

The Birthday Ball at Government House.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON, MAY 24.

THIS was the largest and most brilliant ball ever given at Government House in Wellington, and everything passed off with great success. The decorations were beautiful. The ballroom mantelpieces was a mass of maiden-hair fern on the lower part, and the upper part was filled with the lovely blood-red flowers of the poinsettia plant drooping over. At the far end of the large ballroom there was a red cloth shield with a wreath of laurestines round it, and in the centre was the crown and V.R. in white chrysanthemum. This beautiful piece of work was arranged by Lady Glasgow herself. Indeed, most of the floral decorations were done by the clever ladies of the household. All along the lengthy corridors were large pots of ferns, bamboo, palms, and other lovely plants, and the walls and lounges were all draped with red and flags of all sorts. The verandah, too, was most enticing; it was all draped with flags and lighted with coloured lanterns, and soft red carpet underfoot. The conservatory was cleared of most of the large plants, thus making room for sofas, lounges, etc. At the top of the broad staircase quite a little drawing-room was arranged with a couple of large high screens to shut off the ends of the upstairs corridors, and with a few plants, sofas, chairs, and illuminated lanterns, the effect was very pretty.

Now for the supper-room, for which the dining-room was used, and as the room is only supposed to hold about fifty or sixty people, the difficulty was to manage to make between six hundred and seven hundred people satisfied. A large horseshoe table was arranged with all sorts of dainties (which I will not attempt to describe, but will send the men), and steps were taken so that only a certain number of guests were in the room at once, which was an excellent plan, and everything passed off without a hitch. The tables were beautifully dressed with hot-house plants, and at one end of the room hung the Royal Standard, and at the other was the 'Split Eagle,' the crest of the Boyles, besides various Union Jacks, etc. All the gas globes had tinted shades over them, and the effect of the pretty soft light was splendid. The Earl and Countess did not, as usual, receive the guests, but as the clock struck nine the band played 'God Save the Queen,' and they entered the ballroom, accompanied by the Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle, Miss Hallows, Miss Wauchope, Miss Holroyd, and Captain Hunter-Blair.

His Excellency opened the ball with Mrs Grace. The others who danced in the 'set' were Lady Glasgow and Mr H. D. Bell (Mayor), Sir James Prendergast, and Mrs Bell, the Hon. C. Johnstone and Lady Alice Boyle, the Hon. Dr. Grace and Lady Augusta Boyle, Captain Hunter-Blair and Mrs C. Johnston, Sir James Hector and Miss Wauchope, Mr W. T. Traversa and Mrs W. Johnston.

THE DRESSES.

Lady Glasgow wore her lovely dress of thick pearl satin brocaded with pale blue and terra-cotta flowers, the sleeves were terra-cotta velvet lined with blue, and round the hem was a vandyke pattern of pale blue and terra-cotta velvet, she wore her coronet of diamonds, and diamonds on her low bodice. The Ladies Augusta, Alice, and Dorothy Boyle wore pretty white spotted muslin frocks with pink silk sashes tied at the side, tan shoes and stockings; Miss Hallows wore lemon-coloured silk covered with Russian net; Miss Wauchope, pale blue silk spotted with black, black satin sleeves and bound with black round the hem.

