Bull, blue and white crinkled zephyr, white hat, blue bows; Miss E. Bull, fawn, white hat, red bows; Mrs Guthridge, ardoise grey, white vest and hat; Misses Dudley, flowered French muslin, gem hat; her sister, white muslin, large sash, white hat.

AFTER the ceremony in church, the wedding party, with many invited guests, went to Mr Roberton's house in Symonds-street, where the numerous presents were duly admired and refreshments partaken of.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

CHRISTCHURCH.

DEAR BEE, DECEMBER 23.

At the

RICCARTON PARISH ENTERTAINMENT

among the many visitors were Captain and Mrs Garcia, Mrs and Miss Witherall, Mrs Pat Campbell, Mrs Stevens, Mesdames Vernon, Williams, Alan Scott, Mathias, Misses Sloppford, Walker, Wilson, Guy, etc.

We all greatly enjoyed

MRS PEACOCK'S GARDEN PARTY.

Our hostess, gowned in a handsome black silk figured grenadine, received in front of the house, assisted by Mrs MacRae, who looked very nice in a soft fawn dress and large hat. Some of the dresses worn were very handsome. Among many were: Mrs Stevens, grey cashmere, small floral bonnet; Mrs Cowlishaw, rich black silk; Mrs Stead, pale blue striped silk shot with grey; Mrs Henderson, black embossed with old gold; Mrs Wilding, peacock cashmere trimmed with silk; Mrs Wauklyn, moss green satin skirt, velvet bodice.

At

MRS J. R. WAY'S DANCE.

'Remuera' our hostess wore a becoming dress of black silk, and a dainty pink and white cap; Miss Way, pretty pink gauze; her sister, maize; Miss Palmer, black silk and net; Miss Cuff, white silk trimmed with silver; the Misses Thorne, cream; Miss K. Turner, black lace; Miss E. Turner, China blue silk; Miss E. Hawkins, cream figured with gold; Miss Newton, black and pink; Miss Hawkins, two shades of terra cotta.

The evening of the Riccarton annual gathering

THE CATHEDRAL CHOIR

gave Spohr's 'Last Judgment,' when the seating accommodation was taxed to its utmost, many standing throughout. Mr Tindall presided at the organ, the oratorio going splendidly from beginning to end. The soloists were Messrs Millar and Weir, and Masters Lake and Betty sang beautifully. Tennyson's little gem, 'Crossing the Bar,' was sung at the close, the congregation standing as they did in some choruses of the oratorio.

There was quite a little flutter of excitement over the

DANCE AT MERIVALE HOUSE.

I must describe a few of the dresses. Mrs Lorrigan Smith wore an exquisite gown of white satin with crystal trimming; her sister, Miss Pickering, white silk trimmed with lace and pink roses; Miss E. Rhodes, cream satin skirt, bodice and Watteau bow of moss green brocade; Miss Cowlishaw, lovely white brocaded silk, her sister, soft white silk; Miss Palmer, ecru merveilleux and tiny wreath on her hair; Miss Tabart, black silk and net, pink roses; Misses Harper, pretty white gowns, Empire sash of deep yellow; Miss Beswick, electric green brocade, steel passementerie trimming; Miss Turnbull, cream; Miss Hutton, coral pink and silk; Miss Lean, pale pink and lace; Miss A. Cot, very pretty pale heliotrope; Miss Ross, very becoming cream silk and tulle; Miss Helmore, peacock green; the Messrs Meares, Palmer, Lane, Fenwick, Buckley, Hollestou, Clark, Beswick and Davis, were some of the guests present.

DOLLY VALE.

AUCKLAND.

DEAR BEE, DECEMBER 27.

The weather is so warm that white or cotton frocks are really the only comfortable garments. But of course the latter were not en évidence at the Choral Hall the other night, where I saw several pretty frocks, and will try and describe some of the

LADY'S DRESSES AT THE AUCKLAND CHORAL SOCIETY'S 'MESSIAH.'

