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H. CHATTERIS,

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## LATE SOCIETY NEWS

## AUCKLAND

Dear Bee, July 29.

Mrs Joseph Smith, of Rockbank, Epsom, gave a farewell at Home on Friday for her daughter Claire, who is shortly to be married. The house was beautifully decorated, and in mule and ping-pong the guests passed a pleasant afternoon. Mrs Smith wore a handsome blue silk veil, trimmed with chiffon and ecru lace. Miss Smith, pink costume; Miss Claire Smith, pretty blue crepe blouse and dark skirt; Miss Flo Smith, green silk frock; and Miss Eve Smith, pretty black dress. Among the guests I noticed Mrs O'Rorke, in a charming green costume, and tulle en suite; Mrs G. Bloomfield, pretty blue costume; Mrs Richmond, handsome black gown; Miss Richmond, black; Mrs E. Anderson, navy blue coat and skirt; Mrs Markham, smart black costume; Mrs Stewart, pretty grey costume and hat; Mrs Edwin Hesketh, black dress; Miss Hesketh, pretty black and white costume, white hat; Miss Maggie Hesketh, black; Mrs Talbot Tubbs, green Russian costume; Mrs A. Hanna, charming white gown and picture hat; Miss Jessie Jackson, navy coat and skirt, black hat; Mrs McCosh Clark, handsome black gown; Miss Clark, navy blue; Miss Pearl Clark, pretty grey costume, grebe toque; Mrs R. Johnston, white blouse, dark skirt and picture hat; Mrs Heather, black gown; Mrs Willie Heather, pretty grey frock and black hat; Mrs Shipherd, black costume; Mrs Waller, black dress; Miss Waller, navy coat and skirt; Miss Walker, blue costume; Miss King, pretty grey costume; Mrs Marrison, grey coat and skirt; Miss Rice, black; Mrs Black, handsome grey costume; Mrs McLaughlin, grey; Miss Banks, navy blue; Mrs Rankin Reed, charming grey costume; Mrs Arnold, black gown; Miss Winifred Dudley, black; Mrs Salmon, black; Miss Salmon, white skirt, dark blouse; Mrs Lawford, becoming blue costume; Mrs Kempthorne, black costume; Miss Kempthorne, blue; Miss Williamson, black gown; Miss Williamson, blue and white costume; Miss Neil, black; Miss Eily Neil, grey; Miss Shepherd, becoming black gown; Miss Muriel Peacocke, pretty blouse and skirt; Miss Dargaville, black; Miss Winnie Goodwin, black; Miss Alice Goodwin, blue; Miss Power, blue costume; Miss Innes, becoming brown costume, with violet toque; Miss May Hesketh, blue blouse, dark skirt; Miss Eddy Myers, navy coat and skirt; Miss Daisy Mowbray, blue coat and skirt; Mrs Cutten (Dunedin), becoming blue costume; the Misses Ferguson, dark coats and skirts; Miss Sylvia Thorpe, navy blue costume; Miss Lily Thorpe; Miss Coff, blue; Mrs Horse, and many others.

## AN ENJOYABLE DANCE

was given last Saturday evening by Mr and Mrs Rupert Stevenson at their residence, "Woodbridge farm," Bombay.

The large new barn, which was used as a ball-room, was tastefully decorated with bunting, tree ferns and nikau palms, and the floor was all that could be desired for dancing. The music was ably rendered by Mrs Stevenson, assisted by some of her lady friends. At 12 o'clock dancing ceased and the guests partook of an excellent supper, which was daintily laid out in an adjoining room.

Mrs Stevenson looked charming in a soft white trained silk dress, and Miss Stevenson wore a becoming white silk gown. Many of the guests had come up from Auckland, and found a jolly house party. Among them were: Miss K. Oberlin-Brown, black velvet, with jet trimmings; Miss Ada Peck, dainty white dress;

Miss Kony, black silk, relieved with white violets; Miss M. Robertson, blue silk blouse, black skirt; Miss Alice Churton, white muslin frock; Miss Ethel Mahon, pink dress trimmed with white lace; Miss K. Williamson, peach velvet blouse, black grenadine skirt; Miss M. Hunter, white silk; Miss K. McCormick, pale green dress; Miss Flossie Wright, red silk blouse, black skirt; Miss Meta Aicken, soft white frock relieved with blue; Mrs Reynolds, black silk; Miss C. Proude, white silk; Miss May Stoman, black velvet, relieved with white lace. There were also present: Messrs Graham, Churton, Esam, Sloman, Stevenson, Richardson, Gannon, Alexander, (2), Sharland, Batty (2), etc.