Miss Holroyd, salmon pink silk draped with black lace; Mrs Grace wore a lovely grey brocade and diamonds; Mrs Bell, a pretty pale yellow silk with a front panel beautifully embroidered; Mrs Walter Johnston wore black brocade trimmed with white; Mrs C. Johnston, a lovely gown of black velvet and jet; Mrs Levin, deep pink merveilleux with large sleeves of clear velvet, the same trimming the skirt; Mrs G. Beetham, lemon-coloured brocade trimmed with beautiful silk lace; Mrs (Dr.) Adams wore black brocade and lace; Lady Prendergast, crimson satin trimmed with light coloured lace; Mrs Hatfield, black; Mrs (Judge) Richmond, a rich black brocade trimmed with jet and lace; Mrs (Judge) Williams (Dunedin), yellow silk draped with black lace; Mrs (Dr.) Collins, pale green silk with large yellow velvet sleeves; Mrs Castledyke, black lace relieved with mauve; Mrs Rhodes, black velvet; Mrs T. C. Williams, also black velvet; Mrs Newman, rich brown satin the front part being coffee-coloured lace; Mrs Eberle, pale pink silk and lace; Mrs (Captain) Rose, handsome grey satin; Mrs Parfitt, pink sarah silk; Mrs Gore, black brocade; Mrs L. Pharrasin, a handsome gown of pink and grey satin; Mrs Arthur Pearce, a pretty dress of mauve coloured silk slightly trimmed and trimmed with broad white lace; Madame de Lombard, cream silk gown trimmed with narrow black ribbon velvet; Mrs Robert Hart, rich black silk; Mrs Pysant, black, relieved with white; Mrs (Dr.) Anson, white silk; Mrs E. Richardson, handsome gown of black and white striped satin; Mrs Fulton; Mrs Elgar (Fonthornton), lavender silk and tulle; Mrs Maxwell, black lace and watered silk, sleeves of violet velvet; Mrs L. Reid, cream sarah gown with orange velvet sleeves and facings; Mrs T. Wilford, lovely dress of deep crimson silk and black lace, shoes to correspond; Mrs Sprot, black and

sage green; Mrs Maxwell (Auranga), black; Mrs Elliott, rich gown of moss green satin; Mrs (Dr.) Gillon, very striking gown of grey velvet, made very plainly, and bordered with silver; Mrs Green, rich red corded silk with long train and trimmed with gold embroidery; Mrs (Dr.) Vennell, black satin; Mrs Seed, black; Mrs Harry Crawford, very handsome gown of cream striped corded silk and satin trimmed with black velvet and cream silk lace; Mrs Barron, black velvet handsomely trimmed with jet; The Hon. Atkinson, pale lemon silk with quantities of chiffon; Mrs Holmwood, very pale, pink lace; Mrs Graham, black, relieved with white; Mrs W. Crawford, pretty white silk gown; Mrs Hudson, pink corded silk; Mrs G. Hutchinson, black and white; Mrs Samuel, very pale pink; Mrs Low, pale blue brocade covered with net; Mrs Alfred Brandon, black; Mrs H. Rawson, handsome gown of blue figured silk; Mrs Page, black; Mrs Barclay, black velvet and white; Mrs F. Turnbull, black; Mrs (Dr.) Chapple, black gown, big sleeves of pale blue silk; Mrs Heywood, Mrs Edwin, brown silk trimmed with coffee lace; Mrs Jackson, black. I noticed three brides present, namely, Mrs Field, Mrs Biss, and Mrs Anson, who all wore their wedding gowns, the latter wearing hers high to the throat; Mrs Allen also somewhat recently married, looked extremely well in a pure white merveilleux gown with huge puffed sleeves. Among the debutantes were Miss M. Wilson who wore a pretty frock of white sarah silk, the skirt slightly trained; Miss A. Gore, very simple but pretty dress of white brocade; Miss Q. Elliott, white merveilleux softened with chiffon about the bodice; Miss A. Vennell, soft white silk falling to the knees, draped with green tulle and round the hem was a frock of white silk; Miss Holt, white pongee silk and lace; they each carried pretty bouquets with long streamers. Miss Richardson wore a very pretty gown of white silk trimmed with turquoise blue velvet to the waist; Mrs Douglas, an effective gown, the prettiest gowns in the room, it was lovely white silk made very full in the skirt, which was trimmed with tiny flounces, huge puffed sleeves to the elbow, and broad white lace falling over the bodice being draped with green tulle and round the hem were mauve merveilleux draped with black and mauve net and ribbons; the Misses Moorhouse, black and yellow; Miss Reid, sea green brocade, with huge sleeves of green and pink, the skirt being also trimmed with pink; Miss E. Leed, black; Mrs (Dr.) Vennell, magenta silk trimmed with the same colour velvet and silver; Miss Elliott, dark blue velvet; Miss I. Johnston, very peculiar frock of white silk with bright rose coloured sleeves, the back of the skirt being draped with green tulle and round the hem were sprays of green and red grass; her sister wore white silk and lace with light yellow sleeves; Miss E. Barton (Wairarapa), white silk pretty trimmed with yellow velvet; Miss M. Gore, pretty gown of pale primrose watered silk; Miss Douglas, light grey silk; Miss L. Izard, white net, the skirt and bodice being trimmed with pale pink silk; Miss Turnbull, red satin partly covered with black net; Miss Graham, a brown velvet gown; her sister, handsome black and white; Mrs (Dr.) Biss, black lace trimmed with narrow white ribbon and violets; Miss A. Grace, white silk and net; Miss Rose, pale mauve gauze; Miss Kock, white silk relieved with sage green; Miss Fairclough, white watered silk; Miss Holmes, a pretty combination of grey and yellow; Miss Barron, pale pink net; Miss E. Barron, red gauze; Miss Hatfield, black and pink silk; Miss Percy-Smith, black trimmed with emerald-green chiffon; Miss M. Pharrasin, blue featherston, grey brocade trimmed with pink silk; Miss Burnett, cream gown with brown sleeves; her sister, green and pink silk; Miss Hart, black dress relieved with white flowers and ribbons; her sister, black and red; Miss Harding (Melbourne), pink satin; Miss Noske, black brocade and lace; Miss Hamilton; Miss N. Barron, maize-coloured sarah with white lace; Miss Gillon, black; her sister, pale blue pretty trimmed with brown velvet; Miss McPherson, white, pink silk; Miss E. Johnston, a combination of black and red satin; Miss Lingard, green net with large pink sleeves; Miss Jackson, pretty shade of heliotrope with dark velvet sleeves; Miss Menzies, blue silk and net; Miss Heywood, pretty dress of blue and white, trimmed with cream tulle; Miss Low, black relieved with blue chiffon; Miss D. Harding, soft white silk; Miss L. Kennedy, black velvet, broad yellow sash tied at the side; Miss Halse, black and white lace; Miss L. Halse, black net and red; Miss E. Halse, cream; Miss Harper (recently from England), pale blue brocade; Miss Quill; pink satin trimmed with bands of green ribbon and fur tails; Miss Webster (Dunedin), bright yellow corded silk; Miss Messenger, pale blue and cream striped silk; Miss M. Kennedy, black; Miss Allen, cream; Miss Stowe, white sarah silk; Miss Trimmell, Gobein blue; Miss R. Blundell, pale lemon silk; Miss Hoggard, pink silk trimmed with black lace; Miss Tolhurst, white sarah silk; Mrs (Dr.) H. Johnston, white, pink and blue; Mrs (Dr.) Skerrett, mauve velvet trimmed with pink watered silk; her sister, a very pretty gown of white silk with broad bands of deep pink velvet on the skirt, the sleeves also being pink; Mrs Barclay, pink, and her sister, blue; Miss Lashley, bright pink satin with pink sleeves; etc., etc.

