

The New Zealand Graphic

And Ladies' Journal.

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Dropping the Pilot.

WITH APOLOGIES TO SIR JOHN 'TENNIEL.

(There are continued rumours of changes in the Ministry.)

People Talked About

Dictator of Venezuela.

During the last few months no man has bulked larger in the eye of the cable reader than the Dictator of Venezuela, as he has been called—President Cypriano Castro. The blockade has now been raised, and we are informed that the President, relieved of the strain of negotiating with the Powers, will now devote his attention to suppressing the rebels, who, during the international complication, have been comparatively quiet. The President has announced his intention of quelling them once for all, so we may expect to hear more of this



PRESIDENT CASTRO.

remarkable man. His is a striking figure in the world of politics. Only now in his fortieth year, he has been a fighter all his life, and a schemer and a revolutionist from his early manhood. Brave to a fault, unscrupulous, a good friend, a ruthless enemy, Castro is the man most feared in the Republic of Venezuela. His friends believe him to possess talents of the very highest order, and aver that in diplomacy he has few peers. In his private life he is everything that could be desired. He has a winning way of treating his inferiors, and by this means he has gathered round him a large band of willing servants, who are only too willing to serve under a leader ever ready to promote them to positions of importance in the State. With his enemies he is thoroughly unscrupulous in his methods. A man who has ever insulted Castro or in any way raised his anger has little to expect from the Dictator but persecution of the severest character. He is a born orator, and speaks with the fiery eloquence of the Latin race.

In Venezuela he is as absolute as the Czar is in Russia. He is, however, no seeker after gold for his own private purposes. He loves power, and hence he must have the means to obtain that power. This he obtains in an extraordinarily arbitrary manner. Some time ago he called to his presence a number of wealthy merchants and bankers, and informed them that they must contribute to the support of his Government. He fixed a certain sum that each man must pay, ranging from £4000 to £12,000. The majority of the merchants immediately paid, but several refused to do so, and they were forthwith placed in prison, and were subjected to every kind of humiliation until they paid the autocrat what he demanded. It is only a short time ago that Castro was a wan-

dering outlaw, whose life would have been sacrificed had the people who were in power been able to get hold of him. He, however, soon changed all this, for he has a genius for organisation, and his conscience does not keep him awake at night asking unnecessary questions. He was clever enough in seeing the drift of the popular opin-

ion, and, taking advantage of it, he sprung upon the people of Venezuela his idea of a great South American nation, of which the Venezuelans would be the dominant race. By this means he soon became master of the situation, turned his enemies out of power, and severely punished everyone who in any way attempted to curtail his ambition.



CROWN PRINCE OF SAXONY.

Saxony Court Scandal.



FUGITIVE CROWN PRINCESS.

The private affairs of the Crown Princess of Saxony and her husband have been made painfully public during the last few weeks, and it is unnecessary to go into the details of the scandal in which they are concerned. The Crown Princess, Louisa Marie Antoinette, is an Austrian Archduchess by birth. Born on September 2, 1870, she is the daughter of the Grand Duke Ferdinand IV. (Salvator), of Tuscany, who belongs to the collateral branch of the Hapsburg family, of which the Emperor Francis Joseph is head by his second

marriage with the Princess Alice of Bourbon and Parma. She was married at Vienna to the Crown Prince Frederick of Saxony on November 21, 1891. There are five children, three boys and two girls, of whom the eldest, Prince George, is in his tenth year, and the youngest, Princess Marie Alice, is but fifteen months old.

Famous March Composer.

Who has not heard of Sousa, or at least listened to one of his spirited marches? Mr Philip Sousa, who is known as the American "March King," has a reputation which has extended far beyond the States, and in a short period we in the colonies are to make the acquaintance of the man whose music has charmed thousands. The famous band, of which the subject of this article is the conductor, was recently in London giving a series of concerts, which attract-

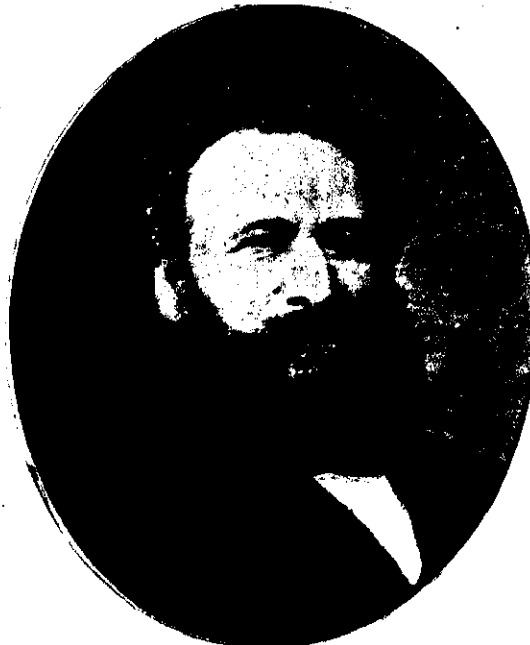


MR PHILIP SOUSA.

ed a great deal of interest among English musicians and the general public. Mr Sousa arrives in the colonies with his band next month, and intends to make a tour of the principal Australian towns. The expense of travelling with such a large combination precludes the possibility of an extended visit to New Zealand, but Sousa's Band will be heard in Auckland for certain, and possibly at Wellington. Among the best known marches by this gifted American are "Stars and Stripes," "King Cotton," and "High School Cadets."

The Late Mr J. P. Joyce.

The demise of Mr. James Parker Joyce in Invercargill recently removes from Southland one of its earliest settlers and one of its most prominent figures. The deceased gentleman came to New Zealand in 1857, and took to the then rough work of colonial life. In 1865 Mr. Joyce, who had been a frequent contributor to numerous colonial newspapers, became editor of the "Southland Times." Later on, on the occasion of a change in the ownership of that paper, he became editor of the "Southland News," a position he held up to the time of his death. Besides his journalistic, Mr. Joyce had also a political career, he having represented the Wallace electorate in Parliament from 1876 to 1879, and Awarua from 1879 to 1884, when he stood aside in favour of Mr. (now Sir Joseph) Ward. As a journalist, Mr. Joyce always preferred to abstain from seeking positions on local bodies, feeling that such positions were false ones for a journalistic career. The deceased gentleman leaves behind him a wife, three sons and three daughters.



THE LATE MR J. P. JOYCE.

The Colonial Tourist in Europe.

A VISIT TO FONTAINEBLEAU.

In the introduction to our first article on the Tyrol, and in recommending it to colonial tourists not tied for time, it was mentioned that New Zealand and Australian visitors to Paris, Rome, etc., etc., usually confined their attention to the stock sights. Fontainebleau is really one of these, but for some reason or other very few people from this side appear to have set it in their list of things which must not be missed. Yet the happy colonial fortunate enough to get to Paris and who neglects Fontainebleau misses one of the most delightful

of excursions and one of the most interesting of sights to be found in Europe.

Fontainebleau, an historic name of such great interest, ought, indeed, only to be mentioned to give all those who have not done so a desire to visit it, and to those who have a great wish to again enjoy all the charms it has had to offer—charms to suit all tastes; the Chateau, dating from the days of Louis VII., with all its manifold traditions appealing to the lover of history, and with all its beauty of style and decoration to the worshipper of art, and the forest in its grandeur and extent winning the hearts and claiming for its votaries all true lovers of nature.

Let me now refer to the legend of

the origin of Fontainebleau, which perhaps may be unknown to some of my readers. It is as follows: King Louis VII. out hunting one day in what was then the wildest of forests became very thirsty and asked a countryman if he could direct him to some stream where he could allay his thirst. "Truly, sire," the man replied, "there is not far from here 'La Fontaine Belle Eau'; and thither he led the King, who after he had quenched his thirst lay down by the side of the fountain, which murmured sweet things to him while it gently dropped its crystal pearls at his feet. The King, thus soothed to sleep, in his dreams saw a fairy palace rise on this spot, and on awaking called his courtiers to him and said to

them, "Truly, this Fontaine Belle Eau is a lovely spot for the hunt to meet, and it is my royal wish that a palace shall be erected here and immediately commenced." The King's word was law, and thus in the centre of the Forest of Biere, as it was then called, began to arise the stately Palace of Fontainebleau, and which during each generation for eight hundred years increased in size and magnificence. Then by degrees the pretty town sprang up, settling itself down amid the gorges and rocks of Mount Upy, where tall pines protect it from the north winds. Then, little by little, as the town and palace grew the forest emerged out of its primitive and savage state, and all its natural beauties were developed and became



A VISIT TO FONTAINEBLEAU.

known to the world, and each sovereign added new drives through its mazes of wood, comprising within itself more than 500,000 acres.

It is not possible to depict all the beauty of the forest, so varied is it—gorges, rocks, in some parts forming a weird contrast to its tranquil loveliness in others, where every tree is represented, tall dark pines and firs, stately oaks, and birches and beeches. In its midst is an oak 1400 years old, and another smaller one called the "Enchanted Oak," its branches having encircled these other trees within their clasp. The paths, rides and drives traversing the forest in all directions are endless; wild boars and deer are its denizens; bird life there is none, and this is accounted for by the absence of water. This is indeed the one deficiency of this enchanted forest, whose praises

and in peaceful calm and solitude to go there in May, before the rush of tourists begins, as, from its proximity to Paris, once summer sets in, the motor cars and bicycles of this prosaic age rob it of half its charm, and also, to my mind, the spring loveliness of a forest, dressing, as spring does, the trees in tenderest and softest shades of green, which is far more poetic and beautiful than the heavy mantle of dark and sober tints summer bids them don.

And now, having given a little insight into the beauty of the forest, we must turn towards the Palace, and many an hour may be passed within its walls, revelling amid its many treasures and its splendid apartments, which have been so carefully preserved from the devastating hand of time. Its oldest portion was built by Louis VII., whom we referred to at the beginning of this article.

Sunday at 9 a.m., part of the facade of the Court of the "Cheval Blanc," and a portion of the Oval Court. All this was done to prepare a palace of regal magnificence wherein to receive Charles Quint.

Under Diane de Poitiers' influence Henri II. finished the various works begun by his father, and the Gallery of Diane was constructed by him. This was converted by Napoleon III. into a library containing books of immense value. It was at Fontainebleau, tradition says, that King Henri II. received the fatal lance thrust of Montmorency.

Francis III. and Henri III. were both born here. Henri IV. made enormous additions to the Palace, and planted the gardens and planned the Grand Canal. Louis XIII. followed, and the rooms were hung by him with the incomparable tapestries, still as fresh and bril-

A Plan to Save the Sphinx.

A plan for saving the Sphinx from further injury by the elements has been suggested by Edward M. Caffall, an expert on stone preservation, whose father, Robert May Caffall, applied water-proofing material to the obelisk in Central Park nearly twenty years ago. At a cost of about £1600 he thus saved the great figure in the Egyptian sand, and he proposed for an indefinite time from the wear and tear of the sandstorms and the rains.

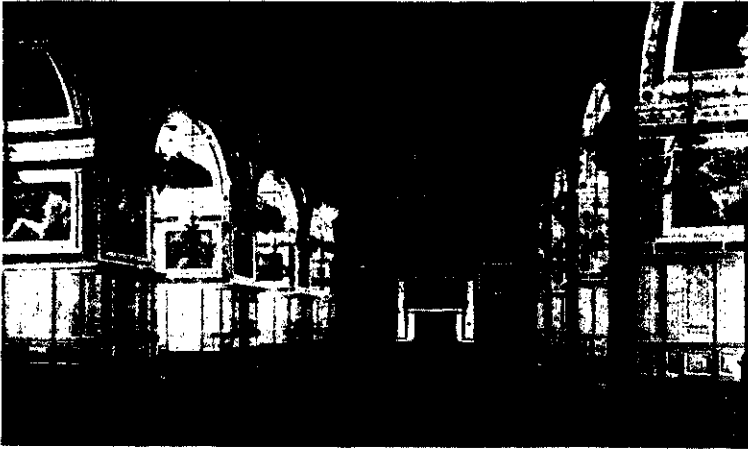
That the Sphinx is crumbling more rapidly than it did in previous centuries seems to be admitted. For instance, D. G. Longworth, writing in a paper called the "Cairo Sphinx," recently pointed out the reason for this more rapid decay. The irrigation of Egypt has decidedly changed the climate in the last few decades. Instead of being constantly dry, the Sphinx now becomes rain soaked for from fifteen to eighteen days of each year. The wind from the desert, "khamasseen," carrying the sand before it, beats upon the soft limestone of the Sphinx while it is wet, and eats it away exactly as does the sand blast used in manufactures.

When the sand blast is used for etching on glass, the parts which are not to be affected are covered with paraffin. Mr Caffall believes, therefore, that if the surface of the Sphinx were treated with paraffin it would much better withstand the sandstorms and the rains. Experimentally he has found that under a "rubbing bed" the stone so treated wears away only one-quarter as fast as the natural stone.

The experience in treating the obelisk in Central Park has shown just the methods that would be necessary on the Sphinx. Experiments which were made then at the city's expense showed that stone can be heated to the melting point of the wax, as far below the surface as twenty inches. The wax being applied with a brush, the hot stone absorbs it, filling up the pores completely and excluding moisture.

The obelisk, when treated in 1845, had so disintegrated from the frosts that 780 pounds of flakes and chips were removed when it was being water-proofed. In some cases flakes of eight inches diameter and four inches thick had become detached. In order to fill up whatever cracks might exist beneath the surface a triangular tank was used and the melted paraffin forced against the face of the stone by hydraulic pressure, thus entering all the interstices and sealing the partly detached fragments in their places. This same method would probably have to be used on the Sphinx. Altogether the operation would take about two months.

Mr Caffall is in hopes that some archaeological society or public spirited man will look into the practicability of his plan. If the great monument is really in danger of destruction, and his process will save it, he thinks that an experiment should at least be made. He is doubtful if the Khedive's Government could be prevailed on to take an interest in the project.



HENRI II. GALLERY.

have been so sung by its lovers and poets, among whom may be cited Chateaubriand, George Sand, Musset, Heranger, Gautier and Victor Hugo, and whose beauties have been depicted on canvas by Daubigny, Rousseau, Millet, and many other artists of renown. I will just mention a few of the lovely spots I advise all visitors to drive to, and these are, "The Enchanted Oak," "The Brigands' Cavern," "The Rochers d'Hercule," and "De La Salamandre," and the rocks and gorge of Le Franchard, which resemble in some degree Stonehenge and Carnac. Barbignie and Toutmerit are lovely points to drive to; the latter place is a smiling village on the Seine, and owes its origin to another king, and its legend is as follows: that Henri IV. riding through the forest one day came to this lovely spot in the river and laughingly said, "Tout me sourit," which in the course of time, has been converted into "Toutmesis." All its other beauties each must find for themselves. Poets, botanists, naturalists, lovers, all find something to their taste, and I would advise those who wish to enjoy the forest in all its beauty

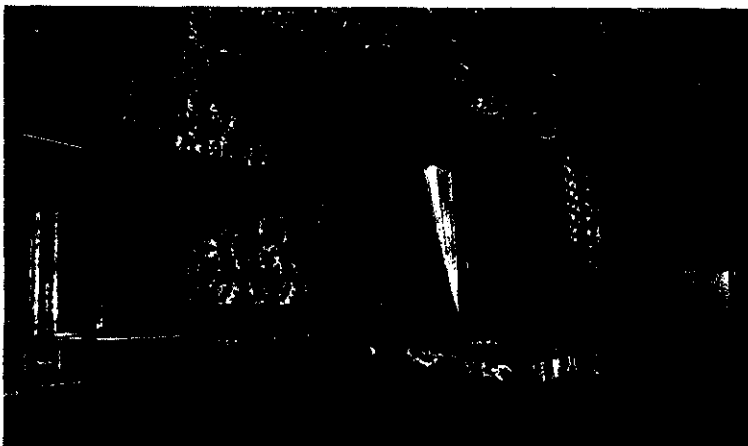
and St. Louis, his successor, who "much loved his dear desert of Fontainebleau." Its most modern portion was completed by Louis XV., and therefore it is not surprising that, built as it was and added to by each successive Sovereign, between their reigns many styles of architecture and of decoration are discernible.

The Palace stands in the town, surrounded by 1500 acres of garden, and on one side from thence it has an outlet to the forest, views of which spread themselves out from all the windows. It is of colossal dimensions, containing four hundred rooms, innumerable staircases and courtyards. When the Emperor Napoleon III. lived there in all his state 1200 persons were lodged within its walls. The greatest additions were made by Francois I., that monarch of many palaces, and the most beautiful decorations of ceilings and painting date from him. Money to him was seemingly of no object. Architects and artists vied with each other in building and painting. To Francois the Palace owes the Gallery of Henri II., the Royal Chapel, in which Mass is still said every

liant in their colouring as when first put up by him.

In all the apartments there are beautiful hangings of brocade, curtains, and sofas, and chairs are covered with the same, and in the bedrooms which have been occupied by Louis XIV., Madame de Maintenon (and it was in this room that the Edict of Nantes was signed in 1685), Anne d'Autriche and that of the ill-fated Marie Antoinette. The bed furniture and hangings, and the damask with which the walls are hung, surpass the others in beauty, and were the gift of the town of Lyons to the then beloved Queen. This room has not brought any of its denizens happiness, certainly not to poor Marie Antoinette, Nor to the Empress Josephine, Marie Louise, and the Empress Eugene, who all in turn lived in it.

Napoleon I.'s rooms are full of interest. The bed he slept in remains still in its place, and in his sitting-room stands the bureau which contained all his plans of campaign, and which formed part of his baggage wherever he went. The table also is here on which in later days he signed his abdication.



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"If I Were King."



MR. CUYLER HASTINGS AS FRANCOIS VILLON.
MISS MAY CHEVALIER AS KATHERINE DE VAUCELLES.



All French folk, whereso'er ye be,
Who love your country, soil and asud,
From Paris to the Breton Sea,
And back again to Normas strand,
Forsooth, ye seem a silly band,
Sheep without shepherd, left to chance—
Far otherwise our Fatherland!
If Villou were King of France!

Act I.



MR J. H. ATHOLWOOD AS LOUIS XI. MR H. STEWART AS TRISTAN L'HERMITE.



The Stars should be your pearls upon a string,
The World a ruby for your finger ring;
And you should have the Sun and Moon
to wear,
If I were King.

Villon, Act III.



MR. CUYLER HASTINGS AS FRANCOIS VILLON.
MISS MAY CHEVALIER AS KATHERINE DE VAUCELLES.



Alas for lovers! pair by pair
The wind has blown them all away,
The young and yare, the fond and fair:
Where are the snows of yesterday?

Act II.

Deep in the woods I heard a Shepherd
sing—
A simple ballad to a Sylvan air—
Of love that a'ways found your face more
fair
I could not wish thee any goodlier thing,
If I were King!

Act IV.



MR. CUYLER HASTINGS AS FRANCOIS VILLON.
MISS MAY CHEVALIER AS KATHERINE DE VAUCELLES.

New Zealand New Zealand



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T. E. DONNE.



MUD VOLCANO ON THE ROAD TO WAIOTAPU.



THE YELLOW TERRACE, WAIOTAPU.



A LITTLE SURPRISE

By WELLESLEY PAIN.

"I want to tell you something, dear. I've a little surprise for you, something you won't like—and—er—and—"

"May I guess?"
"No; I'll tell you. I'm—er—poor—frightfully poor."

Phyllis laughed, and said that that was not a surprise at all. She was used to being poor—and she was quite happy. "Yes, dear, but—but I'm more than usually poor; the fact is, I'm in a tight place."

For answer, she got out of her low easy-chair and crept softly on to his knee.

"Poor old boy!" she whispered, looking into his eyes. "I'm awfully sorry. Why can't we live without all these wretched money worries?"

He ran his fingers through her hair, and smiled.

"We will—one day, dear. But for the present, well—I told you I had a nasty little surprise for you. Are you ready?"

"Yes. Income tax?"
He shook his head.

"Gas?"
"No."

"Rates? It must be the rates."
"Er—no—and—er—yes. It's like this, dear. I've made some slip in my calculations. I knew I was awfully hard up, but I didn't know that things were so bad as they are. The fact is, dear, when everything is paid—and everything must be paid this week, or there'll be a row—I sha'n't have enough money for Christmas. No presents, no—"

"But I'm going to give you something—I must."

"Well, something very tiny, then, dear, and I'm going to give you something that really isn't worth calling anything, it's so small; but we can't have a lot of presents—as we did last year."

At Christmas, 1900, they had many presents. Margery, the baby, was six months old then. She gave presents to both her parents; they showered presents on her, and presents came for the three of them from Dicky, the canary, and Lassie, the black-and-tan terrier, and her family.

"I liked having all those presents last Christmas," said Phyllis, presently.

"Sorry I've made such a horrid mess of things, dear."

"Never mind—I don't mind—really. We can have a jolly Christmas all the same."

He drew her to him and kissed her. Suddenly she sprang away from him, danced across the room, and clapped her hands.

"I've an idea," she exclaimed, "a beautiful idea! We'll pretend we're having a Christmas just like last Christmas. All presents and surprises for all of us. You go to old Wheeler's, the jeweller, and get a lot of empty boxes, and we'll do them up and address them to each other, and pretend they're lovely presents inside."

"In one of the boxes that you'll get will be my present. You're sure you won't tear all the boxes undone quickly to get at that one thing? You're still a girl, Phil. Fancy a staid married woman with a daughter wanting to play at having presents!"

"Can't help it—can't be old—and I like pretending—when you haven't the real thing."

"Well, you shall play; but you mustn't have your presents till the day before Christmas Day—that's the proper time."

On December 24th Phyllis came down to breakfast at the proper time. She told her husband that she was not sure if they would come, but she rather expected some Christmas presents from someone that morning. He told her gravely that possibly the messenger might have lost himself in the snow. Then he went downstairs to get the little boxes—all done up in brown paper and sealed—out of the top drawer of the writing-table.

When Phyllis came down she appeared to be greatly surprised at the heap of presents on her plate.

"You open your parcels and I'll read my letter, dear," he said. It was a real letter, referring to a matter of business. He glanced through it and saw that he would have to leave at once to catch the next train to town. Phyllis was very disappointed when he told her about it.

"I must find your present before you go," she said, untearing another paper.

He went upstairs for boots, and while he was bending down, tying a lace, Phyllis rushed into the room.

"Darling, thank you ever so much—it's

a beauty! You're too kind to me, dear. Look up, I want to kiss you for it."

As he raised his head she put her arms round his neck and kissed him. At the same moment he caught sight of a plain gold bangle in her hands. A second afterwards he felt glad that Phyllis could not see his face—her head was on his shoulder. The bangle he had bought for her was merely a light silver trinket—of no value. The bangle she was holding was obviously expensive. Wheeler, the jeweller, had evidently made a mistake, and had sent him a present chosen by someone else. For a moment he thought that he would tell Phyllis of the mistake, but she was talking of the bangle and admiring it, and in that moment he resolved that she should not know of the mistake. The bangle should be hers.

"Glad you like it, dear—I hoped you would."

"But I think you're rather a wicked man, you know—to spend all your money like this."

He told her gravely that he very much regretted to hear that she objected to him. Then they kissed each other, and he ran out of the house to catch his train.

The business he had to attend to was soon transacted, and then he had time to think of the bangle. The first thing

to be done was to go to Wheeler, the jeweller, and explain matters.

Mr. Wheeler was in an affable mood. He readily consented to the suggestion that the bangle should be retained, and that the purchaser should have two months' credit.

"Whenever you please, Mr. Beaumont," said Wheeler: "two months, or three, as you like."

"Two will be quite long enough, thanks." He was wondering how he was going to scrape together three pounds ten shillings over and above his regular expenses during the two months. He was thinking of this matter when he left the shop; otherwise he would have remembered to ask another question. He thought of it when he had gone about a mile from the shop, so he returned once more.

"I suppose, Mr. Wheeler, there is no prospect of your having sent the bracelet I chose to the people who ought to have the gold bangle?"

"That's precisely what I must have done," said Wheeler. "I've done up a bangle exactly like that Mrs. Beaumont now has, and I shall be sending it up to the lady who has yours. I've no doubt she will return the bangle she now has—the one you really bought. I suppose you don't want it?"



"Phyllis coming up the drive."



"I am a silly idiot."

"No—but it can go towards the cost of the gold one. No—I'll keep it. It's just—a matter of sentiment, but I should like to have that particular bracelet, the one I chose."

"Well, sir, I can get it back for you at once; but, if you care to do so, you are quite at liberty, as far as I am concerned, to go to the lady to whom the gold bangle should have been sent, and take her one just like it, and get your bracelet back from her. I should really be very much obliged to you if you would do this for me; we're so busy selling Christmas presents that I haven't a man to send out just now."

Beaumont eagerly accepted charge of the bracelet—exactly like the one Phyllis had shown him—and went out. He had gone but a few yards from the shop when he remembered that he had written a card to be enclosed with the bracelet he had intended to send Phyllis. He went back to Mr. Wheeler.

"That card I wrote—I suppose that was sent to the wrong people, too?"

"Afraid it must have gone with the bracelet," said Mr. Wheeler. "Yes, if you go there you will no doubt get the card back again."

He had nearly reached the house, and was congratulating himself on having settled the matter so easily, when he stopped abruptly on the pavement. (The man walking behind him nearly ran into him, and swore softly to himself.)

"I am a silly idiot!" he muttered. "If this lady has the bracelet I intended for Phyllis and the card I wrote, then Phyllis, having had the bracelet intended for this lady, has also had the card that was probably enclosed with the bracelet. Phyllis will find that card; she will see then that the gold bangle was never intended for her, and she can't help being cruelly disappointed. I am a fool!"

He walked quickly to the house and explained his mission. He was asked to wait in the hall, and when, as it seemed to him, he had been there for half an hour, a fussy, stout little lady came to him, apologised for keeping him waiting, and said:

"You've come about the bracelet, haven't you? It was very good of Mr. Wheeler to send so quickly. I was rather amused when I opened the parcel. I—er—I thought at first it was a little joke of his. I knew he couldn't possibly have intended to send me this twopenny-ha'penny thing. Then I saw the card inside the box, and that, of course, explained matters."

"Pardon me," said Beaumont. He was not quite sure whether to feel humiliated or amused at the description of his present. "I come from Mr. Wheeler, but I am not employed by him. I intended to send that bracelet to my wife. You see, the fact of the matter is," he added lightly, "I'm not able to afford anything better, and I have an old-fashioned prejudice against buying what I can't pay for."

The lady was silent for a moment.

"I beg your pardon," she said. "My servant did not understand your message. I thought I was talking to one of Mr. Wheeler's assistants. You—er—you won't think anything of what I said, will you? Of course, the bracelet—er—your bracelet is quite good—er—quite good of its kind, but it isn't—er—exactly what I knew my husband was going to give me. He had told me that he was

going to give me a gold bangle. That was how I knew there had been a mistake."

Beaumont explained that the gold bangle he had brought from Mr. Wheeler was exactly like the one that should have been sent to that house. He told the fussy little lady how her bangle had been sent to his wife and of his determination that she should keep it rather than that she should be disappointed.

"It is very good of you," murmured the fussy little lady. "I will write to my husband—he won't be back till after Christmas—and tell him how his present went astray, and how I found that there was at least one other good husband in the world besides him."

Beaumont would have been embarrassed at that if he had heard what the little lady was saying, but he had caught sight of Phyllis coming up the carriage drive, and his only thought was of her.

"There's my wife," he said, quickly. "She has evidently found your husband's card inside the box, and that has brought her here. Will you tell her that the mistake arose because the bangles were exactly alike? Show her the one I have just brought. Give me the other. And you'll let my wife have the card I meant her to have, won't you? Then she will never know that this—er—twopenny-ha'penny thing"—he laughed—"was meant for her. Now, if you will allow me to get out by the back way somewhere I shall be able to get home again, and my wife will never know I have been here, and all will be well."

A servant opened the door.

"A lady wishes to see you, ma'am. It's

about a bangle. I've shown her in the library."

"Very well."

She turned to Beaumont again.

"You will be quite safe in going out at the front door; the library is at the back of the house. Good-bye, and I hope we may meet again."

But when Beaumont had gone, radiant at the idea that his plan had succeeded after all, the little lady did not go at once to Phyllis. She went to the window and watched Beaumont till he was out of sight, and then she sat down and thought of her own husband. She wondered how he would have behaved under similar circumstances. She almost persuaded herself that he would have done exactly what Beaumont had done. She did not quite succeed in doing this, because she knew that her husband's presents were not really presents. She knew that he went to a shop—which he could not help passing on his way to the station—and there dropped a few sovereigns which he never missed. She knew that he had had to make a memorandum lest he should forget to give her a present; she knew that he never remembered from one Christmas to another what he had given her.

She put the gold bangle away in a drawer, intending to try and forget all about it, but, remembering that she would have to show it to Phyllis, she took it to the library. She did not quite know whether to laugh or to cry when she saw Phyllis. Phyllis was downcast.

The fussy little lady explained everything, and noticed that Phyllis' eyes became suddenly very bright when she read

her husband's message: "Dearest, all my love. Happy Christmas."

In the evening Phyllis explained the mistake to her husband. He listened for some time and tried to look as though he did not know what was coming. At last he said:

"Phil, I told you this morning I had a surprise for you. Now I've another. I—I've been deceiving you."

He told her the history of the day's doings, how he had changed the bracelet, how he had been at the house when she had called.

"And, after all my trouble at trying to deceive you, you see I've broken down. It's no use; I can't keep a secret from you, Phil. I thought after I had been to the house and arranged everything that it didn't seem quite fair to you. It seemed as though you were getting a present which I never intended for you, whereas you know now that I meant you to have it, don't you?"

"I love them both"—he had given her the silver bangle—"I don't know which I love the best."

"I wouldn't worry about it if I were you."

There was a pause.

"Phil, don't you think that I'm somewhat of an idiot—at taking all that trouble to keep a secret from you, and to tell you everything afterwards?"

"I think," she murmured, as she nestled into his arms and kissed him, "I think that you are the best and dearest husband in the world!"

"That's precisely what I wanted you to say—and to do," he whispered.

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The Chase of the Ruby.

By RICHARD MARSH.

Author of "The Beetle: A Mystery," "In Full Cry," "Frivolities," Etc.

SYNOPSIS OF INSTALLMENTS I. to IV.—On returning home from South Africa, where he had had a vision of his uncle beaten by a stranger on a flight of steps, Guy Holland finds a letter awaiting him from his uncle's solicitor requesting an interview. The uncle has died and left a singular will behind, making Guy his heir on condition that he regains a ruby ring which his relative had parted with to Miss May Bewicke, an actress. Following this the estate goes to his other nephew, Horace Burton. In Regent's Park, Guy meets his sweetheart, Miss Letty Broad, who flies into a passion of jealousy against Miss Bewicke, to whom Guy had formerly been engaged, and conspires with her to demand the ring. He goes to Miss Bewicke's flat for this purpose. Over supper, Guy makes his request and is met with a refusal. Coming away he encounters first his cousin Horace Burton, and then Miss Bewicke's maid, Casata, who has a deep personal spite against his cousin. She is eager to avenge herself by aiding Guy. The plan unfolded by Casata to enable Guy to possess himself of the ring, is nothing short of burglary. He recoils from the idea, but Miss Broad again commands and he therefore pays a midnight visit to the actress' rooms.

CHAPTER VII.—Continued.

"I wonder if that's a hint to me, or if it's the porter. I'm off to inquire. If it's the porter I'll have to explain." He chuckled to himself at the reflection of the sort of explanation he would have to offer. He continued to ascend. "I hope it's all right, but it seems a good way up. I did not think she occupied such an elevated position as this." He reached the floor on which was the light, perceiving now that it proceeded from a door on the right, which was open but the merest fraction of an inch. "Is this where she resides, I wonder? At least I'll make enquiries. I'll knock, as an honest man should do, and see who answers."

He tapped at the panel softly with his knuckles, so softly that one might have been excused for supposing that he had no desire that his tapping should be heard. There was no response. He tapped again; still none. He pushed the door wide open, finding himself in what appeared in the dim light to be a little hall. Another open door was on his right. It was on the other side of this that the light was burning. He remembered that Miss Casata had said about Miss Bewicke's bedroom—that it was the second door on his right as he entered. Apparently she had been as good as her word, better, indeed, for she had placed a light to guide him. He advanced to find himself in what was evidently a lady's bedroom.

A night light flickered on a table in the centre; it was that which had lighted his darkness. He glanced around. Everywhere were traces of feminine occupation; knick-knacks which no man would willingly suffer in the chamber in which he slept; numerous examples of the inevitable photograph. Against the wall hung a crayon portrait. He recognised the original—the owner of the room. The picture face seemed to return him look for look, reproaches in its glances. He removed his eyes, abashed.

On one side was the dressing table of which Miss Casata had spoken. A gorgeous piece of furniture, of some delicate light wood, with gilt and ivory insets. Columns of drawers were on either side; a full length cheval glass swung between them. As he stood in front of it he was startled by the reflection of his own image; he felt that there was something sinister in the bearing of the man who spied on him. The little drawers were those of which he had been told. They contained many of Miss Bewicke's jewels. What he sought was in the bottom drawer upon his right. Somehow, since he had entered the house, everything seemed on his right. He stooped to open it. The door was locked.

The discovery staggered him more than anything which had gone before—

that the drawer was locked. At last he was confronted with the real nature of the errand he had come upon. Hitherto he had been able to salve his conscience with the fact that he had simply passed through open doors. Now, if he wished to effect an entrance he would have to force one, like any other thief. He gave another try at the handle. The drawer refused to budge. It certainly was locked. His eye was caught by something which was lying upon the floor within a foot of him. It was a screw-driver. The juxtaposition was suggestive; the screwdriver and the locked drawer. Miss Casata was no half-hearted ally; she was thorough. She was aware that as an amateur he might forget to bring the proper tools, so with praiseworthy thoughtfulness she supplied in advance his possible omissions.

He was not as grateful as he might have been. He used strong language. "Curse that woman! It is such as she who drive men along the road to hell." None the less he took the screwdriver in his hand. He felt its edge. It seemed sharp.

"I suppose since I've gone so far I may as well see the thing right through. It's no good shying at a gnat after tackling a whale. Here goes."

Thrusting the chisel between the woodwork and the drawer he proceeded to prize it open. The lock was but a slight one. It quickly yielded. The drawer shot out. He peered within. It contained a small white box, apparently of deal. He took it out. Inside was a ruby signet ring. He rose with the ring between his fingers.

As he stood up someone came into the room. Turning he found himself staring at Miss Bewicke.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE LADY—AND THE GENTLEMAN.

Apparently each of the pair was equally surprised. Each stared at the other as if tongue-tied; Mr Holland motionless, holding the ring a little in front of him, as if suffering from at least temporary paralysis; Miss Bewicke, equally rigid, with her fingers up to her throat, just as she had raised them intending to remove the box which was about her neck. It was she who first regained the faculty of speech.

"Guy!" The word came with a little gasp, as if she uttered it unwittingly. He was still staring at her as if he were powerless to remove his eyes from off her face. "What are you doing?"

Still silence from the man. His incapacity seemed to inspire her with confidence. She removed her box, smiling as she did so. She sauntered here and there, eyeing things. She walked right round him, peering at him as she went. He might have been some mechanical figure, he endured so stolidly her ostentatious curiosity. Only he followed her with his glance as she passed round.

She did not speak when she had finished her inspection; with apparent indifference to his presence she took off her hat and coat. Unable, perhaps, to endure the situation any longer, he struggled to obtain possession of his voice. It sounded harsh and husky.

"I thought you had gone to Brighton!"

"So you keep an observation on my movements. I see!" The words were accompanied by a smile, which made him clench his fists so tightly that he drove the nails into the palms. She was folding up a veil, with a dainty show of peculiar care. "I ought to be at Brighton; but I'm not. I meant to go; but I didn't. It was so late that I put off my journey till to-morrow; so I went to see some people instead. It was painfully slow; this promises to be better." Her airy manner, which seemed to

him to be so pregnant with contempt, tried him more than reproaches might have done, or rage. He was so conscious of his position that indifference stung more than lashes. A policeman he could have faced, but not this smiling girl. All his self-respect had gone clean out of him; he felt she knew, and floundered in his efforts to regain some part of it.

"Miss Bewicke, you know why I am here."

"To see me, I suppose. So good of you, Guy. Especially as I take it that you intended to wait for me till I returned from Brighton."

"I came to take my own."

"Your own?"

"This."

He held out the ring between his finger and thumb. She came nearer, so that she might see what it was he held, smiling all the time.

"That—that's mine!"

"It was bequeathed me by my uncle."

"Your uncle? Impossible; it wasn't his to bequeath."

"You know the conditions which were attached to its possession. Since you declined to give it me—"

"I did not decline."

"I don't know what other construction you put upon your conduct of last night. I gathered that you declined. Therefore, since its immediate possession was of capital importance, I came and took it."

"How nice of you. And you waited till you thought I was at Brighton to show your mettle? How discreet! Guy, weren't you once to have been my husband?"

Nothing was further from his desire than to become involved in a tangle of reminiscences, so he became a little brutal.

"I have the ruby; that is the main point."

"Are you proud of having robbed me—the girl who was to have been your wife?"

"You would have robbed me."

"Even supposing that to be true, does that entitle you to throw aside all those canons of honour to which you have always given me to understand you were such a stickler, and become—a thief? Oh, Guy!"

"I do not propose to bandy words with you. I know of old your capacity to make black seem white—you were ever an actress, May. How the ruby originally came into your possession I cannot say."

"It's not a pretty story. Guy; scarcely to your uncle's credit."

"But you were perfectly well aware that morally it was mine. It was nothing to you; it was all the world to me. I believe that you refused to let me have it precisely because you knew that your refusal might entail my ruin; and so your cup of revenge might be filled to the full. Under those circumstances I hold that I was justified in using any and every means to save myself from being utterly undone by the whim of a revengeful woman."

"I meant to let you have it."

"That was not the impression you left upon my mind last night."

"You took me unawares—I had to think things over."

"Then if it was your intention that I should have it you cannot but be pleased to find that my action has kept abreast of your intention."

Miss Bewicke was silent. She was drawing imaginary pictures with her finger-tip on the table by which she was standing, looking down as she did so. His desire was to get away; it was not an interview which he wished to have prolonged. But his departure was postponed.

"Why do you say I am revengeful?"

"You know better than I."

"Do you think I wish to be revenged on you because once you pretended to love me, and now you keep up that pretence no longer?"

"It was no pretence."

"I am glad to hear that, because, Guy, I love you still."

She looked up at him in such a way that she seemed to compel him to meet her eyes. He shivered.

"I wish you wouldn't say such things."

"Why? Because they're true? I like to tell the truth. I have always loved you, and I always shall, though I shall never be your wife."

"I thought you said you were engaged to Dumville."

"So I am. And I daresay that perhaps one day I shall marry him. I don't know quite why. But it certainly isn't because I love him. I have never pretended to. Ask him: he's frankness itself; he'll confess. Although, as you have only told me, I am a woman with ill-regulated passions and irresponsible tendencies, I'm a woman with only one love in her life, and you are he. Good-night, and good-bye."

Now that she had formally dismissed him he felt that it was difficult to go. He fidgeted instead.

"I know you think that I have behaved meanly."

"Not at all. I suppose you have acted according to your lights."

"I'm not so sure of that. But, the truth is, I was desperate."

"Indeed? Is that so? Like the man with the twelve starving children, who steals the bottle of whisky. I know. If I were you I wouldn't trouble to explain. This sort of situation is not improved by explanation. I think you had better pocket your booty and go."

"As for the ruby"—he was holding it out on the palm of his open hand—"I will give you another for it a dozen times as good as this."

For the first time she fired up.

"You dare to do anything of the kind—you dare! Do you think I am to be bought and sold?"

"I simply don't wish you to suffer from my action."

"Do you think that your giving me one

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piece of stone in exchange for another piece of stone will prevent my suffering! Guy, please go."

He placed the ring before her on the table.

"There is the ruby."

"Take it."

"Do you mean that?"

"I do. If it is of the slightest use to you, by all means take it."

"You give it to me—freely?"

"Oh, yes, so freely! Only—I wish you'd go."

Thrusting the ruby into his waistcoat pocket, he went, without another word. Without it seemed darker even than before. He stumbled, blindly, down the stairs. Presently, the darkness lightened; a gleam descended from above. Glancing up, he perceived that Miss Bewick was leaning over the railing with a lighted candle in her hand. He said nothing; attempted no word of thanks. So far as he knew she, too, was still; but as he descended, assisted by the light she held, he felt as he was convinced the whipped cur must feel, which sneaks off with his tail between its legs. The candle was still showing a faint glimmer of light as he passed into the street. He applied a dozen injurious epithets to himself as he thought that he had not even acknowledged the courtesy he had received. But for the life of him he could not at that moment have uttered a word of thanks.

Now that he was out in the street he raged. In his first mad impulse he would have taken what Miss Bewick had called his "booty" from his pocket, and hurled it from him through the night. Prudence, however, prevailed. He told himself, again and again, that he was an ineffable thing to allow it to remain a second longer in his possession. It stayed there all the same. He was conscious that nothing could be less romantic than the whole adventure; nothing more undignified than the part which he had played in it. He had been throughout a mere figurehead—a counter manipulated by three women—he who thought that if he had anything on which to pride himself it was his manhood. His rage waxed hotter as he strode along; he was angry even with Miss Broad.

"If it hadn't been for her—" he began. Then stopped, stood still, struck with his fist at the air—his stick, it seemed, he had left behind him. "What a cur I am! I try to put the blame, like some snivelling sneak of a schoolboy, upon everyone except myself, as though the fault was not mine, and mine alone. Am I some weak idiot that I am not responsible for my own actions? that I do a dirty thing, and then exclaim that someone made me? Well, it's done, and can't be undone, and I stand, self-confessed, a hound; but, as I live, I'll return at once, and make her take the ruby back again. Then off once more for Africa. Better to be haunted by my uncle's ghost than by my own conscience."

He turned, prepared to put his newborn resolution immediately into effect, and found himself confronted by an individual by whom his steps had been dogged ever since he left Miss Bewick's. Had he had his wits about him he could hardly have helped noticing the fact, the proceedings of the person who took such a warm interest in his movements had been so singular. To begin with, he had been on the other side of the road. When Mr Holland first appeared he had slunk back into a doorway, from which he presently issued in pursuit, keeping as much as possible in the shadow. When, however, he perceived himself unnoticed he became bolder. Until, at last, making a sudden dash across the street, he began to follow within a few feet of the unconscious pedestrian. He carried something, which every now and then he gripped with both hands, as if about to strike.

The mathematical moment came, when Mr Holland turned. Without giving him a chance to speak the man swung the something which he carried through the air, bringing it down heavily, with a thud, upon his head. Mr Holland dropped on to the pavement. And there he lay. The assailant remained, for a second or two, looking down on his recumbent victim. He retained his grip upon his weapon, as if anticipating the possibility of having to strike with it another blow. But, no, the first had done its work. Mr Holland lay quite still, in an ugly heap, as men only lie who have been stricken hard. His assailant touched him with his foot, as if to make quite sure. Mr Holland did not resent the intrusion of the other's boot; he evinced no interest in it at all. The man was satisfied.

"That done him."

It had for sure. The fellow glanced up and down the street. No one was in sight. That was a state of things which could hardly be expected to continue. Time was precious; at any moment a policeman might appear. Under certain circumstances a policeman is inquisitive. The man, dropping on one knee, began to handle Mr Holland as if he had been so much dead meat; indeed, a butcher might have been expected to finger the carcass of what he had just now killed with greater ceremony.

"I wonder where he put it."

He appeared to be searching for something, which, at first, he could not find. He went quickly through the stricken man's pockets, emptying each in turn of its contents. He made no bones about putting back what he took out, but threw everything into an inner pocket in his own jacket. Watch, money, cigar-case, keys, various odds and ends, all went into the same receptacle. Still, he did not appear to light on what he sought.

"Suppose he never got it! That would be a pretty little game. My crier!"

He went through the pockets a second time more methodically; coat, waistcoat, trousers, nothing was omitted. The result was disappointing; they were all empty.

"Has he got it in a secret pocket?" Tearing open the waistcoat, he ran his fingers up and down the lining. "I can't undress the bloke out here." He went carefully over the lining, fingered the trousers. "I don't believe he's got it. If he hasn't, then I'm done. It wasn't worth bashing him for this little lot." The reference was, possibly, to what he had transferred to his own jacket. "If he hasn't got it, there'll be trouble. Strikes me I'd better take a little trip into the country. He might think I'd got it and done a bunk. I might get a bit out of him like that. If he's anything to get, I wish I'd never gone in for the job. What's that?"

(To be continued.)

Profusely Illustrated.

Often a picture will make plain what a column of words cannot explain. Wherever this is the case, "The Century Dictionary & Cyclopedia & Atlas" gives the picture. There are in the work more than 8000 illustrations, drawn and engraved by the men who have made "The Century Magazine" famous. In one department of architecture alone there are more illustrations than in any architectural book ever published. Animals, plants, cathedrals, musical instruments, machinery, antique vases, shells, guns, all are profusely illustrated. If these illustrations were gathered together they would fill 500 pages.

"The Century" contains also definitions and illustrations which explain all the branches of art, including painting, sculpture, etching, engraving, decoration, costume. The best examples of each sort of work are reproduced, and as a mere collection of designs the Dictionary is invaluable to craftsmen.

As a Dictionary of Natural History, "The Century" is made far more valuable, by its copious illustrations, than it would otherwise have been. The "Athenaeum" well said that "The cuts appended to the zoological articles are of the first quality, and the birds, monkeys, and snakes prove as attractive to the child as to the savant; while the numerous entomological illustrations, portraying insects in various stages, ought to be of practical use to farmers and gardeners."

These illustrations are especially valuable also in that they attract children to the book, and when young people once begin discussing descriptions of plants and animals, their interest is apt to be aroused, and unconsciously they acquire the habit of going to the fountain-head for information.

The handsome maps in Volume X. of "The Century" are a distinct feature of the work, and will prove invaluable alike to students and the general public.

The concise, full, accurate, and up-to-date Encyclopedia (Vol. IX.) of 150,000 headings is indispensable to the writer and the reader.

Christmas Peace for Greece and Persia After 2300 Years of Strife.

The most remarkable event in the establishing of the present era of peace and goodwill among all nations is the reconciliation of Greece and Persia, after an enmity which has lasted 2303 years.

A despatch from Athens last Christmas contained the announcement that diplomatic relations were at last about to be resumed between these two nations. This is an event so strange that it has not a parallel in the history of the world. No national quarrel has ever before lasted so long as the Greco-Persian feud. Neither has any quarrel been so generally recorded in the literature of all nations. The famous battles of Marathon, Thermopylae and Salamis have been celebrated by the chroniclers of all nations, and the memory of those battles has done much to keep alive the feeling of enmity between the two nations most interested.

The last Persian Ambassadors were withdrawn from Athens and Sparta shortly before the invasion of Greece by the Persian army, in the year 491 before the Christian era. Previous to that time it was usual for Ambassadors to be recalled before hostilities began and sent back as soon as peace was concluded.

But such was the hatred developed between the two nations during the Persian invasion that from that time until the present neither nation has taken any official recognition of the existence of the other.

The origin of this twenty-four-century feud forms one of the most dramatic pages in ancient history. It was the inspiration of Byron's most striking poems and a theme on which historians have never tired of dwelling.

In the year 547 B.C. the Persians conquered the land of Lydia—a country in Asia Minor not far from Greece. There were a great many Grecians in Lydia, and they were badly treated by the Governors whom the Persian King appointed.

In revenge the Greeks stirred up a rebellion, and obtained a fleet of twenty-five ships from Athens to attack the Persian navy. The war continued for several years, and in 495 B.C. the Persians were victorious.

Darius, the Persian King, was deeply enraged at the assistance which the Greeks had given to his enemies, and four years later withdrew his Ambassadors from Greece, and declared war. A great army was put on board the Persian fleet and landed in Greece and Marathon, a curved harbour surrounded by hills. The leader of the Athenian army, Miltiades, had only 10,000 men with which to oppose the host of Persians, but the Greeks charged so fiercely down hill that the Persians were driven into the sea, leaving 6000 dead upon the shores. The Greek loss was only 192.

Shortly after this Darius died, heart-broken at his defeat, leaving his son Xerxes to take up the quarrel. The latter toiled for eleven years preparing an enormous army for the invasion of Greece. A million men were collected from forty-six different nations and hurled upon the tiny republics of Greece.

At Thermopylae this vast host was held back for hours by a thousand Greeks under Leonidas; at Salamis the Persian fleet was defeated, 200 out of 1000 ships being destroyed, and at Plataea the invaders were utterly routed and driven back to Asia.

'Bus Humours

A London 'bus, writes a correspondent of the "Spectator," is a fertile field of humour, and one comes across true touches of human nature—the good woman whom I heard sigh when asked for 2d, and say sadly it was never her "luck to get a pen'orth o' bus," and the cheery one who leant heavily on my knee on her way to ask the conductor if it was "the end of the peany treat."

Next came a jovial old farmer with

a red face and turned-down collar, who looked out of the window at a brilliantly-arrayed young woman in fluttering rose pink trying to cope with the April breeze, and muttered to his friend: "Ay, she would do fine to keep the birds off my peas."

Sometimes it is as well not to discuss things too fully in the general company of a "public conveyance," but to adopt the time-honoured advice of the conductor and "behave as such." Not long ago someone was heard saying loudly: "No; they do not like Ireland; too damp, too cold, and too many Roman Catholics." A lady opposite struck in with the suggestion that they might be happier in a place where it was "not damp, not cold, and no Roman Catholics." Then the lady got out.

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DR. JAMES WILLIAM KIDD.

makes the startling announcement that he has surely discovered the elixir of life. That he is able with the aid of a mysterious compound, known only to himself, produced as a result of the years he has spent in searching for this precious life-giving boon, to cure any and every disease that is known to the human body. There is no doubt of the doctor's earnestness in making his claim and the remarkable cures that he is daily effecting seems to bear him out very strongly. His theory which he advances as one of reason and based on sound experience in a medical practice of many years, it costs nothing to try his remarkable "Elixir of Life," as he calls it, for he sends it free, to anyone who is a sufferer, in sufficient quantities to convince of its ability to cure, so there is absolutely no risk to run. Some of the cures cited are very remarkable, and but for reliable witnesses would hardly be credited. The lame have thrown away crutches and walked about after two or three trials of the remedy. The sick given up by some doctors, have been restored to their families and friends in perfect health. Rheumatism, neuralgia, stomach, heart, liver, kidney, blood and skin diseases and bladder troubles disappear as by magic. Headaches, backaches, nervousness, fevers, consumption, coughs, colics, asthma, catarrh, bronchitis and all diseases of the throat, lungs or any vital organs are easily overcome in a space of time that is simply marvellous.

Partial paralysis, locomotor ataxia, dropsy, gonorrhoea and piles are quickly and permanently removed. It purifies the entire system, blood and tissues, restores normal nerve power, circulation and a state of perfect health is produced as a consequence. To the doctor all systems are alike and equally affected by this great "Elixir of Life." Send for the remedy to-day. It is free to every sufferer. State what you want to be cured of, and the sure remedy for it will be sent you free by return mail. Remember, a letter to America requires no postage. Write your name very plain, and be sure to give your full address, so there can be no mistake in delivery.

After Dinner Gossip.

The Premier's Guardian Angel.

Miss Balfour, the British Premier's sister, watches over him like a guardian angel, and saves her brother all possible anxiety. Golf and the many duties attendant upon his high office absorb all his time and attention, and of his personal comfort he has no time to think. But here the guardian angel steps in, and not only arranges what he shall eat and drink but even wherewithal he shall be clothed, besides doing much of the business connected with his Whittinghame Estate. Miss Balfour is a motorist, a cyclist and a woman of considerable business abilities, besides being by way of an authoress. She has published the story of her travels in South Africa before the war as well as a book on her wanderings in Ireland.

Down on Betting.

If you have ever happened to be in the Police Court when the habitues of Vulcan Lane were being asked to explain their street transactions, you may have noticed extremely long faces when the Court announced "forty shillings and costs." What would the defendants have thought of a £250 fine? This is the amount in which a foreigner was mulcted in London a few days before the last mail left. Two months ago a German named Theodore Friedman was summoned for allowing the Wiener Cafe, Greek-street, Soho, to be used for betting, but he fled to the Continent. He since surrendered, and on his appearance at Marlborough-street Police Court he was fined £200 or three months' hard labour. Inspector Hayes remarked that he had evidently remained away long enough to raise sufficient money to pay a heavy fine. The fine was promptly paid, and no doubt betting will in future be "off" the menu at the Wiener Cafe.

Cool Community.

The weather during the present summer has been so unsettled that we have been spared much of that close humid weather which is one of the very few drawbacks to life in Auckland. This last week or so, however, we have had one or two days with a decided suggestion of "limpness" about them. It is then one sighs for a glimpse of snow-clad hills and one would even welcome a Wellington zephyr. You would almost envy the inhabitants of a little place in Bolivia called Alto Cruzero, where it freezes every night of the year, and the thermometer frequently falls many degrees below zero. There are no facilities for artificial heat—not even a fireplace—and people keep themselves warm by putting on ponchos and other extra wraps. At noonday the sun is intensely hot, because of the elevation and the rarity of the atmosphere, and blisters the flesh of those who are not accustomed to it (remarks a writer in an English magazine). There is a difference of 20 degrees and sometimes 30 degrees in the temperature of the shade and the sunshine. Water will freeze in the shade, while twenty feet away men may be working in their shirt sleeves. The natives seem to be entirely unacquainted with cold and go about barefooted and barelegged over the ice and stones indifferently without regard to the temperature; but they have a way of heaping the blankets on their heads and wrapping up their faces to keep the pure air out of their throats and nostrils. The women who herd the flocks are often out on the mountains for weeks at a time without shelter or anything to eat except parched corn, strips of dried meat, and cocoa leaves, which are the most powerful of nerve stimulants.

The Camel's Stomach.

Veterinary specialists are much perplexed about the case of a camel which has developed gastritis. Camels are proud possessors of no fewer than seven stomachs apiece, and the difficulty is to know which to treat. The misfortunes of a giraffe when suffering from a sore throat have often afforded food for reflection, but a camel with gastritis goes a step further.

A Royal Ghost.

