

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, September 14.

The last of a series of ASSEMBLIES

for this season eventuated last Wednesday evening in the Theatre Royal, and I am sorry to say I am afraid it will be the last time we will ever dance to Mr Gerry's lovely music, as he is leaving shortly for Dunedin, where he has an appointment in the orchestra there. During the evening "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow" was sung and three hearty cheers were given. The supper table was prettily decorated with dafodils, and the floor was in excellent order. Among those present were Miss Knight, striking green satin; Miss Cornwall, black satin and white lace; Miss E. Cornwall, pink silk and cream lace; Miss N. Skeet, white satin; Miss Dalziel, pink satin veiled in white net; Miss Deacon, white brocade; Miss Holdsworth, black satin; Miss G. Holdsworth, black silk trimmed with blue; Miss Hoby, yellow satin; Miss Jacob, pale yellow satin trimmed with lace and black velvet; Miss C. Jacob, blue; Miss Carthew, pink silk; Mrs H. Bailey, blue silk veiled in black net; Miss Kirkby, white silk; Mrs Penn, yellow satin; Mrs Rollo, black with white; Miss Cook, yellow satin; Miss B. Kirkby, white lustre; Miss Baker, magenta silk with white lace; Miss M. Stanford, pink; Miss O. Stanford, green silk with cream trimmings; Miss Sadler, pink; Miss M. Sadler, white; Miss Standish, white silk and chiffon; Mrs W. Bayly, white brocade satin with red flowers; Miss J. McKellar, pink satin veiled in white net; Miss Robinson, white satin; Miss Sutton (Dunedin), pink silk; Miss E. Bayley, blue silk with black velvet trimmings; Miss Thomson, yellow satin; Miss B. Thomson, white satin with roses on shoulder; Miss Dargaville (Auckland), very pretty soft white silk, demi traine; Miss Fookes, white; Miss Bedford, green silk; Miss E. Hamerton, pink silk with chiffon bodice; Miss N. McCallum, black and pink; Miss Fraser, yellow; Miss J. Fraser, white figured silk with silver pusementorie trimmings; Miss Perry (Inglewood), white silk; Mrs Messenger, green velvet, with pale green chiffon; Miss Lewis, white and scarlet; Miss Ross (Christchurch), white; Miss Hursthouse, pink veiled in white net; Miss E. Hursthouse, white silk with satin ribbon trimmings; Mrs A. Kirkby, black satin; Miss Bayly, white and scarlet; Miss B. Bayly, white; Mrs Home, pink brocade silk; Miss Humphries, black; Miss H. Humphries, white silk; Miss Lusk (Auckland), black and gold; Mrs J. Cottier, blue; Mrs Broad (Inglewood) looked well in white brocade silk; Miss Mathews, yellow and black; Mrs Forte, white silk; Miss Forte looked pretty in yellow silk; Mrs Vaughan, black satin and white; Miss E. Smith, white brocade; Miss Balloran, green silk; Mrs Wright, pink silk; Mrs Palmer, blue; Miss Fookes, heliotrope silk; Miss G. Fookes, white; Miss Drake, white; Miss A. Drake, white satin and blue sash.

Among the gentlemen were Messrs Humphries, Allen, Kirkby, Spencer, Clarke, Spence, Robinson (2), Shaw, Holy (2), Penn, Wynn-Williams, Hutchen, Halse (2), Robertson, McKellar, Standish, Stanford, McDiarmid, W. Bayly, Jacob, Cornwall, Knight Carthew, Webster, Thomson, McAllum, Forte, Messenger, Broad, Pollen, Moffet, Fookes, R. Bayley, Paton, H. Bailey, Lewis, Drs. Walker and Homer, McTaggart, Beckett, etc.

NANCY LEE.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, September 12.

