

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, Feb. 20.

On Tuesday Miss Keitha Saxton gave a most enjoyable

"KITCHEN TEA,"

the recipient of the many useful articles brought by the girls being Miss Dillon Kemp, who is to be married in two weeks to Mr. Robison. Mrs. Saxton was wearing a white silk and lace blouse and black voile skirt; Miss K. Saxton, pretty pink flowered muslin with yoke of flit lace outlined in pink silk; Mrs. Robison, sage green linen, and burnt straw hat trimmed with red roses; Miss Dillon Kemp, china blue crepe, burnt straw hat swathed with white muslin; Miss Phyllis Kemp, white silk blouse and cream skirt, white hat; Mrs. Sladdon, bronze silk muslin with a cream lace yoke, brown flowered hat; Miss Muriel Blundell looked well in a pink linen, inset with white embroidery, and an embroidery hat; Miss A. Cutfield, white china silk, Tuscan hat with a large pink rose; Miss Ethel Leatham, white embroidered linen and burnt straw hat; Miss Matthews, white silk blouse, dark skirt, small hat swathed in silk; Miss D. Whitecombe looked pretty in a blue and white print, burnt straw hat; Miss L. Brown, white silk, hat trimmed with red roses; Miss N. Moy, white embroidered lawn, large white hat with a black bow; Miss L. Skinner, biscuit coloured silk voile, yoke and sleeves of flit lace, black hat; Miss E. Simpson, cream voile trimmed with insertion, white crinoline hat; Mrs. Balharry, white tucked muslin, and a white hat; Miss Meta MacDiarmid, cream dress with bands of dark green, green and cream hat; Miss Wilson, white, embroidered linen; Miss A. Penn, brown silk muslin, brown hat swathed in pastel tulle; Miss G. Kyngdon, pretty green linen, white hat; Miss A. Brewster, white embroidered muslin, large green chip hat trimmed with pink and red roses; Miss D. MacAllum, white muslin and burnt straw hat; Miss A. Standish, tucked green linen, black and white hat; Miss Webster, pale green, white hat with blue cornflowers; Miss L. Webster, green bordered gingham and a white hat; Miss W. George wore a beautiful white embroidery dress, and a hat trimmed with pink and red roses; Miss D. Skinner looked charming in a white tucked and inscribed dress and frilled hat; Miss G. Cole, white lawn, pretty white chip hat with blue tulle and white roses; Miss B. Evans, white linen and embroidery, large white crinoline hat with masses of convolvulus and green leaves; Miss F. Evans, blue print, white and green hat; Miss Loris Fitzherbert, dainty white muslin, Tuscan hat with muslin rosettes.

On Saturday a tournament was held on the tennis courts, between Auckland and Taranaki. There were a large number of spectators, among them being Mrs. C. Weston, in a beautiful cream and brown spotted voile with wide bands of lace inlet, and a Tuscan hat with pink roses; Mrs. Leatham, white embroidered lawn; Miss Frazer, white lace and embroidery dress, white hat with large quill; Miss Saxton, blue and white voile, large frilled hat; Miss Inez Kirkby, white muslin and lace; Mrs. Courtney, black lace, black feathered hat; Miss Roy, black and white muslin, hat to correspond; Miss G. Kyngdon, pink linen, rose trimmed hat; Mrs. P. Webster, white embroidery dress, large black feathered hat; Miss C. Bayly was charming in pale heliotrope muslin, large dark green chip hat decorated with white roses; Miss Standish, blue linen, black and white hat; Miss Dempsey, pale green voile, black hat; Miss Ethel Simpson, white muslin, white hat; Mrs. Kimbel, pretty pink flowered muslin, bound with pink silk, rose trimmed hat; Mrs. A. A. Gray, heliotrope voile trimmed with a darker shade of velvet; Mrs. C. Webster, cream lustre semi-Empire dress trimmed with flit net; Miss Taylor, white embroidered lawn; Miss W. George, pretty pale pink muslin dress, hat trimmed with roses; Mrs. F. Wilson, green coat and skirt, pretty blue hat with black feathers; Miss Hanna, apple green voile with cream lace, black hat; Mrs. Keblel, dainty white muslin and brown hat; Miss Bradbury, smart wine red coat and skirt; Miss B. Renell, navy blue silk semi-Empire dress with cream lace yoke; Miss Loris Fitzherbert, white muslin; Miss Deacon, black and white muslin, black hat; Miss Marhall, dark green coat and skirt, brown hat; Miss S. Thomson, embroidered tussore silk, pink hat; Miss O. Mackay, pale pink muslin, black hat;