A strange affair occurred not very long since in one of the Royal palaces near London. In this palace are peculiar apartments where those who lived in them in past times still "walk abroad." Now, one day not very long ago a woman in the service of a lady staying at the palace, came to her mistress with a curious tale. She had seen, she said, when quite casually entering her mistress's room, a most extraordinarily dressed person. At first the thought of inquiring what the intruder was about in another person's room, but then thinking she might be someone who had a right to be there, discreetly retired. "What was she like?" "Oh, such an odd-looking person," replied the maid; "and so quaintly dressed! She wore a high dark cap with a long scarf falling from the top of it." Nothing more was said to the maid. But the explanation of her story is a strange one, for in another part of the palace there is a picture of the "odd-looking person" she saw in her mistress's room, and the picture represents the nurse of King Edward VI. She had been seen more than once before just where the maid saw her.

A Gambling State.

Siam's financial adviser to the government says the country has made rapid progress and revenues have greatly increased in ten years, without adding to the tax levy. The reasons are improvements in the administration and reform generally. At the same time, nearly everything must contribute to the revenue in Siam, as in other Eastern countries—slaves, gambling, all forms of amusement as well as orchards, tobacco, forests and fisheries. If a man has a little sloop boat with a triangular sail scarcely larger than your hand, he must pay for it.

The first items on the government list and the cornerstone of the revenue system in Siam are gambling, opium and bird's nest farming, all officially reported as follows:—

1—Gambling farm	\$1,834,402.00
2—Spirit farm	1,157,547.10
3—Opium farm	1,739,684.00
4—Chinese lottery farm ..	597,310.00
5—Boats and shops farm ..	23,106.10
6—Chinese cake farm	80,412.10
7—Pigs and poultry farm ..	15,067.10
8—Birds' nests farms	98,613.00
9—Miscellaneous farms	42,461.00

Buller and the Pressman.

Sir Redvers Buller has had some hard knocks from the press, but apparently he does not harbour any animosity against journalists as a class. At the recent Devonian dinner a young journalist wanted to get into a small gallery overlooking the scene, instead of sitting with his colleagues down below, the more particularly as he was suffering from dyspepsia, and the good things provided were forbidden him. But the door leading to the gallery was locked, and none of the officials would produce the key or even listen to his appeals. Presently Sir Redvers appeared on the scene, and the journalist, taking his courage in both hands, as the French say, went up to him and said, "Pardon me, Sir Redvers, but I am a poor unfortunate journalist in a fix. Will you help me?" "Well, what is it?" asked Sir Redvers. The scribe explained, and in a very few minutes Sir Redvers himself conducted him to the gallery and unlocked the door.

Mindful of Her First.

After a period of six months of widowhood Bridget consented again to enter the married state. A few weeks after she was led to the altar her former mistress met her in the street dressed in the deepest mourning. "Why, Bridget!" she exclaimed, "for whom are you in black?" "For poor Tim—my first husband, mum. When he died I was that poor I couldn't, but I said if ever I could I would, and me new man, Mike, is as generous as a lord."

Effects of Civilisation.

Civilisation, or contact with civilisation, seems to be exercising almost as prejudicial an effect on the vitality of the races of the Arctic Circle as on those of Africa and New Zealand, remarks the "Liverpool Weekly Post." Lieutenant Peary brought back with him from his last expedition news of a mysterious epidemic which had seized the Esquimaux. It had reduced the numbers of those at Smith Sound from 300 to 234 in seven years, and this year their numbers scarcely reach 200. Diminutions of numbers similar in kind, if not so disastrous in effect, are taking place all over the Arctic Circle. The Alaskan Esquimaux have sunk from 2000 or 3000 to 500, which may now be said to be the sum of the population between Point Barrow and the Aleutian Islands. Part of the lessening or diversion of the population is due in this instance to a lessening food supply. The whalers, who have destroyed seal, walrus and Polar bear, are the delinquents here. The 10,000 population of South-west Greenland is fast sinking, in spite of the immigration of Danes; and Labrador, which once had a population of 30,000, has not now 15,000. The whole population of the Polar regions is only half what it was twenty years ago.

How the Plague is Spread.

The following letter, written by a gentleman living with a mission family in India, gives a vivid idea of how the dreaded plague spreads:—"There has been a nice little turn-up in our home since last we wrote. Just at 'tiffin'-time one day the butler told us a rat had just come in to 'cook-room' and died there. That was enough to show us that plague was pretty near. These creatures are the forerunners, and have the plague on them, and, feeling ill, they fly for shelter to the houses. At once 'tiffin' was thrown out, shelves torn down and burned, tables and cupboard burned, and the room shut up. We emptied a little outside room, and that served for kitchen. The doctor was in bed with bad indigestion, and he missed his toast badly, but we got some cocoa and dripped scones for the children, and before dinner the butler had the new cook-room ready. Well, we thought we were all right, and in the evening, when the children were all asleep, the doctor had his dinner in the drawing-room. We saw him started to it, and then went through the rooms. I pulled out my chair and was just about to sit down when I saw a rat lying on it almost dead. It gave us rather a queer turn, but we got out of the room as soon as possible, and when the butler got the most necessary things out, it was shut up. The doctor said we had to get out of the house as soon as possible, so before bedtime Kate and I packed the children's clothes and next day Kate and the three bairns were off to Lanowic (between Poona and Bombay) at one o'clock. We had a sore heart parting with the children, as it is hard to know how long they may be away. The doctor, baby, and I are out in tents just above the garden. The house is very desolate; the butler opens

it up daily. Yesterday he went into the dining-room, threw away all the eatables, and sprinkled carbolic all over the room. Pusy was discovered lying on the chair on which the rat had been found, so she is now tied to a tree (in quarantine), and she is to have a carbolic bath to-day. It was really hard to send the children away just before Christmas, when they were going to have such fun; but they are better out of harm's way. Dead squirrels are being found in the girls' boarding school, so Miss S— and Miss C— may have to turn out their 100 scholars any day, and they have not even a tent ready. Down in the old town 40 to 50 are dying daily from the plague, but here near our camp there are only 20 to 30 deaths. The doctor ordered all to go and live in the fields and vacate the village. He has asked the Government to send up tents."

Detecting Adulteration.

"Never let whisky get the better of you—always get the best of whisky," is a catch phrase in a popular Irish comedy now running at Home. If the British consumer would try the following simple plan for detecting good from bad spirits he would soon know how to find the reliable article with requisite age, and would not be tempted to endanger his health by drinking young malt spirits mixed with grain, or, worse still, potato spirits. Mix one part whisky with two parts boiling water. As the mixture cools the fine aroma of the Old Potstill whisky will then be emitted. While in the case of newer makes blended with patent still whisky, their harshness and unpleasant aroma and taste will at once become apparent. This is a very simple method of distinguishing good from bad whisky, and if practised, would be the means of bringing pure Old Potstill Malt Whisky into demand again.

A Bandit's Tragical Death.

Moulai-Mohammed, a famous bandit, who has terrorised the Beni-Snousse region for years, has been captured.

A native runner informed the authorities at Elaricha that the bandit had taken refuge in an encampment some distance from the town, and a mounted patrol was sent out to secure him.

Moulai, who was surprised in one of the tents, warned the patrol that he would shoot any man who dared to approach him. Thereupon a burning brand was thrown on the top of his tent.

This enraged the bandit, who, as his tent burned down, shot two natives dead, and wounded a third. Then the patrol fired, wounding Moulai in the stomach. He surrendered, and died shortly afterwards on the way to the hospital.

Moulai was responsible for the murder of five other natives, and a white woman and her child.



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IT'S
MASON'S

A 6d. BOTTLE OF
MASON'S EXTRACT OF HERBS
Makes 8 Gallons of the
Finest Non-intoxicating

HERB BEER

THESE IS NO FIRST-QUENCHER IN THE WORLD TO EQUAL IT.
Is Palatable, Refreshing, Delicious and Healthful.
Prepared by Analytical and Scientific Methods.
IMITATED BUT NOT EQUALLED.
OF ALL CHEMISTS AND STORES.
Also try Mason's Coffee Essence.

NEWBALL & MASON, NOTTINGHAM.

Sold by all Leading Storekeepers, Grocers,
and Chemists throughout the Colony.

Here and There.



NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS. STEEL CASTINGS.

Railway Department (Head Office),
Wellington, February 14, 1902.

WRITTEN TENDERS will be received at this office up to noon of MONDAY, 9th March, 1902, for the supply and delivery of STEEL CASTINGS.

Specifications and forms of tender may be obtained at the Railway Stores Office, Newmarket, Addington, and Hillside, and at the Stores Manager's Office, Wellington. Tenders to be addressed to the General Manager, New Zealand Railways, Wellington, and to be marked outside "Tender for Steel Castings."

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

By order,
T. RONAYNE,
General Manager,
New Zealand Railways.



NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS. SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF TOTARA SLEEPERS.

Railway Department,
Head Office,
Wellington, 17th February.

Written Tenders will be received at this office up to noon of MONDAY, 9th March, 1902, in lots of 250 or more, at any railway station or siding on the Auckland Section.

Conditions of contract and forms of tender to be obtained at the Railway Storekeeper's Office, Newmarket.

Tenders to be addressed to the General Manager, New Zealand Railways, Wellington, and to be marked outside, "Tender for Totara Sleepers."

The lowest or any tender will not necessarily be accepted.

By order,
T. RONAYNE,
General Manager, New Zealand Railways.

GEORGE TWIGDEN, CONSULTING ENGINEER, 32, PALMERSTON BUILDINGS, QUEEN-ST.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS PREPARED.

Candidates for Marine Engineers' and Engine Drivers' Certificates Prepared for Examination.

**These
Hot
Days**

Indulge yourself in the luxury of a Bottle of BISMARCK LAGER BEER. It gives both pleasure and satisfaction, and as an Appetizer and a Tonic it is the best it is possible to obtain.

BRAGGS' VEGETABLE CHARCOAL

THE ROAD TO HEALTH IS PAVED WITH GOOD DIGESTION.

Speedily cures Acidity, Flatulency, Heartburn, Impure Blood, Indigestion, Diarrhoea, &c. It destroys all disease germs and absorbing all impurities in the stomach and bowels, gives a healthy tone to the whole system. Wards off all attacks of Typhoid and other Fevers. Prevents many ailments.

BRAGGS' PURE CHARCOAL POWDER is in Bottles, LAGER BEER and BISCUITS in Tins (pleasant to take). Sold by all Chemists and Stores. Beware of cheap imitations. Beware of the inferior quality of some cheap imitations. Beware of the inferior quality of some cheap imitations.

Plunging his hand into a letter-box at Marysville, Ohio, Alex. Major quickly withdrew it again, uttering cries of agony. A poisonous snake had found its way into the box.

A Kenait preacher, Mr. H. H. Newby, was fined 40/ or twenty-one days at Bristol for forcing an entry into St. Jude's Parish Church on Christmas Day, and stopping the service as a protest against alleged Ritualism.

With a dozen admiring passengers looking on, Mrs. Mary Cartan, a society lady at Omaha, Nebraska, took off her petticoat in a tramcar and wrapped it about the shivering form of a two-year-old infant. The child was blue from the cold.

After putting a £200 note in his waistcoat pocket Charles Landell, of Bayonne, New Jersey, retired for the night. When he got up in the morning the money was gone. Two days later it was found half-way down a hole in the floor, whither it had been dragged by a rat.

The comic press of New Zealand has received an addition by the appearance of a 20-page journal, the first number of which is just published. The letter-press is bright and profusely illustrated with smart cartoons.

Charles Burgess died at Wollombi, in the Singleton district, New South Wales, at the beginning of the month, aged 103 years. He could read without spectacles till very recently. He was the father of twenty children, and his descendants number 65 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

By burning £200,000 worth of stamps the Government employees in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington saved £30 in coal bills last month. The stamps were all documentary ones, rendered worthless by the repeal of the War Revenue Act.

Mr T. Clark, of the Cave Rock Hotel, Sumner, Christchurch, has forwarded to Captain Hutton, of the museum, a fish which, so far as is known, has never been caught in these waters before. It is about 2ft in length, about 6in in depth, and of a dark colour. It is thought to be the black fish (*Centrolophus niger*), which occurs in the waters of the Atlantic and Mediterranean.

For allowing young lady pupils of the Tasmanian Methodist Ladies' College to witness theatrical performances the Rev. F. J. Nance, M.A., principal of the college, retires from his position. The parents gave their daughters permission to go to the theatre, but the Methodist authorities hold that the principal of the college should have been adamant.

A Sydney paper accuses a member of the New South Wales Parliament with making a business of selling Justice of the Peace'ships. The trick is very simple (says "Table Talk"). Some members of the New South Wales Parliament represent to honour-hunters that certain officers of Government Departments have to be bribed. Thus the rogue pockets the money and the honest civil servants get a bad name.

The tallest man in America is said to be Edward Beaupre, a Canadian, 5ft 3in high, who is now staying in Chicago. He combines great strength with his height, and recently caused a sensation by putting his arms round a horse in the street and lifting it bodily off its legs. When a boy, he says, he was able to wear his father's clothes without their being cut down.

George "Tattersall" Adams, although he is well posted in "Tanman" tactics, still prefers Australia to America for his sphere of operations. Before the inauguration of the Commonwealth "Tattersall" used to make £300,000 a year. He is still making £30,000 a year as a coupler of the 5/ sweeps. His only failure on record is his attempt to crush the Cascade Brewery by starting an op-

position beer factory. He tried to get a Bill engineered through the Tasmanian Parliament to abolish "tied houses," but failed, and the Cascade Brewery continues the monopoly of supplying beer to 80 per cent. of the Tasmanian public-houses.

The eldest son of the Duke of Cambridge, Colonel G. W. A. FitzGeorge, is in financial difficulties. No offer was made by him to his creditors, who met last month in the London Bankruptcy Court, and the estate will be wound up in bankruptcy. The liabilities, returned at £33,806, include a balance of £20,326 due to Messrs. Cox & Co., who hold a charge on the debtor's pension as a retired lieutenant-colonel. The assets are returned at £15, being the figure placed by the colonel on his equity of redemption in certain silver-plated goods. His shares in several companies were said to be of no value.

An Englishman who was staying at Zurich last month was the victim of a curious experience. A Russian, after partaking of a good dinner, went to bed in the Englishman's room in mistake for his own. Later, on the Englishman entering, the Russian mistook him for a burglar. He sprang out of bed and attacked the intruder. The Englishman, not understanding how things stood, entered heartily into the fight. To complicate matters neither of the men could understand what the other was saying. It eventually ended in waiters arriving on the scene, and separating the men. The Russian forthwith apologized, and in consideration of the Englishman not charging him with an assault, gave £4 to the local hospital.

The Japanese divide the 24 hours into 12 periods, of which six belong to the night and six to the day, their day beginning at sunrise and ending at sunset. Whether the day or night be long or short, there are always six periods in each. To attain this the characters or numerals on the scale are adjustable. Two of them are set, one to agree with the sunrise, the other with sunset, and the four characters between them divide the space into equal portions. Thus, when the period of daylight is longer than the night, the day hours will be proportionately longer than those at night. Another peculiarity in their scale is that they use only six characters, those from four to nine, and these read backward.

Dr Flatt, who went out to investigate the eruptions in St Vincent and Martinique, gave a lecture before the Geographical Society, London, upon his return last month, and explained that the eruption in St Vincent was simply a great sand-blast, the sand rolling down the mountain like a cataract, killing everything in its path. The sand remained hot for weeks, and on the mountain channels becoming flooded the water meeting with the red-hot sand evaporated in great jets of steam, as high as 20,000ft. These were described as fresh eruptions in the papers. Similar blasts were the eruptions in Martinique, but as they proceeded from a cleft in the mountain their energy was concentrated on St Pierre, which was totally destroyed.

Great interest is taken in the fate of the fortune-tellers who are awaiting trial, says "Gerda" in the "Australasian." The defence to be set up by them is that they have only been disclosing the past and the present to their clients. The act under which they have been proceeded against (brought into being in the reign of Charles II.) says "telling the future." Like the Mikado's law about encompassing the death of the heir-apparent, "there is nothing in it" about not knowing, or having no notion. That is the slowly way in which these acts are drawn up. Two of the unfortunates are going to plead guilty, and get off under the First Offenders' Act. Others, not wishing to spoil their business, will try "bluff." There is no doubt that, as a trade, fortune-telling thrives. A washerwoman in one of the suburbs boasts of making £1000 a year by telling fortunes. She cannot read or write.

Italy now has for the first time a Chinese Minister to herself, residing at Rome, and not accredited to any other Power. This diplomatic mandarin is more ornamental than useful, for he is fresh from the Celestial Empire and speaks only his mother tongue. The Italians return the compliment by sending four new Consuls to China, of whom one is to reside at Canton, with jurisdiction over four provinces, another at Hankow, a third at Shanghai, and a fourth at Tientsin.

Sadlier, another "society" criminal who was shown to have embezzled £400,000, and who left behind him a letter confessing to "crimes unknown," was permitted his freedom to commit suicide. The man Stephenson, like Jabez Balfour, did things in a lordly style. Treasurer of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he had a suite of rooms there, and slept at the hospital the night of his flight. Balfour who is still under lock and key, was like Sadlier, and many of the swindling Board of the great Royal British Bank and many others notable in the criminals' calendar, a distinguished member of the House of Commons. As was the case with T. King, who swindled the Bank of Belgium out of a million sterling, Balfour was prominent in religious and philanthropic movements.

The late Archbishop of Canterbury's immitence of bores and gift of sarcastic epigrams have sometimes caused friends as well as opponents to wince. One of the clergy of his diocese, who had pestered him a great deal, wrote an inordinately long letter describing a picture which he proposed to put up in the chancel of the church, and asked permission to do so. By the time his Grace reached the end of the epistle his patience was quite exhausted, and he replied on a postcard:—"Dear Black,—Hang the picture!"

In the Turin journals recently appeared an announcement that a large banquet would be given, at which the only guests would be those husbands in Turin who did not live happily with their wives. The banquet was to be a sort of consolation feast, and the utmost care taken that while it was in progress the unfortunate spouses should not be interrupted by their wives. This calls to mind the action of a railway company which some time ago provided honeymoon carriages for the special use of newly married folks. They were, however, scrupulously avoided.

The construction of a balloon to cross the desert of Sahara, an idea which is to be executed under the direction of the French War Department, is intended primarily to determine the practicability of crossing the desert in a balloon in safety, and, secondarily, to secure as much information as possible about the route traversed. The balloon under construction for the Sahara trip is to carry no human passengers; but in order to test the habitability of the region traversed there will be six pigeons placed in a cage in the car. An extensive equipment of scientific apparatus will be carried, and if the experiment is brought to a successful conclusion the result will be the addition of some interesting items to our stock of scientific data, and possibly an impetus may be given to future attempts on a still more ambitious scale. Since the balloon is to be without human passengers, it is necessary that it be automatically controlled, and it is in this respect that much ingenuity has been shown in the design. As it is expected that the journey may last four or five days, provision must be made for the regulation of the ballast to provide for the gradual loss of gas.

Bibulous domestics are common enough, but there are few who will come up to the standard of the servant of whom this incident is related. Although the master and mistress were teetotalers, in order to keep the domestic they ordered a nine-gallon barrel of beer especially for her benefit. The other day the master told the girl to draw a jug of beer for the gardener and was surprised to learn that the barrel was empty. "In fact," explained the servant, "I thought of telling you I should want another barrel last night." She had managed entirely by herself to consume the whole of the nine gallons in exactly the same number of days.

The Irish Registrar-General's returns give some remarkable figures in relation to the steady decline in the population of that country, which is now nearly four millions less than it was in 1845.

An Arizona man has just committed suicide in a cemetery. A local paper issues an appeal "to those about to emulate" to invite the coroner, jury and undertaker to be on hand at the psychological moment, in order that subsequent fuss and worry may be obviated.

Australia, it seems, could do with 300,000 British wives, Canada with 90,000 and the Cape with 30,000. The "Family Doctor" says, "there are nearly 1,000,000 too many women in the British Isles."

Rather ungentle! Not "too many" women, surely, but more women than men.

A wealthy American recently purchased a seven thousand-acre Mexican cattle ranch. A San Francisco journal remarks that other Americans, many other Americans, should go and do likewise, as the annexation of Mexico would speedily become a simple matter. Well, there are only 760,000 odd miles of Mexico.

On one occasion Dr. Temple, when Bishop of Exeter, was taking part in the service at a small country church. Walking down the chancel steps on his way to the pulpit he stumbled, and the vicar hastened forward to his assistance. The incident was being discussed in the vestry at the close of the service, when the vicar expressed the hope that the Bishop had not been feeling unwell. "Not at all," replied Dr. Temple. "It's merely a question of sex. Though I have been a Bishop several years I've not yet learned to manage my skirts properly."

The late Archbishop Temple was well known as a vigorous teetotal advocate. On one occasion he was addressing a crowded meeting in support of the Local Option Bill, then before Parliament. Making sport of the brewer's cry that beer was a good creature of God, he said, "So is a lion; but I should not welcome one were it to walk into my palace." In fact, he considered beer out of place anywhere in domestic England, and went so far as to refuse to deal with Canterbury grocers who held licenses.

On a pine board in a Missouri county cemetery is the following epitaph, which tells a sad tale:—

John Cup, he dallied by the way,
Until he'd had his fill,
And then he slept upon the track—
The railroad paid the bill.
O, pity John—misguided John,
Too bad the corks he'd puff;
But pity, also, John's poor wife;
Poor girl, her Cup was full.

In announcing changes and improvements which are to be introduced into its next issue, the "Badminton Magazine" declares against three-colour printing, which is to be relinquished for a more elaborate method, saying, "We will not endeavour to pretend, for instance, that Ard Patrick is a purple-coloured horse—that was one of the accidents to which this process is liable."

A European army—a very small one, but still an organised army—is about to be abolished entirely. Prince Albert, of Monaco, who is an ardent believer in the pressing need in the near future for arbitration as a means of settling all international disputes, and who thinks that universal peace is a possibility, has determined to back his opinion by doing away with his entire armed force. Hence the Monegasque army, which consists of some thirty-two men, will very shortly be a thing of the past.

Some think there is a chance of table cricket disputing the supremacy of our winter evenings. W. G. Grace, the famous player, has been interested in the new game by A. Weiraud, the cricket lover. A demonstration was given at a public hall in London recently and the thing pronounced a success. The bat is a diminutive affair, as are also the wickets. The chief feature of the game, however, is the "bowler," which is an ingenious arrangement of springs which pitches the ball at the wicket in a most baffling way. After a little practice even a novice at the game makes a first-class bowler. The real skill is demanded on

the part of the batsman. He has a small bat, about an inch and a half long, with which he must guard his wicket. The field is arranged with pockets for catching out the batter, and the whole plan is arranged to conform closely to cricket. The game has already become popular in London.

The escape of James Balfour, and the long period that elapsed before he was brought before an English tribunal, is recalled by the flight of the Humberts. With all the money that he could scrape together he fled, when the arrest of his accomplices was announced, to Argentina. There he bought up a brewery and began quietly to build up a new fortune out of the wreck of that which he had taken with him. The Liberator frauds represented dealings in millions, with corresponding loss to investors, and the ease with which Balfour was able to trick the legal system of Britain necessitated an expenditure by the British Treasury of an enormous sum to get him convicted.

We have to go far back into history to find a parallel for frauds so gigantic as those perpetrated by the Humberts. Leaving aside the ill-fated Panama scheme with all the losses, the inquiries, and the prosecutions it involved, one turns to the South Sea Bubble to furnish a precedent for operations so far-reaching and in result so disastrous. In the South Sea swindle, as in the Humbert case, there were among the victims as well as the conspirators some of the most exalted families in the land. Financial England was very badly hit over this venture. The estates possessed by the directors were seized, but the two million and odd pounds which they realised served but as a drop in the ocean of loss sustained by the unfortunate investors.

The notorious Fauntleroy, inheriting with his banking business a huge load of liabilities, was driven to crime by the Bank of England's prudent refusal of his acceptances. He at once converted clients' securities and embarked upon a career of desperate villainy which ruined thousands and brought him to the gallows at Newgate. In most of the great swindles which history has recorded members of the Legislature have been privy to the malfeasances practised. As there was a purging of the House of implicated members of the South Sea expose, so it became necessary to expel representatives of constituencies in connection with the Remington Stephenson frauds, in which the defalcations amounted to over half a million. The chief malefactor in this case got clear away.

Mareoni, of wireless telegraph fame, has a plan of utilising his system for the absolute prevention of collision accidents on railroads, and the arrangement he proposes could be installed on every railroad in the country at a less expense than any other form of safety devices or signals. The fact that he has given considerable thought to the matter is important, for the public confidence is strong in a man of his scientific attainments, but the proof he offers that his plan is simple, cheap, and practical in its operations at all times gives it a greater significance. It happened that Mareoni came through the New York Central tunnel four days after a terrible accident which resulted in the loss of eighteen lives and the maiming of many people. Naturally enough, every one was talking over the affair. With Mareoni there was a two-fold regret; first, that the men who were devoting their lives to invention had not already devised means to render such an occurrence impossible, and, second, because the saving of life in connection with his own work has always been of paramount importance. The proudest boast he ever made was that by means of his system installed on the lightship off the treacherous Goodwin Sands in the English Channel the lives of several sailors on a wrecked barque had been saved.

Some of the wedding presents received by Mr. St. John Brodrick, British Minister for War, were superb. The King sent a travelling inkstand in the shape of a flat, round, gold box, with the Royal crown and arms embossed outside. This was sent to Mr. Brodrick with the words "From the King" in the Royal handwriting. Another handsome gift to the bridegroom was the Queen Anne tray and silver dinner set from his constituents in the Guildford Division of Surrey. Lady Londonderry gave the bride a sapphire

and diamond brooch, while two large cases are filled with lovely jewels and emeralds, including Sir Francis and Lady Jeune's great all-round crown of huge diamonds. Lord and Lady Middleton showered gifts on their future daughter-in-law, their presents including another tiara of diamonds, as well as a handsome diamond and opal necklace, bracelet, and an emerald and diamond pendant. Among Mr. Brodrick's gifts to his fiancée were a diamond necklace and pendant, as well as some lovely rubies, while Lord Salisbury gave a jewel necklace, Lord Rothschild a gold bracelet, and Mr. and Mrs. Rothschild a pearl necklace.

The Yankee showman's little boy had a Noah's ark, which he examined with some contempt.

"Say!" he exclaimed at last. "Noah wasn't much of a feller, was he?"

It was suggested to the youngster that Noah succeeded in gathering together a pretty good menagerie.

"Good!" exclaimed the boy, scornfully. "Hub! Where's the two-headed calf and the six-legged goat, and the ichthyosaurus, and the elegantoparl, and the magnicentelope? Why, if Noah set up as a showman in these days he couldn't make expenses."

"He couldn't?"
"Of course he couldn't. Why, say, he didn't have a thing in his ark except animals that actually exist."

The following pathetic little story of canine solitude and sapacity has come under our notice:—To the door of a chemist's shop came two Irish terriers. One had been badly mutilated and lost a leg by being run over on the railway near by. The maimed dog showed its sympathy by licking and caressing its stricken companion and the chemist who sought to ease the tortured animal. Unfortunately, the injuries were so severe that the damaged dog had to be destroyed. It was found that the two animals were mother and son, and the younger dog had half-guided, half-assisted his dam to the chemist's door immediately after the accident.

The Egyptian Government, seconded by the British motorist enthusiasts on the Cairo staff, has successfully completed a series of experiments in desert travelling by motor. A desert motor-wagon conveying a half company, consisting of 40 soldiers at Abbassieh, spun down the Suez "Road," negotiating the rough passage in fine style. On getting into the desert the real trial began. Where the sand was fairly firm good running was made. The wagon was fitted with tyres having broad flanges, which gripped well and drove

the machine onward. Where the sand was very loose the going was difficult, the wheel occasionally churning sand without progressing, and making it necessary for the "gyppies" to get out and give a friendly push. This fault will be removed by the use of broader tyres. Hill-climbing experiments were made in Cairo, and a wagon carrying a freight equal to three tons covered the great citadel hill in 14 minutes without a stop. The representatives of the Ministry and the army were well satisfied with the general efficiency of the wagon for transporting troops, and a report is being made upon it by Miralzi Peake Bey, C.M.G. Trial was also made of a desert transport wagon for camel, horse, mule or motor traction. The Arab population were amazed at the two machines ploughing the desert, and named them "the big and little devils."

The editor of "Motoring Illustrated" says that an American petrol car of the Oldsmobile make can be bought for £185. This car holds two people, and will make 20 miles an hour. It ought to do the distance from Fleet-street to Chelsea in 20 minutes, half the time a cab would take. The expenses of running the car for the journey would be about 3d to 4d—as a maximum, 5d. The greatest expense would be for tyres, which would come to about £12 a year. The following is an estimate of the expenses per year for the service required:—Tyres, £12; operating expenses, £6 10s; painting (once a year), £5; renewals and incidentals, £5; total, £28 10s. These figures assume that care is exercised with the tyres and engine, and also that the owner will take the trouble to learn the mechanism of the car, so that any slight derangement can be corrected without incurring the cost of taking it to a repair shop. Of course, for the sum mentioned the car can also be used for trips and excursions as well as the journeys to and from home, and, roughly speaking, the cost of these excursions ought to work out at about a penny a mile. There is also another car which has much to recommend it. It is De Dion, price £160. This car, although cheap, is substantial.

A West Australian weekly paper devotes most of its "Answers to Correspondents" column to would-be poets. In answer to a young poet it remarks: "Your poem is rejected. But do not be disheartened. Poetic genius is a nervous disease, and, judging from the sample you send, you are the healthiest person we have ever struck."

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RAILWAY WHARF, AUCKLAND.

The Palmerston North Band is taking steps to secure the services of a qualified conductor and two cornet players.

The residents of Wadestown (Wellington) are talking about forming a company to establish a motor-car service between the hill district and the Empire City.

The Westland County Council affords an instance of inapt alliteration: One member referred to his friends across the table as a "bouncing, bounding, blatant bandit," a mouthful that was quite impromptu, of course!

The reports as to dimensions and model of the new America Cup defender, building by the firm of Herreshoffs, at Rhode Island, indicate a yacht of the same general form as Constitution, but a little wider and of a little less draught, with a greater weight of lead in a longer keel, and an increase of sail area.

Men engaged at some drainage works in Hereford street, Christchurch, recently, made a strange find just opposite the Canterbury College Biological Laboratory. About eighteen inches below the surface they came upon a number of bones, making an almost complete human skeleton. It had evidently lain there for many years. A similar find was made some days previously in Antigua street, close to Hereford street.

In view of the persistent agitation on the part of those concerned in New Zealand industries that the Government should get its ironwork done within the colony, it is a remarkable fact that though tenders for the Staircase Gully bridge were invited throughout New Zealand by advertisements, which ran in the newspapers for five weeks, only one solitary tender was received. This was declined, and it has now been decided to invite fresh tenders for the ironwork.

The following figures show the principal streams about Wellington that have had additional trout fry liberated in them from the Masterton ponds this season:—Silverstream, 30,000 rainbow; Akatarawa, 5000 brown; Otaki, 10,000 brown; Ohau, 5000 rainbow, 5000 brown; Porirua, 5000 brown; Hutt, 10,000 rainbow; Wainui-o-mata, 1000 rainbow, 10,000 brown; Palautanui, 5000 brown; Gollan's Valley, 5000 rainbow; South Makara, 5000 rainbow; total, 36,000 rainbow, 35,000 brown.

A mob of ninety two-year-old steers were being driven along the Kahutara road the other day, when four of them dropped dead within a mile of each other. The animals were to be taken by coach road to Feilding, and the driver, much concerned, had a post-mortem performed upon the beasts. The examination showed that the animals had been recently feeding on luxuriant pastures, to which they were altogether unused, and that the diet had produced upon them the same effect as apoplexy on human beings.

Fanciful as the prediction may appear, the greatest politicians in Europe anticipate that the year 1903 will be marked by much political unrest and military activity. It is expected that Eastern troubles will culminate in a great war. With the example of Greece before him, it is not likely that the young King of Serbia would have boasted, publicly, that Serbia means to take away some territory from the Turk. The Serbian army, even if assisted by Bulgaria, could not measure strength with the Turk. So some great Power will assist Serbia. That Power can only be Russia; and if Germany has concluded a treaty with Turkey it means nothing less than a European war. The nations likely to be actively engaged in the war will thus be Russia and the Danubian kingdoms against Turkey and Germany. France must stand out of the fight. If she assists Russia, Germany will have the call on Italy and Austria, who belong to the Triple Alliance, and France would scarcely undertake to fight the land armies of her two powerful neighbours—Italy and Germany. If France keeps out of the fight, Great Britain will also hold aloof whilst the fight proceeds, but both nations will most likely have something to say at the conclusion of the war, when it comes to the signing of treaties. Should, however

France adhere to the Dual Alliance, defensively and offensively, and range herself actively on the side of Russia, the dogs of war will be let loose in every quarter of the globe. Great Britain and Japan will have to look after matters in the Far East. Recent events in China and Venezuela have, however, shown that there is a tendency to localise a war. Whether this will be possible in connection with Macedonian troubles is problematical. Germany has reached an economic condition which compels her to fight. A war with Russia would be most popular in Germany, as, if successful, the German provinces belonging to Russia would be incorporated into the Vaterland. The Kaiser is playing a very interesting game, and the eyes of the diplomatic world are just now directed towards Berlin.

Upon analysing the positions of the bands that competed at the last two contests held by the North Island Brass Bands' Association, a remarkable coincidence is disclosed, remarks "Trombone" in the "Canterbury Times." In 1902, at New Plymouth, the positions of the first nine bands were: Wellington Garrison, 1; Wanganui, 2; Kaikora, 3; North-east Valley, 4; Denniston, 5; Dunedin Navals, 6; Masterton, 7; Waihi, 8; and Hauraki, 9. At the Masterton contest this year, the above bands, with the exception of Dunedin Navals, again competed, and, leaving out Southland Battalion and Woolston, who did not take part in 1902 contest, it is remarkable to find that they finished in the same order, namely: Wellington, Wanganui, Kaikora, North-east Valley, Denniston, Masterton, Waihi and Hauraki. Surely this must be highly gratifying to the New Zealand adjudicator, Mr. J. H. Otto Schwartz, of Wellington, who judged the New Plymouth contest, especially after the statement that was generally made throughout the colony, prior to the recent contest, that at Masterton the bands would, for the first time, be properly judged by an authority, Mr. Ord-Hume.

The Roumanian Government, until two years ago, employed three professional hunters in each village to destroy wolves and other undesirable animals. Since then, for reasons of economy, the men have not been appointed, and the country is now overrun with wild marauders. Two months ago a gendarme and his horse were devoured by wolves close by the railway station at Braila, while not far from the town of Tili-ea five people have been killed and eaten. A peasant looking for strayed cattle was attacked by a pack of wolves, and only escaped by climbing a tree. He shot three of the wolves, which were immediately devoured by their fellows. Passing travellers three hours later drove his assailants away. Over thirty persons are known to have been killed by wolves this winter. The peasantry are entreating the Government to reinstate the hunters.

It has been proposed that the Melbourne tram cars should be made use of to carry letters, etc., for the Postal Department, between the central office and the suburbs, and that, as in Brisbane, they should be posting places for letters. In Sydney the tram cars have long been used as travelling post offices, but they are Government property, which is not the case either in Melbourne or Brisbane. The difficulty in Melbourne is that the Tramway Company names terms which are too high. Perhaps it will revise its price list when it hears that in Washington, U.S., the tram employees have objected to the United States post office placing letter boxes in tram cars, on the ground that doing so may interfere with the privilege which tram men enjoy—of striking. The Washington tram men say that, if they struck themselves, and prevented non-Unionists from taking their places, it would be held that they were stopping the United States mails, which in America is regarded as lese majeste. Therefore they oppose the suggested innovation. The position seems remarkable. In New Zealand and some parts of Australia, notably New South Wales, laws have been passed substituting arbitration for strikes. But they do not appear to be giving full satisfaction. A New Zealand Union, which was lately awarded a lower wage rate than it claimed for its members, is disgusted with the Arbitration Court, and it sorrowfully regrets that it cannot call its members out in the good old way. If you enquire searchingly you

will probably find that strikes are popular because, among other things, they afford sport or the same kind of excitement as can be got out of sport. Any persons who remember the great wharf labourers' strike in Melbourne will remember also that the Strike Committee (who proposed to put Melbourne in darkness) were quite a jolly lot as long as events kept them before the public. They enjoyed the anxiety they caused and the notoriety they acquired. But for a strike to prove amusing or sport-yielding it must provoke opposition in the shape of efforts to introduce free labourers, who, in the language of unionists, are "blacklegs," "the scum of hell," etc., and therefore fair game for properly organised Christians. The last big strike at Newcastle, New South Wales, proved a dead failure, though it lasted several months, because the mine owners let the mines lie idle. Similarly, in the Korumburra district, Victoria, coal strikes rarely produce compensating results in the way of sport, because the directors are always ready to compromise. But as regards tram cars, they are things which must be kept running, and there have been most eventful excitement-yielding strikes in Cincinnati and San Francisco. The Washington Unionists think, doubtless, that it is only fair that they should have their turn some day. At any rate, it is perceived that if tram cars are used to carry mails in Washington the new idea will be extended to all tram lines throughout the United States, and an exceedingly strong, well-organised, sport-loving body of Unionists will then be deprived of one of the chief pleasures in life.

The most difficult position on earth is held by a very young man, not over thirty years old. This person is the Khedive Abbas, who, as the ruler of Egypt, has about as hard a time to please all parties as one could well imagine. His position is the most difficult in the world, for the reason that on the one hand he must please his Mahometan subjects, and on the other must so conduct himself as not to give offence to the English, who are the real masters of Egypt. However, the young Khedive is an exceedingly clever person, and has thus far succeeded in keeping all hands contented. He is a devout Mahometan, and goes to mosque on Friday as regularly as the day arrives. But he has only one wife, to whom he is perfectly devoted, although under the Mahometan law he is entitled to four, with as many slaves as he can afford. Thus, while satisfying his subjects on the score of religion, he at the same time does not make it offensive in the eyes of Europeans. The Khedive Abbas and his younger brother, Prince Melmet Ali, are both very much interested in the army, in railways, and in agriculture. Last year when the railway from Alexandria was completed to Khartoum, the Khedive was present at the latter point to drive the golden spike. One of the things in which he takes the most joy and pride is his model farm, not far from Cairo, and lying in the Nile valley.

It is strange how few people really know how to relax, to let the bed hold them instead of vainly trying to hold up the bed. Give way, let the nerves and muscles rest. Do not anticipate your journey's end or waste nerve force by mentally going ahead and fusing because of delay. Do not mentally get out and push the train along because you do not reach your destination in a moment. Relax, drop the subject from your mind, and you will reach your objective point far less worn in mind and body than if you fussed and fumed. You can add years to your life by simply breathing. It is want of thought, want of time, want of knowledge that is at fault. Mrs Browning says: "He lives most life who breathes most air." Learn to breathe properly and you will always be self-possessed. Learn to relax and you will never be nervous and fussy and make others around you nervous. Do not catch the breath with a gasp, do not fuse with this or that little thing. Relax and gain that repose of manner that places you and those around you at ease. Few people can "let go." Yawning may not be polite, but it is healthful. Why? Because if given full expression, it stretches and vitalises all the muscles of the body, and then relaxes them, quickening the blood supply, and then giving it free play.

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Topics of the Week.

Civil Service Retirements.

No doubt the announcement made by Mr Seddon the other day that the law which prescribes 60 as the age at which all Government officials and Civil Servants shall be compulsorily retired, is to be strictly enforced in the future, and that some 150 retirements are to be made forthwith, will have caused a considerable number of heavy hearts amongst those chiefly concerned, together with those near and dear to them, and before going further I am sure one may say that a very general feeling of sincere sympathy will be felt for those compulsorily deprived of the daily occupation they have followed for probably three or four decades. To some few the relief from the daily round, the common task, will perhaps prove welcome. They may have long intended to rest from their labours, but have procrastinated from month to month, and year to year, about taking the plunge into comparative idleness. But the greater number of the hundred and fifty whose names are on that somewhat sinister little list, will probably receive their notices with feelings of sorrow, and in some cases understandable, yet not justifiable, bitterness. To some one must fear the pecuniary loss will be very serious, and this would be a painful side of the subject to discuss indeed, but quite apart from this, even for those for whom pensions or compensations have rendered free from financial considerations of the question, it is not and cannot be easy or agreeable for the majority to relinquish compulsorily the work of a lifetime. The man of sixty may feel both mentally and bodily as vigorous and capable of work as he did thirty years previously, and he has all the experience of three further decades at his fingers' ends to boot. He has grown to manhood and to age in his work, and it will be strange if he does not love it, or at all events feel lost without it. Therefore, while agreeing with the principle and realising that it is indeed, as Mr Seddon says, to the best interests of the colony that these retirements must be made, we should all of us be less than human if we did not feel warm sympathy and understand the feelings of those who, after serving us well during the best years of their life, are now to be laid on the shelf. That they have given us good service we know, else they had not so long occupied their places, and now that their time has come, 'twould be base ingratitude did we not wish that the evening of their life may be both pleasant and prolonged, and that they will be free from all ill-health or worry which might mar enjoyment of their well-earned rest.

Teaching the Teachers.

Was the "summer school" a success? If one is to believe an exceedingly well-written and trenchant criticism of the same written to the daily press by one who attended it, one must come reluctantly to the conclusion that it failed in some degree to realise the ideals of those who inaugurated it. The "summer school" was, it will be remembered, an exceedingly felicitous idea. It was the establishment of a school in the holidays for teachers, when by means of lectures and social intercourse they were to improve themselves in their profession, and to enlarge their intellectual outlook. Teaching is a narrowing profession, and it was hoped that the "summer school" would not merely give hints and information valuable to teachers, but would result in a broadening of views which could not be other than beneficial. Now, if we are to believe the evidence of the writer, "K.A.T." who is, by admission, a lady, and who seems to be a person of sane and unprejudiced judgment, these ideals were not reached. The lectures were, it is alleged, poor in substance and delivery, and imparted little which was not already familiar to all, though it is admitted that some old points which had been forgotten had been recalled. Yet according to the

critic, the results achieved were nil. There was little sociability or interchange of views, and she states explicitly that "we all," that is, those who attended, "deemed it a failure and waste of precious time." Probably others may have a different opinion, but it would seem evident the affair was not the success hoped for. This is a pity, for undoubtedly a summer school, with lectures from first-class experts, and debates and interchange of experiences and experiments, would be exceedingly valuable. To those not of the profession nothing is more striking in a meeting where many school teachers are gathered together than a certain tendency to undue dogmatism, and, if one may say so without offence, a dwarfing of the imagination. This is the inevitable result of always being in the position of superior, and the "summer school" should be of value as an antidote. But could it not, for the better enjoyment of summer weather, and the acquiring of necessary health, be held in camp, perhaps a moving camp, as reading parties are conducted by students at the English universities? This would make for social camaraderie, as well as health, and the lectures, etc., could surely as well be delivered under canvas as in a stuffy hall. It is at all events to be hoped that the "summer school" will not drop. Even if all that "K.A.T." says be true, it merely means there is room for improvement, while, of course, there may be others who are better satisfied than the lady whose complaints I have made the text for these remarks.

Preservation of Maori Relics.

What is expressively styled an exceedingly "good day's work" was accomplished by the deputation from the Auckland Institute which waited on the Premier during his Auckland visit, with the object of endeavouring to secure Government assistance in the acquiring and preservation of Maori relics and curios. The result achieved is not merely satisfactory to the Auckland Institute and their magnificent museum, but is of the highest interest and importance to every kindred institute in this colony, and through these to every individual member of the community. All have agreed long since that it would be deplorable if in a few years' time we were to find the rapidly decreasing stock of ancient Maori carvings and curios had vanished into foreign museums and the hands of private collectors. The wholesale export of the finest examples, which was going on some years since, has been stopped, and, happily also, an end has been put to the slaughter of our rare and beautiful New Zealand birds, many of which were on the verge of extinction. But up to now no attempt has been made by the Government to assist our museums to enlarge their collections and to enable them to acquire and hold for the people those heirlooms of the splendid native race of these islands, which in the course of another decade or so will be absolutely priceless in value, and of inestimable sentimental and historical interest. The Premier, it is true, did not promise to put a definite vote on the Estimates, but his reply was even more satisfactory than if he had, for he promised to bring the matter before Parliament next session, and to move in the direction of allowing all museums a subsidy for the acquiring of relics—the subsidy to be on the wholesome and equitable basis of helping those who help themselves. For the Government to vote a lump sum for the acquiring of a carved house or some such valuable for any individual museum would be an impossible proceeding leading to an aggravation of those deplorable provincial jealousies which are already sufficiently bitter. But to encourage the enterprise and generosity of any city desirous of laying up a store of beautiful and rare objects for future generations is quite another matter. Auckland has already a splendid museum, due to the generosity and esprit de corps of many of her citizens and some truly splendid gifts from public-spirited men. The acquiring of the splendid Mair collection is a case in point, it having been secured by gifts and subscriptions. The

Northern City will certainly determine to keep its premier place in the matter of the finest Maori collection in the colony, and when it is known that the Government will give £ for £ in the adding of approved specimens there is no doubt a strong feeling of loyalty and pride in their town will be engendered amongst the people, and a very generous response will be made to any appeal for funds to carry on the work. Healthy emulation will follow in other centres, and it will thus come to be certain that the most valuable and beautiful specimens of ancient Maori arts and crafts will come into the hands of public institutions. With regard to the fine Maori carved house at that ghastly failure, the Imperial Institute, it is, as the Premier remarked, stuck away in a dark corner, and is rotting away unseen and unvalued, and, as he hinted, the sooner it is got back to the colony the better. It could well be erected in the park or sanatorium grounds at Rotorua.

The Value of the Historical Drama and Romance.

The historical novel or romance and the so-called historical plays, such as "If I Were King," have been so much in evidence of late years that it is of some interest to discuss their usefulness and whether they do not do a certain amount of really valuable work in creating an interest, or at all events a curiosity, with regard to the romance of facts and legends which may lead a whole-hearted study of history, the most fascinating and surely not the least desirable of all forms of literature. A very well known celebrity has been quoted as saying that he learned "more of history from the novels of Sir Walter Scott than from all other sources put together." It is to be feared the rising generation does not know its Scott as well as is desirable, but there must be thousands upon thousands who could endorse the statement concerning the author of "Ivanhoe," and who gained their first delight in the study of old-time manners and customs from, say, the "Fortunes of Nigel," or the splendid romance of Kenilworth. Nor, I believe, is the work of some of our modern authors without incentive and value in the same direction. "The White Company" of Mr Conan Doyle reflects the life and times of the stormy days of the third Edward and his famous and gallant son in a manner excelled by none; the atmosphere of the day is extraordinarily well produced, and the historic accuracy of the romance is beyond criticism. A prodigious number of authorities were consulted in the preparation of the work, which has probably given more young people an interest in history than any novel of our day. And though the so-called historical play is very often only historical in name, or by the inclusion of one or two historical figures in the cast, they, too, I honestly believe, form some sort of mental stimulant, and have a beneficial effect. Francois Villon is not an important figure in history—he is even in the history of letters somewhat of an insignificant; but a play which deals with so picturesque an individual in such picturesque terms is not unlikely to cause one to desire to delve deeper into times so fascinating and so replete with amazing facts—stranger far than fiction. To be sure, the incident on which the play is founded has no authentic foundation in history, but this does not materially affect my point, which is that even a play which is historically inaccurate may serve to inspire a taste for self-culture if it at all reflects the life and atmosphere of the times.

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Oingo, by Torpedo from Coma, has for some time been regarded as the best quarters as a gelding that could not compass a long distance well, and was treated as such in the Atkinson Stakes on Thursday, at Belmont, where he dispelled the notion by winning that race. As a three-year-old he won the 1140-gal. Bay Guineas, creating at the time a surprise, by beating Tigress, Altair, and two others, but his latest victory has been achieved over the longest distance he has won since, if my memory serves me right.

Fourteen bookmakers paid the Te Aroha Jockey Club a subscription fee of two guineas each on the first day of their meeting, and seventeen paid a like sum on the second day, thus adding £65 2/ to the funds. With an increase of bookmakers, there was an increase of business on the totalisator, the figures being £323 first day, £740 on second day, giving a grand total of £1063 10/. Last year £1738 10/ was passed through, so that this year the short-age amounts to £675. The Te Aroha Jockey Club has only had a similar experience to a number of other racing clubs this season.

Solo, 7.7, at Takapuna on January 31st, ran out of the first day of their meeting behind Numa, 7.12, distance five furlongs. Solo, 7.4, at Takapuna on February 3, ran unplaced behind Numa, 8.10, in the Borough Handicap, four furlongs. Neither have run since. Both are handicapped for the Plymouth Handicap, at South Auckland. Solo has 10.2, Numa 9.12. Della Rose gave Solo 14 lbs in the Borough Handicap at Takapuna and finished second to Numa. How is Solo to compare with Della Rose in the Flying at South Auckland?

Through the blundering of someone, the name of Halberdier, B.A. was telegraphed to the papers north and south in the list of horses handicapped for the Woodville Cup, in which event Mr Henrys, the handicapper, has informed me by wire the New Zealand Cup winner was not nominated, and was not handicapped. The mistake was unfortunate for Mr Henrys, as newspaper criticisms were based thereon, and a section of the public who follow form were at a loss to account for the placing of Curraress's son. I had first met the name in the nomination list, and her name did not appear in the list of weights wined.

Machine Gun, when I saw him in November last, after the C.A. Spring Meeting, had grown into a big two-year-old, and looked somewhat on the leg. The son of Horthias and Rubina took my Taucy greatly as a yearling, and is evidently possessed of the same qualities. Vandal, Florio, Lancelton, and Rubin were all winners from Rubina, and Machine Gun, with his drop of Musket blood may prove as good, if not better, than any of them. I had second to Achilles, at the C.J.C. Summer Meeting at Auckland. The latter, at least, was a creditable performer. The pity is that his wind is affected.

At a country meeting a short time ago there was an increased field which did not end as was expected. There were only three runners—A, B, and C. A and B decided to let C, the worst one, win. C could not beat A, however, as the rider of A could not hold his mount slow enough. B was more easily managed, and finished third. Then the objection was raised that A had gone inside a post. This the Jockey of A acknowledged was the case. C should have been declared the winner, which was what would have completed the "place" of the others, but the officials saw through the ruse, and elected to have the race struck out altogether.

At Taranaki the luck racer Tikikawa, who is by Meric England from a Cokerae mare, was handicapped at 13 lb and 17 lb respectively more weight than he carried into fourth place in one of the back races at Wellington, but did not compete in either, as he got cast in his box, the mishap occurring about two hours before the start of the race. Tikikawa, who has the reputation of being a great one on the track, was purchased last year for £19, and sold again to his present owner for £30. His dam is a well-known harness mare at Blenheim. It was thought that the injury received by Tikikawa was because him to be absent from the back races at Belmont, where he was not so highly assessed as at Taranaki, but he won there, and started favorite in the second back event.

On November 25, 1892, Mr Wilby, of Birkling, near Aylsham, in Norfolk, started to ride his mare, 15 hands high, rising 7 years old, a distance of ninety miles in ten hours and 20 minutes. Mr Wilby weighed 14st 3lb, and the course was a stretch of ten miles on the Aylsham-road. He began at six o'clock in the morning, and did seventy miles in seven hours and twenty minutes; then "it was thought proper to give the mare water, although before she had drunk only wine and porter mixed. She faltered much before reaching the starting place after her drink, and on her arrival, being quite spent, she was obliged to give in. Many bets to the amount of £1000 were depending, the bets being in favour of the mare. Mr Wilby had agreed to sell her for £50 if she had won, and it is believed had she not drunk water that would have been the case."

Messrs Perrott and Co., of Henderson, have patented and protected a horse-stop, which has met with general commendation from those who have seen it. The stop takes the form of a small metal ring which can be attached to the hub of any vehicle, and this can be so used as to bring a rubber wheel to press on the box of the wheel when it revolves, and causes a spiral rod fixed under the body of the conveyance to wind it up. In this way the pressure is brought quickly to bear on an over- or under-pulling, or bolting horse through this attachment. During the week

Messrs Perrott and Co. have given exhibitions of the way in which the patent stop works, and it would appear only a matter of time when we shall find the invention amongst our horse furnishings. Especially amongst those who have to do with rough horses will such an invention prove of value.

The raising of horses, says Mrs Goodrich Nier, in her recent book on the Hebrides, "Infer's Isles, has revolved as a local trade in Tyree. It is said that some years ago a horse bred by a crofter and sold in London to a local farmer for £30 fell into the hands of an expert, was trained for racing purposes, and finally, as an old mare, was sold for £200. It is needless to say that after that the dealers came in floods, and sometimes good prices are paid still. The horses are too valuable, too necessary to the life of the people, apart from their natural friendliness, to be unfairly treated. If a crofter's horse dies, the neighbors will help him with their own, and sometimes get him another. They are very careful not to work a horse before it has come to maturity. Their rides about breeding are equally careful. The Islanders believe that the best of the breed is the gift of the seventh, and they preserve the last words of the horse, the cow, and the sheep.

When horses come out and win races like Mr D. Hughes' big five three-year-old Kalaroo has been doing, it may be certain that some followers of racing will be curious to learn their breeding. With this latest equine velocity has a great deal to do, and it is no doubt but that breeding is very good springs, but all quarters of his breeding cannot at present be traced. Sylvia Park, his sire, is by St. Leger from Atalanta, by Dainty Ariel, dam Moonshine, by the Earl, imported, and by the Earl, everything right on the sire's side. His dam, Secrecy, was a useful mare, and was got by Foul Shot, son of Musket and Slander, by Traducer. Her dam was by Tyeason, son of Traducer and Lady Jane, a daughter of the Riverworth, by M. by the son or other of the Arab horses (Glen-dower or Commissioner. Here, then, we have two strains of Middleworth blood, one of Musket, two of Traducer, and a dash of the Earl. The latter is the sire of the breeding of Kalaroo's great grandmother has yet to be traced, and Mr Hughes hopes to get it with the aid of some natives, who purchased the mare, and had her at Porirua many years ago.

