

tants of which are chiefly Dutch Boers or farmers. These are the Orange Free State and the Transvaal. The white population of all this vast area is only about half a million, while the native blacks number four or five millions.

Missionaries of many churches have done a great deal of good in different parts of the land, but in this letter I cannot tell you about them, for I wish to write about another people and land to-day.

From the Cape of Good Hope, or the Cape of Storms, as it was called by Bartholomew Diaz who first rounded it, I sailed to Tasmania, a beautiful Island, where for the first time in my life I ate apples that I thought as good as or perhaps even a little better than Canadian apples.

After a short visit, we sailed on from Tasmania, the long rollers of Australian seas chasing our steamer, to New Zealand, one of the fairest countries I have ever seen; a land of mountains and fiords; of luxuriant forests, whose great trees are so dressed with liands and parasitic plants that it is impossible to distinguish the foliage of the one from the foliage of the other; of fern-covered hills, grassy plains, vast sheep-farms and boundless mineral wealth.

There are two large islands and a small one that proudly calls itself the third. Taken together they have a length from North to South of about 1100 miles. In area, they are nearly equal to the British islands.

Captain Cook, one of the greatest navigators and closest observers who ever lived, was the first European who visited New Zealand. He introduced the potatoe and the pig. The soil and climate proved so kindly that these soon became the chief food of the natives. The pigs increased at such a rate that the Northern Island was overrun with them, and sheep-farmers were obliged to destroy them without mercy.

Other animals and birds, that have been introduced since, thrive in the same way. Thus a gentleman brought a few rabbits, that he and his friends might have some

sport in shooting them; but "bunny" has multiplied millions-fold and become a plague. In many districts the grass has been eaten to the roots so that no food is left for the sheep, and in consequence the people have been almost ruined. They are now introducing stoats and weasels to keep down the rabbits, but perhaps the remedy may turn out to be worse than the disease. Farmers' wives who keep hens will soon think so, in all probability.

The native inhabitants of New Zealand are called Maoris. They seem to me a noble race; well developed physically, brave, and intelligent. They have very long arms and bodies, but short legs. Their features are good, though the habit of tattooing the face, and in the case of women, the lower lip and chin, makes them look less beautiful in our eyes. They are copper-coloured, and have straight or wavy black hair, and well cut features.

When missionaries first visited the Island, they found the tribes at war with each other. Some had bought guns from whalers and other persons, and these conquered the other tribes and ate all whom they captured. They saw no more harm in eating a man than in eating a pig, and they thought the flesh of a man nicer than pork. However, the missionaries soon gained great influence over them, and in 1841 they induced many of the chiefs to enter into a treaty with Captain Hobson, who had been sent out by Great Britain to be Governor of such parts of the country as might be ceded to the Queen, and in this treaty they acknowledged the sovereignty of Britain. The Governor frankly acknowledged what he owed to the missionaries. "There can be no doubt," he said, "that the missionaries have rendered important services to this country. But for them, a British Colony would not at this moment be established in New Zealand." The treaty of Waitangi was confined to the North Island, and only to the coasts.

It was made just in time. For, a French Company had fitted out two vessels and filled them with emigrants, intending to make New Zealand a French Colony. They arrived a few days after the treaty of Waitangi.