

Lawyers of Dickensland.

Admirers of Dickens will read with pleasurable interest a clever and scholarly article on "The Lawyers of Dickensland" in the "Green Bag," a lawyers' monthly magazine published in New York.

"Dickens' amazing versatility in creating types of character, in becoming a part of them and in making them think and talk and act so realistically, is nowhere more in evidence than in his characterisations of types of men of law," he says at the outset. "When we consider his short clerkship in an attorney's office, and his limited experience as a law reporter, it is astonishing with what familiarity he makes use of the technique of legal forms and phraseology, and describes legal manners and customs. Satire and caricature require an intimate knowledge of the subject, yet to lawyers themselves there are no more delicious bits of this phase of Dickens' humour than those contained in his pictures of courts and lawyers and his account of legal trials. His description of the Chancery Court in 'Bleak House,' of Doctors Commons in 'David Copperfield,' and of the Old Bailey in 'Great Expectations'; his report of the famous cases of 'Bardell v. Pickwick,' in 'Pickwick Papers,' of 'Rex v. Darnley,' in 'The Tale of Two Cities,' and of 'Jarndyce v. Jarndyce,' in 'Bleak House'—and his delineations of all his lawyer-characters, though reflecting the ludicrous spirit of the satirist, have the technical touch of the master. And such is the power of the artist, that the lawyer who loves his Dickens, while reading of these court scenes and legal lights, will suppress the wince that follows the treading on his professional toes, to join in the universal chuckle over the follies of humanity and the unmasked pretensions of the sciolist and the hypocrite."

Favourite Themes.

A man who had nothing else to do has taken unto himself the task of gathering from the comic papers of six nations the leading topics which appear to be the favourite themes of humour in each country. Here is a brief summary of the result:—The Germans' pet ticklers are: A professor who forgets his umbrella; a college student who drinks beer and "touches" friends for a loan; the misses who worship army officers; a husband without the front-door key; the cook's lover, usually a soldier hidden in the kitchen; mother-in-law. Englishmen prefer: Kisses (in all descriptions); boys who are afraid of getting mixed up with a miss and be sued for breach of promise; an unlucky better; an unskilled golf player; ditto, football; ditto, cricket; ditto, Rugby; Americans who talk through the nose; mother-in-law. French people giggle at jokes on soldiers and nurses; wives who—; husbands who—; boys who—; girls who—; the German tourist in Paris; Government-made matches; the mole before the last; the last mole; the latest mode; the very latest mode; Sarah Bernhardt's age; mother-in-law. Americans laugh at almost anything, but their favourite topics are: The common people squashed by a trust; a stolid Englishman; an Italian who eats spaghetti; a silk hat (occasionally a nose) smashed in a fistuiff; a bottle of whisky labelled "lemonade"; an Italian hurdy-gurdy; mother-in-law. The Italians' favourites are: A glutton country priest; Roman urchins; a Neapolitan cobby; a tailor's bill; a cigar that does not draw; the colonel's orderly; ladies' hats; mother-in-law. Finally, the Spaniards' preferred jokes are always on corridas, toros y espadas; when they change they are on toros, corridas y espadas, or corridas, corridas y toros. Once in a while mothers-in-law get a shot, too.

To every man upon this earth
Death cometh soon or late,
And every fool will say of us,
"Ever know our fate."
But this we know, of us we're sure,
No matter what we may endure,
What we can soon get well and strong
By taking Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.

New Zealand Association.

SUCCESSFUL WHIST DRIVE IN LONDON.

(From Our Lady Correspondent.)

LONDON, February 28.

Spacious as is the reception room set apart for the entertainments given by the New Zealand Association in London through the winter months it will soon be found necessary, if these increase in popularity at the rate they have been doing, to take in other rooms for nearly a hundred and twenty guests sat down at the whist drive held on Wednesday of this week at the Westminster Palace Hotel.

As a result of the evening's play Mrs. Obert, with a score of 296, was declared the winner of the first prize for ladies, a silver scent bottle. Miss Ada Hill, with 201, the winner of the second, a large silver and enamel hatpin stand and hatpins, while Mr. Bull, with 205, carried off the first prize for men, a morocco pocket book, and Miss Paton the consolation prize for a lady playing as a gentleman—a case of blouse buttons and studs.

