

tingent, Lieut. Hudson, was a member of the Cycle Corps. The toast of the guests of the evening was then drunk with musical honours amid great enthusiasm, and suitably replied to by them all. A very pleasant evening was then spent, songs and recitations being contributed by Lieut. Hutson, Sergt. Fountain; Privates Irwin, King, Meadows, Gurney, Cole, Walsh, and Hood, and Messrs Dudley and Montgomerie. Private Meadows playing all the accompaniments.

His Excellency the Governor, attended by the Hon. Hill-Trevor, A.D.C., made a tour of inspection of the Contingent camp at Newtown one afternoon last week, being escorted round the camp by Captain Cradock. They expressed great admiration of the horses in the lines, and with the appearance of the men, and watched the proceedings going on in the parade ground (where nearly all the members were engaged under their officers and the staff sergeant-majors) with great interest. The Premier and Native Minister, Hon. J. Carroll, were also present, and paid the closest attention to all the arrangements of the camp.

Dr. Fenwick reports that the health of all the members of the Contingent at the Newtown camp is first-class.

Mr and Mrs W. F. Barraud, of Wellington, have left for Sydney, en route for a visit to Europe, and intend to be absent from Wellington for about a year.

The Right Hon. G. H. Reid, accompanied by Mrs Reid, are staying in Wellington, at the Royal Hotel, and when interviewed the ex-Premier of New South Wales expressed himself greatly pleased with New Zealand, and with the high state of prosperity to which the colony had attained.

Lieutenant J. E. Hume, son of Colonel Hume, Wellington, who has been stationed at Lyttelton with the Permanent Militia, is to go to the front for service with the Imperial forces, and will travel to the Cape with the New Zealand Contingent in the troopship Waiwera.

Mr George Humphries, of the United Press Association, Wakapuaka, was on Monday last presented with a very handsome wedding gift, in the shape of a silver railed and mounted polished oak tray, suitably inscribed, by the newspaper men of Wellington. As Mr Humphries left for Wakapuaka immediately after his marriage, advantage was taken of his return to Wellington last week to present the gift, the earliest opportunity of doing so having occurred. Mr J. L. Kelly (chairman of a very representative fore-gathering) made the presentation, and in a few well-chosen words expressed the good wishes of all present for Mr and Mrs Humphries' future happiness and prosperity. Mr Humphries having suitably replied, the pleasant little reunion broke up with mutual expressions of good fellowship and esteem.

The Hon. J. G. Ward is at present in Wellington, and is to be entertained at a banquet by his constituents very shortly, the banquet probably taking place at Winton on the 25th.

Mr and Mrs Percy Baldwin (Wellington) are staying at "Highden," Rangitikei, with the Hon. Mr and Mrs W. Johnston.

THE FOUNDATION STONE

of the very handsome church edifice, designed by Messrs Mitchell and Watt, architects, for the Congregationalists worshipping at Mount Eden, was laid by Mr George Fowlds, M.H.R., President of the Congregational Union, on Saturday last. The grounds and platform were decorated with flags and looked quite brilliant in the bright sunshine. A considerable number of ladies and gentlemen gathered to witness the ceremony, which was of an interesting and instructive character. Addresses were delivered by the Rev. Wm. Day, the Rev. Joseph Parker and Mr Fowlds, and an appropriate service of sacred song was rendered by the choir under Mr Hooton. In laying the stone Mr Fowlds used a silver trowel, presented to him by the contractor, Mr W. E. Hutchinson. The stone was presented by Messrs Houskill and McNab, and a pulpit chair by the architects, Messrs Mitchell and Watt. The Rev. Wm. Day announced that the total cost of the edifice is estimated at £3200, towards which £2000 has already been subscribed. The building is to be cruciform in shape, and Italian in design. A new feature in church seating is to be adopted, the pews being raised from the front and either side of the pulpit on a staged floor.

MISS F. KELLY, Artistic Worker in Natural Flowers, Florist to His Excellency the Governor. Bridal Bouquets a Specialty. Sprays, Buttonholes, Wreaths, Crosses, and all the Latest Novelties. Country Orders promptly attended to. Show window in Canning's, Queen-st., opposite Bank N.Z.

ENGAGEMENTS.

The engagement is announced of Mr C. Perry, of Christchurch, brother of Mr F. Perry, to Miss Watt, of Napier; and of Miss Harper, eldest daughter of Canon Harper, to Mr Vipon, one of the officers of the s.s. Paparua, but formerly on the Waikato during her memorable drift. It is understood he will leave the sea before long.

In Napier the engagement of Mr Hassall to Miss Groome, of "Ouepo," is announced.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

WEBB-GRAY.

