

being that the latter town has more representatives of the police force.

**ELLERSLIE II. v. TERRACE.**—One of the most interesting matches amongst third juniors was played last Saturday, between the above clubs. The Terrace had up to Saturday only suffered one defeat, whilst Ellerslie II. were even more fortunate, having won every match. Early in the first spell Charley Walker secured a try, which Shepherd converted; and in the second Richworth and Walker again scored for Ellerslie. Bob Wilson, the captain of the Terrace, played a fine game, and scored the only try for his side, but had the misfortune to get laid out about ten minutes before time. Freeman and another member of the team also showed up prominently. Ellerslie II. have now a clear lead for the medals.

## MUSIC, DRAMA, ETC.

*Spectatum admissi risum teneatis amici?*

It is always pleasant to welcome old friends. Mr. Hugo and Miss Priscilla Verne open a minstrel and variety entertainment at the Opera House on Saturday next. I hear that they are strongly supported, and a successful season is assured, as their entertainment will be a pleasant change from the more serious musical *ménus* we have recently been devouring—almost to a surfeit.

ON Monday next at the City Hall Madame Cora opens a short season of six nights. This lady, some may remember, visited Auckland about 15 years ago, and astonished and delighted large and enthusiastic audiences by her marvellous illusions and feats of prestidigitation. Since that time Madame Cora has discovered and developed rare mesmeric powers, in addition to which she has deeply studied the modern developments of hypnotism and electro-biology. She spent some five years in oriental countries, which have been the nursery of the occult sciences. It will be remembered that the principle of sleep by *suggestion* was first taught in France in 1814 by the Abbé Faria on his return from India. Dr. Brand of Manchester in 1841 reduced the phenomena to a practical method, which he called hypnotism. Madame Cora has travelled over all quarters of the globe, astounding in every place large throngs with the extraordinary feats she achieves in her own special line. She above all other mesmerists is genuine, and succeeds in asserting her influence over a very large percentage of the subjects who submit themselves to the test. So large indeed is the percentage that suspicion of collusion must at once be dismissed. The notices of Madame Cora's performances in the Press are highly flattering, and I feel sure that the daily increasing interest in psychical science will ensure her large audiences and fair play. Mr. Arthur Fawcett—Madame Cora's representative, who has accompanied her in her Asiatic tours—assures me that much food for reflection will be afforded by the approaching entertainments.

I ATTENDED the revival of "Little Monte Christo" at the Opera House on Monday night. I can conscientiously award high praise to all concerned in this very creditable local production. Misses Vaughan, Travers, Winard, and Thornton among the ladies, and Messrs. Tom Mackanini, C. White and Max Rinkle among the gentlemen, are extremely clever and amusing. The piece is capitally mounted and some of the local hits are telling and mirth-provoking.

M. LEON DRIVER.

SOLO PIANIST AND COMPOSER.

THIS *virtuoso* gives a recital and concert in the City Hall on Friday next, 12th June. He will be assisted by Mrs. Kilgour, Miss Rimmer, Mr. T. Jackson, Mr. S. Jackson, etc., etc. M. Léon inaugurates at Auckland the recital and concert tour which he is about to make through New Zealand. I have heard him play on several occasions, and unhesitatingly pronounce him to be far and away the greatest genius on his especial instrument that Auckland has heard—at any rate since Henri Kerten visited our shores. As M. Léon gives but one per-

formance here I strongly advise everyone to go and hear him. His *specialité* is in work of the fantasia order, which he renders with a fire, dash, power, accuracy, and facility of execution truly astounding. But he is equally good in the chaste and classical school. His favourite composers are Liszt and Chopin. Of the former composer he plays no less than 20 pieces, including his transcriptions of operatic melodies, the 6 Paganini-Liszt studies, and his rhapsodies. His *repertoire* consists of 53 pieces, including in addition to Liszt, selections from Chopin, Thalberg, and Beethoven, which he performs wholly from memory—a most remarkable feat. He performs the Abbé Liszt's great solo "Il Travatore." This piece is seldom attempted by solo performers, as it is a most exhausting composition, and requires an artist of phenomenal powers to play it. It abounds in fearful technical difficulties, and none but an artiste of exceptional ability would attempt to perform it. Melbourne *Life* in speaking of his performance of this solo says: "It was in Liszt's grand fantasia on 'Il Travatore' that his great success was achieved. The manner in which the most intricate and rapid variations were played, especially with the left hand, and the clear and *legato* manner in which he overcame the greatest technical difficulties, embracing chords, intervals, and octave passages, while at the same time the melody was distinctly and clearly brought out, proved beyond doubt that Leon Driver is a thorough artiste, and that for brilliancy of execution and delicacy of touch he stands far ahead of any performer who has appeared in these colonies. His *tours de force* are marvellous, his execution phenomenal, and he elicits a fine, clear, and resonant tone from the piano, yet he plays with great fire and vigour. We shall be pleased to hear him again in Liszt's solos."

The Auckland Amateur Opera Company are still busy rehearsing "Princess Ida." A provisional cast has been sketched out, but the soprano has not so far been chosen. The piece is a strong and popular one, and will doubtless draw large audiences when put on the stage and performed in the excellent style we are accustomed to expect from the club.