Mrs. A. M. Marks presented the prizes, and amongst those present were Miss Peake, in shell-pink satin and charmeuse with a V-shaped corsage of cream lace; Mrs. Obert, in dull green with a handsome stonacher of black and gold; Miss Wright, black satin and sequins; Mrs. Marks, black silk, the bodice trimmed with braces of autumn tinted lace; Miss Aileen Marks, deep apricot nixon and dark fur; Mrs. Hammond, pale champagne colour and guipure lace; Miss Gladys Cook, pale grey nixon; Miss Mina Caldwell, very pale pink charmeuse, the bodice vandyked on to a cream corsage; Mrs. Joseph Michael, black silk lace with a beautiful berthe of cream Spanish lace; Mrs. Percy Cox, black chiffon with touches of white; Miss Ely, cream spotted net and a shoulder scarf trimmed with bands of marabout; Miss Norton, black nixon over white with touches of blue; Miss M. Norton, black nixon over white and a black and emerald hair ornament; Mrs. Mason, crimson velvet slashed with iridescent sequined net; Mrs. Wilkie Jones, black chiffon trimmed with insertion set with coloured stones; Mrs. Clayton, pale blue chiffon over blue charmeuse and a black Spanish lace scarf; Mrs. Boys, very pale eau de nil nixon over butterfly charmeuse; Mrs. Warburton, deep cream satin under black and gold; Miss West, black silk; Miss Flere, ivory crepe de chine; Miss — Flere, red and white; Miss Kennaway, mauve nixon over pink trimmed with silver; Mrs. Alington, black nixon with handsome motifs; Miss Hart, dull black silk with a cream lace berthe; Mrs. Moffatt, black silk the bodice being trimmed with beads; Mrs. Snow, white silk and lace; Mrs. H. Grey, black and white lace over white; Captain Moffatt, Mr. Wilfrid Findlay, Mr. Snow, Mrs. Chadwick, in pale blue; Mrs. Cowell, Mr. Boys, Captain Warburton, Mr. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Paine, Colonel Robin, C.B., Mr. Carruthers, Mr. and Mrs. Turpin, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves, Mr. Charlton, Mr. Arthur Hart, Mr. H. Alington, Miss Katherine Wilkie Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Thirkettle, Mr. Wix, Mr. R. B. Brett, Mr. E. C. Moffatt, Mr. A. Kishlingbury, Messrs. Marks (2), Mr. Mason, Mr. Paul Chamberlin, Messrs. Kennaway (2), Mrs. Kennaway, Mr. H. Turfill, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Dowsett, Mr. J. A. Burt, Mr. Fowler, Captain and Mrs. Clifford, Mr. W. G. Johns, Miss Young, Mr. Joseph Michael, Mr. Throp, Mr. K. Maurice, Messrs. Boak (2), etc.

Behind the Fan.

A rich woman is the noblest work of God.

Of two men, the weaker will get all the love. And he needs it.

A blushing man is usually a glutton for compliment.

Eye bit into the apple. Adam finished it.

A faint heart amuses a fair lady. Give me a garden. The rest of the world can be yours.

"Each man kills the thing he loves"—if it will let him.

Nothing frightens a man so much as a woman who won't cry.

Some people can never believe that a dimpled hand has a thump in it.

—Irene Osgood in "The Antidote."

Orange Blossoms.

NOTICE TO OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENTS.

All copy intended for publication, in these columns must reach the office, not later than Saturday morning, in order to ensure insertion in the current issue.

BROWN—BACON.

8 T. MARY'S Cathedral, Parnell, Auckland, was the scene of a very pretty wedding last week, when Miss Daisy Bacon, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Edward and Mrs. Florence Bacon, was married to Mr. Charles Sydney Brown, youngest son of Mr. T. A. Brown, of Otahuhu. The church was artistically decorated with flowers by the girl friends of the bride, a special feature being a floral bell, under which the bridal couple stood during the ceremony. Canon MacMurray was the officiating clergyman, and Dr. Thomas presided at the organ. The bride, who was given away by Canon Gould, looked very winsome in an ivory satin charmeuse, overdress of crepe de chine, trimmed with duchesse lace and pearl trimmings, caught at sides with horsehoes of orange blossoms, long square train draped with duchesse lace. She wore a tulle veil over a wreath of orange blossoms, and carried a beautiful bouquet. The bridesmaids were the Misses Violet and Mabel Bacon (sisters of bride), and little Mollie Hay, daughter of Captain Bruce Hay. The two former were trimmed dresses of saxe blue charmeuse satin with overdresses of grey and silver embroidered net; large grey satin hats, trimmed with blue and grey satin roses, lined with cream satin, and folded tulle, and finished with pretty pink roses. They wore gold bangles, the gift of the bridegroom. Miss Mollie Hay wore a dainty white embroidered muslin frock, wreath of pink roses on hair, and her souvenir of the occasion was a wristlet watch. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a lovely set of furs, and the bride's present to the bridegroom was a travelling case. Dr. C. Long acted as best man, and Mr. H. Abbot as groomsmen.