The two lady soloists were Miss Reeve, who wore gros grained silk with ribbons looped round neck of bodice, and Miss Lorrigan, white Liberty silk with white tulle round bodice. Amongst the audience were Mrs Upton, grey; Mrs Gamble, black; Miss McDonald, black lace; Misses Laura and Ella Baker, navy silks; Mrs Atkinson, black delaine with pink flowers; Miss Atkinson, pink, and her sister, cornflower blue; Mrs Worsp, black, and Miss Hilda Worsp, white; Mrs Baume, black; Mrs Knight, cornflower blue with white front; Mrs Kerr-Taylor and daughter, white; Miss Bull, red; Miss B. Bull, grey with pink cloud; Miss Meldrum, blue; Mrs Hitchcock, navy skirt and pink bodice, with Swiss belt of navy; Mrs Broham, new grenat satin; Miss Binney, grey and white stripe; Miss Buddle, cornflower blue; Miss Parsons, cream delaine with red cape; Miss Pierce, lavender and white; Miss Harding, white; Miss Kissling, white; Miss Upton, grey; Miss Biss, white; Mrs Stevenson, black silk; and her daughter, grey cashmere.

Some of the dresses worn at the

SOUTH AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

Mrs Browning, very handsome black merveilleux silk, pale green vest covered with black beaded lace, black lace hat with green bows; Mrs (Dr.) Brewis, exceedingly handsome brown brocaded shot silk, rich cream silk Maltese lace cape, cream hat with feathers; Mrs Davis, stylish black and white silk, pretty cream hat; Mrs Ring, fawn tweed, with navy blue vest; Mrs (Dr.) Kerr, pretty cream cashmere, fawn hat with red poppies; Mrs Hume, handsome navy blue silk, black lace bonnet with gold tips; Mrs Saro, stylish strawberry coloured costume, hat to match; Mrs Sandus, very stylish slate-grey costume trimmed with brocaded satin, pretty black and gold bonnet; Mrs Hay, handsome myrtle-green brocaded silk, black lace bonnet with pale green tips; Mrs Peacocke, neat grey and blue checked costume; Mrs Whitaker, very stylish black costume, pretty black hat; Mrs Chitty handsome black satin; Mrs (Dr.) Kenny looked very nice in white; Mrs Coates, dark flowered delaine, pretty fawn bonnet; Miss Pain looked exceedingly pretty in a stylish black costume, small black hat; Miss Rathborne, dainty heliotrope costume; Miss — Rathborne looked well in a navy blue and white spotted gown, hat to match; Miss Biggs, neat fawn costume, hat to match; Miss J. Biggs, dainty white dress; Miss Logie, very pretty silver-grey costume with pale blue vest; Miss Edgecumbe, dainty heliotrope gown, pretty white hat; Miss Coates, light flowered delaine trimmed with green ribbon, pretty green hat; Miss Humphill, neat navy blue costume; Miss Sandes looked very nice in white; Miss N. Sandes, dainty flowered gown trimmed with lace, pretty cream hat; Miss A. Sandes looked charming in silver-grey with cream silk vest, pretty cream hat; Miss A. Jolly, neat fawn costume; Miss Hunne, very pretty pink and cream striped gown, dainty cream hat; Mrs Cox, electric blue costume, stylish bonnet to match; Miss Newell looked well in black; Miss Scaranche, very pretty blue and white spotted gown; Miss M. Scaranche, dainty cream flowered delaine gown; Mrs Pilling, fawn skirt, light blouse and Eton jacket; Mrs W. Von Sturmer, very pretty pink flowered crepon costume; Miss Hay, pretty fawn crepon skirt, shot silk blouse Eton jacket, hat to match; Miss E. Hay, stylish electric blue dress, cream hat trimmed with feathers; Miss Peacocke, pretty blue costume, large stylish hat; Mrs Oldham, looked well in black; Miss Macpherson, dainty electric blue gown, cream silk vest, small hat; Mrs Dyer looked very nice in a grey checked costume; Mrs E. Pilling, stylish black gown, cream vest; Mrs W. Cussers, pretty pale strawberry striped gown, dainty hat; Mrs N. S. Hunt, striped skirt with light blouse and Eton jacket; Mrs Furze looked well in a fawn costume, hat to match; Miss Ashton, very stylish vieux rose and cream striped gown, dainty bonnet to match; Mrs Palairet looked exceedingly pretty in grey tweed; Mr James Taylor, in a dark suit, had an awkward air; Mr J. H. Hume looked charming in steel grey, etc. etc.

