

STRATFORD.

November 29.

Amateur Opera.

Excellent! was the opinion expressed on all sides by the big crowd which emerged from the Town Hall on Wednesday evening, after seeing "The Geisha" performed by the New Plymouth amateurs. The opera was beautifully staged and stage-managed. Among the performers who deserve highly favourable mention were Miss Buchanan, Miss Kathleen Bennett and Mr. McEwen. Among the audience were: Dr. and Mrs. Paget, Dr. and Mrs. Cameron, Mrs. Harrison (Eltham), Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Malone, Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Fookes, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fookes, Mr. and Mrs. Wake, Mr. and Mrs. Uniacke, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Penn, Mrs. Lampin, Mr. and Mrs. Stubbs, Mrs. Budge, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Peiritt, Mr. and Mrs. Crawshaw, Misses Butler, Misses Wake, Mrs. Glasgow, Mr. and Mrs. Reunell, Mr. and Mrs. James, Mr. and Mrs. Munro, Miss Munro, Miss Lucas (Nelson), Mr. Fussell, Mr. and Mrs. Young, Mr. and Mrs. Bull.

Croquet.

Mrs. Munro entertained a few friends at a "musical" on Friday evening.

Mrs. Paget has gone for a short holiday to Wellington.

Miss Trimble is the guest of Mrs. C. H. Penn.

Miss Lucas (Nelson) is visiting Mrs. Munro.

NELSON.

November 29.

Opening of the Nelson Institute.

The formal ceremony in connection with the opening of the Nelson Institute's fine new building was performed on November 27th by the Hon. F. H. D. Bell, Minister for Internal Affairs. The president of the Institute (Mr. F. C. Gibbs) presided, and the committee, with the Hon. F. H. D. Bell and Mr. Atmore, M.P., occupied the platform. Mr. Bell was presented with a gold key, as a souvenir of the occasion.

There was a large gathering at the Institute in the evening when a conversation was held. The seating accommodation in the concert hall was taxed to the utmost, and a very enjoyable programme was given. An excellent orchestra, conducted by Mr. W. T. Ward, played several selections. Songs were sung by Miss Reeves, Miss Canning, Messrs. T. Honker, and B. Bunny, and Mr. Tasker's quartet party also performed. Speeches were made by the Mayor, and the Hon. F. H. D. Bell. Refreshments were provided by the lady members of the Institute. Among others present were the Mayoress (Mrs. T. A. H. Field), Miss Reeves, Miss H. Reeves, Mrs. Mules, Mrs. Gilbert, Mrs. C. H. Goto, Miss Ledger, Mrs. H. Field, Misses Ward (2), Miss Gibbs, Mrs. King, Miss, and Miss Selanders, Mrs. Clark, Miss Clark, Miss Bunny, Miss Honker, Miss Maginnity, Mrs. R. Bell, Miss Sutherland Smith, Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Bett, Miss Judson, Misses Rowe, Miss Peirless, Mrs. F. Hamilton, Miss Baird, Miss E. Ledger.

A Dance.

A small impromptu dance was given at the Union Bank, by the Misses Booth, on Tuesday evening. Some of those present were:—Mr. and Mrs. Booth, Misses Booth (2), Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Mr. and Miss Leggett, the Misses Clark (3), Miss D. Webb, Miss E. Ledger, Miss Taylor, Messrs. O'Beirne, Lawrence, Dalziel, Eric Waters, Harroun, Daly, Rowley, Clark.

Croquet.

An enjoyable croquet party was given by Miss F. Richmond at "The Cliffs" during the week. Golf croquet was played by many of the guests, and the prize was won by Miss D. Booth. Mrs. Francis Richmond was wearing a handsome black silk gown; Miss F. Richmond, French grey crepe; Mrs. Ward (Wellington), grey taffetas, with black hat; Mrs. Sadlier, mauve coat and skirt, hat with black feathers; Miss Robinson (Melbourne), sage blue silk voile, blue hat with green cabochon; Mrs. P. Moore, amethyst cloth with lace vest, black hat; Miss Paisley, grey satin, black plumed hat; Miss Kathleen Selanders, tussore frock; Miss Ledger, amethyst coat and skirt, tussan hat with black; Others present were:—Miss Gibbs, Miss G. Adams, Miss Houliker, Miss G. Cook, Misses Clark (2), Miss E. Ledger, Misses Blackett, Misses Tomlinson, Miss F. Maginnity, and Miss Leggett.

Personal.

The Bishop of Nelson has returned from his visit to Canterbury.

Miss Robinson (Melbourne) is the guest of Mrs. Sadlier, at Bishopdale.

The Hon. F. H. D. Bell is the guest of Mr. Percy Adams, at "Melrose."

Mr. J. A. Cook is away in Wellington for a short visit.

Miss Selanders has returned from her visit to Greytown.

