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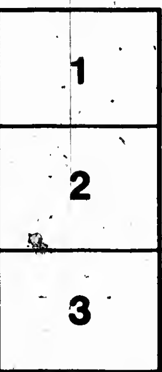

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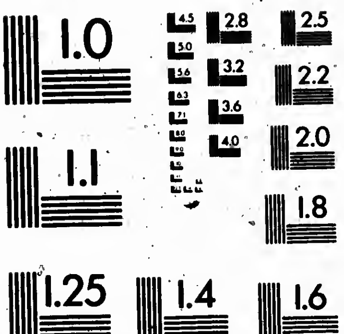

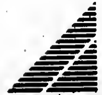

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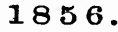

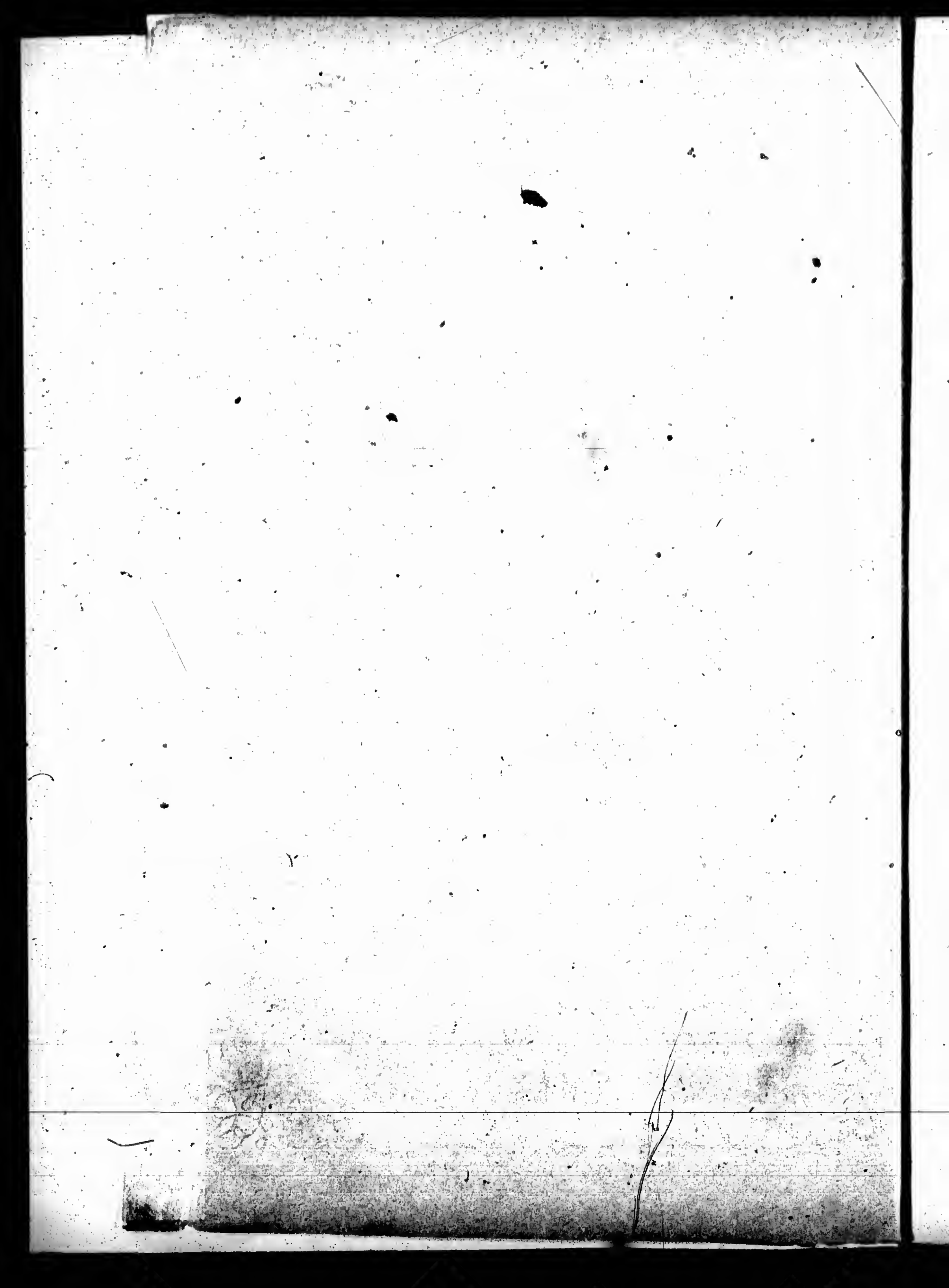

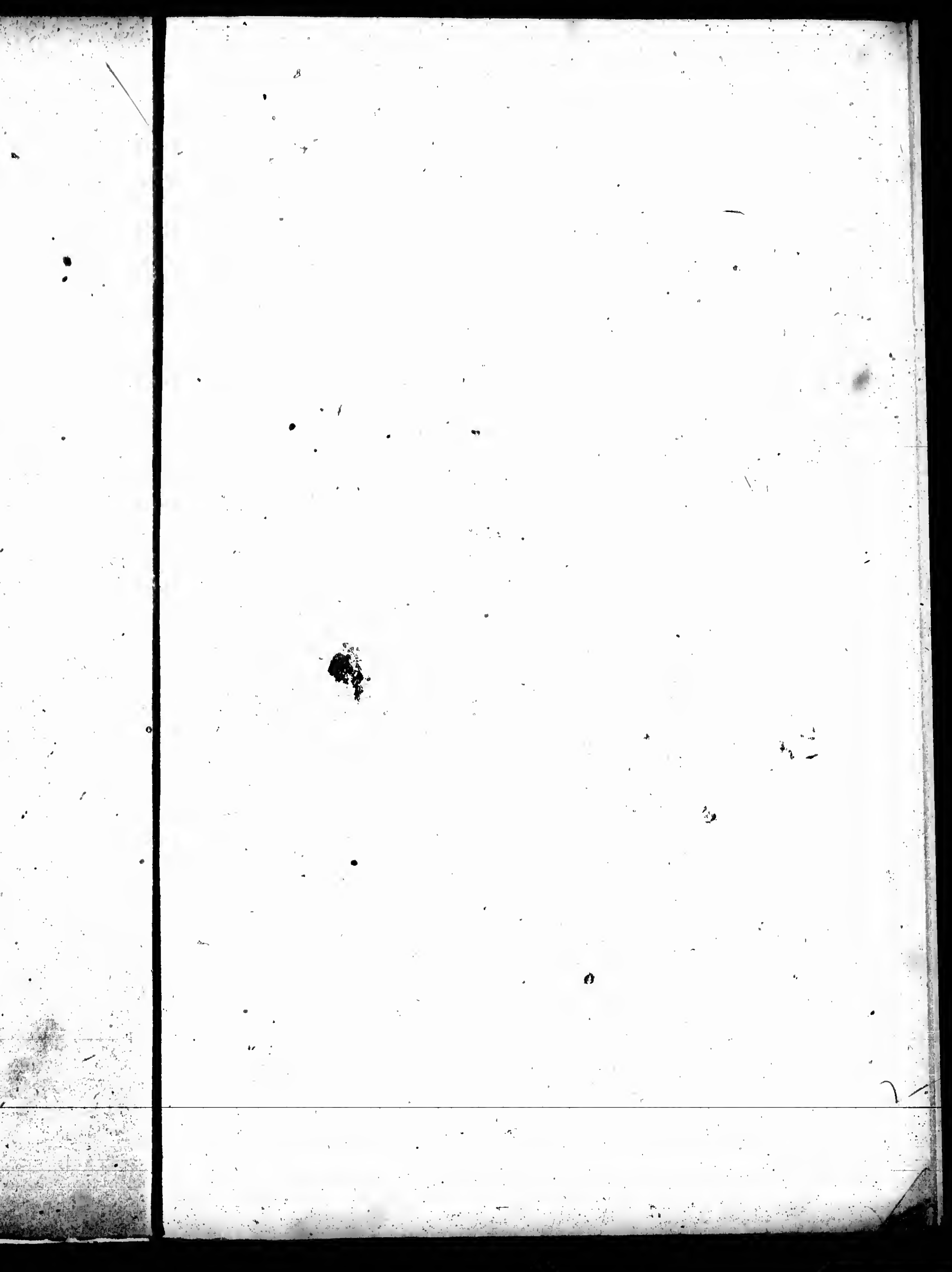

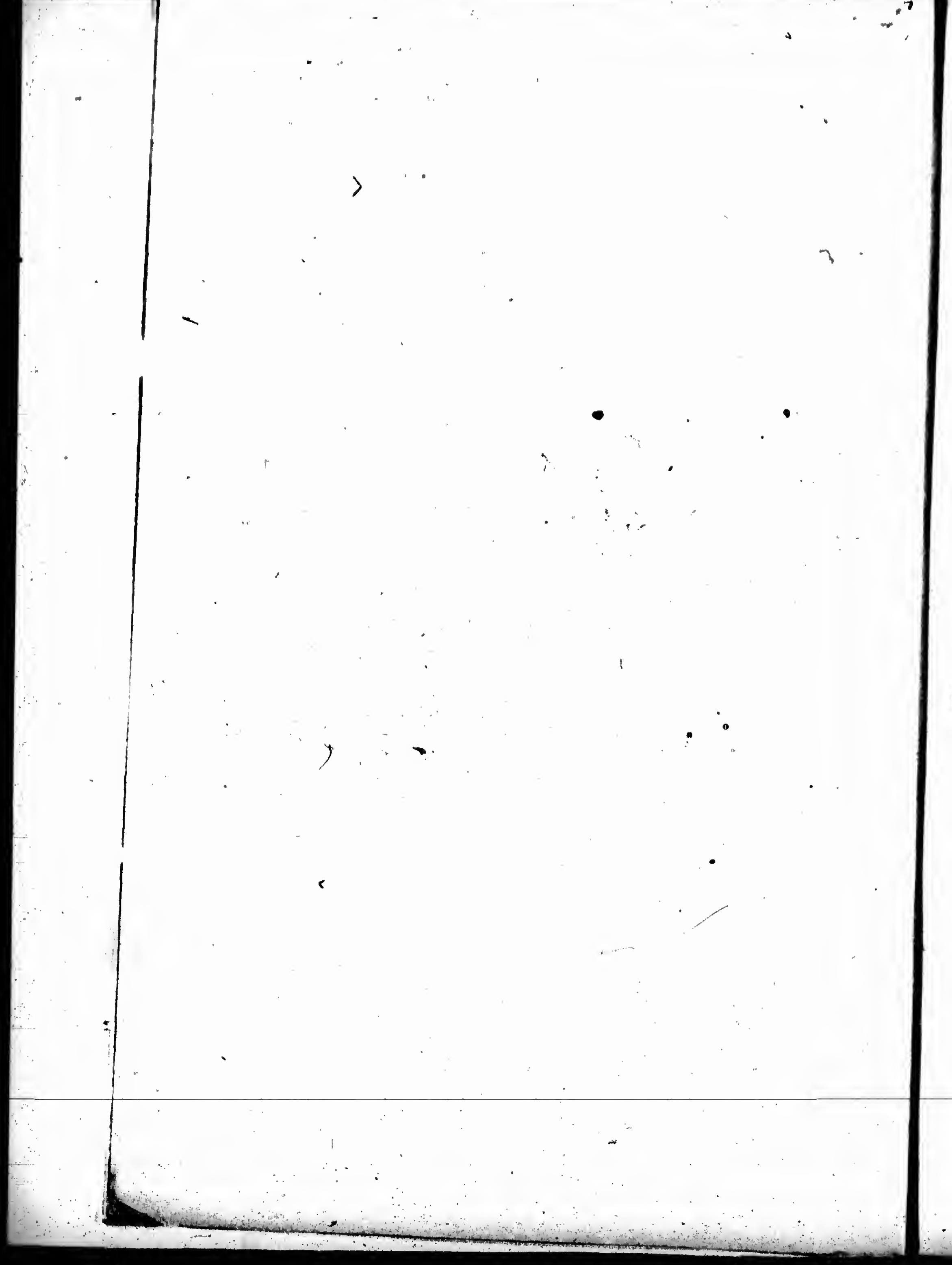

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JUNE 30, 1958

AUCKLAND AND ITS NEIGHBORHOOD.

CHAPTER I.

Governor Hobson's description of the position of Auckland, and his reasons for selecting it as the site for the Capital of New Zealand—Nature of the country, and character of the soil—The position of its two Harbors—The extent of its water communication with the Interior—Governor Grey's description of the available character of the Land in the neighborhood—Resemblance to the Site of Corinth—Reasons for which it was determined by the British Government that Auckland should be the Seat of the Government of the Colony.

Without the aid of a Map it is difficult to convey anything like a distinct impression of the position of Auckland, begirt as it is by harbors, and forming a centre from which water communication radiates, inland, in every direction.

