

His Excellency The Governor.

A MOST ENTHUSIASTIC RECEPTION.

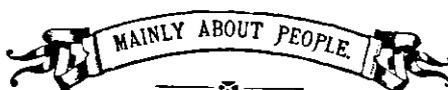
FORTUNATELY Wellingtonians had a lovely day for the reception of our new Governor, which took place last Tuesday instead of Monday as had been expected. The Hinemoa was delayed, owing to the gale and bad weather, so that the half holiday, etc., was postponed until the following day, which turned out bright and sunny, but chilly. The whole town seemed to have turned out to welcome their Excellencies. It was estimated that 12,000 people witnessed their arrival in the steamer, and all the streets along which the procession marched were thronged. The Ionic was converted into a flagship for the ladies only, and this was literally packed with members of the fair sex, who had a splendid view of the whole proceedings. The wharf was beautifully decorated, and all the vessels in the harbour had 'dressed ships.' The steamers that went out laden with people to meet the Hinemoa were gaily decorated, as, indeed, was the whole town, the principal streets being hung across with flags, etc.

Shortly after the arrival of the Earl and Countess at the wharf the Mayor introduced his daughter, Miss Iris Bell, to the Countess, to whom Miss Bell then presented a beautiful bouquet of pale yellow primroses and maiden hair ferns. Amongst those on the wharf to receive his Excellency were the Mayor (Mr Bell), the Mayors of Hutt and Karori, Bishop Hadfield (Primate), Mr J. H. Cook, the members of the City Council, Mr T. Gale and the members of the Council of the Chamber of Commerce, Archbishop Redwood, Dr. Newman, M.H.R., Messrs Fisher, Duthie, and McLean M.H.R.'s the very Rev. Dr. Watters, and all the heads of Friendly Societies and heads of local bodies.

Sir Patrick Buckley, who accompanied His Excellency from Australia, first introduced him to the Mayor, who conducted him to the raised dais and there introduced him to the Cabinet Ministers, after which the various addresses were presented in succession. On the dais were, besides the Governor's party, Sir Patrick and Lady Buckley, the Premier and Mrs Ballance, the Hon. John McKenzie, the Hon. W. P. Reeves and Mrs Reeves, the Hon. Charles and Mrs Johnston, Dr. and Mrs Newman, Mr and Miss Duthie, Mr Fisher, Mrs R. Hart, Mr G. Beetham, Mr John Plimmer, Mr Gale, Mr Wheeler, the Hon. Dr. and Mrs Grace, Mrs Hadfield, Mrs Reid, etc. His Excellency and Lady Glasgow occupied the central seats, Mr Ballance sitting next the Countess, and the Ladies Alice and Augusta Boyle sitting next their father. The Countess wore a handsome gown of dark green cloth, trained, and wore a long loose sacque jacket of the same material with lapels of black astrachan, a small black bonnet with gold butterflies; Lady Augusta Boyle wore fawn, and the Ladies Dorothy and Alice Boyle, pretty red cloaks, and red hats with bows of black ribbon at the back. Lady Glasgow is fairly tall, with dark hair which has just begun to get grey, and this she wears in a knot at the back, and she seems exceedingly pleasant and affable, and smiled and bowed her acknowledgments all the way through the town. Lord Glasgow is a fine-looking man, very upright, with grey, or rather almost white hair and beard, but looked very tired. The daughters looked pale and fatigued after their journey. They are dark, and more like their mother than father.

The swearing-in ceremony took place on their arrival at the Court, which was most beautifully decorated in honour of the auspicious occasion. On the platform during the ceremony were Sir James and Lady Prendergast (His Honor wearing his Judicial robes), Mr Arthur Cooper (Registrar), Lady Buckley, Mrs Ballance, Mrs Reeves, the French Consul and Madame de Bacloné, the German Consul and Mrs Castendyk, Archbishop Redwood, etc. After the ceremony the vice-regal party re-entered their carriages and drove on to Government House. Before they left the Court house they were presented with a magnificent Maori mat made entirely from native grasses by Henri Wereta, of Petone. The Governor was much impressed with the gift, and also with the beautiful decorations in his honour.

