

disposition they displayed during the course of that evening. There was hardly a word to be got out of them. They stuck so closely to some sewing they had on hand, that the task of entertaining Adam fell entirely to me. To be quite honest, I did not find my task a disagreeable one, and, as it turned out, we had a deal to say to each other that was not intended for a third person's ear. Still we found time to talk a little about extraneous matters, and when Adam told me how he had followed the two men, and discovered that the gentleman purloiner was the son of a wealthy stockbroker, but that he showed no inclination to do anything but follow an idle luxurious life, having an ample allowance from his father, especially since he became affianced to the daughter of a baronet. The baronet was not rich, but his blue blood made up for that, and the handsome fortune which the young gentleman would have, no doubt reconciled the baronet to his daughter's union with the scion of a city house. We learned subsequently that Mr \_\_\_\_\_ was very generous, and had fairly loaded his bride with beautiful presents. Every day he brought her something fresh, and the baronet's servants, whom Adam knew how to manage, were quite lost in admiration of his generous devotion. All the preparations were completed for the wedding, which was to take place in three days at a fashionable West End church.

I pitied the bride, but if I had gone and told her that her lover was a thief, I should probably have been turned out of the house, and my tale would not have been credited, for Messrs Wimpey would not countenance or corroborate an attempted exposure under such circumstances.

When, next morning, I went to the great emporium, I had no reason to complain of niggardiness on the part of Messrs Wimpey and Co. As I expected, however, I was not informed as to the name or position of the delinquent whom I had detected, but knew already that no treatment would be meted to him but such as was the rule of the firm with all kleptomaniacs.

My business here was finished, and I was leaving the premises when my attention was attracted by a loud scream, which proceeded from a little girl, who, with a white, terrified face, was struggling in the grasp of one of the assistants. I naturally, as did others, drew up to see what the trouble was, but there was not much serious about it. Loud voices proclaimed indignation and vengeance against the miserable little child who vainly implored mercy at the hands of her captors. It appears that she had been caught in the very act of stealing a bun, for which awful offence she was to be consigned to the temporary care of a policeman, who had been promptly called in at the first alarm.

'Now, then, you little villain, what have yer been after, eh?' he demanded, roughly, shaking the child as he spoke.

'Ob, please, sir,' she whimpered, 'do let me off this time, and I'll never do it no more! Please, sir, I was so hungry; an' mother, she ain't ad nothink to eat since yesterday, an' I warn't to take 'er a bun. Do let me off!'

'What a hardened little wretch she is!' ejaculated a shopman. 'I do believe she has a notion that she has done something respectable. She actually owns to being a thief!'

'Yes, but we'll soon take that out of her,' said the policeman. 'They all talk like that. They are never going to do it any more, and they always have a sick mother at home. I'm up to their games, though. Come along, my chicken.'

'You surely would not take so young a child to the police station?' exclaimed a lady who was standing near me.

'There is nothing else for it, ma'am,' was the civil reply. 'You have no idea how cunning these regular thieves are. They would pick your pocket and smile in your face all the time, and if we didn't keep a sharp hand on the few we do catch, nobody's property would be safe.'

'But if I pay for the bun, and for any expenses you may have incurred?' said the lady, to whom the manager of the establishment made answer.

'Your offer is very generous, Mrs Allen, but you do not know human nature as we do. If we were to condone this girl's offence, we should be trampling morality under foot, and it would be mistaken mercy, for she would only continue her career of crime. It goes to my heart to do it, but we must uphold law and justice, and also do our best to cure these evil propensities, otherwise no one's property would be safe.'

At the rejoinder the lady turned sadly away, and, seeing how useless interferences would be, I followed her example. But I ascertained what police station the young klepto—I mean thief, would be taken to, and took care to be present at her examination. The poor little mite had ceased her vain appeals for mercy and was sobbing in a quiet, exhausted sort of way, that seemed to betoken a very weakly constitution. I did not expect the little creature to be liberated, but somehow my heart ached terribly for her, and I am thankful to remember now that I tried to comfort her by telling her that I would take help and food to her mother.

She looked up at me in astonishment, evidently unused to kind words from strangers. Then she whispered back brokenly, 'Mother said she was nearly done for. If she ain't gone to Heaven yet, you'll tell her I tried to get her a bun?'

'Indeed I will, my poor child,' I promised, the tears streaming down my cheeks the while. Thus the girl was somewhat comforted, but I shall never forget her face and voice of agony, when the was told that she would be sent to a reformatory for three years.

'What I and never see mother?' she gasped.

'Oh yes, perhaps your mother can pay you a visit soon, and see how beautifully you will be coming on at school,' she was told.

'No, she won't. I know better. She'll be dead! She's dying now, because she ain't got enough to eat. When I don't turn up to night, she'll think something's happened to me, and she'll break her heart.'

So said the child, with voice and mien of such apathetic despair as would have melted any hearts but these.

I caught a few knowing smiles, and heard a remark to the effect that she was a "downy one," and no mistake. As cunning as she was wicked. It was really awful to think how depraved the tenants of the slums could be.

