the end. You forgive me—I am glad. Hark, do you hear anything?'

I strained my ears. A great, shrieking wail of the tempest rose higher and higher like the cry of a murdered soul. The whole room quivered—then an awful crash—a mighty swaying. I leaped to my friend. The walls, the ceiling, caved in together, and all was dark.

* * * * * * *

The morning sun was faintly piercing the trees and lighting up the distant horizon, when a large party of men who had been working diligently for hours, drew forth two lifeless bodies from the wreck of the fallen castled tower. One was all that was left of the renowned Pembroke family—it had perished with its old abode. The other was not yet dead. Weeks of nursing, months of care, eventually brought me back to health.

It is not likely that the average man will believe the story of what I saw and heard that one wild night. It does not matter. I have told it once and all; and I wish never again to recall to mind the last visions of a friend who, in trying to escape the inevitable, entered the more surely upon his doom.

AUCKLAND POULTRY SHOW.

ON another page we give sketches taken by our artist at the recent very successful show of the Auckland Poultry Association. Mr J. Halyday (jun.), secretary, and the members of the committee are to be warmly congratulated on the excellence of all the arrangements. As usual, Reid Bros. were to the fore with their Aylesbury ducks, the prize-winners in this class being as large as geese. Great admiration was manifested over the other prize-winners represented in our sketch. The Plymouth Rocks were a very fine class, and lady visitors greatly admired some Japanese silky fowls. These are certainly very ornamental birds.

ENGAGEMENTS.

IN Napier the engagement is announced of Miss Foster to Mr Gooch. Miss Foster has not been very long in Napier.

COLUMBIA SKATING RINK.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.

10.30 to 12 .. .. (ladies only) 6d including skates.
2.30 to 4.30 .. .. 1s " "
7.30 to 10. Admission, 1s; Skates, 1s.

Instructors in Attendance.

E. A. FARRINGTON.

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They have to study how to obtain the Very Best Value for their money.

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WE ARE KEEN BUYERS OF TEA, too, and the Public reap the benefit. If, then,

A REALLY GOOD 2s. TEA

Is what you require, take our advice and

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2/- CEYLON,

in LEAD PACKETS, TINS, or HALF-CHESTS.

If you try a Packet, see that it has a Red Label with Gold Letters, and the words EMPIRE TEA COMPANY upon it.

EMPIRE TEA COMPANY,

W. & G. TURNBULL & CO.,

PROPRIETORS.

'AT HOME' AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WELLINGTON.

LADY GLASGOW gave an extremely enjoyable dance at Government House on Monday evening, which was attended by over a hundred guests, among whom were about thirty officers from the Spanish warship 'Nautilus.' The Captain was not present, having left the day before to visit Napier. The officers were all in uniform and added quite a brilliance to the assemblage. King's band supplied the music, the Reel Row, Pas de Quatre and other pretty modern dances being included in the programme. A light supper was served in the dining-room, consisting chiefly of oysters, sandwiches, soup, cakes, wines, and tea and coffee.

* * *

The house was, as usual, beautifully decorated, the staircase being a mass of greenery—chiefly bamboo and flowers, the little alcoves on either side being arranged as little bowers covered with greenery. The drawing-room was prettily lit with shaded gas lamps and yellow shaded high standing lamps, and decorated with all the seasonable flowers, besides tall palms in draped pots and hot-house plants and ferns.

* * *

Lord and Lady Glasgow received together at the drawing-room door, the Countess looking particularly well in a lovely gown of pale sage green satin, thickly broceaded with a large pattern in dark green, the bodice being trimmed with lace and green and crushed strawberry cord ornaments, and she wore her magnificent diamonds. The skirt of the gown was made very wide and slightly trained, and the sleeves, of course, very full. The Ladies Boyle wore pink cashmere frocks trimmed with white lace and tan coloured shoes and stockings; Miss Eastgate, a visitor at Government House, wore a handsome wine-coloured satin much trimmed with jet; Miss Wauchope wore a pretty white bengaline Watteau gown with Empire belt of turquoise blue velvet, the corsage softened with lace, and Miss Holroyd, pale yellow silk and lace. Capt. Hunter-Blair was in attendance, and