ORPHEUS.

## SCULLING MATCH.

### OTAGO CHAMPIONSHIP.

The boatrace for £50 a-side, and the championship of Otago took place between B. Davis of Dunedin, and R. A. Palamountain, of Port Chalmers, last Monday at 11 o'clock; course, three miles. Both men were in good condition weighing 154lbs and 159lbs respectively; but the Port man seemed a little on the fine side. Mr. E. J. Allen was starter, and Captain Stevens judge; while Mr. A. Hunter was to have been time keeper, but in his excitement forgot his duties so that no official time was taken. Skitch beat Scott for choice of places, and selected the shore side for his man. The water was like a sheet of glass, and all other conditions were favourable. The betting was even money. At the sound of the pistol both men struck the water simultaneously, Davis rowing 37 to the minute and his opponent 33. Davis immediately assumed a lead of about half a length, and maintained this for the first two miles, except when Palamountain momentarily spurted and got about on terms with him. Thus far Davis was rowing 35 and Palamountain 31 to the minute. At the first red beacon Davis forged ahead about a length, rowing steadily about 32, while Palamountain was visibly tiring, but kept going to the finish, when the judge's verdict was a length and a half. Both men were loudly cheered when they ranged their boats along side each other and shook hands, when Palamountain admitted that the better man won. Davis' colours were white with a blue star, and Palamountain's red white, and blue; there respective flags being mounted at the winning post. Every credit is due to Skitch for the very splendid condition in which he brought his man to the post, and though the course was a long one, and the day very warm, Davis pulled up quite fresh, and says he could have come away and won at any point in the race.—*Public Opinion.*

## JACKSON AND CORBETT FOR £1000 ASIDE.

WE take the following condensed report from the Melbourne *Sportsman*.

The boxing match between Peter Jackson and J. J. Corbett, for £1000 aside, took place at the Olympic Hall, on May 21st. Jackson, who weighed 14st, was the favourite, his opponent being a few pounds lighter.

Corbett looked fit and well, but Jackson appeared as people thought carrying too much flesh, but he said he was fit and well. Jackson was the first to get to work with his left, Corbett, however, stopped him cleverly. For the first half dozen rounds there was some quick clever boxing, but no damage was done.

Jackson scored some good hits, but Corbett crossed him heavily once or twice.

Just before the 20th round Corbett stopped a left lead, then sent in a stinging right-hander, which brought Jackson down. There was a scene of excitement among the great crowd when Jackson staggered to his feet. The betting, which had been in favour of Jackson, moved round to Corbett's side.

At the call of time Jackson was loudly cheered for the game way in which he came up, though evidently distressed. He sparred for wind for a little while, then made a rush at Corbett. The latter tried to back away, but as he did so the Australian smashed him right and left on the back of the head, nearly sending him on the floor.

The pace at which they had been going told on both men, and by the time the thirteenth round was reached it was a case of bellows-to-mend. Jackson's face showed signs of where Corbett had reached him, but beyond that he exhibited no injury. Some surprise was evinced at neither men showing serious marks, as both had got home often.

Corbett's backers, who had a considerable sum of money on their man, grew excited as Corbett went in to force the fighting, aiming particularly for Jackson's body; but he was driven back by a straight left. Then Jackson took a decided lead, forcing Corbett all over the ring.

From the 30th to the 40th round little was done, though every now and then Jackson got in some fine work. Corbett, who was in the best condition, obeying the instructions of his second, had evidently settled down to a long fight.

After the fortieth round there were repeated calls to the referee to make the men fight, as all the men did was to feint and come away. Not one blow was struck for six rounds. At the sixtieth round it was seen that both men were done. They kept their arms going in a listless weary fashion, not even being strong enough to take advantage of a chance blow. Finally, the spectators grew so clamorous for a stoppage that the referee separated the men, and declared a draw.

The contest has proved what has been asserted over and over again, and now admitted by Jackson's friends, that he is not a knocker out. In Corbett he had a man that boxed in exactly his own style. At long range sparring it would take a good man to beat Jackson, but when he meets an opponent who crowds on the top of him, and who will never leave him, he is at a serious disadvantage.

Two printer's errors occurred in our issue of last week. The first was in the account of the Derby of 1852, when it was stated "Mr. Merry gave 6,500 guineas for Willie Noble," instead of *Hobbie Noble*; also in "Old Turfite's" anticipations of the A.R.C. Winter Meeting. In the Welter Race Jim was placed first instead of Lonely, the former never having been entered for the race.

The following appears in the *Sporting Standard*:—"Messrs. King, Walker and Co. certainly deserve the good wishes of our Victorian footballers. Besides giving the individual members of the Melbourne premiership team gold lockets, they have donated an elegant tea and coffee service to be struggled for by the teams at Bendigo." This is a branch of the well-known firm in Auckland, which is presided over by our genial friend Mr. Walker. They are agents for Robertson's celebrated whiskey, well known throughout the colonies. Their four-star is not to be despised on a cold night. We are glad to find that the Melbourne branch has been a success.