This spot was fixed upon by Captain Hobson, as the site of the Seat of Government of New Zealand, on account of its central position—its great facility of internal water communication—the facility and safety of its port—the proximity of several smaller ports abounding with valuable timber—and by the fertility of the soil. And further experience appears to have satisfied him of the wisdom of his choice. "I trust," he says, addressing the Secretary of State, "from the documents now in your Lordship's possession shewing the site of Auckland to be on the shores of a harbor, safe and commodious, and easy of access, and within five miles of Manukau, certainly the best harbor on the whole of the Western Coast of New Zealand—within fifteen miles of the harbor of Kaipara, into which four considerable rivers discharge themselves—at no great distance from the Waikato, which waters the fertile and extensive plains of the Waipa, on the western side of the Island—and the fertile valley of the Thames on the east; having, too, in its immediate neighborhood some hundreds of thousands of acres of level, open, fertile land, possessing abundant means of water communication, and being in the centre of the bulk of a native population, now British subjects, rapidly assuming European habits, and acquiring a taste for our manufactures, your Lordship will be satisfied that this neighborhood has been well chosen for the site of the Seat of Government of New Zealand, and that it combines advantages for a large and prosperous agricultural and commercial settlement not elsewhere to be found in this Colony." * * * "With my present knowledge of New Zealand," he adds, "having for some time resided at the Bay of Islands—having visited Cook's Straits and Banks' Peninsula—and after seeing the Company's Settlement formed at Port Nicholson, I do not hesitate to state my opinion that the neighborhood of Auckland combines advantages for a very extensive and prosperous Settlement not to be found in any other part of this colony."

In the First Report of the "Auckland Agricultural Society," published not long after Captain Hobson's death, is to be found a somewhat similar description of the surrounding country. The Committee of that body describe this district

as presenting "a more eligible field for agricultural operations than any other part of the colony, including, as it does, the two great basins of the Thames and the Waikato, which are occupied by plains of vast extent;" but it also possesses, they add, "a most extraordinary facility for internal communication by means of the harbors, estuaries, and rivers, which radiate from Auckland, the capital, as a centre; and all of which may be navigated, either by boats or canoes, to near their sources; and between most of which very short *portages* intervene, over which from time immemorial, the natives have dragged their canoes without difficulty."

But these general descriptions, though drawn by competent and independent authorities, will convey to the mind little more than a vague general impression. Imagine, then, the island to be not unlike the figure of a wasp, with its small waist almost cut in two in the middle. This waist, or isthmus, is formed by a deep indentation on the Eastern Coast, known as the Gulf or Frith of the Thames; and by the extensive harbor of Manukau on the Western Coast, exactly opposite. For an extent of several miles the waters of these harbors are separated only by a narrow strip of land or isthmus about five miles broad. The Gulf of the Thames is protected from the sea by the "Barrier" Islands; and it affords anchorage throughout its whole extent; and in ordinary weather, forms a vast harbor. But it also comprises within its limits several inner harbors, easily accessible, commodious, and safe in all weathers. Coromandel Harbor, the Great Barrier, Matakana, Kawau, Mahurangi, Waiheki, and the Waitemata, afford safe anchorage to vessels of any size, in all weathers. Towards the south-western extremity of the Gulf lie a group of ten or twelve islands: these islands stretch along in a south-east direction for nearly twenty miles, and shut in a long narrow estuary—the Waitemata—in which shelter and anchorage may at all times be found.

On the south shore of the western extremity of the Waitemata—being the north shore of the isthmus—stands the Town of Auckland. So great is the extent of water communication that this isthmus is all but an island: for, some four or five miles to the west of the town, a branch of the Waitemata bends southwards until it reaches within little more than a mile of the Manukau; and about the same distance to the east of the town, the creek or river Tamaki penetrates in a southerly direction until it reaches within less than a mile of a branch of the Manukau at Otahuhu. Twice in the twenty-four hours the numerous ramifications of the Tamaki afford water-carriage to the town to almost every settler in the district.

Ten or twelve miles to the eastward of the Tamaki Heads is the River Wairoa —navigable for about fifteen miles by barges and canoes, and having well-wooded, good land upon its banks. A few miles still further to the eastward, and at the extremity of the group of islands before referred to, and taking a southerly direction, you reach the southern extremity of the Gulf, bounded by the plain or Valley of the Thames. The plain is upwards of sixty miles in length, by about sixteen or twenty miles in breadth; and is watered throughout its whole extent by two winding rivers—the Thames and the Piako, running parallel to each other, and discharging themselves into the Gulf at its southern extremity. Both rivers are navigable for barges or small steamers for a distance of 50 miles at least, and are accessible from Auckland by canoes and open boats, in fine weather. With its numerous harbors, estuaries, rivers, islands, forests, and plains, the Gulf of the Thames itself comprises a commercial world in miniature. The wooded rivers to the westward of the town are clothed with Kauri timber; whence spars are floated down by the tide. A small steamer has recently been built to convey the farm produce of the Tamaki to the Auckland market. The island of Waiheki supplies Kauri timber, timber for ship-building, firewood, manganese, pigs, potatoes, and Indian corn. The Thames supplies flax and sawn timber; Coromandel harbor, native produce of every description; the Great Barrier Island, copper ore;

the Island of Kawau, copper ore and limestone; and Mahurangi, firewood and sawn timber.

As a harbor, in the opinion of the many naval officers who have visited New Zealand, Auckland has no equal in the colony, excepting the Bay of Islands.—Of the thousands of vessels of all sizes which have entered and left the port in the course of the last twelve years, not one has been totally wrecked in, near, or within 50 miles of it.

And yet, with all this, the position of Auckland is but half described. Six miles to the south of the town, across the isthmus, and indenting the West Coast, is the harbor of Manukau. This harbor bears some resemblance to a man's right hand, pointed eastward—the wrist representing the entrance—the thumb, that branch of it which runs up to Onehunga, the nearest point to Auckland—and the middle fingers, the creeks or branches which penetrate into the Papakura district—and the little finger, stretched out, representing the Waihuku branch which runs in a southerly direction until it reaches within less than a mile and a half (2300 yards) of the head of the Awaroa Creek, which runs into the Waikato River. The Waikato is navigable for canoes for not less than one hundred miles.

About sixty or seventy miles from the sea the Waiheki is joined by the Waipa River, navigable for canoes for upwards of fifty miles. The delta formed by those two rivers is a tract of rich level land, and they water an extensive plain only separated from the plain of the Thames by a broken range of low hills.—Thus it will be seen that these distant plains have water communication with Auckland with but two short interruptions,—the *portage* of 2300 yards, which divides the head of the Awaroa from the head of the Waihuku, and the isthmus of six miles dividing Onehunga from Auckland. Native grown wheat and flour, flax, pigs, and Indian corn are brought down the Waikato in canoes, carried over the portage, conveyed across Manukau in canoes or small craft to Onehunga, and carted, by a good road, from Onehunga to Auckland.

