

THE "GRAPHIC" READERS' OWN PAGE

COMPETITIONS FOR OUR READERS.

COMPETITION NO. 18—SONNET (BOUTS RIMES).

The popularity of our former **BOUTS RIMES** Competition encourages us to set another, on somewhat more difficult lines. Prizes are offered for the best **SONNET** (subject optional), constructed on the following rhymes, in the order given:—

.....climb
feet
meet
time
rhyme
sweet
replete
chime.
 * * *
adoration
flight
sky
elation
bright
high.

First—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.
 Second—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.

For the guidance of those who may be unfamiliar with the structure of the Sonnet, it may be stated that each line must consist of five iambic feet—that is, ten syllables, short and long alternately. (In lines with double rhymes, like "adoration," there will of course be eleven syllables). In a well-constructed Sonnet, the idea, incident or description should be fully unfolded in the first eight lines (the octave), while in the last two the "application" should be made or the "moral" stated; but this division of subject is not necessary.

Entries, addressed "Competition No. 18, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland," must reach the office not later than **FRIDAY, JULY 31st**. Results will be announced in the "Graphic" of August 5th.

COMPETITION NO. 19—MISSING LINES.

Prizes are offered for the **BEST TWO LINES**, completing the Verse and giving the most pertinent and piquant reply to the question propounded hereunder, viz:—

When money is ample and business is brisk,
 Why should New Zealand go raising a loan?

The lines must be in the same metre as the above, and must respectively rhyme with "brisk" and "loan."

First—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.
 Second—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.

Entries, closing on **FRIDAY, AUGUST 14**, should be addressed, "Competition No. 19, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland." Results announced in our issue of August 19.

COMPETITION NO. 20—BRITISH FOOTBALLERS' TOUR.

Prizes are offered for the **BEST RHYMING ACCOUNT** of the New Zealand tour of the British Footballers, not exceeding Thirty-two Lines of Verse.

First—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.
 Second—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.

Entries, closing on **FRIDAY, AUGUST 21st**, should be addressed "Competition No. 20, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland." Results announced in issue of August 26th.

COMPETITION NO. 21—ALPHABETIC ACROSTIC.

Prizes are offered for the **BEST ALPHABETIC ACROSTIC**, consisting of 28 lines of Verse on "The Four Cities—Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin"—of lines commencing with the letters of the Alphabet from A to Z in their proper order. The use of the letters must not be in the form of "A is for Auckland" or "Z is for Zealand," but each letter must be employed as the initial of a word.

First—A YEAR'S SUBSCRIPTION TO THE "GRAPHIC," Value £1.
 Second—FIVE SHILLINGS CASH.

Entries, receivable until **FRIDAY, AUGUST 28th**, should be addressed "Competition No. 21, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland." Results will be announced in issue of September 2nd.

It is stipulated as a condition of all Competitions that the decision of the Editor of the "Graphic" shall be final, and that no correspondence on the subject of the Competitions shall be allowed. Any of the Competition Papers may be published in the "Graphic." Contributors who may not wish their names published should sign initials or motto. The names of all Prize Winners will be published.

SPECIAL COMPETITION.

WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN FLEET.

The visit of the American Fleet to New Zealand waters should prove an inspiring theme for our poets and poetesses. The Muse on such an occasion requires no stimulus; her effusions will be spontaneous; but in order to secure the best Poetical Welcome for the "Fleet" Number of the "Graphic," we have resolved to offer a **FIRST PRIZE OF £2** and a **SECOND PRIZE OF £1** for the best set of Original Verses, not exceeding 72 lines, embodying a

"WELCOME TO THE AMERICAN FLEET."

The Verses may be in any metre, and the treatment of the subject is left to the judgment of the individual writer.

Competitive Verses, addressed "Fleet Competition, 'Graphic' Office, Auckland," must be written on one side of the paper only, and reach the office not later than **TUESDAY, AUGUST 4**.

The Poems entered for competition must not be offered for publication elsewhere until after the results are announced. The Editor, whose decision shall be final, reserves the right to publish any of the poems.

NEW ZEALAND SCENERY.

RESULT OF COMPETITION, NO. 17.

