

is, of course, the life and soul of the piece. Besides wearing some exquisite dresses, she sings, dances, and acts throughout with true burlesque spirit, verve, and gaiety. Miss Annie Wyniard, as Raker, looks simply magnificent in her splendid crimson dress. She acts, dances and sings with great dash and vigour. Harry Cowan makes a great hit with Doggrass, his get up being indescribably ludicrous, and his comicalities of speech, gesture, song and dance, never fail to excite inextinguishable laughter. How can he pull such faces? Miss May Travers makes an ideal Susan, and looks very sweet in the various changes of costume she adopts; her singing, too, is a tower of strength—always in tune and ever sympathetic. Miss Cissie Earle, as Dolly Mayflower, looks and acts her minor part very successfully. Dame Hatley, the widow, is simply immense, both in get up and grotesque fun. Max Rinkle shows great ability in his impersonation, and his dancing is super-excellent. Mr. Travers Vale's Captain Crosstree is quite a feature. He is always good in burlesque, and enumerates his lines with telling effect and emphasis, a point by the way which some of the performers should pay more attention to. I noticed a tendency to speak much too fast occasionally. Miss Daisy Thornton makes a comical Lord High Admiral, and her black, yellow and red subordinates, Misses Hamlyn and Addie Parvin, and Mr. Fredericks, played up to her very well indeed. Miss Annie Vaughan, as an Irish postman, reveals an excellent brogue, and adds not a little to the fun. Two little performers—the Midshipmite (May Moggridge) and the Marine (Master Bertie) make a good deal of their small parts. The former sang Adams' "Midshipmite" with wonderful correctness and expression, and the latter showed real farcial talent in some clever low comedy business. The harlequinade, under the able direction of Max Rinkle, is quite refreshing. To see the old poker, sausage, cat-pie business once more recalls the palmy days of old Drury Lane and Covent Garden. Max is really an accomplished clown, and knows how to make things hum. Fred Enden is a capital Pantaloon, and Harry Cowan came out in a new rôle as Harlequin, proving his wonderful versatility once more. The untiring Amy looked seraphic, and danced gracefully as Columbine, and her sister Daisy made a fairy-like pale pink Harlequina. Altogether "Black-eyed Susan," with its pantomimic third act, must be pronounced a success. Miss Vaughan was quite overwhelmed with floral tributes in various shapes and original devices. She returned thanks in a graceful and happily-worded little speech. Mr. Neville Thornton's scenery, especially the fine representation of the steamer Amazon, evoked repeated rounds of applause. I cordially wish the Amazons good luck, and a not too long absence from Auckland.

On Tuesday evening, at the Choral Hall, the Society gave their annual performance of the "Messiah," but I cannot notice it this week.

I MUST now take this opportunity to wish all readers a "Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year." Especially may the New Year be a bright, pleasant, and profitable one from the musical and dramatic points of view.

ORPHEUS.

OUR WANGANUI LETTER.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. W. Wilson's mare Eclat, by Natator—Fame, has dropped a colt foal to Armament, and visits him again.

Mr. Sam Powell has sold the bay gelding The Banker, by Somnus, to Mr. Grant, of Wairarapa, the price being £50.

Stranger, by St. Clair—Kaikatea, has gone in to W. H. George's stable, who has also in hand Mirabelle and She. Stranger was, until recently, under the charge of H. Pell.

It is rumoured that Mr. F. Hill's horses will be taken to Australia shortly. Whether all of them will go I do not know, but I believe Prestige and Cheque will be included in the team. Cheque will most likely be nominated for the Newmarket Handicap.