Many people went to Sandown Park, says the "Age," especially to see the (Irish) gelding Famous running the Sandown Welter Plate. There has been a great deal of talk lately about Famous' chance in the Newmarket Handicap, and evidently several who nominated for Wednesday's race have been influenced by it, as only two of the 20 coloured on the card to oppose Mr S. Fleider's horse entered an appearance. Odd of 5 to 1 were put on Famous' favouring side, and Catcheshot, who was what was nothing more than a working gallop, the odds were never in doubt. The favorite pulled up well, and will probably be much benefited by the gallop and a few more miles in public, but the chance is not so run in the Newmarket Handicap. Famous is a very nice horse to look at—just the sort to attract the sovereign of the man who likes to back a horse on his appearance, and he is undoubtedly a galloper in high order. He has already been well backed for the Newmarket Handicap, and if he makes a good show in the Sixth Caulfield Futurity Stakes, he is likely to see a shirt price for the big Flemington sprint race.

Referring to Wakeful's defeat in the St. George's Stakes at the recent Victoria Amateur Turf Club Meeting, the Melbourne correspondent of "Crown and Country" writes that the best lover of the day was, of course, in the St. George's Stakes, which most people naturally regarded as a gift for Wakeful. This grand little mare nevertheless is not a machine, and even if she were it must not be forgotten that machines were not in those days. She was beaten on her merits on Saturday, but there was no disgrace attaching to the defeat, and she may be going gradually down the hill, like all things of this earth, or she may only want sharpening up with a public gallop or two just to insert herself into the race done before her. Football friends allowed him to run loose, and save for a few fancy shots, 20's were freely on offer about his chance. Some money changed hands over Killa, Famous, and The Victory, but Wakeful's price was prohibitive to the great majority of backers, so the highest did not benefit much by her defeat. Football is a very brilliant horse when thoroughly well, and he evidently was thoroughly well on Saturday, because he beat the game little mare almost as if she were a second-rate Famous' daughter, and the journey seemed rather far for him."

This is Captain Heber Percy's account of the Kiang, a member of the first of the original cordially hated of sportsmen who visit the high plateaux of that country:—"The Kiang was doubtless originally intended by Providence to fulfil some good purpose, but having turned out to fall far short of its purpose, it was probably considered it would not be much in the way. . . . The Kiang has nothing to excuse or recommend it; it is an ugly donkey-like, hide-headed brute, with straight shoulders in front, a month by with a yellow-brown hog mane, dorsal stripe, and tail, its head and ears are coarse and large, and its screeching bray is as unpleasant as its general appearance. Being absolutely worthless to shoot, it is always treed upon the fact that it is always treed because that it is deeply interested in human beings, particularly Europeans, is for ever thrusting itself into society where it is not welcome, thereby spoiling the sportsman's chance of shooting the animal he desires, the shaboo or wild sheep. As soon as he thinks it has got a sportsman's temper thoroughly roused, it will scour the country round for all its friends and relations, and

assemble them together to enjoy the interesting spectacle of an angry man armed with a rifle which he dare not discharge at them for fear of alarming something worth firing at (the wild sheep)."

His Majesty the King has now in training eighteen horses, which are under the charge of Mr Richard Marsh, at Fernion House, Newmarket. Marsh does not train for the King alone, his other patrons being Lord Wolverton, Mr J. W. Larnach, and Mr Arthur James, all three being members of the Jockey Club; and he also has a few horses of his own. At Sandringham His Majesty has sixteen brood mares and a number of foals and yearlings, the steeplechase Anshuh II., winner of the Grand National Steeplechase in 1898, a stable companion to lead him in work, and the famous Derby winners Persimmon (1896) and Diamond Jubilee (1900). The former, whose subscription for the season is full in standing at 300 guineas. The two Derby winners and the beautiful horse Florizel II. (also the property of His Majesty, and standing at the Heath House Stud, Newmarket, at 100 guineas, with a full list) are being bred all three by St. Simon from Perizel II. The purchase of this now famous mare was recommended by that astute trainer John Porter, and nearly all the great success achieved by His Majesty on the turf must be attributed to her. The price paid for the mare was 2750 guineas, and what a lucky purchase she proved may be judged by the following resume of her produce and their winnings:—1888: R.C. Derivel, by Baracidal, 10 races, 1 win, £152. This colt was sold as a 4-year-old to Mr G. Huzghon for 70 guineas, and died the next season. 1889: B.F. Baracidal, by Baracidal, 4 races, 1 win, £1064 10/; 1890: Baren, 1891: B.C. Florizel II., by St. Simon, 22 races, 11 wins, £2758. 1892: Baren, 1893: B.C. Persimmon, by St. Simon, 9 races, 7 wins, £247 7/6. 1895: B.F. Azeeza, by Surefoot, 1 race, 1890: B.C. Sandringham, by St. Simon, did not run, and now at the stud in America. 1897: R.C. Diamond Jubilee, by St. Simon, 10 races, 6 wins, £2315 10/. 1898: Stipped foal, 1899: B.F. Nadeja, by St. Simon, has not run. The total winnings amount to £72,900. Last season eight winners by Persimmon won 16 races and £36,898, the highest winner being Sceptic, Mr "Bob Sutton" Hiver's famous mare, bred in this colony. Ribbunwood is a black son of imported Wildwood, himself one of the truest gaited trotting horses that ever graced a racecourse, and his dam was got by Young Irvington, a very fast pacer, a son of imported Irvington, who was a rare bred one, but unfortunately only left a few foals in the colony. Wildwood and both the Irvington sire and son had plenty

of thoroughbred blood in their composition, and lived in where Ribbunwood got his great staying quality from, for not only did he pace a mile in 2:11 2/5 on Saturday, but earlier in the day covered 2 miles in the record time of 4:35 4/5, thus maintaining a 2 1/2 mile pace the longer journey. I venture to say that the two performances on one day constitute a world's record for a 4-year-old, if not, indeed, for a horse of any age, for in America they seldom ask their horses to pace or trot two miles on end. Mile heats are, and long have been, the vogue there. It is impossible to say how good Ribbunwood really is. What would he accomplish on American tracks? How many of the same age would beat him there over a mile, or over both distances? These are questions one is tempted to ask. It is only within recent years that his time for a mile has been beaten by anything of the same age, and then the Canterbury Trotting Club's track, though probably the fastest in the colony, is not so fast as are American tracks, and it is just a question whether there have been many performances accomplished in the history of American pacing and trotting records, by so young a horse, and on so small a track, as it is barely a five furlong circuit. These are questions one is tempted to ask. The great American sport will remember the sensation created in America, when in August, 1890, the champion trotting mare Simon, driven by Charles Marvin, got to the end of a mile in 2:11, just a fraction of a second faster than Ribbunwood on Saturday paced the same distance. At that time all America would have been full of the greatest possible enthusiasm, had a 4-year-old colt come out, and on one day, on a small track like that the New Zealand Trotting Club's grounds, as it is, indeed, on the very best track in the States, covered two miles in 4:35 4/5, and a mile, the same afternoon, in 2:11 2/5. In New Zealand, Ribbunwood's performances are being talked about only by a small section of the people outside of Canterbury and Otago, but in Canterbury, the home of the trotter and pacer in New Zealand, the achievements mean much, for there Ribbunwood is owned, and there his sire and dam were owned, and in view of the big match against the Australian bred trotter Fritz, it will cause immense satisfaction to know that the little black is keeping his form so well, if he strips as well at Easter time, Fritz will have to be quite equal to his private preparation, and at his best, to hold his own with Wildwood's champion son.

The great performance of the four-year-old pacing stallion Ribbunwood in Canterbury, accomplished on Saturday, is an event of which lovers of the sport of trotting and pacing should be proud, since the colt, who is only a modern bred one, was bred in this colony. Ribbunwood is a black son of imported Wildwood, himself one of the truest gaited trotting horses that ever graced a racecourse, and his dam was got by Young Irvington, a very fast pacer, a son of imported Irvington, who was a rare bred one, but unfortunately only left a few foals in the colony. Wildwood and both the Irvington sire and son had plenty

of thoroughbred blood in their composition, and lived in where Ribbunwood got his great staying quality from, for not only did he pace a mile in 2:11 2/5 on Saturday, but earlier in the day covered 2 miles in the record time of 4:35 4/5, thus maintaining a 2 1/2 mile pace the longer journey. I venture to say that the two performances on one day constitute a world's record for a 4-year-old, if not, indeed, for a horse of any age, for in America they seldom ask their horses to pace or trot two miles on end. Mile heats are, and long have been, the vogue there. It is impossible to say how good Ribbunwood really is. What would he accomplish on American tracks? How many of the same age would beat him there over a mile, or over both distances? These are questions one is tempted to ask. It is only within recent years that his time for a mile has been beaten by anything of the same age, and then the Canterbury Trotting Club's track, though probably the fastest in the colony, is not so fast as are American tracks, and it is just a question whether there have been many performances accomplished in the history of American pacing and trotting records, by so young a horse, and on so small a track, as it is barely a five furlong circuit. These are questions one is tempted to ask. The great American sport will remember the sensation created in America, when in August, 1890, the champion trotting mare Simon, driven by Charles Marvin, got to the end of a mile in 2:11, just a fraction of a second faster than Ribbunwood on Saturday paced the same distance. At that time all America would have been full of the greatest possible enthusiasm, had a 4-year-old colt come out, and on one day, on a small track like that the New Zealand Trotting Club's grounds, as it is, indeed, on the very best track in the States, covered two miles in 4:35 4/5, and a mile, the same afternoon, in 2:11 2/5. In New Zealand, Ribbunwood's performances are being talked about only by a small section of the people outside of Canterbury and Otago, but in Canterbury, the home of the trotter and pacer in New Zealand, the achievements mean much, for there Ribbunwood is owned, and there his sire and dam were owned, and in view of the big match against the Australian bred trotter Fritz, it will cause immense satisfaction to know that the little black is keeping his form so well, if he strips as well at Easter time, Fritz will have to be quite equal to his private preparation, and at his best, to hold his own with Wildwood's champion son.



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lively about him at times since the peace proclamation. It is wonderful the number of horses that were drawn together from different countries. Australia had quite its fair share, but the outcome did not discover many winners from the Commonwealth division. When it is borne in mind, however, that in all the handicaps the Australians were called upon to give away heaps of weight to the others, their lack of success is not remarkable. Though failing in both his efforts, Chesney stands out as the star performer at the meeting, showing that he was rightly appraised the best racehorse in South Africa. I write in the past tense, inasmuch as I fear the ship-wrecked warrior's career on the turf has closed. He pulled up duty in the big handicap on the first day, notwithstanding which he changed hands at 2000 guineas. His new owners foolishly ran him in the Champion Plate, the weight-for-age event, on the concluding day. Had the son of Malua and Madcap been himself it would have been far longer odds on his scoring than the 2 to 1 which backers had to lay. But a horse confined to his box for a week could not be expected to give any show, and Chesney was no exception, going through without a breakdown. The fever eventually, however, happened a couple of furlongs from home, and, dropping back, Grasspan and the veteran campaigner Malgo, who has been a South African champion for years, fought out a great finish, which ended in favoring the Australian. Malgo, as indicated, had had a big local reputation, having three times returned winner of the Johannesburg Handicap, on two of the occasions under heavy weights. He is now nine years old, so can hardly be the horse he once was. Even if he were, it would not be a very glorious performance on the part of Grasspan to beat him."

Grasspan ran most disappointingly in the chief handicap on the first day. It was therein Chesney shone like a meteor, super-torally over the best in the land. The race which is endowed to the extent of £1500, and is run over a severe mile course, brought no fewer than 25 to the post, of whom Lovematch, an English bred 3 year old filly, by Matomaker and Sweet Laura, a stable companion of Chesney, went off favourite. There was a very large volume of betting on the event. The ring here is a strong one, and they bet in big figures. Before the weight was given, Chesney was the one that Mr Abe Bailey was going to depend on, and the money was then piled on her, while the top weight drifted back to a long price. The filly eventually started at 9 to 2, and won comfortably by a length from Ocean Gem, a 4 year old filly by Pearl Diver, carrying 7.5, with Chesney, not ridden out, gaining third place another length away. The report given currency to that Lovematch represented Chesney at 9 to 2 was not borne out in the running, for there, by a margin of 100 yards, he had been much closer had his rider willed. Chesney's starting price was 33 to 1, and he returned £16 17/ from the place totalizer. Grasspan, 10 to 1; Cast Iron, 9 to 2; San Patricia, 8 to 1; Gunga Din, 8 to 1; Sweet Laura, 7 to 1; were among the starters. Cast Iron showed a bold front for 6 furlongs, when he faded out of the contest; the others named were never prominent. Mr Bailey and his racing partner, Mr Ben Curtis, soon upwards of £30,000 by the success of Lovematch. When it comes to be considered that the filly, being English bred, was really a 4 year old when running, her input, only 5 lb over the minimum, was a most luxurious one. Gunga Din cut a sorry figure in all his races. Though looking well, he exhibited not the slightest dash. Gunga Din must be set down as a back number. Cast Iron was every time overburdened with weight, so was San Patricia. The New Zealand filly was actually asked to give 10 pounds to Grasspan in a six furlong race. The latter did not run, but San Patricia essayed to carry 9.5, and was well backed. She did not get into the first three. Besides Grasspan, the only Australian winner was The Wier, by Niagara, who, going out fav-

orite in the Rolling Race on the last day, won easily. There were huge attendances each day. The totalisators, which are poorly managed, put through about £20,000. A New Zealand bred pony, Jewel, a stable companion of The Australian Peer, was the only gateway meeting which followed the J.T.C. gathering.

The death of The Australian Peer, says "Terlinga," recalls recollections of some stirring turf incidents. The Peer came in a remarkably good year. The best lot of three-year-olds we ever had were those that raced in 1877-8. They included First King, Chester, Cap'n H's, Woodlands, Savanaka, Waterford, Amendment, Lockley, Strathern, Glenormuldu, Pluto, Rapidly, The Ivesa, Royalty, Black Swan, Pardon, and Devise. These were all good, and, I think, that next to them the best lot we had were in the Peer's time. They included Abercorn, Carlyon, Australian Peer, Crabbrook, Niagara, Maxin, and Tranter. I have not included Houtsewe, because she lost her form altogether in the autumn of her two-year-old days, and did not win a race as a three-year-old. Abercorn won the A.J.C. Derby, for which the Peer ran third, but in the Handicap Plate Mr Gannon's colt upset the odds of 8 to 1 laid on Trident for the three-mile race. It turned out that Trident had completely lost his form, and he never won a race afterwards. That Handicap Plate was the cause of trouble outside the griefs of the punter. Hales declared that Gorry, Trainer, had jabbed him on the ribs with Trident. Hales lost his temper completely over the incident, and slashed Gorry with his whip after they pulled up. Then he wanted Mr White to protest, but Mr White declined to do so, because he had nothing to say, as it happened in the interference could have altered the result of the race. Gorry, however, was a protegee of Mr W. A. Long's at the time, and Mr Long was very indignant with Hales for striking his boy, but in the end he let the thing go off without the stewards taking a hand. Abercorn went out at even money for the Derby, but he was very sore, and Gorry, getting last run on The Peer, won comfortably, while Abercorn and Niagara had been out for second place. I have always thought that with a strong man on him, that fine looking horse Tranter would have won this race for Mr E. Mitchelson, a New Zealand gentleman who had very bad luck with his racing ventures in Victoria. Tranter was just behind the placed horses, and going very strong, but poor little Hughes had no control over him, and he finished with his head wedged in between Niagara and Abercorn. If his jockey had had the strength to keep Tranter on his feet, he would have won. Mr W. E. Dakin, who trained Tranter, did not like to take Hughes on, because he had ridden the colt in all his work, but he was quite unfit to ride a horse like Tranter. The Australian Peer was third in the Melbourne Cup just in front of Abercorn, and he beat the big chestnut again in the Canterbury Plate, but in March Abercorn was himself again, and getting last run he rode out the best in the finish of the Legger. With the very reasonable weight of 8.6 Australian Peer beat a rather weak field in the Sydney Cup. After that came his weight-for-age battles with Abercorn. As Mr Joe Thompson put it last week it was "one that was one and then the other. The one that got last run always won. That 'chase after Wycombe in the three mile race at Randwick probably made a rogue of The Peer. I did not see that race, but I will remember Mr Thompson describing it to me. His idea was that it might have broken the hearts of both Abercorn and The Peer, but 'old Abe' was too big hearted a fellow to be upset by even this cruel race. He was probably a better horse as a three-year-old than he was, and I have always maintained that he would have won Bravo's Melbourne Cup under his 10.10, if Mr White had not ordered T. Payton to scratch him after he had catered in for the Metropolitan with 9.10. Meles, however, would have won that Cup by 50 yards, if his jockey had not lost his way on the road. With Meles ridden as he was, Abercorn would probably have won, as in the form he was then he must have been lengths in front of Carbine, who ran

second with 10.0, and you could not bring Abercorn, as he was then, back to a horse like Bravo. However, that is another story. After his tremendous racing in Sydney, when Wycombe won, there is every reason to suppose that The Australian Peer turned shifty, although Mr Gannon always maintained he was never as good as on the day of his last race. He told me afterwards, "I was just saying to myself he'll give me a better look today, and suddenly he stopped, and when he came in he was over-drawn in blood." He had broken a blood vessel. After the race Wycombe won, The Australian Peer won the Melbourne Stakes, but he was lucky. If the great lumbering condition had not rolled on to Mentor, Mr Wallace's horse would probably have won. On the last day of the meeting The Peer cut it very badly in the Canterbury Plate, and Mentor won easily. There is no question about The Peer having been a good horse in a good year, but I doubt if he was as good as either Abercorn or Carlyon. At the stud he got fair horses in The Australian Star, Australian, Nobleman, Australian Colours, and His Grace.

The weights for the Wanganui Cup were declared on Friday, and Mr Avert thought it necessary to go to the length of putting 11 lb on Abercorn today, which would be a quarter event. This is 13 lb more than the black son of Vanguard and Laurel won the Wellington Cup under last month, and the distance is a quarter of a mile further, but in Abercorn's favor, which is the same. When a horse wins a race as good as the Wellington Cup, no doubt is left in the minds of those who witness such a performance as to the superlative merit of the performer, and the quality and condition of the field must be considered all the same, and that being so, I am constrained to say that on the day Advance won the Wellington Cup he was not opposed by a single competitor representing anything approaching good class, and the time was the best of those that started were not fit to show to full advantage, and in any case there were none capable of going fast enough to give him the brilliant black. Will the Wanganui Cup field sound anything but better or fitter to meet him should his owners elect to set him to take on the herculean task, and shall we see Advance again as well as he was on Wellington Cup day, and in luck to have such a perfect day as that was for the performance of a great achievement, and in addition, weak opposition? Fit and well as he was at the New Zealand Cup meeting, I would like to lay a shabod of odds on Advance being Advance with their respective weights—9st and 11st 3lb—but it would surprise some people were Halberdier to show his long form so soon after running as he did at Hawera last week. It seems as if too short between the two meetings. He is reported more. Then we punters that must be taken into account come to the best three-year-old in Auckland, the best in the whole of New Zealand, that we have seen over a distance of ground this season. Can Advance give this colt 2st 6lb? Is it reasonable and fair to expect him to do so? Eighteen pounds over and above the weight-for-age difference, and this high scale of weights means a lot. Waikiki is not the colt I take him to be if he cannot hold his own with even an Advance on such terms. Will he be well enough on the day to do so, or will his owner allow the chance of winning the rich prize at Wanganui to pass him by? Orloff has been trained to 5lb less than Waikiki, who has his pointless in the Great Northern Derby last season at a difference of quite as easily as Advance did Hineaura, and the rest of the runners in the Wellington Cup. Waikiki put up a record, too, in that way of making time for the Ellerslie course in 2lb 4 fair allowance to make Orloff's Motor is no doubt a fitter horse than he was in the Wellington Cup, but has 21lb more than he carried into fifth place in that race, and consequently has been tried 5lb more in weight than Advance, and 17lb more than Hineaura, who has 5lb more than she ran second in the Wellington Cup with. A fair apportionment as between Advance and Hineaura this, but unless Motor has really won an improvement it would appear that that horse has been given quite his full complement for winning at Egmont, to give some of the best 2lb division in the country. The Auckland horse Strathavon and Mars may be considered well enough treated, the first named because he has been winning all along the line, not because he has been beating anything on account, for it would appear that his recent victories were due as

much to want of fitness on the part of the opposition as to his own good condition. Just how good he may be we really do not know. Mars can be depended upon to run a good race with his weight, if he shows the least improvement on Taranaki form, where he was seen as well probably as he ever was in his life. Gorka has received a fair weight, but will have to show improvement on past form. Coxy is a misfit, and The Shaabon will not be got back to form. The light-weight division, from Fleka down, may furnish something to make a fair stand, but I look for the winner to come from those above that, but would want to know that Advance was really very fit, and that several on the same side of the handicaps were not before recommending the top weight. Owners will let us know their intentions on the 27th, when acceptances go in.

TURF TALK FROM THE SOUTH.

(By Telegraph.—Own Correspondent.)

CHRISTCHURCH, Saturday.

The yearling foal brother to Orloff has been named Malakoff.

Ghorka has been scratched for his engagements at the Dunedin Autumn Meeting.

Corin Linn is showing signs of soreness, and I doubt if she will stand another preparation.

The Cairnbo colt purchased by Sir Geo. Clifford at the Wellington Park sale is being bandied preparatory to being broken in.

The well-known peer What, by St Louis, died suddenly on Saturday. Heart disease was the cause.

La Ruse, a full sister to the Craven Plate winner Taaritz, has a fine colt foal by the imported horse Obligado.

Pampelo is doing good work at Wingatui, and is keeping quite sound. Another horse that is doing well at Wingatui is St. Denis, who is pretty certain to be returned a winner next week.

It is a thousand pities that Machine Gun is touched in his wind. Few finer two-year-olds have carried the goldburst colours, and to look at him he is an ideal Derby colt. Even as it is he is certain to shine over short courses, provided his legs stand, and they look clean enough.

Sir Geo. Clifford's three-year-old Deerstalker is under orders to leave for the north next week to take part in the Wanganui meeting. The colt, who is brother to Chiel is a fine powerful colt, and if he will only remain sound long enough to stand a thorough preparation, will soon find a place in the winning list. He has never started in public.

To-morrow, who broke a small blood vessel in her throat during the race for the Middle Park Plate, will not start at the Dunedin Autumn Meeting. Her stable companions Annie Chiel, Golden Veil, Tercelet and Quarryman left for the South yesterday to fill the order respective engagements at that gathering. The last named is certain to run forward in the two-year-old events, and he will be heard of next season unless I am much mistaken. Such a well grown, highly bred youngster can scarcely fail to win races.

CHRISTCHURCH, Tuesday.

Local racing men were sincerely sorry to learn of Mr Dowse's death.

Social Post is in work again, after a lengthy spell.

Bayonet, the two-year-old by Musketry from Psyche, after showing good back form right up to the C.C. Summer Meeting, went amiss, and was unable to start at that gathering. He is to be added to the list.

I made a mistake last week when I said that Deerstalker had never raced. I overlooked the fact that the son of Clansman had started in the Riccarton Welter Handicap, decided at the Canterbury J.C. Spring Meeting.

Two new aspirants to the legitimate game at Riccarton are Ayrdale and Clanburn. The latter was given a turn over the hurdles at Riccarton on Saturday morning, and jumped creditably. The for-

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mer as far has not been exhibited in public, but it is said to be showing proficiency in private.

Since my last message was sent, Oriou, Machine Gun, Lavalette, Fallon, Lohk, Gladstone, and Barrette have all left for the South to fulfil their respective engagements at the Luncheon J.C. Autumn Meeting. My selections for the first day's racing are:—Huride Race, Dartmoor; Hack Race, Lavalette; Dunedin Cup, Oriou and Frits; Favourite, Deutscher 7.9, Oracle 7.7, Pupara 7.7, Alana 7.0, Eland 7.0, Good Intent 6.13, Laminus 4.9, Shackle 6.8, A.B.N. 6.7, Belle Cole 6.7, Elmsion 6.7.

The feature of the second day of the N.Z. Metropolitan Trotting Club's Autumn Meeting was the trotting of Ribbonwood; the son of the woodcock, coming from scratch, easily beat a large field in the N.Z. Handicap, covering the two miles in 4.35 4/5, or 7 1/2-seconds inside the previous N.Z. record. Later on, in a match against time, with the assistance of a galloping horse to act as pacesetter, he covered a mile in 2.11 2/5, which is 1 3/8-sec faster than the previous record established by the New South Wales horse Frits. These two performances have been the means of imparting a great deal of additional interest into the form, and the fact that Ribbonwood is the former will tend to win, but it must be borne in mind that his records were established on tracks infinitely superior to that on which Frits trotted a mile in 2.13. Those local critics who are not blinded by local prejudice frankly admit that while Frits's backers declare that Ribbonwood will not win a single heat, already there is a good deal of betting on the match.

WAIHI JOCKEY CLUB.

Maiden Plate Handicap of 15000s, seven furlongs.—Evert, 1.10, 1; Success, 8.4, 2; Pretty Boy, 8.11, 3. A good race. Success made the running, but Evert came up in the straight, winning by half a length. Value of the race, 1.11, also started. The contest entered for all-aged cross-bred was not upheld. Time, 1.37. Dividend, £2 14.

Waihi Cup of 6000s, 1 1/4 miles.—Meteor, 6.7, 1; Matamatarakeke, 8.8, 2; Zuleika, 8.5, 3. Won easily. Also started: Darius and Doctor. Time, 2.13. Dividend, £2 12.

Flying Handicap of 2500s, six furlongs.—Green and Gold, 8.11, 1; Hillflower, 7.7, 2; Bluecap, 7.2, 3. Won easily. These were the only starters. Time, 1.19. Dividend, £1 6.

Handicap Hurdles of 3000s, 1 1/4 miles.—Moccasin, 9.0, 1; Evermore, 11.2, 2. These were the only starters. The race was simply a procession. Evermore ran wide at the second hurdle, finishing last. Time, 1.19. Dividend, 15/.

Hack Race of 2000s, 1 mile.—Valdeictory, 8.8, 1; Moccasin, 7.0, 2; Evert, 7.7, 3. Also started: Success. A protest was entered for inconsistent running, but was not upheld. Time, 1.50. Dividend, £7 6.

Forbury Park Racing Club's Meeting. The Forbury Park Racing Club held its second meeting at Forbury to-day, when there was a fair attendance. The following were the winners:—

Handicap Hurdles of 3000s, one mile and a-half.—Dartmoor, 10.7 (Wattie), 1; Sinder, 8.10, 2; Southern Bunter, 10.12, 3. Also started: Calbury. 9.0. Betting: 5 to 4 against Dartmoor. Won easily. Time, 3.0. Final Handicap of 3000s, six furlongs.—Sophistic, 7.0 (Dickery), 1; Lady Bauble, 7.5, 2; Flower-of-Cutha, 8.13, 3. Seven other horses ran. Won by a head. Time, 1.18. Forbury Handicap of 2000s, one mile and a distance.—Mr Gate's Lady Lillian, 8.13 (J. Pine), 1; Calbury, 7.5, 2; Canteen, 9.5, 3. Betting: 5 to 4 against Lady Lillian. Won by six lengths. Time, 1.58 1/5.

Woodville Cup.—Hinetaura 9.5, Queen's Guard 8.11, Plaidie 8.5, Deutscher 7.9, Oracle 7.7, Pupara 7.7, Alana 7.0, Eland 7.0, Good Intent 6.13, Laminus 4.9, Shackle 6.8, A.B.N. 6.7, Belle Cole 6.7, Elmsion 6.7. Flying Hack.—Aldinga 8.3, Waiakaho 8.5, Matuku 8.0, Deconator 7.7, Valkyrie 7.7, Tyrone 7.7, Capuki 7.1, Furumu 7.4, Bitter Star 7.4, Royal 7.3, Heliconus 7.2, Waiti 7.2, Liqueur 7.0, Wind 7.0, Hatley 8.10, Endeavour 8.10, French Maid 9.0. Borough Handicap.—Field Battery 9.5, Rebel 8.3, Strapup Shell 8.3, Assayer 7.13, Oracle 7.11, Gold Dust 7.8, The Rotor 7.7, Pure Silk 7.7, Skel 7.7, Heliconus 7.7, Republic 7.7, Gipsy Jack 7.5, Tikarava 6.14, Archa 6.10, Raema 6.7, Waimoe 6.7. Welter Hack.—Waimoe 10.5, The Guesser 9.13, Heliconus 9.12, Donce 9.12, Waitoa 9.6, La Torpedo 8.13, Atlas 8.13, Louis 8.10, Gaspar 8.13. Electric Handicap.—Field Battery 9.5, Gold Seal 8.10, Strapup Shell 8.3, Rebel 8.2, Te Talaha 8.2, Platypus 7.13, Lady's Link 7.7, Gipsy Jack 7.5, Romanoff 7.0, Stepdughter 7.0, Valkyrie 6.7, Deconator 6.7. Maiden Handicap.—Valma, Grey Cloud, Hydrant, Stepdughter, Rona, Scrymgeour, Athol Brose, Hatley, Alan, Iwiwa, Endeavour, Wizard Oil. Scoury Handicap.—Opal, Katerina, Two Bob, Sergius, Ithyl, Tainue, Gilly, Putipai, Wizard Oil.

DUNEDIN JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

The following are the acceptances for the Dunedin Jockey Club's autumn meeting:— First Hurdles Handicap of 7000s, one mile and three-quarters.—Southern Buster 10.7, Dartmoor 8.11, Waikura 9.10, The Earl 8.7, Sinder 9.0. First Hack Handicap of 6000s, one mile.—Lavalette 9.2, St. Ronald 9.0, First Shot 8.0, Stepenfield 7.5, Phacelitis 7.5, Alana 9.2, Koputal 6.7. Publican's Handicap of 15000s, six furlongs.—St. Dennis 9.5, Tzarita 8.2, Blazer 9.12, Scottish Minstrel 9.7, Tugela 8.10, Lavalette 8.11, Right Honourable 8.11, Butler 8.11, St. Ronald 8.10, Catherine Gordon 8.4, First Shot 8.0, Salada 8.0. Dunedin Jockey Club Handicap of 2500s, one mile.—Canteen 8.2, Vladimir 8.5, Falias 8.12, St. Deser 6.8, Welbeck 8.9, Tzaritz 8.9, Lady Lillian 8.8, Cannie Chiel 8.3, Golden Vein 8.2, Glenelg 7.7, Terrapin 6.13, Lady Roalin 6.10, Sirius 6.8, Lavalette 6.7, Calbre 6.7, Catherine Gordon 6.7. Champagne Stakes of 25000s, six furlongs.—Machin Gun, Sychem, Quarryman.

DUNEDIN CUP. One mile and a half. Canteen 8.13, Glenelg 7.9, Oriou 8.13, Gen. Symons 7.9, Cannie Chiel 8.5, Sirius 6.10, Lady Lillian 8.5, Lady Rosyia 6.9, Vladimir 8.4, Calbre 6.9.

SOUTH AUCKLAND RACING CLUB'S MEETING.

Mr Evert has declared the following weights for the South Auckland Racing Club meeting, which takes place on March 7:— South Auckland Cup, one mile and a-quarter.—Putty 9.10, Matamatarakeke 8.7, Zuleika 8.7, Maid of Honour 4.5, Eversore 8.4, Meteor 8.2, Arena 7.12, Doctor 7.9, Kingsman 7.5, Hillflower 7.3, Pioke 7.2, Reputation 7.0, Miracle 6.7. Pony Handicap, six furlongs.—Vulpine 9.12, Evermore 9.12, Peppercorn 8.11, Vucishe 8.6, Forth 8.6, Wildflower 7.8, Tallman 7.7, Reurgam 7.4, Dan McCarthy 7.6, Israelite 7.5, Kitt 7.0, Sally Horner 7.0, Ngaturo 7.0, Frea 6.7. Steeplechase, about three miles.—Evermore 12.0, Incheape 12.0, Bing 11.12, Hyas 11.10, Moccasin 11.10, Guardsvan 11.1, Tuni 10.0, Lady Dash 9.10, Puffing Billy 8.10, Reckless 9.7, Bellevue 9.7, Fairy 9.7. Handicap Hurdles, one mile and a-half.—Incheape 11.10, Evermore 11.6, Dingo 11.0, Hippowal 10.10, Moccasin 10.6, Waimona 10.5, Frances Lovejoy 10.0, Reckless 10.0, Lady Dash 10.0, Puffing Billy 9.7, Moko-moko 9.7, Guardsvan 11.9.5, Bellevue 9.4, Sidney 9.0, Kolia 9.0. Trial Handicap, seven furlongs.—Solo 9.13, Liberator 8.10, Lady Peckless 8.9, Seatonia 8.7, Souths 7.10, Parly 7.8, Evert 7.8, Dingdong 7.2, Pretty Boy 7.0, Dan McCarthy 7.0 (K. 10).

Handicaps Handicap, one mile.—Zuleika 9.5, Solo 9.2, Maid of Honour 8.9, Meteor 8.7, Arena 8.6, Swagsman 8.6, Mount Zeehan 8.6, Lady Peckless 8.3, Green and Gold 8.2, Doctor 8.9, Miss Lottie 7.12, Leo Delaval 7.7, Hillflower 7.6, Pion 7.6, Reputation 7.4, Souths 7.4, Pretty Boy 7.0, Miracle 6.10. Flying Handicap, five furlongs.—Solo 10.2, Numa 9.13, Maid of Honour 9.4, Meteor 9.0, Vulpine 9.0, Della Rose 8.12, Swagsman 8.1, Liberator 8.10, Seatonia 8.10, Green and Gold 8.10, Telephone 8.0, Pioke 7.12, Hillflower 7.11, Reputation 7.10, Sultan 7.10, Leo Delaval 7.10, Culine 7.7, Sidney 7.0, Millie 7.0, Kaiti Horner 6.10, Kolia 6.10.

THAMES JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

Mr Knight has declared the following weights for the Thames Jockey Club's autumn meeting, which takes place on 2nd March:— Maiden Plate of 3000s, 6 furlongs.—Seatonia 9.4, Arena 8.3, Pretty Boy 8.2,

Millie 8.2, Centre 8.0, Evert 8.0, Liberator 7.12, Mount Zeehan 7.10, Souths 7.10, Waimona 7.8, Koolro 7.7, Lady Clara 7.2, Dingdong 7.2. Pony Race of 2500s, 6 furlongs.—Vulpine 9.12, Reputation 8.4, Forth 8.3, Cantine 8.2, Ukase 7.8, Lottie 7.3, Wildflower 7.0. Hurdle Race of 4000s, 2 miles.—Incheape 11.2, Moccasin 11.0, Evermore 10.12, Bing 10.8, Hippowal 10.6, Sudden 10.2, Hyas 9.7. Steeplechase of 5000s, about 2 1/2 miles.—Dingo 10.12, Evermore 10.8, Sudden 10.5, Tuni 9.7, Hyas 9.7, Lady Dash 9.7. Maiden Plate Handicap of 6000s, 1 mile.—Putty 9.5, Maid of Honour 9.4, Zuleika 8.12, Bacchus 8.10, Annoyed 8.3, Meteor 8.8, Grey Seaton 7.13, Arena 7.13, Jack Brown 7.12, Doctor 7.6, Hillflower 7.4, Reputation 7.4. Trial Handicap of 3000s, 4 furlongs.—Nnum 9.13, Green and Gold 9.10, Della Rose 9.6, Vulpine 8.5, Millie 8.3, Telephone 8.2, Solo 8.2, Sultan 7.12, Swagsman 7.10, Reputation 7.10, Culine 7.8, Scout 7.8, Seatonia 7.8, Kotho 7.7, Hillflower 7.6, Ukase 7.4, Liberator 7.4, Lady Clara 7.0. Hack Race of 2500s, 1 mile.—Moccasin 11.8, Liberator 10.4, Evert 10.0, Sunset 9.12, Lady Clara 9.7, Le Baux 9.0. Railway Handicap of 2500s, 7 furlongs.—Maid of Honour 9.9, Della Rose 8.6, Green and Gold 8.4, Zuleika 8.0, Hyas 8.10, Meteor 8.10, Annoyed 8.10, Grey Seaton 8.2, Arena 8.2, Jack Brown 8.0, Solo 7.8, Reputation 7.7, Swagsman 7.6, Hillflower 7.6, Mount Zeehan 7.5, Seatonia 7.5, Souths 7.5.

WANGANUI JOCKEY CLUB'S AUTUMN MEETING.

Mr Evert has declared the following weights for the autumn meeting of the Wanganui Jockey Club:— WANGANUI CUP. One mile and three-quarters. Advance 8.11, 3 Choorka 7.3, Hildebrand 7.9, 9 Ficks 7.1, Wairiki 8.12, Fakir 8.10, 6.10, Straybrave 8.9, 8 Tradewind 8.9, 8.9, Orloff 8.7, 8 Toa 8.6, 6.9, Motor 8.6, Benefactor 8.6, 8.9, Huetaura 8.5, 8 Anchorite 8.7, 8.7, Conroy 8.1, 8 Mars 8.7, The Shannon 7.8, Heorlism 6.7, 6.7, Mars 8.1, 7.7. First Handicap Hurdles, two miles and a distance.—Walwera 11.12, Royal Conqueror 11.5, Blair 11.4, Mary 11.3, 11.3, Bofus 11.4, Otaki 10.10, Light 9.9, Capture 9.6, Cairo 9.0, Lady Bell 9.0. Petre Welter Handicap, one mile and a distance.—Field Battery 10.9, Hardwork 10.0, Liebelt 9.12, Benefactor 9.11, Hawri 9.11, 9.10, Takapa 9.7, Toa 8.7, Rita 9.6, Van 8.3, Westary 8.0, Rags 8.0, St. Lya 9.0, Otaki 9.0, Archa 9.0. Stewards' Stakes Handicap, one mile.—Halberdier 9.5, Motor 8.10, Oingo 8.7, Conroy 8.5, Queen's Guard 8.5, Dexterity 8.0, Exmoor 7.13, Somerled 7.12, Ghoorka 7.12, Fleka 7.10, Float 7.8, Liebelt 7.8, Rawiri 7.7, Belle Cole 7.6, Torowai 7.3, Tukapa 7.3, Good Intent 7.2, Wildflower 7.0, Rita 7.0, Messell 7.0, St. Lya 7.0, Livonia 6.9, Durable 6.7. Flying Handicap.—Achilles 10.11, Oriou 9.7, Ostiak 9.6, Westguard 8.11, Oingo 8.9, Hinetaura 8.6, Conroy 8.6, Seety 8.5, Wind-whistle 8.2, Exmoor 8.3, Deerstalker 8.4, Ghoorka 8.2, Reclamer 8.0, Pied Battery 8.0, Full Cry 7.13, Chasser 7.12, Rangitata 7.12, Strappup Shell 7.7, Torowai 6.7, Good Intent 7.5, Governance 7.4, Anchorite 7.4, Livonia 6.12, Sunfish 6.7.

WANGANUI, Thursday.

WANGANUI CUP. One mile and three-quarters. Advance 8.11, 3 Choorka 7.3, Hildebrand 7.9, 9 Ficks 7.1, Wairiki 8.12, Fakir 8.10, 6.10, Straybrave 8.9, 8 Tradewind 8.9, 8.9, Orloff 8.7, 8 Toa 8.6, 6.9, Motor 8.6, Benefactor 8.6, 8.9, Huetaura 8.5, 8 Anchorite 8.7, 8.7, Conroy 8.1, 8 Mars 8.7, The Shannon 7.8, Heorlism 6.7, 6.7, Mars 8.1, 7.7. First Handicap Hurdles, two miles and a distance.—Walwera 11.12, Royal Conqueror 11.5, Blair 11.4, Mary 11.3, 11.3, Bofus 11.4, Otaki 10.10, Light 9.9, Capture 9.6, Cairo 9.0, Lady Bell 9.0. Petre Welter Handicap, one mile and a distance.—Field Battery 10.9, Hardwork 10.0, Liebelt 9.12, Benefactor 9.11, Hawri 9.11, 9.10, Takapa 9.7, Toa 8.7, Rita 9.6, Van 8.3, Westary 8.0, Rags 8.0, St. Lya 9.0, Otaki 9.0, Archa 9.0. Stewards' Stakes Handicap, one mile.—Halberdier 9.5, Motor 8.10, Oingo 8.7, Conroy 8.5, Queen's Guard 8.5, Dexterity 8.0, Exmoor 7.13, Somerled 7.12, Ghoorka 7.12, Fleka 7.10, Float 7.8, Liebelt 7.8, Rawiri 7.7, Belle Cole 7.6, Torowai 7.3, Tukapa 7.3, Good Intent 7.2, Wildflower 7.0, Rita 7.0, Messell 7.0, St. Lya 7.0, Livonia 6.9, Durable 6.7. Flying Handicap.—Achilles 10.11, Oriou 9.7, Ostiak 9.6, Westguard 8.11, Oingo 8.9, Hinetaura 8.6, Conroy 8.6, Seety 8.5, Wind-whistle 8.2, Exmoor 8.3, Deerstalker 8.4, Ghoorka 8.2, Reclamer 8.0, Pied Battery 8.0, Full Cry 7.13, Chasser 7.12, Rangitata 7.12, Strappup Shell 7.7, Torowai 6.7, Good Intent 7.5, Governance 7.4, Anchorite 7.4, Livonia 6.12, Sunfish 6.7.

OTAHUHU TROTTLING CLUB'S SUMMER MEETING.

The following acceptances have been received for events to be run at the Otahuhu Trotting Club's Summer Meeting on Saturday next:—

Electric Trot Handicap, one mile.—P. P. Lion scr., Taihoa 8.5, Jolly 11.5, Lusitania 8.5, Empress 11.5, Three Kings 11.5, Miss Lion 11.5, Bed of Stone 10.5, Lohk 10.5, George 10.4, Sir Robert 10.4, Grand 10.4, La Grande 12.5, Carole 12.5, 12.5.

Class Trot Handicap, one mile and a-half.—Albert Victor scr., Duke 10.4, Sierra 8.5, King George 10.4, Occidental 10.5, Thorndon 12.5, Whitecourt 12.5, Durbur 12.5, Harold Abdallah 12.5, Merry Bell 10.4, Day Star 12.5, Pioke 12.5, The Avocet 24.5, Typewriter 25.5.

Maiden Trot Handicap, one mile and a-half.—Durbur scr., Berlin Abba 17.5, Sam Top 17.5, Caribbe 19.5, Imperator 20.5, Peter 21.5, Rosalind 21.5, Duchess of Rothchild 22.5, Joe May 30.5, Little Paul 30.5, Harry 30.5.

Harness Trot Handicap, two miles.—Duke C. scr., Thorndon 10.5, Bliss Irvington 24.5, The Avocet 26.5, Sulp 26.5, Bed of Stone 26.5, Little Den 34.5, Victor Hugo 34.5.

Otahuhu Trotting Cup Handicap, two miles.—Duke C. scr., Sierra 6.5, Taihoa 6.5, King George 5.5, Occidental 5.5, Rosalind 10.5, Harold Abdallah 12.5, Durbur 10.5, Merry Bell 16.5, Bliss Irvington 24.5, The Avocet 26.5, Typewriter 25.5.

Pony Trot Handicap, one mile and a-half.—Day Star scr., Victor Hugo 12.5, Jingo 12.5, Miss Maureo 12.5, Bert 10.5, Queensle 32.5.

Flying Stakes Handicap, five furlongs.—Orange and Tin 10.7, Avalanche 9.2, St. Louisa 8.15, First Whisper 8.1, Ukase 7.9, Tallman 7.9, Solitary 7.2, Kyra 7.3, Tangitapua 6.10, Inspiration 6.10, Luettea 6.9, Rapid 6.9, Miss Lander 6.7.

Otahuhu Pony Cup, one mile.—Orange and Pine 10.4, Annoyed 9.11, Stegway 9.6, Avalanche 8.11, Kit 7.4, Tallman 7.8, Leona 7.0, Mimosas 6.7.

CALIFORNIA SYRUP OF FIGS. Acts Pleasantly and Promptly. Cleanses the System Gently and Effectually. When bilious or costive. Presents in the most acceptable form the laxative principles of plants known to act most beneficially.

TO GET ITS BENEFICIAL EFFECTS BUY THE GENUINE — MAN'D BY CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. Of all Chemists and Stores, 1/4 & 1/2. Depot: 52 Snow Hill, London, England.

C. BRANDAUER & Co.'s Ltd. Seven Prize Medals Awarded. Circular-Pointed Pens. Neither scratch nor spurt, the points being rounded by a new process. Attention is also drawn to their new "GRADUATED SERIES OF PENS". Each pattern being made in our degree of flexibility and Point.

A. G. JARRETT, Shorthand Writer and Typist. (AUTHORISED SUPREME COURT REPORTER) Address - - SWANSON STREET.

ARTICLED PUPILS receive thorough instruction in Shorthand, Typewriting, and Office Training (including Book-keeping) every day (Saturdays excepted) from 10 to 4, for six months, £5 5s. Fifty-five Situations obtained by pupils last year. Over 100 pupils at present occupying situations.

Typewriters—YOST and REMINGTON (new models). Typewriter Repairs and Supplies. Typewriter Bureau—SWANSON STREET.



Father Flint won the Waterloo Cup. O. Paracelus was the runner-up.

A gun explosion at Fort Lafayette, U.S.A., killed four and injured eleven.

The Clyde shipbuilders have accepted reduced rates of pay.

The Pacific Cable Board has decided to replace the deficient land line.

America has purchased the Panama Canal Company's property rights for forty million dollars.

The Clifton Hotel, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, was destroyed by fire. Twenty killed, and 40 injured.

Ten inches of snow have fallen in New York. 5000 navvies are engaged in clearing the streets.

The picture of the Saviour in Isaac Cathedral, in Russia, and valued at £10,000, has been stolen.

The cruiser Spartiate will be commissioned in March to convey the relief crews to the Australian station.

The Pope received a thousand congratulatory telegrams on the 25th anniversary of his accession to the throne.

Mr Lecky, the member for Dublin University, has accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

Mr Austin Chamberlain states that the Government is unlikely to deal with old age pensions during the present year.

Mr G. B. Cortelyou, previously secretary to President Roosevelt, has been appointed Secretary of State for the new portfolio of Trade and Commerce.

Lord De Freyne is claiming £20,000 from the leaders of the United Irish League for inciting by their plan of campaign.

The "Times" says it is understood at Sofia that the Powers are prepared to go beyond moral suasion to compel the acceptance of reforms in Macedonia.

Sir Spencer Walpole is negotiating with Signor Marconi for experiments with wireless telegraphy between Fanning Island and Honolulu.

By an explosion of gun cotton in Woolwich Arsenal one workman was killed, while Captain Partridge and three others were seriously injured.

Sir Henry Norman unveiled the memorial erected to sixteen Fellows of the Colonial Institute fallen in South Africa.

Sir Joseph Ward, on arrival at Melbourne, was welcomed by Mr Drake, the Federal Postmaster-General, and a representative of Sir Edmund Barton.

The Scotch Court has ordered the Clyde Shipbuilding Company to pay Spain £67,000 for delay in delivering destroyers.

Russia is building several 10,000 ton battleships in the Baltic. Each will carry four 12-inch and 12 8-inch guns, and smaller guns and quick-firers.

Yu Lien San has resigned the Governorship of Shanxi, alleging ill-health, though really owing to the Powers' protest that he was concerned in the missionary massacres at Hunan.

News has been received of the death of Prince Komatsu, aged 57, of apoplexy. The Prince represented Japan at the King's Coronation. He was closely related to the Mikado.

Cardinal Moran, accompanied by a number of laymen, will visit the missions at Norfolk Island, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, New Hebrides, and New Caledonia in August next.

Skidding on frozen rails caused an electric car, containing high school pupils at Newark, New Jersey, to burst through the railway gates at a crossing, and an express train colliding with the car killed 11 girls and injured 30 girls and boys.

The Acting-Governor-General has received a petition representative of a Protestant body, requesting that steps be taken to investigate the Cardinal's allegations of British brutality during

the operations in Samoa.

The Germanic encountered a terrific gale on her voyage to New York. While the passengers were praying in the saloon, the captain emptied thirty barrels of oil over the sea, rendering it comparatively calm.

Reuter says that a sensation was created in the Italian Chamber of Deputies by Admiral Morin, Minister of Marine, declaring that the Italian navy for 36 years had been studying and working and preparing for a day of trial.

A meeting representing 100,000 negro voters of New York State protested against the disfranchisement of the negro under the new Virginian constitution, and applauded President Roosevelt for having made a negro appointment in the south.

At a meeting in Paris, attended by 4000 of all parties, classes and foremost politicians, it was recommended that energetic action should be taken under the Berlin Treaty to suppress Turkey's outrages against humanity in Macedonia and Armenia.

The Queen Alexandra Imperial nursing service has been inaugurated in connection with the Herbert Hospital, Woolwich. The Queen presented medals to the nursing staff, and the King handed the South African medals to the Army Medical Corps.

The "Novoe Vremya," Constantinople correspondent states that Great Britain has notified Turkey that if the slightest intention is manifested to send troops to Arabia, Britain will occupy all the Red Sea ports. The message is interpreted to refer to the Aden Hinterland.

Sir James MacKay, addressing the Chamber of Shipping, advocated total exclusion on foreign countries excluding British vessels from entering the port of trade. He instanced the unjust treatment of British vessels touching at Honolulu.

A temporary injunction has been granted in Chicago against the Beef Trusts—the agreement of which provides that members shall not bid against each other at cattle sales. The injunction also declares that the fixing of prices by restricting shipments of meat is an illegal restraint on trade.

News from the New Hebrides states that the mission station, Ambrym, has been attacked by armed natives recruited from hill tribes. The missionary staff was absent at the time. The house was riddled with shot. No cause is assigned, as the natives have always been treated with kindness by the mission residents.

The Duchess of Manchester and her child were visiting an alligator farm in Florida, when a rattlesnake prepared to strike. The Duchess shrieked to the nurse, who removed the child and spread out her skirt, which the fangs of the reptile struck, and made her escape with the party before the snake could make a second attempt.

Lord Cranborne, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, stated in the House of Commons that there was an understanding with Russia with respect to the integrity of Persia which was not to be repudiated by either country. Great Britain had made strong representations to Persia that a commercial treaty with Russia was calculated to hamper British trade.

Sir Charles Gavan Duffy's family have consented to his interment in Dublin. A meeting, presided over by the Lord Mayor, has appointed a committee to make the necessary arrangements, and a subscription list has been opened. The Archbishop of Dublin has offered the pro-Cathedral or the Church of St. Andrews for the reception of the remains.

A meeting of Nationalist Commissioners held in Dublin expressed deep regret at Sir Gavan Duffy's death, and appreciation of his services to Ireland. It also urged the Government to give legislative effect to the land conference resolutions.

GENERAL CABLES.

INTO HARNESS AGAIN.

Lord Charles Beresford has accepted the command of the Channel Squadron.

Lord Charles Beresford is 56 years of age, and one of the most vigorous of the agitators for naval reform. He early became famous by the gallantry he displayed in his command of the Condor at the bombardment of Alexandria. He served on Lord Wooten's staff in the Nile expedition of 1884, commanded the "Sofia" when its boiler was pierced by shell, and again displayed gallantry that merited and received the thanks of the Imperial Parliament. He was Lord of the Admiralty 1896-1898; resigned on the question of the strength of fleet; and was second in command of the Mediterranean Squadron. He ranks as vice-admiral. The appointment of a man who has been so often condemned for his outspoken criticisms of present naval administration to such a high command is significant of change.

RIVAL BOILERS.

The concluding tests between the Scotch and Belleville boilers resulted in the Minerva being fitted with the former and winning a race from Gibraltar to Spithead. The Hyacinth broke down and abandoned the trial.

In March, 1901, the committee appointed to inquire into the question of water-tube boilers issued an interim report. They declared in favour of these boilers on three grounds, viz., those of rapidly increasing steam, reduction to a minimum of danger from shot and shell, and facility of rapid repair. At the same time the committee held that they were not the best of available types. It was accordingly ordered that no more Belleville boilers should be fitted except to ships under construction.

ADEN TERRITORY DISPUTE.

The Porte has ordered the Turkish troops to evacuate the disputed Aden Hinterland.

[The exact nature of Britain's attitude on the Hinterland question may be once more repeated. In the middle of 1901 the Governor of Aden was compelled to eject tribesmen who had been incited by the Turks to occupy British territory. In 1902 the tribes again encroached, drawing their inspiration from Constantinople. Strong protests were made by Great Britain, and ultimately Turkey yielded and withdrew the tribes. The attitude of the Imperial Government has been throughout to take no action unless its interests are directly threatened. Latterly more serious developments had necessitated strong representations at the Porte, and these have borne fruit, as will be gathered from the foregoing cable.]

MILLIONAIRE'S GENEROSITY.

The Carnegie education trustees have drafted regulations dealing with Scottish post-graduate study and research. A number of scholarships have been established of the value of £100 and fellowships of the value of £150 for science and medicine; also for history, economics, modern languages and literature. The grants in aid of research are surrounded by stringent conditions to secure the pursuit of studies in special departments.

[These endowments for post-graduate study followed on Mr. Carnegie's gift of several millions for the general purposes of university education. Mr. Carnegie's ideal which he has in free measure realised—is to provide free education from the board school to the university, and beyond.]

NORTHERN NIGERIA.

A Blue-book on the Kano campaign has just been issued. Lord Onslow complains of Sir Frederick Lugard not informing the Government earlier that his position was in order to enable him to judge of the necessity of an expedition, but they had agreed as to the necessity of action. Colonel Lugard had taken it that in the circumstances it was inevitable.

In the House of Commons Mr Austen Chamberlain said that the Government had absolute confidence in Sir Frederick Lugard, and did not dream of accusing him of unnecessary provocative action at Kano.

[Recent events in Northern Nigeria may now conveniently be summarised. Telegraphic advices were received last October of the death of the Emir of Sokoto, the great religious centre of Hausaland. The new Emir was said to be better disposed towards the British than his predecessor. The attitude of the Emir of Kano was less promising, and eventually it became so hostile that immediate operations against him were decided upon. Sir Frederick Lugard, the Administrator of Northern Nigeria, almost weekly menacing letters were received from the Emir by Captain Abadie, the British Resident at Zaria, the nearest British port to Kano. Moreover, it was well-known that the Emir had set a

price upon Captain Abadie's head. The British operations were planned on a larger scale than that of any other similar undertaking in Northern Nigeria. At the beginning of the military movements the Emir was said to have between 4000 and 5000 mounted troops, and the city of Kano—the supposition has since been justified by events—to be strongly defended. The forces to be employed against this enemy numbered some 1200 troops of the West African Frontier Force, under the command of Colonel Morland. Kano, the strongly walled city, just taken by the British force, is a great centre for the trade of the Soudan, has a population variously estimated because floating, but probably averaging not less than 100,000, and is the seat of considerable cloth manufactures. It is estimated that something like 2,000,000 natives pass through Kano every year, and this number includes a considerable proportion of Arabs.]

