

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AUCKLAND.

likely to be attempted by private adventure, that I think it would fairly come within the scope of legitimate Government enterprise if the curator of Hauturu were given some small assistance in experimenting upon the culture of such extra-tropical utilitarian plants as the tea, coffee, cinchona, teak, cork, scent plants, medicinal herbs, sheep bushes and others in far too great variety to enumerate here.' The capability of the island for becoming a Government domain of world-wide interest is shown in the last paragraph of Mr Wright's reports as follows: 'The island throughout is magnificently timbered, the soil is in great part extremely fertile, whilst the beauty of its scenery will cause it, in the not very distant future, to be the show place of the North Island, to which steamers from Auckland will ply with excursionists to see not only the last of the native birds, but the remaining specimens of the noble kauri, the nikau palms, the tree and numerous other ferns still flourishing in all their pristine loveliness, when the primeval forest elsewhere will have long since passed away.' A list of plants suitable for experimental culture and some photographs taken by Mr Wright are also appended, three of which latter we reproduce as well as a portrait of himself. On receipt of this report the Government at once dispatched a special steamer taking Mr Gerhard Mueller, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, to stop further cutting of timber and to negotiate with the natives. We can only say, that if the Government succeeds in carrying out their most excellent project, and further utilises the island in the direction suggested by Mr Wright, it will deserve well of the country, and especially of Auckland province, and will demonstrate to the world, that the Liberal party, with Mr Ballance at its head, is appreciative of the claims of science, and whilst consistently working in the interests of the masses of the present day, is not unmindful of the welfare of future generations.

LONDON TOWER.

SIR WALTER RALEIGH'S TRIUMPH.

DEDICATED TO NEW ZEALAND COLONISTS, WHO ASPIRE TO THE TRUEST, NOBLEST PATRIOTISM.
BY REV. CHARLES R. CURREY.

A PRISONER, in London Tower,
With thoughts vast and profound;
His mighty soul ended with power,
The depths of mind to sound;
A poet, warrior, statesman wise,
Countess, for grace renowned;
His glorious deeds were England's pride
For battles fought and gained.

Her conquering flag mast high he bore,
Her fues he fled in check,
Amidst the cannons' thundering roar
With blood-stained vessels' deck.
Brightly his valiant spirit shone,
Matchless o'er sea and land—
Old England hailed her gifted son
Victor on every strand.

Palatial grandeurs, once his own,
Have vani-hed like a dream;
His honours, power, and wealth have flown,
'Midst horrors lurid gleam,
Friendships betrayed—a Mission's smile
Plays laurel round the Throne,
King James's wayward thoughts beguile
And seals great Raleigh's doom.

Majestic atill, in form and mien
Proud, dauntless, as of yore,
The chains and gloomy dungeon seem
Insignic of his power;
His soul, inspired with truths sublime,
Disdains the tyrant's wrath;
His spirit filled with his divine
Raleigh has conquered Death!

The greatest man, he who shall build—
Beyond the shores of Time—
A temple; envious, ruthless will
Nor force, can undermine;
Whose ornate splendours fadeless shine,
Undimmed by earth-born storms,
Where beauty, truth and love entwine
Their best, immortal forms.

Amidst earth's roll of mighty men
Whose fame gilda every zone,
Master alike with sword or pen,
Great Raleigh nolly shone.
In peace or war, or highest themes
That learning vast can know,
His massive genius fadeless beams,
And brighter far must glow!

Note.—In the published life of Sir Walter Raleigh it is stated that, when a prisoner in the Tower of London, he made it a Temple of the Muses. The noblest cause of his execution after thirteen years imprisonment—was the base, unscrupulous cupidity of King James I. a notorious favourite, Robert Carr (created by him Earl of Somerset), who wished to gain possession of Sir Walter's estates, which, added to the deep enmity of his old foes, the Spaniards, consummated the dire lamentable catastrophe.—C.H.C.

Auckland, New Zealand, December 12th, 1892

We always find wit and merit in those who look at us with admiration.