A quiet, but very pretty wedding was solemnised on Monday, the 18th December, at the Holy Trinity Church, Otahuhu, when Miss Martha (Patty) Gray, youngest daughter of Mrs W. P. Gray, of Peyton Villa, Otahuhu, was married to Mr William Webb, of Spring Bank, Rangiora, second son of Mr H. R. Webb, of Te Wepu, Merivale, Christchurch. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Canon Gould. The bride looked very pretty in a gown of white silk with a demi train. The bodice was trimmed with sprays of orange blossom and beautiful silk lace. Round her neck was a long gold chain, a present from the bridegroom. Miss Gray, sister of the bride, and first bridesmaid, was attired in a pretty heliotrope muslin dress and white fancy straw hat trimmed with white tulle and feathers. Miss Nancy Chapman, second bridesmaid, wore a pretty cream cashmere frock trimmed with white silk and lace, and a large Leghorn hat. Both bridesmaids wore presents from the bridegroom in the shape of a wishing-bone gold brooch and a gold chain. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr John Gray, and the bridegroom was attended by Mr E. Webb as best man. Mrs Gray, mother of the bride, wore a black silk dress, relieved with white chiffon trimmings; Miss Spicer, black silk dress and white trimmings; Mrs George Lawlor, black silk dress, and white silk vest covered with black lace; Mrs Dampier-Crossley, black figured cashmere with cream silk yoke, and silver belt; Mrs Fred. Yonge, green silk blouse and white skirt; Mrs Jack Gray, blue sateen with insertion trimmings and narrow black velvet belt; Mrs A. Spicer, black and white costume; Mrs (Dr.) Kenderdine, black cashmere; Miss Kenderdine, crush strawberry silk blouse and dark skirt; Miss M. Spicer, canary muslin with insertion and lace trimmings; Mrs Wallace-Lawson, white pique; Miss Sheppard, white dress; Miss Gould, black and white check jacket and skirt; Miss L. Gould, white blouse and dark skirt; Miss Alice Smales, blue muslin; Miss McLaughlin, silk blouse and white skirt; Miss Wingate, silk blouse and black skirt; Miss Brown, white muslin blouse and dark skirt; Miss Peacock, white pique jacket and skirt and blue silk vest; Miss Matthews, white blouse and dark skirt; Miss E. Matthews, white blouse and black skirt; Miss Violet Gray, pink zephyr blouse trimmed with white silk, dark skirt; Miss Eva Gray, blue zephyr blouse, white silk tie, and black skirt. Among the gentlemen present I noticed Rev. Canon Gould, Mr E. Webb (brother of the bridegroom), Mr J. Gray, Master W. Gray, Mr F. Yonge, Mr Geo. Lawlor, Mr H. Forde, Mr F. Long. The happy pair left for their honeymoon trip to Rotorua by the five o'clock train. The presents to the bride were numerous and costly, amongst them being numbers of cheques. The bride and bridesmaids carried beautiful spray bouquets made

by the bride's niece, Miss Violet Gray. The afternoon tea was held in a large marquee on the lawn, and the table was beautifully decorated by Miss Gould with maiden hair fern, water lilies and white flowers. The church was very prettily decorated by some of Mrs Webb's girl friends, and over the altar rails was a large arch, and suspended from it a bell of white flowers.

GRAY-WILSON.

A fashionable wedding took place at St. Michael's Church, Christchurch, on Wednesday afternoon, January 3rd, when Mr Heathcote Gray, second son of the late Hon. Ernest Gray, of Hoon Hay, was married to Miss Emma Cracroft Wilson, third daughter of Mr F. H. Wilson, of Cashmere. The Rev. L. FitzGerald officiated; Misses Wilson, Westra (2), and Woodhouse were bridesmaids, and Mr Marmaduke Bethel was best man. The church was filled with guests and on-lookers.

BICKFORD HARRISON.

On Thursday last, January 11th, at St. Paul's Cathedral, Auckland, Miss Edith L. Harrison, second daughter of Mr John Hunter Harrison, of Mt. Roskill, was married to Mr Chas. Fred. Bickford, of England. The Rev. Canon Nelson, officiated. The bride looked charming in white silk with a chiffon fichu and orange blossoms. Her tulle veil fell in soft folds over a wreath of orange blossoms, and she carried a lovely shower bouquet.

Miss Harrison and Miss Jessie Harrison, sisters of the bride, were the bridesmaids. They were attired in pink silk dresses and white chiffon hats, and carried staffs of beautiful flowers tied with ribbons. Mr Chas. Bickford was best man, and Mr P. Marshall of the Grammar School staff was groomsmen. After the ceremony, Mr and Mrs Harrison entertained a large number of guests at their residence, Mt. Roskill. The bridegroom's presents to the bride were a handsome gold bracelet set with opals and diamonds, and a diamond ring. The presents to the bridesmaids were gold rings with initials.

The bride was the recipient of a large number of beautiful and valuable presents, which included several cheques.