The Wanganui Jockey Club have received good entries for their Autumn Meeting, the total number being 180, made up as follows:—Wanganui Cup 40, Flying Handicap 26, Earle

Stakes 23, Wanganui Stakes 38, Nursery Handicap 15, and Autumn Handicap 38. Amongst them are such well-known performers as Dudu (winner of the Wanganui Cup three times), Reculsee, Rosefeldt, Fraternité, British Lion, etc. With such a class of horses it only remains with the Club's handicapper, Mr. J. O. Evitt, to make the meeting a most successful one. In the Cup race Mr. Gollan is represented by Captain Webb and Pearl Powder, Mr. Hunter by Whisper and Cynisca, Mr. Stead by Lebel and Palliser, Mr. Ormond by Thame and Queen of Hearts, Captain Russell by Krina, Katinka, and Huerfana, Mr. Douglas by Kapua and Rosefeldt, and Mr. Donnelly by Kotuku and Hakimana, the rest of the field being made up by single nominations. Wanganui is represented by La Petite Fille and She. None of Mr. Paul's horses have been nominated for any race at the meeting, and I am informed that Mr. Paul says he will not race another horse on the Wanganui course. The reason why I believe, is that some time ago B. Coyle sued Mr. Paul for £3 for looking after the race-horse Boulanger, which case Mr. Paul gained, and he retaliated by bringing Mr. Coyle before the stewards of the W.J.C. for trying to obtain money when it was not due to him; but after hearing the evidence, the stewards threw the thing out, hence Mr. Paul not nominating at the W.J.C. Meeting, but I suppose the Club will not feel the loss of Mr. Paul's nominations.

The Manawatu Racing Club have not received very good acceptances for their meeting on the 26th inst., but what are left in are pretty well of the same class, so therefore, some good racing should be the order of the day. The Hurdles should be won by Doncastor, with Rere second, and Empire third. The Trial Handicap has nine acceptors, Weka, 8st 12lb, being top weight, and as she has proved herself a speedy mare she should take a lot of beating. Torpedo, 6lbs less, I think, will be held safe by her. Recluse is, to my mind, the pick of the lot, and as I hear that he is somewhere near his old form, I shall expect him to secure an easy victory. The best of the others I take to be Rufus and She. To select the placed horses I shall place them—Recluse, 1; Weka, 2; She, 3. For the Boxing Day Handicap ten have accepted, Retina, 8st 9lb, heading the list, but I have no particular fancy for her. Recluse, 8st 8lb, should have a show, but his running in the Flying will give a clue to his pretensions. Pyramus, 7st 13lb, if as well as he was at Fielding, will take a lot of beating. Torpedo, 7st 12lb, showed good form at the May Meeting of the W.J.C., that I certainly reckon he has a show. Weka, 7st 8lb, I fancy, will find the distance too far. Ros, 7st 7lb, is a good horse, and will beat more than beat him, and he should have a good outside chance. Paradox, 6st 13lb, is the only one of the others I fancy has a chance, so to vote for the winner I shall go for Pyramus, 1; Torpedo, 2; Ros, 3. The Park Stakes should be won by Recluse, 1; Torpedo, 2; Fortune, 3. The Tradesman's should go to Ros, 1; Weka, 2; Pyramus, 3.

TARANAKI SPORTING NOTES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW PLYMOUTH, Dec. 15.

SPORTING matters in this district have assumed a fairly brisk aspect on account of the hack trysts that will come off during the holidays. On Saturday (Boxing Day) the Manaia people will hold their meeting, and judging by the number of horses engaged, there should be a good day's sport for the people "on the plains."

The following acceptances have been received for the Taranaki J.C. Meeting, to be held on December 28:—Hurdles, 1½ miles—Atlantic 9st 10lb, Recruit 9st 7lb, Wizard 9st. Spring Handicap, 1½ miles—Tattler 8st 8lb, Flukem 7st 12lb, Ionic 7st 10lb, The Orphan 7st 10lb, Maroro 7st 6lb, Shela 6st 10lb, Volley 6st 7lb, and Rainbow 6st 7lb. Flying Handicap, 6 furlongs—Tattler 8st 11lb, Flukem 8st 2lb, Shela 6st 12lb, Volley 6st 10lb, Cigarette 6st 7lb, Thunderbolt 6st 7lb. Maiden Plate, 1 mile (nominations)—Atlantic, Maroro, Katiri, Silverlock, Hypatia, Bradshaw.

For the Hurdles I tip Recruit; Spring, Tattler or Flukem; Flying, Flukem; Maiden, Maroro; First Pony, Poppy or Coronet.