AMONG THE GUESTS

were Mrs Oliver, of Dunedin, in a handsome cream satin gown trimmed with gold; Mrs W. P. Reeves, a very pretty white silk gown with puffed sleeves; Mrs Rhodes (Christchurch), black velvet and lace; Mrs (Capt.) Russell, a handsome black watered silk with long train; Mrs Grace, black velvet and white silk striped; Mrs Dan Riddiford, white; Mrs Parfitt, pink silk trimmed with black velvet; Mrs H. D. Crawford, cream silk and black velvet; Mrs Fell, yellow silk trimmed with wide black lace; Mrs Maurice Richmond, sage green velvet; Mrs O'Rorke a lovely mauve satin gown, trained, and softened with chiffon; Mrs Firth, black velvet with revers of pink velvet; Mrs H. Rawson, dove-coloured silk with blue velvet sleeves; Mrs W. Johnston, a lovely black and white striped broceded silk; Miss H. Johnston, white chiffon with puffed sleeves of lovely pale blue corduroy velvet and rosettes of terra-cotta and blue edging the wide skirt; Miss S. Johnston, white brocade; Miss Griffiths, a beautiful gown of pale grey or lavender silk broceded with a darker colour, and trimmed with wide black lace and violets, and violet velvet sleeves; Miss Ralston (Rangatikei), cream with ruby velvet sleeves; Miss Ashcroft (Dunedin), black net; Miss Rhodes (Christchurch), a pretty pale blue silk with Watteau train, the front being beautifully embroidered with sparkling beads; Miss Anderson (Christchurch), sage green silk, the corsage trimmed with daisies; Miss Heywood, heliotrope silk trimmed with bright pink figured silk; Miss Allan, black trimmed with pale blue ribbon and velvet; Miss M. Allan, ecru silk, the skirt trimmed with bands of black velvet; Miss Blair, pale blue with brown velvet bands and sleeves; Miss Marchant, white net; Miss Brandon, pink Liberty silk; Miss Izard, a pretty soft white brocade frock; Miss M. Grace, royal blue moire with berthe of white lace; Miss A. Grace, a handsome white brocade gown; Miss Brown, a beautiful cream satin trimmed with stripes of black velvet and gold fringe; Miss Baillie (Picton), black; Miss Cara Russell (Hawke's Bay), white soft silk striped with red and trained; Miss Acland (Canterbury), white; Miss Dorothy Rolleston (Canterbury), *(debutante)* a pretty white silk gown; Miss Hadfield, cream, trained, with gauze sleeves, her sister, pale blue; the Misses Gore, white silk gowns with wide skirts and trimmed with lace; Miss Reynolds (Dunedin), pale pink; Miss Studholme (Christchurch), white silk with bright blue velvet sleeves and tiny flounces of bright blue satin on the skirt; Miss Cooper, white trimmed with violets, and her sister, white brocade; Miss Henry, *(debutante)* white mervoilleux trimmed with chiffon; Miss Quick, emerald green velvet relieved with pale blue; Miss Williams (Hawke's Bay), pale green satin the wide skirt and revers trimmed with black velvet; the Misses G. and E. Williams, pretty white silk frocks with berthes of lilies of the valley, the same flowers edging the skirt; Miss Halse, white silk, the front embroidered; Miss E. Halse, a pretty pink crêpe frock; Miss Hutton (Christchurch), white silk; Miss Morrah, a pretty pale blue silk, the wide skirt edged with broad white lace flounces; Miss Fairchild, cream with crimson sleeves; and her sister, pale blue watered silk; Miss Douglas, white, the front prettily embroidered with gold and pearl beads; Miss Graham, chocolate velvet; and her sister, pink broché; Miss Burnett, pink; Miss M. Burnett, white satin; Miss Fancourt, lemon satin, trained, and trimmed with black velvet; Miss Willis, blue silk; and her sister white with pink sleeves; the Hon. W. P. Reeves, the Hon. Capt. Russell, Dr. Adams, Dr. Fell, Messrs Menteath, Brown, Parfitt, Anson, Hadfield, Woolridge, Firth, Tripp, Cooper, G. Johnston, Gore, Riddiford, Barker, Pearce, Richmond, Todd, Schanby, Morse, Izard, Hodson, Brooksmith, Turnbull, Atkinson, Ormond, Kebbell, Acland, Butterworth, O'Rorke, Baldwin, Crawford Jackson Leckie, and Morrah

* * *

I hear that this is the first of a series of dances to be given during the session by Lady Glasgow, and only hope that the rumour may be true, for they are certainly the pleasantest dances we get throughout the winter.