SUICIDE OF AN OFFICER.

Mr Cooper, late chief officer of Corinth, who had been summoned Home to give evidence at the inquiry into the boatswain's accidental death, committed suicide on board the Gothic on Monday. Mr Cooper had latterly suffered from depression of spirits.

[The boatswain referred to was killed on the Corinth on January 2nd at Hobart. While one of the derricks was being unshipped, the boom slipped and crushed his head, inflicting fatal injuries.]

UNITED STATES NAVY.

The U.S. House of Representatives has adopted a bill providing for the construction of three battleships, a cruiser and three training ships; also for doubling the cadets at Annapolis, and adding 3000 men to the navy and 550 to the marine corps.

THE HUMBERTS.

Cattani's libel action against the Humberts has been dismissed, the Court holding the charge of usury brought against Cattani to have been made in good faith. Cattani was condemned to pay the costs. Madame Humbert's confidence, and her audacious interruptions and attacks on the Government, particularly on M. Valle, the Minister for Justice, are creating intense public interest in France.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

The British Parliament was opened by His Majesty on the 18th.

The Sovereigns remained seated throughout the opening ceremony. The most conspicuous figures after the Royal Party, which included the Prince of Wales, were the Marquis of Salisbury and the new Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Randall Davidson.

King Edward, in clear tones, read his Speech. It emphasised his advice to the Sultan of Turkey for practical and well-considered reforms in the matter of the subject races on the Balkan Peninsula. He hoped that Great Britain would be able heartily to support the scheme that Austria and Russia were jointly preparing, on behalf of the Powers. Mr Chamberlain's tour was described as having been attended by the happiest results. As to the Estimates, the King stated that although they were framed in a spirit of economy, the need for the country and the Empire to make a large expenditure was inevitable.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, in the course of a speech in the House of Commons, in the debate on the Address-in-Reply, said the King's Speech, in referring to Venezuela, curiously enough omitted to mention Germany. He trusted the relations had improved. He inquired what effect the Brussels Convention had had on the Queensland sugar industry. The Ministerialists below the gangway faintly cheered his mention of dissatisfaction with Mr Brodrick's army scheme.

Mr Balfour reiterated that the Powers had been forewarned that Britain would never penalise colonial sugar, and they did not protest, therefore the British condition of ratification. He stated that Venezuela would have played one against the other had Britain and Germany acted separately.

Mr MacNamara, M.P., moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, urging immediate legislation to remove the hardship caused by lack of workmen's houses.

A fierce debate took place in the House of Commons on Mr George Lambart's amendment to the Address-in-Reply regretting the Government's failure to prosecute the directors of the London Globe Finance Company. Commissioners with legal experience supported Sir Robert Finlay, the Attorney-General.

ral, in his declaration that under existing law the State was powerless. The House was dissatisfied with such a condition of things, and Mr Balfour promised a bill to remedy the grave omission and adequately secure prosecution for any fraudulent prospectus. Mr Lambert's amendment was negatived by 166 to 115.

In the House of Commons an interesting debate took place on the unemployed question, Mr Charles Fenwick supporting Mr Long's contention that lack of employment was exaggerated. Others declared that the solution was not in turning the authorities into amateur farmers. Mr Keir Hardie's amendment to enable the authorities to employ the unemployed on the land and also in certain industries was ultimately negatived by 201 to 161.

TIT FOR TAT.

An influential meeting of naval experts, including several Commons, was held at Westminster in favour of the creation of a North Sea squadron, with a naval base on the north-east coast, as a reply to Germany's naval activity.

[Germany's activity in the North Sea has been observed for some time past, and the agitation for a North Sea squadron as a counter move has been rapidly increasing. The strengthening of the Russian fleet on the Baltic—which is, of course, independent of German developments, unless as a precautionary measure against them—would make a North Sea squadron of still greater use as a defensive measure.]

BALKAN WAR CLOUD.

A Reuter message states that the Powers have intimated that Bulgaria's intentions are pacific and the Porte is reassured.

Forty quick-firing guns have been sent to Adrianople. Turkey has requested that her order placed with a German factory for 96 cannon should be executed with increased expedition.

Signor Bacelli, Minister for Agriculture, in the Chamber of Deputies spoke confidently of M. Lansdorff's tour in the Balkans. It was intended to harmonise the needs of civilisation with the maintenance of the territorial status, and the existing equilibrium. Italy agreed with the Austro-Russian scheme for dealing with the Balkan difficulty.

[These cosmopolitan Balkan hands, though their aim is essentially just, are formed of the most diverse assortment of brigands, heroes, patriots, and thieves. They are either working under the Macedonian or Sofia Committee, or, as is more probable, on their own initiative. Edmond About, in his "Le Roi des Montagnes," gives an amusing picture of the similar organisations prior to Greek independence—and it has a dampening effect on the reader's romantic pre-conceptions. Prince Ferdinand's attitude is naturally a somewhat half-hearted one. Cooler-headed than his subjects, he naturally sees the dangers of European complications, and the possible eventual seizure of a large part of the peninsula by Russia, and, on the other hand, there is the pleasing prospect of complete emancipation from the suzerainty of the Ottoman Government.]

NEW ZEALAND LOAN.

It is calculated the yield of the New Zealand loan will be under 91. Mr Reeves states that the public have taken about 8 per cent. The attack on Australian finances and an impending Transvaal loan prejudiced the price.

The "Daily News" says that the underwriters are saddled with 95 per cent. of the New Zealand loan. The "Standard" also declares that they pay the greater part.

In the course of an interview at Melbourne, Sir J. G. Ward said that no doubt the recent press criticism in London of Australian finance had affected the New Zealand loan prejudicially. He does not think the unbusiness of the money market will last long, as there was nothing to justify the condition now prevailing.

Feeling at Wellington is that the new loan has been a failure, due to the British investing public, acting under the influence of temporary panic, undoubtedly caused by the "Daily Mail's" attack on Australian finance, which was published soon after the announcement of the New Zealand loan. If the aloofness of investors is intended by way of retaliation upon the New Zealand Government for selling debentures locally, the policy may have the very opposite effect to that intended, by moving the Government to adopt this self-reliant policy in its entirety with that independence of the foreign money lender, which was the ideal of the late Mr Jas. Ballance. The fact of investors

holding off for better terms, while it seems unfriendly to New Zealand, in no way affects the credit of this country or embarrass its finances. The credit balance of the Colonial Treasurer on the 31st March next will not be disturbed, and the public works of the colony will go on uninterruptedly. The underwriters will hold the stock and unload it in due course when investors have realised the true position. It is recognised that New Zealand securities are well worth the price asked. Undoubtedly the Colonial Treasurer could have made temporary arrangements to obtain all the money he required, but, being advised it was a favourable time to go upon the London market, he cannot be blamed for offering the loan. The colony, under existing circumstances, is to be congratulated on having obtained a million and a quarter on such favourable terms, and it may be confidently anticipated that the underwriters will ultimately be the gainers by the transaction.

VENEZUELA.

There has been a rise of thirty per cent. in Venezuela's import duties, and a considerable increase in the export duties. Coffee and cocoa are subject to the Colombian treaties' ratification.

German newspapers are bitterly disappointed at the result of the Venezuela settlement. They admit that the Monroe Doctrine emerges stronger than ever, and that American prestige alone is heightened. Baron Sternberg, the German Minister at Washington, is severely criticised for his obsequiousness, while the success of the protocols is attributed to Sir M. Herbert's firmness.

Large cargoes have accumulated at New York and elsewhere, and will shortly swell the Venezuelan Customs.

The Venezuelan Supreme Court has awarded America 700,000 dollars for the annulment of the market concession at Caracas.

President Castro has thanked Mr. Bowen and congratulated him on his success in getting the blockade raised.

On learning of Germany's demand for a cash payment Mr. Carnegie unreservedly, and without mentioning security, offered Mr. Bowen 300,000 dollars in cash to meet the demand. Mr. Bowen thanked Mr. Carnegie, but declared the offer unnecessary.

The end of the Venezuela blockade has caused great relief everywhere. Britain originally restricted her co-operation with Germany to recover a sum, of which the final instalment was payable in July.

The British Blue Book on Venezuelan affairs does not indicate the origin of the suggestion for Anglo-German co-operation.

Lord Cranborne, in the House of Commons, stated that the first proposal for co-operation between Britain and Germany in Venezuela emanated from Count Metternich in a communication mentioned in Lord Lansdowne's despatch of July 23.

The commander of the German cruiser Panther made an application for leave to enter Lake Maracaibo and permission for the officers of the Vineta to travel in the interior. The request has been referred to President Castro, and has caused fresh excitement in Venezuela.

Germany has returned a few Venezuelan fishing boats. The Restaurador is ezuelan fishing boats. The Staurador is still flying the German flag at Puerto Cabella.

THE WAR COMMISSION.

General Buller testified before the War Commission that when he was selected in June, 1899, as commander-in-chief in the event of war, he concurred with Lord Lansdowne that the army corps, cavalry division, seven battalions, and lines of communication would be sufficient if the war was confined to the Transvaal, but he declared it was impracticable to ignore the Free State. The only practicable route was through the Free State. He estimated that 15,000 men south of the Tugela would suffice for Natal's preliminary defence. He did not anticipate that the Cape would be seriously invaded until the Boers succeeded in Natal. He foresaw at the beginning of September that war was inevitable, and recommended diplomatic delay in order to strengthen the colonies. He recommended on September 24 that in the event of war there should be an advance into the Free State. Lord Lansdowne, on the 30th, concurred, and decided to proceed with preparations, except mo-

bilisation. Witness urged reinforcements, and the reserves were summoned. He always was convinced that the Free State would co-operate with the Transvaal. The commander-in-chief-designate ought to have been more fully consulted. He was not instructed regarding the plan of campaign. General Buller added that the relief of Kimberley was decided upon owing to persons there at the end of October representing its danger. General Buller's examination was adjourned.

Sir George White, giving evidence before the War Commission, testified that prior to going to South Africa he considered the expenditure in preparation for the war too restricted. He went out uninstrued and uninformed of any plan of campaign. General Symons, in an interview at Durban, urged him to hold Glencoe. Nevertheless he only retained a force there owing to the Governor emphasising the probable effect of withdrawal on the people. The action at Talana Hill produced a valuable effect. The witness justified the strategy of holding Ladysmith, which upset the Boer plan of campaign and saved Natal. He intended as a last resort to cut his way out.

In his evidence before the Boer War Commission, General Buller said that his telegram of December 15 to Sir George White merely implied the abandonment of an immediate attempt to relieve Ladysmith. The Government, in not consulting him, deprived him of the fifth division, and he did not consider himself strong enough to relieve the place. The Government, in sending the division to the Modder River, was interpreted by him to mean that they preferred the relief of Kimberley. His telegram to Sir George White was intended to be followed only in the event of General White's inability to hold out for a month. He hoped, thinking it practicable, that it would induce General White to break out and join hands with him.

General Buller also testified that he withdrew his guns at Colenso early, as the guns were too close to the enemy, which was contrary to his intention. The openness of the ground, and the men's exhaustion, prevented his covering the guns, and their rescue would have required many to be under fire until night, and it was possible they would not have succeeded without great loss.

The action at Spionkop, he said, enabled the men to gain a knowledge of war, and confidence in themselves and officers, besides inflicting on the enemy great loss in men and morale. The existing training system was, in his opinion, inimical to independent judgment in action. The men know how to do things, but not what to do.

SOUTH AFRICA.

The Boer generals co-operate with Lord Milner in selecting other representative Boers to seats on the Transvaal Council.

The Hollanders in Pretoria declare that trouble is brewing between Russia and Britain, affording the Transvaal an early opportunity to rebel.

President Kruger denies that he ever offered Germany a Transvaal protectorate or that Bismarck refused.

The "Daily Telegraph" states that the Hollanders in Pretoria are endeavouring to incite their fellow citizens to disloyalty. Their deportation is expected.

Sir Gordon Sprigg advocates that loyalists be allowed to retain their arms, and if lost, be permitted to repurchase them from the Government at 70.

De Waal admits that the Bond favoured the Independent Republics, but they never wanted to oust the British flag from the Cape, where the great political freedom is enjoyed.

The Atrikander Bond suggests a contribution of five millions towards the war expenses on condition that an amnesty is granted; also a coalition Ministry, with the re-enfranchisement of rebels.

Mr Hofmeyer has assured Mr Chamberlain that the Bond was never a disloyal institution.

A meeting of progressives held at Capetown condemned the Bond proposal to form a coalition Ministry, on the ground that the Bond would control a stop-gap Ministry until the expiration of the period of rebel disfranchisement. And, moreover, it would not solve the race difficulty.

The announcement made by the "Cape Argus" that the Cape would possibly contribute five million pounds towards the expenses of the war was new to the majority of the progressives, although the proposal had been privately discussed in Dutch circles. Leading progressives, interviewed, said they were willing to contribute the amount, and there ought not to be a bargain between Mr Chamberlain and the Bond. Something beyond money was required to prove Dutch loyalty. If the money were spent on the Imperial garrisons and the reinstatement were effected of everyone boycotted, they would then believe in the sincerity of the Dutch.

The "Cape Times" says a coalition Ministry is impossible, that there is no room for Sir Gordon Sprigg in a progressive Government.

Mr Brodrick stated in the House of Commons that the South African Garrison is now 33,000, and is being reduced to 3000.

The Transvaal silver output for July to November of 1902 was 100,487,000, valued at £10,726.

Australians at Capetown are approaching Mr Chamberlain to secure investigation of the case of Lieut. Wilton, of the Bush Veldt Carbineers.

MR CHAMBERLAIN IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The reception of Mr Chamberlain in Capetown was most enthusiastic. The city was lavishly decorated, and triumphal arches were erected at various points in the chief streets. This was but the prelude to a tremendous ovation accorded on Mr Chamberlain's appearance. Ten thousand citizens in the green market square cheered the Colonial Secretary with unmistakable warmth.

In acknowledging an address from Australian settlers at the Cape, Mr Chamberlain dwelt warmly on the splendid services rendered by Australians to the Mother Country in the war, and he also expressed the hope that the seemingly chronic racial antagonism in South Africa would be merged in a broad spirit of Imperial citizenship.

Sir Gordon Sprigg was vigorously hooted.

Mr Chamberlain was slightly indisposed on the 18th. He addressed a large meeting at Paarl, and emphasised among other reasons for not forming a Legislative Council, the

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declaration that the Transvaal wanted peace to recuperate. Mr Chamberlain added that the Cape constitution must be a panacea for dialyaly. Subsequently he reached Capetown where he was Sir H. Hely-Hutchinson's guest.

Messrs Hofmeyer and Schriner at a luncheon conferred with Mr Chamberlain. The result has not been divulged, but recently Mr Hofmeyer insisted on universal compensation, a general amnesty and Lord Milner's retirement. The Bond organ at Capetown complains of Mr Chamberlain's misrepresentations that the Dutch journalist's minister, by commending conspiracies and spreading the propaganda of racial antagonism, had done an infinitude of harm.

The Progressive leaders declare that if Mr Chamberlain is prepared to accept Dutch assurances of loyalty the Progressives would meet them more than halfway.

An Afrikaner address, presented at Graaf Reinet, thanked Mr Chamberlain for upholding free institutions, which were so highly valued, and assured him of their fervent resolve to remain true to the Empire.

Mr Chamberlain replied that he came not to see a display of British loyalty, because he could get that at Home, but to see African disaffection and to ask whereon it was based and to find a remedy. He traced it to the willfulness and foolishness of jeopardising the Constitution in the past, and to discontent and violence next. He impressively appealed for proofs of loyalty by aiding union, liberty and peace, which alone were the pre-requisites for unprecedented prosperity.

De Waal, Secretary of the Bond, accompanied Mr Chamberlain to Middleburg, where, in presenting an address, he declared that the Dutch read Mr Chamberlain's speeches and cordially approved of his conciliatory attitude. They were prepared to grasp hands in sincere friendship and mutual trust. All ideas of a united South Africa under any but the British flag had entirely vanished. Mr Chamberlain's name was a household word in every Dutch home.

Mr Chamberlain was acclaimed as he replied. He said he came as a peacemaker. The interests of both races were identical. There was no reason why they should not trust each other. He rejoiced to hear at Middleburg that a commencement had been made of a better understanding. The only fault of the Dutch heretofore was that they were too parochial and had forgotten that for years they formed part of the greatest empire in the world. He urged them to accept their obligations equally with their privileges.

Mr Chamberlain was accorded a hearty reception at Rosmead and Schoombie, where, in receiving a deputation composed of many Dutch, including farmers and burghers from Aliwal and Hanover, he declared that his expectations since the beginning of the tour had been more than realised.

Mr Herbert Gladstone, speaking at Leeds, eulogised Mr Chamberlain for facing the facts and problems of South Africa in a manner worthy of an Englishman. He had, he said, displayed great sagacity and the power of looking at things sympathetically and unexclusively with his own eyes.

Replying to an address from Birmingham and Midland men settled in South Africa, Mr Chamberlain eulogised Birmingham's Imperial spirit, and the animated appreciation of the wider patriotism involved in memberships of the Empire. He had considerable differences with John Bright on colonial policy, and Birmingham left Mr Gladstone because it feared that his policy would ruin the Empire.

Replying to a Bond deputation, including Messrs Merriman, De Waal and Hofmeyer, who promised to use their influence to moderate racial antagonism between British and Dutch, Mr Chamberlain refused an inquiry into the operations under martial law merely for the sake of raking up animosities, concluding with an appeal for unity and a promise not to interfere in local affairs. He was cordially received, Mr Merriman thanking him for his sentiments and the tone of his reply.

Mr Chamberlain said that he wished he could think he would be alive to see the fulfilment of federation. He was confident as regards the rest of South Africa, and he was now almost sanguine of the Cape itself. The time of his active service for the Empire was necessarily drawing to a close, and the greatest happiness of his life would be if the

last act of the statesmanship united the two white races.

AUSTRALIA.

The Commonwealth Parliament has been further prorogued till March 31.

A Private Members' Bill to legalise the totalisator has been read a first time in the Victorian Assembly.

Two men have been found starving in the Sydney Domain. One died after removal to the hospital.

Queensland sugar exports to date total 58,000 tons, against 74,000 tons for the same period of last year.

A serious outbreak of anthrax in cattle has occurred at Craybrook, Victoria. It is estimated that there are twenty dairies and a thousand cattle within the affected area.

The Australian Seamen's Union has accepted an all-round reduction on coasting steamers of 10/ a month, making the rate the same as on inter-State boats.

The Adelaide counterfeiters, Osborne, Williams and Everest, were found guilty. Osborne, who holds a bad record, was sentenced to life, and the others to ten years' each.

On the arrival of the steamer La Perouse at Noumea from the Hebrides, she was quarantined owing to a mysterious and virulent disease having attacked the crew. Four died and were buried at sea.

A conference of the Pastoralists' Association and the Workers' Union fixed the shearing rates at 15/ and found, or 17/8 and find themselves, provided the association went back to the old condition regarding the supply of combs and cutters.

A charge of murder at Sydney against Alexander Johnstone for failing to procure medical attendance for his wife, the outcome of a belief in faith-healing, broke down, the judge holding there was neither legal nor moral justification for the charges.

The Income Tax Bill passed through committee in the Victorian Assembly. An amendment was made providing that the local Mutual Life Insurance Companies should be taxed at a fixed rate of one shilling on their investments, and, as foreign companies did not invest largely locally, they be taxed on a sum equal to twenty-five per cent. of the premiums received.

Sir Edmund Barton is touring Tasmania, delivering addresses. He states that the negotiations between Canada and Fiji and the Union Company are proceeding for the extension of the Australian-Canadian mail service. Sir Edmund is inclined for a short extension only—perhaps two years, the reason being that it might be possible to provide for a better service with larger ships. Negotiations will, however, be shortly completed.

The Commission appointed to inquire into Victorian labour legislation has recommended that the State be divided into six districts, and Courts of Conciliation and Arbitration be established in each; that the system of indentured apprentices should be made compulsory in the principal trades and manufacturing industries, and that arrangements should be made for instruction in selected State schools in these trades that apprentices admitted to such schools should have the easiest terms, that all Asiatics licensed to any person employing Asiatics must take out a license for a workroom, the maximum number of such licenses to be fixed by law.

TYPHOID OUTBREAK.

An outbreak of typhoid occurred at Coonamble, N.S.W., over 100 victims being down with the epidemic. A report on the epidemic shows that the trouble arose in a shop doing considerable business in summer drinks, amongst which the popular "milk shakes" formed a part. Two of the employees were seized with typhoid, but continued to dispense beverages for some time, though ill. A later case arose from infection within the households where the first cases occurred.

The first death since the outbreak of typhoid occurred at Coonamble on the 23rd.

PERTH BANK-NOTE ROBBERY.

Harry Jones, late mechanist in the theatrical company run by Leighton, who was arrested in connection with the bank robbery, has now been arrested at Albany on a charge of receiving £840 of the proceeds from the stolen notes.

Jones has been cashing these notes freely, and he had £167 about him in gold when arrested.

The proper name of the actor Leighton is Norman Campbell. He has a brother in the same bank as the clerk McLagan, who lately disappeared, and was arrested after the apprehension of Leighton. The detectives are convinced that the whole thing is a more or less extensive conspiracy, and that the principal is not yet in custody. When McLagan was captured he said that he had intended to leave by the Ophir last Monday, but Jones did not turn up with the ticket as had been arranged. Leighton also accuses Jones of playing him false.

Leighton lately took his theatrical company to tour the goldfields, but his venture ended in a disastrous financial failure.

A man named Barass has surrendered to the police. On hearing the warrant for his arrest read out in connection with the bank-note robbery, he stated that his only connection with the case was that he sold Jones an interest in a theatrical company to be formed for a tour to the Eastern States, for which he received £300. All the stolen property, except £1776, has now been recovered.

WORK AND WAGES.

An application was made to the Full Court, Sydney, for a writ of prohibition, directed against the Arbitration Court, to restrain it from proceeding in a dispute over the rate of wages between the Hotel, Club and Restaurant Caterers' Employees' Union and the Caterers' and Restaurant-keepers' Association. The Arbitration Act specially exempts domestic servants from the scope of its operation, and the masters contend that their servants come within the exemption, and that the Arbitration Court, therefore, has no jurisdiction. Argument ensued as to whether the Supreme Court could interfere with a Court specially constituted by statute; in fact, it was contended that the Arbitration Court might be held to co-ordinate with the Supreme Court. The Acting-Chief Justice ruled that the Supreme Court had power to keep it within its jurisdiction if it interfered with a matter which it had no right to deal with. Argument is proceeding on the application for a writ.

A MISSIONARY INCIDENT.

A private cable received by the Wesleyan Missions Board, from Fiji, stated that trouble has arisen at Suva and the provinces, through Testaments from Narouvi being burned on a limekiln. The secretary of the mission understands the cable to mean that a number of Testaments (collected from the district of Namosi, where a large number of people, under the influence of the order of their principal chief, turned over from the Methodist mission to the Roman Catholics), were taken to the principal Roman Catholic mission at Nailikili and burned on a limekiln there.

Rev. Mr Nolan, a missionary of the Rewa district, representing Sydney, gives his version of the burning of the Bible. He says that the chief of the district, Matanitobua, with his people, has been for some time dissatisfied against the Government, having been strongly in favour of federation with New Zealand. He had also had a disagreement with the native Methodist ministers. The chief decided to show his authority against the mission and the Government by urging all his people to become Catholics. Mr Humphrey Berkeley is at the bottom of the federation movement, and on his advice, as he happened to know from his own experience, the Catholic priests were taken down to Namosi, and it was arranged that the people should become Catholics. It was during this visit that the New Testaments and Hymn Books were collected. The Catholic press, commenting on the news, says that it is feasible that the natives have become Catholics, but that genuine Bibles were burned they do not believe, even while admitting that it is possible that the Wesleyan literature was destroyed.

Cardinal Moran has received no further information than that 238 Bibles were burned. He would not approve of offending any Protestant bodies by such an act as burning Bibles, and did not think the priests had anything to do with it, but that it was probably the work of converts. The chiefs had informed Bishop Vidal, when at Namosi, that the Methodists were preying upon them and doing them no good, that their desire to change that faith was the voluntary choice of the natives, and was decided upon after holding several councils of the chiefs of the province.

The Rev Lane, president of the Methodist Conference, said Cardinal Moran's statement that the Methodists had preyed upon the natives was a libel upon the missionaries. His opinion was that the priests preyed on the natives.

WILEN "RHEUMO" GOES IN RHEUMATICS GO OUT.

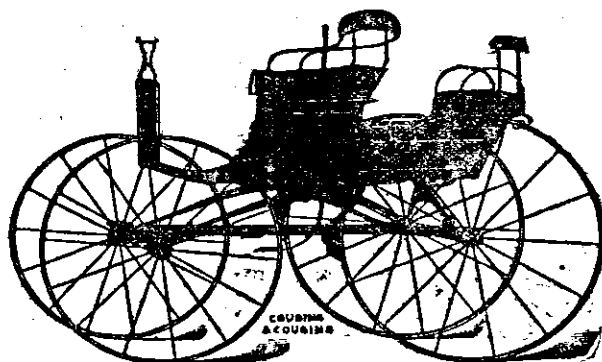
WHAT tells the story of "Rheumo." It is a solvent of uric acid, and Nature's mode of solution. It is the excess uric acid in the system that causes Rheumatism, Gout, Gravel, and kindred complaints, and Rheumo is the medicine that cures. In diseases dependent upon uric acid diathesis, it is a remedy of extraordinary potency. Rheumo is a medicine—not a stimulant. Rheumo is a liquid—not a pill. Rheumo acts promptly and effectively. "Rheumo Conquers Rheumatism." Stocked in Auckland by H. King, Chemist, Queen-st.; J. M. Jefferson, Chemist, Queen-st. and Upper Symonds-st.; J. W. Robinson, Chemist, Farnell; Graves Aikin, Chemist, Queen-st.; and sold by all Chemists and stores at 2/6 and 4/6 per bottle.

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NEW ZEALAND RAILWAYS.
PUKEKOHE SHOW.
3rd and 4th MARCH, 1903.

EXCURSION TICKETS at the rate of 2d per mile First class and 1d per mile Second Class, minimum 4/ and 2/ respectively, mileage counted one way only, will be issued to Pukekohe from Auckland, Otehaupo, and all stations south thereof, on March 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, available for return until MONDAY, March 9th.

On March 4th, a Special Train will leave Auckland at 9 a.m., arriving Pukekohe 10.50 a.m. A Special Train stopping at Newmarket, Remuera, Ellerslie, Penrose, and Otahuhu only will leave Auckland at 1.23 p.m., arriving Pukekohe at 2.50 p.m. Return Special will leave Pukekohe at 5.50 p.m. and 7.20 p.m.

The usual 9 a.m. train to Otehaupo will leave Auckland at 8.50 a.m.

Excursion Tickets will not be available by the 10 a.m. south express.

BY ORDER.

GENERAL NEWS.

The taking or killing of blue duck is prohibited.

A number of forged notes are in circulation in Sydney.

Twenty per cent. of marriages in New South Wales last year were contracted at matrimonial agencies.

The 22nd annual exhibition of the Auckland Society of Arts will take place in the Choral Hall on Wednesday, April 29.

The Public Health Department will shortly be removed to Customs-street, and the Agricultural Department to the old police station in High-street.

H. Batley, aged 20, of Moawhango, near Mangaweka, was drowned while bathing in the river there. The body was recovered quickly, but life was extinct.

Mr Seddon says next session Parliament will be asked to provide for a preferential tariff with the Mother Country, and also for intercolonial reciprocity.

The population of West Australia increased by 1486 in January. The total population is now 216,626, an increase of nearly 20,000 over the corresponding period of last year.

Captain Tucker, of the Poverty Bay district, is believed to be in communication with the Railway Department with regard to the formation of a township settlement at Makauri.

Capt. Miles and Udall were passengers by the Rotofiti for New Plymouth last week, en route for Dunedin. The captains are interested in the purchase of several of the Union Company's vessels.

The Australian squadron is expected to reach Auckland on the 28th inst., and remain in port until March 7. A regatta between the boats of the ships of the squadron will take place on March 4 and 5, in the harbour.

A well-known stock-exchange speculator gave the other day the secret of his success. "I pay for something that I can't get with money that I haven't got, and then sell what I never had for more than it ever cost."

It is understood that the Government have made an offer for an estate at Pahiatua, bought and reclaimed many years ago by the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, the Imperial Prime Minister, with a view to cutting it up for close settlement.

The Wellington temperance party will run a ticket for the Licensing Committee. Candidates will be moderates, and the platform will include the striking off of 10 per cent. of the licenses, observance of the law in letter and spirit, protection of the Newtown prohibition boundary, working against removals and as to sanitary condition of the houses.

We are informed on good authority that the temperance party in the Manukau electoral district propose to support certain gentlemen as members of the Licensing Committee. They will not necessarily be total abstainers, or even temperance workers, but men who, it is believed, will endeavour to faithfully carry out the law, and are in favour of 10 o'clock closing. The temperance people in the Manukau are strong, and are not in any way violent in advocating their views.

At the request of Mrs Seddon, the Mayor of Wellington has convened a public meeting of the New Zealand Soldiers' Graves Guild, with the object of caring for the graves of those New Zealanders who lost their lives in the late war in South Africa. The Guild is to be connected with the "Guild of Loyal Women," an English and South African Society, founded with the same object.

At the annual conference of the Ironmasters' Association, Wellington, a lengthy interview with the heads of the Government Railway Department took place with reference to the locomotive contracts. The Departmental officers stated that the Government desired to have the locomotives built in the colony, and every assistance would be given to likely tenders in New Zealand. The time for receiving tenders would be extended till May.

The Auckland Harbour Board's new steam tug and fire-boat went on an official trial on Thursday, and was considered to be thoroughly efficient. In fact, it was stated by a number of those who witnessed the trial that the vessel would prove herself capable of coping with any outbreak of fire that may occur in the shipping in port. The speed test was a run down the harbour as far as the Bean Rock lighthouse, when, with wind and tide in her favour, the vessel developed a speed of ten knots per hour, and on the return she averaged about seven knots. After the trip the vessel berthed alongside No. 1 Quay-street jetty, and three leads of hose were got out on to the roadway in front of the Northern Roller Mills. The machinery worked smoothly. Through a 24-inch nozzle hose, with a pressure of 800 feet, a jet of water was thrown to a height of 230 feet, and with a three-quarter inch nozzle to a height of 190 feet. The vessel is fitted so as to supply thirteen leads, the pumping machinery being capable of lifting 1800 gallons of salt water per minute.

HARNESSING THE RIVERS.

After inspecting the Huka Falls, near Taupo, Mr Allo, the electrical expert, has reported to the Premier that this is the most easily utilised power he has ever dealt with. Mr Seddon informed Mr Witheford that he could congratulate the Auckland people on the importance of this decision, the falls having desired power sufficient to supply Auckland, Napier, Gisborne and Thames.

A SUCCESSFUL BOAT BUILDER.

With such craft to his credit as the intercolonial winners Meteor, Laurel, Thelma, Bona, Uira, there is not much need to enlarge upon the skill of Mr Charles Bailey, jun., as a yacht designer. Any one of these boats is sufficient to stamp him as a builder of the first grade. In addition to the craft mentioned, Mr Bailey has also launched from his Custom-street yards a large fleet of fast and comfortable cruisers—all winners in their various classes. He has made a speciality of oil launches, a type of pleasure craft that is rapidly advancing in popular favour, and some of the most shapely and speediest boats now running on the Waitemata were turned out from his yards. An advertisement from this well-known firm appears elsewhere in this week's "Graphic."



LAWN TENNIS.

(By Volley.)

The following matches of the Auckland championships were played on Saturday, and completed the first rounds:

Men's singles: C. Heather beat D. Bamford, 4-6, 6-0, 6-2, 6-3. Men's doubles: Jackson and Coates beat Simpson and Rich, 6-3, 8-0; Billing and Mair beat Brown and Baker, 6-3, 6-1; Rice and Heather beat Billing and Mair, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4. Ladies' doubles: The Misses Nicholson beat Mrs. Gentles and Mrs. Newell, 6-3, 6-3; Misses Gray beat Mrs. Goss and Miss Picken, 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. Combined doubles: Miss Gorrie and Brabant beat Miss A. Nicholson and Cooke, 6-2, 6-7, 6-3; Miss Stewart and Turner beat Miss S. Rice and Heather, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2; Miss D. Udy and Billing beat Miss A. Gray and Summer, 6-1, 6-1. Ladies' singles: Miss A. Gray beat Miss P. Gorrie, 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.

The Ngaruawhia Lawn Tennis Club are holding an open tournament at Easter.

Mr. H. A. Parker, who spent a few days in Auckland on his way to Sydney, visited the Eden and Epsom lawns on Saturday, and played some friendly games.

Mr. E. G. Meares, of England, was also in Auckland, but could not arrange to meet Mr. Parker.

The Coromandel Lawn Tennis Club sent a team to Mercury Bay. The results were in favour of the Coromandel team, each match proving a win for them.

Miss Nicholson and Mr Goldie beat Mrs Newell and Mr. Davis in the final for the West End Club's handicap combined doubles.

In the men's championship singles A. H. Brabant beat J. Patterson, 3 sets to 2. The match was a very close one, Patterson at one time having two sets to Brabant's one.

WAIKAWA TOURNAMENT.

My Napier correspondent writes: The Waikawa annual tennis tournament, in which a number of players from Napier took part, resulted as follows: Ladies' Handicap Singles: Miss Vera Wilson (16) beat Miss Todd (scr), 60-47. Ladies' Handicap Doubles: Misses Vera Wilson and Ella Burke (25) beat Misses Price (25), 60-53. Combined Handicap Doubles: Miss Godfrey and Reed (16) beat Miss Fannin and Margoliouth (scr), 60-30. Men's Championship Singles: Parker beat Baker, 60-36. Men's Championship Doubles: Baker and Bruce beat Balharry and Margoliouth, 60-43. Men's Handicap Singles: Parker (scr) beat Smith, 60-55. Men's Handicap Doubles: Balharry and O. Margoliouth (owe 5) beat J. Parker and Dinwiddie (16), 60-46. At the close of the tournament the prizes were presented to the winners by Mrs Tod.

CRICKET.

AUCKLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS.

The seventh series of championship matches under the auspices of the Auckland Cricket Association was commenced on Saturday. The main interest centred in the United-Gordon match, as the result will have a material bearing on the championship. The game bears an open aspect, and the play next Saturday should be worth seeing. Auckland and Parnell should also fight out a good finish on the concluding day. Gordon, playing against United, made 198 in their first innings, the double figure men being Mason (71), Williams (38), R. B. Lusk (34), and King (11). Stenson took six wickets for 72. United opened well, having one wicket down for 70 runs. In the Parnell-Auckland match the former were dismissed for 162 in their first essay, Murray being the top scorer with 40, and Auckland have lost five wickets for 74 runs.

WANGANUI CRICKET.

In the cup cricket on Saturday J. M. Marshall played a faultless innings for 187. This is a record for the district, the scoring being usually low, owing to the difficulty of the grounds. This score makes the 13rd century this batsman has put on this season.

WELLINGTON CRICKET.

Beautiful weather and capital wickets favoured local cricketers on Saturday afternoon. In the senior matches, Wellington in its first innings compiled 233. Perry 83, Richardson 27, Latham 18. Old Boys' second innings closed for 84. Kirkcaldie (27), Tucker (25), being the only batsmen to make a stand against the bowling of Hales (three for 34) and Perry (2 for 35). Wellington won by an innings and 20 runs. Midland knocked up 211 in its first essay against Phoenix, the leading run-getters being Hickson (64), Queer (41), Smith (18), Waters (three for 27), Hickey (two for 70), Brice (three for 57), and Day (two for 43) divided the wickets for Phoenix, whose second innings now stands at 107 for eight wickets. Lash (39) and Day (25) made a valuable stand, and saw time out. At one stage five wickets were down for 22.

CHRISTCHURCH CRICKET.

In the senior cup matches on Saturday the last wickets of the Midlanders made a poor stand, and the side was all out for 13 (Lawrence, not out, 22), or 94 behind on the first innings. Fisher took seven wickets for 24. United ran up 268 for seven wickets (Sims 72, Harman 51, Gilliver, not out, 59, Wigley 15, Blunden 12 not out, Boddington 11, Smith 10). In the Sydenham and Addington v. Lancaster Park game, the former's first innings resulted 60 runs, 153 behind. McMurray made 38 and Henry 10. Lancaster went in and ran up 223 for six wickets before declaring (Hammond 37, not out, H. C. Wakley 57, Barrett 30, Wilkinson 20, Willard 35). Sydenham and Addington, whose first was called, had scored 133 for six wickets (Kipley 45, McMurray 26, Morris, not out, 24, Ashby 16).

LORD HAWKE'S TEAM.

The match between Lord Hawke's team and a Southland fifteen concluded on Thursday and resulted in a win for the visitors by seven wickets. Southland made 91 and 102 in their first and second innings respectively. The Englishmen made 107 in their first venture, and secured the necessary 87 runs to win for the loss of three wickets.

The match, Lord Hawke's team v. the South Island eleven, played on Saturday and Monday, resulted in a win for the visitors by an innings and 130 runs. The scores were:

ENGLISHMEN.—First Innings.

Warner, b Fisher	37
Burnup, lbw, b Fisher	29
Fane, c Wilson, b Fisher	6
Taylor, lbw, b Callaway	105
Downson, b Downes	0
Rosanquet, c Orchard, b Howell	82
Thompson, c Callaway, b Ongley	5
Johnson, c Orchard, b Downes	21
Stanning, ret out	12
Leatham, b Downes	8
Hargreaves, lbw, b Downes	1
Extras	10
Total	314

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Mdn.	Runs.	Wkts.
Downes	107	7	102	4
Fisher	96	3	53	3
Callaway	132	2	87	1
Howell	42	0	34	1
Ongley	36	0	28	1

SOUTH ISLAND.—First Innings.

Reese, c Leatham, b Hargreaves	4
Siedelberg, b Thompson	9
Wilson, lbw, b Hargreaves	8
Howden, l Hargreaves	2
Orchard, b Thompson	1
Fisher, b Thompson	0
Downes, c Downson, b Hargreaves	5
Ongley, c Rosanquet, b Hargreaves	3
Callaway, b Hargreaves	2
Boxhall, b Thompson	15
Howell, not out	0
Extras	2
Total	51

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

	Balls.	Mdn.	Runs.	Wkts.
Hargreaves	78	7	12	6
Thompson	78	3	37	4

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And sold by all Chemists in the Colonies.

SOUTH ISLAND.—Second Innings.

Reese, b Thompson.....	7
Siedelberg, c Bosanquet, b Thompson.....	12
Wilson, c Stanning, b Bosanquet.....	8
Howden, not out.....	37
Box-hall, c Leatham, b Hargreaves.....	40
Oxley, b Burnup.....	0
Callaway, c Warner, b Burnup.....	0
Orchard, c Thompson, b Burnup.....	5
Fisher, c Warner, b Burnup.....	11
Downes, b Burnup.....	4
Howell, c Fane, b Burnup.....	0
Extras.....	9
Total.....	133

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

Balls.	Mdns.	Runs.	Wkts	
Bosanquet.....	36	0	35	1
Hargreaves.....	84	6	19	1
Thompson.....	84	5	34	2
Burnup.....	51	2	36	6

Yorkshire has disapproved of the proposal to widen the wickets.

Although the Yorkshire Cricket Council oppose it, the County Committee favour the widening of wickets, and recommend that a trial be made. The majority of first-class counties favour the innovation.

The gross takings in the cricket match between Canterbury and England, including tickets, amounted to £803.

D. Reese won five bats by his successful run-getting in the match between Canterbury and Lord Hawke's team, but it is probable some of those presenting them will allow him to select other cricketing material.

Harry Trott, the well-known Victorian cricketer, scored 215 runs out of a total of 320 for Bendigo Post Office against St. Andrew's Club, at Bendigo, on January 28th.

On January 1, 1902, Trumper was dismissed for a "duck" when playing against Victoria. His next dismissal without scoring was on January 29, 1903, also against Victoria. In the interim he played 80 innings, was twice not out, and scored 3800 runs at an average of 48.7.

New South Wales has won the Sheffield Shield this season with an unbeaten record, South Australia and Victoria being beaten twice by the Mother State. In the four matches New South Wales scored 2109 runs for the loss of 65 wickets, giving an average of 30.92 per wicket, while their opponents made 1757 runs for 80 wickets, giving an average of 21.96 per wicket. South Australia and Melbourne have still to meet in Adelaide.

Mr. Fowke has selected the following team to represent New Zealand against Lord Hawke's team on February 27, 28 and March 2: C. Box-hall, Canterbury; S. Callaway, Canterbury; A. Downes, Otago; A. Fisher, Otago; F. S. Frankish, Canterbury; D. Hay, Auckland; C. Hickson, Wellington; B. McCarthy, Taranaki; D. Reese, Canterbury; C. Richardson, Wellington; A. Sims, Canterbury; K. Tucker, Wellington. Twelve men have been picked, but one will be excluded from the team on the morning of the match.

Remarks the Dunedin "Star":—"Many Dunedin residents are grumbling because only three Otago men are to play in the South Island match. If they can show (no easy task, by the way) that this province, on its present cricket merits, is entitled to fuller representation, well and good; but if their argument is based on the territorial principle, or on the fact that the match is to be played in Dunedin, we can only express a confident opinion that their criticisms are utterly unwarranted."

The Sydney "Sunday Times" regarding the proposed visit of Lord Hawke's team to Australia, says:—"Lord Hawke's team will come direct to Sydney after finishing up in New Zealand. Here they will catch the Melbourne express at once, and on March 13th commence a four days' match with Victoria on the Melbourne Ground. Returning to Sydney, they start against New South Wales, on Friday, the 20th. It was originally thought that the match here would be restricted to three days, but it is now highly probable that four days will be allotted, that is, the game will be continued on the Tuesday, the day of the team's departure for Brisbane. From private letters received in Sydney, the Englishmen are looking forward to their visit to Australia, and especially to playing on the two chief grounds of the Commonwealth."

ATHLETICS.

High-jumper R. H. Grahame, who created such a favourable impression in the high jump at the D.A.A.C. sports, when he cleared 5ft 7in and just failed to negotiate 5ft 9in, did an amount of jumping, long and high, at Home (writes "Amateur" in the Otago "Witness"). He practised on the London Athletic Club's ground at Stamford Bridge with a host of old-time champions. In form, he has done 5ft 9in, which is only one-eighth of an inch short of the New Zealand record, established by R. Browlee, of this city, at the championship meeting of 1898-99. Grahame informs present writer that he is weak from an attack of influenza, and hopes to have recovered sufficiently to improve on his Saturday's 5ft 7in effort in the approaching New Zealand championships.

The death is announced in England of a once-famous amateur runner in Mr. C. H. Mason, solicitor to the London and North-Western Railway Company. The deceased, who was in his 52nd year, was, in his young days, champion at one mile and ten miles, besides winning numberless races at various distances.

Simpson, I regret to hear, is feeling his old side trouble again, writes "Vaultor" of the "Weekly Press." It is to be hoped it is nothing serious, as his services will be much in demand in the championship distance events at Dunedin on March 6.

AQUATICS.

WANGANUI REGATTA.

The Wanganui championship regatta was held on Thursday in beautiful weather, and there was a large attendance. The following are the results:—

Maiden Fours, one mile: Waitemata Rowing Club, Auckland (G. Huddleston, T. D. Bell, W. H. Steyens, E. A. Smith, G. W. Bailey,cox); 1; Union Rowing Club, Christchurch, 2; Avon Rowing Club, Christchurch, 3.

Champion Fours, two miles: Kawatiri Rowing Club, Westport (C. Cherrill, S. Atkinson, B. Atkinson, W. Campbell); 1; Union Boating Club, Wanganui, 2; Canterbury Rowing Club, Christchurch, 3. Wanganui Rowing Club, Aramoah Boating Club, Blenheim Rowing Club, and Wellington Rowing Club also started.

Junior Outigger Fours, one mile and a-half: Star Boating Club, Wellington (R. C. Oswin, F. D. Johnson, N. H. James, C. E. Bridge); 1; Canterbury Rowing Club, Christchurch, 2; Union Boating Club, Wanganui, 3.

Champion Single Sculls, one mile and a-half: W. Webb (Wanganui), 1; J. F. McGrath, 2. The other starters were: T. Spencer (Wellington), and C. E. Dowland. At the mile post McGrath was leading by a length from Webb. At the bridge Webb came on level terms, and then drew away from McGrath, winning easily by about 12 lengths. Time, 9m 57s.

Champion Pairs, one mile and a-half: Culman and Crawford (Wellington), 1; Pull and Simpson (Petone), 2. Wellington won by 14 lengths. Time, 9m 41 2-5s.

Junior Fours: Star Boating Club (Oswin, Johnston, James, Bridge), 1; Waitemata Boating Club (C. Porteous, K. Blair, W. E. Smith, and A. C. Stead), 2; Union, Christchurch, 3. Eight crews started. After a fine race the Stars beat Waitemata by half a length, Christchurch Unions third. Time, 8m 55 3-5s.

Champion Double Sculls: Otago Rowing Club (McGrath and Priest), 1; Christchurch Amateurs (Mahoney and Fry), 2; Wanganui Rowing Club (Tilley and Bailey), 3. Won by three lengths. Time, 9m 10 1-5s.

Senior Fours: Canterbury Rowing Club (Johnston, Ayres, O'Callaghan, Evans), 1; Union, Wanganui, 2; Wellington Rowing Club, 3. Canterbury won by a length after a grand finish. Time, 6m 16s.

A LONG SAIL.

The four-ton boat Tilikum, in which Captain Vossis is voyaging round the world, has arrived at the New River estuary, Southland, from Hobart, after a passage of twelve days. The little craft, which set out from Victoria, B.C., in 1901, has sailed 12,300 miles on her intrepid journey.

CYCLING.

Robl made the Australian record for the mile in 1min 28 2-5sec, also the five mile record in 7min 40 1-5sec.

"Pedaller" Palmer intends to get back to Australia for the big meetings that are to take place there shortly. During the present season he has usually followed others to the finishing line, but, all the same, the Queenslander has accomplished some capital riding.

The promoters of the "Sydney Thousand," the biggest handicap race yet held in the world, have received a very satisfactory entry for the rich event, which is set down for running on the Sydney Cricket Ground on the 7th March. All the best handicap riders in the Commonwealth have nominated; consequently a fast and exceedingly interesting race should result for the £1000, which is being split up as follows: First, £750; second, £100; third, £50; and £100 for distribution amongst the heat winners.

In the match at Melbourne between Taylor and Walker, the best two out of three heats, Taylor won the first two right out—half a mile, unpaced, in 1m 27 2-5s, and a mile, paced, in 2m 25 1-5s.

The following are the handicaps for the Sydney £1000 cycle handicap: Taylor, scratch; Sutherland (New Zealand), Walker (Victoria), 5yds each. Other New Zealanders: Forbes, 10yds; Burton, 25yds; Chalmers, 35yds; Rundrup, 45 yds; Plunkett, 90yds.

On two occasions has "Major" Taylor held the world's record for the mile, the figures for the first time being 1min 31 4-5sec, made in November, 1898, at Philadelphia. The previous best was by Edouard Taylore, a Frenchman, who negotiated the distance in 1min 32 3-5 sec. The last time the figures by Taylor were 1min 19sec, as already stated. He also held the world's record for quarter mile, which he covered in 20sec, the previous best being 21 1-5sec.

The New South Wales amateur, A. Smythe, has again been attacking some of the records of his class, which he has materially reduced. On the 5th inst. he cut the amateur mile record, from a standing start, paced, from 2min 12 2-5 sec to 1min 45sec. Subsequently from a flying start he improved the previous record by 9 3-5sec, taking 1min 34 1-5 sec to cover the distance. The first quarter of a mile was negotiated in 25 sec, which also establishes a new record.

An extension of the cycle post system has been decided upon in London, Mr. Austen Chamberlain having given his attention to the use of cycles for the collection and distribution of letters.

For the first time since he has raced here Robl was beaten last Saturday (says the latest "Australasian"). In the paced ten mile event in the afternoon, in which he conceded half a lap to Dickentman, and two laps to Murphy, he had picked up his compatriot and gained over a lap on Murphy, and while easing up slightly for a breather, Dickentman seemed to recover, and he went by Robl quickly.

Then ensued a fine race between the pair, Robl endeavouring to repass Dickentman, who warded off his many efforts. When the bell rang for the last lap Robl was still behind, and seeing the futility of trying to get round Dickentman in one lap, relinquished the race.

It would be interesting to learn what the "Black Wonder," "Major" Taylor, makes in twelve months. For the current year he has already received or will receive fourteen hundred pounds from the Sydney syndicate for two months' riding in the Commonwealth. Besides this his winnings in stakes in Sydney amounted to £175. Upon leaving Australia he has a lucrative engagement in Japan in March, after which he proceeds direct to Paris, where it is stated, he is to receive £3000 for a number of appearances on the Continent. Add to this his prospective winnings in Europe and America for the year, coupled with his retaining fee for riding an American wheel, and it is a very modest prediction that Taylor's income for 1903 will be considerably over £6000. Considering that Taylor does not gamble nor speculate the American flyer must be a very wealthy man—that is for a racing cyclist.

No Strength

Are you easily tired? Is your work a burden? Do you often feel weak and faint? Is your appetite poor? Are you easily discouraged? Then your nerves are weak and your blood impure. Sickness is not far away.



Mr. Frederick Desgrois, of Claremont, Cape Colony, South Africa, sends his photograph and this letter:—"My blood often becomes impure, causing eruptions on the skin, and my general system gets all run down, causing indigestion and great debility. But I take Ayer's Sarsaparilla, which quickly brings me out of my troubles. For all those who are debilitated and weakened by the long, hot summers of our country, there is no remedy equal to this grand family medicine."

AYER'S Sarsaparilla

There are many imitations "Sarsaparilla." Be sure you get Ayer's. Always keep your bowels in good condition with Ayer's Pills. They are purely vegetable, act on the liver, and cure constipation, biliousness, sick headaches, and all liver troubles. Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass., U.S.A.

BRUCE'S Breakfast Bacon = = IS GOOD

Mild Cured.

E. A. BRUCE,
Grocer and Provision Dealer,
166, KARANGAHAPE ROAD, AUCKLAND.



1. A general view. 2. Waiting for a sail. 3. A favourite picnic spot. 4. The St. Helier's Hotel. 5. On the beach.

ST. HELIERS.—A Favourite Seaside Resort, Auckland.

On holidays and Sundays hundreds drive out to this beautiful and growing marine village, while the ferry boats also carry large crowds.



ON THE CLIFFS.



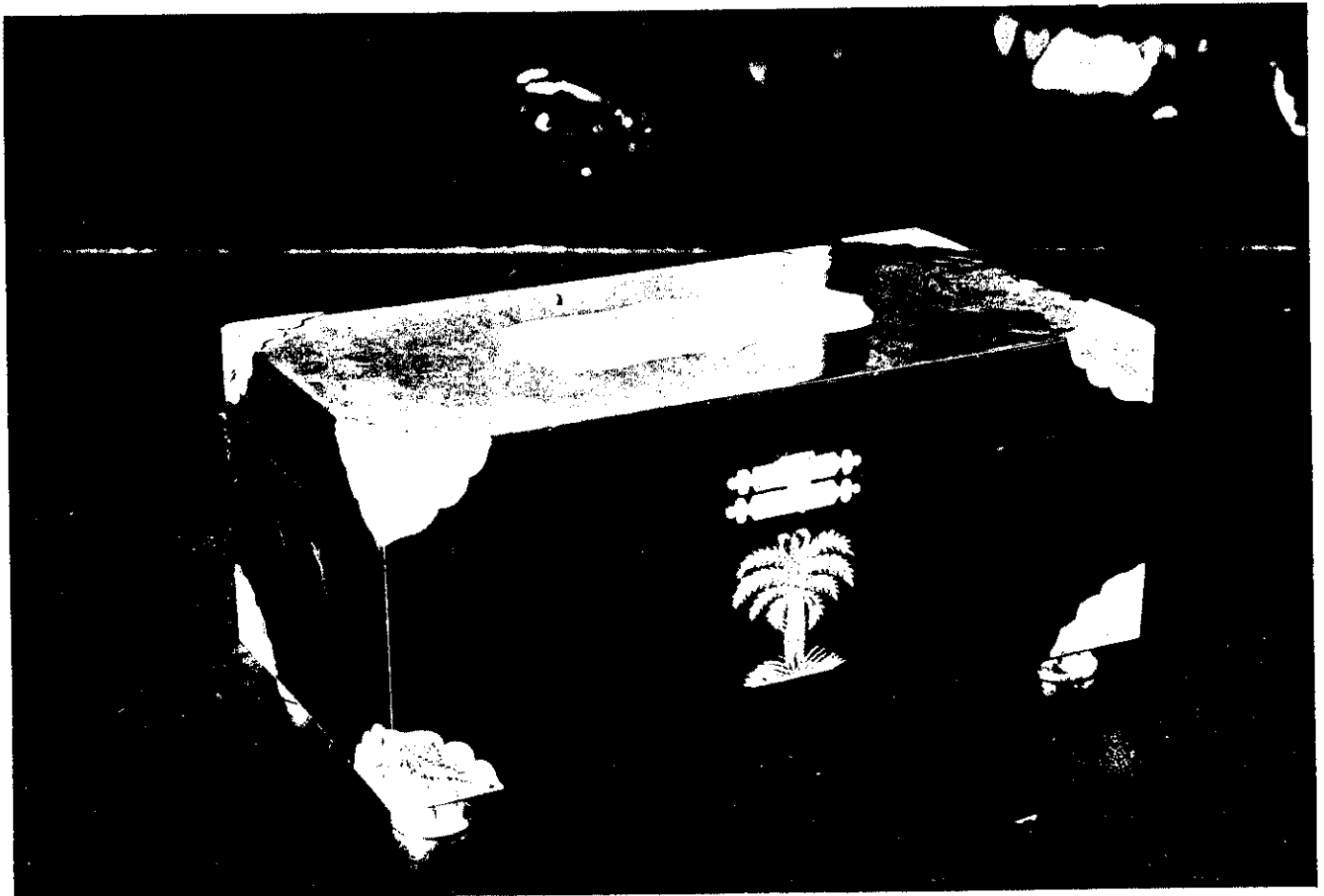
A VIEW OF THE WHARF ON A SUNDAY AFTERNOON.