Of course it would be impossible to describe all the dresses at the ball, as it was so crowded. A band of eight performers provided the music, which was unusually good. The floor was also in splendid condition.

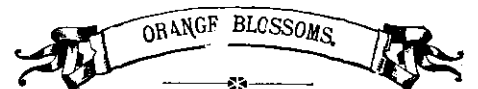
OPHELIA.

QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

THE Queen's Birthday was not favoured with Queen's weather in Christchurch, for out-door amusements were completely spoiled, rain setting in heavily about 11 a.m. for several hours. The volunteers turned out in great force for parade in Hagley Park and to fire the salute. The excursion train from Timaru brought a number of visitors almost all on Gaiety bent, fully four hundred seats being booked for the matinee in the Team-street Hall, when 'Miss Esmeralda' was staged. A picnic organised by the athletic section of the Women's Institute took place at Sumner. The members of the Atalanta Club and of the Kingsley Club were invited, and several members of both were present. Most of the party journeyed down by train, but some rode their bicycles, the lady members appearing in reformed dress, one wearing a short skirt and blouse, and several others knickerbockers and tunics. The Hon. J. E. Jenkinson was present as a member of the Kingsley Club. The Pioneer Bicycle Club had its closing run of the season leaving Cathedral Square at 10 o'clock, proceeding over the hills to Governor's Bay, where they dined, thence round the road to Lyttelton, and after a short spell over the hill to Sumner, back to town, the rain having made the roads very soft and slippery, and considerably marring the pleasures of the trip.

THE Queen's Birthday opened well in Auckland, and numerous excursions were planned and carried out, racing, of course being a feature of the day. About four o'clock, however, heavy rain fell and somewhat marred the day's pleasure.