The procession arrived at Government House shortly before 4 o'clock, where it dispersed, the Guard of Honour merely allowing him to pass through. In the evening during dinner at Government House the party were serenaded by selections on the bagpipes by some loyal Scotchmen. It was a glorious moonlight night, and the Ringarooma was showing her powerful electric search light, so that the new arrivals saw Wellington by night under very favourable circumstances. The procession was a very brilliant sight, one body took the wrong route, which caused great inconvenience to those who had cured good points of vantage along the particular street. Of course the rest of the procession had to follow. The crowd was most orderly, but very enthusiastic, and hearty, indeed, were the cheers that resounded as they passed through. The whole party seemed very pleased with their hearty welcome. Salutes were fired by the Volunteers, and also by H.M.S. Ringarooma.



MR. B. W. LEADER, A.R.A.

MR B. W. LEADER, A.R.A., whose magnificent landscape, 'The Banks of the Ivy, O' is familiar to many colonials through the medium of engravers, has created a big success at this year's Academy in London. The pictures are, of course, landscapes, and are said to be the best work he has ever produced. There is no doubt that this artist is the foremost landscape painter of the day, and though he has a distinctive style which it would be impossible to mistake, is always fresh in his productions. Mr Leader was the son of the late E. Leader Williams, C.E., of the Severn Navigation Commission, and was born at Worcester on the 12th of March, 1831. Feeling that he had no vocation for preparing the plans and elevations of the locks and weirs connected with his father's profession, but a very decided passion for the delineation of landscape, he very soon abandoned the drudgery of science for the allurements of art. He had already carried off many prizes at the Worcester Government School of Art, and in 1854 he went to London, and was admitted a student of the Royal Academy. His first picture, 'Cottage Children Blowing Bubbles,' was exhibited the same year. This was purchased by a Philadelphian gentleman for £50, and from that time to the present he has been a constant exhibitor at all the leading English galleries. But not alone in British, but in Continental galleries is Mr Leader known.

His earlier style was characterised for many years by great delicacy and refinement of touch, with an almost supersensitive feeling for mere beauty of lines, and for cunningly rocks massing and foliage against a luminous sky; but of late years he has added a boldness and mastery over effect, which places him in our opinion, among the foremost landscapists of the time. Personally Mr Leader is a remarkably handsome man, of commanding presence, standing nearly six feet in height, and with an expression of face and a manner at once suave and manly. Our portrait given herewith is from a photograph.

MR A. C. LEWIS has gone on a visit to Wellington, but is expected in Hastings shortly.

DR. LINNEY has been laid up with a severe cold, but is getting better, and Hastings people hope he will soon be himself again.

THE Hawaiians will have a clever girl for their Queen when the time comes for Princess Victoria Kaiulani, heir-presumptive, to reign over them. She has just finished her course of training at Harrowden Hall, near Wellingborough, in Northamptonshire, and her guardians are going to send her to the United States, to Wellesley College, to complete her education. Her schoolfellows at Harrowden will miss her immensely, as she is a bright, clever girl, and a favourite with all of them. She does not seem at all conscious of the honour which will one day be her lot, if she lives, and the only thing which seriously grieves her teachers is that she is much too fond of schoolgirl slang for a future Queen! But what else would you expect from a happy, healthy girl of sixteen? She has plenty of time before her in which to grow staid and decorous. It seems strange to think of the monarch of the Sandwich Isles as half a Scotchwoman, but so it is, for her father was the Honourable A. S. Cleghorn, a Scotchman.

THE second son of Mrs Moss-Davis (Auckland) goes shortly to England to study for the medical profession.

