

five years, learned with regret that he was under orders to remove to Auckland, and determined to give him and his good lady a "send off" in the form of a social gathering. The event duly came off in the Garrick Hall (kindly lent for the occasion by host Hatlett, of the Railway Hotel) on Thursday evening of last week, and was of a most successful nature. The interior of the building was tastefully decorated with bunting, Chinese lanterns, and greenery, and presented a very pretty appearance. There was a large muster of Mr and Mrs Spencer's friends from all parts of the district, and the evening was enjoyably spent in dancing, etc. The committee of ladies who undertook and carried out the arrangements deserve every credit for the manner in which the affair was conducted, and are to be congratulated on the success attending their efforts.

On Saturday evening Mr and Mrs Spencer invited their friends to a "retire" social as a recognition of the compliment paid them, and this event likewise passed off most successfully. Mr and Mrs Spencer leave Mercer with the good wishes of all who know them for their future welfare and prosperity.

The local creamery has now closed down for the season, and milkers will have a few months' respite from their arduous occupation. Notwithstanding the exceptionally dry summer the supply of milk has been well kept up, and judging from what one hears, the number of suppliers will be further increased next season.

The heavy rainfall of the past few weeks has greatly altered the appearance of the country. Up to the beginning of last month the Waikato was at an abnormally low level and dotted with small islets of sand, rendering the navigation of the steamers a matter of difficulty; but the downpour on the 7th and 8th caused a sudden rise in the water of more than six feet, and the submergence of low-lying lands and swamps speedily changed the whole face of nature. The threatened flood caused some little anxiety, but there does not appear to be any serious cause for alarm in this respect now, the water having subsided considerably during the past few days.

PHYLLIS BROUN.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, June 8.

The first of the series of ASSEMBLIES during the ensuing winter months was held in the Theatre Royal last Wednesday evening, and was enjoyed by all. There were seven debutantes, viz.: Miss G. Paul, Miss C. Jacob, Miss B. Webster, Miss T. Berry, Miss Drake, Miss E. Biggs (Hamilton), and Miss E. Bayley. The music was supplied by Garry's orchestra, and the supper table looked very pretty decorated with red, white and blue. It was thought by many that the honours of being belle of the ball were divided between Miss Paul and Miss C. Jacob. The former wore a very handsome ivory satin, with bodice of figured, with sequin trimmings, and carried a pretty bouquet. Miss C. Jacob was robed in an exceedingly pretty dress of ivory satin veiled in spangled net, finished with two butterflies on corsage. Among those present I noticed: Mrs. W. Bayly, handsome black satin en traine, finished with cream lace and pink roses; Miss Thomson, pink satin; Miss Standish (Christchurch), pink silk and cream lace; Miss O'Callaghan (Dunedin) looked charming in pink satin; Miss Baker, blue; Miss J. McKellar, pink satin and cream lace; Miss E. Cornwall, white silk; Miss M. Robinson, pretty white satin veiled in net; Miss E. Hammett, pink; Miss Fookes, white; her sister wore pink; Miss Wilson, scarlet and white; Miss Biggs (debutante), dainty soft flowered silk, and carried a shower bouquet; Miss Kirky, yellow; Miss B. Kirky, green; Mrs. Penn, yellow satin; Miss Carrie Bayly, handsome white satin, en traine; Miss B. Bayly, white silk; Miss Knight, black; Mrs. H. Bramley, orange silk; Miss E. Jacob, striking dress of yellow satin, veiled in black spangled net, red poppies on corsage; Miss B. Webster (debutante), pretty white silk, with deep founce on skirt, edged with ruching of net; Miss Dalziel, white net over pale yellow satin, finished with black velvet bows; Miss N. Skeet, pink silk, trimmed with pretty cream silk fringe; Miss Deacon, white broche and chiffon, demi-traine; Miss A. Jackson, fawn velvet and scarlet chiffon; Mrs. Vaughan, cream and

chiffon trimmings; Miss Sadler, pale green satin; Miss M. Sadler, pink veiled in black net; Miss Tucker, white silk veiled in silver embroidered net; Miss T. Berry (debutante) looked extremely well in white silk and chiffon, and carried a dainty bouquet; Miss Walker, black lacey net over white silk; Miss Lusk (Auckland), green silk, with fur shoulder straps, red roses on corsage; Mrs. Paul, black satin en traine, lace frills on skirt; bodice profusely trimmed with jet; Miss Hursthouse, blue veiled in white net; Miss E. Bayley (debutante), pretty soft frilled net, over white satin; Miss Ross (Christchurch), blue striped net, chiffon sleeves; Miss Lewis, white silk and red roses; Miss Tribe, white silk skirt, pale green bodice trimmed with pink and peacock green; Mrs. Pollen, yellow silk, for shoulder straps and violets, pink flower in hair; Miss G. Holdsworth, black silk trimmed with lettuce green velvet; Miss C. Cook, yellow satin; Mrs. Percy Webster (nee Miss S. Cunningham) looked very pretty in white satin, demi-traine, skirt and bodice trimmed with chiffon; Miss E. Hoby, yellow satin; Miss McAllum, black, soft pink frill; Miss Sutton (Dunedin), pink silk and cream lace; Miss Carrow looked well in pink silk, en traine; Miss N. McAllum, black, and yellow chrysanthemums on shoulder; Mrs. H. Bayly, blue silk and chiffon; Miss A. Drake (debutante), white satin profusely trimmed with frills of chiffon; Miss B. Bayly, white silk, trimmed with lover's knots and lace; Miss Stanford, pink; Miss Brown, white silk and lace sleeves; Miss Tweedie, black and white lace, pink roses on corsage; Miss H. Drake, cream, and yellow chiffon trimmings; Miss Halloran, black and green; Mrs. Maurison, black; Miss Jolly, blue satin, with black velvet trimmings; Mrs. Burgess, black satin; Mrs. J. C. George, handsome sage green satin, en traine, trimmed with cream lace and pink roses, etc. Among the gentlemen were: Messrs. Paul, Allen, A. E. A. Clarke, Pollen, Bramley, Spencer, McIntyre, Spence, Thomson (2), Webster (2), Brush, Miller, Drake, W. Bayly, Standish, McKellar, Woodhouse, Halse (2), J. C. George, Hoby, McDermid, Vaughan, Knight, Hutchison, Messenger, L. Webster, McTaggart, Broad, Cornwall, Wynne, Williams (2), Penn, H. Bayly, Humphries, Hursthouse, Fookes, D. Teed, Beckett (2), Elliott, Carthew, Stanford, Gilmore, Burgess, Robinson, Ward, Lewis, Mackay, Mair, Holdsworth, Wilson, etc.

