

Two very jolly dances were those given in Nelson by Mr and Mrs Booth on Friday and Saturday evenings to their friends, young and old. Friday evening was devoted to the smaller folk, and Saturday to their elders. Two rooms were used for dancing, which was kept up with spirit until a late hour on each evening. The floor being perfect and the supper excellent, it goes without saying that the dances were both a great success.

The little suburb of Mount Albert is hoping to attract many visitors from Auckland on the 23rd and 24th. This Wednesday (afternoon) a Sale of Work and Industrial Exhibition in aid of the Sunday-school fund is to be opened at three o'clock by Bishop and Mrs Cowie, and will remain open all that evening, and the following day. An interesting piece of work is a pretty red and white quilt, with a deep border of small squares. For the sum of sixpence anyone could purchase a square and work his or her initials on it. Over a hundred have been collected and beautifully arranged by Miss Larkins. This unique quilt is for sale.

MRS HADFIELD gave a large juvenile party at Bishops-court, Wellington, and this was greatly enjoyed by about sixty children, among whom were the Misses Williams, (Charles) Johnston, (Walter) Johnston, Russell, Atkinson, Reeves, Butte, Gore, Harding, Edwin, Coleridge, Higginson, Brandon, Baker, Quick, Morrah, Powles, Hislop, Sprott, etc. First they had a sumptuous tea, and then various games, a Punch and Judy show (given by Mr W. Moorhouse), and dancing amused the guests until it was time to depart. A number of grown-up people were present helping Mrs and the Misses Hadfield to entertain.

ABOUT fifty couples 'skipped by the light of the moon' in the Ponsonby Hall on Friday night. Captain Edwin must have had the 'At Home' committee in his mind when he made up the parcel of weather for Auckland. Sharp, frosty air, that naketh dancing a dream of delight, moonlight that causeth to wax sentimental—such was the edict of the all-powerful clerk of the weather to the elements which order poor human existence in Ponsonby as elsewhere. Happy faces and a universal atmosphere of enjoyment testified to the general and complete success of the function. Mr McIndoe, as M.C., was a host in himself, forming 'sets,' introducing everyone to everyone else, and so skillfully directing the proceedings that they passed off without a hitch. Indeed, the success that has hitherto characterized these monthly dances is largely due to the energy of Mr Macindoe, assisted by the secretary, Mr F. A. Clarke. Mr S. Adams and his band supplied the item which is of the most importance at a dance—good music. Mrs J. Hanna superintended the arrangements of the supper-table this month, her tasteful decorations being greatly admired. Festivities were not 'wound up' until a very late hour. A list of the dresses worn (including several most handsome costumes) appears in our Ladies' Column.

On Thursday evening last the annual meeting of the parishioners of Holy Trinity Church, Picton, took place in the Sunday-schoolroom, and was largely attended, the ladies being, as usual, in the majority. After the business was completed, and officers appointed for the ensuing year, the meeting resolved itself into a social gathering, and a very pleasant time was spent in congratulations on the present success of all things parochial, even to a small balance in hand to start the new year with. It was unanimously resolved to make hay whilst the sun shone, and gather in a supply for the future needs of the church and Sunday-school by providing summer excursionists with refreshments, and initiating a church jubilee week for the winter, to take the form of an art exhibition. Tea, coffee, cakes, etc., were handed round, and a few sacred songs rendered by the Misses Linton and Miss Howard.

The fire fiend has again been busy in Nelson. This time Dr. Leggatt's late residence was the one chosen for his attack, the house being burnt to the ground. Unfortunately, Mr Lyell had just bought the house and a number of fixtures, also a dining-room suite, and of course these all went. An enquiry into the fire elicited the fact that the house had been wilfully set on fire, but by whom there was not sufficient evidence to show. The sooner the fiend is caught the better, think all New Zealanders.

BLENHHEIM is again flooded (the eighth flood in seven weeks), and as peregrination was impossible, very little business could be done. 'I am sorry to say,' writes my correspondent, 'that diphtheria and measles are spreading, and are likely to spread, with all this water lying about in hollows and low parts of the town. It is an undoubted fact that these constant floods are a great drawback to Blenheim, and render the town very unhealthy at this time of year, but it is very difficult to know how to prevent them, as a bank made in one place floods another part, and each man has his own pet scheme to protect his own property or interests. It is a great pity that anybody was so stupid as to build a town in such a swampy hole, especially as we all have to suffer in consequence.'

The second 'At Home' of the Christchurch Liederkränzchen was given at the Y.M.C.A. Rooms on Wednesday afternoon, and was a very interesting and successful one. The members have increased in numbers, and show much improvement with continued training, but there was a little unsteadiness in some of the concerted pieces, also in the piano duet. The solos were pleasingly rendered, Miss Fairhurst (president) being very successful with 'Ailsa Stella Confidante,' Miss Paeker playing the violin obligato. Miss Wood played two pieces for piano beautifully, both without music. An interesting item was 'The Song of the Liederkränzchen,' words and music composed by their conductress, Miss Nora Gardner. It is a tuneful, taking part-song, the words, of course, symbolical of their meetings. An invitation was given to the Spanish officers, about a dozen putting in an appearance, and with a few gentlemen by special invitation, made this a departure from the usual 'At Homes' given by these ladies. Each gentleman, was provided with a button-hole bouquet, and at half time, when tea and coffee was dispensed with every good thing imaginable in the shape of cake and sweets, they seemed to enjoy these things as much as the fair sex. The tables were beautifully decorated, the Spanish flag being draped over the stage, all the Liederkränzchen wearing the colours.