OPHELIA.

JUST RECEIVED,

A beautiful assortment of **BALL PROGRAMMES, CORDS** and **PENCILS**, also **MENU, WEDDING, INVITATION, VISITING** and other **CARDS** at the GRAPHIC Office.

ALL ORDERS RECEIVE PROMPT ATTENTION.

SOCIETY GOSSIP.

BLENHEIM.

DEAR BEE, JULY 18.

Elsewhere you will find a short account of Miss Seymour's second Assembly Dance, the dresses worn being as follows:—Mrs Alec Burns, looked very well in a stylish and handsome black silk gown with jet; Mrs Richardson, in rich white merveilleux with pearls and Empire shoulder frills of fine soft lace; Miss Laura Worthington was exceedingly pretty in vieux rose merveilleux, with Empire shoulder frills and big puff sleeves of olive plush, and loose drape from the neck of pale pink embroidered net; Miss Waddy wore a lovely Empire frock which was greatly admired, of soft peachy heliotrope silk; Miss Weber was pretty in black with puffed sleeves of blue plush and areophane let in the bodice, and baby ribbon run in the lace round the skirt in a lovely and becoming shade of pale blue; Mrs Cleghorn, terra-cotta striped silk and plush with Watteau train; Miss Pitt (Nelson) black velvet with becoming Maltese lace on the bodice; Mrs Riley, pink bengeline with Empire belt and puffed sleeves of ruby velvet, and becoming shoulder frills of fine white lace; Mrs Lucas, black silk with laburnum round the corsage, and a riviere round her coiled hair; Miss Ferguson, maroon striped moire, hair tied with pale yellow velvet; Mrs McIntosh, white satin and yellow velvet Empire frills; Mrs C. Earp, black with pink velvet sleeves and comb in hair; Miss Rees, black plush and silk with jet (a particularly becoming gown); Mrs Snodgrass, pink and green flowered muslin with pale green sash; Miss Taylor, blue flowered frock; Mrs Renwick, handsome black satin; Miss Renwick, black figured net over pale pink silk, pink silk bodice with black velvet sleeves; Miss Robertson, heliotrope frock; Mrs Crawshaw, black lace; Miss Seymour looked handsome in red with big ruby puffed sleeves; Miss F. Smith, pink with dark green watered sash a l'Empire; Miss H. Smith, white net; Miss Elinor Chaytor, old rose soft silk with lace; Miss H. Sharp, white striped silk; Miss Mellish (Picton), handsome black figured net over pink silk, black velvet sleeves; Miss A. Pasley, yellow soft silk; Miss M. Carey, apricot veiling with lace; Miss M. Philpott (Picton), black; Mrs Orr, fawn and blue brocaded silk evening blouse over black skirt. Messrs Richardson, Seymour (three), Orr Snodgrass, Young, Robinson, Hodson (two), Sharp, Burns, Earp, Douslin, Crawshaw, J. Mowat, Renwick, Wynn-Williams (Manaroa), White, J. H. Smith, McLean, E. Pasley (Hon. Sec.), G. Chaytor, Dunn, H. Dixon, Wicheil, etc., etc. Dancing was kept up with great spirit till one o'clock.

The

KENNEDY COMPANY

have had very bad luck in Blenheim, what with rain, floods, little Ruby Kennedy's illness, etc., for after delighting us all on the opening night as Belinda in 'Our Boys,' we were sorry to hear the very next day that she was down with a sharp attack of measles, and could not therefore play 'Little Lord Fauntleroy' as arranged.

Last week Mr Isitt had Ewart's Hall for his temperance lectures, so after playing Monday and Tuesday in Picton, the Kennedys opened in the Drill Shed on Thursday in 'Colleen Bawn,' and had a good house. On Friday they wanted us to give up the Drill Shed to them, but Miss Seymour and Mr E. Pasley found it impossible to alter or put off the dance. It is no easy matter to postpone a dance, the date of which has been fixed so long beforehand, when a great number of the guests live on far-away up-country stations out of reach of telegrams or telephone.