The Book of the Season: 'FRANK MELTON'S LUCK.' Price, One Shilling. All Booksellers.

THE COUNTESS OF GLASGOW'S SECOND EVENING 'AT HOME.'

THE first dance at Government House this season was so much enjoyed that invitations to the second were eagerly coveted. About two hundred and fifty guests were asked, and the ballroom was sufficiently filled to present a bright and kaleidoscopic appearance of moving figures without being too crowded. The floor was in perfect order, and rendered dancing easy and delightful. Impey's band played the various items on the programme in such a manner as to satisfy the severest critic. Of the very chic arrangements of the ball-reception-rooms, and corridors it is difficult to speak too highly. The Auckland Government House is, interiorly speaking, a very bare and unpromising-looking building. A liberal display of artistic bric a brac, busting, botanical treasures of all kinds, especially branchettes of nikau and other ferns, softly blended shades of harmonious colouring, a suggestion of dim twilight in the well ventilated, yet not draughty, apartments and passages, brighter light and more vivid tones in the ball-room, made up a *tout ensemble* which charmed the eye and delighted the refined instincts of the guests. And over all presided the Countess of Glasgow, queenly, courteous, kind. Her three bright daughters, the Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle, danced beautifully themselves, and talked pleasantly to the guests. His Excellency the Governor was much amused, and many inquiries were made about his injured eye. Viscount Kelburne, the Hon. Edward Boyle and Colonel Pat Boyle were exceedingly attentive, and ably seconded Lady Glasgow's wishes that wall-flowers should not flourish in that pleasant garden. The Hon. James Boyle, Captain Hunter Blair, Messrs Gillington and Clayton, and Prof. Carl Schmitt were very hard at work dancing and assisting the Countess to entertain.

The night was exceedingly warm, and the large, cool, dark verandah well provided with retired seats, was gratefully patronised by heated dancers who enjoyed 'our waltz' in a *dolce far niente* style, the strains of the distant music being wafted as a dulcet accompaniment to their conversation. Between the dances every thoughtfully arranged dual seat in the many cosy nooks in obscure corners was filled, whilst the refreshment buffets—open all the evening and well supplied with delicious strawberries in whipped cream, ices, cakes of all descriptions, various kinds of sandwiches, claret, wines, soda-water, etc., etc., were largely patronised.

The Countess of Glasgow was magnificently dressed in a sultan shade of terra cotta satin, beautifully brocaded with toned white flowers and green leaves. The skirt was too rich in itself for trimming, and quite plain in front, hung in graceful folds in a long train at the back. The bodice had short puffed sleeves trimmed with rare old lace. The same lace edged the low corsage, being secured in draped folds over the chest with diamond ornaments. The Countess wore an exquisite diamond necklace, and band with diamonds in her hair. The Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle were simply frocked in white Liberty silk made with Russian bodices, and trimmed with white ribbon, tan hose, shoes and gloves. The Misses Wauchope were attired one in rich black velvet and lace, the other in black and mauve; Miss Hallows wore black lace, the low bodice edged with black jet beading, a green sash tied round her waist; Miss Holroyd was in Tuscan chiffon with corselet bodice of silk to match.

Amongst so many guests, either revolving rapidly in the bewildering dizzy dance, or blushing unseen in shaded nooks, it is difficult to give a fair description of the pretty costumes worn by the ladies. White was a favourite hue, and most of the dresses were made very plainly, slightly trained, generally with a ruche round the skirt, and a simple waist. Flowers were chiefly conspicuous by their absence from the ladies' toilettes—perhaps because they are so plentiful just now, and artificial ones are not in favour. The *chevelures* displayed a tendency to a much lower arrangement than formerly, and the threatened fantastic eruption of puff and extra hair has been delayed by the hot weather.

