

rosettes; Mrs Pharasyn, black gown and cape, black bonnet with pink roses and lace wings; Miss Pharasyn, grey jacket and skirt and a grey straw hat with feathers; Mrs J. Martin, black jacket and skirt and black and white toque; Miss Martin, a pretty grey gown with yoke of white lace, black straw hat trimmed with mauve silk; Mrs Pynsent in a black silk canvas gown and black bonnet trimmed with palest pink roses; Mrs Dr. Perry, dark tailor-made costume and black hat with tips; Mrs O'Connor, black gown and sealskin cape, pale blue chiffon bonnet with black tips; Mrs B. Hector, grey jacket and skirt and black hat; Mrs Bothamly, black gown and cape and red and black toque; Mrs Buft, black brocade gown and floral toque; Mrs M. Ross, black skirt and red coat, red velvet toque with tips; Mrs Owen, black coat and skirt trimmed with braid, large hat trimmed with lace and ribbon loops; Mrs Johnston (Blenheim), black coat and skirt and a toque of turquoise blue silk and fur; Mrs Morison, green coat and skirt and toque with flowers; Mrs Kirk, brown gown and brown velvet hat with tips; Mrs Leekie, black silk gown, black and white bonnet; Miss E. Richmond, black gown and sealskin coat, black straw hat with black feathers; Miss Ashcroft, blue coat and skirt and black hat with tips; Miss Atkinson, black coat and skirt, black straw hat trimmed with violets and tips; Miss Braudon, dark gown, black toque trimmed with lace and pink roses; Miss A. Brandon, slate grey gown trimmed with velvet, black hat with pink ribbon and black tips; the Misses Barron, fawn coats and skirts, black toques with ribbon loops; Miss Cookes (Christchurch), black jacket and skirt, blue and black hat; Miss Cooper, black coat and skirt, black straw hat trimmed with pink chine silk; Miss Dransfield, fawn coat and black skirt, red velvet toque with black tips and fur; Miss Fairbild, neat black braided gown and black velvet feathered hat; Miss Morrish, blue jacket and skirt, red velvet toque trimmed with fur; Miss McGregor, blue coat and skirt, blue straw hat trimmed with silk to match and aigrettes; Miss M. McGregor, black jacket and skirt with white revers, black hat trimmed with tips and red roses; Miss Davy, black jacket and skirt, black and white hat; Miss G. Henry, brown coat and skirt, green straw hat with tips; Miss O. Gore, brown tailor suit, cream toque with tips and flowers; Miss H. Williams, black coat and skirt, black velvet hat trimmed with pink chiffon and tips; Miss Wilson, black coat and skirt, blue toque with fur; her sister wore a brown jacket and skirt and also a blue toque with fur; Miss Smith, dark coat and skirt and black toque with tips; Miss Smart, grey Eton gown with white vest, black hat trimmed with white satin and tips; Miss Sprott, dark green gown and mauve velvet and floral toque; Miss Quick, black brocade gown trimmed with cream lace, cream and pale blue toque; Miss M. Quick, fawn coat and skirt, black hat trimmed with tips and red flowers; also Mr and Mrs Dean, Mrs and Miss McIntosh, Mr and Mrs Harrison, the Misses Greenwood, Mrs Waldgrave, Hon. Capt. Russell, Hon. Mr Miller, Hon. Mr Butler, Dr. Perry, Professor Brown, Messrs Harcourt, Izard, Dyer, Brown, Pynsent, Geo, Rev. Mr Sprott, Rev. Mr Bartlett, and many more.

On Tuesday the Countess of Ranfurly held

AN AFTERNOON RECEPTION

at Government House, which was greatly enjoyed by a number of guests. The drawing-rooms were, as usual, made cosy with fires and decorated with greenery and pot plants, and in the dining-room, where a dainty tea was laid, the table looked pretty with flowering pot plants in silver bowls. At one end of the main corridor Minnie's orchestra was stationed, amid a lower of greenery, and played charmingly during the afternoon. The Countess was dressed in black and white, being still in mourning, a handsome trained gown trimmed with lace and diamond ornaments. Some of those present were: Lady Stout, Bishop and Mrs Wallis, Hon. Mr and Mrs Miller, Dr. and Mrs Adams, Mrs and Miss Bell, Lady Douglas, the Misses Douglas, Mrs Grace, Mrs and the Misses Johnston, Mrs H. Johnston, Mrs and Miss Seddon, Mrs Morris, Mrs Anson, Miss Atkinson, Mrs and Miss Barclay, Mrs Baillie, Dr. and Mrs Collins, Miss

Cooper, Miss Duncan, Mrs Herries (Tauranga), Miss Holmes, Mr and Mrs C. Izard, Miss Izard, Mrs A. Martin, Mrs Rhodes, Mrs Heaton Rhodes, Mrs McPherson, Mrs Moorehouse, Mrs Newman, Capt. and Mrs Owen, Mrs Arthur Pearce, Mr and Mrs Pynsent, the Misses Williams, Mr and Mrs Reid, Mrs and Miss Richardson, Mrs H. Reynolds (Dunedin), Mrs and Miss Sprott, Mrs and Miss Stowe, Mrs and Miss Richmond, Mrs and Miss Smith, Mrs M. Ross, Mrs and Miss Riddiford, Mrs Field, Dr. and Mrs Fitchett, etc., etc.