BLenheim.

June 4.

The second of a series of Catholic societies was held in Ewart's Ball last Wednesday, and was, in every way, most successful, though it had been anticipated that the wet weather might be a drawback. The contrary was proved by the attendance, which was quite equal to that of previous occasions. Vanni's orchestra played inspiring music, and a dainty supper was temptingly arranged by the ladies of the supper committee.

On Friday evening Miss Waddy's second Cinderella Dance took place in Ewart's Ball, and though there were not many present it was exceedingly lively and enjoyable. Delicious refreshments were provided, and, what is always a special feature at Miss Waddy's assemblies, hot soup was served later, which not only was grateful to those not dancing, but was stimulating to the jaded dancers. Little was done in the way of decoration to the hall, but screens and chairs were placed across the corners, which curtailed the somewhat too ample space. Among those present were Mrs. Anderson, who was greatly admired in black satin with a band of white satin, covered with black lace, over each shoulder, making the bodice appear square-cut, bands of the same over the upper part of her arms, the front of the bodice filled in with white chiffon, and a spray of cream tea roses on the corsage; Mrs. Waddy, black; Mrs. Griffiths, black satin skirt, black and white striped silk blouse, finished with black lace; Mrs. Redman, black dress striped with red and blue; Mrs. Macalister, black; Mrs. Lucas, black skirt, white silk bodice with bow of black velvet in front; Mrs. Mitchell, black skirt, bodice of pale blue silk; Mrs. Vavasour, pale blue silk covered with delicate white silk muslin in which lace designs were inserted; Miss Cruickshank (Auckland) was distinguished looking in black satin skirt and pretty green silk bodice, finished with a dainty

chiffon fichu; Miss Waddy, cream dress with long transparent sleeves; Miss Essie Waddy, black skirt and white silk blouse; Miss Ferguson, black silk skirt, black and white bodice; Miss Abbott (Timaru), dark skirt, white blouse; Miss A. Horton, black skirt, cream bodice; Miss J. Horton, white dress; Miss Nurse, pale pink dress, sprays of red flowers on the corsage; and Messrs Vavasour, L. and G. Griffiths, Stubbs, H. Eccles, Wilmot, L. Macey, Harris, Mitchell, Banks, Stow, Fish, Dr. Redman, etc.

The proceeds of the concert in aid of the wounded in the war, organised by Mrs R. H. Smale and Miss Elbeck, have been handed to the Mayor, and amounted to over £18, a most welcome donation, I should think.

FRIDA.

NELSON.

Dear Bee, June 4.

In the social world things have been remarkably quiet during the last week, the early part of which rain fell more or less every day, and the weather was cool enough to make one feel that the fire-side and a book were preferable even to visiting one's friends.

There was general rejoicing in town on Thursday evening when the news reached us that Pretoria had been abandoned. The now familiar voice of the local "Long Tom" first informed residents of the city that important news was to hand, and in a marvellously short time Trafalgar-street was crowded. Fireworks and coloured lights were displayed from the church steps, and the inevitable

patriotic songs were of course sung with the usual gusto. "Crackers" and "jack-pumpers" were profusely used by the small boys, who seem to have an unlimited supply of pocket money on these occasions, and "Long Tom" was kept busy till a late hour over fifty charges being fired. The next day school children were granted a holiday in honour of the event, and many offices were closed.

STREET DRESSES.

Miss Webb-Bowen looks well in a long fawn coat, dark skirt, and hat trimmed with cerise ribbons and black tips; her sister, navy cloth coat and skirt, small black hat with light blue ribbons; Miss Dorothy Bell, brown costume, white sailor hat; Mrs Sweet, smart costume of violet cloth, with becoming hat of a lighter shade; Mrs Percy Adams, navy coat and skirt, smart hat profusely trimmed with heliotrope flowers; Miss Knight (Melbourne), black and white check costume trimmed with rows of narrow black ribbon velvet, black hat en suite; Miss Day, grey coat and skirt, cream silk vest, sailor hat; Mrs Faulkner (Motueka Valley), royal blue cloth costume with cream silk front and revers, hat en suite; Miss Gribben, old rose blouse braided with white, black skirt, sailor hat; Miss Holloway, blue grey coat and skirt, small sailor hat; Miss Harris, green coat and skirt, black velvet hat; Mrs (Dr.) Roberts, navy coat and skirt, large black hat; Miss S. Hunter-Brown, long fawn coat, black skirt, sailor hat; Mrs Hudson, electric blue cashmere with panel of white silk down one side of skirt, blue bonnet to match; Miss Humphries, green cloth braided with black, hat relieved with red. PHYLLIS.

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