Lieutenant H. Burn has returned from Christchurch.

BLENHEIM.

November 30.

Races.

The Marlborough Racing Club was fortunate in having glorious weather for the spring meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. The attendance was exceptionally large, and the dresses were charming. Amongst those ladies on the lawn I noticed:—Mrs. Vavasour, black and white striped costume, black hat with purple and heliotrope iris; Mrs. Teshemaker-Shute, grey silk poplin costume, black and grey toque with plumes; Mrs. J. Teshemaker-Shute, champagne coloured embroidered gown veiled in chiffon of the same colour, black hat with cream plumes; Mrs. Menlove (Ngaionui), sage blue striped costume, burnt straw hat with lace and pink flowers; Mrs. Stevenson ("Upot") navy costume, black hat with wings; Mrs. Ritson Thomas (Tirolanga), navy striped silk gown, burnt straw hat with blue or brown chrysanthemums; Mrs. H. McCallum, tussore silk dress, embezzled trimmings, black hat with pink roses; Mrs. Adams, tussore silk costume, brown hat with flowers; Mrs. Burden, vieux rose silk poplin gown, handsome gold and pink trimmings; Mrs. Bennett, flame-coloured silk crepon, black hat with black and flame-coloured feathers; Mrs. Riddell (Picton) cream costume, black hat with black feathers; Mrs.

Meade, tussore silk costume, white lace collar, black hat with rose-coloured roses and coloured ribbon; Mrs. G. Seymour, black and white striped tussore costume, pale blue revers and cuffs, black silk toque with osprey; Mrs. Dymock (Wellington), grey charmusee dress, black hat with grey feathers; Mrs. Howard, gray charmusee skirt with black taffeta coat, small white hat with white ostrich feathers; Mrs. Coleman, navy spotted silk gown, black hat with black feathers; Mrs. Corry, grey and pink shot taffeta ermine silk, straw hat with pink and blue flowers; Mrs. Seator, rose-coloured costume, black hat with feathers; Mrs. H. Munro, grey tailor-made, white feather box, white hat with white ostrich feathers and ermine roses; Mrs. Wilkins (Christchurch), purple and white flowered muslin, white hat with purple flowers and floral ribbon; Mrs. Weld, floral grey muslin, tussan straw hat with ermine and black ribbon; Mrs. L. Griffiths, white linen costume, black hat, white roses; Mrs. Browne, black and grey striped taffeta, with lace overdress, black toque with feathers; Mrs. Purser (Wanganui), tussore silk costume, ermine toque; Mrs. Moore (Nelson), cornflower-blue costume, white hat with white ribbon trimmings; Mrs. Richardson, grey charmusee, grey floral scarf, grey hat with pink and grey plumes; Mrs. Hulme, navy costume, black hat with roses; Mrs. Hylton, coronation blue silk poplin, hat to match; Mrs. K. Monat, black silk nixon, black hat with rose-coloured roses; Mrs. McRae, navy costume, black hat with red silk roses; Mrs. Thompson, ermine voile frock, grey hat with pink and blue flowers; Miss Vavasour, ermine cloth costume, embroidered in gold, large ermine hat with pink flowers, and blue ribbon;

Miss Strafford (Wellington) mauve blue costume, burnt straw hat with flowers; Miss Meville, grey silk, ermine lace yoke, black hat with sweet peas; Miss Clouston, brown tweed costume, leghorn hat with wreath of tiny flowers and lace; Miss Murray (Christchurch), grey cloth gown, black hat with feathers, black satin coat; Miss E. Goulter, white muslin dress, sage blue hat; Miss Mouat, navy costume, sage blue hat with cornflowers; Miss Wolferstan, white embroidered dress, ermine hat with pink flowers and black velvet; Miss A. Nimble, navy tailor-made, white hat with heliotrope and purple flowers; Miss Greenfield (Wellington), spotted silk gown, navy straw hat with gold trimmings; Miss C. Chaytor, wine-coloured velvet gown, black hat with feathers; Miss Skinner, tussore silk frock, hat with purple pansies; Miss Matthews (New Plymouth), blue silk dress, black hat; Miss Philpotts, white lace gown, black and white hat; Miss Murphy, grey striped costume, black hat with ostrich feathers; Miss Horton, black and white striped costume, black hat with feathers; Miss Seymour (Picton), white linen costume, white hat with emerald green; Miss Nevin, pale blue nixon over floral foundation, black hat with feathers; Miss Chapman, blue cloth frock, black hat; Miss Griffiths, grey striped costume, white bonnet, white hat with white ribbon and wheat.

At Home.

The president and members of the Blenheim Club entertained a number of ladies at a most enjoyable "At Home" on Friday afternoon. Mr. Redwood Goulter (president), and Mr. W. Pollard (vice-president) received the guests on their arrival. A delicious afternoon tea was arranged in the card room, the

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