Mrs. A. Jones, reseau eolienne and black feathered hat; Miss M. Blundell, sage green coat and skirt.

PERSONALS.

Miss Gavin (Wellington) is staying in New Plymouth with Colonel and Mrs. Messinger.

Miss A. Stephenson, well-known in golfing circles, has just returned from England and is on a visit to New Plymouth.

Miss L. Berry has returned to New Plymouth after spending some weeks with her sister in Marton.

Miss G. MacKellar, who has been a year in England and Scotland, has returned to New Plymouth.

Miss Ethel Smith and Mr. Percy Smith, of New Plymouth, have gone for a trip to Rotorua.

NANCY LEE.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, February 18.

You must have heard the full account of the wreck of the Penguin, so I will write of it as little as possible. All other affairs were eclipsed in the wave of horror and grief that swept over Wellington, the only consolation to many being the knowledge of the bravery and unselfishness exhibited by those on board. Especially noble was the conduct of the two stewardesses, who went steadily on with their work of fitting out lifebelts to the passengers with death staring them in the face. There was a rumour that Mrs. Symons and her daughters had not, after all, been on board; but Otterangi beach gave the lie to that. Since the death of her husband—two or three years ago—Mrs. Symons had devoted herself utterly to the children, so it may have been a merciful decree of Providence that even in death she should not be parted from them. With Mrs. Symons and her daughters was drowned Miss Rennie, who had given to them years of loving and faithful service. Mary and Ethel Symons were to have been bridesmaids at the wedding of Miss Rawson and Dr. Matthew Holmes. They were due back at school a fortnight ago, but Mrs. Symons decided to stay on at Motueka a little longer, as the change was doing the younger girl so much good. Mary would have been fifteen next month, while Ethel had just had her fourteenth birthday.

One of the few saved was Mr. Gerald Bridge, who is one of the well-known Oriental Bay family, all of whom have distinguished themselves in athletic and rowing circles. He was coming over to attend his brother's funeral, but his people, knowing he was on the wreck, only heard of his safety when at the graveside of Mr. Herbert Bridge.

The only fine day since the wreck was Tuesday, when the funerals were held. The sudden alterations of the route threw everything into confusion, and the procession was most disorganised. The flowers and wreaths were in most cases exquisite, and every possible respect was paid to the dead.

The girls of the "Red Mill" Company are most energetic in selling tickets for the benefit performance, and are meeting with splendid success.

To turn to other subjects, there was the HUTT VALLEY FLOWER SHOW

on Wednesday and Thursday. It began by being a delightful day, but threatening clouds from the south caused great anxiety among the refreshment committee, as tea was to be an al fresco affair under the shady trees. Mr. Chapman, who lent his grounds for the show, is one of the most noted gardeners in Wellington, and people availed themselves of this chance to see his beautiful grounds. All the hothouses were thrown open for inspection, and many were the rare plants to be seen. Big marquees on the lawn held the flower show proper, and the exhibits were splendid. Cactus dahlias are in their glory at present, while the wonderful begonias, with their exquisite shades of colour and gigantic size, created a sensation. The show was opened by the Hon. Dr. Findlay, who made a smart and amusing little speech, in which he compared babies and flowers rather to the advantage of the latter! Mrs. Findlay, who motored out from town with him, wore elephant grey souple cloth, the vest being of lace and net with touches of velvet, and her wide hat was trimmed with wings. She was presented with a lovely bouquet of roses and dahlias. Mrs.