PYLLIS BROWN.

## OBITUARY.

Mr Robert Milne, a brother of Miss Milne (Milne and Choyce), Auckland, has died at Suva.

Deceased was a native of Ireland, and brother of Miss Milne, of the firm of Milne and Choyce, Auckland. Prior to 1871 he resided for some years in Auckland and other parts of the colony, being on the West Coast goldfields in the time of that mining boom. Since 1871, Mr Milne has resided at Suva, where he was partner in the firm of Milne and Murchie, timber merchants. Deceased was about 58 years of age, and died in the Suva Hospital.

## A Cosily Pet.

When one of the earlier New Zealand Contingents returned from South Africa they brought with them a Basuto boy, and the boy has been knocking about Canterbury for more than a year. Last week he sued a trooper named Tubman for wages, amounting to £39 13/. Counsel for plaintiff explained that the boy was captured with some Boers at Dalstrom by the New Zealanders. He got to Pretoria, and became friendly with the New Zealanders. Defendant asked him to come to New Zealand, offering to pay him ten shillings a week. The boy agreed to this, and, after getting down to Capetown with the troops, secured a place on the transport, and worked his passage out. He had about £6 in hand when he left the Cape, and this he handed to defendant. On arrival in New Zealand he went to work for defendant, and they got on well together for some eight or nine months. Then, however, defendant, it was alleged, began to ill-treat the boy, who at length ran away. He had been paid no wages, and had not received the £6 3/ which he claimed having handed to defendant. Defendant admitted having in his possession £5 which belonged to plaintiff, but his counsel denied that Tubman engaged the boy at 10/ a week. He had to pay the boy's passage to New Zealand, and had great difficulty in getting him landed. Domestic slavery was permitted in South Africa, and if there was any arrangement made there it was not binding. There was, however, no contract, and the boy was brought over very much as a sort of pet monkey. Tubman taught the boy to ride and break horses, and looked after him well, but the Basuto's simplicity was corrupted by the notice taken of him by neighbours. He was invited out to dances, and several times got home early in the morning the worse for liquor. He became extremely lazy, and was not worth his keep. He made no demand for wages until February of the present year, when Tubman agreed to pay him 10/ a week. Defendant put in a counter claim for £40, value of a stallion, whose death, he said, was caused by the boy. His Worship said the boy was entitled to recover the £5 placed in Tubman's hands, and wages for 4 months at the rate of £2 a month. In the matter of the counter claim defendant was nonsuited. The magistrate added that in all probability the plaintiff "anointed" the young rascal.

## Music and Drama.

Dramatic affairs are still deadly dull all over New Zealand.

Mr Harry Plimmer has been selected to play the same part in "Sherlock Holmes" with Mr Williamson's Dramatic Company.

Mr Dix's variety shows in the various centres are still drawing good houses, and business will probably increase week by week now that there is so little opposition throughout the colony.

Miss Violet Mount, for some time a resident of Auckland and Wellington, and who took part in "Iolanthe" as staged by the Auckland Amateur Opera Club, is apparently getting on well in Sydney. Her first concert there was well attended.

The report that Melba will give two concerts in New Zealand, one in Auckland and the other in Wellington, with the possibility of a third in either Christchurch or Dunedin, probably the former, is partly substantiated by her relatives in this colony. They say she writes that she is coming. Let us all hope so.

Wirth's Circus is doing excellent business in Auckland, where the children go again and again and take their parents. But it is proving a most unfortunate winter for the animals. In addition to the bear and the ape, both very highly trained animals, the brothers have now lost the young lioness which Mons. Raogoul had just begun to train.

Miss Ada Crossley states that her chief reason for abandoning the Australian tour provisionally arranged by her some months ago with Herr Wolff, is that she has found it impossible to cancel, except at the cost of heavy penalties, a number of the English festival engagements for 1903, which she entered into before the tour was projected. She was also influenced by the advice of her London agents, who said it would be very injudicious to withdraw from her engagements, particularly as on the whole they were already more important than any series that she had had in previous years.