Although the best on the West Coast of New Zealand, the harbor of Manukau is far inferior to that of the Waitemata; but it adds not a little to the value of the site of Auckland. Of all the ports in New Zealand, Manukau is the nearest to, being exactly opposite in a straight line, to the capital of the Australian colonies. From Auckland round the North Cape, the voyage to Taranaki occupies six days. But from Manukau, the coasters which trade between the two places not unfrequently perform the voyage in 24 hours. By way of the North Cape, too, Nelson is distant eight or ten days—but by way of Manukau the voyage may be accomplished in less than half the time; and, by the same route, the voyage to Port Nicholson is shorter by almost a half than from the Waitemata by way of the East Cape. Well might the Bishop of New Zealand describe Auckland as being admirably fitted for a maritime nation, almost every settler having, as he observes, "the sea brought conveniently to his door, or at least close to him, by one or other of those long fingers of the great estuaries which almost isolate the town and its suburban districts." No one has travelled more extensively throughout the length and breadth of the islands of New Zealand than the Bishop: no one has a higher estimate of, or a more familiar personal acquaintance with their capabilities, than himself. Yet, "no one," he says, "can speak of the internal capabilities of New Zealand till he has seen the useful rivers which converge upon Auckland and its landlocked sea, branching into innumerable bays and creeks, from which the multitude of small vessels in its harbors have drawn their various cargoes of native produce."

There are numerous fair harbors in New Zealand,—many districts abounding in rich and fertile land—and not a few where facilities of internal water communication are considerable. But the difficulty has been to find these natural advantages in combination. Referring to the districts already settled, the Bay of Islands, as a harbor, is second to none; but the country in the immediate neigh-

borhood is hilly and broken, with but a limited extent of open country available for agricultural purposes. Taranaki has a large extent of excellent land, well watered and beautifully wooded, but it has no harbor, and abuts upon an open roadstead. Wellington has a spacious harbor, surrounded by beautiful scenery—but owing to the broken and hilly character of the surrounding country, there is but little available land within a radius of seven or eight miles of the town.—The harbor of Nelson is of but a second-rate character; and there, also, the available land about the Settlement is of limited extent; and in order to obtain their suburban and country land, the settlers have been compelled to resort to various and distant localities: and both at Wellington and Nelson the facilities of internal water communication are inconsiderable. At Canterbury, the harbor is not of first-rate character; but the district possesses a vast extent of open available fertile land—covered throughout its whole extent with fine natural grass. But, although at no great distance from the port, these open plains are separated from it by a lofty ridge, which renders the inland communication somewhat difficult and laborious. The Otago district comprises a large extent of fine open grassy country, but its harbor, although sufficiently good for the purposes of the Settlement, is not by any means of first-rate character. But Auckland, in addition to its excellent harbor—with a second port within six miles on the opposite coast, and the extensive natural facilities of internal communication, which has already been described—has its town, suburban, and country lands in one compact area, and in unbroken continuity.

The available character of the land in immediate proximity to the town cannot better be illustrated than by Sir GEORGE GREY's description of the Borough, comprising the isthmus on which Auckland stands. "Thus defined," says the Governor-in-Chief, "the Borough of Auckland comprises within its limits, two large harbors, one on either side—and one of which (Auckland) is of a most superior description;—a river—the Tamaki—navigable for small craft, which nearly intersects the Borough,—a water frontage, not including the Tamaki, with its numerous creeks, of not less than forty miles, having shelter and anchorage for shipping throughout the greater part of its extent; and an area of about 58,000 acres, *the whole of which*, with the exception of *about* 2000 *acres, is available for cultivation*, and is generally of very superior quality." This 58,000 acres, too, is not an isolated tract of country, but simply so much of an extensive district of level open country as is included within the artificial boundaries of the Borough.

To a knowledge of the nature and quality of the soils I have no pretension: on this subject I shall quote from the Reports of the Agricultural Society. If I knew of any better authority, I would avail myself of it. The Committee, in their First Report, published in 1843, speaking of the nature of the soil, say—

"About one-half of this district, consisting of undulating ground, is covered with fern and various shrubs, chiefly the Tupaki, and possesses a soil of rich yellow clay, mixed with sand and charred vegetable matter, owing to the frequent burning of the fern, which, when broken up and exposed to the air, soon pulverises into a fine rich loam, varying in depth from one to two feet, easily laboured but from the excellency of the subsoil it may be cultivated to almost any depth required. The subsoil consists of a red and yellow clay, mixed with the ferruginous sand. The substance is formed of a soft blue and yellow argillaceous sandstone.

"One-fourth of the district presents a more level surface, being covered with dwarf Manuka, fern, and a variety of small shrubs and tufts of grass. Its soil consists of a whitish clay, mixed with sand, more adhesive than the former, yet when broken up and exposed soon pulverises: the subsoil, white clay, and red ferruginous sand; substratum, the same as the former. It is not so rich as the first-mentioned soil.

"The remaining fourth may be considered different from either of the former,

being generally situated near the volcanic hills, of a varied surface, the hilly portion being covered with fern and grass. The soil, consisting of a dry red volcanic formation to a great depth, the greater part covered with scoria; and, where it is only on the surface, the soil is a rich red loam, very fertile. Another portion covered with trees and shrubs, shows a rich mould of a volcanic nature to a depth of several feet, mixed with red sand and small calcined stones, resting upon a substratum of concrete. Another small portion, lying along the banks of fresh water creeks, covered with evergreens and tree ferns, affording a rich pliable clay, mixed with ferruginous sand, resting on a substratum of a soft yellow and red ferruginous sandstone. It is thus seen what a variety of soils are offered to the agriculturist, each adapted to some particular production, and favorable to some peculiar mode of agriculture."

Further experience confirmed the Society in their opinion of the capabilities of the soil. In their Second Report, the Committee say that "they have much pleasure in being able to state that their anticipations of the capabilities of both the soil and climate have been fully realised. The samples of grain produced at the Agricultural Show of last February were of the finest description, and the appearance of the crops already in the ground, in every variety of soil, gives promise of an abundant harvest."

After the experience afforded by the six succeeding years, the Committee, in their Report for 1850, express themselves to be "satisfied that the aspect of the country around Auckland warrants the praises which have been bestowed on New Zealand as an eligible colony for our countrymen at home to select as a productive field for their energy and enterprise: the pasture lands," says that Report, "have this year produced heavy crops of hay, and the appearance of the grain and potatoe crops is very promising. The quantity of stock which a pasture-field, in proportion to its average will maintain throughout the year, is equal if not greater than in England."

