

Miss Donah Fitzgerald (Wellington) has gone to the Rangitikei for the hunting season. She is staying with Mr. and Mrs. D. G. Riddiford at View Hall, Marton, and will not be back in Wellington for some months.

Mr. E. T. Morhead (New Plymouth) is re-visiting Wellington again after an absence of over a year. On his retirement from the Government service he went to Taranaki to live, and while there he received news that he had succeeded to a baronetcy. He preferred, however, not to take it up, so the title remains in abeyance until it is claimed by one of his descendants.

Amongst the visitors in Wanganui for the winter race meeting were Mr and Mrs H. Good (Hawera), Mr and Mrs Foyter (Hawera), Mr and Mrs D. Riddiford (Marton), Miss Riddiford (Marton), Miss Fitzgerald (Wellington), Mrs Abbott (Wellington), Mr and Mrs W. Johnston (Wellington), Mrs Cholmeley (Dannevirke), Mr and Mrs E. Cowper (Dannevirke), Mr Aldworth (Silverhope), Mr. Bathorpe (Silverhope), Mr and Mrs Scott (Rangitikei), Mr A. FitzHerbert (Feilding), Miss Stanford (New Plymouth).

SOUTH ISLAND.

Mr and Mrs C. Russell, who have been visiting in Christchurch, have returned to their home in Wanganui.

Mrs Wilder, who has been the guest of Mrs Boyle (Riccarton) has returned to "Fernside," Rangiora.

Mrs Lindo Ferguson, who has been staying with Mrs Wigram at Park-terrace (Christchurch), has returned home.

Mrs Howell (Timaru) has been staying with Mrs Moorhouse at Oxford-terrace, Christchurch.

Miss Medley (Wellington) has been the guest of Mrs C. C. Bowen, Riccarton.

The Misses Boyle, of Riccarton, have returned to Christchurch from a visit to Hawke's Bay, where they were the guests of Mrs J. D. Ormond.

Mr and Mrs J. U. Collins have left for the North Island, where they intend settling on land, writes our Christchurch correspondent.

The Misses Guthrie (2), who for some time have been staying with relatives in Australia, are returning to Christchurch this week.

Lieut. Humphrey Grace, eldest son of the Ven. Archdeacon Grace, of Blenheim, is home on furlough, after a couple of years in India with the frontier forces, stationed at Peshawar.

Curious Ground for a Divorce.

Mrs Marks, of Chicago, has asked for a divorce from her husband on the ground of infidelity, in striking her in the face with a fresh fish, that was not so very fresh either, though her husband was fresh enough. There is no brand of infidelity that is much worse than striking a wife in the face with a fish. No good woman can have confidence in a husband who will caress her with a fish. Try however hard she may to love him, the smell of the fish will hang around her, and it cannot be driven away. The love that should be warm and genial becomes cold and clammy when she is clubbed with a fish. Women must be punished at times, but how much nobler it is to hit them with a stick of cordwood or an axe, than to whack them across the mouth with a cold, stinky, uncomfortable dead fish. No husband who has any respect for a wife will hit her with a fish, and no woman who has any style about her will stand idly by and see herself assaulted in that manner. The lady should have left the marks of the fish on her face and showed them to the judge, and he should have granted the divorce at once. Think of kissing a woman who has been recently smuffed with a dead fish. Such a husband should be a Mormon.

Cats Is Dogs, and so is Rabbits, etc

An amusing case, showing the looseness of natural history terms as employed by the British public, occurred in the Brompton County Court, says the "Field." A landlord summoned one of his tenants for keeping parrots in a flat, an agreement having been entered into that no dog or other animal should be kept in the flat in opposition to the wish of the landlord. The defendant's counsel maintained that a parrot was not an animal, and he put it to the court that the landlord had no more right to forbid the keeping of a parrot than canaries or goldfish, evidently regarding these two species as not belonging to the animal kingdom. The counsel is not alone in this opinion, for in common language birds are very often spoken of in conjunction with animals as though the birds were not entitled to the latter appellation. It would be interesting to know in which of the three great kingdoms of nature those who object to birds and goldfish being regarded as animals would place them. They can hardly be regarded as vegetables, and certainly they are not minerals. The presiding judge very quickly disposed of the case, and declared that a parrot was an animal, and should not have been kept in the flat.

Somewhat Mixed.

The information contained in the following paragraph from "M.A.P." is mixed to say the least. We would like to hear some of those threepenny concerts, and would be glad to know when and where the next will be held:—"It is most interesting to hear from Watkin Mills of the great demand he has met with in Australia for the compositions of Mme. Liza Lehmann. Her "Daisy Chain" and her "Persian Garden" were clamoured for in some of the most out-of-the-way places in New Zealand—which goes to show that the municipal concerts of the country, where the people can enjoy the best music on payment of threepence for admission, have done much in the way of cultivation. The Sydney Town Hall accommodates four thousand persons, and at some of the municipal concerts held here every seat is occupied. This, of course, in the general way, makes it a little difficult for English concert parties to gain financial profit in addition to artistic appreciation; but for Melba, for Miss Ada Crossley, and for Watkin Mills the patronage has been ready and numerous enough."

A Second-hand Book.

Book collectors are wont to complain of the increased literary knowledge and acuteness of the second-hand bookseller, who nowadays rarely allows them to pick up a scarce and valuable first edition for a "song," remarks a London journal. A surprising loss has, however, just been sustained by a London bookseller, who inadvertently accepted sixpence for a copy of the first and only edition of Lady Anne Hamilton's "Secret History of the Court of England," published in 1832. The book is reputed to be worth a thousand pounds—at least there is some evidence that this large sum was once offered for a copy of Lady Anne's scandalous tittle-tattle of the Georgian Court, the scarcity of which is due to the fact that it was suppressed immediately after publication. The unknown buyer was probably quite ignorant of the commercial value of his acquisition; but the bookseller is sportsman enough to admit that the purchase was entirely regular and binding. That is doubtless a correct interpretation of the law; but it is a nice little ethical point for the purchaser whether or no he should return the volume and be content with the £3 reward offered for its recovery. Proverbially, however, moral considerations of that kind weigh very little with the collector.

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