

spent with Mrs. Wardrop, Union Bank, Hereford-street, by a number of friends at a croquet party.

The polo match to be played to-day, Victoria versus Canterbury, is exciting some attention. The Christchurch players are Messrs Heaton Rhodes (Captain), Alister, Clark, W. H. P. Woodroffe, and E. D. O'Rourke.

Nurse Maude has returned to Christchurch to resume her work amongst us with the benefit of another course of study in England. She left about a year ago and journeyed out in company with Judge Denniston and family. I find Mr Justice Denniston remained in Wellington to relieve the Chief Justice, who has been ill, Mrs and the Misses Denniston only reaching Christchurch on Friday.

Miss Beswick also returned at the same time, but the greater part of her visit was passed with her sister, Mrs Williamson, in France.

DOLLY VALE.

February 11.

On Thursday a very charming evening was given by Mr and Mrs Albert Kaye at their residence, Webb-street, to meet Mr and Mrs John Cooke, of Melbourne. Music and recitations, with much pleasant chat, wiled away the time so quickly that it was a rush or miss the trams. The floral decorations were lovely in every room, and the supper table a picture with roses for the centre piece. Mrs Kaye wore a handsome black brocade with Maltese lace vest; Mrs John Cooke, a rich black satin with band of steel embroidery on the skirt above the shaped flounce, and the bodice covered with steel embroidered net with transparent sleeves; Miss Cooke, pale blue and pink voile with lace fichu; Miss Dorothy Webb, soft white silk; Mrs Gilbert Anderson, black satin and lace, but I had better say at once all the ladies except the young ones wore black; Mrs Adair, Mrs J. J. Kinsey, Mrs T. Garrard, Mr. Mrs, and Miss Crichton, Mr and Mrs Appleby, Mr, Mrs and Miss Graham (the latter all black); Mrs R. and Miss Allan, Mr and Mrs Turnbull, Mr and Mrs F. M. Wallace, Mr and Mrs Weston, Mr A. Sott, Mr H. D. Carter, Misses Vincent, and Phinney, Messrs. G. Anderson, and Wm. Wood. Some excellent songs were given by Misses Allan and Graham, Mrs Garrard, Mr Appleby; some violin solos by Mr Wallace; and recitations by Mr John Cooke and Miss Phinney.

Mr John Anderson had a small party of gentlemen to dinner on Thursday to meet Mr McPherson, of Wellington. Among those present were Messrs. L. Gibbs; A. W. Bennett, A. Anderson, J. J. Kinsey, and F. Barnes.

Mrs F. Waymouth's cycling picnic came off on Wednesday, but owing to the day being changed on account of the rain a number were unable to go, and were very disappointed. However, those who were present enjoyed the ride out to Tai Tapu very much, and hope for another before the summer is over.

The Imperial troops! How many times have we uttered those words, and with what anxiety watched the papers to try and satisfy our minds whether it was "To be or not to be." And now we have seen the real thing—how good a thing remains for you to see. In the old days we used to laugh at our volunteers playing at soldiers, but since South Africa has given them an opportunity to show their grit, we look with respect on our defenders; but they have much to learn yet in the way of soldierly bearing; one could tell the difference in the dark. When the troops arrived on Thursday evening from the South they met with a most enthusiastic reception, and marched to the Exhibition Building for supper, then proceeding to Lyttelton to sleep on board the Britannic. There was great disappointment in Christchurch among the citizens that they were not able to show individual hospitality, and felt very much like the Dunedin gentleman who expressed himself in something like these terms: "I will give £5 to any charity you like to have one of the Black Watch under my roof." On Friday Christchurch was en feté. The weekly half-holiday was postponed to that day, flags were flying, bands were playing, and thousands of people lined the streets to watch the troops pass by. The favourites—if there were any—were the Life Guards, the Lancers, and the

Black Watch. The review in Hagley Park was a spectacle worth seeing, but only a quarter of the people present got more than a bird's eye view. Then the march back along a different route to the Exhibition Building again, where the officers were entertained at lunch in the Canterbury Hall; the men in the South annex. At six p.m. they left for Lyttelton, to proceed to Wellington, where they remain three days, while their visit to Christchurch was over in a flash. Some of the troops were mounted, horses being provided in Christchurch. The Life Guards, Lancers, and others of course looking much more at home, also more imposing, than if they had been on foot.

DOLLY VALE.

## WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, February 11.

Wellington folk have suddenly awakened to the fact that we have a number of visitors in our midst, and that we must rise to the occasion and do honour to our town and its guests. The Imperial troops have been right royally treated, and I understand are very pleased with their reception throughout New Zealand, which has been of a most enthusiastic description. Last Saturday, the day of their arrival, was a glorious one, and the sight most splendid in every way. Long before the hour appointed for the procession to start, every window, balcony, and place of vantage was crowded with people, and the streets lined with eager spectators literally from one end of the town to the other. The crowd must have cheered itself hoarse long before the Basin Reserve was reached. After the procession was over and the formal welcome had taken place, the troops reformed and marched back to the Drill Shed, where a magnificent banquet had been spread for the men.