The thoughtful kindness of the Mayor and Mrs Reece will long be remembered by the nurses of the Christchurch and Strathmore (private) Hospitals. The second "At Home" for them was given last Wednesday, and was most enjoyable in every way. The decorations were extremely pretty, and no one could believe to see the Council Chamber and other rooms so gay and full of life that serious business ever emanated there. Mrs Reece received in a handsome black satin dress with transparent sleeves, and was ably assisted by Mr and the Misses Reece, while Master Reece looked very picturesque as an old English gentleman, and was very useful in distributing programmes.

Wives" and a little one-act comedietta, "Old Cronies," is to be played for the two first nights, and for the last two the company will be seen in "School." In spite of miserable weather on the opening night, the house was well filled with a most appreciative audience. The chief characters in "Modern Wives" are taken by Mr H. E. Nicholls, Mr Alex. Newton, Mr H. Plimmer, Mr Clifford Walker, Miss and Miss J. Newton, Miss Henry, and Miss Letham, while smaller parts are filled by Mr Bastin, and the Misses Kane and Maginnity. Special mention must be made of Messrs Nicholls and Newton and Miss J. Newton, who all treated their different parts in a manner that cannot be too highly praised. Mr Clifford Walker and Mr Norris Fox made much of their respective parts in "Old Cronies," and kept the audience in a continual simmer of laughter.

King Mahuta, the Maori King, arrived in Wellington on Saturday evening from Onehunga in the Tutaneaki, accompanied by more than fifty followers, including a brass band under Bandmaster Totara, which always accompanies his Majesty on his travels. The discussion of native land affairs with the Premier and the Ministry is the raison d'etre of Mahuta's visit to the Empire City. Several leading chiefs have come with His Majesty, amongst whom are the powerful and well-known warriors Wharua, Hairepana, Wharukura and Tikirangi, from the Waikato. On Saturday evening the Premier showed King Mahuta and some of his suite over the House of Parliament, and during his stay in Wellington he is to visit the principal sights of the city, in which he appears to take great interest.

His Excellency the Governor gave a sessional dinner party at Government House on Saturday night. The following members were honoured with invitations: Hons. W. C. Walker, J. McGowan, G. B. Morrin, J. D. Ormond, J. P. Peacock, D. Pinkerton, A. Pitt, R. H. Reeves, J. Rigg, H. Scotland, S. Shrimski, A. Smith, W. C. Smith, E. C. Stevens, H. K. Talaroa, H. Thomson, J. M. Twomey, W. Stevens, Sir George Whitmore, and Messrs. H. Kaibau, G. Parata, Wi Pere, F. W. Lang, G. Laursen, F. Lawry, F. Lethbridge, C. Lewis, F. Massey, F. McGuire, R. McKenzie, J. McLachlan, R. McNab, R. Meredith, J. Millar, C. H. Mills, T. McKenzie, R. Monk, A. Morrison, W. J. Napier, J. O'Meara, J. Palmer, F. Pirani, H. Rhodes, G. Russell, E. M. Smith, J. Stevens, W. Symes and A. Willis. As usual, the dinner table was most beautifully decorated with pot plants and spring flowers, and Minifie's band played some charming selections during the evening.

Some tableaux vivants are being organised in Wellington by an influential committee of ladies in aid of St. Mary's Guild, and promise to be most successful, judging from the elaborate preparations which are being made by those who are superintending their arrangements. The performance takes place in about a fortnight in the Wellington Opera House.

FEILDING.

A pleasant function took place on 10th August at the residence of Mr C. A. Mountfort, on the occasion of the Golden Wedding of Mr and Mrs C. W. Mountfort, of Napier. A large number of friends were present at the reception during the afternoon to tender their congratulations, amongst whom were Mrs Lethbridge, Mrs Barton, Mrs Cyril Mountfort (Christchurch), Major and Mrs Liddell, Dr. and Mrs Monckton, Mrs and Miss Goodberner, Mr and Mrs Holden, Revs. James Jones and Murray, Mrs and Miss Hill, Mrs Jaggett, Mrs Retemeyer, Mrs Marford Taylor. A very enjoyable dance was held in the evening, the room being tastefully decorated by the grandchildren, a large floral bell hanging over the entrance. Some of those present were Mrs Cyril Mountfort, handsome black satin; Mrs Hill, old gold satin; Mrs Levitt, satin; Mrs Plumer Mountfort, white figured cashmere, with pearl and chiffon trimming; Mrs H. Mountfort, velvet, trimmed with lace; Miss Higgins, pink silk; Miss Taylor (debutante), white silk, Maltese lace and spray white violets; Miss May Mountfort, white; Miss Retemeyer, cream; Miss Mountfort (Napier), cream and Russian violets. Messrs Levitt, Parker and Reid, Prior, Long, Hill, E. Mountfort (Wellington), A. Mountfort (Wanganui), H. Mountfort (Napier), etc. A very pleasant evening was spent, dancing being indulged in until a late hour.