THE Rev. Mr W. Evans has been in Nelson a few days, and took the opportunity of delivering a lecture on 'Carlyle' in the Provincial Hall, which was listened to with great interest by his old friends. He is a most able lecturer, and Nelson people have missed him a great deal, so that they were glad to be able to show their appreciation of his merits by rolling up in good numbers to his lecture.

THE recent Cinderella dance in Napier was notably successful. My correspondent expresses herself thus about the ball: 'The floor was in first-rate order. There were crowds of men, and good dancers too, and the supper was most delicious. I believe the committee have quite given up using acid for the floor, and instead rub in some oily mixture, which is a marked improvement on the acid. I have heard several people remark how very good the floor was. There were not many country people at the ball, and I can assure you they missed a treat. Mr Muir, of the Bank of New Zealand, Hastings, I noticed among the dancers. He is a great acquisition to the balls, as he dances so well. The Tomoana men also rolled up in force—Messrs H. G. Warren, Cooper, and others.'

WHILST the Auckland capping ceremony was proceeding on Wednesday night at the Choral Hall, another and more eminently social event was taking place at a short distance. Mr and Mrs Isidor Alexander, 'San Remo,' Symonds-street, gave a very large dance. The decorations were capital. The verandah and balcony were completely enclosed with flags and canvas, and lighted artistically with Chinese lanterns. There were about one hundred and sixty guests present, the gentlemen predominating in large numbers. Excellent recitations were given by Misses Cora and Stella Alexander and Mr Montague during an interval of the ball. The minnet was also gracefully danced by half-a-dozen couples, under the able tuition of Miss Scott. The supper-table was most artistically arranged. In the centre a mirror was placed representing a lake on which graceful swans floated. The idea was very happily carried out. Around were sprays of ti-tree in full bloom, frosted with alum, and on the outer edge was soft white drapery in undulating folds, the effect of a beautiful snow scene in the soft light being excellent, and greatly admired. Supper, music, and floor were perfect, and a most enjoyable evening was the result. The Misses Albu were present. The older gentlemen who did not care for dancing adjourned to the billiard, card, and music rooms.

MRS CUTTEN gave a large musicale at her residence, Anderson's Bay, Dunedin. There were quite eighty guests, and the evening was a delightful one. Miss A. Cargill and Miss M. Cargill gave an original little sketch called 'A Modern Dressmaker.' Mr J. Cargill contributed one of his humorous recitations, entitled 'Leap Year.' Songs were also given by Mrs C. Kettle, Miss Roberts, and Mrs A. J. Fergusson. The supper table looked lovely. The decorations were of red and yellow silk with quantities of glass dishes of spring flowers, which are beginning to put in their sweet and welcome appearance. A few evenings later this same lady gave a small but most enjoyable dance to a few friends, among them being Mrs Williams, Mrs Ogston and Mrs Ridings, the Misses Williams, Tolmie, Ratray, Spence, Roberts, Dymock, Cargill, and a few others.

ANOTHER genial little dance was given in the Oddfellows' Hall, Ponsonby, on Friday night, in connection with the West End Social Union. Messrs Davis, McComish, Burke, and Gibben furnished excellent music. The floor was in perfect condition for dancing, thereby adding immensely to the enjoyment. Mr J. Rees made a popular M.C. Supper was supplied by the ladies of the committee, Mesdames Lees and Bartlett taking active part in the management of this important item. Dancing continued until after midnight.

STILL another 'surprise party' is reported from Picton, and this, says my correspondent, the jolliest of the season, at Cam House—the prince of houses for parties—eventuated on Wednesday evening. Once more the house was turned topsy-turvy, though when the party arrived darkness and silence reigned supreme in the house and all around. One window was found with a broken lock, and an amateur burglar got in therewith and unlocked the front door for the rest, who made themselves so thoroughly at home that the home party were fain to remove the barricades from the drawing room and join in the fun going on. Dancing was kept up till 2 a.m., and everybody was sorry to tear themselves away. In addition to Mr H. C. Seymour and the Misses Seymour, there were Misses (A. P.) Seymour, Melish, Greenhill, Allen, Western (two), White, Philpotts, Waddy (two), Hay, Mrs Allen, and Messrs G. Waddy, Western, G. Seymour, Wynn-Williams, and White (Maori Bay), Redcliffe (Wharhunga), Greenhill, S. Fell, W. and T. Baillie.

THE progressive euchre epidemic has spread to Onehunga, and Mrs Scott and Mrs Brookfield have successfully conducted several very pleasant campaigns on these lines.

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