OPHELIA.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee,

July 5.

Though the hunting season is now in full swing there has been a good deal of disappointment several times in consequence of the unusually soft state of the ground caused by wet weather. However, the weather last Saturday was perfect, when the hounds met at the Marine Parade and thence had a splendid run to Petane. Amongst those present at the meet were Mesdames Lines, Gore, Williams, Ronald, McLean, Smith, De Lisle, Moore, the Misses Page, Howell, Burke, Williams, Heath, Cornford, etc.

It was a wet and stormy night on Tuesday for the weekly lecture at the Athenaeum Hall, given on this occasion by Mr Dakin. Nevertheless a fairly large audience was present. Mr Dakin gave a most interesting discourse on "Shelley and Keats," at the close of which he was heartily applauded. Next week Mr P. S. McLean will lecture on "Carlyle."

During the stormy weather at the beginning of this week the heavy sea then running in the bay has washed away ten feet of the narrow strip of land at the Western Spit, and is now within a few feet of the houses there. Consequently there is much alarm amongst the inhabitants, and they are at present agitating for the necessary steps which should be taken by the Government to prevent such a disaster. The inner harbour is two feet below the level of the outer harbour, and once the sea cut through it would flood the low lying lands at Greenmeadows and round the Park race course.

Amongst the noticeable wearers of pretty winter dresses this season are Mrs R. D. D. McLean, in a navy blue coat and skirt, a grey ostrich feather boa, and a black hat relieved with pink roses; Mrs J. H. Coleman is wearing a handsome black silk dress and a bonnet to match; with bows of a pretty shade of apricot; Mrs T. H. Lowry, of Okawa, has a black dresse, sealskin cape and a dainty heliotrope toque; Mrs Lines, looks well in a fawn coat, a dark skirt, and a black hat; Mrs R. B. Smith also wears a stylish fawn jacket with a black skirt, and a sailor hat; Mrs Arthur Gore, a well fitting gobsin blue costume; Miss Burke, a fawn cape, brown skirt and black hat with pink flowers; Miss Chapman, a tailor-made navy blue cloth dress; Miss Cotterill, grey serge and a black hat; Mrs P. S. McLean wears dark blue, and a fur cape with tails; her sister, Miss Dixon, looks well in navy blue; Miss Hoadley has a dark green cloth coat and skirt and a hat relieved with heliotrope; Miss Morecroft, black coat and skirt, white felt hat with white plumes and black ribbon; Miss Bessie Morecroft, a stylish fawn costume; Miss Howell, fawn jacket, dark skirt, and hat of rose pink straw; Miss Una Hithings, dark green; Mrs F. W. Williams, navy blue coat and skirt, grey boa, navy blue picture hat with white plumes; Mrs De Lisle, fawn jacket, black skirt, and a pretty red hat; Mrs Logan, navy blue.

MARJORIE.

BLenheim.

Dear Bee,

July 2.

This is a desolate morning, pouring with rain, after a very wet night, and the sky like a grey pall, seems quite close overhead. The only consolation is that the extreme cold has abated, and the weather become exceedingly mild. The local weather prophets say that the new moon has come in wet, and that rainy weather will be our portion for this month; if so, we shall have an early spring, though at present we seem in the autumn, as many deciduous trees are still holding their leaves.

The Awatere Presbyterian Church, which stood on the terrace, behind the accommodation house, on the northern side of the river, has been moved

to a new site in the township of Seddon, and when one considers the work of bringing it down from the terrace, and across the river without the slightest damage, it was really a wonderful feat, which reflects great credit on the contractor, Mr Fawcett.

The Maoris from the Pah on the Wairau River, intend to give two entertainments in Ewart's Hall this week, the proceeds of which are to be divided between the Indian Famine Fund, and the Peace Demonstration Fund. The former is a most worthy object, and I hope that good houses will reward them.

Two of the little steamers which run between here and Wellington, have met with accidents in the Opawa River lately. First the Opawa broke her propeller by striking some submerged piles, and next the Janet Douglas, on Friday, when on her way back from Wellington, met with precisely the same accident.

A small explosion of gas occurred at the gasworks a short time ago,

when the manager, Mr Muir, was severely burnt on his face and hands, from which he has suffered extreme pain. He is now progressing towards recovery, to the great relief of his friends.

Dr. Redman has offered to give lectures on "Sick Nursing at Home," in the Church of the Nativity Sunday School, for which a small charge will be made, which will go towards lightening the debt on the church. A preliminary meeting was held last Wednesday afternoon, when the names of fifty ladies were enrolled, and it is anticipated that ten more will join, and it was decided that six lectures, for which the small charge of five shillings was made, should begin next Wednesday, and take place weekly.

There is a great dearth of amusement just at present, but with the Maori entertainments, and Miss Waddy's Cinderella Dance this week, I shall have more to tell you of next week.

FRIDA.

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