The second handsomest dress in the room was worn by Mrs L. D. Nathan. It was a dream-like arrangement of cream silk gauze beautifully embroidered with daisies over a cream silk under skirt, crossed with sash of terra cotta. Amongst the beautiful women were Mrs W. H. Brownell, in white with blue embroidered with gold, Medici collar, gold-coloured sash; Mrs Jackson (H.M.S. Katoomba), in black lace with boleroe finishings; Mrs Moss-Davis, in a pearly lilac silk trimmed with lace, bonnet blue and pailers; Miss Moss-Davis wore daffodil chiffon and silk; Mrs Devereux, black with deep maize ruche round the skirt, and maize folds on the corsage; Miss Devereux, a tasteful white arrangement; Mrs Dennison, black; Mrs Morrin, a handsome ivory brocade and blue velvet; Miss Carr, white with red fan and red ribbons; Mrs Dignan, white silk and yellow (a handsome combination); Mrs Hope-Lewis, grey silk relieved with pink, white lace falling over the corsage; Mrs Jordan, black, the front under skirt of dark gold covered with black lace; Mrs W. Rattray, white pupin with Brussels net, fern green ribbons; the Misses Schmitt, pretty pink dresses; Misses Bulls, one in pink surah silk, the other in blue; Miss Galloway, black, the front under skirt in dainty pink; Miss Ida Macdonald, white; Miss Green wore white; the Misses Hardie, white; Miss Berry, pretty pale blue and white lace; Miss Wilkie, grey trimmed with salmon pink; her sister wore white; Mrs E. Shiller, black, the front under skirt of dark gold, made slight train; Miss Banks, black velvet trimmed with white lace; her sisters in white; the Misses Buckland, of Highgate, one in nymph green, the other in pale blue; Miss Davis, white; Miss B. Elliott, white; Mrs Bled, white; Miss Patrich, Miss Thorne-George, white; Miss Jervis, white; Mrs H. Jackson, white, with broadest front skirt; Miss M. Lyall, maize silk; Mrs Mahoney, white satin; Mrs A. H. Nathan, handsome black silk and lace; Mrs Johnston, black, the front under skirt of dark gold; the Misses Pierce, white Liberty silk; Miss Phillips, black; Miss Rooke, very pretty cream satin; Miss Tooke, in white silk and yellow, lovely shower bouquet of yellow flowers; Mrs Walker, pink silk; Miss Watson, white satin and tulle; Miss Jervis, pretty trained green silk; Mrs Gordon, black; her daughter, white silk; Miss King, trained blue silk; Miss Tilly, handsome cream satin; Miss Worsp, white satin, with pretty brocaded panel; Mrs Storey, white silk.

The officers of the ward-room, H.M.S. Katoomba, were present, and Messrs C. J. Bell, Baume, Kilmour, Kinsling, C. Chambers, P. E. Battley, H. Blair, H. A. Mairner,

Mahoney, L. D. Nathan, Berry, E. H. Keece, W. Rattray, J. R. Sykes, Vincent Kerr-Taylor, Percy Holt, A. E. Gilmore, D. Schiedel, Messrs Montgomerie, Isaacs, Maxwell, Dignan, Chisholme, Rathbone, C. Richardson, R. C. M. Harrington, J. Philson, etc.

THE COUNTESS OF GLASGOW'S THIRD GARDEN PARTY.

For some reason the clerk of the weather has utterly refused to countenance Lady Glasgow's hospitable efforts to entertain her guests at an 'At Home' in the beautiful grounds of Government House. It has been noticed that each succeeding afternoon has been more moist than its predecessor, and last Friday it actually snowed frequently. Notwithstanding this, many of the invited guests assembled in the reception-room, and ventured out into the grounds, which looked very pretty and green with the fresh summer foliage and grasses yet not unobscured by the sun. The music, under shelter of the thick oaks, was admirably rendered by Impey's band, the programme being arranged by Herr Carl Schmitt. The refreshments, particularly the excellent iced coffee and the strawberries and cream, were much appreciated, for the afternoon was very warm. Lady Glasgow received her guests in a stylish soft white silk, made with a beautiful lace yoke and hip drapes of the lace. The Countess wore a white hat with floral wreath, and looked very well, despite her exertions of the previous evening. His Excellency the Governor was again unable to be present. Everyone was glad to learn that the injury to his eye is not at all serious. Colonel Pat Boyle, Professor Carl Schmitt, Captain Hunter Blair, Messrs Clayton and Gillington, were in attendance on Lady Glasgow, and cordially endeavoured to make up for the depressing weather. In their successful efforts they were much helped by Viscount Kelburne and his brothers, and the Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle, who looked bright and pretty in white muslin, silk helms, and white hats; Miss Hallows was very becomingly dressed in pink with pink embroidery, white and pink hat; and Miss Holroyd, in a chic fraise gown, with darker silk vest and sash. The Misses Wauchope were also of the house party, dressed, respectively, in black lace and shot silk blouse, and black and lilac.