MR C. DAVENY has left Auckland for his three months' holiday.

DANCING prospects in Auckland are still bright. Mrs L. D. Nathan is going to give a dance at 'Bella Vista,' Waterloo Quadrant, on the 22nd.

THIS week the inmates of the Christchurch Hospital will be deprived of one of their most devoted and energetic friends in the person of Mrs Kimbell who, with Mr and Miss Kimbell, leaves for England by the Rimutaka. She has been secretary of the Ladies' visiting association for many years and has done much good work. Her sister labourers of the visiting committee in saying 'good-bye,' gave her a photograph of the Hospital prettily framed in New Zealand wood. The pupils and teachers of St. Michael's day school also gave her a parting gift of books, etc.

MR AND MRS NICHOLLS, of White Rock Station, are also intending passengers by the same steamer, and Mr and Miss Lafone, who were the guests of Mrs Cowlishaw for a time.

THE FEMALE FRANCHISE QUESTION.

THE only report at present to hand of a meeting *re* this important subject comes from Mt. Albert, Auckland, where a discussion on Female Franchise was one of the items on the programme at the fortnightly social held in the hall.

Mr W. Rattray introduced the subject, and affirmed that women were already well-provided for in this colony *vide* the Married Women's Property Act, and the law of division of property in the case of a man dying intestate. He contended that they did not need the franchise. A woman's place was at home looking after her house. Men were quite capable of, and quite willing to look after her interests abroad. (Applause.)

Mrs Allan Kerr-Taylor, in an exceedingly racy and excellent speech, claimed the right of the franchise for women on the grounds of justice. At present the only persons debarred from a political vote are lunatics, criminals and women. The speaker declared it was a gross injustice to women to class them in this manner. Some people said that women would meet with annoyance when at the polling-booth. She did not think there was any fear of that. Most men would protect women rather than insult them. And as for neglecting their home to go and vote, surely no one would grudge a woman taking a little walk to the polling-booth once in three years. She could take her children with her, carrying the baby on her arm, and the fresh air would do them all good. (Laughter.) The speaker went on to say women have to pay the same taxes as men, are charged the same fares on trams, railways, and in steamboats, and surely they don't eat as much as men. (Laughter.) Women have to obey all the laws, and yet they have no voice in choosing who shall make the laws which are to govern them. (Shame!) A woman may own a large property, and she has no vote. A idle street-loafer, over twenty-one, with no interest whatever in the welfare of the country, has a vote. (Applause.) Is this fair? (Cries of 'No.') If the one man one vote system is allowed to continue, the one woman one vote system should also be introduced. (Loud and continued applause.)

Mrs Rattray said a few words supporting Mrs Kerr-Taylor's views, and adding that since women had far more to do with the education of their children than had men, they should be allowed some voice in framing the laws which related to this important subject. Whether giving women the franchise would eventually lead to their having a seat in Parliament was unnecessary at present to discuss, only as there were already a number of old women in the House, it might be as well to try the effect of putting some young women in.

A few remarks were made against the idea of extending the franchise to women by Messrs L. Haigh, Cecil Dawson, H. Conder, H. Battley, etc., but the objections raised were such as were covered by Mrs Taylor's speech.

Mr Kensington stated he was quite in sympathy with the proposal to grant the franchise to women. Mr J. Dixon said that since all the men without a stake in the country had a vote, the women might as well have one too. Mr Beck said that to him the question was six of one and half-a-dozen of the other.

The Chairman, Mr Larkins, then briefly summed up the arguments against and for the advisability of granting female suffrage. He said he feared if ladies were allowed a seat in Parliament, and a gentleman wished to vote against a lady whom he admired, he would refrain from doing so for fear of offending her. He also feared that the male members would waste their time talking to the attractive lady representatives. On the whole, though, he thought the experiment of granting women the franchise might be safely tried.

The question was put to the meeting, resulting in a slight majority in favour of female suffrage.