

through a hard day's work with less fatigue than in the hot summer weather of England.

The scarcity of timber and firewood in many parts of the province has occasioned much inconvenience to some of the owners of sheep and cattle stations. Much of Banks Peninsula is, however, wooded, and it contains an abundant supply of valuable timber for the use of the town for many years to come. At the foot of the snowy mountains there are also extensive forests. Coal of inferior quality, but serviceable for domestic purposes, has been found cropping out on the surface in three different places in the province, and there is reason to suppose that the deposits are very extensive, and that the quality will improve when it is obtained from deep pits.

All sorts of live stock do remarkably well on the natural grasses and herbage of the country, and are kept out of doors all winter without artificial food or shelter, and are very free from disease, except scab in sheep, which has been imported from Van Dieman's Land. The plains and downs are very dry and sound, so that foot rot is almost unknown. Sheep do not require to be folded at night, as there are no wild beasts except a few European dogs gone wild, and which will very soon be exterminated. The sheep are of the colonial Merino breed, imported from Australia. They clip from 3½ lb. to 4 lb. of washed wool and ordinary fat wethers two years old weigh about 60 lb. The sheep and cattle runs vary in size from 5,000 to 50,000 acres, and are leased from the provincial government on easy terms, the occupant paying rent in proportion to his stock, and being allowed to retain possession until the land is purchased in freehold. The natural pastures of the province can be stocked only at the rate of one sheep to two or three acres, but in the older settlements of New Zealand, where good land has been laid down to English grasses, and enclosed in paddocks, it is said that five sheep to the acre can be kept the year round. Owing to a more temperate climate the wool grown in New Zealand is stronger and sounder than that from Australia, but is at present inferior in fineness of fibre. The autumn is the best time for lambing, but settlers commencing with a small flock of ewes allow them to lamb at any season of the year, and sometimes have three lambings in two years. The usual increase is about 90 per cent. but sometimes more; I have known an increase of 220 per cent. from the same ewes within twenty months. Much caution is required with newly-landed sheep and cattle, owing to the prevalence of a wild bush called the "tout" (*Coraria sarmentosa*), which if eaten in large quantities by hungry sheep or cattle will kill them. Stock that have been some time in the country, and are allowed free range, are very rarely injured by it. The most suitable cattle runs are those which are too wet and rich for sheep. Cows yield much more milk than in Australia, and the butter and cheese are also of a superior quality. Old bullocks originally imported from Australia, and fattened upon the natural pasturage of Canterbury, have been slaughtered weighing 1200 lb.; but about 800 lb is the common weight of a fat bullock.

The land hitherto purchased and brought under cultivation is mostly in the coast district around Christchurch, the capital of the province, and about Kiopoi, situated about twelve miles north of Christchurch, on the river Courtney, which is navigable for small coasting vessels. The expense of clearing land is much less than in most other colonies, owing to the absence of timber. The ground can be broken up by a strong team of bullocks, with the exception of a few roots of the native flax and the tout bush, which require the axe occasionally. Much of the land is quite free from obstructions, and can be ploughed up with a pair of ordinary draught horses. In a few instances the first crop has repaid all expenses of clearing and fencing, and the cost for simple of the land besides. On account of the scarcity of timber most of the fencing is ditch and bank, which is done at the cost of about 15s. a chain. Owing to much of the land being badly cultivated, or the seed put in too late in the season, the average yield of grain hitherto has been low, but in some few instances where the land has been well tilled, upwards of 50 bushels of wheat to the acre has been obtained without manure. All crops and fruits grown in England succeed equally well in Canterbury. Owing to the moderate heat of the summer and the absence of droughts, land can be laid down to artificial English grasses, which will not succeed in Australia except in a few favored localities, or where irrigation can be practised. The upset price of land is £3 an acre in the Canterbury Block, over which the

late Canterbury Association had control, and which extends about 40 miles north and south of Christchurch, comprising about 2,500,000 acres. In the remaining part of the province the upset price was lowered to 10s. an acre by the governor of New Zealand, in virtue of powers delegated to him by the home government, but in consequence of its distance from markets, it is not yet worth buying at that price for agricultural purposes, and all that has hitherto been purchased has been bought by large capitalists as a speculation. Now that the new constitution of New Zealand has transferred the administration of waste lands to the colonists, as represented in their provincial councils, the price of land will no doubt be raised again, public opinion in Canterbury being against a very low price of land, which is found to occasion a monopoly of the best districts by large capitalists from Australia, and not by any advantage to the small farmer, who intends to make use of what he purchases. In the north island land is sold at 10s. an acre, and several years given to pay it in, a small rate being charged until the purchase is completed; but as it is all either very heavily timbered or covered with ferns, the expense and labour of clearing are very great, and by the time the first crop is reaped the land will probably be much dearer than that purchased at Canterbury, at £3 or even £5 an acre, but which is so easily brought into cultivation. As a general rule, a large capital cannot be invested profitably in agricultural farming in the colonies, owing to the high rate of wages. Labouring men who have saved some money, or those who have been small farmers in England, will find agriculture an extremely profitable business. Owing to the very high prices grain produce, occasioned by the gold digging of Australia, some gentlemen who have farmed on a large scale at Canterbury no doubt have made money by it, notwithstanding the dearth of labour; but it is not likely that wheat will sell at 12s. a bushel after another year or two. For capitalists, sheep and cattle are the best investments; but now that all the available country has been leased out by government, a new comer might have to wait some time before he could obtain a run (or station) by purchase from some previous occupant. For those who do not require an immediate return, rural or town land would be a very profitable investment in the long run. Good land, well situated, can be let on lease at 5s. an acre rent for the first seven years, 10s. for the next seven, and £1 for the last seven. It is usual for the tenant to have the right of purchase at a fixed sum during the lease, and to have the land rent-free for the first year. The ordinary rate of interest in the colony is 10 per cent, and capitalists who do not wish to engage in any business would have no difficulty in obtaining from 10 to 12 per cent. on good security.