QUINTIA.

A few friends were present to help entertain the nurses, amongst whom were Mr and Mrs R. D. Thomas, Mr and Mrs Burns, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Graham, Dr. and Mrs Crooke, Mrs Wilson, and a few others. Some excellent songs and music were given by Mrs Burns, Miss Graham, Messrs Hockley, March, and Dr. Crooke, Messrs Tankard (cornet) and Painter (mandoline) each gave a solo, and Miss Scrivener's band played at intervals.

An interesting tennis match was played on Cranmer Square Courts last week between Canterbury College and the C.L.T. Club, the latter winning easily. Among those present were:—Mr and Mrs Appleby, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Wilding, Dr. and Miss Nedwill, Mr and Miss Cook, Mrs Longton, Mr and Miss Zard, Mr, Mrs, and Miss Berkeley, Mr and Mrs Olivier, Mr and Miss Harcastle, Mr and Miss Harman, Mr and Mrs Fisher, Misses Gordon, Lean, Greenhill, Batham, Meares, Simpson, Graham, Messrs Hair, A. Wilding, Webb, Stowe, Scott, etc. Delicious afternoon tea and cakes were served throughout the afternoon.

On dit that a syndicate has bought Mr J. Freeman's business, High-street, and that shortly the change in the management will take place, and that Mr Morton, son of the late Mr Morton, so long known at Morton's Hotel, Sumner, is to be in charge of the culinary department. Mr Morton, senr., was instructor in cooking for some time at the Girls' High School, Christchurch, and his fame was such that he was supposed to be the best cook this side of the line. Another change is that which has taken place during the week at the Ladies' Club. Mrs T. Gordon having resigned as manager, Mrs R. Harman has taken her place for the present, but I believe Mrs R. Gardner will take it up at Christmas.

On Friday evening Mrs G. Morton gave a large euche party, which was greatly enjoyed by all present, amongst whom were Mr and Mrs H. Wood, Mrs A. C. Wilson, Mr and Mrs Staveley, Mr and Mrs Litchfield, Mrs Molineux, Mrs Bourne, Mrs E. Deacon, Messrs F. Hume, Weston, Gibbs, W. Day, the Misses Meares, Harper, Bowen, Rawson (Wellington), Anderson, Bullock, Tribe, Denham, etc.

DOLLY VALK.

BLLENHEIM.

Dear Bee, September 10.

The last of the series of Catholic socials for the season took place last Wednesday evening, and was not one white less successful than its predecessors; in fact, it was even more crowded, and all the arrangements were remarkably good. The supper was on the stage at the back, but when the time arrived to partake of the dainties provided, and the curtain was raised, the crowd was so dense that I could not get a glimpse of the table and its decorations, but if the sense of sight was not called upon, the sense of taste was, and was amply satisfied. No long pauses were allowed between the dances, consequently everything went with spirit, Vannini's orchestra playing lively music. As this was the last of the series dancing was kept up to a later hour than usual, and did not end till 2 a.m. Cards and tables were set out on the stage, and those who did not dance joined in the game, euche suiting the popular taste, though one young lady, who by means of cards was supposed to divine the future, always had a following. Among those present were:—Mr and Mrs Corry, Mr and Mrs McCabe, Mr and Mrs Morris, Mr and Mrs Meehan, Mr

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