It may be remembered that, about fifteen years ago, a number of enterprising men associated themselves together for the purpose of carrying out a great scheme of colonization. Imperfectly as they were then known, and distant as they were from England, the Islands of New Zealand appeared to them to present the most promising field in which to try their great experiment. Anxious to secure the success of their project, they carefully instructed the leader of the enterprise, if possible, to secure that site which should be best adapted for a great and prosperous settlement. The working members of the body were shrewd, experienced, able men. Guided by the light of history, and with their own personal knowledge, they carefully traced out for the guidance of their agent their ideal of the site for a Commercial Metropolis. "Of merely fertile lands," they say, "there exists so great an abundance, that its possession, however useful and valuable, would not be peculiarly advantageous. Mere fertility of soil, therefore, though not to be overlooked, is a far less important consideration than natural facilities of communication and transport. There is probably some one part of the islands better suited than any other to become the centre of their trade, or Commercial Metropolis, when they shall be more fully inhabited by Englishmen; and there must be many other spots peculiarly eligible for the sites of secondary towns. The shores of safe and commodious harbours—the sheltered embrochures of extensive rivers communicating with a fertile country—the immediate neighborhood of powerful falls of water, which might be expected to become the seats of manufactures—these are the situations in which it is most to be desired that you should make purchases of land: and especially you should endeavour to make an extensive purchase on the shores of that harbor which, all things considered, shall appear to offer the greatest facilities as a general trading depot and port of export and import for all parts of the islands—as a centre of commerce for collecting and exporting the produce of the islands and for the reception and distribution of foreign goods."

Unfortunately for their colonizing operations, the shores of THAT ONE HARBOR —which fulfilled all the conditions of their ideal of perfection—were already claimed by previous land-purchasers: it remained, however, for the sagacity of Captain HOBSON to discover, and, on the part of the Crown, to appropriate a position so well calculated to become the seat of a great Commercial Metropolis, and to fix upon it as the site of the capital of New Zealand. There is, I believe, but one other such position in the world—turn to a map of Southern Greece, and look at the site of the City of Corinth. Placed in the sheltered extremity of the Corinthian Gulf, built upon a narrow isthmus, where the Corinthian and Soronic Gulfs almost meet. Having two harbors—occupying a position between two seas, and enjoying the facilities afforded by the isthmus for carrying goods from sea to sea, it is not difficult to discover the origin of its early commercial greatness. It may not be easy to convey a clear impression of the topography of the land-locked estuaries and harbor-locked shores of the capital of New Zealand; but seen from the summit of Mount Eden, the value of its position is discovered at a glance. With a bird's-eye view of the reality lying before him, glittering in all the brightness of a genial summer's sun, who would not echo the exclamation of the Bishop, "Look at the position of Auckland, and judge whether it may not justly be called the Corinth of the South."

"In reference to your selection of Auckland in preference to Port Nicholson as the site of the Capital of New Zealand, I am happy to acknowledge," writes Lord STANLEY, "that the grounds on which you proceeded, appear to me satisfactory. On a subject so peculiarly local, and to the right understanding of which so much exact topographical knowledge is essential, my opinion must, of course be guided by the comparison of the statements transmitted to me, and by balancing the weight of conflicting authorities. Approaching the question in that manner, and unaided by any personal acquaintance with the localities, I have thought that there is such a clear preponderence of motives in favor of your choice as to justify me in advising the Queen to direct that Auckland should be the Seat of Government of the new colony: and I have received Her Majesty's commands to acquaint you that such is Her Majesty's pleasure."

Time, experience, and personal acquaintance with the capabilities of the country have now confirmed the wisdom of that choice. "Without wishing to depreciate any of the numerous points of emigration to America, Australia, or Africa, my own choice," writes the Rev. WALTER LAWRY, the Superintendent of the Wesleyan Missions of the South Seas, "would most certainly fall on the Northern Island of New Zealand, and within about sixty miles of Auckland, the Seat of the Colonial Government."

It would have cheered Captain HOBSON in the closing struggles of his life to have received the Royal confirmation of his choice, but the despatch which conveyed it did not reach New Zealand until some weeks after his decease. Governor HOBSON received but scant justice while living, and since his death no public monument has been erected to his memory; but there is rapidly springing up around his grave, in the infant capital of New Zealand, a living monument, which more worthily and more durably than records of brass or pillars of marble will do justice to his memory and perpetuate his fame.

CHAPTER II.

The Town of Auckland—The Harbor—The Suburbs—New Zealand Scenery—The Isthmus, &c.

THE Town of Auckland is built on the Northern side of the Isthmus which divides the Waitemata from the Manukau, and is bounded on the North by the shores of the former harbor. The site of the Town, as laid down on the Official

Plan, has a frontage on the water of about a mile and a half, and extends inland to the distance of about a mile. At present, the greater number of the houses have been built near the water, in the bays and on the headlands with which it is indented. These bays are backed by small valleys which run inland to the distance of about half a mile, terminating in narrow gullies, and are separated from each other by spurs which run into the harbor and terminate in low headlands. The lower parts of the Town being thus separated, the roads which connect them with each other are somewhat steep and inconvenient.

Seen from the Harbor, the Town makes a considerable appearance, and suggests the idea of expansiveness. St. Paul's Church, with its neat spire, occupying a prominent position on the centre headland is an ornamental feature. The Barracks, the Scotch Church, the Colonial Hospital, the Wesleyan Institution, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Windmill on the hill, with Mount Eden in the back ground are the most prominent objects. Approaching the shore, Official Bay, commanded by St. Paul's Church, and with its detached cottage-like houses built on a sheltered slope, each snugly nestled in the luxuriant shrubbery of its surrounding garden, looks pretty and picturesque. Commercial Bay, seen from the water, presents the appearance of a large Town, having a mass of houses closely packed together. Mechanics' Bay is as yet but little built upon; a large rope-walk, a ship-builder's yard, a native hostelry, and a few small shops are the only buildings. This Bay is the principal place of encampment for the natives visiting Auckland in their canoes; here they land their native produce, in fine weather bivouacing in the open air, or under their sail-made tents; and in bad weather, seeking shelter in the neighboring hostelry. Freeman's Bay, to the westward of Commercial Bay, is occupied chiefly by saw-pits, brick-kilns, and boat-builders' yards.