There are some very pretty frocks and fripons to be seen just now, both in the shops and on the fair wearers. Of the latter, I have noted Mrs Moss-Davis, in navy, with pink vest, her daughter wearing navy with pink blouse; Mrs Major George, black; Mrs Haines, stylish grey dress, white front, sailor hat with ribbons; Mrs Humphrey Haines, black skirt, white blouse, grey sailor hat; Mrs Nashelski, grey, black lace bonnet trimmed with pink roses; Miss Nashelski, black dress, white front, and white sailor hat; Miss Brett, black and grey striped Japanese silk skirt, navy jacket, white hat with cream; Mrs A. Clarke, navy with white front, and white sailor hat; Mrs Ware, fawn dress trimmed with brown silk, brown bonnet with bright yellow plush; Miss Johnson, grey with navy jacket, grey hat with feathers; Miss White (Parnell), navy and white spotted sateen; Mrs Owen, handsome green cashmere trimmed with revers of green velvet and rich fawn lace vest, cuffs, etc.; Miss Kilgour, striking costume of red, with cream front, sailor hat with red; Mrs L. D. Nathan, a very handsome costume of black grenadine work with heliotrope and yellow stripe trimmed with heliotrope silk, black lace hat with heliotrope flowers; Miss Anderson looks chic in white muslin with a small black spot, gem hat with white ribbons; Miss Bursill, a stylish grey with green ribbon trimming, hat with green; Mrs H. Johnston (Remuera), cornflower blue print, hat trimmed to match; Mrs Reid, grey cambric, white vest, navy jacket, black straw hat with black feathers; Mrs Cotter looks well in fawn tussore silk with edgings of brown silk, becoming toque of brown feathers and velvet; Miss White (Wynyard-street), pretty shade of heliotrope cashmere trimmed with violet silk black lace toque and pansies; Mrs Honeyman looks very well in a pretty white costume, with hat of yellow fancy straw and flowers; Miss Gladys Honeyman also wears white, and looks cool and pretty.

Sir George Grey seems to have benefited by his trip to the Lakes, and looks well. He was in Queen-street on Friday, accompanied by Mrs Thorne-George, who was wearing a very dark navy skirt, spotted navy and white sateen blouse, black feathered hat relieved with orange.

Mr and Mrs Luke Bloomfield have returned from their long honeymoon trip, which extended over a fair portion of the popularly known globe. Their friends will have been glad to receive them for the Christmas gathering.

Mrs Earl and Miss Macdonald intend taking a trip to England next March, where they will stay for two years.

Mr and Mrs J. Howard Keep have come over from Sydney for Christmas. Neither of them seems to have suffered from the New South Wales climate.

A buggy accident occurred on the New North Road the other day. Three ladies were driving when the horse shied and bolted, and they were all thrown out. Mrs Bartley escaped unhurt, but Miss Birch and Miss Foster received serious injuries, and were conveyed to the District Hospital. They are progressing satisfactorily, and it is hoped, will soon recover.

MURIEL.

WELLINGTON.

DEAR BEE, DECEMBER 24.

The performance of the 'Messiah' in the Wesleyan Church by the Harmonic Society was highly successful. The Pastoral Symphony was beautifully played, conducted by Mr Parker. The orchestra was led by Mr Duff Boyd, Mr Horeland presiding at the organ, Mrs Greenwood was the soprano, and gave a beautiful rendering of her part, especially 'But Thou Didst Not Leave.' Mrs Walker, of Nelson, sang the contralto feelingly, although the orchestra was a little too loud to allow her to be sufficiently heard. Her best number was 'He Was Despised.' Mr E. J. Hill fairly surpassed himself as tenor, giving a most artistic interpretation of his part, 'Comfort Ye,' being specially good. Mr John Prouse, bass, gave a truly magnificent performance of his part, quite the best ever heard here, his 'Why do the Nations' being a great treat. All the soloists were particularly good, the quartette by them being a perfect gem. The general choruses were fair, but not well balanced. The orchestra was good, except slightly overpowering the singers at times. But on the whole, this is the best performance for many years of the 'Messiah.' Mrs Greenwood wore a black velvet Watteau gown, trained; Mrs Houldery, sage green trimmed with darker silk. There was an audience of about five hundred. Among the performers were Mr and Mrs Parker, Mr and Mrs Sprott, Mrs and Mrs Kennedy, Mesdames F. Allen, Stuart, Barron, Warren, Mines, Newton, Widdop, Hammerton, Quick, Shaen, Gore, Swainson, Barron, Grieg, Burnett, Pownall, Henry, George, etc.