St. Heliers: A Favourite Seaside Resort, Auckland.



MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE.

FRONT ROW—Rev. Father Patterson, Mr F. Lawry, M.H.R., Rt. Hon. R. Seddon, P.C., the Mayor of Auckland (Mr A. Kidd), the Town Clerk (Mr Wilson), Hon. Duncan (Minister of Lands), Mr Withford, M.H.R.
 SECOND ROW—Messrs McLeod, G. Peacock, J. Savage, Higgins, J. Watcock, J. T. O'Connell, Abbott, A. Myers, T. W. Leys, Hon. T. Thompson, Canon Nelson, Whitney, F. Baume, M.H.R.
 THIRD ROW.—Messrs W. Brehan, J. Paterson, J. J. Jenkins, P. Neherney, Morgan.

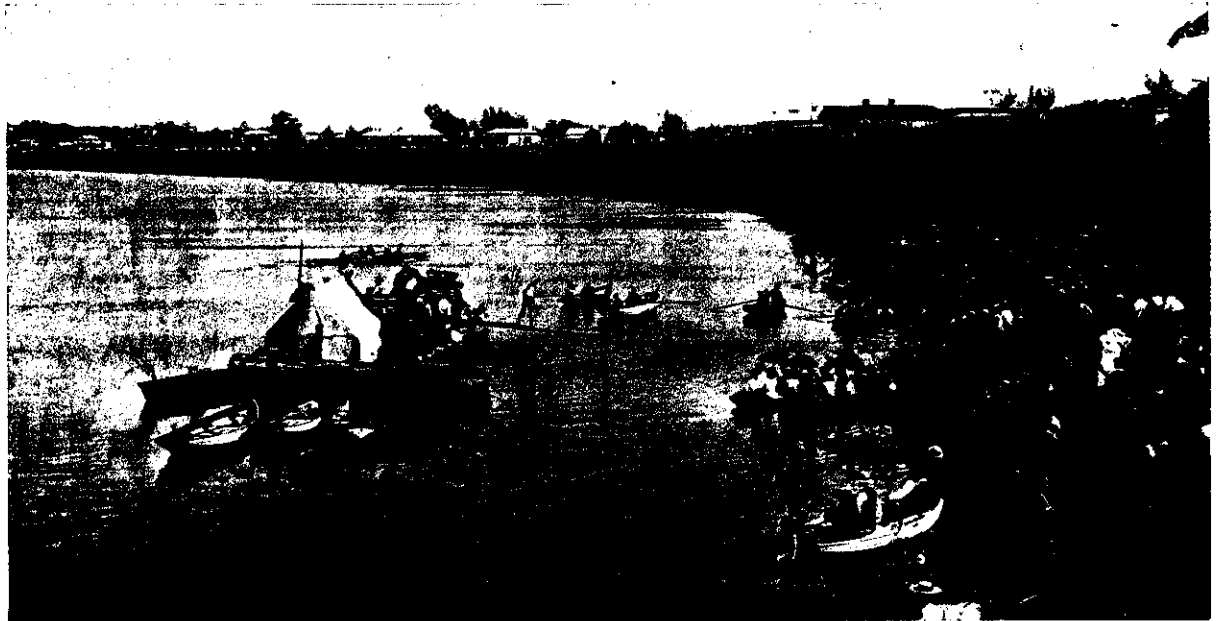


CASKET CONTAINING CHEQUE FOR £200, PRESENTED TO RIGHT HON. RICHARD SEDDON, P.C., BY THE CITIZENS OF AUCKLAND, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15.

Presentation to the Rt. Hon. R. Seddon, P.C., Auckland, February 16.



START OF MAIDEN RACE—WON BY WAITEMATA.



ON THE BANKS.



THE COMMITTEE.

Newman and Brady, photo.

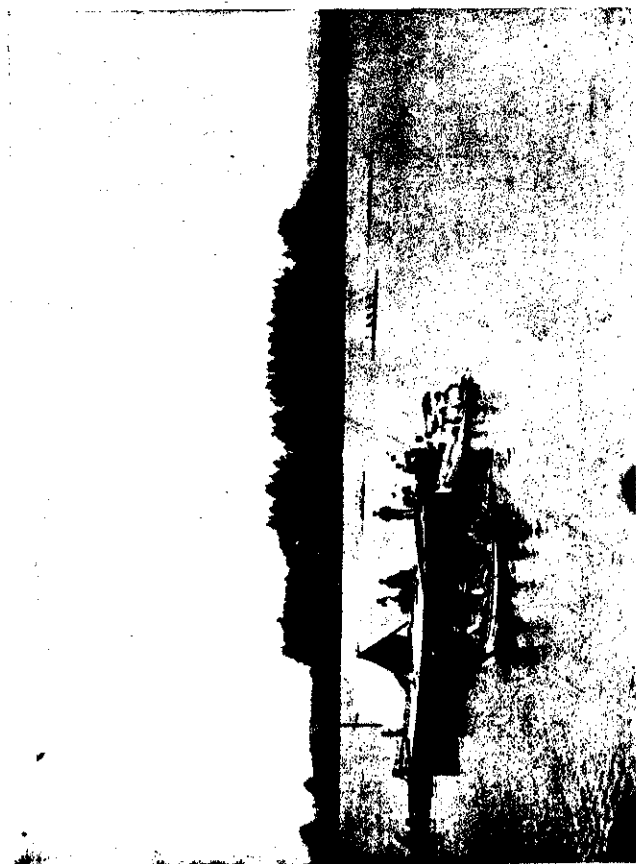
New Zealand Championship Regatta, Wanganui.



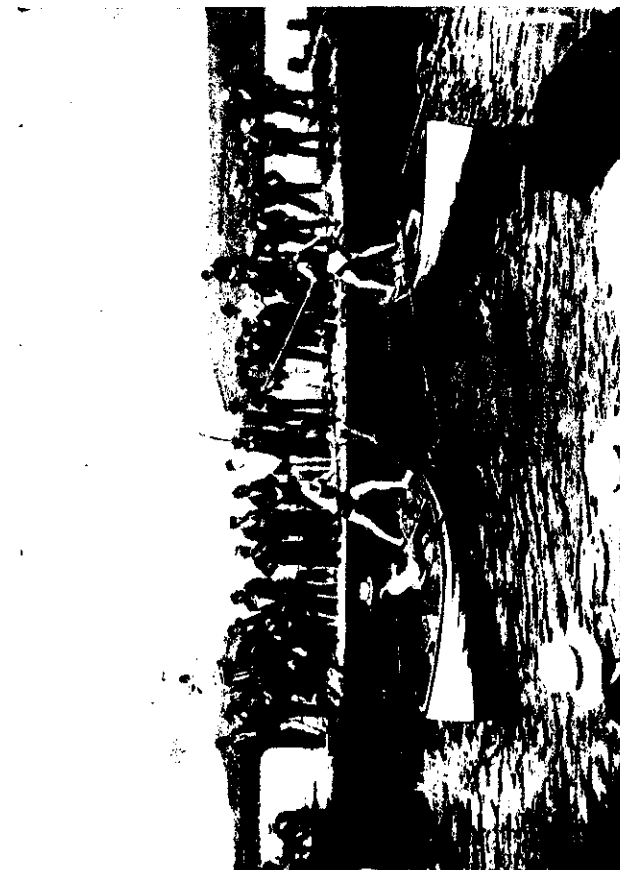
SPECTATORS ON BANKS OF THE RIVER.



SPECTATORS WATCHING THE RACES FROM THE BANKS OF THE RIVER.
New Zealand Championship Regatta, Wanganui.

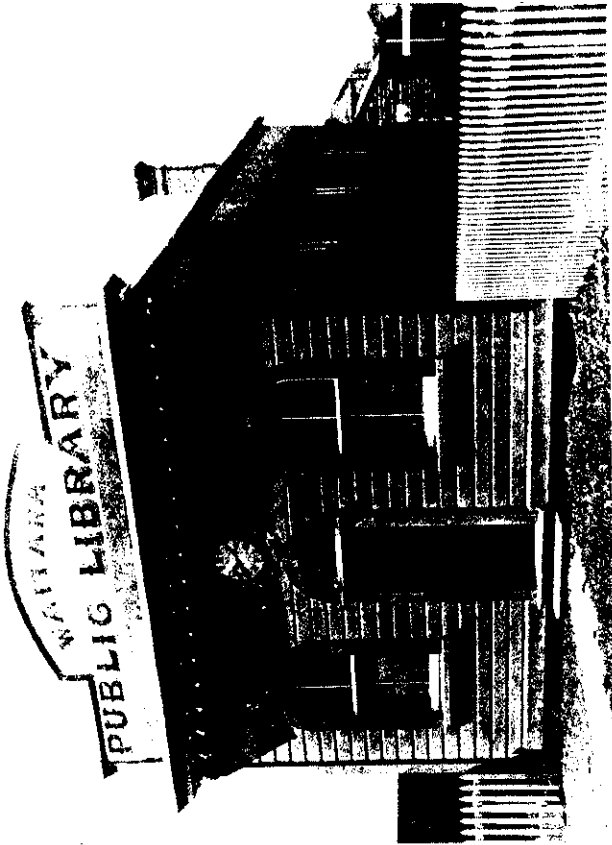


A CLOSE FINISH.



THE TILTING COMPETITION.

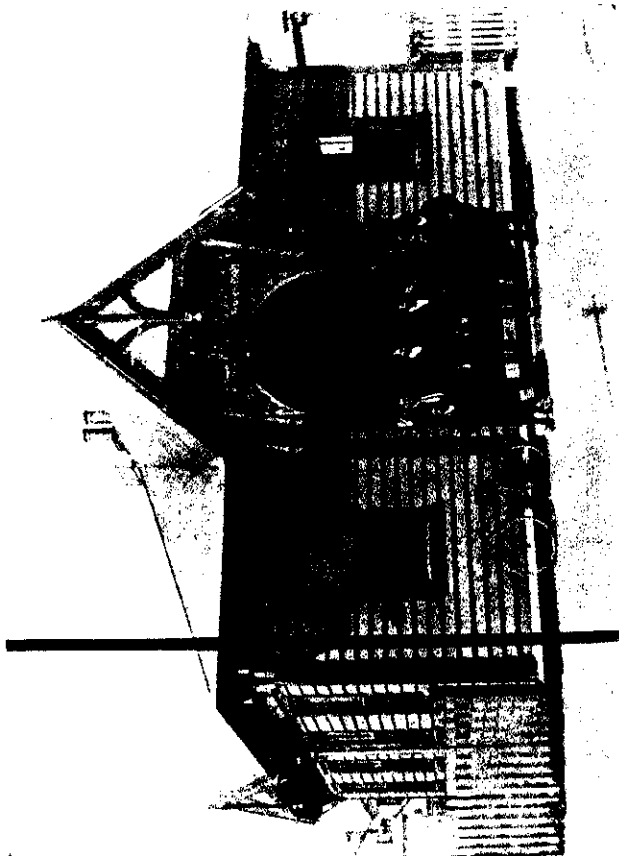
New Zealand Championship Regatta, Wanganui.



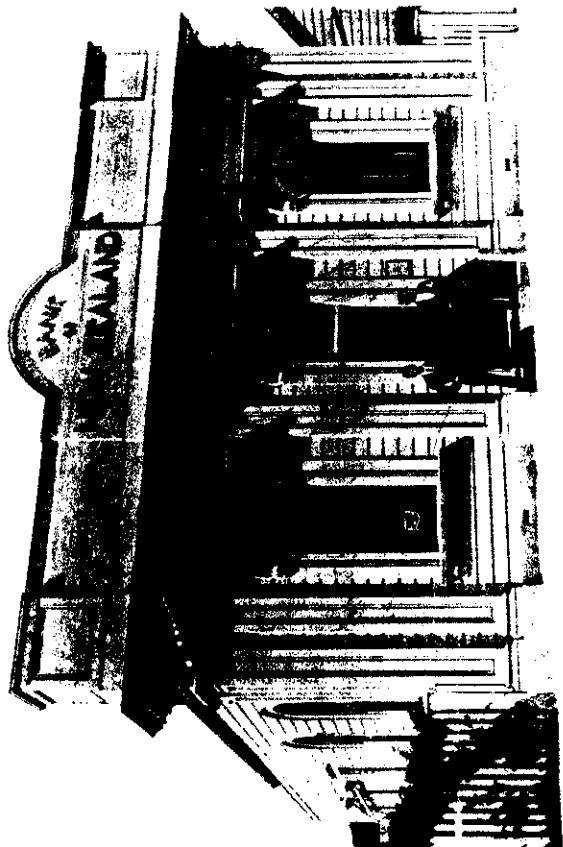
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ENGLISH CHURCH.



POST OFFICE AND STAFF.



BANK OF NEW ZEALAND AND STAFF.

WAITARA, TARANAKI.



GIRLS' PUBLIC SCHOOL, WAITARA.



BOYS AND TEACHERS, PUBLIC SCHOOL, WAITARA.

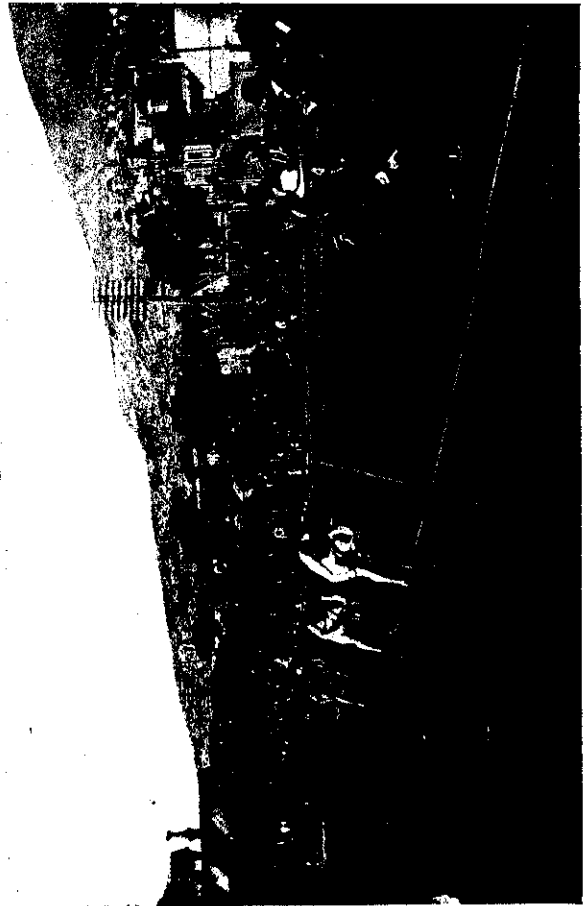


Daroux, photo.

MANAGERS AND EMPLOYEES, WAITARA FREEZING WORKS.



Panoramic View of the Township of Waitara.



FINISH WELLINGTON CLUB HANDICAP—1, G. Sutherland ; 2, W. Martin ; 3, H. Holland.



FINISH OF THE FIVE MILES CHAMP IONSHIP—1, G. Sutherland ; 2, W. Martin ; 3, H. Holland.

Cycling Sports, Wellington.

*New Zealand
Championship
Regatta,
Wanganui.*



THE UNION CLUB SENIOR CREW.



"WAIONI" FOLLOWING A RACE.



THE KAWATIRI CREW.



CHAMPION PAIR-OARS—W. J. CALNAN (stroke), J. R. CRAWFORD (bow).



THE STAR BOATING CLUB.



GENERAL VIEW FROM THE WATER.



BATHING HOUR.



BATHING HOUR. "ISN'T THIS FINE"

Watrond, "Graphic" photo.

Parnell Orphans' Home In Camp.



"ALL ABOARD FOR THE AFTERNOON'S OUTING."



THE GIRLS GO OUT FOR A ROW.



OFF TO THE FISHING GROUNDS TO CATCH TO-MORROW'S BREAKFAST.

Walrond, "Graphic" photo.

Parnell Orphans' Home In Camp.



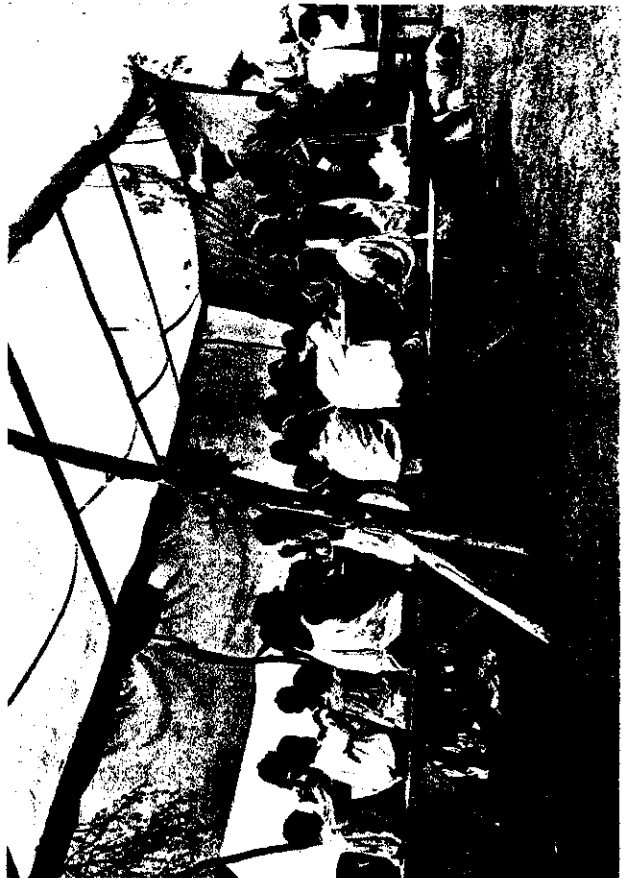
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THE COOKING SQUAD.



MAKING THEMSELVES USEFUL.



A SIESTA.



DINNER TIME.

THE PARNELL ORPHANS' HOME IN CAMP.

A Proud Achievement.

AUCKLAND TO THE FORE.

MESSESS SMITH AND CAUGHEY WIN THE MONSTER GOOD TASTE COMPETITION OF AUSTRALASIA.

Nothing in the history of the colony has been more remarkable during the last few years than the gradual awakening of Auckland, and her rise from a sleepy apathetic town of seemingly third-rate importance to one of the finest, smartest and most up-to-date cities south of the line. The change is brought strikingly before us in the beautiful paving of the main street, in the rapid electric tram car service, in the continual erection of huge and palatial blocks of buildings, such as the two new arcades and theatre, and last, but assuredly not least, in the brilliant advance of our large trading and business establishments, and especially our drapery firms, which are able to compare favourably with anything in the Australasian colonies. This is a somewhat large order, and one might be accused of prejudice and desire to puff a New Zealand city in making it. "What about the splendid shops of Sydney and Melbourne with the huge populations to support them? Must not they of necessity be better?" Happily, the answer need not come from any one person, the verdict has been given, and it has been given by many thousands of the women of Australasia, women of Victoria, of New South Wales, of South and Western Australia, of Queensland, and of this colony, and that verdict is

IN FAVOUR OF MESSESS SMITH AND CAUGHEY, OF AUCKLAND.

Yes, as was said, it is a large order, and the achievement is one over which not merely every Aucklanders but even every New Zealander may feel a reflected glory. For the local firm were in competition with the most famous drapery and dressmaking establishments in Australasia, firms whose names are household words in the mouths of hundreds who have never visited the other side, but who know the great repute of several of the big houses. The circumstances were these: The editor of "The New Idea," an extremely successful Australasian monthly, invited 14 Australasian firms to send him photographs of what they considered the most tasteful and perfect up-to-date summer walking costume. Those who sent in designs were:—

Messrs George and George, Ltd., Melbourne.

Messrs Hicks, Atkinson and Sons, Melbourne.

Messrs Bussell, Robson and Bussell, Melbourne.

Messrs Bright and Hitchcock, Geelong.

Messrs D. Jones and Co., Sydney.

Messrs Hordern Bros., Sydney.

Messrs Finney, Isles and Co., Brisbane.

Messrs Martin Bros., Adelaide.

The Bon Marche, Perth.

The Drapery and General Importing Co., Wellington.

Messrs George and Kersley, Wellington.

The Drapery and General Importing Co., Dunedin.

The Drapery and General Importing Co., Christchurch.

Messrs Smith and Caughey, Auckland.

The Direct Supply Co., Ltd., Auckland.

It will be seen the competition was formidable. The names of George and George and the other two Melbourne firms, and those of David Jones and Hordern Bros., of Sydney, have some-

thing approaching a fascination for women, especially for those who have visited their vast and magnificent premises. Yet Smith and Caughey, of Auckland, beat not only them, but all the rest to boot. And this is how: The designs were printed in "The New Idea," thousands upon thousands of specimen copies of which were distributed over the face of Australasia, and a prize of £50 was offered. In deciding which model was the best, each competitor was to say which design he or she considered the best, and the prize was to be awarded to the person whose list most nearly agreed with the general votes. It is of interest to read how the competition went, and we quote this from the prize editor's award:—

The prize editor's first task was to

the majority of competitors chose No. 3, or Messrs Smith and Caughey's design, as being the best. Out of over 244,000 points this design got 27,519. We reproduce the first design on this page, so that readers may see what some thousands of ladies consider the best out of 14 designs submitted from every part of Australasia. In the interests of the firms affected, we have decided not to publish the full "majority list."

The "majority list" being decided, the next task was to see how many competitors placed the designs in the corresponding order. It was expected that there would be a great number of such competitors. To our surprise, not one voting paper agreed with the majority list. Only two had the first three places filled in correctly, and scarcely a dozen

Maude Neville, Mildura, Victoria; Miss Muriel A. Barnes, Upper Copmanhurst, N.S.W.; Mrs John Begg, jun., Pakipito, Balclutha, New Zealand; Miss A. G. Gillies, Devenish, Victoria, and Miss M. Burgess, Muswellbrook, N.S.W. If Mrs John Begg, jun., had reversed the order of her last two votes, she would have had nine places correct, and would thus have won the whole £50.

It is rather interesting to note that neither a Melbourne nor a Sydney design obtained one of the first four places, and on the other hand, that the prize has been divided between ladies residing in Victoria and New South Wales.

It will readily be conceded that the design of Messrs Smith and Caughey is a very beautiful one, and, as worn by a



Hemus Studio, Auckland.

FIRST PRIZE DESIGN FOR "GOOD TASTE WALKING COSTUME," WON BY SMITH AND CAUGHEY, OF AUCKLAND, AGAINST THE MOST NOTABLE FIRMS OF THE AUSTRALASIAN COLONIES.

discover the order of merit of the various costumes, according to the voting of the majority of the competitors. It will be thus seen that the competition really decided itself, and the competitors themselves settled who won the prize. To discover this "majority list" a ballot was held, with the 14 designs acting as candidates. A "First" vote to say, design No. 3, was worth 14 times as much as a "Fourteen" vote. Thus the votes of each competitor were apportioned to the 14 "candidates," with a value decided by their position in the order of merit. This ballot took the prize editor, with the assistance of five clerks, over five days to complete. This will give our readers some idea of the large number of entries there were in the competition.

The ballot brought out the result that

had the designs Nos. 3, 1, and 2 in the first three places in any order whatever. It thus became necessary to compare each of the 14 votes on each voting paper with the corresponding vote in the majority list. This was a tremendous piece of work; but at last the task was completed. No one had 14 places correct. No one had 13, 12, 11, 10, or 9 places correct. Two people, only, had eight places correct, and to these two the prize of £50 has been awarded—£25 to each. Their names are:—

Mrs R. Dyson, "Preston," 44, Metropolitan-road, Enmore, Sydney. £25? and Miss Elsie H. E. Garner, the Crescent, Talbot, Victoria. £25. Next to these came the following ladies, who got seven places correct, and who have been awarded hon. mention:—Miss Ethel Lind, Waitotara, New Zealand; Miss

lady of great personal attractions, worthy to win a prize anywhere. It is gratifying to find that a New Zealand firm was able to gain first place in a competition of beauty and good taste where the judgment was given, not by one person or set of persons who might have given a verdict prejudiced by interest or sentiment, but by thousands of women, many of them residing hundreds of miles away in the Australian States, and who could never even have heard the name of the firm they honoured in their award of first place. To come out first and to beat the famous firms of Australasia on their own ground is no mean victory, and is one on which that progressive firm, Smith and Caughey, may assuredly warmly congratulate themselves. Our picture is from a photo by the Chas. Hemus Studio, Queen-street.

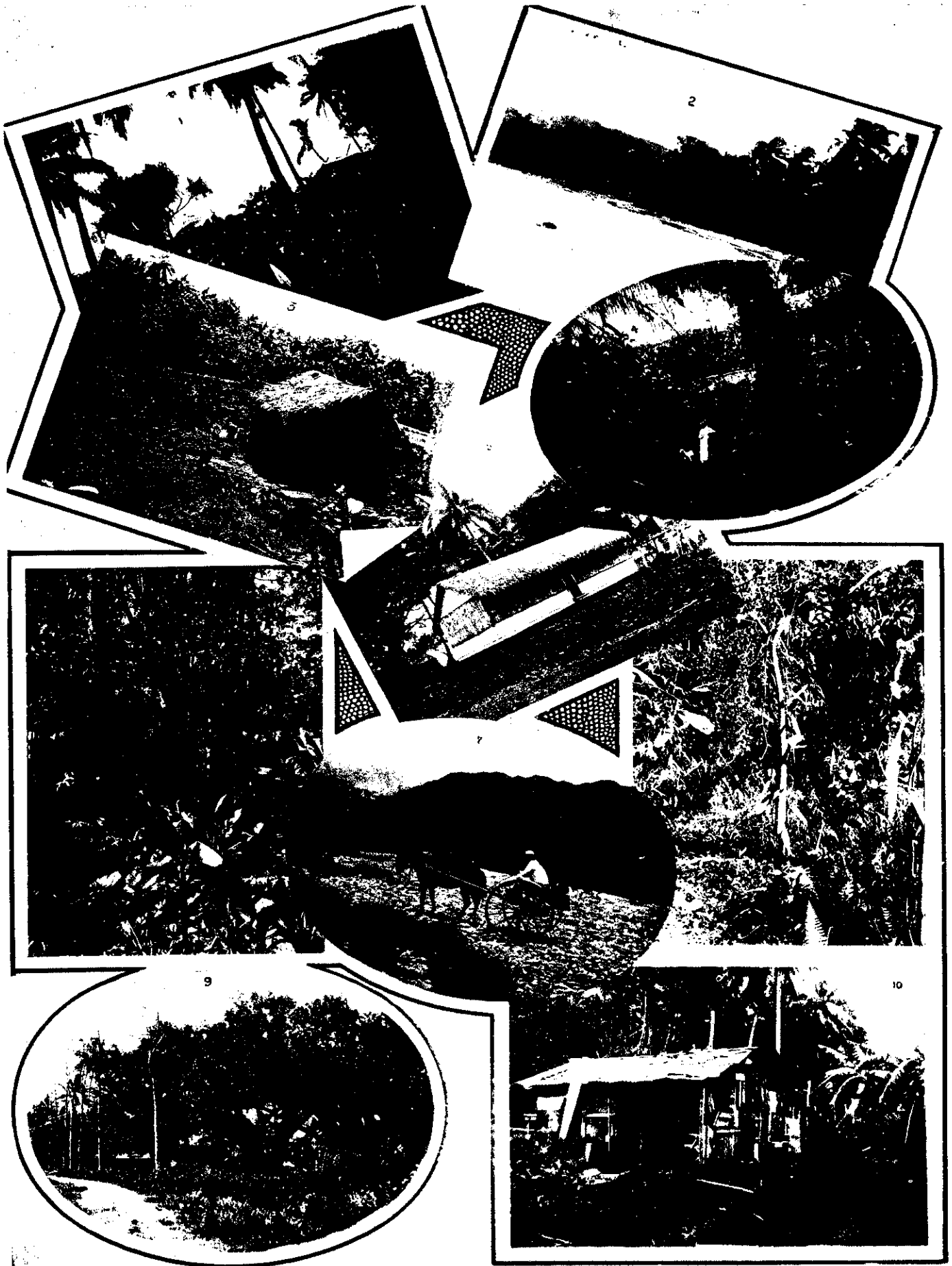


TWO TYPICAL VIEWS OF TAHITI, SHOWING THE LOWNESS OF THE WATERLINE.



PREVIOUS DISASTROUS HURRICANES—THESE PICTURES GIVE SOME IDEA OF THE FORCE OF THE WIND.

The Cyclone in the Islands.



Josiah Martin, Photo.

The Hurricane in the Islands. Typical Tahitian Views.

- 1. A glimpse of the sea. 2. Beach near Papeete. 3. Chinamen's gardens and hut. 4. Vanilla garden. 5. Chief's "town" residence. 6. Coconut trees and bananas.
- 7. The Mail cart. 8. Vanilla plant, trained on old tree stump. 9. The bare trees on the left are kapok trees, the umbrageous ones on the right are mahogany trees. 10. "A thing of shreds and patches"—Chinese gardener's hut.



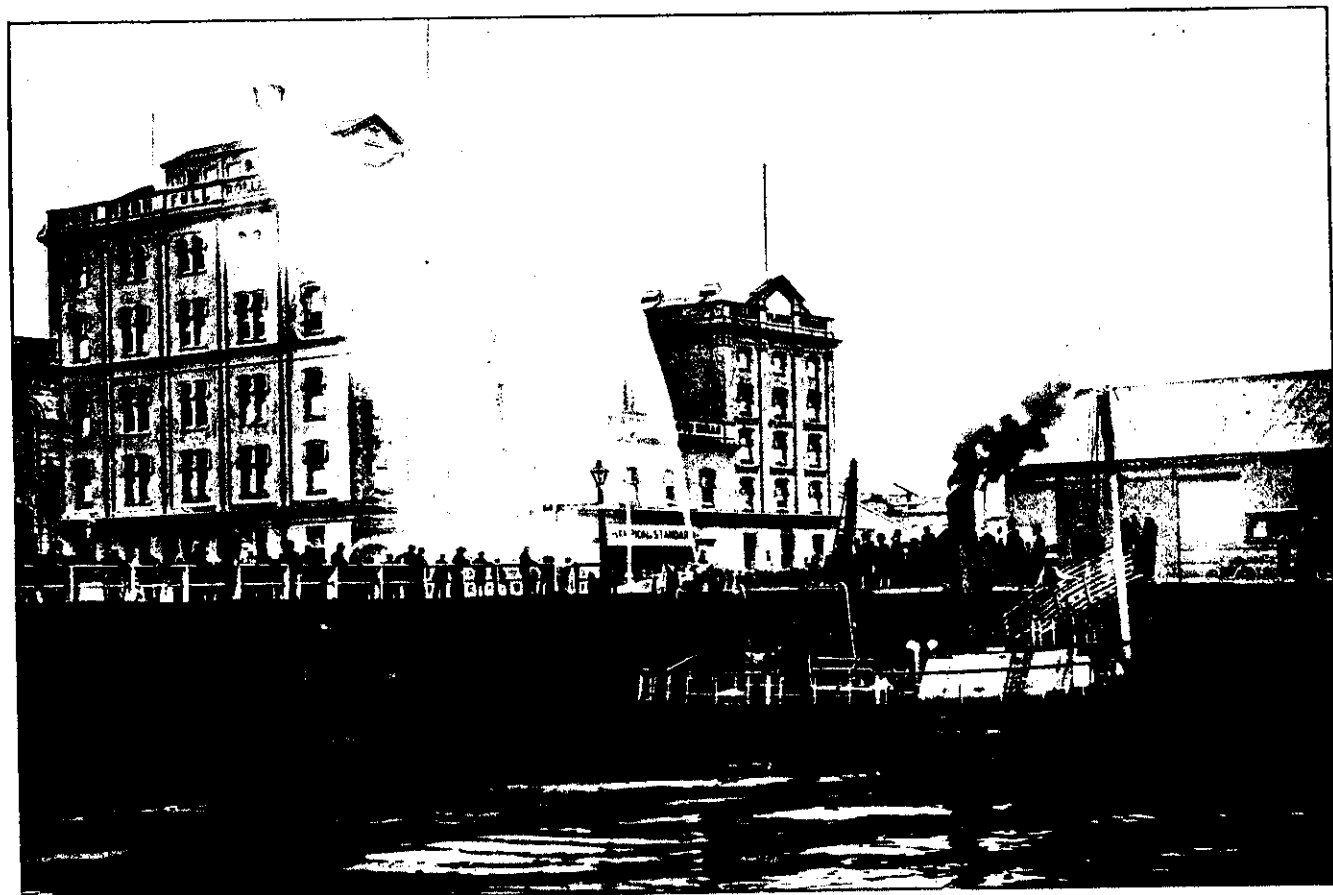
The Cyclone in the Islands.

SCENE DURING THE DISASTER DRAWN BY MR. F. WRIGHT FROM PHOTOS SPECIALLY SUPPLIED TO THE "NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC."
NOTE.—Owing to the terrible climatic conditions under which the photos were taken they were not strong enough for reproduction, but they are faithfully sketched from by our artist.



One of the Motus, or small islands, of the group which suffered terribly. Another Motu is seen in the distance, and it will be noticed how nearly the islets are awash with the tide. No land on these Motus is higher than that shown in this photo. The children in the foreground are half-castes, not natives.

The Cyclone in the Islands.



TRIAL OF THE AUCKLAND HARBOUR BOARD'S FIRE-FLOAT ON QUAY-STREET.



Educating the Maori a la Mode.

THE FINISHED ARTICLE RETURN TO THE KIANGA.

SOME CITY CELEBRITIES



RETIRED, BUT YET ACTIVE



TAILOR MADE



PERCY, A MAN OF GAIEETY



J. PAND COUNCILLO



TRADESMAN AND STATESMAN



A FRIEND OF SPORTSMEN



A FULL RATER CLIPPER BUILT



A FRIEND AND A BROTHER

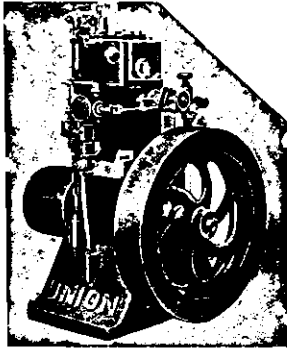


A LITTLE MILITARY GRAN

BABO 1903

YOU CAN'T EXPECT

Good Work from a Poor Machine, any more than you can from a poor workman.



Union Oil Engines

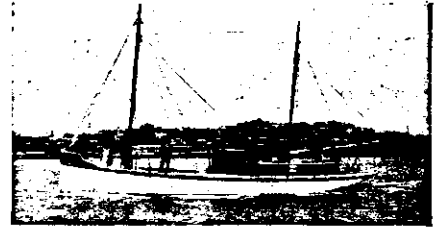
are BEST OF ALL—reliable, economical, cleanly, and magnificently designed. A cheap engine will cost you more for fuel, repairs, annoyance and vexation in six months, than will run our engines for a lifetime.

Under patronage of the New Zealand Government, who employ "Unions" from 95 h.p. to 3½ h.p., both marine and stationary.

PRINCIPAL AGENTS—

W. A. RYAN & Co., Ltd., ENGINEERS, AUCKLAND.

We have large works and skilled workmen, and we are engineers who know our work—not only machinery importers. Estimates given on all classes of work.



KIRKMAN, DENISON

& Co.

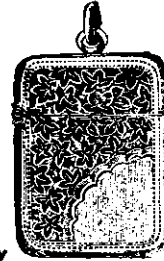
Manufacturing Jewellers,

Opposite the Bank of New Zealand,

Queen St., Auckland

We manufacture Jewellery of all kinds to Order.

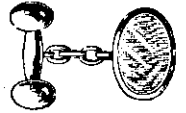
COUNTRY ORDERS ATTENDED TO PROMPTLY.



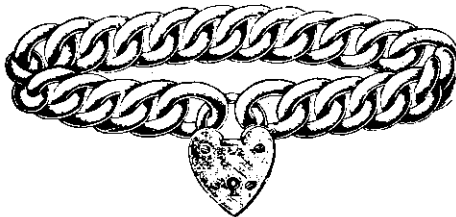
Silver Match Box, 7/6



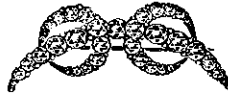
Silver Sov. Purse, 10/6; Gold Sov. Purse, 55/.



Chased or Plain Links, Gold, from 15/; Silver, 3/6.



Curb Bangle, from 35/ to £10.



9ct. Gold Brilliant Brooch Stones, set in Sterling Silver, from 6/6.



Faith, Hope and Charity Charms. Gold, 7/6.



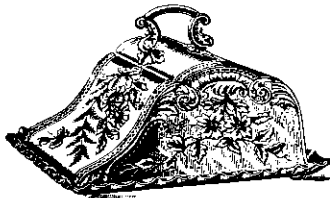
Silver Name Brooches, in great variety, from 2/.

Stewart Dawson & Co

145 QUEEN ST. AUCKLAND.



No. F6581. Silver-mounted Appointment Frame, 17/6.



No. E2566. Silver-plated Cheese Dish, 70/.



Silver-mounted Comb. Real Tortoise Shell, 21/.



Cupid Pattern Hand Mirror. In the New Silver Oxidised Finish, 85/.



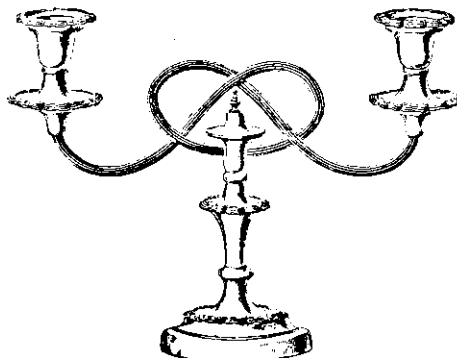
No. E7607. Silver Top and Cut Crystal Perfume Bottle, 35/.



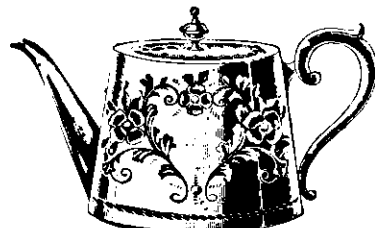
No. 356A. Silver-plated Flower Pot, six inches high, 40/.



No. 396. Silver-plated Bread Fork, pearl handle, 10/6



Very Fine Quality Silver Plate Candelabra, 3 lights, £2 10/; 4 lights, £3 15/.



No. F8508. Finest Quality Silver-plated Teapot, 21/.



No. E8245. Silver Brush, 16/6

We have just issued a new 40-page Catalogue of New Designs in Watches, Jewellery, and Silverware. If you have not already received one, send us your Name and Address, and we will send you one by return mail.

ALL OUR GOODS SENT CARRIAGE PAID AND AT OUR OWN RISK.

Victoria School for Maori Girls.

With a view of augmenting the funds being raised for the establishment of the Victoria School for educating Maori girls, a number of ladies and gentlemen have been busily engaged for some months past in organising a bazaar, which promises to eclipse anything of the kind yet held in Auckland.

Parnell Orphan Home.

ANNUAL PICNIC.

Every year the inmates of the Parnell Orphan Home are sent away to some healthy spot, where they spend a happy month or so camping out. Besides giving the youngsters keen pleasure this annual few weeks in the open air does them a wonderful amount of good.

Mrs Barrance, the matron, has had some fifty children in camp, and thanks to the situation of Weymouth and the kindness of Mr Todd and other settlers they have had a very jolly time.

Are You Like a Stopped Clock ?

A stopped clock is "run down." Are you? Summer's heat and close, trying days tell on the business man, and still more on the woman in the home. Loss of appetite, loss of energy, a feeling of constant tiredness, frequent headaches, and inability to go your old pace—these are the signs of being run down.

My Little Glass House.

Here snugly I sit in my little glass house, Far from the cares of a troublesome house. Scratching and scrawling with pen and ink, All on my own in my wee little den.

When with the divine afflatus I'm seized, In language poetic to write thou I'm pleased; Though sadly by some who on me are rough My efforts are dubbed "poor, doggerel stuff."

I know I'm no Byron, no Shelly, or Burns; And this to all whom'er it concerns—I write not for honour, for glory or fame; Nor do I contrive to win a great name.

In a humorous vein, for pastime and sport, I try to distill a whimsical thought; And oft while indulging in rhythm and verse, The matter assumes a form that is terse.

Some ill-minded few as my sanction they give, With venomous aspers go muttering by— Bitterly at its poor inmate they hurl, Language as would make the straightest hair curl.

Nothing daunted how'er we smile as they pass, Nor dread we the snarl of this mud-slinging class; They may rant and rail till sore in the jaw, No notice we take, we care not a straw.

Rawene. JNO. J. BRYERS.

"Banjo" Paterson is now editor of the Sydney "Evening News." A contemporary alleges against him that he wrote this the other day:—"It is time the authorities recognised that policemen, not being birds, cannot be in two places at once."

A LOVELY WOMAN

Is the fairest flower in the garden of humanity. Every woman can be lovely, with sparkling eyes and with every line of beauty fully developed.

Bovo-Ferrum



That wonderful Tonic, composed of Bovo and Iron, will bring out her beauty, fill in the hollows and smooth out the curves. It is a flesh and tissue builder that will make any woman plump and rosy, as she was meant to be.

obtainable from all Chemists. Ask for it, and if not readily procurable, send 2/6 in stamps or postal note to...

GEO. W. WILTON, CHEMIST WELLINGTON, Who will send a bottle POST FREE.

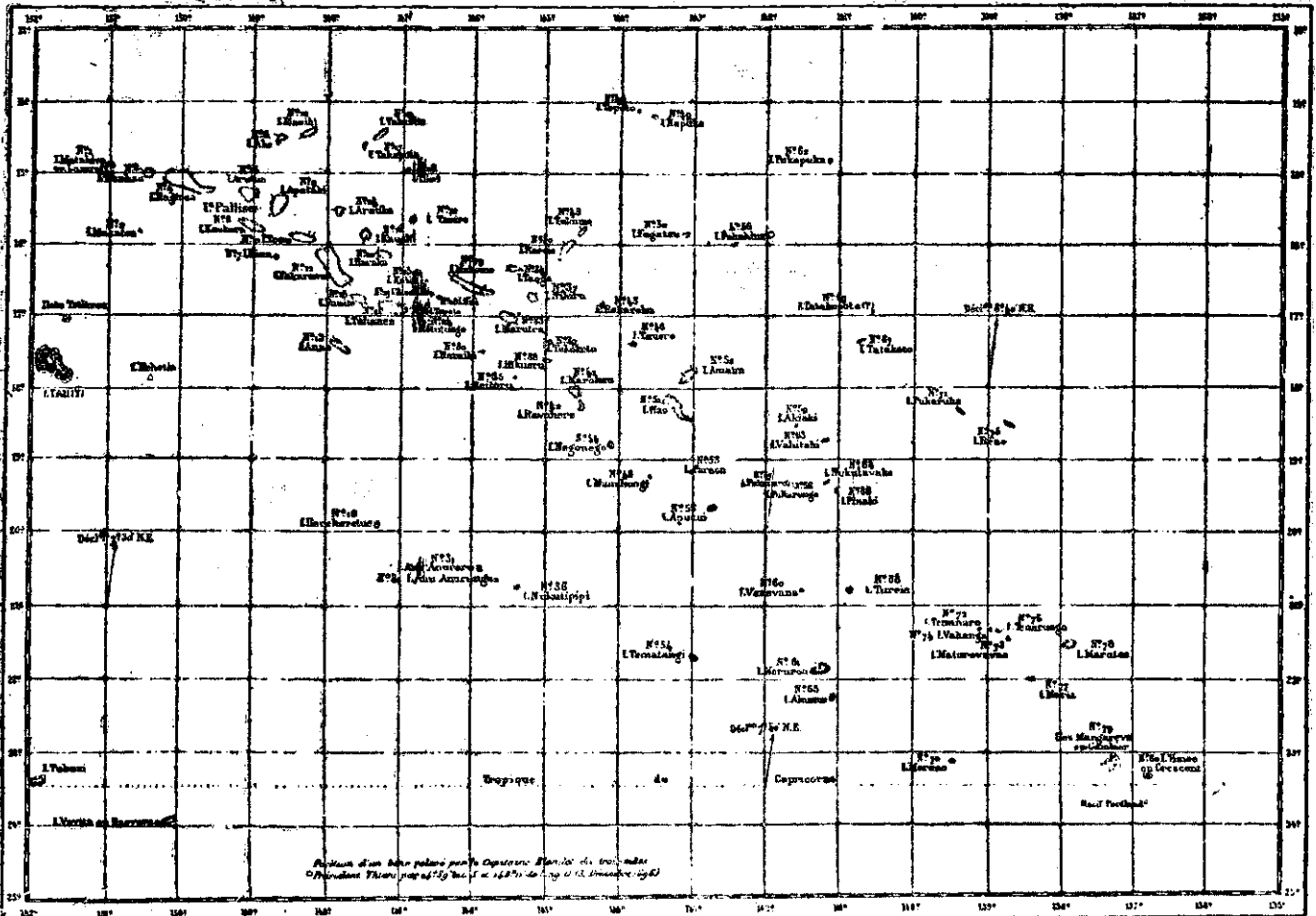
"If you need it, take it."

A SCIENTIFIC "PICK-ME-UP."—No better tonic and restorative for the victims of social festivities exists than a morning draught of Hinyadi János. Sure, swift, searching, yet safe and in every respect salutary. The best and safest natural aperient.

Mr Albert Edward Freeland writes from Mt. Pleasant, Tennessee, U.S.A., to London papers, recommending the adoption of New Zealand's plan of shifting taxation from industry to privilege." He claims that this policy has made New Zealand "the working man's paradise."

ARCHIPEL TUAMOTU (POMOTU ou PAUMOTU)

Map F.V. PICQUETOT



THE CYCLONE IN THE ISLANDS.

MAP OF THE TUA MOTU ARCHIPELAGO, SHOWING THE MOTUS AFFECTED BY THE RECENT TERRIBLE CYCLONE.

QUEEN VICTORIA SCHOOL FOR MAORI GIRLS.

GRAND BAZAAR.
GRAND BAZAAR.
GRAND BAZAAR.

METROPOLITAN GROUND.
Behind Government House.

WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY,
MARCH 11th and 12th, 1903.

ART STALL
PLAIN AND FANCY WOOD STALL
CARVING STALL
FLOWER STALL
JUMBLE STALL
GENTLEMEN'S STALL,
etc., etc., etc.

REFRESHMENTS.

NOVELTIES.

MUSICAL EVOLUTIONS.

BAND IN ATTENDANCE.

BAZAAR OPENS AT 8 P.M. EACH DAY.

MISS O'NEILL, Hon. Sec.

F. E. N. CROMBIE, Hon. Treas.

Personal Paragraphs.

Mrs. Clarence Turner, Christchurch, has gone on a visit to Ashburton.

Mr. G. Carter, of Gisborne, is visiting Rotorua.

Mr. Justice Denniston has arrived in Wellington on Supreme Court business.

Mr. John Connal, Christchurch, returned from Hanmer Springs last week.

Dr. Grace Russell, formerly of Auckland, is now practising in Sydney.

Miss Ida George goes to Wellington next month for a trip.

Mr. John Graham, M.H.R. (Nelson), visited the Masterton Show.

Mrs. Hastings Snow (Levin) has returned from a trip to the South Island.

Miss Cobb (Australia) is staying in Wellington with Mrs. Collins.

Commissioner McKie, of the Salvation Army, has arrived from Rotorua.

Mrs. W. Wood, of the Bluff Hill, Napier, is staying in New Plymouth.

Mrs. H. Donnelly, of Wairoa, has been staying in Napier.

Mrs. Ronald Macdonald, Christchurch, has gone to Methven on a visit to Mrs. Duncan Cameron.

Mrs. Robert Whitson and Miss Gladys Beale have just returned from a fortnight's visit to the Lake district.

Dr. and Mrs. Ronald left Napier on Wednesday for a six months' trip to England.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Thornton and Miss R. Worsp have been on a driving tour to Rotorua, Okoroire, and Galatea.

The Rev. Robb, Presbyterian minister of Blenheim, and Mrs. Robb, were in Picton for a holiday last week.

Mr. C. E. Daniell, of Masterton, has been elected to represent Wairarapa on the Wellington Harbour Board.

Dr. Hotop, of Queenstown, has been appointed junior surgeon to the Dunedin Hospital.

Among the visitors at Hanmer Springs last week was Professor Thomas, of Auckland.

Captain Spencer, from India, who has been spending his leave with his people in Napier, left there last week.

Mrs. B. Rhodes, of Wadestown, has presented a Mayoral chair to the Wellington City Council.

Mr. and Mrs. March (England) have gone up country to their new home at Glen Murray.

Sir Henry Miller, Speaker of the Upper House, passed through Wellington last week on his way to the West Coast.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane (Hilcombe, Rangitikei), were passengers by the Whakaitane for London.

Colonel Massey and Mrs. Massey (London), who are visiting New Zealand, are at present in Wellington.

Mrs. and Miss Arkwright (Marton),

spent a few days in Wellington recently while on their way to England.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilde, and Miss Willis (Marton, Rangitikei), are leaving shortly for a trip to England.

The Misses Green (England) are visiting New Zealand, and are in Wellington, staying at Miss Malcolm's.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford (see Pharazyn) have returned from their trip home, and are with Mrs. Pharazyn in Wellington.

Mr. J. C. Parker has left Gisborne for the Argentine, where he intends taking up pastoral pursuits.

Miss Leach (Westport) made a short stay in Wellington while on her way to Dunedin.

Mr. W. A. Barton, S.M., of Gisborne, and Mr. L. Rees, are visiting the Hot Lakes.

Miss Tanner, of "Balquidlar," Napier, has gone to England for the purpose of studying singing.

Miss B. Evans, who has been visiting her relatives in Auckland, has returned to New Plymouth.

Mrs. Welford has returned to Feilding from Picton. Miss J. Seymour, "Tyntesfield," accompanied her on the visit.

Mr. Mrs. and Misses Clement Govett (3), who have been on a visit to Dunedin, have returned to New Plymouth.

Mr. C. Hickson, Commissioner of Stamps, passed through New Plymouth last week on his way to Auckland.

Mr. R. Wynn Kirkby, who has been travelling on the Continent for two years, has returned to New Plymouth.

Mr. Killick has returned to Wellington, after spending a pleasant time up the Wanganui River and in New Plymouth.

Dr. Anderson, Inspector for the North Canterbury Education Board, was in Picton recently for a holiday of rest.

Mrs. Jack Hill, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Hoskin, of New Plymouth, has returned to her home in Christchurch.

Mrs. J. J. Kinsey returned to Christchurch on Wednesday last, after a pleasant visit to her daughter, Mrs. W. A. Moore, Dunedin.

Count de Courte, Consul for France in New Zealand, accompanied by the Countess, left for Wellington by the a.s. Rotouiti on Monday.

Mr. Crosbie Gould, representative of Messrs. Henri Nestle, Switzerland, now a visitor to Wellington, intends visiting the dairying districts of New Zealand.

Mrs. Brigham and Miss Ella Brigham have been at Rotorua and Okoroire for the last month. Mrs. Brigham is looking better for the change.

Mr. C. Redwood, an old resident of Marlborough, who has been for some years in Australia, is on a business visit to New Zealand.

Dr. McGavin arrived at Gisborne from England by the Westralia on her last trip, and at once proceeded to his home at Tokomaru.

Mr. and Mrs. Hunt, who have recently arrived from Australia to live in Wellington, are in Mr. T. M. Wilford's house, Timakori-road.

Madame Melba is, while in Wellington, to stay at the Empire Hotel, where a suite of rooms will be set aside for her use.

Mr. Edwin Hall, secretary of the Auckland Agricultural Association, is to make a tour of Canada and England, combining business with pleasure.

Rev. Dovenish and Mrs. Dovenish, who have been visiting the former's mother and sister in New Plymouth, have returned to Auckland.

Miss Jessie Edmiston, of Ponsonby, Auckland, leaves for England by the P. and O. R.M.S. China early in April. She will be away about nine months.

Miss Winnie Reid, daughter of Captain Reid, who has been on a prolonged visit to Auckland, left Wellington for London by the Star of England last week.

Mr. Alec Alison, son of Mr. E. W. Alison, M.H.R., Lake Takapuna, left for England last week to go through a course of engineering.

Mrs. Cameron, of "The Gables," Remuera, leaves for a trip to England next month. She will be accompanied by her daughters.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Rhodes, of Sydney, who have been staying at the Masconic Hotel, Napier, left there on Tuesday, for the South.

Mr. and Mrs. Twigg, and the Misses Annie and Violet Twigg, of Petane Grange, near Napier, have gone to spend a month at Rotorua.

Mr. and Mrs. Alister Clark (Melbourne) arrived in Christchurch last week, and intend spending a month or two visiting their relatives.

The appointment of Messrs. Frederick E. Raunce and William J. Napier, to be members of the Auckland Harbour Board, was gazetted last week.

Miss Rotheram and the Misses Robertson (Scotland), who have been "doing" the South Island, passed through Wellington recently on their way to Auckland, via Rotorua.

The Minister for Lands and Messrs. A. Kidd and F. Lawry, M.S.H.R., and their party, having inspected the Matamata estate, returned to Auckland on Monday.

The Hon. James Carroll, Minister for Native Affairs, arrived in town on Monday. He was on his way up to Otorohanga to attend the meeting of the Maori Lands Council.

Captain Atwood, who was commander of the Elinganite, when that vessel was wrecked at the Three Kings, has been selected for a position on the staff of the Westport Coal Company.

A presentation of a handsome tea service was recently made to Mr. G. K. N. Wright, of the Wellington Branch of the Lands and Survey Department, on the occasion of his approaching marriage.

