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ROUND THE WORLD,

A Run through the OCCIDENT, the ANTIPODES, and the ORIENT.

(Extracts from a series of letters written to the employés of the Massey Manufacturing Co., by W. E. H. MASSEY, Esq.)

NEW ZEALAND.

Fourth Letter, dated Hobart, Tasmania, Jan. 19th, 1888.

Continuing the sketch of my wanderings; after a tour of five weeks from one end of New Zealand to the other, I now undertake to tell you something of this our sister colony, about which the most of us hear and know so little. It consists of two large islands, known as the North and South Islands, and a small island at the southern extremity, in all about 100,000 square miles of territory—just a little less, I believe, than that of the British Isles, of which it may be said to form the anti-podes, for these islands lie on very nearly the opposite side of the globe to Great Britain; and in so many ways have I been reminded of England while travelling through the colony, that it seems to me almost a second Britain, so far as the aspect of the country is concerned.

New Zealand is 1100 miles east and somewhat south of the Continent of Australia, nearly two-thirds of its territory lying south of the 40th parallel of latitude S. The climate closely resembles that of Great Britain, though there is less frost in winter—particularly in the north island. These islands are largely of volcanic formation, volcanic forces being not yet wholly extinct in the north island, where in the famous Hot Lake District are to be seen some of the greatest natural wonders in the world. A range of mountains runs the full

length of both the large islands, forming their backbone, so to speak, and the north island is especially mountainous.

New Zealand is decidedly a new country, her growth having been exceedingly rapid. Captain Cook first landed on these shores only 119 years ago, and the then formidable Maori race, who are said to have been the worst savages and cannibals known, and who for years baffled early settlement, have now dwindled down to "a comparatively insignificant remnant" of 44,000. It was as late as 1814 when the first missionary enterprise was undertaken, and grave fears indeed were entertained for the safety of the first volunteers amongst

but always existed in tribes. Some of these tribes early befriended the colonists, and at times suffered massacre along with the settlers when the more savage tribes defeated them.

Though the regular colonization of New Zealand did not really commence till 1839, the white population now numbers over 600,000, it having doubled between 1870 and 1880. This is a big showing and a remarkable growth. Indeed, the colony has grown too rapidly and has been pushed on too fast, and to this fact is traceable to a large degree her present severe financial depression, due to a great re-action, which, however, time will most surely heal. In 1852, the Imperial Parliament granted

New Zealand a charter of self-government. By this act the sovereign power was vested in a general assembly, consisting of a governor appointed by the Crown, and two houses—a legislative council, the members of which are nominated by the government, and a house of representatives, elected by the people; and to provide for local government the colony was divided into sixty-two counties.

It was a lovely clear morning and the water still as a mill-pond, when the

Zealandia, our good ship, steamed into the beautiful harbor of Auckland just at sunrise, on the morning of December 10th.

Auckland presents a very picturesque appearance as approached from the sea, it being situated on a series of hills divided by valleys trending in the direction of the harbor, and the many scattered houses on the slopes, the gardens, green lawns, and clumps of trees along the bays give an agreeable first impression. Our visit to New Zealand was fortunately at the very best season of the year, their December corresponding to our June. After landing, when driving up the main thoroughfare, the fruit and vegetable markets especially arrested



OHINEMUTU (NATIVE PORTION) AND LAKE ROTORUA, HOT LAKE DISTRICT, NEW ZEALAND, AS SEEN FROM THE HOTEL PORCH, SHOWING SITE OF SUNKEN VILLAGE.

these desperate cannibals. After the loss of many lives and several battles and fearful massacres by the Maoris, they have, at a somewhat recent date, been brought under complete subjection and become fairly civilized. According to tradition, the Maori race came to New Zealand in canoes many years ago from a distant island called Hawaiki, but where Hawaiki is, is not known; from the similarity of the language and legends of the Maori tribes to those of the Hawaiians it is supposed they may have come from the Hawaiian Islands.

The Maori race is inferior to the Hawaiian in very many particulars. Unlike the Hawaiians, they never were formed into a united kingdom.