

'angi had been signed. Finding that they were too late, they sailed for the great Southern Island, and landed at a harbour near the town of Christ Church, only to find that they were forestalled again. Governor Hobson had sent on Captain Stanley of the Spitfire, and he had arrived three days before the French Captain had hoisted the Union Jack, and was holding a court over some whalers when Captain Zaborde arrived with his two vessels.

The Frenchman laughed good naturedly and landed his emigrants, who were well treated, and then sailed away and seized New Caledonia which the French hold to this day as a convict settlement.

Thus it was by what we call accident that New Zealand became a British Colony and not a French penal station. Much was certainly due to Captain Stanley's promptitude; and it is therefore pleasant to see an acknowledgment of it in Christ Church Cathedral, in the form of a font erected to his memory by his brother the late Dean Stanley; but every one who knows the vast importance to all Australasia of the New Zealand group will see in the determination of its future history the finger of God.

For a long time, things did not go on well between the British and the Maories. Misunderstandings led to wars; and in these wars the natives showed surprising engineering skill, as well as bravery. Had they willed they could not have been conquered in our day, if at all; but only a few hundreds were ever arranged against us at any one time, while numbers fought on our side or aided as guides or scouts. Thousands of British troops as well as colonial forces were sent against these hundreds, and of course the wars ended with the defeat of the natives. But brave men always respect bravery in an enemy, and the conquered Maories have been treated well, better indeed, so far as I know, than any other native race with which we have come in contact. They number about 40,000 and they own an enormous amount of good land in the Northern Island, an amount sufficient to realize a moderate fortune for each of them; man, woman and

child. They have representatives in the Upper and Lower Houses of Legislative, and appreciate this privilege highly because it enables them to state their views fully, before anything is done bearing on their lands or their position in the community. They intermarry with the pakshas or whites and I have little doubt that they will ultimately be absorbed in the general population and contribute to the New Zealander of the future some distinct traits of character. To judge from their past, since we have known them, these traits are likely to be good rather than bad. Here are one or two stories that show the stuff of which they are made:—

During the terrible inter-tribal wars that took place after the introduction of fire-arms, one young chief, over whom the missionaries had gained influence, desirous of making peace with his enemies, concealed himself near their pak or fortified village. He could see every one who went out and in without being himself seen. At length, one of the head chiefs went out to some distance, to observe whether any foe was approaching, and after a time sat down not far from him. He stole quietly upon this one as he sat with his back turned to him, sprang suddenly on him, overpowered him, pinioned his arms and led him off as his prisoner. After going well out of sight of the pak, he stopped, unbound this prisoner's arms, and bid him bind his instead. The captive did so and took his former captor to the pak. Immediately on entering it, scores threw themselves on the stranger, but the chief commanded them to stand off for a little. He led his captive to the *maral* and there surrounded by the tribe explained what had happened. All were struck with admiration, the prisoner was at once unbound, and peace between the two tribes was made.

In one of our wars with the Maoris, "which began, literally, for nothing that an ordinary court could not have decided, Whether or not one party had a right to sell land that the other wanted to buy," the enemy fell back on the pak of Orakan, resolving to defend it to the last. They numbered between three or four hundred,