The Rev. Dr. Torrey and Mr. Charles Alexander, of Chicago, who were recently preaching in Australia, New Zealand and India, are now in London, pursuing their mission.

Mr. G. H. Bethune (Wellington) is leaving on a holiday trip to England, via China and Japan, visiting various places of interest en route. He will be away six months.

Colonel Webb has arrived in Wellington from Christchurch to take up the command of the volunteer district, in place of Colonel Newall, who was recently retired.

Mr. W. F. Wigram, the present Mayor of Christchurch, has been asked to contest the office again, but informed a deputation last week that he would be unable to do so.

Mr. F. H. Dodd, who has just been appointed to the charge of the Eastern Extension Cable Station at Waikapuaka, was till recently on the staff of the Wellington telegraph office.

Mr. Gill, Inspector of the New York Life Insurance Company, visited Marlborough to appoint agents for their increasing business, and Messrs. Watty and Allen were appointed for the company.

The deepest sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Batley in the loss of their son, who was seized with cramp and drowned while bathing in a deep pool near his home at Moawhango.

Mr. R. Pufflet, formerly manager of the Napier branch of the Union Steamship Company, has accepted the position of resident agent for Hawke's Bay for the Equitable Life Assurance Society.

Dr. Elinor Barker has left Dunedin en route for England, to further prosecute her studies in medicine and surgery. She is accompanied by her mother and sister.

Mr. T. Lindsay Bainbridge, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, cousin of Mr. E. Bainbridge, who was killed in the Tarawera eruption, is on a visit to the colony, accompanied by Mr. M. Guy Pearce.

The Rev. Audrey Julius, lately curate at St. Michael's, Christchurch, has been appointed vicar at Waikare, and takes up his duties at once in that district. The Rev. Otto Fitzgerald takes his place at St. Michael's.

Mr. Donald MacDiarmid, son of the manager of the Bank of New South Wales, New Plymouth, left for Wellington last week to join the barque Helen

Denny, which trades between Kaipara, Newcastle, and Wellington.

Mr. and Mrs. Fraser have returned to New Plymouth after having spent a most enjoyable time at Waipu, where the jubilee celebrations have been lately carried on, Mr. Fraser being one of those who came out in the Margaret.

Mr. W. Beauchamp, of the New Zealand Shipping Company's local office, has received a presentation from the company's tally-clerks to mark the occasion of his marriage, which took place on the 24th inst.

Under the reorganization of the Continental department of the Salvation Army, Colonel Kestell, well known in New Zealand, has been placed in charge of the work in Holland, and made a Commissioner.

Messrs. W. H. Gaw (Chief Traffic Manager), J. Coom (Chief Engineer), and James Burnett (Inspecting Engineer), of the Railway Department, are at present on an inspection circuit in the South.

Miss Phoebe Graham (Dunedin), who has been on a nine months' trip to England, arrived in Wellington by the Rimutaka, and is spending a few days in the northern city before continuing her journey to Dunedin.

Cabled advice from England states that Mr. W. W. Samson, of the Supreme Court staff, Wellington (son of Mr. Jas. Samson, of Dunedin), has passed his final barrister's examination. Mr. Samson is an old Ottago High School and Canterbury College boy.

Mr. S. J. Harding, Public Works Engineer, for some time stationed in Blenheim, has been removed to the Taihape district. He gained much kudos for his excellent management and good work in connection with the Blenheim-Seddon railway while in Marlborough.

It is not generally known that Mr. T. G. Macarthy, of Wellington, is cousin to Justin Macarthy, M.P., historian, dramatist and novelist, who, among other such things, wrote the play "If I Were King," which is being played by Williamson's Company.

Mr. T. F. Loie, assistant-Chinese missionary in Otago, is to leave for Canton this month, to undergo a two years' course of training at the American Presbyterian College there. At the end of that period he may be stationed at Wellington or Greymouth.

The Premier has arranged to pay a promised visit to Hanmer shortly. He will go overland, via Blenheim and the new road from Kaikoura, and will be the guest of Mr. A. W. Rutherford, M.H.R., at Mendip Hills, before proceeding to Hanmer.

Mrs. Wootten, the lady superintendent of the Auckland Hospital, has returned from a month's holiday at Dunedin, and resumed her duties. She received a cordial welcome back from the officials and patients, among whom she is highly popular.

Mr. Andrew Orr, of Ashburton, intends visiting the Old Country, where he has not been for 26 years. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Orr and Miss Alice Orr. His present intention is to leave by the a.s. Rimutaka, sailing from Wellington on March 19th.

The Rev. J. T. Warlow Davies, M.A., and his wife are spending their annual vacation in New Zealand, having recently returned from a trip to the Hot Lakes district. They were much pleased with what they saw, and speak highly of the many improvements for the accommodation of tourists lately introduced.

Mr. H. D. Bamford, son of Mr. Edwin Bamford, local Registrar of Deeds, has received word that he has passed the examination of the University of New Zealand for the degree of Doctor of Laws. Mr. Bamford is one of the younger members of the Auckland bar, and has already earned a reputation for ability in his profession.

HOW TO KEEP COOL.

Everyone who suffers from the heat should add a few drops of Condy's Fluid to the Daily Bath or Foot Bath. A Condy's Fluid Bath cools, freshens and invigorates the body, and braces the nerves. The strengthening effect is Simply Magical. Tired or Tender Feet are instantly relieved and all unpleasant perspiration instantly disappears.

Condy's Fluid is sold by all Chemists. Beware of Local imitations. All substitutes are inferior. Insist on having "Condy's Fluid."

Mr. James Kirker, general manager of the South British Insurance Company, accompanied by Miss Kirker, was a passenger to Sydney by the Mararua from Auckland on Monday last. They proceeded to the Cape, and after spending some time there go on to London, returning via America. They expect to be absent from the colony about seven months.

Mr. J. J. Morse, of London, journalist and lecturer in spiritualistic science and phenomena, is at present in Wellington, and will give a series of lectures under the auspices of the Association of Spiritualists. Mr. Morse, in his journalistic capacity, is correspondent of the "Light," and the "Two Worlds" (England), and the "Banner of Light" (Boston).

Miss Iris Bruce has just won a five-guinea prize from Mr. Anderson, of the Anderson Company, for an essay on "Lord Nelson and the Battle of Trafalgar." The competitors were under sixteen, and a very large number made frantic endeavours for such a handsome prize, writes our Christchurch correspondent.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Brett, of Auckland, arrived in Christchurch on Friday, and after spending a few days with their daughter Mrs. Peter Wood, St. Alban's, left for Dunedin and the Southern Lakes on Tuesday, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. P. Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Walcott Wood, of Christchurch, and Mr. and Mrs. Rainger, of Auckland.

Mr. Nicholas Krukoff, the Russian Agricultural Commissioner, after a trip from Christchurch to Lincoln, expressed himself surprised at the dirty state of the railway cars, and has no hesitation in stating his conviction that there is no more comfort in the first-class cars than there is in the second. This he considers inequitable, considering the difference in the rates.

Mr. W. D. Grant, who for sometime has acted in the capacity of shipping clerk in the Customs House, has been appointed landing waiter on the wharf. Mr. Grant's promotion will be greatly appreciated in shipping circles, as he has always been a painstaking and obliging officer. Mr. W. J. Stevenson, formerly of Wellington, succeeds Mr. Grant as shipping clerk.

It is stated that the Marquis of Lintihgow, who last year resigned the office of Governor-General of the Australian Commonwealth, has now settled down in Scotland to the life of a landed gentleman. Recent advices speak of the Marquis as being engaged in the pastime of experimenting with bloodhounds as trackers of human fugitives.

Mr. W. H. Smith, of the firm of Messrs Smith and Catghey, who, accompanied by Mrs. Smith, has been away on a holiday for the past twelve months, returned to Auckland on Monday by the Waikare. Mr. and Mrs. Smith have visited Great Britain, the Continent, India and Australia, and have had a most enjoyable trip. Three months spent in India were among the happiest of the tour, and the Aucklanders had the privilege of viewing the great Delhi Durbar.

A Press Association message from Carterton records the death of Mr. Thos. Ford, which occurred at Featherston. Mr. Ford had been manager for the past sixteen months of the Wairarapa Bacon Factory. Previously he was for some years foreman for Messrs Dimock and Co., of Wellington. He was thirty-nine years of age.

Miss Amber Reeves, the eldest daughter of the Agent-General, has just won the prize given by Lady Darley for an essay on Australia. The competition was open to all the pupils of the Girls' Public Day Schools in England. There are a large number of these schools, all with a large attendance, and many of the competitors were older than the little New Zealander, who is to be congratulated on her brilliant success.

Mr. H. A. Parker, the well-known tennis player, who is now settled in Wellington, was up in Auckland on a business trip last week. On the way up he competed at the Hawke's Bay Championship Meeting, held at Waipawa, and needless to say, carried off the championship. On Monday Mr. Parker left for Sydney. He also visits Melbourne, and intends returning to Wellington in time to play in the championships at Easter.

Four years ago Mme. Sarah Bernhardt began writing her memoirs, and at least another eighteen months will elapse before they are ready for publication. The work will be in three volumes. Interviewed on the subject by a representative of the "Matin," the great actress

said the work would be a summary of her impressions of her theatrical career. It would be illustrated by pictures which had appeared depicting her and her fellow-artists, and would contain anecdotes of the stage.

Recent callers at the Wellington Tourist Agency were: Mr. Mrs. and the Misses Harcourt (Yorkshire), Mr. H. C. Greatrex (London), Alex. Scott (London), J. Jones (Salop, England), G. Harcourt (Lyell), Thomas Beecheroff (Tasmania), A. M. Buchanan (Melbourne), W. Knapman (Adelaide), Venora Boyd and Wilmot Watson (Bendigo), B. Goldsmith (Melbourne), P. Hollis Hopkins (Sydney), John Dawson (Glasgow), and C. H. Roberts (Selkirk, Scotland).

Madame Melba, during her stay in Australia, affected beautiful painted chiffon gowns. Here is a description of one of them: "The wistaria design was painted on white. This was draped over an under-dress of pale blue mousseline. Her large mauve hat had arranged about the brim two long mauve feathers. Round the throat was a rope of pearls and a fine gold chain, from which hung a pendant of sapphires and diamonds. Madame Melba carried a large white silk and lace parasol."

Among the visitors to Wellington just now is Mr. John Rothwell, of the Kirklees Mills, Tooting, Bury, Lancashire, who is making a round of the world as a pleasure trip. Mr. Rothwell possesses a large business as a bleacher and engine-waste manufacturer, and he is also chairman of the local gas company, and has interests in various other companies. He intends making a trip to the Northern Lakes and thermal springs district. He is especially charmed with New Zealand, which he hopes to revisit and see more of, and will in any case send out his son.

By the Oceanic liner Sonoma a party of ladies went bound for Auckland and the hot lakes (remarks a Sydney society paper). Mrs. Burdekin, the chaperone, looked awfully pretty in a cream muslin blouse and skirt with a fetching cream hat twisted with black ribbon. Her daughter, Mrs. Alec. Hay, came to see her off, bringing a bunch of pink roses for her. Miss Burdekin has gone with her mother. The other charges are the Misses Rawson, Sir Harry's daughter and his niece (who has just arrived from England), and Miss Irene Marks. Miss Rawson is armed with a camera, and means to bring back views of the places she likes best. She "snaps" very well.

Before leaving Melbourne Madame Melba entertained her callers at a large garden party. The fair singer fairly broke up the usual frigidity and stiffness of these gatherings by her Aunt Sallies. As a rule garden party guests are about as genial and sociable as the ladies and gentlemen in a waxworks exhibition. But no one could keep up the stony British stare, hall-mark of the best society, and shy balls at Aunt Sally. The man who had Auntie in charge, too, was an artist. He wore the dress and "pearlies" of the London eoster as Albert Chevalier represents him, and his patter was also on choice eoster lines.

Lady Samuel, the charming wife of the Lord Mayor of London, is a woman with a variety of interests. Gardening is one of her chief hobbies, and she takes great pleasure in the treasures of the glasshouses at the Mote, Sir Marcus Samuel's country seat, near Maidstone. There she has a collection of Japanese dwarf trees, which is one of the best in the kingdom. Lady Samuel has four children. The eldest is a bright, vivacious, dark-eyed girl, who will be her mother's right hand at balls and other entertainments at the Mansion House, and the youngest is a little maiden of about twelve, who is already a fearless horsewoman. Between the daughters come two sons, one of whom is in his third year at Oxford, and the other is still at Eton.

Miss Von Meyern, a young lady with fine artistic talent, who has recently done some exceptionally good work in the painting of notable Maori faces, is about to send quite a large number of these pictures to the Tourist Department in Wellington by request of Mr. T. E. Donne, who, we understand, has expressed himself delighted with the results achieved by the artist, and expects her Maori paintings will be in great demand. Miss Von Meyern is a daughter of Mr. Alfred Von Meyern, an artist of note, who previous to his death, ten

years ago, painted life-size portraits of Sir William Jervois, Bishop Cowie, Bishop Harper, Sir Cracroft Wilson, and others. Miss Von Meyern inherits her father's artistic skill, and, judging by her latest work, is sure to make a name for herself so soon as the excellence of her paintings becomes better known.

Sub-Inspector Black, of the Auckland police force, received severe injuries to his head by a fall from a tram car. Mr. Black was visiting the suburban stations, and had called at the Ponsonby station, boarding an electric tram car on his return. He took a seat on the open part of the car at the rear, and as the car was proceeding along Karangahape road rose in order to notify the conductor to stop so that he might alight at West-street to visit the Newton police station. Before the car had slowed down he stepped from the platform to the step of the car, and in doing so missed his footing, with the result that he fell from the car, his head striking the ground with considerable force. The sub-inspector was picked up unconscious by Messrs J. W. Bull and G. Colgan and A. Moore, who were close by at the time, and was carried to the shop of Mr. Crawford, chemist, where Dr. Moir attended to him. He was then removed to the hospital, where he is now progressing very favourably. He sustained an incised wound above the left temple, and his face was also severely bruised.

Amongst the visitors for the past week at the Grand Hotel, Auckland, were:— From England: Rev. and Mrs. V. A. Busbridge, Mr. J. C. Armstrong, Mrs. Whitcombe, Mrs. Forbes, Mr. E. J. Meers, Mr. J. F. McQueen, Mr. J. C. Buckingham, Mr. J. A. Hammond, Mr. J. W. Hammond, Mr. J. A. Sergeant, Mr. E. Schofield, Mr. G. A. Sanderson, Mr. William Taylor, Miss Dunning, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Davey, From Scotland: Mr. and Mrs. Yates, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hamilton. From Ireland: Mr. Harold D. Smith, Mr. R. Bury Barry. From Sydney: Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Clerk, Miss Duncan Clerk, Mrs. J. Marks, Miss Marks, Mrs. Burdekin and maid, Miss Burdekin, Master Burdekin, Mrs. E. P. Simpson, Miss Simpson and maid, Miss Hill, Miss Edith Hill, Miss Cliff, Miss E. A. Macdonald, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Murray, Mr. Arthur J. Murray, Miss Grace Murray, Mrs. W. H. Brown, Mr. Buchanan, Miss J. Young, Miss Cox, Mr. F. A. Grady, Mr. and Mrs. J. Rhodes, From Charters Towers (Queensland): Dr. and Mrs. R. B. Huxtable. From Melbourne: Mr. and Mrs. R. O. Blackwood, Mr. McKenzie Kirkwood. From Adelaide: Sir John and Lady Downer. From Perth (W.A.): Mr. J. L. Nanson, Mr. G. B. Nanson. From United States of America: Colonel R. Hill, Mr. L. A. Stout, Mr. Sidney Haslett, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Nelson, Mr. Chas. Nelson, jun., Mrs. C. A. Hawks, Mr. Joseph C. Grew, Mr. Fredk. Brand. From Wellington: The Premier (Right Hon. R. J. Seddon), Captain Seddon, Mr. Stuart Seddon, Mr. F. H. Humer, Mr. Edmund Allo, Mr. O. S. Jones, Mr. J. Stevenson, Count and Countess de Courte, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Haselden, Mr. J. Selmond, Mr. D. Abercrombie, Miss J. O. King. From Palmerston North: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith. From Hamilton: Dr. P. Brewis.

The following is the guest list of the Star Hotel, Auckland, for the past week:— From Sydney: Mrs. Wentworth, Miss Wentworth, Mr. and Mrs. Hudson, Misses Hudson, Mr. W. H. Fehou, Mr. C. H. Watson, Mr. C. F. Chandler, Mr. P. E. Binns, Mr. and Mrs. Binns, Mr. and Mrs. Wyley, Dr. Schwarzbach, Mr. H. W. Mullings, Mr. A. W. Hayton, Mr. T. W. Cranage, Mr. W. A. Rumsey, Rev. P. J. Baugh, Rev. Thos. O'Reilly, Rev. J. P. Moynagh, Hon. W. Crick, Mr. Bath, Mr. and Mrs. Starkey, Mr. W. Starkey, Mr. A. J. Arnot, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mr. C. H. Haig, Mr. J. H. Bradley, Viscount de Garets, Miss Anderson. From Melbourne: Mr. E. Meadows, Mr. and Mrs. Schutze, Mr. H. Schutze, Mr. C. Chamberlain, Mr. J. Dyer, Miss Alice Isaacs, Mr. and Mrs. McLean. From Wellington: Messrs Kinvg, Rathchild, W. Williams, Gore, J. D. Hunter, Mrs. Montague Levy, Bendigo; Mr. J. Kennedy, Waiheke; Mr. A. L. Patterson, Oamaru; Mr. F. G. Robson, Toronto, Canada; Mr. L. Dalston, Paeroa; Mr. J. S. De Benneville, Philadelphia; Mr. and Mrs. Lambe, Calcutta; Rev. J. Fogarty, Goulburn, N.S.W.; Rev. W. Handley, Bathurst, N.S.W.; Mr. Horace Baatings, Invercargill; Mrs. Blakie, Invercargill; Mr. W. H. Hicks, Samoa; Mr. House, Oamaru; Mr. W. H. Manning, Palmerston North. From England: Messrs Wyley, Leonard, A. R. Willis.

Though the holidays are over the Cen-

tral Hotel remains very full of visitors. Stopping there last week were:— From Dunedin: Capt. Udall, Mr. and Mrs. J. D. G. Dempster, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Taylor, Mr. Robert Mathie, Miss Dempster, Mr. F. D. Bamfield. From Gisborne: Mr. and Mrs. W. A. O'Meara, Master O'Meara, Mr. E. P. Joyce. From Christchurch: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Smith, Master Smith, Mr. H. de C. Hudson, Mr. Waller E. Knott, Mr. C. F. Money, Mr. George Armstrong, Mr. A. T. Wright. From Wellington: Mr. George Robertson, Mr. C. A. Hickson, Mr. P. E. Dix, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Lawrence, Mr. T. C. Williams, Mr. J. J. O'Brien, Mr. R. Fullerton, Mr. W. S. Short, Mr. R. Latchman, Mr. R. G. Reid, Mr. and Mrs. Bunney, Miss Bunney and maid, Mr. Foster, Mr. Albert Levy, Mr. Samuels, Mr. H. A. Parker, Mr. G. H. Barnes, Mr. E. Barnes, Mr. T. White, Mr. Robertson, junr., Mr. F. Laurensen. From Napier: Captain and Mrs. Davidson, Mr. and Mrs. Barsby, Miss Barsby, Mr. and Mrs. D. O'Neill, Mr. C. Cranby, Mrs. Webber. From England: Dr. G. B. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Guard, Mr. W. Nathan, Mr. Norman E. Holden, Mr. W. E. Marshall, Mr. E. G. Morley, Mr. and Mrs. London, Mr. F. P. St. Hill, Mr. Wm. Butcher, Mr. W. E. Robinson, Mr. Thos. Robinson. From Edinburgh (Scotland): Mr. J. Ord Hume, Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Mithrie. From New York: Mr. R. C. Brown. From United States: Mrs. S. Kearne, Miss Kearne, Master Kearne. From Melbourne: Capt. Miles, Mrs. Rignall, Miss McIntosh, Mr. J. A. Greene, Mr. J. Woodroffe, Miss Greene, Miss Fitzmaurice Gill, Mr. Fred. Dight, Mr. A. S. Aspinall, Mr. A. H. Haswell, Mr. and Mrs. E. Pigby, Mr. Joseph Moss, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Smith, Mr. E. W. Collis. From Brisbane: Mr. Leslie Turner, Mr. P. A. Myers. From Western Australia: Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Rose. From Sydney: Mr. J. Leigh Jones, Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Bedford, Master Bedford, Mr. Chas. W. Elkington, Mr. and Mrs. McFadyen, Dr. and Mrs. Cole, Miss Cole, Mr. C. H. MacFarlane, Mr. and Mrs. Sargeant and child, Mr. and Mrs. Battinson, Mr. James Maher, Mr. Wm. Parker, Mr. J. H. Twinline, Miss Woodgate, Miss Crawshaw, Mr. E. Wobgeneth, Mr. P. L. Bonusan, Miss Bonusan. From New Plymouth: Mr. and Mrs. Fraser, Mr. Edgar Watt, Mr. H. E. Wright, Mr. Corney, Mr. J. D. Solo. From Westport: Mr. J. W. Fair. From Wanganui: Dr. and Mrs. Connolly, Miss Connolly, Master Connolly. From Wairoa: Mr. and Mrs. Hardy. From Oamaru: Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Norton. From Roturua, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McKinnon. From Otamaukai: Mr. Brian T. Chaytor, Mr. Chaytor, junr., Miss Chaytor. From Waikato: Mr. H. J. Greenleaf. From Waipi: Mr. H. P. Barry, Mrs. Cox, Mr. R. H. Mitchell. From Manauku: Mr. Thos. Brown. From Whangarei: Mr. P. T. Moody, Miss Moody, Mr. E. Moody, Mrs. Jagger, Miss G. Jagger, Mrs. Gillon, Mr. R. D. Lochardt. From Karangahake: Mr. Herbert E. Phillips. From Eltham: Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McDonald. From Kaikoe: Mr. George Dickenson, Mr. Harry Dickenson, Misses Dickenson (2). From Greymouth: Mr. and Mrs. O'Kane. From Opotiki: Mr. and Mrs. E. Withy. From Tauranga: Mr. R. Corbett. From Maferton: Mr. E. W. Sellers. From Waingaro: Mr. Samuel Picken. From Hamilton: Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Litchfield. From Ahurton: Mr. Jas. W. Smith. From Rosas: Mr. and Mrs. J. Grimmond. From Cambridge: Mrs. Ashwin. From Te Aroha: Mr. F. Pilling, child and maid. From Taihape: Mr. A. J. Hurn, Mr. E. Parker.

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WEDNESDAY NEXT, at Whitman, Lyell, and Arey's.

"Sherlock Holmes" smashed the lamp and carried his cigar around the stage as a blind for the last time on Tuesday evening last, so far as Auckland was concerned. The extremely capable acting of Mr Cuyler Hastings aroused universal admiration, and the melodrama—for melodrama it is pure and simple—met with great public approval. "Sherlock Holmes" is impossible enough in many ways, but it has the one essential quality necessary to success—it possesses "grip." Artistically considered the interest would, I think, have been heightened if Holmes suffered even one temporary but realistic relapse. Universal success detracts from the effect. This is, however, a matter of opinion. The lighting effects "caught on" amazingly. There can be no question it is far more effective than the old plain curtain method, and the only wonder is it has not been applied before, and is not almost universally adopted. The behaviour of many of the "gods" during the run of "Sherlock Holmes" called for police interference being of the most offensive character. Not content with uttering insane cat-calls and making disgusting noises during the moments the theatre was in darkness, they lighted matches to spoil the effect, and even threw them flaming into the stalls. Luckily, none reached the floor alight, but the danger had they done so would have been acute. A certain blackguard section amongst playgoers in the cheapest seats in the theatres has been altogether too much in evidence in Auckland of late years, and needs to be taught a lesson. It is a matter the police should see to, and without delay.

Tais (Wednesday) evening the romantic play, "If I Were King," will be produced, and without doubt prove as great an attraction here as it did down South. So many of our readers out of Auckland have seen and enjoyed the play that it would be wearisome to describe the plot once again. Crowded houses are sure to rule at His Majesty's Theatre for the week. A topic dispensing the value of historical and semi-historical plays appears on another page, and may prove of interest to those who have seen, or who may be thinking of seeing, the play.

The musical people of Auckland are doubtless in a state of keen expectancy about "The Marvellous Nelly," who appears in Auckland next Monday. In spite of the high figure at which the management has been compelled to fix the tickets, the Opera House will be all too small to accommodate the crowds who will flock to hear the great singer. If one can judge from the interest her visit is causing. She is giving two concerts only—one on Monday and the other on Thursday. Madame Nelly is accompanied by a full company, including Mr Walter Kirby (tenor), who is an old Auckland boy, and Mr John Prouse (bass), of Wellington. The box plan will be opened at Messrs Whitman, Lyell, and Arey's at nine a.m. on Wednesday, February 25, for those patrons wishing to secure one guinea seats only, and in order to relieve as much as possible the crush the sale of guinea seats will continue until further notice. The opening of the box plan for the half guinea seats will be advertised in due course.

Melba gives a 5/ "pop" concert in Melbourne before departure for America.

Pollard Opera Company began a farewell season of six nights in Canterbury Hall, beginning on February 24.

Mr. Will Jameson, Dix's late manager, is running a variety show in Christchurch.

Mlle. Dolores will follow Melba through New Zealand, giving farewell concerts.

Hall Caine's masterpiece, "The Eternal City," will be produced in Melbourne during the coming year.

At the conclusion of her present engagement as principal boy at Drury Lane Maud Beatty will do a circuit of London music halls.

Mr. Edward Lloyd's concert party, which tours Australia this year, will include Miss Jean Newman (soprano), Miss Foxcroft (contralto), and Mr. Peterkin (basso).

Thackeray's "Pendennis" is in the course of dramatisation. The dramatist is Paul Potter, who was responsible for the stage version of Du Maurier's "Trilby."

Messrs. John Fuller and Sons have taken over the unexpired portion of Mr. Dix's lease of the Opera House, Christchurch. They propose resuming vaudeville entertainments in Christchurch, Dunedin and Wellington on or about March 11th.

Interviewed in Sydney, Mr. Edwin Geach stated that New Zealand, in view of its limited population, is the finest show country in the world. The question naturally arises, would a brilliant financial success in any particular country prejudice even a theatrical manager in its favour?

Miss Amy Murphy, the Dunedin soprano, who sang at Mr. Armes Beaumont's farewell concert in Melbourne, was one of four who were honoured by being encored. The "Australasian" says she "possesses a useful lyric voice of good quality and unusual flexibility."

A London cable states that Mrs. Eleanor Molyneux, a well-known actress, has obtained a divorce from her husband. Mrs. Molyneux was a native of Dunedin, her maiden name being Nelly Harper. She joined the Pouteroy company, and some time afterwards was married to a Dr. Molyneux, who was medical officer on a steamer on which she travelled.

Mr. George Musgrove is shortly sending a strong company to New Zealand, headed by Miss Nellie Stewart. The pieces produced will include "Sweet Nell," "Zaza," "Mice and Men," "The Country Mouse," "A Modern Madalen," "A Royal Rival," and "The Pantomime Rehearsal." The company opens at Dunedin on April 11th.

An English dramatic expert says he cannot get it out of his head that Wilson Barrett ought to have been a popular preacher, and not an actor at all. He is a little bit too much like the bull of Roshan for this expert's private taste. And "The Christian King," as may be imagined, appeals but little to those who look either for psychological subtlety, or for literary elegance on the stage. So determined, indeed, is Mr. Barrett to keep both psychology and literature out of the piece, that he has written it himself.

Ganthony, the author of "A Message from Mars" played by the Hawtrey Company, has brought out a new play, "The Prophecy," which is described as being a well-written piece. The story deals with the loves of two naughty men, who have known nothing of love, except the love they have for each other, until they in turn succumb to the charms of Winifred, the beautiful daughter of the baron, whose castle is adjacent to their mountain home. The elder of the brothers had been born during an eclipse of the sun, and "the prophecy" was that the dark cloud which would come between the two would be lifted when another eclipse should come to pass. As they both loved Winifred so Winifred loved both of them, though inclining more to the younger. The prophecy was fulfilled, and the elder submitted with a good grace when his rival carried off the very variable prize.

Miss Ettie Maginnity, daughter of the late Mr. John Maginnity, and one of the finest contralto singers the city possesses, has accepted an engagement under Mr. J. C. Williamson, and will make her first professional stage debut with the Musical Comedy Company, which opens here on Monday evening. Miss Maginnity is not wholly inexperienced in stage work, and most theatre-goers have pleasant memories of her appearances in operas produced by the Wellington Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society. Miss Maginnity will travel with Mr. Williamson's Company in Australia. Her engagement is another illustration of the confidence reposed by experienced theatrical managers in the material offering in our own colonies.

The late Mr. William Paul, who fell from a sixth floor hotel window at St. Louis, United States, and was killed, was well known to concert and comic opera lovers. He was a native of London, and about 28 years of age. Charles Santley, on hearing his baritone voice, prophesied a good career for him, which happened early, and he was soon engaged for the Carl Rosa Opera Company, where he played in over thirty operas. He came to Australia with Madame Albani's concert party in 1898, and, possessing a splendid voice, his fine singing made him a general favourite. After that he spent two years with the Royal Comic Opera Company, and was equally successful. Finally, in 1900, he went to the United States.

Did you ever hear how Dan Leno put out a fire? It was a long time ago—in days when such an idea as a special summons to Sandringham had never entered the youthful Daniel's mind—that the little company managed by his father and mother arrived in a one-night town. Dan and a friend, Johnny Danvers, went to the hall to set up the scenery. It was very dark on the stage, and they had no candle, so they took it

in turns to hold lighted matches. Suddenly Dan caught sight of a red glow in a crack in the floor. The awful thought occurred that they had dropped a lighted match between the boards. The glow increased. "The place is on fire!" yelled Danvers, and the boys rushed off to look for water. Dan found a big jug in the dressing-room, ran back, and upset it over the threatened spot. A frightful howl, a plunge, tremendous thumps, and a volley of profanity was the extraordinary result. The boys fled for their lives. Afterwards it appeared that the proprietor of the hall had a little stable for the pony under the stage, and was feeding the animal with the aid of a lamp, when the torrent drowned him, pony, and light alike.

Theatrical Paris has been excited almost to fever point over the retirement from the Comedie Francaise of a young actress of whom high hopes are entertained. The lady is Madame Depres, who was originally brought to the front by M. Antoine in his "Theatre Libre." The fact is that Madame Depres found the "grand maison" too slow for her. Full of energy and enthusiasm, determined to win popularity and a dominant place on the stage, she objected to be kept in the bleak background. As is pretty well known, beginners at the Francaise play a leading part, and are then practically shelved. This was too much for Madame Depres. She was put forward as Phedre in Racine's tragedy, and she had then to subside. As she herself says, "I can't stand it any longer. I must be acting or life becomes a bore and a burden, and there is not enough acting at the Comedie." Accordingly she made her grievances known to the authorities of the theatre. They cancelled her engagement quite easily and she is no longer a "pensionnaire" of the "grand maison." She is now going to the Gymnase to act, instead of Madame Simone Le Bary, in M. Bernstein's "Joujou," and she will afterwards go back to M. Antoine's playhouse on the Boulevard De Strasbourg. It is now rumoured that Madame Simone Le Bary is ready for the place left vacant at the Francaise by the retirement of Madame Depres.

UNREHEARSED EFFECTS.

Just after the commencement of the performance of "A Message from Mars" at the Theatre Royal at Timaru, says the Timaru "Post," the silken shade of a lamp standing close to the scenery caught fire, and the flames had gained a good hold before the danger was noticed by the two ladies on the stage—Miss Winifred Austin and Miss Emma Branton. The former, with admirable presence of mind, walked quietly across the stage, and, taking the shade off the lamp, smothered the fire with her hands. She was ably assisted by Miss Branton, and the incipient fire was quickly extinguished. Miss Austin's fingers were slightly burned, and the audience, who had remained quiet, greeted the presence of mind of the ladies with hearty applause. At a later stage the paper top of a kind of sentry box caught fire; there was a small blaze for a second or two, but this was quickly extinguished. Just before the last act, Mr. Hawtrey, while announcing that arrangements had been made for a second performance of "A Message from Mars," promised that it would be presented without these unrehearsed effects, and warmly thanked Miss Austin for her prompt action earlier in the evening.

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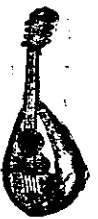
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First, the word itself and its different spellings are given. Then a complete history of the changes through which the word has passed from its earliest derivatives through all countries and languages from the earliest times (if the word is of ancient origin), with dates of its various modifications. Then follows, in most cases, the form the word has taken or now takes in the different languages, tracing in many instances their roots as well. Thus far all that has been given is information not to be found elsewhere in any such concise form. The definitions of the word follow, in all its senses, each amplified by quotations from the masters of style in all ages, serving to show the every shade of meaning the word possesses or has possessed. Then, too, the word in its various parts of speech, if it is susceptible of such differing aspects—these, also, accompanied by quotations from the best authors showing the word as used in its various senses. Finally the synonyms, of which a greater number are given than in any other book of reference, whether devoted specially to that subject or not. Thus, when "THE CENTURY" is through with its treatment of a word, there remains practically nothing regarding that word that is or has been known of it.

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The most complete cyclopedia of quotations gives less than 100,000; while those in "THE CENTURY" number over 300,000, embracing extracts from the works of practically all the master writers from the earliest period to the present. These are used profusely in illustrating how different writers of all times have used any particular word and the various shades of meaning they have given it.

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"THE CENTURY" Cyclopedia of Names (Vol. IX.) is the first and only work published that forms a complete dictionary of proper names. To it one may turn when in doubt as to the meaning of any name met with in one's reading, including among its entries definitions of persons, places and events, real and imaginary, to which names are given. These names in "THE CENTURY" vocabulary have been selected with a special reference to the wants of the general reader, the design being to provide a work which will furnish just those items of information which a reader needs who has stumbled over some name which he cannot identify, but with which his author assumes that he is thoroughly acquainted. The largest place, necessarily, is occupied by names of persons and places—biography and geography. Next come characters in fiction, legend, poetry and the drama, pseudonyms, divinites of many mythologies, races and tribes, historical events, wars, battles, sieges, treaties, councils, etc., etc.

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A Correction.

We have been asked to contradict the news of an engagement of Miss Taylor, of Cambridge, to Mr. Richardson. The news was sent us by our correspondent, in the full belief and assurance it was perfectly correct.

ORANGE BLOSSOMS

BLUNDELL—BARRAUD.

A pretty and interesting wedding was celebrated at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Wellington, on February 18th, when Miss Ivy Barraud, eldest daughter of Mr Sydney Barraud, manager of the Bank of New Zealand, Lower Hutt, was married to Mr Walter J. Blundell, eldest son of Mr J. Blundell, one of the proprietors of the "Evening Post".

GOLDSMITH—KIRKWOOD.

A very interesting wedding took place at St. Peter's Presbyterian Church, Great North road, Auckland, on the 17th, the bride being Miss Jessie Kirkwood, and the bridegroom Mr. Charlie Goldsmith, both members of St. Peter's choir.

was accompanied by two bridesmaids—Miss Kirkwood and Miss Goldsmith. Both wore daintily attired in white, and carried pretty pink and white bouquets. As the wedding party left the church the "Wedding March" was played by Mr. Baxter, of St. James' Church.

BLACKWELL—DEVERY.

A wedding took place at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Hamilton, on Wednesday, when Mr. A. E. Blackwell, of the New Zealand Railway Department, Mercer, was married to Miss Julia Devery, eldest daughter of Mr. K. Devery, of Frankton. The bride was prettily dressed in cream silk, trimmed with silk lace and guipure, and wore a veil and wreath of orange blossoms.

SPRAGGON—CARNELL.

The marriage of Mr R. D. Spraggon, of Caversham, Dunedin, with Miss Carnell, daughter of Mr S. Carnell, of Napier, was solemnised on the 19th inst., at the Napier Cathedral, the officiating clergyman being the Rev. De Berdt Howell, Dean of Waiapu. The bride, who was given away by her father, was prettily attired in a cream dress trimmed with lace, and a black hat.

CAMPING WITH CONTRACTORS.

Chatting with Mr John McAvenne, the leading contractor of Palmerston, a local reporter heard from his lips the story of a very unpleasant personal experience that is well worth publication. "For twelve years," said he, "I have been a contractor in Palmerston—and you know that a contractor's work is often filled with hardship and adventure. We often have to leave civilisation, and camp in the bush. If heavy rains or extreme cold come on, we simply have to bear them. Well, three years ago, I was one of a party that had a particularly rough time of it. The cold, wet, exposure and bad nourishment started the sharp, shooting pains of neuralgia in my face and head," said Mr John McAvenne at his home, Boundary road, Palmerston, "and Dr. Williams' pink pills were the only remedy that could rid me of my torment. It was just as if keen knives were cutting into the flesh. I was almost distracted with the agony. The rough living and the cold also affected my kidneys, and a dull gnawing, dragging backache plagued me every minute of the day. My work was sadly interfered with, and I was in a mighty bad way. I was miserable, despondent and run-down. When I returned to civilisation I tried different treatments without success. At last I was persuaded by an article in the Manawatu "Daily Times" to try Dr. Williams' pink pills for pale people, as many in Wellington, Auckland, and Christchurch told how they had cured them of neuralgia, rheumatism, sciatica, lumbago, backache, kidney diseases, liver complaint, biliousness, headaches and other blood and nerve diseases. Certainly they did for me all that was claimed for them—and more too. Every dose seemed to make new blood. They strengthened my system, soothed my nerves, and banished my neuralgia. They cleared and healed my kidneys, made them work properly and stopped the torturing backache. I took six boxes altogether, and have never had an attack of neuralgia or backache since," concluded Mr McAvenne, "despite the fact that my work still takes me away from Palmerston into the bush, where living is of the roughest."

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Society Gossip

AUCKLAND.

Dear Bee,— February 24.

On Wednesday afternoon last on the EDEN AND EPSOM LAWNS

Mrs Billing gave the afternoon tea. The table was decorated with yellow flowers and greenery. There were several interesting matches played. The lawns, with this dry weather, are beginning to look a little worn. Mrs Billing wore black skirt, pale green silk blouse with ecru lace collar, white hat; Miss Towle, navy skirt, fawn tussora silk blouse with much tucking and lace insertion, white hat; Miss Stewart, pretty dome blue cambric, white hat, and her sister wore a white muslin with blue waistband, white hat; Misses Rice (2), white muslins, with collarettes edged with lace, white hats; Mrs Udy, black skirt, black foulard blouse with white spots, black hat; Miss Udy, fawn holland skirt with white braiding, blue muslin blouse, sailor hat; Miss Daisy Udy, holland skirt, white blouse, white hat; Mrs Coates, black skirt, blue foulard blouse, black hat; Miss Coates, white pique skirt, silk blouse with blue rosette on corsage, white hat; Mrs Mair, holland skirt, blue and pink flowered blouse, white hat; Miss Gwen Gorrie, black skirt made with circular flounce, white silk blouse, white hat with silk swathing and streamers; Miss Bleazard Brown, pale grey figured muslin, hat with flowers, and her sister wore lilac flowered gown, lilac waistband, burnt straw hat; Mrs Oberlin Brown, black costume; Miss Oberlin Brown, white pique skirt, cream

silk blouse, blue waistband; Miss Kitty Oberlin Brown, navy foulard with small white spot, white hat; Mrs Muginie, cream gown; Mrs Horace Walker, black skirt, violet foulard blouse, black hat; Miss Walker, holland skirt, dome blue blouse, white hat, and her sister wore a Royal blue skirt, white blouse, sailor hat; Mrs John Dawson, dark skirt, cream blouse, cream toque; Miss Dawson, black skirt, white blouse, sailor hat; Mrs Little, white cambric, white hat; Mrs Hooper, grey skirt, white blouse, black hat; Mrs Beale, black skirt, pink muslin blouse, black hat; Mrs Turner, black skirt, white blouse, black hat; Miss Paton, dark grey gown, black hat; Miss Trevithick, black skirt, white silk blouse, white hat swathed with black tulle; Miss Bramwell, holland skirt, white blouse, sailor hat; Mrs Oldham, holland gown, white hat; Mrs Chapman, holland skirt, white blouse, sailor hat; Mrs Watkins, black skirt, white batiste blouse, with black spots, black hat; Miss Cozens, white.

On Saturday the attendance on the Eden and Epsom Lawns was large. Mrs and Misses Udy provided the afternoon tea. The table was uniquely decorated with sweet peas of every variety of colour. Two well known tennis players were present. Mr G. Mears, of England, and Mr H. A. Parker, the champion of New Zealand. In the Auckland champion matches Miss Gray and Mr Summer, of Papatoetoe, met Miss D. Udy and Mr Billing, but they started play very late, so I was unable to stay and see the finish. Mrs Mair was in white; Miss Little, white; Miss Sloman, pink cambric, hat with pink; Miss Trevithick, black skirt, white blouse, hat with black; Mrs Cooke, grey; Miss Cooke, white; Mrs Turner, black skirt, white blouse; Miss Gorrie, white; Miss Cozens, white; Miss Hardie, holland skirt, blue blouse, sailor hat; Miss Hall, dark skirt, white blouse; Miss Bleazard Brown, blue cambric; and her sister wore white; Miss P. Gorrie, white; Mrs Batty, white; Miss Paton, grey; Mrs Billing, white; Miss Towle, white cambric; Mrs Watkins, fawn holland skirt, white blouse, black hat; Mrs Coates, black skirt, blue muslin blouse, black toque; Miss Coates, white; Mrs Hooper, grey muslin; Mrs Oberlin Brown, grey flowered muslin, black hat; Misses Oberlin Brown, white; Mrs Dawson, dark skirt, violet foulard blouse, black toque; Miss Dawson, white; Mrs H. Walker, black skirt, mauve blouse, white hat; Misses Walker (2), white; Mrs Oldham, holland gown, white hat; Mrs Hudson, holland gown, hat with blue; Miss Bramwell, white, with red sash; Misses Stewart (2), white; Misses Rice (2), holland gown; Misses Gray (Papatoetoe), white; Mrs Udy, black skirt, grey blouse, black hat; Misses Udy (2), holland gown; Miss Cozens, white.

POLO

was played on Saturday last as usual in the Remuera Paddock. There was a small attendance. The play was poor. Misses George and Gorrie gave the afternoon tea. Amongst the ladies were Mrs McCosh Clark, very handsome black striped silk, with a transparent yoke of Paris lace, and a black hat with black lace, jet and plumes; Mrs R. A. Carr, grey and pink floral muslin, black toque, wreathed with pink roses; Mrs Maitland, sage green costume, black hat; Mrs Harry Tonks, dark holland gown, white hat; Miss Buckland, white serge, black hat; Miss Ruth Buckland, dark skirt, white blouse, black hat; Mrs Thomas George, black; Miss Thorne George, white muslin, white hat with flowers; Miss Z. Thorne George, white gown, hat with pink; Miss Ching, blue costume, blue toque; Mrs Keekwich, white; Miss Biddle, white; Mrs Lloyd, cream coat and skirt, black hat; Miss McLaughlan, pale grey voile, with ecru lace, black hat; Miss Lennox, white muslin, red waistband; Mrs Cotter, fawn canvas gown, with strappings, black hat; Miss Cotter, white voile, with blue waistband, hat with blue; Miss W. Cotter, white silk; Miss Percival, pale green; and her sister, fawn; Mrs Torrance, black silk, with overdress of black lace; Miss Torrance, fawn holland, with lace, black hat; Miss Whyte, sage green, with ecru lace, black hat; Mrs O'Rourke, navy foulard skirt, white silk blouse, handsome ruffle boa, black hat; and her little daughter wore white; Miss Morrow, white muslin, white hat; and her sister, dark skirt, white blouse, white hat; Miss Noakes, pale grey; Miss Brassy, blue, with white lace; Mrs Morrin, navy and white figured foulard, black hat; Miss Morrin, pink cambric, with ecru lace;

and her sister wore a riding habit; Miss Buddle, white silk, white hat; Miss Thompson, cream silk, with lace, cream hat; Miss Smith, grey; and his sister wore dark skirt, light blouse; Miss Shepherd, black skirt, blue blouse, black hat; Mrs Seaville, white silk, white hat; Miss Stevenson, azure blue muslin; and her sister, white; Mrs Seaville; Mrs England, grey; Miss Cummings, white muslin; Miss Horton, black skirt, white blouse; Miss Clouston, mauve gown, sailor hat; Miss Sage, holland gown.

My Cambridge correspondent, "Elsie," writes:—On Saturday afternoon a polo match took place between a team of Hamilton players and Cambridge No. 2 team; which resulted in a win for the local team by 7 points to 2. The weather was lovely, and there was a large gathering. Mrs Richardson and Mrs Martyn presided at the afternoon tea. Amongst those present I noticed Mrs Hines, Roberts, Herrold, Cooper, Dodd, Misses Wright, Cave, Wells (2), Keating; Williams, Hill, Richardson, Dunn, Atfield, Banks, and Buckland. Mrs Braithwaite gave a most enjoyable musical afternoon on Monday. Amongst those who contributed to the musical part were Mrs Herrold, Misses Buckland, Street, Williams, and P. Pilcher, and Mr Kemp. Delicious afternoon tea was served. Mrs Braithwaite received her guests in a black gown, and was ably assisted by her sister, Miss O'Halloran, in cream blouse and black skirt; Miss N. O'Halloran, mauve costume; Mrs Buckland, grey brocade gown, black chiffon shoulder cape, black bonnet relieved with cream; Mrs Nairn, silken grey coat and skirt, black bonnet; Mrs Skeet, black and white silk gown, bonnet to match; Mrs Herrold, navy blue skirt, black silk blouse, much tucked, black toque; Miss Wright, white silk blouse, black skirt, black picture hat; Miss Buckland, blue and white frock, black picture hat; Miss Williams, tussore silk frock, much tucked, Maltese lace collar, black hat; Miss Hill, white silk tucked blouse, black skirt, black hat; Miss Payne (Rotorua), black and white checked dress, hat to match; Miss Skeet, cream muslin, black hat; Miss Young, holland frock, gem hat; Miss Priestley, cream muslin, pink and black hat; Miss Grey-mouth, black and white muslin, black and white bow, black hat; Miss P. Pilcher, black and white spotted muslin, white hat. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs. Williams, Kemp, Burn-Murdoch, Bouillion, and Skeet. Mrs Wright, of "Loloma," gave a delightful garden party in her beautiful grounds on Tuesday. The day was perfect, and all seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly, some playing tennis, others content to look on, or wander about in the garden. Mrs Wright received her guests in a black silk gown, and her daughters, Mrs Herrold and Miss Wright, both in white muslins, were busy arranging sets and seeing to everyone's enjoyment. A tempting afternoon tea, consisting of all sorts of cakes, fruit salads, and jellies, was served. Amongst those present I noticed: Mrs (Dr.) Roberts, tussore silk much-tucked and trimmed, with silk Maltese lace, burnt straw hat trimmed with pale blue; Mrs Cooper, pink frock, white hat trimmed with black; Mrs Martyn, holland skirt, turquoise blue blouse, black and white hat; Mrs Richardson,

tussore silk gown, black picture hat; Mrs J. Hally, white silk blouse, heliotrope muslin skirt, black hat; Miss Payne (Rotorua), black and white checked dress, hat to match; Miss Skeet, white frock, black hat; Miss R. Skeet, holland frock, hat to match; Miss C. Willis, white silk blouse, point lace collar, black skirt, burnt straw hat trimmed with black; Miss E. Willis, pink gown, hat to match; Miss Williams, tussore silk frock, black hat; Miss Hill, white silk blouse, black skirt, black hat; Miss Richardson, white silk blouse, black skirt, white hat; Miss Cave, pale blue blouse, white skirt, black hat; Miss Wells, white silk blouse, much tucked and smocked, silk Maltese collar, black voile skirt, black and white hat; Miss H. Wells, white silk frock, silk Maltese collar, black picture hat; Miss Atfield, white silk blouse, white muslin skirt, white hat trimmed with pale blue; Miss J. Hally, pale blue frock, hat to match. Amongst the gentlemen were Messrs. Wright, Dr. Roberts, Farmall, Emmsen, Griliths, Wells, Skeet, Bouillion, and Walker.

PHYLLIS BROWN.

NAPIER.

Dear Bee,— February 20.

A farewell

CONCERT

in the Theatre Royal, tendered to the Very Reverend Dean Grogan, brought together last week a large gathering. After an illuminated address was presented to the Dean by Mr Fox, on behalf of St. Mary's and St. Patrick's congregations, speeches were made by the Rev. Fathers Smyth and Grogan, and Mr A. L. D. Fraser, M.H.R. Reference was made to the fact that the Catholic community deeply regretted parting with one who was so much beloved and respected by them all. The addresses were followed by music, contributed by Mrs Wells, Misses Sellar and King, and Messrs Freedman Brinsco, O'Shanassy, Ebbett, O'Connor, etc. Miss Henn played the accompaniments to the songs. A very effective tableau made a delightful close to a most enjoyable evening.

Some of those who have frequented the Hawke's Bay

LAWN TENNIS COURTS

lately are: Miss Hovell (who, with Miss M. McLean, gave tea last Saturday), pale pink blouse, a black skirt, and a pretty black chiffon hat; the latter had a pale linen dress; Mrs Pharyzyn, black silk, lace mantle, black and white bonnet; Mrs Stedman, French grey dress, chiffon boa, toque trimmed with pink roses; Mrs Cecil Cornford, dainty white muslin dress, trimmed with insertion and lace, hat to match; Miss Ella Burke, pink linen, large brown hat, with yellow flowers; Miss Rawson, black and white muslin; Mrs Bilton, tucked white blouse, black skirt, sailor hat; Miss McLernon, pretty cream dress, straw hat; Miss Vera Wilson, pale blue; Mrs Westall, holland dress; Mrs Cato, black and white; Mrs Bradley, pink blouse, navy blue skirt; Miss Dulcie Kennedy, dark blue; Mrs A. Kennedy, pretty pink dress.

MARJORIE.

NEW PLYMOUTH.

Dear Bee, February 20.

A MATCH

was played on the West End Tennis Courts between the United and New Plymouth, and ended in a win for the home team by 24 games. For the first time the weather was fine, so the games were enjoyed by the players, as well as being appreciated by the on-lookers. Afternoon tea was dispensed by a committee of ladies. Amongst those present were: Miss MacDiarmid, pale pink blouse, dark skirt; Miss Shuttleworth, heliotrope and black costume; Miss Hawkins, pale grey relieved with pink; Mrs Pope, white, black and yellow hat; Miss Slaudish, white, with pale green neck and waistband; Misses Lianna (2), white silk blouses, black skirts; Mrs Mannering, stylish black coat and skirt, pink and green silk front; Miss George, white blouse, dark skirt; her friend wore pale pink veiled in white blouse, black skirt; Miss Bedford, tussore silk relieved with scarlet; Miss Northeroft, white muslin and insertion blouse, black skirt; Miss Ambury, white with silk blouse, and pale blue neck and waistband, hat to match; Miss Berry, pink and blue check blouse, dark skirt, black and cream hat; Miss Tuke, pretty black and white striped silk blouse with string-coloured insertion trimming, black skirt, hat to correspond; Miss Walker, cream blouse, dark skirt; Miss A. Walker looked dainty in blue and white striped muslin, chiffon toque en suite; Mrs Morrison, navy blue and white spotted blouse, dark skirt, hat trimmed with pale blue; Mrs Weedard, pretty white muslin, with string-coloured insertion, and relieved with rose pink belt, hat to match; Mrs Paton, blue and white costume, black picture hat; her friend wore a white silk blouse, black skirt, hat trimmed with pink; Miss O. Stanford, white and pale blue blouse, dark skirt; Miss G.

Stanford, pale pink blouse, dark skirt, Miss Testar, etc.

THE STRATFORD BOWLERS.

visited the local green on Thursday last, and though some capital play ensued, the visitors were beaten by 78. Afternoon tea was provided by the club, and handed round by a number of ladies. Amongst those watching the match I noticed: Mrs A. D. Gray, pale grey costume, piped with white, cream and pink hat; Mrs J. Avery, black; Misses Parsons (2), Stratford, goblin blue and cream costumes, hats en suite; Mrs Hill, pale green costume, cream and black hat; Miss Jackson, black, hat with pink flowers; Miss A. Jackson, pale yellow blouse, dark skirt; Miss Paul, cream silk and pale blue blouse, dark skirt, black chiffon hat; Miss Mackay, cream silk blouse, dark skirt, hat en suite; Mrs T. Avery, black; Miss Avery, pink and green blouse, black skirt; Mrs McKenzie (Auckland), black and white check costume, black hat; Miss Smith, black and white costume; her friend wore a cornflower blue, hat en suite; Miss Curtis, blue and white blouse, dark skirt; Mrs R. Dingle (Stratford), black and white costume, hat to correspond; Miss Morey, grey and white, hat en suite; Mrs Marks, holland Eton coat and skirt, pretty pale blue chiffon toque; her friend wore a stylish black costume; Miss Ellis, pale heliotrope muslin over a darker shade, hat en suite; Miss J. Ellis, white blouse, dark skirt; Miss Coldwater, blue silk blouse, dark skirt; Miss M. Ellis, fawn and pale blue blouse, white pique skirt, etc.

NANCY LEE.

WELLINGTON.

Dear Bee, February 19.

A most enjoyable afternoon "at home" was given by Mrs. O'Connor on Wednesday for her sister, Mrs. George, of England. The day was beautifully fine and bright, though rather windy. After partaking of the delicious tea in the dining-

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Large Variety of Lace Collarettes	-	-	10½d., 1s. 9d., 1s. 11d. up.	-	Former price 1s. 6d.
See our Blouses	-	-	6d., 1s., 1s. 6d., up.	-	Worth Double.