The

'AT HOME' OF THE MAYORESS

was a very popular function. Amongst the numerous guests I noticed Mesdames Rhodes, in a handsome black dress; Werry, black Watteau costume, bonnet of pansies; Lostalot, Blackett, Higginson; Menteith, in grey with black sash; Williams, handsome black dress, cream bonnet studded with jewels, and cream tips; A. Pearce, black and white silk, corselet of black and white embroidery; G. Beetham, fawn and brown satin, Pompadour coat, buttercup bonnet; Izard, Fell, Richmond, Maxwell; Adams, grey costume; Ferguson; Levin, lovely grey trimmed with silk, lace mantle, black and white lace bonnet; Johnston, handsome black dress, jet and gold bonnet; Gore, Butts, Blair, Robinson, Seed, Bowen, Harding, Page, Halse, Simson, Morrah, Gale, Heywood, Hudson, Luckie, Stafford, Johnson, the Misses E. Johnson, J. Johnson, in lovely pale brown gown, trimmed, with yoke of bright orange silk veiled with cream lace, brown and orange hat; Shannon, grey figured delaine, large grey hat; Hadfield, braided fawn costume; Williams, lovely mauve costume, Russian blouse, full sleeves, cream hat with crown of green silk, and marguerites; Holmes, grey, and white lace; Dransfield, cream figured delaine; Buller, black; Gore, cream, with large cream hat; Izard, grey trimmed with Gobelin blue silk, black hat; Harding, cream with yellow Empire sash; Moorhouse, Morrah, E. Johnson, crushed strawberry flounced with black lace; Blair, pale grey figured Princess gown, large hat to match; Heywood, and Brabazon. Messrs Pennefeather (Adelaide), Levin, Beetham, Vogel, Page, Hadfield, Pearce, Werry, Maxwell, and Dr. Adams.

The Wellington

ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY'S THIRD CONCERT

of the third season was even more successful than ever. It was held at the Opera House, when there was a full house, and a most appreciative audience. Mr Alfred Hill conducted, and opened with the overture 'William Tell.' Later Schumann's Symphony in B. flat No. 1, Gounod's 'Danse des Bacchantes, and Massenet's 'Scene Bohemiennes' were given. Mr H. Spackman made his *debut* as a solo violinist and played beautifully, being enthusiastically encored. Miss Grieg sang, 'When Daisies Pied,' with a clarionette obligato by Mr Sewell. Mr Waters sang 'Montrose's Love Song.' The programme was short, only seven items, but these were bright and full of spirit, and most enjoyable. Mr R. Parker accompanied the songs. Miss Dugdale the violin, and Mrs Holt the orchestra. In the orchestra playing first and second violins were Misses Dugdale, Richardson, Pulcher, Henry, George, Hirschberg, Holt, and G. Kennedy—between forty and fifty performers altogether. Amongst the audience were Mrs Hill, Miss Hill, black velvet trimmed with white lace; Miss M. Hill, white gown; Mr and Mrs Duncan Hammerton; Mr and Mrs E. J. Hill; Miss Clarice Brabazon; Miss Heywood, Mr and Mrs F. Leckie; Miss Coughey; Mr and Miss Harcourt; Miss Burnett, white with yellow sash; Mrs Thorne; Mrs (Captain) Cameron, in black with pretty pale grey fur cloak; Mr and Mrs Jollicoe, the latter in terra cotta; Mrs Stratton Izard, blue trimmed with coffee lace; Mr and the Misses Barron; Mrs. Ed. Richardson, in black with crimson plush cloak; Dr. Henry; the Misses Gore; Mrs Pynsent, handsome black silk and jet; Misses Pynsent, black lace, white fur cloak; Mr Tolhurst; Miss Graham, peacock plush cloak; Mrs Halse, pale blue; Mrs Parritt, fawn cloak embroidered with gold; Miss Cooper; Miss S. Cooper, pink, with white cloak; the Misses Hadfield, Miss Malcolm, Miss Toxward, Miss O'Connor, Gobelin blue, Empire sash; Mr and Mrs Stansfield, pink; Miss Newton, mauve; Misses Widdop, Miss McCartney, Mrs Russell, Miss Parsons, Mrs Anderson, Miss Kirkcaldi, Miss Narburton, Mr Rous Marten, Mr Biss, Mr Pilcher, etc.