Chapman, wife of the president of the society, wore a smart semi-Directoire gown of ivory cloth, the hem banded with black and dull green, picture hat with big plumes to harmonise; Mrs. Purdy, mole-coloured taffetas, the net guimpe outlined with handsome embroidery, picture hat of the same tone banded with flowers; Mrs. Treadwell, olive green chiffon taffeta, finished with velvet, net and lace yoke, green hat with wings; Mrs. Kirk, brown-green tailor-made, and brown hat; Mrs. Mason, a very smart tailor-made of Saxe blue cloth, the Directoire coat being soutache in the same shade, her blue hat had green wings and foliage; Mrs. Spicer (Auckland), grey Shantung, lace yoke, black hat with roses; Mrs. Rayner (Auckland), green coat and skirt, elaborately braided, large green hat; Mrs. Stevens, tobac brown taffetas, guimpe of lace and net, brown hat wreathed with blue roses; Mrs. Adams, dull green voile, green toque; Mrs. Harvey, grey tailor-made, grey and blue hat; Mrs. Campbell, green tailor-made, blue and green hat with wings; Mrs. Jolliffe, pale green voile, lace yoke, green hat with roses; Mrs. Leckie, blue striped tailor-made, green hat; with her were her little twin daughters, looking bewitching in frilly white frocks and hats and blue ribbons; Mrs. Woodward, white lawn and lace lingerie costume, black picture hat; Mrs. W. Blundell, prunella tailor-made, violet hat; Mrs. Meateath, Saxe blue Sicilian, blue hat with bronze velvet and wings; Mrs. Watkins, reseau cloth, hat wreathed with roses; Mrs. Lee, brown Sicilian, strapped with net, net yoke, brown and green hat; the Misses Leo, white lawn and lace dresses, rose trimmed hats; Mrs. Elliot, grey tailor-made, black and white toque; Mrs. Hector, grey tailor-made, black hat, with white roses; Miss Elliott, white muslin and floral hat; Mrs. Allam, brown cloth, braided, brown hat with blue wings; Mrs. Barrand, grey checked tweed, black toque with mauve flowers; Mrs. Hughes, brown chiffon voile, with flit lace yoke, brown hat with shaded roses.

PERSONAL MATTERS.

Everyone was very interested to hear of the coming marriage of Mr. Leo Buller to an English lady, Miss Ridley, who is very highly connected. Mr. Leo is the eldest son of the late Sir Walter Buller, and for many years now has resided in England with occasional trips out here. His brother, Mr. Percy Buller, is one of the most popular men in Wellington, where he has lived most of his life. At present he is also in England recruiting, after a long and severe illness. The only sister, Mrs. Madocks, has been living in the Old Country since her marriage with Major Madocks, but last year she was revisiting Wellington in order to nurse her brother, and when he was well enough they travelled to England together.

Mrs. C. W. Adams (Lower Hutt) is back after a trip to Auckland. Her daughter, Mrs. J. E. D. Spicer (Parnell), came with her for a visit to her old home.

Mrs. Gillies arrived from Auckland to stay with her daughter, Mrs. Urquhart,

whose husband was drowned in the Penguin.

Mr. and Mrs. Hale (Auckland) are here on account of the Penguin disaster, in which their son and daughter-in-law lost their lives.

Mrs. T. C. Williams and her daughters have left for Auckland, where two marriages will shortly be celebrated. Mr. and Mrs. G. Williams, Wairarapa, are also leaving shortly for the North, together with other relations of the family, which is an unusually large one.

Last English mail brought news of the marriage of the Rev. J. Llewellyn Dove to Miss Florence Dove. They are now on their way out to New Zealand, as Mr. Dove has been appointed headmaster of Wanganui Collegiate School in succession to Mr. Empson, who has retired. Mr. Dove has spent some years in the colony, and formerly held a living in the Wellington diocese. His first wife was a daughter of the late Right Rev. Dr. Hadfield (Bishop of Wellington, and Primate of New Zealand), and there is one child.

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