Amongst the guests present were Mrs Ninnis (grandmother of the bride), who wore a brown moire silk and black lace mantle, and bonnet to match; Miss Ninnis, black, trimmed with white satin, and a white hat; Mrs Harrison, black silk relieved with canary-coloured silk, and bonnet to match; Mrs R. Harrison (Coromandel), handsome black and white costume; Mrs Billing (Coromandel), very pretty white silk, and hat to match; Miss Edwards, white silk blouse and pique skirt, and very pretty white hat relieved with pink roses; Mrs Keogh, black and white costume; Miss Eileen Keogh, dainty pink muslin; Mrs S. H. Harrison (Awhitu), pretty pink muslin, white hat; Miss Alison, pretty white dress, and hat relieved with heliotrope; Mrs Cowan, black and white check costume, hat to match; Miss Nicholas, dainty white muslin lined and trimmed with pale green, and Leghorn hat with pink roses.

The bride's travelling costume was a very beautiful fawn coat and skirt, cream satin vest braided, pretty white hat trimmed with ostrich feathers.

Early in the evening the bride and bridegroom left for Ellerslie en route to Rotorua on their honeymoon trip. From Rotorua they will travel to Taupo and down the Wanganui River, thence through the South Island and then to Australia.

McDOWELL-MURRAY.

What was pronounced to be a very pretty wedding was celebrated in St. Mary's Church, New Plymouth, on Wednesday morning, January 3, the contracting parties being Dr. W. C. W. McDowell, of Auckland, and Lilian, eldest daughter of Mr J. C. George, of New Plymouth.

Miss Winnie George was chief bridesmaid, assisted by two little girls, her sister Geradine and Evelyn Murray, daughter of the bride.

Mr R. H. George, in the unavoidable absence of Dr. Somerville on account of sickness, acted as best man, the Rev. F. G. Evans officiating at the ceremony, and the bride being given away by her father.

The bride looked charming in a handsome gown of electric grey silk, rep trimmed, with point lace, and a white chiffon toque, and she carried an exquisite shower bouquet of delicate pink and cream roses and maitland hair fern.

The chief bridesmaid looked very pretty in a soft yellow and white muslin gown and a Leghorn hat, trimmed with chiffon and tips, her bouquet being composed entirely of yellow. The two little bridesmaids were dressed prettily and simply in white muslin over yellow, Leghorn hats, trimmed with chiffon, and carried baskets of yellow and white flowers.

The bridegroom's present to the bride was a handsome gold necklet, set with pearls; to the chief bridesmaid, a gold dagger brooch, set with pearls and rubies, and to the two little ones dainty turquoise bangles.

The bridal party proper was augmented by Mrs J. C. George, Miss George, Mr and Mrs J. O. George, Mr and Mrs Harvey (Danvers), Mrs and Miss Watt (Wellington), Miss Hoskin, Mrs F. G. Evans, and Masters Eric and Bertie George. Immediately after the ceremony the whole party were entertained at luncheon at "Glenfield," the residence of Mr George, and during the afternoon Mr and Mrs George gave an "At Home" to a large number of their friends. Mrs George receiving her guests in a very handsome gown of electric blue merveilleux, trimmed with passementerie and white satin and lace, and a dainty bonnet to match. Some of the more vigorous spirits of the party entertained themselves and the company by games of lawn quits and tennis. In the evening the juvenile members of the family entertained a few of their young friends with cards and music, and spent a very pleasant time. Among the guests during the afternoon were Mr and Mrs W. Bayly, Mr and Mrs H. Baily, Mr and Mrs A. B. R. Fookes, Mrs Cuff, Miss Hirst, Dr. and Mrs Home, Dr. and Mrs Leatham, Mrs W. A. Collis, Mrs J. Hempton, Miss and Miss A. Hempton, Miss Bayly, Miss Hay, Mrs and Miss Ada Jackson, Mr and Mrs Mills, Dr. and Miss Walker, Mr and Mrs J. C. Davies, Mr and Mrs McAllum, Mr and Mrs P. S. Whitcombe, Miss Taylor, Miss Spence, Mr and Mrs R. Cook, Mr and Mrs Westmacott, Mr and Mrs G. F. Robinson, Mr and Mrs Newman, Misses A. and C. George, Mr and Mrs Samuel, Mr and Miss Stanford, Mrs and Miss Rawson, Mr and Mrs Paul, and others.

DR CLIVE LOWE-BELL.

The marriage of Dr. De Clive Lowe, only son of the late Surgeon-Major Thos. Lowe, M.L.R.C.S., etc., etc., Madras Sappers and Miners, Royal Engineers, and Miss Edna Gwendoline Bell, eldest daughter of W. T. J. Bell, Esq., of "Ardfallen," Devonport, was solemnised on Wednesday morning, January 10th, at Holy Trinity Church, Devonport, the Rev. Sydney Hawthorne officiating. The ceremony was of the quietest description possible, only the immediate friends being present. The bride, who was given away by her father, looked winsome in a very stylish grey travelling costume, trimmed with white moire, and with a vest of white mousseline de soie. She wore a large white hat trimmed with white moire ribbon, and lined with white mousseline de soie.

Miss Vera Bell attended as bridesmaid, and looked very well in white. After the ceremony the bride and bridegroom drove to the residence of the bride's parents, where breakfast was served. The presents, of which there were a large number, were both handsome and useful.

Owing to the doctor's professional engagements the bride and bridegroom do not contemplate leaving town at present.

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