

## THE BRISBANE FLOODS.

OUR pictures of the floods in Brisbane will not fail to be of interest to the New Zealand public, who manifested such practical sympathy with the destitute inhabitants of the capital of Queensland. These sketches which are from photographs taken specially for THE GRAPHIC on the spot, convey a vivid idea of the deplorable state of affairs in Brisbane during the deluge, and help us to realise more clearly what we have already received very full information of in the Australian papers. Although Wellington has not escaped something more severe than the wetting of her feet by the recent floods in the Hutt river—she should thank her stars that she is not now standing on the site originally chosen—most of our New Zealand cities need have no fear of a watery visitation like that which Brisbane has been subjected to. The Empire City may be shaken some day to her foundations, and Auckland may have to pass through the fire of those peaceful looking volcanoes of hers, but it can never happen that either of the two will afford subjects for photographs similar to those Brisbane has given us in this issue. We may very safely predict that the youngest inhabitant of either of those cities of the hills, should he or she live to be as old as Methuselah, will never see his fellow citizens taking refuge on the house tops from the rising waters, or a gunboat stranded in the public park.



MR C. G. ANDREWS, formerly one of the inspectorial staff of the Bank of New Zealand, and now manager of the Melbourne branch of that bank, has been on a visit to Auckland, returning to Australia on Saturday per s.s. Tarawera.

MR SCHNADHORST, the great organiser of the Liberal Party in England, who has made a tour of New Zealand in company with his wife, left Auckland on Saturday per s.s. Tarawera. Unfortunately Mr Schnadhorst failed to see Mr Ballance when passing through Wellington. He expressed great disappointment on account of this, as he was anxious to thoroughly inform himself with regard to the political party which is under Mr Ballance's leadership.

THE Rev. James and Mrs Chew have left Auckland for Sydney, en route to England. Their movements in the Mother Country are at present uncertain. Possibly they may return to America. Mr Chew received the sum of one hundred guineas as a farewell appreciative token from his flock. It will be remembered that Miss Essie Chew was to have been given a complimentary concert prior to her departure. Unfortunately, the night was exceedingly wet, and the concert did not eventuate.

MR J. W. JAMES, of Hillfont, Mount Albert, had the misfortune to break his leg as he was getting out of his buggy last Thursday. In some manner he slipped and met with this unpleasant accident. He has an excellent nurse, and it is to be hoped will soon be about again.

THE other evening Captain Griffiths gave his annual social to the Blenheim City Rifles in the grounds of his residence. The tables, which were laid out on the lawn

just in front of the house, were covered with most tempting dainties prettily set out with flowers and fruit, while coloured Japanese lanterns suspended above gave effective light and colour to the scene. After parade the men and officers marched up from town to the strains of the Garrison Band, and the chair was taken by Captain Griffiths about 9 p.m. He was supported on his right by Lieutenant O'Callaghan, R.N., and on his left by Captains Lucas, of the School Cadets, and Snodgrass, of the Blenheim Fire Bri-



THE S. S. 'NATONE,' IN SHORE BELOW THE HAMILTON, BRISBANE.

gade. After everyone had partaken of the good cheer provided, speeches were made by Captains Griffiths, Lucas, Snodgrass, and Sergeant Pond, and toasts proposed and drunk. Songs were given at intervals by Captains Lucas, Snodgrass, and Lieutenant O'Callaghan, and Bandmaster Naucarow and Burch, while the comic songs by Captain Griffiths and Volunteer L. Griffiths were highly appreciated. The listeners much enjoyed a waltz which the Garrison Band played in excellent style, and indeed they are to be congratulated upon the marked improvement in their performances of late. A very pleasant evening was spent, and the Company marched back to town to the inspiring strains of the band.

WE have again to acknowledge our indebtedness to Auckland photographers—to Mr Hanna for the portrait group of the Senate, and Mr Martin for the photo from which the sketch of Mr Napier is taken. Through the courtesy of these gentlemen and others in the profession, we are enabled to multiply the number of illustrations in THE GRAPHIC in a way that must make the paper much more interesting to our readers than it could otherwise be.

## AMUSEMENTS.

THE Liliputian entertainers, who continue to attract Aucklanders to the Opera House, deserve the thanks of both old and young for the excellent pantomime they produced. It is only to be regretted that they have not been able in 'The Gondoliers' to sustain the reputation they acquired in 'Aladdin,' but it is not to be wondered at,

Pantomime and opera are not so nearly related that a successful performer in one is successful in both. Given plenty of gorgeous dresses and scenery, grotesque masks, broad fun, and coloured fire, pantomime will live and flourish; but opera requires something more and something different for its maintenance. For success in opera singers are a *sine qua non*, for success in pantomime singers can be almost dispensed with. The weak point, on the whole, in 'The Gondoliers,' as produced by the Pollard Company, was the singing. A good deal of the acting on the part of the ladies would have admitted of improvement, as was to be expected with such young performers, but the acting would have passed muster if the singing had been better. Of course this remark is not meant to be applied to all the ladies, or to all the songs they sang, for some of the latter were very creditably rendered, and received plenty of applause. In the case of the leading gentlemen, the amount of fun and expression they imported into their impersonations went a long way to atone for their musical faults. Apart from the singing there is a freshness and juvenile grace in the performances of the youngsters that makes the entertainment really very pleasant to witness.

MADAME BAHNSON gave just one concert in Wellington, and I regret to say this was not nearly as well attended as it should have been. The Theatre Royal, where it took place, was only fairly filled, but the concert was really first class, Madame Bahnsong's singing, of course, being the feature of the evening. She contributed 'The Sea Hath its Pearls' (Clutsan), 'Softly Sighs' and 'Ave Maria,' the accompaniment to the last named being beautifully played by Mr Hill (violin), Miss Williams (organ), and Miss Medley (piano), and being considered the gem of the evening. Madame Bahnsong also repeated her wonderful performance of the 'Carnival de Venice,' which shows to the fullest extent the capabilities of the songstress. Madame Bahnsong was not only eulogized for her artistic singing, but was further complimented by receiving several bouquets. Miss Fisher sang for the last time before her departure, and chose 'Beauty's Eyes,' the violin obligato being played by Mr Alfred Hill. Miss Medley's pianoforte solo was very brilliantly performed and was eulogized. Mr Prouse was in capital voice and gave 'Thou Art Passing Hence' and 'Thy Fate' splendidly, the latter being given by special request. Mr Alfred Hill played a couple of little gems on his violin, and was accompanied by Mrs Queree, lately of Auckland. Mr Hugh Reeves, of Christchurch, was eulogized for both his songs, 'Lucia,' and 'O Jolly Jenkins,' the latter from 'Ivanhoe,' and received a warm welcome on his first appearance in the Empire City. Miss Maude Williams played the accompaniments with great taste.

MR GARRY gave another of his very popular promenade concerts in the Drill Shed, New Plymouth, on the 2nd March. The building was beautifully decorated and the place well filled. A most pleasant evening was spent. Miss Ford sang 'At Last,' her beautiful voice sounding rich and full, and being admirably suited to the song. Miss Wood and Miss Ford sang a duet, 'Spring,' very well indeed. Mr C. Shaw and Mr Perry were also among the vocalists. Both gentlemen have fine voices. Mr Garry was most fortunate in his soloists.



STANLEY STREET—THE PRINCIPAL STREET IN BRISBANE.