According to a census taken March, 1854, the population of the province amounted to 3,895. Of this number, Lyttelton, the seaport town of the province, has about 900, and Christchurch, the capital, situated about eight miles inland, has about 500.

The harbour of Lyttelton, in Banks Peninsula, is distant about two miles from the plain, from which it is separated by a ridge of hills about 1100 feet high, over which there is at present only a bridle path. Heavy goods are conveyed by water up the river Heathcote to within two miles of Christchurch. This river opens into the sea about four miles from the entrance of Port Lyttelton, but has a dangerous bar at the mouth upon which several small vessels have been wrecked. This difficulty of communication between the port and the plains has hitherto been a great drawback to the prosperity of the province, and a cause of much expense to newly arrived emigrants, but is likely to be soon remedied by a road over the hills, which is now in progress. Slight shocks of earthquakes have been felt at Canterbury, but none that have done any damage. The province, and New Zealand generally, is free from snakes, scorpions, hornets or wasps, stinging ants, and large centipedes—a fortunate exemption which those who have resided in Australia or India can well appreciate. Mosquitoes prevail near swamps and damp woods, but are not general throughout the country. The greatest nuisances are horse-flies, sand-flies, and blow-flies, but it is remarkable that the latter never attack sheep either in New Zealand or Australia.

Although the plans of the Canterbury Association with regard to churches and schools have to a great extent failed, yet much better provision has been made in these respects than in most other new settlements. Church of England service is held in Lyttelton and Christchurch twice or three times a day every Sunday. The Wesleyans and Presbyterians have also churches and services at Christchurch. There is a grammar

school for boys at Christchurch and another at Lyttelton, the masters of both of which are clergymen of the Church of England; and there are eight small schools for the working classes in various parts of the province.

The rate of wages in 1854 was—for agricultural labourers, 7s. a day, but by working piece-work above 10s. a day could be earned; carpenters and blacksmiths, 10s. a day. Wages by the year, in addition to board and lodging, were for agricultural labourers, shepherds, and stockmen, £40; for female domestic servants, from £15 to £25.

The retail price of butchers' meat and flour was about the same as in England, and that of groceries somewhat lower than in England. About twelve months ago, Mr. R. J. S. Harman, a settler resident in Canterbury, was appointed by the provincial government to visit England and conduct the assisted emigration to the province. One-half of the passage is given, and the emigrant, if of good character, is allowed to give a promissory note for the other half, payable twelve months after arrival in the colony. Information respecting assisted passages, and about the province generally, can be obtained on application to Mr. Harman, Canterbury Emigration Office, 32, Charing-cross, London. Many labourers who went out in 1851 and 1852 have saved enough money to enable them to buy or rent land and become farmers on their own account, and some of them have entered into an arrangement with the provincial government to pay part of the passage money for relations in England who wish to join them in Canterbury. Although other British colonies both in Australia and North America offer great advantages to the industrious emigrant, my own experience inclines me to give the preference to New Zealand, since in addition to the inducement held out by all of them in common, it possesses the very great superiority of a climate more temperate, healthy and congenial to the constitutions of natives of the British Islands than that of any other country out of Europe.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL HODGKISON,

Morton Grange, Retford, June 7, 1855.

#### A SERGEANT'S ACCOUNT OF THE ATTACK ON THE REDAN.

The following letter is from a sergeant in the Highland Brigade:—"Our stormers in the first instance penetrated into the works, and, had they been strongly supported, I have no doubt the affair would have terminated differently. As it was, a certain number broke in; but instead of finding an open road after getting over the outside obstructions, they saw trench after trench, each stronger than the preceding one, and filled with men and guns likewise. The consequence was, that the first who made the rush were all shot down, and they were never efficiently supported—let alone strongly reinforced. Under these circumstances, it was impossible to go forward, and no after effort which could be made could rectify this first error. The wounded came up very fast, and I must say that the arrangements for taking them away seemed to be admirable. As soon as a man was struck he was taken to a hut in the advanced trenches, where his wound was staunch; he was then taken up to the ravine, where there were hundreds of ambulance mules ready to take him away; two men go upon a mule; they are then removed out of danger, and their wound is dressed, when they are sent off to hospital. Some of the wounded presented a dreadful shocking spectacle, especially those who were struck by splinters. The bare raw flesh of those who had limbs shattered off had the appearance of beef which had been gnawed at by dogs, and you could notice the muscles and sinews quivering as the sufferers were carried past. Under these horrid sufferings they every one displayed extraordinary fortitude. Some went past on the stretchers smoking, and every one who was able to speak called, "Push down, lads, push down, the day is ours if the front is well supported;" and I assure you, of all that went past me, I did not hear one give a single groan, though dozens of them were in their death agony. Before I got to the approach leading from the third parallel the shades of night began to fall, and it was evident our people would have to desist from all further attempts for that night. But I am sure there was not one of us who was not burning to get down. The sight of our brave-hearted suffering comrades set every one on fire to avenge them; but for that night it was not to be."

That rich man is great who thinketh himself not great because he is rich; the proud man (who is the poor man), braggeth outwardly, but beggett inwardly; he is blown up, but not full.—St. Hieron.