Among the guests were

Mrs Pencock, in handsome black silk with jet trimmings, and a little white chiffon lace, black bonnet; Mrs Goring, a study in not grey with white vest, broad lace with gold, grey bonnet just touched with salmon pink; Mrs R. Walker, black silk, lace mantle, black and yellow bonnet; Mrs C. V. Houghton, ruby silk veiled with black lace, black velvet bonnet with ruby flowers; Mrs G. Spence, in a white dress of many silk with intervals of white bars, the bodice made corselet style with chemisette and garter sleeves of white silk covered with embroidered net, large white straw ostrich-plumed hat; Mrs W. Culpan, mourning costume, black and white, handsome black and white hat; Miss King, blue with Swiss belt of drab kipurua lace, sailor hat banded with white; Mrs Theodora Hautain, grey, sprigged with white, cream hat; Miss Hautain, grey skirt and jacket, white face veil, white hat; Miss Schwartz, black and white, black and white hat; Miss Schmitt, black and white hat; Miss Hill, white with pale green designs, green and white hat; Mrs Tilly, black silk, black bonnet with yellow touches; Miss Tilly, a green, grey and white dress with blue to match, cream hat; Mrs McCulloch, black brocade, black bonnet, brown shot silk shade; Miss Snell, drab with silk corselet bodice, hat to match; Mrs Snell, cornflower blue, dark bonnet; Mrs W. R. Walker, blue, blue and white hat; Mrs King, cream-dolane figured with lilac, trimmed with long loops of lilac ribbon, black bonnet with cream relief; Mrs C. O'Neil, black frocked with lilac, lace mantle, black bonnet; Miss Crowther, pretty flowered dress; Mrs Galloway, black and white hat; Mrs King, navy, navy jacket, white vest; Miss Carr, canopy muslin with white lace round the bodice and yoke, black hat with feathers; Mrs Howard, black dress, black bonnet; the Misses Howard, pretty grey costumes, steel hat with mauve ribbon; Mrs W. Rattray, grey and gold; Mrs T. Hope-Lewis, grey, with a darker shade for the corselet, bodice and sleeves, black hat with lilac; Miss Firth, navy blue skirt and coat, pale blue blouse, hat banded with red; Mrs Brodie, black silk with lace over it, pale blue scarf, black bonnet; Mrs Burton, brown tweed, trimmed with darker brown silk, bonnet of the darker shade with lighter trimming; Mrs Bankhart, very handsome black silk black bonnet with a relieving touch of pink; Mrs Gould, grey flowered silk and white, white yoke, white hat; Miss Firth, black skirt, jacket, and white shirt, white hat banded with red; Mrs Towsey, very stylish cream silk with worked floral design, moss-green velvet corselet and white feathered hat. One of the handsomest dresses was Mrs Cunningham's gown, made of a rich Japanese crape material—floral pattern on greyish ground—trimmed with ruffles of moss-green silk.

There was a fair attendance of gentlemen. Being a week-day, a comparatively small number were enabled to leave their professions. His Worship the Mayor, Colonel Burton, Colonel Hautain, Mr. King, the Hon. Wm. McCulloch, Messrs Baker, Bankhart, Pencock, Paine, Hudson, R. and W. L. Walker, Theodore Hautain, W. Rattray, W. G. Rathbone, R. C. Carr, Gilbert King, H. C. Towsey, etc. etc.

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