A VERY jolly little dance was held on the Queen's Birthday in the Heretaunga (Napier) Schoolroom, which had been kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs J. A. Fraser and Robinson. The dance was really given by the bachelors and was a tremendous success, everything going with great éclat. The schoolroom was a perfect bower of beauty, and the supper was truly delicious. Newbould, from Napier, supplied the music. Some pretty gowns were worn, Messdames J. N. Williams, Loughnan, Vickerman, and the Misses Williams, Miller, Russell, St. Hill, and Logan are spoken of as having looked exceedingly well. Some of those who were there were Messdames Russell Nelson, the Misses Nelson, Fitzroy, Galwey, Kettle (Napier), and the Misses Nelson, Russell, St. Hill, Cotterill (Napier), Baker (Napier), Beamish, Gleeson, Lascelles (Clive), etc., etc. The bachelors are to be congratulated upon the great success of the dance. The committee, which consisted of Messrs F. Nelson, Fenwick, J. A. Fraser, Robinson, H. B. Williams, Cooper, and H. Warren, worked like Trojans, and must have felt gratified at the pleasing results of their labours.



BUCKLETON—GRAHAM.

WEDNESDAY, the 24th inst., at Hamilton, a fashionable and evidently popular wedding took place at St. Peter's Church, the contracting parties being Mr Harry Buckleton of the Bank of New Zealand, Auckland, and Miss Alice Australia Gertrude Graham, eldest daughter of Mr William Australia Graham, and granddaughter of Mr George Graham, one of Auckland's oldest identities. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. R. O'Biggs, incumbent of St. Peter's, and was a choral one, Miss Newell presiding at the harmonium. She was assisted by a good choir, and the effect was nice and much appreciated. On entering the church the hymn, 'The Voice that Breathed o'er Eden' was capably rendered, and the 'Wedding March' was really well played.

The bride was dressed in a handsome trained gown of rich ivory merveilleux, trimmed very handsomely with old family Limerick lace, tulle veil, and a neat wreath of orange blossoms.

The bridesmaids were Miss Ruby Graham and Miss Inez Sandes, each wearing a dress of cream serge trimmed with white fur, and pearl and gold brooches the gift of the bridegroom. The bridegroom was attired in orthodox fashion, and was assisted through the trying ceremony by Professor Pond, of the Auckland University, who acted as best man.

The church was crowded to its utmost holding capacity, and over a hundred people could not obtain entrance at all, but remained outside during the ceremony. After the service was concluded the wedding party drove to 'The Lodge' (Mr Graham's residence) and between forty-five and fifty people sat down to breakfast; the room and the tables being beautifully draped and decorated with flowers, etc. A most enjoyable time was spent, the usual speeches being made, that by Mr J. A. Pond being particularly interesting, the more so as Mr Pond had acted as best man to the bride's father some twenty years ago or more.

The whole party adjourned to the Hamilton West Railway Station at 2.35 p.m. The happy couple (and they looked it) started for Okoroire Sanatorium by train, where they spend a short honeymoon. As the train moved out of the station their friends gave three hearty cheers, and wished them 'good luck.' The bride was attired in a neat navy blue serge travelling dress with Eton jacket and cream vest embroidered with gold, and a small blue hat with fashionable tartan trimmings. No less than twenty-seven relatives were present at the meeting, including the bride's grandmother, Mrs Coombe. In the evening, after all the excitement was over, the party enjoyed a family tea together.

The church was beautifully decorated by the bride's young friends and others, and one noticeable feature was a 'Wedding Bell' composed of white flowers, which was suspended near the rails over the heads of the bride and bridegroom, the artistic work of Mrs James Hume. This bell was afterwards taken home and hung over the wedding cake, together with a large heart composed of pink camellias, the effect being very pretty. Not being one of the weaker sex, I cannot undertake to describe the robes, etc. Suffice it to say that they were all nice, and in many cases handsome, as were many of the wearers. The bride, by general consent, was voted the bonniest that ever stood in front of the rails of St. Peter's altar, and all her friends wish her and her husband God speed.

The engagement has been announced between Mr Cooke, third master at the Boys' College, Nelson, and Miss Morgan of the Girls' College.