The principal streets are Princes Street, Shortland Crescent, Queen Street, and Wakefield Street. The first is a broad, straight, spacious, well-made street, on a gentle slope; St. Paul's Church, the Treasury and the Bank, and the Masonic Hotel are its principal buildings. Shortland Crescent, which connects Princes Street with Queen Street, is built on rather a steep ascent. It is less broad than Princes Street, but much longer. On one side it is almost wholly built upon; shops and stores are here to be found of every description, and of various forms and style. No attempt at uniformity has been made; every one has built according to his means, fancy, or the size and shape of his ground. The only approach to uniformity is in the material—with a few exceptions, all are of wood. The roadway of the street is an even McAdamized surface; but no attempt has yet been made to form foot-paths on a general level. Some of the shops would not disgrace a small provincial town in England; but taken altogether as a street, Shortland Crescent is irregular and unfinished. Queen Street is the least built upon, but in other respects it is the best and most considerable street in Auckland. It is about half a mile long, nearly level, and almost straight, and terminates at its northern extremity in a pier or quay, which runs into the Harbor, and alongside of which small crafts can land, on this stage, their cargoes. At its southern extremity it is overlooked by the Wesleyan Seminary, or Boarding school for the education of the children of the missionaries in these seas—a spacious brick-built and substantial structure. The Gaol is badly situated, and is by no means a conspicuous building; but by a diligent search it may be found on the west side of Queen Street, partly screened from view by the Court-House and Police-office, which abut immediately upon the street. Several shops of superior description, two and three stories high, have recently been erected, and Queen Street, as well as being the longest, is certainly just now one of the most improving streets in Auckland. Wakefield Street ascends from its southern extremity until it joins the Cemetery road; and is the newest and most increasing street in the town. Many of the houses are built of brick, and it already bears a considerable resemblance to a new street in the outskirts of a modern English town.

The want of a Government House is a serious drawback. Even beyond the circle of the visiting world, the destruction of the Old House has been, in every respect a public loss. Few men possess in their own persons qualities of an order so commanding as to fit them to represent Majesty without the aid of its outward trappings. The want of a suitable residence, operates injuriously on society in many respects: it is a loss to the public, a detriment to the place, and a heavy blow and great discouragement "to that dignity which ought to hedge about" the Queen's Viceregent. The grounds on which the Old House stood, are planted with English oaks and other trees, which already afford both shade and shelter; the lawn and walks are neatly kept; the situation is pretty and convenient, commanding a view of the Flag-staff, and of the entrance into the Harbor; it is close to the Town, too, without being of the town; and it excites in all who take an interest in the place a feeling of regret that it has not yet been restored to its legitimate purpose.

The most considerable public buildings are the Britomart and Albert Barracks, having together accommodation for nearly 1000 men. The former are built on the extremity of the headland dividing Official from Commercial Bay, and form a conspicuous, but by no means and ornamental feature. The buildings are solid and substantial, mostly of scoria—a dark, grey, sombre colored stone—square, heavy-looking and unsightly. The Albert Barracks, the larger of the two, are built upon the same ridge, but about a quarter of a mile inland. The Stores, Hospital, Magazine, and Commissariat Offices are built of scoria. The rest of the buildings are of wood, plain in style, and of a sombre color. The various buildings, together with the parade-ground, occupy several acres, the whole of which is surrounded by a strong scoria wall, about ten or twelve feet high, loop-holed, and with flanking angles. The position of the Albert Barracks is healthy and cheerful, overlooking the Town and Harbor, and commanding an extensive view of the surrounding country; but being commanded by a rising ground within a few hundred yards, and being within view from ships in the Harbor, and within range of their shot and shell, the site, in a military point of view, is not happily chosen. Although much more extensive than those at Wellington, the Auckland Barracks have by no means the same neat, cheerful, and compact appearance. It is not probable however that so large a portion of almost level ground will for many years be allowed to be taken from the site of a town having too generally a broken and uneven surface.

Seen from the neighborhood of St. Paul's Church, the Harbor presents the appearance of a land-locked, lake-like, sheet of water: the Flag-staff Hill, and North Head of mound-like form, bound it on the left. Over the low neck of land which connects them appears the rugged volcanic island of Rangitoto, with its triple peaks; in front are the islands of Motukoria and Waiheki, forming the middle distance, with the range of high land which divides the Gulf of the Thames from the open sea, and which terminates in Cape Colville, forming the back ground. On the right, the outline is broken by numerous little bays, and the low headlands which divide them; the Sentinel Rock forming at all times a conspicuous object.

On the shore of the Harbor on which the Town is built, the water is shoal, and its several bays, at low water, are left uncovered. Except at high-water the landing generally along the shore is inconvenient. For several years, Auckland, in this respect, enjoyed a bad pre-eminence; but the reproach has at length been removed by the erection of a neat wooden jetty, five hundred feet in length, which affords a convenient boat landing-place at nearly all times of the tide. It also forms an ornamental feature in Official Bay, and affords to the public an agreeable promenade. At a short distance from the foot of the pier is a brick-built tank, supplied by a spring of excellent water. Pipes are laid on to the tank, and run along to the extremity of the pier, where water-casks can be filled and taken off to the shipping at all times of the tide. A quay or landing-place

is also in course of construction in Commercial Bay, alongside of which vessels in the coasting trade will be able to land and take in their cargoes. On the North Shore—across the harbor, opposite the town, distant somewhat less than a mile—the water deepens rapidly, the landing is good, and the shore is a dry, clear, shelly beach.

There are no port charges, harbor dues, or taxes levied on shipping; and the harbor is open to all the world to enter and depart free of any charge. There is a pilot, but it is optional with masters of vessels to employ him. If not employed, no pilotage is chargeable. The port is supplied with almost everything necessary for refitting and refreshing vessels—and both ships' stores and provisions can be obtained at moderate prices.

The Waitemata is well adapted for boat-sailing. Canoes from all parts of the Gulf are continually arriving and departing; and with nearly a hundred vessels from distant ports—upwards of four hundred coasters—and nearly two thousand canoes yearly entering the port, its sheltered waters present a lively, business-like appearance. But never, perhaps, is it seen to so great an advantage as when once or twice a-year the native chief Taraia and his tribe, from the eastern boundary of the Gulf, pay Auckland a visit in their fleet of forty sail of well-manned war canoes. Drawing them up in a line upon the beach, and with their masts and sails pitching a long line of various figured tents, they encamp themselves for several days—and the neighborhood of their camping ground presents the appearance of a fair. Pigs and potatoes, wheat, maize, melons, grapes, pumpkins, onions, flax, turkies, geese, ducks, fowls, and firewood are exposed for sale in great abundance, and meet with a ready market. But the money they receive in payment does not leave the town. For several days, the shops and stores are frequented by careful, curious, keen-eyed customers. Their "shopping" ended, they take their departure with the first fair wind, laden with spades, blankets, ironware, and clothing of various kinds; their fleet departing, homeward bound, in a body as it came, extending themselves over the surface of the harbor, with their many-shaped sails of mat and canvass wide-spread to catch the western breeze.