Our invitation for competitive papers descriptive of New Zealand scenery has produced a large batch of entries from all over the country. Nearly the whole of these are of a high order of merit, and the task of adjudication has not been a light one. Again, it has to be noted, however, that competitors have in some cases failed to observe the conditions. The prizes were offered for the best description of a piece of New Zealand scenery, not exceeding 200 lines of prose or 30 lines of verse; yet some competitors have set out to describe New Zealand scenery, as a whole, while an excellent paper on "A Kauri Bush," which we had marked for second place, had to be disqualified, because it contained far more than the stipulated number of words. A vivid description of "Dawn from the Summit of Ben Lomond," which came next in point of literary merit, had also to be disqualified, on account of its having seven more words than the specified number. The subjects treated embraced some of the most striking scenery of the Dominion. Three competitors sent descriptions of Mount Egmont; two chose the scene from the summit of Ben Lomond as their subject, and other entries included descriptions of the Franz Josef Glacier, the Wanganui river, Diamond Lake, and Parua Bay. The prizes had, of course, to be awarded on the literary merits of the papers, and not on the grandeur of the scene described. In this connection, it is clear that not a few competitors erred in choosing to depict scenes for the adequate delineation of which their literary powers were insufficient; while others selected verse as their medium, and married descriptions otherwise most successful by faulty rhymes or halting metre. For a graceful set of verses on "Mount Egmont," the first prize falls to

WALTER HARVIE,

33 Gladstone-street,
 Auckland;

while the second prize is awarded to

L. TOMPKINS,

Hamilton.

We append the two prize compositions.

MOUNT EGMONT.

(First Prize).

Daybreak, and wind that blows with toy
 chillness,
 E'er yet the riven East asunder rilled
 Her shrouded gates, and o'er the early
 stillness
 Crept the soft shades of amethyst and
 gold.
 Outlined in light, up rose that monarch
 hoary,
 'Gainst the dark bank of storm-clouds,
 massed and dun,
 While crowning that pink steep with
 flaming glory.
 The ice-cap glittered like a fallen sun.
 Untouched by cloud, with virgin beauties
 teeming,
 The mountain shone beneath the day-
 light's glow;
 Its lofty cone in silver grandeur gleam-
 ing,
 Crèved and ribbed with overlasting
 snow.
 Centuries old, untouched by joy or weep-
 ing,
 Year after year, that changeless slope
 shall be,
 Summer and winter its lone vigil keeping
 Sentinel over stormy leagues of sea.
 Evening and grey, with wind-racked
 storm-seud flying;
 Broken and torn along the rugged sides,
 Still churns the screw; and now in dis-
 tance dying,
 The dwindling summit from our vision
 glides.
 More dim, for now the night mists rise to
 screen thee,
 Gleaming, steel-grey against a greyer sky,
 Now falls the shade, and proud of having
 seen thee,
 We bid thy snowy slopes a fond good-
 bye.

ON A HILL NEAR WHAKAREWA- REWA.

(Second Prize).

The summit of a hill covered with tree,
 bearing a profusion of starry blossoms—
 Below me lay the plain, weather-
 boarded houses, interspersed with
 wharves, and the curved-fronted meeting
 house, forming the village of Whakarewa,
 interesting though indistinct through its clouds of steam.
 To the left the Government grounds,
 overlooked by the quaint little room of
 Kerekere Hapua, the caretaker, our favourite
 Bella's husband.
 What was that glistening in the sun-
 shine? A lovely shot of Waikarohi, the
 nearest geyser—a glittering mass of
 pearly drops shooting off into the air!
 A few yards away, the cauldron boils
 and seethes, and the dainty Prince of
 Wales' feathers show themselves, and
 Kereru's tall column appears, over the
 strange silica formation of one of the
 weirdest of New Zealand's sights.
 Straight in front winds the wide dusty
 road, which leads to the Government
 township of Rotorua, picturesque in its
 leafy screen, with its health-giving sanatorium.
 Beyond are the lovely blue waters of
 Lake Rotorua, the stately Ngongotaha,
 bush-clad, and the island of Mokoua, ap-
 pearing so near in the clear air, that we
 think Hinemona's historic swim could not
 have been such a terrible strain after all!
 Truly, a wonderful panorama!

OUR LONDON OFFICES

The London Offices of the

"THE WEEKLY GRAPHIC
 and NEW ZEALAND MAIL,"

"NEW ZEALAND FARMER"
 And

"AUCKLAND STAR"

are now at 184 FLEET ST. (NEW ZEALAND PRESS AGENCY), over the "Standard" Office.

Colonial Visitors to Europe and others may consult lists of leading New Zealand papers at these Offices. Correspondence may also be addressed there (to Mr. E. H. BRYCE) to be called for or re-addressed according to directions.