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cream guipure, pink hat with satin to match and roses; Mrs Tweed, a smoke grey gown with vest of cream lace over pink, and a black toque; Mrs Richmond, a handsome black gown and cape, jetted bonnet; Miss E. Richmond had a black Eton suit and white felt hat with white satin rosette and long white ostrich plume; Mrs Duncan wore a black foulard satin and lace gown, black toque with green rosette; Mrs Barron, a black silk blouse and skirt, black and white toque; Miss Barron wore a pink muslin gown, and hat trimmed with pink and blue ribbon; Mrs Buchanan's gown was very pretty, of royal blue voile, with many tucks and a collar of white lace, with large true-lovers' knots of blue outlined with stitching, white hat trimmed with green rosettes; Mrs Newman wore black with yoke of pale blue chiffon, and a black hat; Mrs Turrell, a soft white silk gown with many pleated tucks, and a white straw hat with pink and red roses; Mrs Owen, in pale blue wita lace and Tuscan hat; Mrs Turnbull had a very pretty black voile gown, the short bolero worn over a white silk blouse strapped with black velvet, and a black picture hat with ostrich feathers; Mrs H. Gore, grey voile gown trimmed with white, and a heliotrope hat with flowers; Mrs Brandon, in a black gown, with lace collar, black and white toque trimmed with red; Mrs Hunt, a biscuit-coloured spotted gauze gown with transparent yoke and upper sleeves of guipure, large black chiffon and lace hat; Mrs C. Cooper, a white frieze Eton gown, and blue straw hat with hydrangeas; Mrs Louis Pharyzyn wore white muslin, and a black hat and chiffon ruffle; Mrs Alec Crawford, a cream and mauve gown and black hat; Mrs H. Crawford, in a white skirt and silk blouse, cream and pink hat; Mrs Moorehouse, black and white foulard gown and black hat with tips; Mrs Tuckey, black gown and coat, and a black bonnet with pink and mauve roses; Mrs Loughnan, a black gown and black toque with tips; Mrs Millward, white muslin and a black hat; Mrs Hacon, mauve frieze coat and skirt, and black toque; Miss Hacon, in a green gown trimmed with cream lace, and a black hat; Mrs Burnes, a pretty black

tucked voile, much trimmed with cream lace, black and white hat with flowers; Mrs Campbell, pale grey voile with white vest, and a cream toque; Miss Holmes was all in black; Miss Tuohurst, pale blue silk gown with white collar and a white hat with flowers; Miss Coates, royal blue voile and cream chiffon ruffle, black hat with feathers and tulle; Miss Dransfield, in a holland Eton gown and toque with flowers; Miss Hislop, grey voile trimmed with cream lace and a pretty black hat; Miss J. Hislop, pale blue silk gown with lace yoke and a flat straw hat with pink roses; Miss Gore had a white voile skirt and tucked silk blouse, pretty black toque; Miss Harcourt, in cream voile and chiffon ruffle, and a straw hat with pink geraniums.

The Pollards are drawing good houses at the Opera House still. Their production of Mr Alfred Hill's new opera, "Tapu," has created much interest, and the composer has been heartily congratulated on all sides upon the success of his work. The music is very bright and pretty throughout, and the Maori choruses are full of that droning tunefulness so characteristic of the Maori. A poi dance and haka are splendidly done, especially the latter, in which the men seem quite carried away in displaying the necessary energy and vigour, and their grimaces are quite worthy of the natives! The scenery is probably the best we have seen here; it is most lovely, and combined with the gorgeous dressing of the piece presents a brilliant spectacle. Mr Arthur Adams and Mr J. G. Williamson (who composed the words) are also to be congratulated upon their work.

We have quite a lot of good things to look forward to. First and foremost, of course, comes Madame Melba, whose concert here next Monday promises to be one of the events of the day. I believe the Opera House is quite full, and could do with more accommodation. Then the Williamson Opera Company open a season next Monday in the Theatre Royal, and Mr Frank Thornton's Comedy Company commences the following night in the Opera House.

OPHELIA.

CHRISTCHURCH.

Dear Bee, February 18.

The C.J.C. summer race meeting is never a very large one as far as the ladies are concerned, and this year seemed smaller than usual. The weather was rather threatening on the first day, and one or two other things were on. Among those present were: Mrs. G. G. Stead, in black satin coat and skirt, white lace vest, turquoise blue toque; Miss Stead, pale blue crepe de chine, trimmed with lace, large white hat and feathers; Miss Roberts wore white silk, red hat and sunshade; Mrs. Boyle, grey and white striped gown, black and white hat; Mrs. Alister (Clark (Melbourne), periwinkle blue canvas, trimmed with pink and blue embroidered bands on white silk, and finished with lace, large hat; Mrs. Woodroffe, black and white costume, large black hat and feathers; Mrs. J. Gould, pale blue, with pink and blue embroidered trimming, hat with pink and deep red roses; Mrs. E. C. J. Stevens, black gown, pink and white bonnet; Mrs. Lee, grey voile, pink vest, hat with wreath of daisies and black velvet ends; Miss Lee, pale blue voile, and white hat; Mrs. Kettle, blue canvas, with wide black lace insertion, black hat; Mrs. R. D. Thomas, grey voile, trimmed with cream lace, cream toque with yellow velvet flowers; Miss Thomas, pale grey, trimmed with pink silk and lace, white hat; Mrs. P. Campbell, black voile, much tucked transparent yoke, black hat; Mrs. Pyne, heliotrope costume, black hat; Mrs. F. Graham, black costume, pink silk vest, cream lace collar and revers, black toque, pink sunshade; Miss Graham, navy blue, strapped with pale blue, black and blue hat; Mrs. Wardrop, pale blue crepe de chine and cream lace; Mrs. T. Cowlishaw, soft grey tucked voile costume, cream lace, vest and trimming, picture hat; Mrs. A. E. G. Rhodes, heliotrope frieze skirt and chiffon blouse, under black silk tucked Eton coat, large black hat; Mrs. H. Wood, fawn and heliotrope muslin, large black hat; Mrs. C. Louisson, lovely

gown of grey crepe de chine and lace, black hat; Misses Louisson, white tucked silk and lace, white hats and coloured sunshades; Mrs. Stringer, black silk voile, lace vest and deep collar, large black hat; Mrs. V. Harris, royal blue and cream lace, net ruffle, black toque; Miss Harris, tucked white silk and lace, black hat; Mrs. Fox, blue and white foulard, net ruffle, white hat; Mrs. Arthur Wilson, pale grey voile and cream insertions,



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MEN'S AND BOYS' CLOTHING. MACKINTOSHES, OVERCOATS, HATS AND CAPS, SHIRTS AND MERCERY. All at Clearance Prices.

RUSHBROOK & BRIDGMAN, Drapers, Clothiers, and Outfitters,

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cream hat; Mrs. Beswick, pale pink silk, black hat; Miss Nedwill, cream silk and lace, large white chiffon hat; Miss M. Williams, tucked white silk and lace, black and white hat.

A garden party in aid of the Melanesian Mission was held last week in the grounds of Mr. Wynn-Williams, Latimer Square, but was not very largely attended, owing to the gloomy afternoon and some other attractions. This was very disappointing to the workers, as everything had been done to ensure a pleasant time, and they had hoped, a profitable one.

Another garden fete, in aid of Avonside Church, was held in the grounds on Saturday, and was a much more successful affair financially, the day being quite a taste of summer. Among other attractions they had here was a motor car, in which patrons had a good spin on a nice straight road, the only fault being it was too short.

Mrs. Elsworth, "Inglewood," Papanui road, had a pleasant afternoon for some of her friends last week, when Mrs. and Miss Wilding played, and Mrs. Burns sang delightfully. Among the guests were: Mrs. and Miss Reeves, Mrs. and Miss Williams, Mrs. Potts, Mrs. J. Gibbs, Mrs. C. H. Cossett and a few others.

Mrs. H. D. Carter, St. Alban's, had a small afternoon tea for a few friends during the week.

Miss Rutherford, eldest daughter of Mr. A. W. Rutherford, of Mendip Hills, has much improved in health since her trip to Rotorua, and is to be married to Mr. Robinson, of Cheviot, some time next month.

Miss Kent, of Radley, entertained a number of her friends at a moonlight garden party last Friday in her pretty grounds. A most delightful time was spent. The Woolston Band was in attendance, and dancing was indulged in on the lawn. Among those present were: Messdames Cocks, E. Garland, Vincent, Thomas, W. J. Bruce, Wardell, G. A. U. Tapper, Misses Leach (3), Cholmondeley (2), Beadel, Baxter (2), Talbot (Sydney), Bruce (2), Thomas, Messrs. Bunez (2), H.

Thomas, Tapper, Beadel (2), Polhill, Ollivier, Winstone, Fish and others.

Mrs. Albert Kaye, "Wairenga," St. Alban's, gave a small evening party last week for her visitors, Messdames Webster and Baglehole (England). Among those invited were: Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Carter, Mr. and Mrs. T. Garrard, Miss Garrard (Nelson), Miss Jekins, Mr. E. Hockley, Mr. Fisher and Mr. Josepha.

DOLLY VALE.

MARLBOROUGH.

Dear Bee,— February 17. So many deaths have cast a gloom over Blenheim, and very few social festivities have taken place. Tennis and bowling are always with us, and with such healthful exercises we ought to be satisfied, but are not. Seddon is the only little social place in the district just now, and Seddon is always before the public with concerts, socials, cricket matches, and special trains to suit Blenheim people who go out there for a little outing, and to assist the many charitable objects which are helped along in this way. On Friday last a

CONCERT-SOCIAL

was held in Mr Fuller's storeroom. There was also a tea for the children during the afternoon, and everything went off with the usual success.

The bowling tournament, Nelson v. Blenheim, held on Thursday, resulted in a draw. I believe these tournaments generally do result in a draw.

We hear of a pleasant little function being performed in Picton, that of launching and christening the Messrs Perado's new steam launch "Waitohi" on Thursday last. The launch was built by the owners for general use in the Sounds, but principally for the convenience of the freezing works, to convey sheep to and fro. Mrs Perano performed the baptismal ceremony.

The s.s. Delphic arrived in port early on Friday, and anchored in the stream,

where the supply of frozen mutton was put on board. Afterwards she came up to the wharf, and was certainly the largest ship ever berthed alongside the ridiculously small wharf. She then took on board the last of the season's wool and flax and other produce, leaving Picton early on Sunday morning for Lyttelton.

EXCURSIONS

have been frequent of late to Picton with the hope of seeing something of the Sounds, but, alas! there appears not to be a sufficient number of steam launches in the port to accommodate half the people who go down by train. We wonder where all the launches go to, or are gone to, whenever there is an excursion. Twice during this week numbers of people have been left to do a big growl about the town. It has not even been possible to get boats to convey the people across to the beach, which, after all, is what the soul of the inlanders pines for. Those whom the Customs officer allowed to go on board, had real good times.

A deputation with a petition was waited upon the Picton Borough Council asking that body to build them a bridge over the channel of the lagoon so as to give residents and visitors easy access to the domain. We all hope it will be done, and done quickly, for even during the winter it is pleasant to walk on the beach.

A small

PICNIC

eventuated on Thursday last, which was the s.s. Elsie's day down to Te Awaiti, Tory Channel. Three picnic parties were arranged; two started, and the other one—from Blenheim—saw the boat steaming down the harbour when they arrived, and they were wroth exceedingly. Then one of the other two parties discovered that all their provisions had been left behind on the wharf, and they also became excited, so did the officer commanding the mail-steamer when he found he would have to land some passengers at Bobs Bay, whence the party

returned to Picton for their baskets. They were content to remain in Bobs Bay for the rest of their outing. Many old quotations were used during that day by folks ashore and afloat to express what they felt.

Captain Hull gave on

AFTERNOON TEA

to-day on board the s.s. Haupiri to several Picton ladies, who have invited him to Picton, etc., during the days he has spent in port. The function was most enjoyable.

The Benheim Rowing Club's crew for the champion fours are J. H. Morrison, E. T. Heggium, W. Girling, C. Heggium and H. Macey (cox). Messrs McKinley (captain), W. Draper (vice-captain), and S. Eckford (secretary of the club) accompany them to Wanganui. The Picton juniors are Smith, Whiting (3), and Godfrey. They all left for Wanganui on Saturday. MIRANDA.



A SOOTHING, HEALING, STIMULATING OINTMENT. Particularly recommended for Ulcerated Legs, Piles, Fistula, and all long-standing and painful Wounds. A Household Remedy for all Burns, Cuts, Scalds, Bolls, Bruises, Kicks, Sores, etc. It should be used on every Dressing Table as a very effective Salve for Pimples, Eczema, Redness and Roughness of the Skin, Inflamed Eyes, and all Skin Affections. IT HEALS QUICKLY AND GIVES IMMEDIATE RELIEF. Prices, in Pots, 1/4 and 2/9. Sole Makers: BRACH and BARNICOTT (Ltd.), Bridport, England.

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H.R.H. PRINCESS MARIE OF GREECE.
H.R.H. THE DUKE OF SPARTA.



- H.R.H. THE DUCHESS OF SPARTA.
H.R.H. PRINCESS HOHENLOHE.
H.R.H. PRINCE GEORGE OF GREECE.

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Photo's specially for the "Harlene" Co. by Langley, Bond St. W.



Photo's specially for the "Harlene" Co. by Langley, Bond St. W.

Crown Prince's Palace, Athens. H.R.H. PRINCESS MARIE OF GREECE writes—"Messrs Edwards' Preparation, 'Harlene' for the Hair, has given entire satisfaction. H.H.H. wishes six more bottles of 'Harlene' sent as soon as possible."

Kitagyhaza, County Bihks, Hungary. COUNTESS DENIS ALMASY writes—"Please forward me three more bottles of 'Harlene' as I am particularly satisfied with the two bottles sent me to Switzerland and have been using it ever since."

Fall Description and Directions for use in Twenty Languages supplied with every bottle. 1/, 2/8, and (three times 2/8 size) 4/6 per bottle from Druggists, etc., all over the world.

"I am at present trying your 'Harlene' for my hair, and I find it one of the best Hair Tonics and Restorers I have ever used, and I have tried many. Will you kindly send me two more bottles."

EDWARDS' "HARLENE" Co., 95 & 96, High Holborn, London, W.C.

The Premier.

Mr Seddon was up in Auckland for a few days last week. He received a large number of deputations upon various matters, and was entertained by the Liberal and Labour Federation League at a smoke concert. The Premier left on Wednesday for the Huka Falls, on the Waikato river, being accompanied by Mr Allo, a Swiss electrical expert, who is to report upon the use of the New Zealand rivers for generating electricity. Referring to the Premier's speech at the smoke concert, the Auckland "Star" observes:—

As to our financial position, the figures laid before the country by Mr Seddon must on the whole be accepted as highly gratifying. So far as the present financial year has gone, our Customs returns measured against a similar period for last year, have risen £84,326, our railway returns have risen £125,587, and other smaller amounts make up a total increase of £258,233 for the last ten months. Allowing for a small decrease in the land revenue and the beer duty, the net increase is £228,646, and by the end of the financial year the Government will be in a position to declare a surplus of at least £250,000. The satisfactory position of our finances is attested by the reception which our loan proposals have received in London. The last £1,250,000 was underwritten at 94, while our previous minimum was 91. In spite of Mr H. W. Wilson and pessimists of the "Financial News," our credit to-day on the London market is as substantial as the most cautious financier could desire.

Mr Seddon's remarks on the position of the Bank of New Zealand claim more than passing notice. After referring to the success that had attended the effort to rescue the bank, the Premier mentioned several alternative courses which might be pursued with reference to it. It might be practicable to take over the Bank of New Zealand on the basis, or as a nucleus, of a State bank. Again, it had been suggested that even when the bank's liabilities to the colony were cleared off, Government should still retain its position as "the power behind the throne." Again, it might be possible to treat the two millions guaranteed to the bank as bank capital, leaving the colony in the position of partner. The Premier had, he said, two objects in making these statements. Firstly, he wished to warn the general public that legislation on this matter was bound to come; secondly, he was anxious that the public should not be taken by surprise by any sudden movement in the bank's shares. Mr Seddon confessed that he could see no adequate reason for the fact that the shares are now considerably above par. The meaning of all this seems to be that in all probability Government will move in the direction of taking a permanent interest in the bank. In that case, with its two million pounds capital, it would have the public shareholders with less than half a million of the subscribed capital entirely in its hands. We put this conjecture before our readers for what it may be worth; but the matter is certainly one of considerable interest, more especially to shareholders.

Maori Lands.

IMMENSE AREA OPEN FOR SETTLEMENT.

ROTORUA, February 21.

Mr. Hone Heke, M.H.R., and Mr. Sheridan, the administrator under the Maori Lands Administration Act, have been here for the past two days. They are travelling through the North Island for the purpose of bringing the Act into active operation here in the Waiariki district. Little has been done, but an effort is now being made to effect more tangible results. About four weeks ago Judge Edger, who has recently been appointed president of the Waiariki Council, called a meeting of the Ngatiwhakane, proposing that the lands immediately at the back of the township should be handed over to the council for leasing to Europeans. Since that time the chiefs of the Ngatiwhakane have assembled at Rotorua, and have been discussing the matter. Last week they determined to hand over the lands referred to, and on Thursday and yesterday meetings were held for the purpose of completing the matter. Mr. Hone Heke explained the circumstances under which the Act was passed by Parliament, showing that it was done at the instance of the Maoris generally, and it was now for them to take advantage of the Act for the preservation of their lands for themselves and children. Mr. Sheridan answered a number of questions by Retireti Tapihana and other chiefs, and the conclusion of the matter was that the tribe unanimously resolved to hand over the lands referred to, which comprise the Tihionga, Kaitao and Rotohakahoka blocks, totalling an area of 20,000 acres, to the council for administration. Yesterday a commencement was made in the signing of the necessary deeds, and a large number of signatures were obtained. Judge Edger, the president of the council, remains at Rotorua for a few days for the purpose of taking further signatures. It is expected that by the end of next week most of the signatures necessary to transfer these lands to the council will have been obtained, as a large number of natives will be attending the carnival. The transfer of other blocks is under consideration, which will bring the area up to 30,000 acres. Now that a good start has been made in this district it is probable that within a few months these lands will be ready to be put on the market. Mr. Hone Heke and Mr. Sheridan left this morning en route to Otorohanga, where they are due next Thursday on council business.

Arrival of Melba.

Madame Melba had a great reception at Dunedin by nearly two thousand people, and the general feeling was that anticipations had been exceeded. She is accompanied by Mr. Patterson, her brother-in-law, and a capable concert company, of whom Signorina Sassoli, a girl-harpist, deserves to be specially singled out. As the same programme will be given throughout New Zealand I place Madame Melba's numbers before your readers:—(1) Cadenza from "Lucia," with flute obligato; (2) Ophelia's mad scene, and (3) "Arditi's Se Sara Rose." As encore numbers the diva gave "Three Green Bonnets," "Coming Thro' the Rye," and Tosti's "Good-bye." In a chat this morning with "Call Boy," of the "Star,"

Madame Melba said that she considered His Majesty's Theatre charming for singing purposes, and the Dunedin public perfectly delightful to sing to—just as nice an audience as in the State capitals of Australia. Signorina Sassoli was a little genius for whom a big career looked certain. Madame Melba discovered her in Paris last year. After completing the tour of New Zealand Madame Melba sings at a concert in Sydney, and then at a popular concert in Melbourne Exhibition Buildings on March 28, starting for England immediately thereafter. The flute obligato to the mad scene from "Lucia" was largely written by herself. Up to the moment of departure the prima donna was besieged by the autograph fiend, and as the train left three hearty cheers were given for her. She is charmed with Dunedin and the overland scenery from Invercargill.—(Dunedin correspondent.)

Advertisement for Bird's Custard. Text: 'BIRD'S CUSTARD POWDER', 'Sing a Song of Sixpence a pocket full of Rye ADJUST of DAIRY CUSTARD Improves an APPLE PIE'. Includes an illustration of a woman in a dress and a small image of a bird's nest.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY.

Advertisement for G. Zinzan Harris, Surgeon Dentist. Text: 'G. Zinzan Harris, SURGEON DENTIST, WYNDHAM STREET, AUCKLAND. LATE OF CHRISTCHURCH. (Two doors above National Bank of N.Z.) Teeth Extracted Painlessly by the aid of Nitrous-Oxide Gas and other anaesthetics. GAS ADMINISTRATION, 2s. EXTRACTIONS, 2s and 1s. ARTIFICIAL TEETH OF PERFECT FIT AND NATURAL APPEARANCE. A FULL SET (top and bottom) from 22 2s. TEETH FILLED from 0 5 0. GOLD FILLING from 5 0. The most modern method of CROWN and BRIDGE WORK, which is certainly the best method of replacing decayed teeth, is done at equally Reasonable Fees. ALL WORK GUARANTEED.'

Advertisement for Good Weather for Ducks. Text: 'GOOD WEATHER FOR DUCKS IS GOOD WEATHER FOR YOU IF YOU WEAR THE GENUINE TOWER'S FISH BRAND OILED CLOTHING. WET WEATHER PROTECTION IS GUARANTEED UNDER THIS TRADE MARK. Ask Your Dealer. A. J. Tower Co., Mfrs., Boston, Mass., U.S.A.'

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Shortland Street.

Stamp Collecting.

The present 2/6 stamp of Barbados is to be discontinued, and a 1/ stamp will take its place.

The first of the King Edward issues from Jamaica is a half-penny reply card.

The new 13 cent stamp is the first of that value issued in the United States. It bears a portrait of Benjamin Harrison.

High prices were obtained in London for three St Vincent stamps. The 1/ on half of 6d blue green, an unsevered pair, realised £11; the 4d on 1/ red brown mint, £14 15/; and 1855, 4d, red brown, mint, £5 15/.

The Malta post office officials must be kind-hearted people, for in order to prevent collectors who had purchased 1d or 2d stamps being defrauded by false surcharges they have taken the trouble to put a tick in red ink on every uncharged 2d stamp sold. It is placed in the Maltese cross on the upper left hand corner.

The total number of persons employed by the English Post Office is now 189,000. When the penny post was first introduced it was thought a marvel that for a copper coin a missive could be taken 500 miles to Scotland from London. To-day for the same sum you can send it 15,000 miles to New Zealand, across the Atlantic and right over the American continent to Vancouver, or to India and the Far East.

Collectors of Canadian stamps of 1868 have no doubt often wondered at the large letter water-marks that are to be found on some specimens. It is now stated that the full water-mark was the name of the manufacturers of the paper, "E. and G. Rothwell—Clutna Mills" in two lines of large double-lined type. Por-

tions of this watermark, or rather to more correctly describe it, trade mark, are found on individual stamps. A similar thing occurs on the New Zealand 6d, rose current type, the trade mark being "Lisbon Superfine."

It is reported that a special set of stamps will be struck to commemorate the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, to be held in 1904. It has been suggested that a portrait of Napoleon I. be placed upon one of the stamps, as it was through his means that the treaty was made and Louisiana became a part of the United States. It is, however, doubtful if the Republic of the United States will issue a stamp bearing the portrait of an Emperor, unless that difficulty is got over by calling it the "First Consul."

St Lucia has followed the example of other colonies, and issued a pictorial stamp of the value of 2d. It is printed in two colours, the centre being deep green, containing a view of the Pitons, large rocks near the island which rise to 3700ft above sea level. The border is brown in colour and highly ornamented. At the top are the dates "1402—1902" and "St Lucia" immediately above. In the border on the left is a bird of the parrot species, and on the right side a snake. On each side at the base the value "2d" appears in a circle, and between in two scrolls are "Postage and Revenue" and "Twopence."

After all there seems to be a probability of the King Edward VII. issue of British stamps being changed. The "Stamp Collector's Fortnightly" is responsible for the following:—"We are able to state that a new series of British postage stamps, showing a real portrait of the King, instead of an effigy that everyone criticises, is being projected, though no definite arrangements have yet been made for the change of issue. The scheme for a worthier British postage stamp is one in which H.R.H. the Prince of Wales has greatly interested himself."

Cape of Good Hope stamps sell well in London. The following are a few sale-reports recently at auction:—1d, red, triangular stamp, 1855-58, on bicute, mint, £3; ditto 6d, slate, £3 10/; ditto, 1/7, dark green, a pair, £7 10/; 1861, 1d, scarlet, wood block, £4; 1863-4, 4d, dark blue, pair mint, £3 3/; ditto, emerald, pair, mint, £9; 1864, 1d, dull red, wood block, £8 15/; ditto, 4d, deep blue, £4 15/; 1871-77, 5/, orange, yellow, watermark, c.c., £1 5/; 1882, 1d or 3d, claret, c.c., £1 14/; 1882-3, 6d, mauve, c.c., £1 14/.

Mr. Ord Hume.

Amongst the passengers who left Auckland by the Westralia for Sydney was Mr Ord Hume, who came to this colony for the special purpose of officiating as judge of the band contest. Shortly before the vessel sailed a "Star" representative had a chat with Mr Hume, who explained that he was first invited to come out to Ballarat to act as judge, and afterwards his services were called for in New Zealand. Mr Hume will return to Scotland from Sydney. As Mr Hume has been pretty well round the colonies, he was asked how he liked them.

"I like them very much," replied Mr Hume, "and propose to return to New Zealand to reside. I came out really for my health, and am so pleased with your colony that I intend to settle here, for after all health is the first consideration. It is no use to be able to make more money at Home if it means shortening one's life."

"Having been in the various colonies as a judge at musical contests, perhaps you would not mind stating your idea as to the standard of colonials as musicians?"

"I must admit the standard is very much better than I expected in both the Commonwealth and this colony. As a matter of fact, I consider that New Zealand is rather ahead of Australia as far as bands are concerned, but I have not had much opportunity while here to judge with regard to vocal music. As

for the bands, I heard most of them, 21 having entered for the contests, with 300 solos. As for the natural beauties of New Zealand, I consider it the wonderland of the world, and I intend to let it be known when I get back Home. I must have got fully a hundred views of parts of New Zealand."

"Did you visit Rotorua?"

"Of course I did. I should think no one ever comes to Auckland without taking the opportunity of seeing such a wonderland. By the way, while I was at Rotorua I had a new experience in music, for I was asked to conduct the Maori band, and I must say they played very well. They presented me with a curved walking-stick, and other articles, which I value very much. The Maoris seem to be a musical race, for at other places I found the young people able to play the piano very correctly. They also sang well, and on one occasion they gave the poi dance for my benefit. I would like to take the opportunity of this talk with you to thank Mr Hunter and the bandsmen of Auckland for their kindness to me, and for turning out at such short notice to play in the park on Sunday. I have held a similar gathering at each town, the proceeds being devoted to local charities. Auckland bandsmen had short notice, but they responded splendidly. There is another matter I would like to refer to in the interests of music. In Australia band instruments are admitted free in order to encourage the musical art, but here I learn that they have to pay a pretty heavy duty. The amount collected under that head cannot really mean much to the Government revenue, but it may be enough to stop bands being formed, and I certainly think that the way the public enjoy band performances is sufficient to warrant the instruments being let in free, because the bands cannot appear without giving the music free in the streets. The general public in New Zealand seems fond of music, for at the Masterton competitions they paid £1000 for admission. I expect you will have Dr. Barry as judge next time, for I understand he is engaged to come out to Ballarat."



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A & F Pears Ltd.

Island Disaster.

CYCLONE IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC.

VILLAGES SWEEP AWAY.

SIX HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

The cataclysm which devastated some of the islands of the Tuamotu Group, or Low Archipelago, and caused the death of six hundred persons, brings home to us in a painful manner what mere dots thousands of the islets which stud the Pacific are, when compared with the vast waters in which they lie. A few feet represents the difference between their highest points and the level of the sea—in fact, one might almost speak of them as being awash with the tide, and when we consider the storms that sweep the tropic seas, the marvel is that we do not hear more frequently of such terrible events. The group in question was formerly known as the "Paumotu." This is a corruption of the original native name, and means "conquered islands." The islanders protested against this appellation, and upon their representations the French authorities changed the name to "Tuamotu," which means "the distant isles," or "the isles at the back," having reference, of course, to their situation in regard to Tahiti. The following vivid account of the disaster is from our correspondent at Papeete.

PAPEETE, January 24.

Terrible loss of life and damage was occasioned in the Tuamotu or Low Archipelago by a terrific cyclone, which struck the group on January 13, sweeping a number of the islands, and doing considerable damage on others. The islands swept are Hao or Bow Island, Hikueru or Melville Island, Raroia or Barclay Island, Makemo or Philip Island, Makatea or Aurora Island, Takarava, Amanu of Moller Island, Marokau, Takume, and Tike'au.

From the meagre details gathered at Papeete it also appears that the cyclone struck the Marquesas Group, and that a great deal of damage was caused, while on the island of Napo a severe shock of earthquake was felt. No estimate has yet been made of the loss sustained by the traders and inhabitants, but it will be very considerable, as they have lost everything, and are in fact completely ruined. The Government is taking measures to relieve the distress. Some of the islands, which lie very little above the level of the surrounding seas, were swept by the waves raised by the cyclone, many of the inhabitants being drowned, and others saving themselves by climbing coconut trees, on which they remained for six or eight hours in imminent fear that their frail refuges would break under the strain, and precipitate them into the raging water below.

COMPLETE DEVASTATION.

The island of Hikueru was the one on which the most severe damage was occasioned, and here 400 lives, including eight Europeans, were lost. In October of last year the island was opened to pearl-

shell diving, and its population numbered 1,000 souls. The full force of the hurricane was experienced, and the islet on which the fishing village was established was swept clean, a chaotic mass of the debris of human habitation marking the site. The coconut palms were nearly all blown down by the force of the wind and waves, which were driven across, a large portion of the island, completing the destruction of property which the wind had commenced, and drowning a large number of the inhabitants, no less than 377 persons having been killed by falling trees and houses, or drowned in the terrific seas.

A VILLAGE DESTROYED.

The destruction on Takume Island was also awful in its extent. On this island were two large villages, but after the cyclone had passed but one remained, the other having been razed to the ground by the terrific force of the gale. The sea did not sweep the island, however, and the loss of life was not extensive, a total of 15 natives perishing.

TWO ISLANDS SWEEPED.

At Ravaheve and Marokau the full force of the cyclone was met, and a fearful scene of desolation and death met the eye when the fury of the storm was spent. The bodies of 97 natives lay among the debris of their ruined habitations, death having been caused by falling huts and trees. Not a single habitation was left standing, and the survivors were absolutely shelterless until fresh huts could be put together.

TWO VILLAGES DESTROYED.

At Hao or Bow Island, and Amanu Island, the latter of which is an islet a few miles to the north-east of Bow Island, the gale was felt in all its severity. One of the largest villages of the group was established at Bow, and there was another large village at Amanu. Both of these were entirely destroyed, every house in the settlements being levelled. The loss of life was not serious, however, only five lives being lost at Bow, and the same number at the village of Amanu.

DAMAGE AT RAROIA.

During the height of the gale a huge sea swept clean over the island of Raroia, sweeping everything before it. Fifteen of the inhabitants were killed, and every house was blown down or swept away by the sea.

THE LEAST SUFFERERS.

The islands which appear to have suffered least are Makatea, Makemo, Tikehau and Takarava. These islands were partly swept by the sea, and some of the houses and stores were washed out, a number of the coconut palms were torn up or twisted and broken by the force of the cyclone, and the soil and sand was washed off the reefs.

EIGHTY PEARLERS WRECKED.

At Hikueru 80 pearling cutters were driven ashore, and with the exception of two or three, smashed to matchwood. The boats were anchored within the lagoon, but so heavy was the sea here that the anchors would not stand the strain put on them, and dragged along the bottom until the boats smashed on the shore.

THE WORK OF RESCUE.

News of the disaster was brought to Papeete on January 24 by the small trading steamer Excelsior, and the authorities immediately dispatched the warships Durance and Zeile to the devastated islands, the Governor proceeding by the former vessel. Food and water for the survivors were conveyed by the warships; the Italian cruiser Calabria, which was at Papeete, also went to render whatever assistance was possible.

The warships Durance and Zeile returned from the Tuamotu Islands on the night of February 6th, having brought down a number of survivors from the islands visited by the cyclone.

THE SAFETY OF SCHOONERS.

The fate of several schooners, which were in the group at the time of the cyclone, is unknown, and grave fears are entertained as to their safety. Up to February 7th no news of them had been received in Papeete.

FURTHER LOSS FEARED.

The officers of the Ovalau state that from the island of Napuka, which is one of the most north-easterly islands of the Low Archipelago, no report has been received. The population of the island is about 100, chiefly natives, and as its elevation is not more than from four to five feet above sea level grave fears are expressed in Tahiti for the safety of the inhabitants. Cyclonic weather, such as is reported, would drive the seas up over the land.

AT HIKUEA.

FOUR HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

STORY OF A SURVIVOR.

PATHEPIC SCENES.

At Hikueru, or Melville Island, as already stated, the damage was most severe. Mr C. E. Palmer, the one European who escaped, and whose wife was

drowned, tells a pathetic story. They belonged to one of the several "motus," or small islet villages, on the island of Hikueru. When the cyclone overtook their little village the inhabitants for the most part took to the coconut trees. Mr Palmer with the aid of ropes climbed up one of these trees, but his wife, her father and mother, whose name was Brander, remained below hanging on to the ropes. Palmer called out to them to come up the tree if they could, but they replied that they were all right where they were. Scarcely had the words been uttered when a huge sea, driven by the force of the wind, washed up against the tree and carried Mrs Palmer and Mr and Mrs Brander away. It is presumed they were drowned, as they were never seen again.

The same gentleman also gives another pathetic account of a young native girl who successively climbed three coconut trees which were all blown or washed down one after the other. The last tree was uprooted and it fell on top of her, killing her instantly.

THE EUROPEAN DEATH ROLL.

The names of the white people killed or drowned in the disaster are as follows:—

- Alex. Brand.
- Janson.
- N. Plunkett.
- P. Guitton.
- Mrs C. Palmer.
- P. Donnelly.
- Volma Smidt.
- William Denham.

On the 20th a native schooner called, and from her a little water and provisions were obtained.

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Auckland Patriotic Fund.

The Auckland Committee charged with the administration of the patriotic fund, raised in connection with the South African War, has now completed its work, and we append the balance-sheets showing how the money raised has been appropriated. We may explain that the fund was divided into two sections: One general, applicable to all soldiers, and the other composed of subscriptions given for the benefit of New Zealand troops only. Of the first fund a sum of £3002, being one-half of the money in the hands of the committee at that time, was remitted to the Lord Mayor of London as a contribution to the Mansion House Fund, and the Auckland Committee was constituted a sub-committee of the metropolitan body for the purpose of meeting cases locally. For the latter claims the special fund for New Zealanders was first drawn upon, but when that became exhausted claims were met out of the general fund. The committee devoted a great deal of time to the investigation of claims, and great credit is due to them for the care they have bestowed upon the administration of this large fund. Special thanks are due to the Mayor, who held the office of chairman, Mr. J. Kirker, treasurer, and the Rev Mr Goldstein, secretary, upon whose shoulders a large amount of the work has fallen.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE.

Table with columns: Receipts, £ s. d., and amounts. Includes public subscriptions received, interest on fixed deposit, and balance forward.

EXPENDITURE.

Table with columns: Expenditure, £ s. d., and amounts. Lists various payments including cash remitted to Lord Mayor, contingent funds, and salaries.

February 17, 1903. J. KIRKER, Hon. Treasurer. Audited and found correct. G. S. KISSLING, Ins. Acct., Eng.

NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT FUND. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FROM COMMENCEMENT TO DATE.

Table with columns: Receipts, £ s. d., and amounts. Lists public subscriptions received, cash transferred from South African War Fund, and disbursements.

Table with columns: Receipts, £ s. d., and amounts. Lists various contributions and expenses including Ruddle expenses to Rotorua, Ivan Hill expenses to Sydney, and cash from various donors.

J. KIRKER, Hon. Treas. February 17th, 1903. Audited and found correct. G. S. KISSLING, Ins. Acct., Eng.

The Auckland Museum. GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY WANTED.

The Premier received a deputation from the Auckland Institute at the Museum Buildings last week, regarding the extension of accommodation for the Maori exhibits. Dr E. W. Robertson, president of the institute, introduced the deputation, which included Messrs J. H. Witheford, F. E. Baume, A. Kidd, E. W. Alison, J. Holland, F. Lawry, M.H.R.'s, Messrs J. Stewart, C. E. A. Myers, Jackson Palmer, T. W. Leys, W. Berry, S. Cochrane, C. Cooper and J. H. Upton. In introducing the subject Dr Robertson said that since 1888 the Museum authorities had been devoting their efforts to adding to the Maori relics. Two years ago a proposal was made to establish a Maori National Museum, and he was surprised to find how little was known of the Auckland Museum by the members of the House. The income for the Museum was not large, about £1000 a year, about one-third of which was received from endowments and the remainder from private legacies. When expenses were met only about £100 was left; the institution was thus, while doing a national work, limited extremely for funds. Two years ago the Mair collection of Maori curios was to be sold, and an advantageous offer was received from Germany, but Captain Mair did not want it to go out of the colony, and offered it to the Museum for £1000. This sum was raised by private subscription, the people contributing very willingly, showing how the people of Auckland were interested in things pertaining to the Maoris. There was now a runanga house in the possession of the institute, which could not be erected until funds for the erection of a building were available. The institute could not expect to make any great progress unless they had funds for the purchase of articles. The city had already shown that it was willing to help itself, so that he thought in accordance with the opinions of Ministers, a little assistance could be granted. Sir Joseph Ward had already been approached on the matter, but there had not been any provision on the Supplementary Estimates as they had hoped for, and, indeed, no reply had been received to the representations made beyond a formal acknowledgment. The institute thought that they might have a subsidy of £1000, equal to what the people subscribed two years ago. Mr Kidd, in supporting, said that the

province of Auckland was more identified with the Maori race than any other, and they desired to secure relics for future generations of Maori life. The money recently subscribed came out of the pockets of the few, and the same ground could not be gone over again. Replying, Mr Seddon expressed his entire accordance with what the institute was doing. They had his sympathy to its fullest extent, but what they wanted was practical sympathy, and it was a question whether the State should step in and help them to secure and conserve relics which would enable future generations to know as much as possible of those who first inhabited New Zealand. So far the State had not directly done much in that respect. At the present time a man well qualified was writing a history of the Maori, and Morioris, but he regretted in this respect that action had not been taken sooner when suggested by that far-seeing statesman Sir George Grey, as the waiaetas and legends were being forgotten. Mr Seddon expressed his great pleasure at the number of relics that the institute had secured, and congratulated the members on their success. It was strange, though true, that if a person wanted to see a full collection of Maori relics he had to go to Germany, where they were taking every opportunity of enlarging their collections. The Government had had to prohibit the export of relics and carved works, and the natural corollary to this was that they should be collected and not left in Maori whares and bush houses, where they would be destroyed as the result of fire or damp. He would like to see Maori houses secured and placed in all the cities of the colony. They had brought the matter under the notice of his colleagues and had their sympathies, although there was no vote on the Estimates. They had several members of Parliament who were keenly interested in the matter, and he had no doubt but that they would bring that gentle pressure to bear on the Government which was so essential to success. He might give them the encouragement of stating that he would assist in the work, which he thought should be done

on the subsidizing principle, so as to get the people interested in the matter. He would first submit the proposal to his colleagues, and then he would submit to Parliament a vote applicable to the whole colony as a subsidy for that particular work, and he thought that with a united Auckland there would be no trouble in getting the matter carried through. He thanked the president and those associated with him for the work he had done, and hoped that they would go further, with success. Mr Seddon referred to the fact that the carved houses given to the Colonial Institute were packed away in a damp place, and was rotting away, and said it would be better to remove it back to the colony. He had been asked to allow the house to be sold to go to Germany. In all probability some of the cities of England would think more of the house than did the Colonial Institute. He did not think New Zealand would trouble itself again to send valuable relics from the country, but added that it was some satisfaction to know that the presents given the Duke of York were not likely to go outside the Empire. He thought that future generations would value the relics much more than the present generation did, and said that it was the duty of the State to assist in making the record of the Maoris as complete as possible, and any movement would have his hearty co-operation and support.

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CHILDREN'S PAGE.



Cousins' Badges.

Cousins requiring badges are requested to send an addressed envelope, when the badge will be forwarded by return mail.

COUSINS' CORRESPONDENCE.

Dear Cousin Kate,—I am very sorry, that I have not written to you before, but I have had nothing to say. I stayed all Saturday night with a little friend, and it was so nice. My sister Ethel has gone up the country for a few weeks, and I miss her so much. I have started my music lessons again, and I am so glad. Have you been in the trams yet? I have, and I like them very much. One day I went with my sister as far as Ponsonby, and I enjoyed myself very much. I am going to see such a dear little girl to-day. I have such a nice big doll, and her name is Olive. Do you think that is a nice name? I have a good many dollies. Good-bye, now, with love, from Betty.

[Dear Cousin Betty,—I was specially glad to get your letter, as so few of the Cousins seem to be writing just now. It is rather disappointing, is it not? I suppose settling down to school and lessons again has made some of them tired, and the very hot weather may have had something to do with it. I hope your sister is having a good time in the country. Do you get letters from her, and which is the elder, you or she? The trams are very nice, indeed, as you say, and much quicker than the buses. Did you enjoy your visit to your little girl friend? Tell me of it next time you write.—Cousin Kate.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—Since I last wrote to you we have shifted to a new home at Kohukohu, on the Hokianga River. I know Cousin Norman and Cousin Walter. They live close to me. I also know Cousin Vera. The little steamer Pilot is now running on this river. There is going to be a show up here sometime this month. I am coming to town next month, so I will call and see you. They are always teasing me here. Some say that you are a man, and others say that you are a woman. Well, never mind, I will find out when I come to town. I must close now, as it is bed time, with love to you and all the Cousins, I remain, Cousin Tim.

[Dear Cousin Tim,—I was glad to get your letter. How do you like your new home? I always like moving from one place to another myself. Mind you do come and see me when you are in Auckland, and I think your doubts about my sex will be removed.]

Dear Cousin Kate,—I was very glad to see my letter in the Cousins' column, and to see now that I am a Cousin. Our school is now open again, and as you surmised, I have not had to be punished yet; but I suppose I will get it some of these days, because you know that boys cannot always be good. It is not our nature. My little kittens and one pup are getting on fine, and I am now trying to find suitable names for them all. I am calling the pup Bun Tuck, and will be very much obliged if you would suggest a few names for the kittens. If you have no objections I would like to call the prettiest little one "Cousin Kate." When last writing I forgot to ask you to send me a badge and collecting card, and so I will be glad to receive one by next mail. We have such a lot of fruit in our orchard this year, especially apples, which are all what are known as the Dandy Grey Russet. I must close now with love to yourself and all the Cousins,—Yours truly, Cousin James.

[Dear Cousin James,—I can only write you a short answer to your letter, which only arrived just as the paper was going to be printed. I will try and think of some cat's names, and send you them next week. I am very complimented at your caring to call one after me. I have posted you a badge, but not a card, as we are not collecting for the cat just now.—Cousin Kate.]

Pindlebury's Pirate.

(By Alec. G. Pearson.)

Author of "A Strange Recapture," etc.

I wonder what has become of Pindlebury! The last time I saw him he was second officer of a Chinese revenue steamer. That was four years ago. I heard afterwards from a mutual friend that he had quitted the Chinese service and joined an expedition which had been planned for the exploration of scarcely known districts in Mongolia.

However, the expedition had to be abandoned on account of the "Boxer" rebellion, and the individual members were soon scattered over the world. Pindlebury vanished—no one knew whither.

He had a perfect genius for adventure, and some of his adventures had very curious endings. I remember one in particular: it occurred at the time when he and I were fellow-apprentices on board the old Cleopatra.

There were five of us in the "half-deck," but Pindlebury was my special chum, as we were about the same age, and had both been the same length of time at sea.

The Cleopatra was lying at Amoy waiting for orders; in other words, she was waiting until our captain received information from the agent at Hong Kong as to which port it would be advisable to proceed to in order to obtain the best freight for home.

These long days of inaction—so far as the loading of cargo was concerned—proved very irksome to the apprentices, as the Cleopatra had been twelve months away from England, and we were anxious to be numbered among the "homeward bounders" as soon as possible. The seamen, however, took matters more easily, probably reflecting that the longer the duration of the voyage the greater would be the amount of pay they would have to draw on arrival in London.

One evening at the end of the third week of our stay at Amoy I was sitting on the rail just abaft the main rigging,

with a fishing-line in my hand, when Pindlebury came to my side, and, in a rather excited whisper, said:

"Drop that fishing-line, old chap—you won't catch anything—and come forward with me. I want to show you something."

"What is it?"

"Come and see," he pursued. "Don't sit there asking questions."

I had only asked one question, and that a very natural one; but as it would only have been waste of time to have argued the point with my messmate, I made the fishing-line fast to a bakstey, and accompanied him on to the fore-castle.

"Look there!" he said, pointing to a rather rakish-looking Chinese junk at anchor about a quarter of a mile ahead of us. "I saw her come in this afternoon from the direction of Hai-tau Bay. She is too smart-looking for an ordinary trading junk, and my opinion is that there is something jolly suspicious about her."

"She certainly is smarter than the ordinary run of junks," I admitted; "but that in itself is scarcely a reason for suspicion."

"Wait a minute," continued Pindlebury. "I have been talking to Confucius about her, and he assures me that she is a pirate junk."

It was not the shade of the great Chinese philosopher with whom Pindlebury had been holding conversation, but our washerman. His real name, I believe, was Yen How, but we had re-christened him Confucius, on account of the superlative expression of wisdom on his benign features.

"A pirate junk, eh?" I echoed, now thoroughly interested. "Are you sure he said so?"

"Here he comes. Ask him yourself." Confucius was just passing under the bows in his sampan, rowing towards the shore with the weekly wash. I hailed him.

"I say, Confucius, what is that junk anchored ahead of us?"

"Him a pilate," answered Confucius.

The average Chinaman cannot pronounce the harsh consonant "r," but transposes it to the liquid "l."

"A pirate!" I exclaimed.

Confucius nodded, smiled and rowed on.

"What did I tell you?" said Pindlebury triumphantly. "You know as well as I do that piratical junks still infest the China seas. Why, don't you remember reading the account in a Hong-kong paper of the capture of one when we were unloading there a few weeks ago? Two of the crew were beheaded and the rest imprisoned."

"Yes, I remember reading the account; but the few piratical junks that remain never venture to attack a British ship. They confine their attentions to native craft."

"That may be," said Pindlebury. "But it is no reason why British sailors should not help to suppress them."

The sentiment was an excellent one, and I heartily endorsed it.

"Very well, then," Pindlebury went on. "We have the chance of suppressing one—why should we let it slip? I tell you what it is, old man; I smell an adventure here."

morrow; and the second is always too much engrossed in his scientific studies to trouble his head about anything so commonplace as a pirate. We must fix this business up ourselves. It will naturally be a question of stratagem, not of force."

It occurred to me that if it was really a piratical junk ahead of us, we were about to take on a fairly big task, even though it might only be a question of strategy. However, Pindlebury seemed so confident of success, although, so far, he had not thought out any definite plan of action, that he eventually persuaded me to embark on the adventure with him.

We decided to take Brander into our confidence; and when we laid the case before him, he threw himself heart and soul into the business. He was a happy-go-lucky youth, who could only be brought to regard the affair in the light of a "jolly lark." He would not see that there was a serious side to the adventure: somewhat to Pindlebury's disgust, who was very much in earnest.

"I say," exclaimed Brander suddenly, "there go the pirate chief and his myrmidons. Oh, they are a shady-looking lot. Take a squint at them through this telescope. The chief bears a sort of villainous resemblance to Li Hung Chang. I suppose that chap standing up giving orders is the chief."

He handed the glass to me. A sampan was just leaving the junk's side with half a dozen men in it. The individual referred to as the "chief" by Brander was certainly of most fierce and unprepossessing appearance. It was not difficult to picture him at the head of his men, ordering hapless passengers who would not give up their valuables to be ruthlessly put to death.

"I don't believe there is anybody left on board the junk," said Pindlebury, as he took a turn at the spyglass. "There is not a soul on her upper deck, at all events. Now is our chance. We have permission to use the pinnace of an evening. Let us drop into her, and slip away before any of the other fellows notice us."

The captain always encouraged us to practise boat-sailing whenever the opportunity offered, the pinnace usually being placed at the disposal of the apprentices when the ship was in harbour.

In due course we had the boat hauled up alongside, and had quietly taken our seats. Brander pushed off, and we allowed her to drop astern with the tide for a hundred yards or so before getting the oars out.

"What is your plan?" I said to Pindlebury.

"A very simple one. We climb on board the junk, clap the hatches on at once so as to bottle up the men who are evidently now below, and—eh!—well, there you are, you know. We shall have captured the junk."

This seemed comparatively easy, although it was not clear what we were going to do with the junk when we had captured her. As a point of fact, that was a matter which we did not then stop to consider.

Darkness had fallen, and a light mist had crept over the sea, obscuring all objects at a greater distance than a couple of cables' lengths from the point of observation. The "pirate" junk loomed up indistinct and phantom-like, ahead of us. We rowed with muffled oars, after the most approved fashion of "cutting-out" expeditions.

Pindlebury, being in command of the boarding-party, was steering. Presently he gave the order, "Vast rowing." We were alongside.

Brander made the painter fast, and then we stood up, listening intently. The only sound that broke the silence was the "swish" of the tide against the sides of the junk.

"Nobody on the look-out," whispered Pindlebury. "That's Chinamen all over. Come along."

We climbed over the bulwarks, and dropped noiselessly on to the deck. The main hatches were on, and the after-part of the vessel was in darkness. A dim light glimmered through the fore-hatch, which, as we afterwards found out, was the entrance to the crew's quarters. Brander pointed forward with a dramatic gesture, and we crept cautiously along under the shadow of the bulwarks.

"Now, then," said Brander. "Here's the hatch cover; on with it quick."

It was an unwieldy affair, and we made a considerable noise while putting it on. Some one down below yelled out

a few words in Chinese, which we did not understand.

"We will talk to him afterwards," said Brander. "Where is the hatch bar?"

"I can't see one," I exclaimed. "Then we can't fasten the hatch down."

"File those coils of rope, and that hen-coop, on top of it," said Pindlebury.

This was soon done, and then we set down to parley with our prisoner. Brander knew four words of Chinese, and was rather good at "pidgin" English, so we appointed him interpreter, with power to carry on the negotiations with the captured Celestial. There was only one, as we afterwards found out.

Unfortunately, our prisoner did not speak pidgin English, and Brander's small stock of Chinese words were unsuitable for the present conference. He certainly used them, but they had no appreciable effect on our excited pirate, who, in a high-pitched voice, poured forth an uninterrupted flow of eloquence for several minutes, emphasising his remarks by an equally continuous banging at the under-side of the hatchway.

"Oh, look here," said Brander, at last. "I'm tired of this chap; he does nothing but talk. I vote we put an end to the conference, slip the cable, and let the beastly old pirate junk go adrift. That is the easiest way of settling the business, and will prevent her crew from getting into mischief until they find their vessel again. Besides, this mist is getting thicker every minute, and we ain't be able to find our way back to the Cleopatra if we don't look out."

Pindlebury and I agreed to this proposal, and I went to the gangway to get the boat ready for a prompt departure.

But the boat was no longer there! "My word, boys!" exclaimed Brander, when I reported this disaster, "we're in a nice fix now. A jolly good job we hadn't slipped the cable."

"What is to be done?" asked Pindlebury.

"We must try and rig up a raft of some sort," I replied, "for we can't stop here, and it would be madness to attempt to swim to our own ship in this fog. If we missed her we should be carried out to sea. You were a nice chap, Brander, to make a slipper hitch."

"I didn't," said Brander. "Look here! The painter has chafed through."

He held up the frayed end of the rope that was hanging from the main chains.

"We shall get in no end of a row about the pinnace," said Pindlebury. "If she is picked up by any of the fishing junks in this neighbourhood, we can make up our minds that we have seen the last of her. Hallo! What's that?"

His last exclamatory query was caused by the plash of oars close alongside and the sound of a voice hailing—in Chinese.

Needless to say, we did not reply to the hail, but stood looking at each other with very rueful countenances. Brander went to the side and peered over the bulwarks. A single glance was sufficient to put him in possession of the facts that he conveyed to us a moment later. "There's a sampan full of them," he said, "the pirate chief among them. He is coming up the side ladder now. We're in a precious mess now, and no mistake."

The surprise of the Chinamen when they reached the deck of the junk and found us there was almost ludicrous to behold. No doubt, under different circumstances, we should have seen the humorous side of the affair. As it was, the element of humour was sadly lacking, from our point of view. The pirate captain had certainly a most ferocious and truculent expression. After staring at us in amazed silence for about half a minute, he exclaimed in very good "pidgin" English:

"What you young saillo gentlemen do on this junk, eh?"

"We rowed across in our boat," explained Pindlebury, replying to the "pirate" with great civility, "and our boat has since gone adrift."

"You blong to the Cleopatra, eh?" "Yes," I answered, wondering how he had gained the information.

"She sails for Foo-Chow to-morrow," pursued the pirate. "I pilot her round."

"You pilot her round?" I cried. "You are a pilot, then, not a pirate."

Our friend of the ferocious countenance admitted that this was so, although as he was unable to pronounce the "r" in pirate, but called it "pilate," the subsequent explanations in pidgin English became at times extremely complicated.

I am glad to be able to record that we told him the exact truth of the affair, and his amusement was great at the mistake we had made. It is a generally accepted axiom that "All's well that ends well." Luckily, our adventure ended well for us.

The prisoner was released, and the present of a dollar settled his claims for damages, and converted a foe into a friend. The pinnace was recovered on the following morning, and we escaped with nothing worse than a severe wiggling from the captain, and a promise to have our leave stopped at the next port, which promise, however, was not fulfilled.

The "pirate chief," as Brander would always persist in calling our new friend, Chung-Yao, the pilot, turned out to be a most genial and pleasant fellow in spite of the Tartar-like ferocity of his appearance. We saw a good deal of him at Foo-Chow, where he showed us some good places for fishing, and the day before the Cleopatra sailed for home, made us a present of a jar of preserved ginger each.

We apprentices were unanimously of opinion that one of the best Chinamen we had ever met was Pindlebury's Pirate.

Mother Love Among Squirrels.