But to the lover of the picturesque, the Waitemata, except at particular seasons, presents no great attraction. Superior as it is in its useful qualities, in beauty of natural scenery it is very far inferior to the harbor of Port Nicholson. The country around Auckland being, for the most part, level and open, the natural features of the country are neither bold nor picturesque. Still the harbor is by no means devoid of natural beauty. Commonly there is an excess of wind; but not unfrequently, and in the winter season particularly, a perfect calm for a time prevails—with a deep but soft blue sky, studded here and there with fields of snow-white silvery clouds, seen through a glistening atmosphere. Thus seen, the Waitemata presents a landscape of placid beauty which it would tax the imagination to surpass. On such a day the sails and rigging of the ships are mirrored in the glassy surface of the water, each, in itself, forming a picture like a "painted ship upon a painted ocean," the glass-like smoothness of the water, being rippled only by boats and canoes lightly skimming here and there upon its azure surface. With such a scene to gaze upon, devoid as it is of striking features, and deriving its charms solely from light, coloring, and repose, the mind is filled with the fullness of its beauty. But this glistening calm is the sure forerunner of a storm. Short-lived, like all exceeding human loveliness, the unearthly brightness of the scene is sure, ere long, to be followed by a boisterous storm of wind or rain.

The Suburban District comprises the rising ground by which the town is sheltered. Many of the choicest spots are already occupied by neat-looking private houses. Overlooking the town and the harbor—and commanding a view of the Gulf, with the "Great Barrier" and "Little Barrier" Islands in the far distance, and the nearer islands which give shelter to the Waitemata—these rising grounds

possess numerous pretty sites. But generally speaking the scenery in this district is neither bold nor picturesque; and is altogether unlike the general character of New Zealand scenery—comparatively bare of trees, and distinguished only by the number of its volcanic hills. The surrounding country is open, undulating—intersected in all directions by the numerous creeks of the Waitemata and the Manukau, and easily available for agricultural purposes; but it presents few of the characteristics of a New Zealand landscape, and it has nothing to mark it as a foreign country. Nor should the scenery of New Zealand be hastily judged: for no comparison can properly be made of the scenery of countries occupying the opposite extremes of cultivation, except as to natural features. It would be unreasonable, for instance, to compare the jungle forests, the fern clad hills, and the swampy plains of a new and unsettled country, with the rich pastures, the green meadows, the forest glades, and the highly cultivated features of an English landscape. But in beauty of *natural* scenery I think New Zealand will bear comparison with England in most of its principal features—mountain, river, coast, and harbor. There is nothing in England, for instance, to equal the snow-clad, silvery-peaked Mount Egmont—or the Alpine ranges of the Southern Island.—The lower part of the Waikato River—the upper reaches of the Thames—the scenery about the narrow pass of the Manawatu—and the wild grandeur of the Wanganui, fully equal in their natural beauty, any of the river scenery of England. The scenery of the West Coast, between Waikato and Mokou, and that of the Southern Island, in the neighborhood of Milford Haven, will bear comparison with the finest views of the British Coast: while Monganui, the Bay of Islands, Port Nicholson, Queen Charlotte's Sound, and Akaroa, are unequalled in their natural features by the harbors of Great Britain. But in lake scenery, New Zealand must yield the palm. True, indeed, there are some pretty gem-like lakes in the district of Rotorua, but there is nothing in New Zealand to equal the lake scenery of Westmoreland and Cumberland, combining so exquisitely as it does the beauties of nature and art. It may be too much to say that the same degree of beauty will never be found in any part of this country: but at present, in its natural uncultivated state, New Zealand contains no such views as *Grasmere*, seen from Butter Crags or Longbrigg Fell—*Rydal*, from Rydal Park—and the thousand beauties of *Derwentwater*, *Barrowdale*, and *Langdale*.

Strangers, however, are frequently very unreasonably disappointed with the natural beauty of New Zealand. They are landed at some port which possesses, perhaps, no great natural beauty—they never travel twenty miles from home, and they conclude that the accounts which have been written of the country—so far, at least, as beauty of scenery is concerned—have been written in a spirit of gross exaggeration. A foreigner having heard much of English scenery, put down in Lincolnshire or Suffolk; and, not traveling beyond the borders of the county, would be equally disappointed, and with as much reason.

The country in the neighborhood of the town—comprising the isthmus which divides the two harbors—is much of it cultivated. Not a stump of a tree is left in the ground. Solid stone walls and quick-set hedges are generally taking the place of temporary wooden fences of posts and rails. The greater part of the land is laid down in permanent pasture. At Epsom, distant about two and a-half miles from the town, and in the Tamaki district, distant six miles, there are grass and clover paddocks as large, as rich, as well laid down, and as substantially fenced as any grass land in England. Owing to the neat and uncolonial style of cultivation, and to the absence of trees having a foreign appearance, the country around Auckland presents the appearance of a home-like English landscape.—One-half of the road across the isthmus, from Auckland to Onehunga, has been MacAdamised, and the remaining half is good during the greater part of the year. With scarcely any exception, the whole of the land on each side of the road is already fenced and cultivated; and the traveller, as he passes along, is never out of sight of a house.

The town and suburbs of Auckland extend across the isthmus for the greater part of a mile; and the Village of Onehunga, on the other side, spreads itself inland for nearly an equal distance: almost adjoining the suburbs of Auckland, too, is the Village of Newmarket, and the remainder of the road is studded here and there by wayside houses. At no very distant period there can be little doubt but that the opposite coasts of New Zealand will thus be connected by one continued line of street.

Upwards of forty thousand acres of land within the Borough of Auckland are the property of private individuals, held under grants from the Crown. About ten thousand acres have been cultivated, of which the greater part is substantially fenced. The most noticeable feature of the country is the large quantity of cattle to be seen grazing in the district. Nearly five thousand head, besides horses and sheep, are depastured on the isthmus alone.

Immediately adjoining the boundary of the Borough, to the south-east, is the Papakura district, extending along the eastern shores by the Manukau Harbor for a distance of ten or twelve miles: this district is bounded on the west by the waters of the Manukau, which deeply indent it in various directions, with its numerous creeks. The centre of the district comprises a plain or flat valley, running inland, in an easterly direction, from the Papakura Pah, for many miles, until it reaches the Wairoa River. About one-half of this plain is densely timbered—the remaining portion being clear and open, but agreeably diversified with clumps and belts which give it a park-like appearance. These belts and clumps consist of a rich variety of wood; the graceful tree-fern, and the deep-green, glittering-leafed karaka, clustering, in unusual profusion, around the tall stems of the statelier forest trees. Surrounded by these ornamental woods, melodious with the song of birds, and here and there clear open spots of ground of various size, sheltered from every wind—choice sites for homestead, park or garden. The soil of the plain is of various character—a considerable portion consisting of a light dry vegetable soil, well adapted for clover paddocks, or for the growth of barley: about an equal quantity is dark-colored, good, strong flax land, suitable for wheat and potatoes, the remainder being rich swampy land, for the most part, capable of drainage. On the north and on the south, the plain is bounded by rugged ridges, densely covered with kauri and other timber—and it is watered by a small, but never-failing, stream of excellent water. The plain of Papakura is best seen from the highest point of the southern ridge, about four miles to the south-east of the site of the old Pah. There may be seen on a bright sunny day, a panoramic view, than which, in the whole of New Zealand, there are few more beautiful.