When I left that court, I went straight to the address of the child's mother. But I was too late to be of service, for I found only lifeless clay. The woman had died of slow starvation. The child too, between natural weakness and constant fretting for the only being who had ever loved her, wore her heart away, and escaped from the troubles of this

world twelve months after she was sent to the reformatory.

Yet why lament? She was but a vulgar little thief! Still, somehow, my opinion of humanity has not been raised since I learned to distinguish the thief from the kleptomaniac.



HAMLIN-PHILLIPSON.

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, Onehunga (Auckland), was the scene of a very pretty wedding on Saturday last, the contracting parties being Mr Sydney Hamlyn, of Pokeno, and Miss Agnes Phillipson, of Onehunga. The marriage took place from the residence of Mr C. A. Bradford, Hawkaburn, Onehunga. The bride was gowned in a travelling dress of pale grey crepon with silver trimmings, becoming grey hat trimmed with pale pink blush roses, the *tout ensemble* forming an extremely pretty costume. The bridesmaids—the Misses May and Flossie Phillipson, sisters of the bride, and Miss Queenie Bradford—wore cream spotted muslin dresses with sprays of cornflower blue, hats daintily trimmed with lace and blue cornflowers. Mr A. Woolcott, with Master F. Bradford, acted as groomsmen. The Rev. Mr Bates, of St. Peter's officiated.

The little church was beautifully decorated. A large arch, from which was suspended a bell composed of white flowers, formed a novel and striking feature in the decorations. Floral horse-shoes and festoons were in every available place. A number of small horse-shoes composed of blue cornflowers and white daisies were placed in the seats reserved for the guests. The bride carried an exquisite shower bouquet, and the bridesmaids had wands, from which were suspended 'good-luck' or horse-shoe bouquets of cornflowers and daisies, tied with bunches of white ribbon. Little girls dressed in white strewed flowers in the bride's path, and the happy couple drove off *en route* for Pokeno, amidst a shower of rice, rose leaves, and good wishes.

The presents were numerous and pretty. Mr and Mrs Bradford entertained a few friends for afternoon tea at 'Hawkaburn' after the ceremony. Mrs Bradford wore a handsome dress of black crepon, black and pink bonnet. Amongst those present were Mesdames Hamlyn, Woolcott, Otway, Foster, Phillipson, Scott, Jones, Hutchinson, Barnes, Goldsborough, Misses Barnes, Kathborne, Otway, Laud, Jackson, Brown, etc., etc. Miss Rathborne superintended the decorations, assisted by friends of the bride.

DAWSON TAYLOR.

At St. David's Presbyterian Church, Auckland, a very quiet but pretty wedding was solemnized last week by the Rev. Robert Sommerville, uncle of the bride. The ceremony took place at 8 o'clock in the morning, few spectators being present other than the large wedding-party of immediate relations.

The bride, Miss Jessie Taylor, second daughter of Mrs G. Chambers-Taylor, of 'Ngaiio', Morningside, looked very pretty in her *chic* travelling dress of soft grey crepon. The gown was stylishly made with a jacket of the material over a silk vest. The hat was of white fancy straw covered with ostrich plumes, and suited the fair wearer to perfection. The bridegroom, Mr Thomas Charles Dawson, eldest son of Captain Dawson (late 67th Regiment), of Mount Albert, was attended by Mr W. Goodhue as best man. Miss Louie Chambers-Taylor, dressed in a fawn costume, white vest, and cream hat, was her sister's only bridesmaid. Mr White, uncle of the bride, gave her away.

MRS G. CHAMBERS-TAYLOR wore a rich black corded silk, the Zonave bodice finished with black guipure, opening over a front of delicate lace, her bonnet was of black lace relieved by an amber spray; Mrs Bell, grandmother of the bridegroom, was dressed in an exceedingly handsome gown of black satin trimmed with broché velvet and fine lace, the bodice was prettily draped with black lace and jet beads. Mrs Bell's bonnet was of gold and cream lace tastefully intermingled. The bride's second sister, Miss Katie, looked charming in navy, with white hat trimmed with navy blue; Misses Winnie and Minnie wore pretty frocks of French grey, made with gigot sleeves and Swiss belts, white hats with ribbons; the Misses May and Muriel Dawson were frocked in similarly-made dresses of soft fawn silk, white hats trimmed, respectively, with white silk and ribbons. Of the bride's two aunts, Mrs Sommerville wore black satin, black bonnet becomingly relieved with primrose-coloured flowers; Miss White was in a very stylish olive green corduroy, made with an Eton jacket over a cream silk blouse, black lace hat with dainty floral wreath.

