

EASTER WEDDING

Mrs. Hickson Again Writes to Her Sister.

My Dear Winnie,—

It's a wet day today and I haven't done the washing because what's the use of just letting the clothes lie waiting? So I thought I'd write and tell you all about the wedding, knowing you'd like to hear. We did wish you could have managed to come, but the present came all right. Lorna will write to you herself when she gets back and turns round a bit. Tablecloths are hard to find and these are really great.

Well, it was a lovely morning, Winnie. But it was very nearly ruined for me. The best man, a very nice young fellow he seemed, came with a car the night before, and said to me that he had a case of champagne there to help for the next day. Believe you me, I began to shake, Winnie. I didn't know what to say. He was so nice about it, and seemed to think no one might ever think of a wedding without a drink at the breakfast. He just smiled and spoke quietly. I think I must have stared hard, because he began to laugh a bit, not making fun exactly, but somehow it made me feel as if he thought I was a bit simple, and had to be humoured. That got me going, Win. I didn't want to offend him, but I just knew that champagne wasn't coming into the house. So I said: "Well now, what do you think of that? My husband would die of laughing if I told him what a joke you had tried to play on us. Champagne indeed! As if I didn't know you were having your fun to say you were bringing it here where we all are tee tee. And anyway our parson would raise a dust at the very suggestion." I kept on laughing all the time, but was keeping my eyes open for what he would think. He certainly looked a bit upset, although I kept up the joking style all along. I began to feel a bit sorry for him really, because I suppose he thought he was doing us a kindness.

When I thought it was wise, I began to talk sense to him. He didn't know that we were so against the drink, and said he thought that everybody had wine at weddings. I told him different and told him why, too. By this time Jock and Lorna came into the room, and soon tumbled to it all. They laughed at him, but I made them stop that, and got some supper ready. When he was going he said: "You have made me think, Mrs. Hickson. After all, there's no reason why wine or drink of any kind should be necessary at weddings. In fact, I don't take anything at all except on these occasions, and if it's good to keep off this sort of thing on ordinary days, perhaps it is even better to keep them out of the way on such an extra day as a wedding day." And what he did with the case, I never asked him; but it didn't show its face. He seemed to enjoy the wedding breakfast as much as any of them.

Lorna looked lovely, ever, if I do

say it. And when she came into the church with her father, I just thought how glad I was to have a husband with such strong ideas about right and wrong; and what a good thing it was that neither Lorna, Jock, or anybody else would be made even a little bit merry, as they call it, at our table and in our home on the day when our girl was starting out on her own wedded life. Everything went off without a hitch, only Lorna couldn't find her gloves for going away at the last minute; so I gave her mine I had worn that day only. When she had gone, and there was some fun over that as you'll guess, I found the gloves inside a fruit bottle in the kitchen. I fancy I put them there to keep them safe.

Well, it's all over, and I'm not sorry. Easter weddings are very sensible. There's less to do after all the bottling's done; and you can rest a bit.

It's turned out a lovely day. I think I'd better start the wash.

Ta Ta,

Much love from,
Meg.

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Letter from Britain—continued.

opened your first Feilding parcel when it arrived, but the second one fortunately arrived an hour before our meeting, so I took it down intact to show them what trouble you had been to, sewing the material etc. It happened to be the birthday of one of our eldest members. She is nearly eighty, very active, and has been a member for very many years and yesterday, on her birthday, she gave us a wonderful tea. She has relations on farms, and evidently they let her have eggs, etc., for she herself had made all the cakes as well as preparing the sandwiches and provided the bread units. She is a Methodist, and strange to say, our new young Methodist minister was the speaker at the meeting, so we were able to share the good things with him.

First of all, the birthday hostess chose her piece of soap, and she also had a tin of pears and the tin of cheese. We gave the minister for his wife, who has a small boy and could not be present, the large tin of malted milk, and every member present had a piece of soap. The large bars we cut up into several pieces. It made the meeting a specially happy one, and we had a lovely time.

The Rev. Mr. Freeman seemed very much impressed, for it was so nice being able to read your letters of such kind greetings to us all. I presided as our President was away. A very big Thank You! We shall have a supper this winter and invite our men-folk and will use the dripping and dried milk then.

The thought was appreciated, but we don't like your going to all the trouble of sending things. We keep very cheerful over here and this wretched rationing will soon be over.

Very best wishes for your elections. We shall be thinking of you then.

I will forward the local paper to you if the report of the meeting is published. They, alas, never put in much about our Temperance meetings, the liquor interest are so great.

A very happy Christmas to you all. With our united love and best wishes,

DOROTHY KING,

Branch Secretary.

Bulletin Union News—continued.

on Dominion Convention very fully at the April meeting, both speakers being heartily thanked. Mr. George Dash was complimented on having secured the Band of Hope Banner for Waimate, he being the President.

OTAGO DISTRICT.

Oamaru, March 10: Mrs. Winn presided over a good meeting. Mrs. Rawson led Devotions. Three new names added to list. Collectors appointed for Plunket Street Day. Vote of sympathy with Miss Rose in her illness. Rev. R. and Mrs. Mayson farewelled, and thanks expressed for their help in Temperance work in Oamaru, a shoulder spray being given to Mrs. Mayson. Two members sang a duet. Benediction.