Mr Clifford Walker, who greatly delighted the Wellington audiences who saw him, and whose visit to the Northern cities is being eagerly looked forward to, is one of the very best "one man" entertainers who have visited this part of the world. He is always amusing, always bright, very often brilliant, and never for a single instant vulgar. His musical sketches are airy and light, delicate of detail, and full of quaint humour. His sermon on the text of "Pat a cake" is decidedly clever, and miles ahead of that good chestnut of the same sort, "Old Mother Hubbard." It is a good bit of gentle satire, extremely funny, yet free of aught that could offend the most sensitive curate or enthusiastic church goer.

To give some idea of the labour and expense attached to the production of a comic opera it may be stated that for "The Messenger Boy" at the Princess, no less than 70 ladies' costumes were made locally under the supervision of Mrs Pollard and Miss A. Drumm, the millinery being in the hands of Miss Dow. The excellent manner in which the work has been turned out is a credit to all concerned. It is estimated that £300 will not cover Mr Pollard's initial expenses in staging "The Messenger Boy." Mr Leader Williams, the senior artist of the Pollard Opera Company, is responsible for several pretty acts in the new production.

Tamago, in many ways the greatest tenor the world has ever seen, had a rough time before he made his name. "My father kept a modest restaurant in Turin, and his sons, eight in number, helped and looked after things.

My ambition looked far beyond the carrying of litres of wine. I went to the Teatro Regio to see if I could not join the chorus. I thought my voice good enough for a hearing. The impresario, old Corti, engaged me for a season, saying: 'If you study well and behave you will become bravissimo, and who knows but, in time, you may even get to London and have thirty shillings a week.' One of the maestri attached to the theatre, Pedrotti, soon singled me out, and taught me music and singing. An accident, which befel the tenor, who sang Boiss-Rose in the 'Ra-ta-plan' of the 'Huguenots,' gave me my opportunity, and I made quite a hit. I was given the minor tenor parts of our repertory at a salary of 250 francs for the season. The impresario, according to Italian theatrical custom, wanted to deduct 5 per cent. for commission from this meagre pay, but I struck, and compromised with the gift of a hare which I had just received as a present.

A very interesting book of stage reminiscences is just published, namely, "Life on the Stage: My Personal Experiences and Reminiscences," by Clara Morris. From Miss Morris's pages, it would seem, that the stage has been grievously maligned on the score of free and easy morality. There is not in her whole book a reference to any irregularity in relationships; the actors and actresses who march in procession are for the most part model married couples united by the tenderest bonds of affection. There is hardly a hint of conjugal infidelity, and little mention of the temptations besetting girls struggling up the lower rungs of the ladder. One "poor little ballet girl" only we read of who "fell from our ranks, and was drawn into that piteous army of women who, with silk petticoats and painted cheeks, seek joy in the bottom of the wine-cup." Miss Morris says that her former associates used to close their dressing-room door and lower their voices in pity when they spoke of her. The authoress is evidently a woman of delicate feeling, determined, for all her candour in other matters, to paint stageland at its fairest in this respect.

During his visit to England Mr George Musgrove, so Mr T. P. Hudson, his general manager, informed an "Evening News" reporter, has been on the look-out for pieces, in which Miss Nellie Stewart will have an opportunity of displaying her ability. He desired to buy the rights of "Olivina" for Australia, but was unable to do so. It was probably, however, out of this circumstance that the thought of visiting Australia next year shaped itself in Sir Henry Irving's mind. He, of course, with Miss Ellen Terry, shines in this particular play. Anyway, Mr Musgrove made a reference to negotiations with Sir Henry Irving, and although the cables has stated nothing regarding management, Mr Hudson thinks that the Irving-Terry visit will be under Mr Musgrove's direction. Mr Musgrove has already secured two plays for Miss Stewart, viz., "The Country Mouse," and "Mice and Men." The latter is the piece in which Mr Forbes Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott have proved so successful in London. In addition, Mr Musgrove has obtained the complete paraphernalia of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" from the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. An old favourite, Mr Robert Courtneidge, who has been managing director of that theatre for some years, will come to stage the production. Mr Hudson is awaiting further particulars.

Some fifty years ago Roger, a celebrated tenor, gave a supper, at which Berlioz was present, and also the musical critic Fiorentino.

In the early hours of the morning Fiorentino got up "to stretch his legs," as he said, and strayed into the next room, where there was an