W. F. Stohr has purchased the trotter Charlie for £40, and is now training the chest-

nut gelding for the Auckland Trotting Club's big money, in which he has 15sec. The horse will go North next week. The pony Lady Onslow will also be taken North next week to fulfil her engagements at the same meeting. I notice in the handicap that Lady Onslow was asked to give The Orphan weight in the Pony Cup. The handicappers must have made a big bungle, otherwise they could not have been aware of The Orphan's performances not only in pony but in hot hack company. Why, her latest performance was at Momahaki in Nov. 9, when she beat a field of hacks in the Railway Handicap, 1½ miles. As The Orphan has not accepted of course the matter ends, but how she got in so light puzzles a few down here.

The nominations for the Opunake Hack Meeting on New Year's Day, and also for Pungarehu in January 4th are excellent, and good fields should be witnessed on both days.

The nominations for Waitara, which are appended, are rather poor, the cause being that the meeting is on the same day as the Opunake, where the money is bigger. The weights for the meeting are:—

New Year's Handicap, 1½ miles.—Ionic, 8st 12lb; Wizard, 7st 12lb; Cigarette, 7st 3lb; Katiri, 7st.

Pony Race, 6 furlongs.—Poppy, 8st; Nox, 7st; Firelock, 7st; Cigarette, 7st; Storyteller, 7st; Disowned, 7st.

Waitara Cup, 1½ miles.—Flukem, 8st 12lb; Ionic, 8st 8lb; Maroro, 8st 4lb; Silverlock, 7st 4lb; Armoury, 7st 4lb; Nugget, 7st 1lb.

Flying Handicap, 6 furlongs.—Flukem, 8st 12lb; Ionic, 8st 9lb; Wizard, 7st 9lb; Silverlock, 7st 2lb; Katiri, 6st 11lb.

Welter Handicap, 1 mile.—Flukem, 10st 9lb; Ionic, 10st 6lb; Armoury, 9st 4lb; Wizard, 9st 4lb; Gunner, 9st; Hypatia, 9st.

Ionic should win the New Year's Handicap, Cigarette the Pony Race, Silverlock the Cup, Ionic the Flying, and Wizard the Welter.

Fraternité's chance of pulling off the double (Auckland Cup and Derby) is thought a lot of down this coast. "Billy" Holmes will steer him in these events.

On Thursday last the first eleven of the New Plymouth Cricket Club beat Huerangi easily, and another eleven defeated the Star Club in the same day. Cricket has "caught on" in this town after many tries.

The Auckland Concert Company, comprising some of your best amateur talent in vocal and instrumental lines, are advertised to do this and the East Coast. The tour begins at New Plymouth, where the Company appear on Dec. 30 and 31. Mr. Farrington is advance agent, and an untiring one he is. The Company will, I am certain, have a successful tour.

OUR NAPIER LETTER.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ROLLO's Pohehe has broken down.

The Danevirke Jockey Club hold a hack race meeting on January 27th, when a good amount of money will be given away in stakes.

Kotuku, by Musket—Maid of Athol, will probably start in the Flying Handicap at Hastings on Boxing Day. She is entered for the Wanganui Cup, and it is expected she will be got fit by that time.

The chance of Queen of Trumps in the Auckland Cup is not fancied here at all, but her party seem to think she ought to have a show. I think she will run well forward with her light weight, but doubt her ability to last out the two miles. My tip for this year's Cup is—British Lion, 1; Hilda, 2; Fraternite, 3.

The locally-owned horse Swivel (by Mute—Swiveline) was disqualified at the Aspendale Meeting for twelve months, so a private cable from Melbourne informs me. The stewards probably thought he was out for an airing, and should have won after his win in grand style at Wyndham on the Saturday previous. Since the above information came to hand another cable has been received to the effect that the disqualification has been removed, which, to say the least of it, is very peculiar. Why the ban was removed does not appear, but further particulars will no doubt come to hand by next mail. Swivel is being looked after on account of his owner, or owners, who live here, by Mr. Carmody, the erst New Zealander, whose horse Glencloth was thought to have a big show in the last Caulfield Cup.

It has come to my knowledge that a resident