After the ceremony the guests were entertained at afternoon tea at "Oakdene," Stephen's Avenue, Parnell. Musical selections were played during the afternoon by Meredith's orchestra. The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of beautiful presents, including handsome cheques. Mrs. T. A. Crawford (Gisborne) acted as hostess. She wore pretty black and white toilet, pretty violet toque. Mrs. Brown, mother of the bridegroom, wore black silk with cream lace, smart bonnet. Miss Brown, cream voile, black hat; Mrs. J. Fisher, cream serge costume, large black and white hat; Mrs. Ford, smart grey costume, hat to match; Miss Gould, tailor-made coat and skirt, pretty hat; Miss Cooper, black and white silk dress, black and white hat; Mrs. Abbot, vieux rose satin charmeuse, black satin hat, trimmed with tulle; Mrs. Raiting, black silk dress with touches of violet, bonnet to match; Miss Wilson, grey charmeuse, grey nixon overdress, pretty black and white hat; Miss Essie Wilson, emerald green, veiled with mole coloured nixon, cavalier hat; Mrs. Tolland, heliotrope silk, smart black toque; Miss Tolland, blue voile, black hat trimmed with roses; Mrs. Littleproud, champagne coloured dress, brown hat trimmed with flowers; Mrs. Baragwanath, saxe blue costume, Oriental trimming, flower-wreathed hat; Mrs. Mann, black silk, relieved with lace, and black bonnet; Mrs. J. Browning, tussore coat and skirt, brown hat; Miss Rosa Taylor, pretty blue dress, biscuit-coloured hat; Miss Rose Forgie, smart navy coat and skirt, stylish hat, pink satin bow; Mrs. Sumner, smart blue dress, Oriental trimming, black picture hat; Miss Walker, white dress, panama hat; Mrs. F. Woodward, smart coat and skirt, brown hat; Miss Florence Hare, navy costume, hat to match; Mrs. W. Dick, lovely pink nixon dress, pretty flowered wreathed hat; Mrs. Harry Foster, smart tailor-made costume, mole-coloured hat, with vieux rose plume; Mrs. Bernard Mitchell, navy costume, felt hat; and many others.

TOSSWILL—MEARES.

Miss Daisy Meares, daughter of Mr. Devenish Meares, of Christchurch, was married last month at St. James', Piccadilly, to Mr. M. Tosswill, of Torquay, a member of the well-known firm of solicitors, Dymond, Finneisen and Tosswill. The Bishop of London officiated. Only relations and a few friends were present, and after the ceremony, which took place at 10 a.m., the bride and bridegroom left for Church Streeton, in Shropshire, for their honeymoon. On their return they will reside in Torquay.—(Our London Correspondent.)

FINCH—MCKELLAR.

A fashionable and very pretty wedding was solemnised in All Saints' Church, Dunedin, on Monday, March 31st, when Miss Kate Finch, second daughter of Mr. A. A. Finch, was married to Mr. W. O. McKellar, Moeraki Station, Hampden. His Lordship the Primate, assisted by the Rev. Dean Fitchett, officiated. The bride entered the church on her father's arm, followed by three bridesmaids, Miss Dorothy Finch, Miss Lilias Haggitt, and Miss Watson (Wellington), and two small trainbearers, Miss Greta Finch and Miss Jane Batchelor. Mr. Hugh McKellar was best man, and the Messrs Pitman and Ellis the groomsmen. The bride looked charming, wearing a gown of lovely white satin, prettily trimmed with nixon; a long court train hung from the shoulders. Her veil was worn right off the face, and was caught with a wreath of orange blossom. She carried a lovely bouquet of white flowers. The bridesmaids and trainbearers' dresses were all the same and most uncommon, white embroidered muslin dresses with Irish crochet lace and insertion, short coats of the palest blue satin, quaint small net caps trimmed with pink roses and forget-me-nots. They carried lovely shower bouquets of pink carnations.

After the ceremony the guests assembled at Mr and Mrs Finch's house in Royal Terrace, where a reception was held. Mrs. Finch wore a becoming gown of blue charmeuse covered in nixon the same shade, large blue hat trimmed with brown chrysanthemums, bouquet of brown chrysanthemums, and maiden hair fern; Mrs. McKellar (Damaru), amethyst poplin trimmed with deeper shades of velvet, lovely ostrich feather boa, black hat with wings; Mrs. Butterworth, cream net, lace dress, worn with it was a blue satin coat, smart blue panne hat with shaded blue and gold feather; Mrs. Stock, black coat and skirt, black hat with feathers; Mrs. Oldham, mole cloth coat and skirt with touches of orange on coat and hat; Mrs. Acton-Adams, very

YOUNG MEN AND MAIDENS!!

YOU ARE SEEKING A HAPPY FUTURE
MY ENGAGEMENT RINGS SPELL

HAPPINESS.

I have the Largest Selection and Latest Designs, and

VALUES THAT CANNOT BE BEATEN.
My Wedding Rings bring Good Fortune immediately they are obtained.

Half-dozen Handsome Teaspoons GIVEN ABSOLUTELY FREE with every 18-ct. Wedding Ring. An Immense Stock of Rings always on hand in various widths, weights and sizes. (Size cards free on application.)
MY WEDDING RINGS NEVER APPEAR IN THE DIVORCE COURTS.



As Illustrated, in Diamonds, from £4 15/.



As Illustrated, from £2 1/.

DON'T BE MISTAKEN.

My Shop is the OLD ESTABLISHED BUSINESS, with the five large windows.

ALF. M. SKEATES

VICTORIA ARCADE,

Queen Street.

P.S.—A private room available for Engagement and Wedding Ring Customers.