MRS A. B. WRIGHT received the wedding party at 'Ngaiio' on their return from town, dressed in fawn-coloured tussore silk; her daughter, Miss Mary, wore a white Indian muslin frock, pink sash; Miss Sommerville, white, red sash, white hat. The breakfast table was very prettily decorated

with white flowers, a handsome wedding cake occupying the centre. After a hasty meal Mr and Mrs T. Dawson left for Rotorua. Most of the guests spent the day with Mrs Chambers-Taylor. Amongst those not previously mentioned were Captain Dawson, Messrs Cecil, Clifford and Percy Dawson, Mr A. B. Wright, Mr McLean (Railway Department), and Master Arthur Taylor.

An account of the presentations to the bridegroom appears elsewhere. The presents were valuable and useful.

MYERS LEVI.

The wedding of Miss Julia Levi, second daughter of the late David Levi, formerly of Napier, to Mr John Myers, second son of Mr Judah Myers, was performed at Raleigh House, Hobson street, Wellington, by the Rev. H. Van Stavers. The bride wore a pretty fawn shot bengaline silk trimmed with lace, and a small white bonnet. She carried a lovely bouquet.

WILLIS-IRVING.

A WEDDING of considerable interest took place at St. Luke's Church, Christchurch, early on Tuesday morning, when Miss Beattie Irving, eldest daughter of Dr. Irving, was married to Mr Claude John Willis, eldest son of Captain Willis, of Southbridge. The Right Rev. Bishop Harper officiated, assisted by Bishop Julius and Archdeacon Lingard, incumbent of the parish. The Very Rev. the Dean, the Revs. Dunkley and Winter were also present. Being such an early hour (9.30 a.m.) most of those present in church were guests, numbering about forty. The bridesmaids were Misses Edith Irving, Mary Willis, Hannah and Mabel Irving. Mr W. Willis acted as best man. The bridesmaid's dresses were of a soft cream material, the two elder very prettily made; the little girls' frocks falling straight from the shoulders. All wore hats to match. After the ceremony the wedding party adjourned to the residence of the bride's parents, where they had breakfast. The happy pair drove away in their own buggy, no one knowing exactly their destination.

ROBERTON HEATHER.

The wedding of Miss Robertson, sister of the popular doctor of that ilk, to Mr Harold Heather, which took place at St. Sepulchre's Church last Wednesday, was not only one of the most fashionable, but certainly one of the prettiest weddings of the year now drawing to a close. The day was a glorious one, and the sun shone brilliantly, so doubtless the young couple will be as happy as their friends desire. Long before half-past two—the hour fixed for the ceremony—a goodly number of girl friends and interested acquaintances had assembled in the church. The service, which was fully choral, was conducted by the Ven. Archdeacon Dudley, incumbent, Mr Vincent Rice presiding at the organ.

The bride looked charming—as a bride should—in a shimmering white gros-grained silk, a handsome Watteau train falling from the shoulders. Her head was crowned with the customary orange blossoms, and she wore a lovely veil of tulle, and carried a bouquet of orange blossoms. Her bridesmaids were Miss Black (chief) and the Misses Heather, Rice, and Chamberlain (two). All were prettily dressed in white cashmere, ruffled nicely round the skirt, white silk hats with yellow hébé ribbon; each carried bridal bouquets.

AMONGST the relations and friends present in church were Mrs Robertson, rich brown silk, black bonnet and lace mantle; Miss Robertson, white muslin embroidery, white hat; Mrs Heather, ruby merveilleux silk trimmed with black, black bonnet; Mrs Richmond, silver grey trimmed with black silk, black hat, black and white feathers; Mrs Carrick, flowered delaine trimmed with pale blue; Mrs Aitken, dark blue serge, white shirt, white *chic* hat; Mrs Green, black fancy material, grey bonnet; Mrs Rice, black satin; Mrs Scherrif, navy cashmere with ribbon trimmings; Miss Scherrif, fawn-grey figured material, bonnet with pink roses; Miss N. Scherrif, navy delaine, cream lace trimmings, black hat, white roses; Mrs Brown, green and white striped crepon; Mrs Stericker, lovely shade of pale grey, hat to match; Mrs Purchas, grey, black lace cloak and bonnet; Miss Purchas, cream flowered delaine, large cream hat; Mrs Cook, grey gown, black bonnet, lovely lavender bouquet; Misses Rice, silver grey crépons trimmed with cream silk, gem hats; they carried sprays of flowers; Miss Owen, heliotrope crepon, white hat trimmed to match; Miss Pierce, pale green and white striped zephyr; Miss Ida Pierce, white and pink striped zephyr, white hat with pink bows; Mrs Knight, white muslin trimmed with quantities of beautiful lace, white hat with yellow chrysanthemums; Miss McCallum, blue-grey tweed, small hat *en suite*; her sister, light fawn, fawn hat with ribbons to match; Mrs Dudley, grey bengaline, lace cloak, black bonnet; Miss Green, pure white costume; Miss Hooper, white, her sister, navy with white blouse; Miss Baker, navy silk; Miss Sinclair, cream tussore silk, Empire sash, large white hat with ostrich feathers; Miss Wilkie, white crepon and silk stripes, large white hat; Mrs George Chamberlain, fawn costume, white hat; Miss