On Saturday night the Kennedys had a very good house to see 'Current Cash,' which was very well put on, and, considering the difficulties they had to contend with, it was a most creditable performance. Mr Kennedy as the Curate, the Rev. Lincoln Green, was irresistibly funny, and so was Mr Hill as Ned Bowles. Mrs Kennedy acted Grace Milton charmingly, while Miss Millie Collier was pretty and coquettish as Delia Challis. Mr Frank Norton as Captain Mark Milton displayed no mean dramatic talent. Last night (Monday) 'Hans the Boatmen' was played before a full and appreciative audience, when Miss Millie Collier surpassed herself as Jeffie, which she played in a most spirited and taking manner, while Mr Charles Hill played Hans Beckel to perfection. I must not forget to mention little Miss Bax, of Blenheim, who, owing to Ruby Kennedy's illness, took her place as Baby Coquette and Little Hans, and did wonderfully well for so young and untrained an actress. The whole piece was well staged, and the characters well sustained throughout. Among those present I have noticed Mr and Mrs Cleghorn, Mr C. Watts and Mrs Watts (Nelson), Miss Pitt (Nelson), Miss Seymour (Picton), Miss Mellish (Picton), Miss Waddy (Picton), Mr Wynn-Williams (Manaroa), Mr White, Mr F. Seymour, Mr E. Pasley, Mr and Mrs Snodgrass, Mr and Mrs McIntosh, Mrs McKae, Mr Henry Redwood, Mr and Mrs Vavasour, the Misses Redwood, Mrs C Earp, Miss Smith, Mr and Mrs Howard Dodson, Mr and Mrs F. Dodson, etc., etc.

SINCERITY.

PICTON.

DEAR BEE, JULY 18.

The Kennedy Company played 'Our Boys' and the 'Colleen Bawn' in Picton last week. They are so pleased with the reception they met with that they intend giving the Picton folks another treat when they return from a tour in Blenheim and Havelock.

The Pelorus Sound is becoming famous. Friendliness and hospitality amongst the settlers make life not only endurable, but passing pleasant in those out-of-the-way coves in that truly wonderful region. Two of our Picton ladies, Mrs Beauchamp and Mrs Allen, spent a pleasant—in spite of the rain—week with Mrs Masefield at Manaro, and have returned full of descriptive enthusiasm about the people and the place.

SURPRISE PARTIES,

in lieu of more attractive dissipations, have been once more initiated with a modification. Notice is given that a party intend to visit you on a stated occasion, and you make what preparation you think proper, but you generally try to surprise the surprisers. On Wednesday last Mrs Allen received a friendly intimation that a dance was absolutely necessary for the well-being of the young people of Picton, and made arrangements accordingly to have her house turned out of windows. When the belligerents arrived, everything was plain sailing, the lights, the rooms and the piano open, as well as the doors, but no one to receive them. After a careful search, however, the occupants were unearthed from a corner of a dark room, and the fun began. Ninepins, kitchen lancers, charades and a little of everything, not forgetting supper, which was of excellent quality and supplied by the visitors, and the 'wee sma' hours' crept upon us unexpectedly.

On Monday, having given due notice, we invaded Mrs H. C. Seymour's dominions. How we crept silently around the back way and eluded the watch set for us in the front avenue—all the occupants of the house being perched up in the fir trees, ready to repel us—is a matter for congratulation, but we did so, and took the fort by storm, when another very enjoyable evening was spent. Miss Mary Seymour, who acted hostess in her mother's absence, looked well in a fawn tweed frock; Miss (A. P.) Seymour, looked *distingue* in black velvet, as also did Miss Mellish in dark skirt, and ruby velvet blouse; Miss M. Speed, in dove-coloured surah silk, figured in white; Miss Western, in black with white vest; Miss Flo Western, Mrs and Miss Nora Allen, the Misses Greensill (two), Linton, Waddy, Philpotts (two), Falconer (two), White, Carey (looking nice in dark skirt, cream blouse, with cardinal cuffs, collar and belt), Beauchamp, McIntyre, and K., I. and E. Seymour. The gentlemen supporters of the two parties were Messrs Seymour, Waddy, White (Manaroa), Greensill, Baillie (two), Western, Philpotts, and Fell. They were not many, but in these days of dearth and famine we are thankful for small mercies.

Mr H. Howard, who has served his pupil teachership in the Picton borough schools under his father, Mr C. C. Howard, and passed his matriculation and other examinations with distinction, has obtained a good position in the Wanganui educational district. Marlborough's loss is Wanganui's gain, and Mr Howard's many Picton friends, who are all proud of him, will regret his departure.

JEAN.