

THE ALBANY CELEBRATIONS.

Glorious weather attended the celebration in Albany. The morning broke clear and frosty, and as the hours advanced the sun came out with genial warmth. Not a cloud was to be seen and hardly a breath of wind was stirring. A more perfect day there could not be, and one and all proclaimed it Queen's weather. We think we can claim that throughout the Empire no town would be favored with more perfect weather than was Albany. And it was appropriate that it should be so, for do we not boast of the perfect climate of our pretty town. From a very early hour flags and bunting were being hung out until before 10 o'clock the town was decorated in a most effective manner. There were streamers across York-st. and Stirling-terrace, consisting of Jubilee bunting, and the ships lying in the harbor were completely decked with flags. The flag floated above the Town Hall, and the flagstaff near the post office was a mass of bunting, the officers of the signal station having used their signal flags in a most effective manner. Halyards were carried to the east and west from the top of the flagstaff, and each halyard was a mass of waving bunting, the effect being magnificent. During the early hours the streets were occupied by people inspecting the decorations, and they were all in holiday attire. The first event of the day was the presentation of the medals to the school children at the Government schools. The children were drawn up in a square at the top of the school ground and here were collected the members of the School Board and a number of sightseers. The scene was a very pretty one for the children were without exception well clothed, bright looking and healthy. First they sang "G. I save the Queen" very sweetly and then the medals with blue ribbon attached were distributed by Mrs. Milne, the headmaster having asked her to undertake the task owing to her being the oldest of the teachers at the school. Then a few words were said by the Rev. Father Mateu, the chairman of the School Board. From this delightful picture attention was next directed to the proceedings at the garden reserve on Stirling-terrace. Here for an hour the band under the leadership of Mr. Permain played excellent music and several trees were planted in the reserve. By twelve o'clock a large number of spectators had collected and then the Mayor (Mr. John Moir) attended by the members of the Council and several prominent townsmen took their places on the bandstand. The Mayor in an excellent speech referred to the day and also to the

speech referred to the day and also to the

fact that it had been decided to dedicate the reserve to the Queen under the name of Queen's Jubilee Park. The National anthem was sung and the proceedings there terminated. The Mayor and councillors and a number of invited guests then repaired to the lower Town Hall and in a most enthusiastic spirit drank the Queen's health. This brought events up to nearly one o'clock when the sports began on the grant at the top of York-street. The attendance here was very large. The band was again in attendance and did excellent service under Mr. Permain. The sports were not exciting but interesting. A stranger named Hamilton had entered for three events and these he managed to win with the greatest ease. He entered for the Maiden Race but his style suggested that he was by no means new at the game. Thanks to the weather, however, it was a very pleasant afternoon and the people seemed to enjoy themselves thoroughly. There was only one cause for regret and that was the Committee had allowed a cheapjack to set up a stand on the ground and to open his business when all the rest of the world was holiday making. The sports filled the afternoon very satisfactorily, and then the people prepared themselves for the evening's programme. The night was fine and dark and thus lent itself admirably to the illuminations. York-street looked very striking with its many-colored lamps which were hung down the telephone poles, while the shop of Hunt, Corry & Coy. was ablaze with light. This illumination was one of the most striking features in the town, for colored lamps formed a large crown on the York-street facade of the shop while lamps were hung down the sides of the gable and around the verandah. In Aberdeer-street the Club was handsomely illuminated with lamps. The scene in Stirling-terrace was splendid. There were colored lamps everywhere while on several of the buildings special efforts had been made in the way of illuminations. At the London Hotel gas-lights were burning in the shape of a trophy consisting of V.B. and a crown. Drew, Robinson & Co. had no decorations outside the building but they had lighted up one of their windows, and it was seen to be dressed in most artistic fashion with designs suitable to the occasion, together with appropriate mottoes. Lamps were hung in front of the Freemasons' Hotel, and about the bandstand. The most elaborate and the most effective illumination on the Terrace was to be seen at the Royal George Hotel. Here the front was a mass of light, with a

Here the front was a mass of light, with a large crown formed of colored lamps, and from the balcony colored lights were burning. All the smaller shops had indulged in illuminations, and some of them showed portraits of the Queen. At Captain Nicholson's residence at the end of the Terrace a large number of lamps were burning, while on the telegraph posts strings of lamps were shining. The general effect was excellent. Then after eight o'clock the bonfires were lighted on Mount Clarence and Mount Melville, and also on the hills at South Albany, and for a time these fires added considerably to the general effect. During the evening Stirling-terrace was crowded with sightseers, who evidently admired the display. At this time a large number of people were making their way to the Town Hall, where the ball for children had begun. The porch of the hall was ablaze with lamps in the form of a crown, and inside the hall there were decorations consisting of bunting. The crowd was great, and not more than a third of the floor space was left for the dancers. Children of all ages took the floor, and dancing was kept up by the juveniles until 10 o'clock. Then the adults took possession, and again the crush was just as great. Altogether the first day of the celebrations was a great success from every point of view. The various committees had done their work well. They worked hard, and during the day there was not a hitch. There were doubtless directions in which improvements could have been made had funds been available, and if the members of the committee had had more experience of such occasions. As to the occasion of the demonstration, it was evident on all hands that the people realised in the most lively manner that they were celebrating the most glorious reign in the history of the world. Whenever the occasion arose for reference to the Queen and her reign, there was the most enthusiastic applause, and no one could have followed the proceedings of the day without being convinced that Albany is loyal.