At

MR ALFRED HILL'S INVITATION CONCERT,

given in St. John's schoolroom on Saturday night by himself and pupils, a very large audience was present. Mr Alfred Hill played a violin solo beautifully, the ladies playing violins were, Misses George, Dugdale, Holt, Barber, Kebbell, and Hirschberg. Mr E. J. Hill sang 'The Stock Driver's Song,' and also joined Miss Newton in a duet, 'There was a Time.' Miss Newton sang the 'Cradle Song,' Miss Alice Widdop sang, 'My Heart and Lute,' and was encored, and gave 'Last Night.' A violin duet by Mr A. Hill and Miss Lamont Kebbell was very good. Master Cimino played in a trio. The concert finished with the National Anthem arranged for three violins, played by Mr A. Hill, Miss Dugdale, and Miss Holt. Miss Newton wore white, with Swiss belt outlined with gold; Miss Widdop, pretty white gown, Empire belt; Miss Kebbell, pink silk; Miss Baber, white with yellow sash; the Misses Dugdale, Holt, and Hirschberg, all white.

THE CLYDE QUAY CONCERT

was largely attended. The vocalists were Mrs Parsons, Mrs P. P. Webb, Misses Hudson, Parsons, M. Myers, Messrs E. G. Hill, Tattle, J. Young, and J. Parsons. Recitations were given by Messrs Harbittle, and A. S. Patterson, and a flute solo by Mr Wilson, a violin solo by Mr A. Burnett, pianoforte solo by Master Rash were also rendered.

RUBY.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

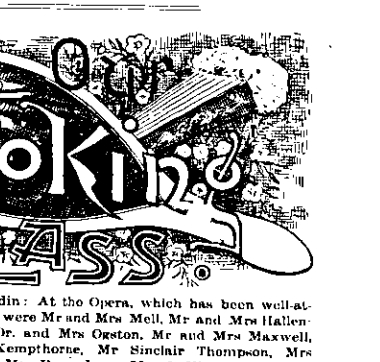
DEAR BEE, DECEMBER 20.

At the breaking up of the Convent School, the weather was beautiful, and there was a great crowd present at the entertainment, which was excellent. The following people kindly contributed towards the prizes:—Rev. Father McKenna, Mr and Mrs Samuel, Mr Corkill, Mr and Mrs Seffern, Mr and Mrs Parker, Mr and Mrs MacDiarmid, Mr and Mrs Roche, Mrs Ryley, Mrs P. Kong, Mr Fischer, Mrs O'Neill, Mrs Francis, Miss Teed, Mr Avery, and Mr Milnoe Hawera. Miss Jane Oldfield, a pupil at the convent, succeeded in winning a certificate from the Trinity College, London, for musical knowledge. Master C. MacDiarmid, of the High School, also passed with senior honours.

There are so many pretty street dresses being worn, that I must tell you of a few. Mrs Witchell is wearing a lovely white gown and little black bonnet; Mrs Capel, grey, black bonnet with pink feathers; Miss Capel, fawn cashmere, and brown plush (very stylish); Miss Hayly, grey costume, hat to match (so pretty); Miss Isabel Hamerton, pretty grey dress, grey hat and feathers; Miss Carrie Hayly, pretty pink flowered dress, with very pretty hat of white cambric and lace; Miss Kirkby, white dress and hat; Mrs Fookes, black, with very stylish black bonnet with yellow poppies; Mrs Warren looks well in black; Miss Alice Shaw looks very nice in white embroidered dress and white hat; Mrs Stanley Shaw is wearing dark grey, black hat.

There are some weddings to take place at Christmas time. I know you like to hear of these very interesting affairs, so do I.

HILDA.



IN Dunedin: At the Opera, which has been well-attended, were Mr and Mrs Mell, Mr and Mrs Hallenstein, Dr. and Mrs Orston, Mr and Mrs Maxwell, Miss Kempthorne, Mr Sinclair Thompson, Mrs Hawes, Mrs Percy Jones, Mrs J. W. Jones, Mrs H. Rose, Miss Spence, Miss F. Spence, Miss Ormond Miss Tui Stephenson, Miss K. Stephenson, etc.—

In Auckland: Mrs Aitken Carrick has returned from her visit to Christchurch, and looks all the better for the change. Miss Katie Chambers-Taylor has gone with Mrs Walker to Maharangi Heads. She wears a stylish navy costume, manly shirt and tie, and small white hat with blue spotted trimming. Mrs Hay looks well in black, with grey and black bonnet; Miss Stuart is wearing cornflower blue jacket to match, white vest and pretty hat; Miss Katie Isaacs looks nice in a light blouse, dark skirt, and white straw sailor hat banded with a red, yellow and blue ribbon. Various people are off on holiday excursions.

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