In the evening the members of the Wellington Club gave a large At Home in honour of the Imperial officers, and this was attended by a large and fashionable assemblage of ladies and gentlemen, among whom were also the officers of H.M.S. Mildura and a number of the visiting polo players. Colonel Wyndham and all his officers were present, and most attractive they looked in their beautiful uniforms, nearly all of which were quite new to many, and the presence of so many distinguished guests added greatly to the enjoyment of the affair. The brilliant uniforms, too, were most acceptable on this particular occasion, as, in consequence of the recent death of Her Majesty the Queen, almost every lady was in half mourning, and this naturally would have looked far more gloomy but for the uniforms. I think there were only two coloured gowns in the room, one a pale bluey green, and the other pink; but with these exceptions the ladies either wore entire black gowns, or white, or a combination of both black and white, the effect being distinctly striking on entering the room. Mr H. D. Bell, the President, and Mrs Bell received at the head of the staircase, and the guests then either passed on into the music room, the coffee room, or the smoke room, all of which were most beautifully decorated for the occasion, chiefly with immense pot plants, bamboo being conspicuous, and draped flags and flowers. Then the little balcony in the front and the long verandah at the side were covered in and filled with seats, and also prettily decorated, as was also the billiard-room, which for the evening was converted into a supper-room, and contained the usual sumptuous supper for which the Club has long been famed, beautifully laid out with flowers, cut-glass, and silver. Some excellent music was provided in the music room, Miss Alice Hollander, the talented young lady who is now touring the colonies, singing several times and giving great pleasure to her listeners. She is quite young, and looks about 17, and possesses a powerful contralto voice, and is, I understand, an Australian by birth, and intends shortly going Home to complete her musical education. She wore a simple white muslin gown, with lace insertion and frills, and a helio-

trope bow, and her hair down her back, plaited. Her mother, Mrs Hollander, and her master, Mr Bethune, were also present, and Miss Florence Frouse played her accompaniments. Mr John Frouse also sang several times, and was in his very best form. During the intervals between the songs an excellent string band played several beautiful things, which helped to enliven the proceedings. Owing to the general mourning a ball could not be given, hence a reception was decided upon as the most fitting function. We have all felt sorry that His Excellency the Governor, owing to the prescribed time of Court mourning, could not be present, nor could he take any part in the reception of the troops. This was singularly unfortunate, as Lord Hanbury was in Wellington at the time, which caused us to miss him the more. His Excellency, however, watched the procession privately from a window, and was accompanied by Captain Alexander, Captain Hill Trevor, and Captain and Mrs Kingsmill, and one morning he received the officers at Government House. Amongst the many beautiful dresses worn were the following:—

Mrs. H. D. Bell, a very handsome pale oyster grey silk, brocued with dark or flowers, and trained and bordered with steel pascementerie, both the bodice and skirt being trimmed with beautiful white Honiton lace, her ornaments being a pearl necklace and diamonds; Miss Iris Bell wore a simple gown of white spotted silk, with short lace sleeves edged with silk fringe; the Countess de Courte, a lovely white silk gown entirely veiled with fine black spangled net and diamond ornaments, one of the handsomest gowns there; Lady Dorothy Cathorne-Hardy, a black satin gown, trained, the skirt edged with frills, and the

bodice trimmed with white Honiton lace and diamond stars, and diamond becket and pendant; Mrs. Seddon, a handsome black trained gown trimmed with jet; Miss Seddon looked well in pale blue; Mrs. Kingsmill, wife of the captain of H.M.S. Mildura, wore a very handsome black trained gown, with diamonds, and a large black velvet bow in her hair, caught with diamonds; Mrs. Evelyn Wood, a recent arrival from Home, wore a beautiful white gown, the corsage trimmed with masses of silver sequin embroidery, and a diamond crescent in her hair; Mrs. Charlie Johnston, a beautiful white chiffon and silk gown striped with black sequined embroidery; and her two daughters wore pretty white dresses with jewelled embroidery; Lady Douglas wore a handsome trained black gown; her daughter was also in black; Mrs. Alf Brandon, a black gown trimmed with white; her sister, Mrs. Tilly, who is visiting Wellington, wore a handsome cream broche trained gown with lace sleeves, and trimmed with narrow black velvet ribbon; Miss Brandon wore black; Mrs. Barron, black; and her two daughters, white; Miss Richmond and Miss Emmie Richmond both wore black, with pretty white tulle fichu edged with black velvet ribbon; Mrs. J. Tripe looked very nice in her lovely wedding dress of cream satin, much piped diagonally, and with transparent sleeves and chiffon trimming; Mrs. Tolhurst wore a handsome black jettied gown; and her daughter wore white; Mrs. Findlay, a handsome cream brocade, with transparent sleeves of cream lace, spangled with silver; Mrs. Rhodes, a very handsome black brocued gown, trained, and lovely diamond ornaments; Mrs. Sprott, black; Mrs. Loughnan, black; Mrs. W. Moorhouse, black satin; Mrs. Edward Rid-

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