It is not often one has an opportunity to witness the affection of the animals of the woods for their young nor to observe the unerring instinct with which they are endowed. An American correspondent gives me the following pretty tale illustrating their characteristics:

"I was very much amused and very much instructed recently," said a man who lives in the country, "by the antics of a mother squirrel in my section, and while I have grown up, as I might say, among squirrels and cypress knees, it was a revelation to me. The squirrel had nested in a low, dumpey cypress, close to the edge of a lake, and the nest was probably thirty or forty feet from the ground. The mother squirrel happened to be in the tree at the time, although I had no occasion to notice either the old squirrel or her young until something tragic happened in the family. In some way one of the little fellows scrambled over the edge of the nest and fell to the ground. I heard the noise, and, looking in the direction of the sound, I saw the baby squirrel squirming around in great agony and totally unable to get on its feet. The mother squirrel rushed down the side of the cypress like a streak, and almost in an instant she was by the side of her offspring. She took in the situation at a glance and set to work to get the youngster back in the nest. She switched the body around and turned it over, and then grabbed it with her teeth just under the smaller portion of the back. Instinctively, I suppose, the young squirrel threw its arms around the mother's body, and after she had made sure that the hold was good she started cautiously back to the nest. She reached there safely, placed the wounded baby in the nest, and crawled in herself, and I saw no more of the distressed mother nor of the youngster. I was very much impressed with the gentleness and skill she displayed in handling the injured baby squirrel, and really it was an inspiring scene."



Tight Ropes Walking.

Get two corks and four matches. The matches should be inserted into one of the corks in such a way that

they form the arms and legs of the little man, as shown in figure. These arms and legs can be bent in all directions, giving the little man all the possible positions of a tight rope walker. The head is made of a round piece of cork, the nose of a small chip of cork, which is inserted into the head; the mouth is cut with a pen-knife, and the eyes as well as eyebrows are burnt in with a red hot piece of wire.

To balance off the little man on the rope you must cruelly stick two forks in his body, as shown in the figure. If you make an incision in one of his legs and give the thread forming the rope a slight slope to one side he will walk from one corner of the room to the other.

At the Photographers.

For the modern child's sake it is a very good thing that the process of being photographed is a pleasure instead of a pain. Never was there a period of greater popularity for the photograph than this. And how charming the visit to the photographic studio is made!

Recall for a moment the scene of your early, bitter experiences in this way, mothers, whose bairns positively enjoy the experience. Did you like having your head screwed up in a supporting-frame, so that you could not stir? Did you appreciate the agitated, united efforts of your parents, your nurse, the photographer, and the photographer's assistant to keep you absolutely quiet during the moments that had to elapse before the camera had completed its task? Someone used to try and amuse you by whistling, or you were told to fix your eyes upon a stuffed monkey that shortly would do something, but never did.

Is it wonderful that the result of all this palaver was indeed a speaking likeness—one that depicted all the horrors of the occasion?

Jack, who is constantly being reproved for his forgetfulness, and who has just been scolded, was struck suddenly by a bright idea.

"Mother, I know what I'll do. I'll eat some forget-me-not seeds, and then I'll remember."

He Wanted to Know.

As an illustration of the insatiable curiosity of the small boy, an exchange tells this story of investigation which brought consternation to one family:

Auntie had come all the way from her home to visit the family, and brought with her Caesar, her beautiful Maltese Angora. Aunt Susan was wealthy and childless. Hence Bertie, Mary and Susan were cautioned before her arrival not to do anything or say aught that might offend. Bertie was seventeen, of a serene countenance and a scientific turn of mind. Bertie was also, though young, an enthusiastic materialist, and, notwithstanding his big, dreamy blue eyes, totally devoid of sentiment. Surgery was his hobby. He pictured himself in the future as the greatest surgeon of the age.

One evening about two weeks after Aunt Susan's arrival, Bertie burst in upon the family assembled in the sitting-room. His face was aflame and his eyes shone with the joy of a great discovery.

"Aunt Susan," he cried, in a voice quivering with emotion, "you are a benefactor of science; I have discovered the original function of the vermiform appendix. It is the purring apparatus in the feline. I anaesthetised Caesar and then dissected him slowly—he was purring all the while—and found that the purra came from his vermiform appendix, and had he lived only a few minutes longer I might have made a still greater discovery"—but Aunt Susan had fainted and paterfamilias was rolling up his sleeves, a look of grim determination drawing down the muscles of his face.

What is probably the biggest toy business in Europe is the French Doll Manufacturing Company. Its capital is £160,000. It has five factories in different parts of France, employs about 800 workmen, and turns out 5,000,000 dolls a year. America, however, claims the record toy factory. This immense establishment is to be seen in New York. It is five storeys high, and turns out 1607 distinct varieties of toys. Its great speciality is toys stamped or moulded of tin. The dies for making these are very expensive. Those for a tin horse twelve inches long cost £600. This firm makes 12,000,000 tin whistles yearly, and several of its other specialties are sold in six-figure numbers.



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WORLD.

Milkmaid
LARGEST SALE BRAND
in the **Milk**
WORLD.

Some Tigers and a War Elephant.

(By Johnny Jones.)

One time there was a offle big sabbage tagger in a sho and it was a being shode, and was a roring like distent thunder, and a nashing its teths friteffe and lashing its sides with the tossel of its tail, and the fokes a round the cage they was like wite sheets for to see it so mad. Bime by a country feller he come in drunk for to see the sho, and he looked at the tagger a wile and then he sed, Wots that?

The fokes they sed it was the grate Bengol tagger, and the feller he sed, The grate wot!

They tole him a other time it was the Bengol tagger.

The feller he wented out and got a crobar and come in agin and renched the padlock off the cage and wile the men was all a runnin away and fallin over their own feets, and the wimmin fokes had fainted the feller he kicked the tagger all round the cage real crull, wich houled! Then the feller he come out, and when the sho man rusht up and ast him wot he done it for, he sed, the feller did, a wipin presprashun from his brou. He let you kno, you gum dasted galoot, that I dont propose to have enny boddys mangy ole cat go about these parts a takin my name in vain! Ime Ben Gall.

Uncle Ned he ses the sho man slank a way like he was had but the baddest thing in the world is biles.

Tagers is the skurge of the jungle but the hunch back camille is the monnerck of mountains!

One day Uncle Ned, which has ben in Injy and evry were, he met a offle big tagger. Uncle Ned had only but jst come to the country and he sed, Wel, wel, I didnt spose there was enny shows way out here in Injy corl strand, but I ges yuman natchure is prety much alike evrywere.

So he walked up to the tagger and took hole of its ear and bit the tagger with a switch and sed, Now you toddle home to yure sho ole man, or Ile set my dog on you!

I ast him wot the tagger done and he sed, I dont kno, Johnny, I dont kno, cos it was 13 munths fore I asked, and then they sed I mussent xcite my self by toking. I ges mebbly the tagger didnt do a thing.

Man wich is born a wooman in a few days is a fool for trubble, and the tagger he is hatch out of a eg, but the hen eg is a other thing. The yolk is the little chickins meat and the wite is thair fethers, but gees fethers is pillos and in Pattygony they are made matrisies of and sleep on. Ole Gaffer Peters, wich is a fool, he sed, Johnny, aint it wunderffe that yuman beins think it nice for to sleep on geeses fethers but the geese they dont sleep on them thair selfs!

Geeses have lethers twen thair toes, and the polly wog wolks the wotters like a thing of life til he is frogs, an then he plunges beneath the flud for to loos all his gilty stains! And thats why I say man is only but jst a little aloer than the anjels and despetly wicked.

Now Ile tel you about a elphant wich Mister Gipple seen.

One time in Mullly Gatawny there was a offle battle be tween the Wites and the natil niggers and the Wites they licked. After it was over the Wite Genel he sed to his mahoot wich is the feller that drives a elphant for a livin by setting stradle of its neck and punching holes in its eers with a pitch fork Here, Kibosh, you take yure quodped and ride over the battle feeld and count the slew. Never mine about our fellers, I dont want to report them, cos it wuld spile the effect.

The mahoot he sed, Yessir and volted onto his steed with a ladder and stuck his pich fork thru both eers and started away. But the Genel cald him back and

sed, They lie in al sorta of places you will have to ride mity careful or yure pony will mis sum of them.

The mahoot he sed, Yessir, but he is mity handy with his feets.

Late in the evenin the mahoot come a jabbin his elphant up to the Genel's tent, and the poor thing was so tired it wobbled and its feets and legs was of red, like thay had ben painted. The Genel was a stonish, and he sed, Kibosh Ime fraid there was a akcident to some pore feller. Dident I tel you that gam doodled mennagery of yourn wuld have to be cairfe about steppin on the wownded!

Kibosh he sed So he was, sir, I dont

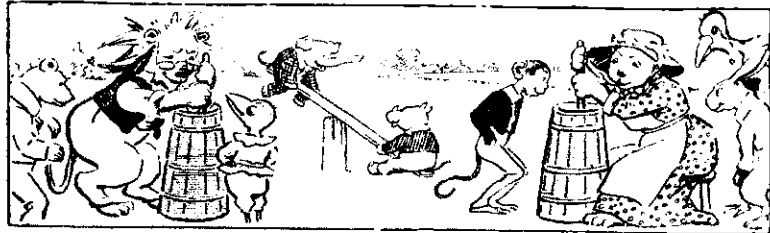
think he aint a single one except our own. Loo a mity powful victory now— ten thowsen hundred ded natifs, and nun wouanded!

The Genel, wich was a nice man, he was offle shoked and he rote in his repouart. I am sorry for to have to ad that after the battle all of the enemys wouanded, being xposed to the noon day air, was attacked by a disease peuller to this olmit, and fisishona was in vain. This skurge of the troppies is cald elphantiasis or fatty degemmerashon of the chest. Make me a Duke.

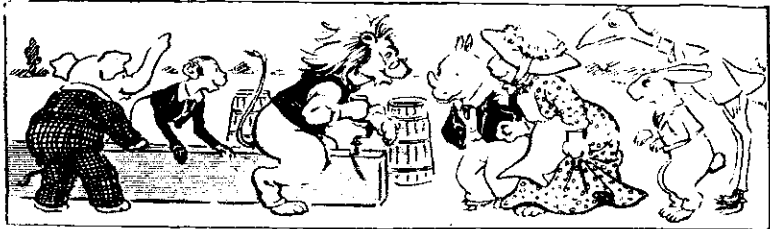
But the Bible ses a mercifule man is mercifule to his beast wich is wy we was created worms of the dust.

THE JUNGLE JINKS.

THE JUNGLE SCHOOLBOYS COMBINE PLEASURE WITH BUSINESS.



1. "My dear," said Dr. Lion, of the Jungle School, to his wife one day, "we have so many mouths to feed that I think we might save a lot of money by making our own butter." So next day Mrs. Lion bought a couple of churns, and they both set to work to churn the butter for breakfast. "Phew!" exclaimed the doctor, as he mopped the perspiration off his brow. "This is hot work, my love, and no mistake!"



2. Just then Dr. Lion happened to see Junbo and Rhino playing at see-saw. "Why, there's the very thing!" cried he. "What is the matter? What are you going to do?" inquired Mrs. Lion. "I'm going to make those boys a new see-saw, and they will save us the trouble of doing any more churning," he replied, with a chuckle.



3. And after the doctor had done a little carpentering, the new see-saw was ready, and Junbo and Rhino scrambled up. "See-saw, Marjorie Daw, soon we shall have some fresh butter," sang Junbo, and then everybody laughed. "Oh, this is a splendid idea!" smiled Dr. Lion. "There is nothing like combining business with pleasure." The boys thought it was splendid, too, for Mrs. Lion promised to pay them a penny an hour for working the see-saw.

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CALL AND INSPECT.

AS SEEN THROUGH WOMAN'S EYES.

A Typical English Country House.

Women, wherever they may be, and to whatever grade of society they belong, are always interested in pictures of other folks' houses. This is particularly the case where the accidents of birth or fortune have enabled those homes to be of special beauty. From time to time, as opportunity occurs, we intend showing on these pages pictures of some famous English homes, with occasionally, perhaps, a few of some tasteful New Zealand residences. The English home we commence with, though not very ancient, is one of the most beautiful of English country seats.

Somerley, the beautiful country home of the Earl of Normanton, is situated about three miles from Ringwood, in one of the most lovely parts of England, on the borders of the New Forest. A drive through the neat and tidy red brick town of Ringwood, and through some very picturesque water meadows, the favourite haunt of artists, brings one to a thatched lodge, round in shape, at the entrance of Somerley Park, a mile and a half from the house. A prettier drive from the lodge to the house would be difficult to find. Here are trees of all descriptions, elms, oaks, and Scotch firs; while beneath one's feet, heather and bracken remind one vividly of the Scotch Highlands.

The house, a large yellow brick structure, was originally in the possession of a Mr. St. John, and was built in 1797. It was then bought by Mr Daniel Hobson, who sold it to Mr Henry Baring in 1819. The colonnade on the south side of the house was added in 1817. In 1823 Somerley was bought from Mr Baring by Welbore Ellis, second Earl of Normanton, who added the picture gallery, of which more later. This Lord Normanton was a great connoisseur, and collected all the pictures the house contains between 1816 and 1868.

James, third Earl of Normanton, made several additions to the house, which were completed in 1873. He also bought most of the beautiful furniture it contains.

In the entrance hall are some good pictures, namely, Mireveldt's "Banqueting Scene in a Garden," and a copy of Sir Joshua's "Fortune Teller," some Oriental china vases, and a fine old French clock. To the left of the hall is the sitting room, where Lord Normanton transacts business. It contains

a crayon of Pitt by Gainsborough, a child's head by Sir Joshua, and on the walls are hung some interesting family relics, the swords of Charles Agar, brother of the third Earl of Normanton, who was killed in the Crimea.

On the right side of the hall is a conservatory, always full of lovely flowers, and this leads into the billiard-room, where are some very fine pictures, notably, two by Greuze, one of Lady Hamilton by Sir Joshua Reynolds, and one of the same lady by Romney; there is also a very fine head of Napoleon by Lefevre. It was the last portrait for which the Emperor sat and was painted in 1812. A

Huntingdon, in 1840, and was presented in that year to Charles II, then Prince of Wales, by Nicholas Ferrar. Charles I. had stamped velvet books made at Little Gidding for both his sons, Charles and James, as well as for himself.

Returning to the hall, one may pass into the corridor, which is surrounded by a gallery. On the chimney-piece are some very good Wedgwood vases. The fender, of gilt metal Italian workmanship, is remarkably fine, and on the wall is a pier glass of very beautiful Chippendale. There is also a very pretty Italian six-leaved screen, painted in designs of cupids, and two pictures by Gu-

pieces. There is a similar screen in the smoking-room.

To the right of the corridor is a magnificent suite of rooms, consisting of two libraries, the drawing-room, and the picture gallery, all opening out into each other. The first is the West Library, with walls of red, and a cornice in white and gold. All round the room are mahogany bookcases. Over the Adams chimney-piece hangs a portrait of Prince Maurice, Elector of Saxony, by Mireveldt, and other notable pictures are two portraits by Sir Joshua Reynolds. On an easel stands a pastel, by Ellis Roberts, of the present Lord Normanton's



SOMERLEY.

very interesting picture is one of Nelson in his cabin, by Lucy. Under the picture is a roll signed by many officers who served under him, certifying it to be a good likeness. This room also contains a very curious and interesting book in the shape of a New Testament, or "Harmony of the Four Gospels," bound in green velvet, stamped in gold, with a design of laurel sprays and fleur-de-lis. It is a very large volume, and is compiled in four languages, English, Latin, French and Italian, and contains two hundred and thirty-four plates, illuminated by the Sisters of Little Gidding, in

ardi after Boucher.

The dining-room windows overlook the East Terrace, and a very fine view is obtained of undulating country, through which the River Avon winds picturesquely, with the New Forest in the distance. The room is decorated in the Adams style. The finest pictures are "A Lioness" by Rubens, a portrait by Vanduyck of Princess Mary, daughter of Charles I., when a child, and one of Lady Jane Grey by Luca Penni. This room contains a beautiful old French clock and an old Chinese screen of teak-wood with some cleverly-painted battle

eldest daughter, Lady Georgina Agar, a pretty child of six, with fair hair and large blue eyes.

Adjoining is the East Library. Over the Adams fireplace is a picture by Stewart of the Archbishop of Dublin, who was created first Earl of Normanton. It is contained in a magnificent frame of carved white and gilt wood and marble. Other pictures in this room are one by Gainsborough, a very fine portrait of Lady Mendip, and one of the first Lady Normanton by Hoppner. On an easel is a picture by Powell, after Sir Joshua Reynolds, of Lady Diana Beauclerk. The



SOMERLEY THE DRAWING ROOM.

furniture is all French, in the Empire style.

Leading out of the East Library are the drawing-room and gallery, which open into each other. The sofas and chairs are French of Louis XV period and are gilt and covered in crimson damask. The decorations in this room are white and gold. The chimney-piece of white marble is supported by two figures. Amongst other pictures the room contains a coast scene, "Moonlight," by Cuypp, and others by Creswick, Crome, Ety, and "Miracles of St. Benedict," by

English monarch and the still more hapless French queen are on the back. In a glass show-table is a valuable collection of snuff-boxes, some by Boucher, some Vernis Martin, and some of Dresden China. A watch belonging to George III. is of dark blue enamel, and has "G.R." and crown in diamonds. It was presented by George III. to the Lady Pembroke of that day. On an easel is an enamel of George IV. in Coronation robes, by Bone, after Sir Thomas Lawrence's picture, which is at Windsor Castle.

Earl of Normanton, who collected the pictures and built the room, which was finished in 1851. The "Seven Virtues" were left by Sir Joshua to his niece, Lady Thomond, and at her death were bought by the second Lord Normanton. This gallery is a delightful room for music, to which both Lord and Lady Normanton are devoted. At one end a lovely divided organ has recently been erected, the pipes being on each side a copy by Harlowe of the "Transfiguration," the original of which is in the Vatican. There is a remarkably fine chim-

ney-piece in this gallery. It is of carved marble, very high, with four beautifully carved pillars, and was bought in Paris, but had been in Rubens' house in Antwerp. The gallery also contains some beautiful bronze candelabra, and is full of lovely china—Oriental, Angouleme, Dresden and Sevres.

and mezzotints. One suit of bedrooms looking east commands a good view of the New Forest. Lord and Lady Normanton's apartments are remarkably bright and cheerful. Lady Normanton's boudoir, the walls of which are rose colour, contains many objets d'art, valuable pictures, and china. On the stairs hangs a picture of Mrs Siddons as the "Tragic Muse." Whether it is a replica of those at Grosvenor House and Dulwich Gallery, or whether it is an admirable copy, is not known.



SOMERLEY: THE PICTURE GALLERY.

Vandyck. One, by Bonnington, is considered a chef d'oeuvre. Against the wall are two most valuable torcheres of Sevres, with gilt metal mounts, and two other torches of lapis lauli, which the remarkably fine. In this room are several specimens of Oriental china, Old Worcester and Chelsea vases of great value. There is also a magnificent French writing-table of the Louis XIV. period; but the most interesting object is a table of petrified wood, mounted in steel and gilt metal, which belonged to Charles I., and later on to Marie Antoinette. The ciphers of the ill-fated

We now come to the most charming room in the house, namely, the Gallery, which is eighty-four feet long and thirty feet wide. It has a heavily gilt Italian ceiling, and contains sixty-one pictures, the most celebrated being "The Seven Cardinal Virtues," painted by Sir Joshua Reynolds for the window of New College, Oxford. There are twenty-four other pictures by Sir Joshua, an excellent portrait of Mr. Pitt by Gainsborough, and pictures by Hogarth, Morland, Canaletto, and Murillo. There is also a full-length portrait of Diana, a daughter of Lord Pembroke, and wife of the second

ney-piece in this gallery. It is of carved marble, very high, with four beautifully carved pillars, and was bought in Paris, but had been in Rubens' house in Antwerp. The gallery also contains some beautiful bronze candelabra, and is full of lovely china—Oriental, Angouleme, Dresden and Sevres. All these rooms are full of flowers, as Lady Normanton is devoted to them, and takes great interest in the garden. The bedrooms are thoroughly comfortable, and, like those in an average English country house, and contain very good engravings

How Long to Wait Before Marrying.

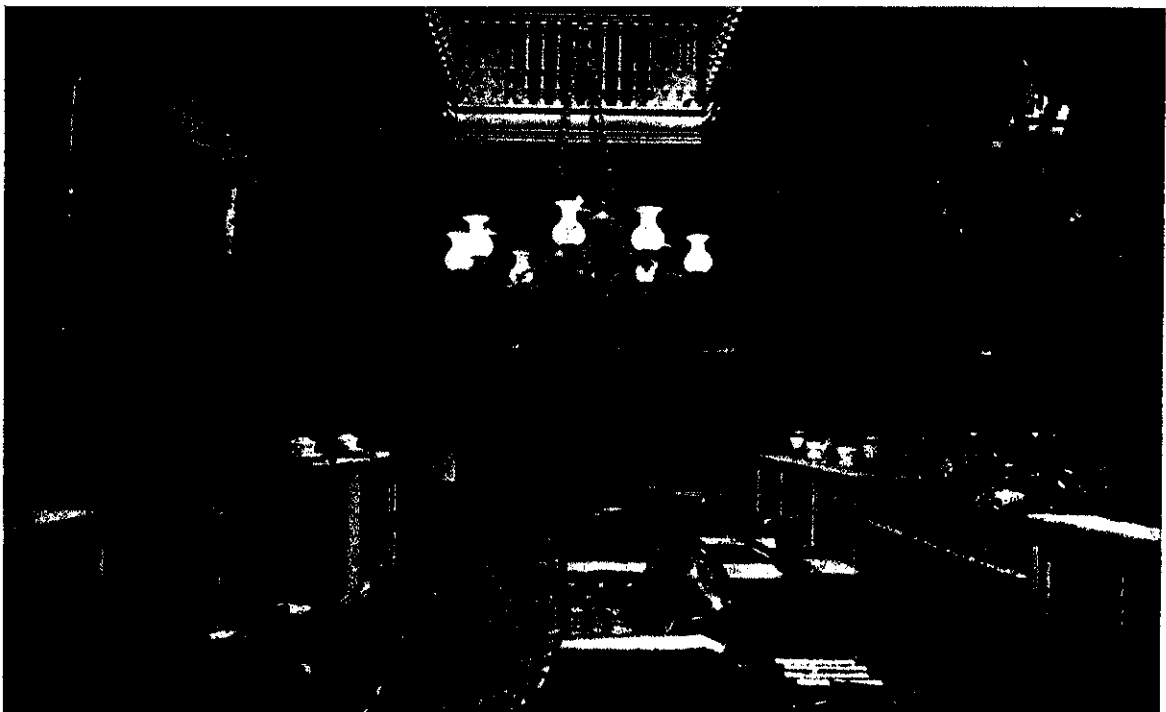
By HELEN OLDFIELD.

There are some questions which all men and most women should decide for themselves—questions with which one's nearest and dearest, much less strangers, have no right to intermeddle. High upon this list stands that of the proper length of an engagement of marriage.

Circumstances alter cases. There are times when a brief engagement, even a hasty marriage, which is as a rule to be contemned, is not only permissible but wise; other times, far more frequent, when the engagement, in order to exist, must perforce be a lengthy one. Sometimes a man, loving a woman with all his heart, feels called to make her his wife without standing upon ceremony; times, perhaps, when, left alone in the world, she needs the protection of his name as well as that of his love. Likewise, there may be emergencies when a woman as a wife may be all in all to the man to whom she has given her heart, when, as his sweetheart, she must stand aloof, helpless to help him and miserable in inaction away from him.

On the other hand, there may be ties which neither can honourably break in order to assume new ones. "A man shall leave father and mother and shall cleave unto his wife," saith the Scriptures, but among the ancient Hebrews the man who forsook parents who in old age were dependent upon his care, in order to marry a wife, was despised by his people. Nor has public opinion changed with long years. The man who cannot provide for his helpless father and mother as well as for a wife is expected to turn his back upon happiness and pursue the path of duty instead. Then, if the woman be true woman, she will wait patiently and cheerfully, and, taking pride in the rectitude of her lover, encourage him while he fights his way to a footing firm enough to sustain both relations.

So, also, a woman may find herself bound hard and fast by family ties



SOMERLEY: THE CORRIDOR.

from which it would be little less than criminal on her part to try to escape. Then, should her suitor be unable to help her bear her burden or too impatient to wait in love and hope for better times, the best—indeed, the only sensible thing—which she can do is to release him from his engagement. So-called love which has its root in selfishness, however fair seeming it may be, is apt to wither under stress of drought, almost certain to go down before the shock of adversity.

Short engagements are rarely wise, unless in cases where the contracting parties are well acquainted before the engagement is made. To rush into matrimony blindly can scarcely fail to be disastrous. Every now and then city newspapers tell the pitiful story of some abandoned bride—some woman left penniless in a strange hotel by the man to whom she has upon brief acquaintance entrusted her person and her property, much or little. There are many more such instances which never get into print. Every once in a while some

too confiding girl marries a stranger, to find later that the hastily accepted band is a villain or a brute—perhaps worse, is no husband in the eye of the law, since another wife exists with a valid claim.

Yet, too long engagements are usually a mistake. After a certain period, which varies with different men, the love of a man is no longer "a plant which with most cutting grows." On the contrary, if allowed to expend itself neither in blossom nor fruit, it dries up and withers by slow but sure degrees. Most of us can instance long engagements which finally have been broken. Few of us can recall lengthy ones which have been happily consummated. Usually it is the man who grows restive, who insists upon having his wife and his own home, and who, being put off again and again, finally seeks fresh fields and pastures new. A woman should be positively assured of her lover's affection for her before she consents to bind him by an engagement of indefinitely long duration.

Jacob served fourteen years for Rachel and found the time short because of his great love for her, but the case was so exceptional that the story has been handed down to us through the ages.

There are many true tales of lovers who have emigrated to make a home for girls left behind them, and who, returning long years afterwards, have found the girls girls no longer, but weary, faded women, with their youth and brightness for ever fled. Then, unless the man be of unusual fibre, his strong and virile manhood calls out for youth and beauty, and the old love is whistled down by the wind almost before she understands it has happened. Not one man in a hundred, scarcely one in a thousand, can stand the test of an engagement of twenty, ten, or even five years.

From six to eighteen months is in most cases the proper duration of an engagement. This gives ample time for all necessary preparations on both sides. It also allows ample opportunity for the contracting parties to become thoroughly acquainted with each other.

When the fiancées are boys and girl who have known each other from childhood (much more if the love affair is of recent date), parents and guardians should insist that there shall be no positive engagement until the young folks arrive at the age of discretion. Moreover, although they may know their own minds thoroughly, physicians are agreed that for physical reasons no woman should marry until she is fully twenty years of age. The proper limit for a man is fixed at twenty-five—thirty, they say, is better.

There is a happy pair of prominent people in an eastern city who were sweethearts almost from babyhood. One day, when the maiden was sixteen and the youth twenty, the two took a trip

across the border into a neighbouring State whose marriage laws were less stringent than those of their own. Returning home in the late afternoon they announced their marriage to their respective parents. The paterfamilias held council together and informed the young couple that they had no objection to their marriage at a proper age, but that at present they could not be allowed to live together as man and wife. So the young husband was constrained to finish his course at college of two years more, and the young wife to dwell meanwhile in her father's house and complete her education. When the prescribed period expired the youth's wealthy father took him into partnership, the wedding was fittingly celebrated, and the couple have lived happily ever afterwards.

Hearts as Presents.

Among the many curious presents made from time to time surely that of a human heart, given literally, and not as lovers are wont to bestow, is most extraordinary, but several such instances may be mentioned. Paul Whitehead, a poet of the eighteenth century, felt so grateful to Lord Le Despenser for having been the means of getting him an income of £800 a year that he bequeathed his heart to him as a mark of his gratitude. That nobleman placed this singular legacy in one of the recesses of a mausoleum at his seat at West Wycombe, and the urn containing it bore the following epitaph:—

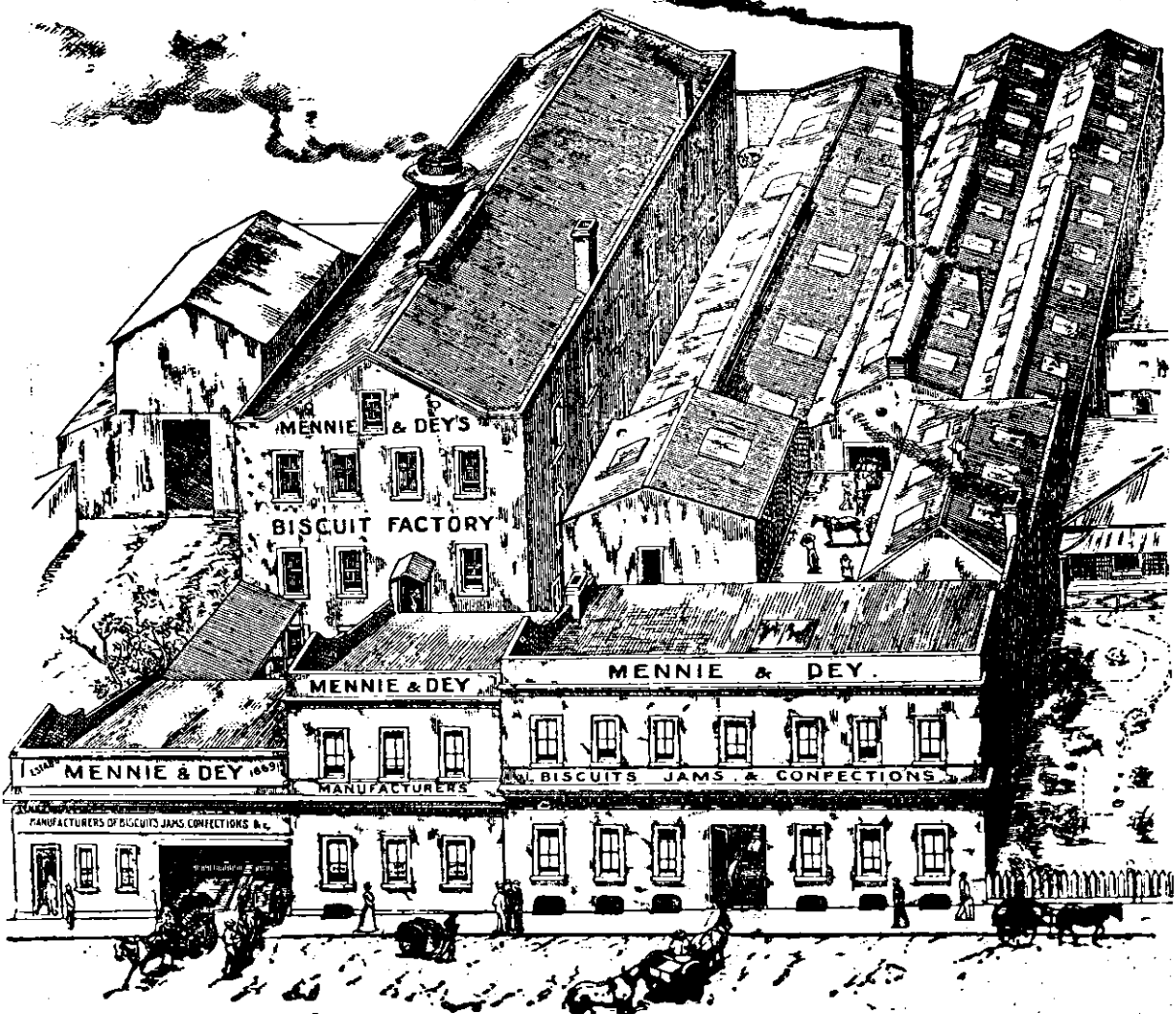
Unhallow'd hands, this may forbear;
No gems nor Orient spoil
Lie here conceal'd, but, what's more rare,
A heart that know's no exile.

The occasion of the depositing of the heart was one of great solemnity, and ex-

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cited considerable interest. All the Buckinghamshire militia were present as the urn was carried in mournful procession, to the accompaniment of minute guns, to its last resting place; while an incantation, set to music by the famous Dr. Arnold, of Westminster Abbey, was sung by a number of vocalists specially engaged for the purpose.

The celebrated composer Gretry was born at Liege, and although he pursued his studies at Rome, and finally settled in Paris, he still retained a love for his native city. As proof of his affection he bequeathed his heart to Liege, but the authorities there evidently did not prize the gift as much as he imagined they would. The result was that when the executor wrote apprising them of the unique present they coolly requested him to send it forward, carriage paid, by the diligence. This made him somewhat indignant, and he had the heart, which had been carefully preserved, buried in an urn in a garden in France. Ten years later Liege thought it would like to have possession of its legacy, and invoked the aid of the law courts of Paris in order to compel the executor to carry out the will.

Richard I. had a somewhat chequered career, and remembered the joys and sorrows of his life when arranging for his death. He wished Chalus to be the resting place of his brain and bowels, so that they should be among the rebellious Poitevins, while his heart was to be buried at Rouen as an appreciation of the loyalty of its citizens.

Another Monarch, Bruce of Scotland, also gave some unusual directions respecting the disposition of his heart, but this was because he had killed Comyn in a church at Dumfries. He desired Sir James Douglas to carry his heart to Jerusalem, and there place it in the Holy Sepulchre; but while this gentleman was carrying out his mission he was killed in Spain, and the heart, though lost then, was subsequently recovered and returned to Scotland.

That Lucky Shilling.

Miss Ada Crossley, the charming Australian singer whom we all delight to honour, as a young girl was extremely nervous about trying her fortune in London. At last she resorted to the experiment of tossing a shilling in the air. "If it comes down 'head,' I go; if it doesn't, I remain in Melbourne." The shilling dropped down "head"—fortunately for us. Miss Crossley crossed the Equator, came, and saw, and conquered.

The Air in Sleeping Rooms

Eight hours of the twenty-four are spent in bed. One-third of existence. Twenty years from out an average lifetime of sixty!

We breathe about eighteen times a minute. Think of the breaths we draw when asleep, unconscious of our surroundings.

Think of the conditions under which we draw them.

Picture the little one with frightened face buried in the bed clothes for fear of the bogie man. Picture the dainty wife and besotted husband sleeping face to face; the rosy darling of the household and the ailing, decrepit grandmother in dangerous proximity; the idolized daughter and chance guest carrying seeds of possible contagion. Think of the crowded dormitories in many schools, and the huddled groups of the tenement districts.

What is the quality of the air these people are breathing during the helpless hours of sleep?

Has provision been made for the ingress of the fresh air and egress of the foul?

Do the beds stand well out from the wall, so that one sleeper does not constantly inhale his own emanations?

I tell you never yet was bed built big enough for two people!

People who are intelligent and fastidious sleep alone.

The Unpopular Girl.

The unpopular girl is the girl to whom "I" is the most important person in the world and who discourses on "I" from morn till night, if only she can find a listener. If she speaks of other people it is usually to say something unkind or disparaging. She frequently poses as a long suffering and persecuted person, and ingratiate herself with strangers at the expense of her own family circle. When she condescends to turn her attention from "I" to less important mortals, it is generally to brew mischief for them—in that art she is really clever.

Generally the unpopular girl is at heart a snob. She will cringe to those she thinks may help her on in the world, but she is arrogant and disagreeable to servants, poor people, and all she is pleased to consider her inferiors, who naturally number a very large percentage of her acquaintance.

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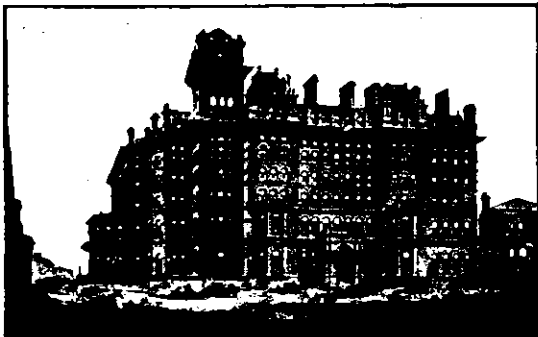
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THE LADIES' COLLEGE, REMUERA,

FOR GIRLS OF ALL AGES.

The beautiful and extensive property known as Cleveland House. Half Term commences March 23th.



This first-class Private School provides modern high-class Education and moral training on Christian but unsectarian principles. Home-life is combined with the culture and disciplinary influences of School under maternal supervision and with selected companionship. Full staff of Resident and Visiting Professors and Governesses—English and Foreign. Prospectuses on application of Messrs. Upton & Co., or Principal. MRS. S. A. MOORE-JONES, M.R.C.P., M.M., C.M.I., S.K.

THE WORLD OF FASHION.

(By MARGUERITE.)

SIMPLICITY THE KEYNOTE OF EVERY MOTHER'S SCHEME.

In the group of little children at play there are three tiny tots about three years old. The one in the extreme left corner wears a party frock of white nainsook, with real white torchon lace insertion, and an edging upon the skirt, and to define the very deep waist over which the bodice part pounces, more insertion run through with narrow white satin ribbon.

A shallow yoke is a pretty feature of the bodice, for it is very much tucked, and so trimmed with lace as to form a square. The sleeves are baby puffs falling from a series of tucks.

Tucks form the principal feature of the second very small child's frock, which is carried out in soft white silk, and has a group of pale blue ribbon rosettes upon the shoulder collar, which might match the Velasquez bow in the hair. The small boy wears Royal blue velvet, with a cream patent leather belt and a deep lace shoulder collar.

The four elder girls are variously attired. The first on the left hand side wears pale blue nun's veiling, made with a pleated bodice and skirt, the former quaintly decorated with a cream lace fichu collar edged with a killing of silk. The blindfolded child is in white spotted muslin over a white taffetas slip, beautifully tucked and inserted with lace above a full flounce, and on the bodice in the form of a berthe. Another wee girl has a white hook muslin gown stitched with white silk, also worn over white silk, charmingly trimmed with a crossed over band of Valenciennes lace and shoulder frills on the bodice, and on the skirt with a couple of frills headed with lace; and yet another wears a soft white chiffon frock, gauged almost all over the bodice, sleeves, and skirt with narrow yellow Cluny lace to divide the puffings.

English mothers are held up as patterns for the wide world over for their marked ability for dressing their children becomingly, hygienically, and beautifully. Their prescription is a very easy one to follow.

With the creed of simplicity her firm belief, she clothes her little ones for their parties in white, cream or the purest tones of blue and pink, gives their gowns a little lace and a great deal of neat tucking and stitching as their sole trimmings, and depends upon

child-like fabrics like muslin, lawn, cambric, soft silk, satin sheeting, crepe meteoré, and the much less costly nun's veilings and fine cashmeres that are so pretty, for her charming effects. All the materials she uses are good, and so is the lace.

Pale colours, tans and whites are to be this winter's chosen favourites for the outdoor wear of young folks. Girls will be seen now in most graceful pale-tots shaped to the waist, with hidden pleats at the back that give plenty of "spring" to the coat; and little boys wear sack-back overcoats like their fathers' made of mottled tweed, or the always picturesque highwayman coats with several capes and three-cornered hats to match.

is extremely smart; it is cut with five gores and the joinings are concealed underneath the three-quarter inch plaits of which there are seven on each side, which turn backward from the middle of the front.

A double box-plait takes up the fullness at the back. The plaits are stitched down to about twelve inches from the bottom of the skirt, where they are released to give the necessary flare. The edge of the skirt may be finished with a bias band, or a three-inch hem stitched several times.



WILSON SKIRT—PRESTON JACKET.

The combination of the Wilson skirt and Preston jacket will solve the problem of how to make a stylish suit for travelling or for general wear.

The skirt, of the newest plaited style,



A PRETTY BLOUSE.

Various festivities are even by now looming on the social horizon of most of us; so this suggestion for a pretty evening blouse will not come amiss. There are various ways in which it might be expressed, but perhaps the one which would wear longest is that in which black net plays a prominent part, made over a slip of black or white silk. The bodice part is a succession of tucks, while a lace berthe finishes the décolletage. In the centre front a pink conventional poppy is arranged. Across the shoulders pass two straps of pink velvet ribbon to match the poppy (though black could be substituted if preferred), finishing in a bow on the top of the left shoulder. From a band of lace and ribbon the loose

sleeves depend, leaving the upper part of the arm bare, and are caught again at the wrists by another twist of ribbon and lace. An old evening bodice or an afternoon blouse of delicate colour could soon be adapted to form the slip underneath, and the net blouse could be altered in colour to harmonise or contrast well with the lining. Instead of black a rose pink net blouse over white, finished with creamy lace and trimmings of black velvet ribbon and a black poppy, would be exceedingly smart wear. Indeed, those of us who look forward to a gay winter should take time by the forelock and make up a dainty blouse such as this without delay.

The gown shown in this figure is a green and blue combination. The material is a dark blue cashmere. The strappings are of dark green velvet. The upper part of the blouse-bodice is tucked perpendicularly to just below the bust, then allowed to fly freely. The shortened skirt is pleated from the waist to the feet, a strap of the velvet holding the pleats flat and in place over the hips, from whence they fall freely. These pleated skirts are very natty-looking, and are far more artistic than any of the double, triple, and other elab-



A GREEN AND BLUE GOWN.

orated or trimmed skirts are. They also give more importance to a short skirt, which looks insignificant (however sensible and comfortable it may be) after the long sweeping draperies we have become accustomed to again the last year or two.



A GROUP OF LITTLE MERRYMAKERS WEARING PARTY DRESSES.

S. L. DONNA PRIMA DONNA Corsets.

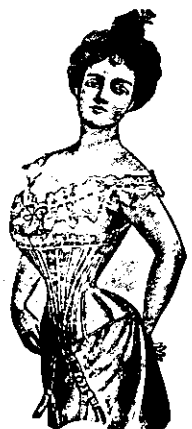
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Durability
and Comfort.

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at all the
Leading Drapers
and Warehouses
in the Colony.





TAFFETAS COATS ARE TO BE VERY MODISH.

FORECASTS FOR THE AUTUMN.

NOVEL WRAPS THAT ARE BEING PREPARED FOR CHILLY DAYS.

The chilly breezes of autumn strike no terror to the heart of the fashionable girl of to-day. Waiting for her to wear is a more varied catalogue of dainty wraps than usual. The dressmakers have concocted several in taffetas. Black is their favourite choice, because it goes with every kind of toilette and bestows elegance upon each figure. Under its influence the rotund look their slimmest, while the naturally thin woman looks graceful and not noticeably angular beneath its folds.

There is quite a reminiscence of the picturesque pelisse that flourished half a century ago in the illustrated models shown on this page. The flowing lines of the black taffetas are highly to be admired; it is accentuated by the full flounces that adorn it, forming a fichu round the shoulders beneath the deep lace collar, and trimming the basque part of the wrap. The waist of this little coat is defined by black velvet ribbon, the long ends of which form in front part of the waterfall of loops that start upon the lace collar. The double sleeve is pretty, and since it is allied to a sleevelet of lace, obviates the heavy appearance the coat otherwise might present.



AN AUTUMN HAT.

The smart model illustrated in this figure is a broad-brimmed low-crowned shape of white felt. A full wreath of autumn leaves and berries encircles the small crown, and spreads well over the brim, and at the back—where the brim is brought flat down on to the hair—is fastened by a long, hanging cachepeigne of brown accordeoned chiffon. This same model we also saw carried out in brown felt. One of quite the first flights in millinery is the large "Toreader" of soft Angora felt, or velvet, covered entirely by a silk network of smallish chenille pompons, a few larger ones hanging by black silk cords in a bunch over the hair at the back.



A GOLF SUIT OF PEPPER AND SALT TWEED.

Englishwomen have set the fashion for sport among their sex the world over. It must be odd to a foreigner to visit a famous golf links expecting to see correctly-garbed girls in red coats and tweed skirts, when Fashion in the home of athleticism has set her face away from parade of that kind in every kind of pastime. What the searcher after fact would find on the links would be players wearing such a suit as the one sketched in this column; simply a well-cut blouse and skirt costume of pepper-and-salt tweed, or some other autumn mixture, like heather, homespun, or bronze frieze, not devoid of trimming, though it be of the simplest description—to wit, bands of cloth, silk, or leather stitched in a symmetrical design. A Tam-o'-Shanter is the correct type of headgear to wear while playing the game that hails from bonnie Scotland, modified from its native utilitarianism by means of a scarf of taffetas that rests comfortably upon the hair, and lifted in front to show a quill thrust through the taffetas.



A GOLF SUIT OF PEPPER AND SALT TWEED.

THE "ZITA" PATENT

ZITA

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With the Zita Without the Zita

"ZITA" (Regd.) ADJUSTER

GIVES that charming dip-front or long waist effect now so essential to well-dressed woman. It can be put on instantly and adjusted to any depth. There are no spikes. The wearer will be surprised at the extraordinary difference lengthening the front of the waist makes to the figure. Never have results so striking been achieved by a device so simple. IT MAKES YOUR WAIST LOOK SMALLER.

Size 1 for waists up to 24 in. Size 2 for waists above 24 in.

If unable to obtain from your Draper, send Money Order or English stamps for 18d. to the Manufacturers W. PRETTY & SONS, LTD. (Dept. 11), IPSWICH, ENGLAND.

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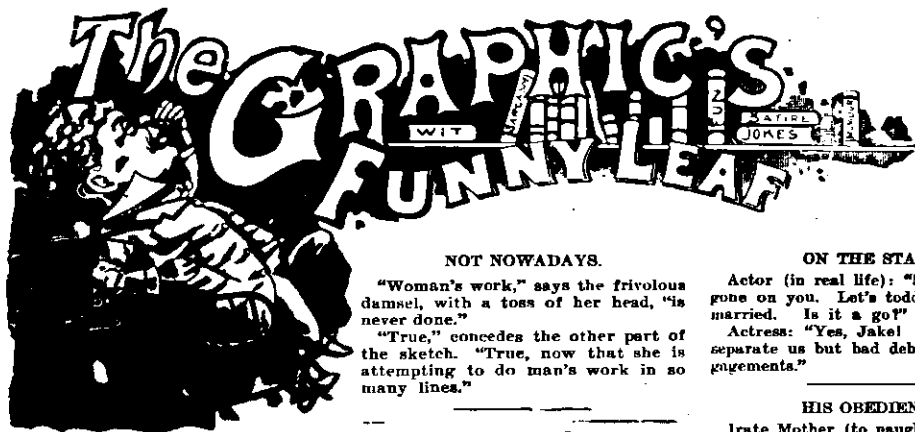
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CONVENIENT.

D.D.: You physicians do not as a rule believe in Providence, do you?

M.D.: Oh, yes; that's how we account for the cases we lose.

MULTUM IN PARVO.

"Minks has a library of only four books, valued at half a million dollars."

"You don't say! What kind of books are they?"

"Bank books."

BOBBY'S LOGIC.

Bobby—Mamma, am I a lad?

Mamma—Yes, Bobby.

"And is my new papa my stepfather?"

"Yes."

"Then am I his step-ladder?"

NOT HIMSELF AT ALL.

Mrs Parkes: Your husband has been very ill, hasn't he?

Mrs Lane: I never saw him so ill. Why, for two weeks he never spoke a cross word to me.

GETTING ON.

"Yes, she's studying to be a trained nurse."

"Prospects bright, eh?"

"Glorious! She's so well trained already that she has made two invalid sons of rich old men fall in love with her."

NOT THE SAME.

Bramble: Scribbler is a literary man, is he not?

Thorne: Nothing of the sort. He writes historical novels.

BEYOND HIM.

Financier: Are you sure that you are an expert accountant?

Applicant: Well, you can judge for yourself. It took me only ten days to unravel my wife's expense account.

THERE MUST BE A SEQUEL.

She: Is there a sequel to that novel?

He: There must be, if it ends in a wedding between affinities!



WHERE WAS THE WORM?

Short-sighted Piscator: Dear me, I wonder whatever is the matter with the fish to-day. Four hours and not a nibble.

NOT NOWADAYS.

"Woman's work," says the frivolous damsel, with a toss of her head, "is never done."

"True," concedes the other part of the sketch. "True, now that she is attempting to do man's work in so many lines."



A NEIGHBOURLY OPINION.

Mrs Naggs: Blow me, but if I'd an incandescent nose like yours, blow me if I wouldn't switch meself off!

THE REGULATION PROPOSAL.

Daughter: "No, mamma, Harold has not proposed yet—that is, not in so many words."

Mother: "Merely me, Jane! You must not wait for words! Proposals are mostly made up of sighs, gurgles, stammers, coughs, hems, haws, and looks, you know."

OLFACTORY EVIDENCE.

Mrs Jones: "Oliver Cromwell Jones, you have—"

Mr Jones: "My—dear—I—"

Mrs Jones: "Don't you dare deny it! You've been telling people what baby said again! I can smell it on your breath, even here!"

A QUERY.

Mrs Gadabout: "Oh, John, I'm so happy."

Mr Gadabout: "Is that so? Who's in trouble now?"

ON THE THAMES.

Mary (with letter): "She mentions Tom Sprague several times in this letter. Is there anything between them?"

Ethel: "There must be. I overheard her tell him he ought to shave every day."

COMPARISON.

"Remember," said the young man's father, "that when I was your age I earned my own living."

"Of course," was the depressing answer, "you did the best you could with your opportunities. But I'll venture to say you didn't get nearly as good a living as I get now without working."

TOO GREAT A STRAIN.

She: "Do you believe in long engagements?"

He: "No, I don't. I think no engagement should be prolonged more than six months."

She: "Oh, really! I believe in long engagements. What is your objection?"

He: "Well, I don't think it's fair on the man."

She (surprised): "Not fair?"

He: "No; the most passionate lover gets tired of living up to his fiancée's ideal for longer than that period."

ON THE STAGE.

Actor (in real life): "Say, Mary, I'm gone on you. Let's toddle off and get married. Is it a go?"

Actress: "Yes, Jake! Nothing shall separate us but bad debts or good engagements."

HIS OBEDIENCE.

Irate Mother (to naughty little son): "Freddie, you are a very naughty boy. How dare you tell your aunt she's stupid!"

Freddie: "Boo woo, so she is."

Irate Mother (smack, smack): "Don't you dare say that again! Go at once and tell her you are sorry."

Freddie (a few minutes later to Auntie): "Auntie (boo woo), I am so sorry you're stupid!"

MERELY INCIDENTAL.

Mrs Smith: And they've got the loveliest ping-pong room—

Mrs Brown: Do you mean to say they have a room for ping-pong only?

Mrs Smith: Oh, of course, they eat there occasionally.

A GOOD COOK.

"She seems like a real pleasant cook."

"She is. She always says good morning, even if she doesn't get down until noon."

A QUALIFIED PROPOSAL.

Arabella's eyes wandered wistfully along the shore to the rocky promontory where the great lighthouse stood.

"How beautiful it is!" she said to Jim Lackpenny, who sat beside her. "Do you know, Jim, before I die I believe I'd like to keep a lighthouse somewhere. It must be a weird, wild life."

"Arabella," he responded, "it is a weird, wild life, but if it had ever occurred to me that that sort of thing was at all in your line I should long ago have begged you to become my wife and go to light housekeeping with me."

Silence and the lap of the waves.



The Heiress: You seem to have no objection to him, papa, except that he has no money.

Papa: No; and I'll even admit that he's trying hard to get some.

WHAT A WIDOW IS.

"Can any little boy or girl tell me the meaning of the word widow?" asked the teacher. "Well, Willie!" to an urchin who waved his hand vigorously.

"A widow," said Willie breathlessly, "is a man's wife that's lost her husband."

INCONSISTENT.

He: You are a cruel, heartless creature!

She: How absurd! A moment ago you said I had stolen your heart, and now you say I haven't any.

NOT TO BE BLUFFED.

Gerald: An it is to be a secret engagement it would not be wise for me to give you a ring at present.

Geraldine: Oh, but I could wear it on the wrong hand.

RATHER NEAT.

Bess: Wasn't that awful about Stella?

Nell: I haven't heard anything.

Bess: You haven't! Why, she eloped with a prize fighter.

Nell: Poor girl! She certainly must have been hard hit.



AN IMPORTANT PARTICULAR.

Lady (engaging servant): Is there anything else you would like to ask me, Janet?

Jane: Yes'm. Is yer face really that colour, or does yer powder it, mum? And if yer does, where d'yer get it, 'cos I should like to have some!

A NARROW ESCAPE.

Stella: I came near missing a proposal last night.

Bella: You did?

Stella: Yes. He got down on his knees, and I thought he was merely looking for a ping-pong ball.

THE WRONG SHOT.

Prison Visitor: "Am I right in presuming that it was your passion for strong drink that brought you here?"

Prisoner: "I don't think you can know this place, gov'nor. It's the last place on earth I'd come to if I was lookin' for anything to drink."

AN ALTERNATIVE.

Stump Orator (discussing on the faults of wives): "Can you tell me anything that will drive a man more to drink than a lazy, slovenly woman?"

A Voice from the Gallery: "Did ye ever try a salt herring, sir?"

DAD KNEW A BIT.

Two young fellows were talking together the other day, and one of them said to the other, "Your dad takes a more liberal view of things than most fathers. He said that if you wanted to play at cards you could do so, but he liked you to play at home." "Liberal!" echoed the other, bitterly; "it's easy to see why. He gives me my allowance on the first of the month, and wins most of it back on the second!"

PART OF THE BLUFF.

"Why," she finally ventured to falter, "do you look so sad when we are sitting thus?"

"Because," he answered, gazing tenderly down into her troubled eyes, "a man always looks sad when he holds a lovely hand."

She was something reassured, although she did not altogether understand.

TRUE!

"Which do you think should be more highly esteemed, money or brains?"

"Brains," answered his friend. "But nowadays the only way a man can convince people that he has brains is to get money."

TU QUOQUE.

"Boy," said an ill-tempered old fellow to a noisy lad, "what are you hollerin' for when I am going by?" "Humph!" returned the boy, "what are you going by for when I am hollarin'?"



From a painting by Louis Street.

Mr. Leonard Marshall's b h CORONET, by Castor—Necklace, with his Trainer, J. B. Williamson, and Rider, J. Julian.

WINNING PERFORMANCES: At 2 yrs old, won the Auckland Racing Club's Welcoming Stakes of 150sovs, and Auckland Racing Club's Market Stakes of 150sovs. At 3 yrs, the Teitonga Cup Handicap of 250sovs. At 4 yrs, the Auckland B.C. Summer Cup of 250sovs, the Epsom Cup of 250sovs, and the Auckland B.C. Autumn Handicap of 250sovs. At 5 yrs, the Auckland Racing Club's Maiden and Handicap of 200sovs, the Auckland Cup of 250sovs, and the second Cup of 250sovs. At 6 yrs, the Auckland Racing Club's Handicap of 200sovs, and Teitonga Jockey Club's Handicap of 200sovs. Coronet finished his racing career by running fourth in the Auckland Cup this year.