One of the most enjoyable concerts given in Dunedin was by invitation of the Liedertafel, and held in the Choral Hall, which was crowded. This musical Society has a number of our best male voices, and we heard upon one evening most of our leading soloists. The concert opened with a charming part-song, entitled 'Bright Little Bird,' the quartette being Messrs Blenkinsopp, Crawford, Wright, and Ibbotson. Mr Manson was down on the programme for 'The Yeoman's Wedding,' but was suffering with cold and unable to appear. Mr Charles Umbers singing in his place a song with which he was to follow, 'The Last Dream.' The song, which was quaint and pathetic, won a recall. The Liedertafel then gave 'To the Sun,' and Mr Blenkinsopp followed with a remarkably pretty song, 'Island of Dreams,' which did, indeed, carry one into their own particular dreamland where dwell things have been and to be. A pianoforte duet by the conductor, Mr A. J. Barth, and the accompanist, Mr J. Timson, was a clever performance. Mr W. F. Young gave great pleasure with his song, 'The Gallant Salamander.' His voice is very rich and deep, and he never goes down to the lower notes without evoking ample evidence of appreciation from the audience. Mr J. Jago sang 'Dearer Than Life' with great expression and passion, and was also recalled in the most determined manner. A quartette by Messrs E. E. Packer, Chinn, Thomson, and Ibbotson, entitled (a) 'Dreamy Lake,' (b) 'Wishes' was charming and effective. 'Vieni la mia Vendetta' ('Lucresia Borgia') was most expressively rendered by Mr H. S. Reunert, who responded to a recall with a sweet German song. The last soloist, Mr F. L. Jones, gave 'On Deck' with much feeling. He also was recalled. All of the selections by the Liedertafel were of that melodious character that make these songs without accompaniment so charming to listen to. Punctually at ten the concert closed, a recommendation in itself, for in these days of wear and tear two hours even of the most delightful music is sufficient to recreate and refresh. The most 'savagely breast' can be soothed within that time, but protracted until eleven o'clock, as many concerts are, amicable and harmless individuals are often rendered 'savagely.' I always think that a concert should be conducted upon the principle upon which Sam Weller wrote his love letters—leaving the recipient wishing there was more.

THE TAPANUI BALL.

A ball at Tapanui, given by Mr W. T. M'Farlane and the employes of Glenkech saw mill, came off in Mr R. T. Elliot's barn. The management of affairs was given to the care of Mr W. N. Riddle, who carried out everything in a very satisfactory manner. Among the ladies present were Misses Wolfe, Gowdy, M'Intyre, Dawson, Nimmon, Crawford, M'Inery, Fisher, Taylor, Cross, Reidy, Mrs Parker, Mrs Japp, Mrs Riddle, Mrs Lischer, Mrs Gowdy, and Mrs Montgomery.

MAUDE.

NELSON.

DEAR BEE, MAY 2.

I have sent the editor a few particulars about the picnic given by Mrs Glasgow. Everyone enjoyed it awfully. Indeed, on their way home one carriage stayed for a few minutes at the gate of Mr Glasgow's residence and gave three cheers for the genial host and hostess, and also sang, 'For He is a Jolly Good Fellow,' etc., but I won't give the occupants of this conveyance away. And now for some of those who were present: Mesdames Booth, J. Sharp, Percy Adams, L. Adams, J. Wood, Misses Pitt, Lewis, C. Jones, R. Richmond, Fell, Broad, Miss (Wanganui), Hosking (Sydney), Edwards, Mackay, Johnson (Wellington), Brown, Wood, and Messrs Booth, J. Wood, Jackson, and Biss (Wellington), Broad, J. Wither, Heaps, Moore, Leggett, Allen, Pearce (Wellington), Duncan, Joynt, Cooke, and James.

The first evening of Mr Chester's clever performance I noticed among those present Mesdames Percy Adams, J. Sharp, A. Glasgow, Fell, Macquarrie, R. Kingdon, Pickering (Wellington), Clark (Timaru), Misses Watson, Gibben, B. Atkinson, Pitt, Curtis, Glasgow and M. Atkinson. With the circus performed to a crowded house for one night only. Those I managed to see were Mr and Mrs A. Glasgow, Mr and Mrs J. Sharp, Mr and Mrs Percy Adams, Mr and Mrs R. Kingdon, Mr and Mrs Preshaw, Mrs Pickering (Wellington), Mrs Blackett, Mr, Mrs and Miss Wood, Mrs J. Wood, Mr and Mrs Pitt, Mrs Scudlers, and Misses Preshaw, Watson, Atkinson, Pitt, Jones, Curtis, Mackay, Catley, Hunter-Brown, Pike (Stoke), Bell, etc.

PHYLLIS.