The isthmus alone is capable of maintaining a dense population; and the country around it is admirably fitted for carrying out the principle of concentration. Vain have hitherto been all attempts to find its equal in New Zealand.—At six other points, in various parts of the country, have settlements been planted. Five of them have been founded by Colonizing Companies, systematically, and with all the zeal and vigor which public spirit and private enterprise can supply: no pains have been spared to render them attractive, and to draw the stream of emigration to their shores: and yet, at this moment, nearly one-third of the whole European population of the Islands of New Zealand is to be found within a radius of ten miles of Auckland. With a Revenue at the single Port of Auckland alone equal to that of the whole of the New Zealand Company's Settlements, and with about five hundred vessels of various sizes, and nearly two thousand canoes yearly entering the port, it is obvious now to all—since prejudice and party-feeling have passed away—that "this neighborhood combines advantages for a large and prosperous *agricultural* and *commercial* Settlement, not elsewhere to be found in this colony."

CHAPTER III.

The Climate; its salubrity—Superiority over Continental Climates—Comparison with the Climate and Weather of England—Season for Fruits and Flowers—Temperature, &c., of the various Months.

THE climate of New Zealand, though undoubtedly good, has been described injudiciously, and without discrimination. Beautiful, delightful, and splendid, are the epithets which have commonly been applied to it. These terms naturally convey the impression of an atmosphere rarely disturbed by wind or rain. Until its true value comes to be appreciated by them, strangers are at first somewhat rudely disenchanted by finding that their imaginary Paradise can be visited, and that too, rather roughly, by the winds and rains of Heaven. This disenchantment frequently takes place at an early period; for it not uncommonly happens that vessels enter the Harbor in a gale of wind. Impatient to view the promised land, the new-comer, in spite of the weather, lands without delay. Wading along a sloppy clay road, in a boisterous gale of wind and rain, with, perhaps, an umbrella turned inside out in one hand, and his hat jammed tightly over his head with the other, he can scarcely divest himself of the idea that the ship must have lost her reckoning, and mistaken her port. Pride, however, prevents him asking questions, and politeness forbids disparaging remarks. But in New Zealand, as elsewhere, a storm is followed by a calm; and if disenchanted to-day, the new arrival will probably be charmed to-morrow by one of those calm, bright, and lovely mornings, whose beauty no language can fittingly describe. The fact is that the climate of a country may be fertile and salubrious—and such is the climate of New Zealand—without being either splendid or delightful.

The general salubrity of the climate of New Zealand has now been established by the experience of years. For persons of delicate constitution, pre-disposed to disease of the lungs, it is unequalled, save by Madeira. Compared with that of Nice, one of the most celebrated continental climates, the climate of Auckland is *more temperate* in summer—*milder* in the winter—*equally mild* in the spring—but a little colder in the autumn:—with this advantage, too, over all the boasted continental climates, that it is not so liable to the very great variations of temperature common to them all from sudden shifts of wind. The climate of New Zealand is doubtless less charming and delightful than that of Italy and the South of France, but it is certainly more salubrious, and probably better suited to the English constitution, generally, than even the climate of Madeira. For although it has its share of wind, rain, and broken weather, it has the advantage over Italy and France, in being more limited in range of temperature—embracing a less oppressive summer heat, and less sudden changes of temperature during the twenty-four hours, and a more gradual change of temperature from month to month.

Many of the Continental and Mediterranean climates are, during certain seasons of the year, finer, steadier, more agreeable than, and equally salubrious as, that of New Zealand, but their summer heat is in some cases too great; their autumn weather frequently unhealthy—winter, too cold—and spring objectionable from being liable to gusts of cold and chilling winds. By moving constantly about throughout the year—traversing continents and seas, it would no doubt be possible to be always in a fine and salubrious climate. But, as a fixed and permanent residence, there are probably few places to be found, in all respects, more suitable to the English constitution than New Zealand; and if that be so, then, few more suitable for persons of delicate chest or lungs; the true theory being, that for *preventing the development of diseases of the chest*, that is the best climate which will admit of the greatest and most constant exposure to the open air, and which is at the same time best calculated to promote the general

health; a tendency to disease of any kind being best warded off by keeping the bodily system in a vigorous tone of health.

Compared with Great Britain, New Zealand, so far as its general salubrity can be ascertained, possesses a marked superiority. From the results of observations made by Dr. THOMSON, of the 58th Regiment, for a period of two years from April, 1848, to April, 1850, when the strength of the troops stationed in the colony amounted to nearly two thousand men, it appears from the following valuable tables compiled by him, that, taking diseases generally, out of every thousand men, twice as many were admitted into Hospital in England as were admitted into hospital in New Zealand. And the mortality, amongst equal numbers treated was about 8½ in New Zealand to 14 in England.

Cases of fever in New Zealand are rare. From the same Returns, it appears there are six cases of fever in Great Britain for *one* in New Zealand; and out of forty-seven cases in New Zealand there was but one death. Of diseases of the lungs, three cases were admitted into hospital in Great Britain to *one* in New Zealand; and out of an equal number treated, seven terminated fatally in Great Britain, and but four in New Zealand. Diseases of the stomach and bowels are more prevalent by half in Great Britain than in New Zealand. Diseases of the liver and brain are nearly the same in the two countries. The only class of cases in which the comparison is unfavorable to New Zealand are complaints of the eye, which are more than twice as numerous here as they are in Great Britain.—Small-pox and measles are as yet unknown in New Zealand.

CLASSES OF DISEASE.	Total Admission amongst the Troops during the yrs ending Mar. 1849 and 1850.	Total Deaths among the Troops during the yrs ending Mar. 1849 and 1850.	Annual Ratio of Admissions into Hospital from different classes of Diseases out of 1000 soldiers stationed in		Annual Ratio of Deaths ℔ 1000 different classes of Diseases among troops stationed in	
			N. Ze'land	G. Britain	N. Ze'land	G. Britain
Fevers	47	1	13	75	0·3	1·4
Eruptive Fevers	2	..	1	3	..	0·1
Disease of Lungs	211	16	51	148	4·3	7·7
Disease of Liver	24	2	7	8	0·4	0·4
Disease of Stomach	222	3	60	94	0·9	0·8
and Bowels	..	..	..	4	..	1·2
Epidemic Cholera	22	..	6	6	..	0·7
Disease of Brain	5	3	2	1	0·9	0·3
Dropsies	152	..	41	50	1·9	1·4
Rheumatic Affections	84	..	23	181		
Venereal	335	3	90	133		
Abscess and Ulcers	278	1	75	126		
Wounds and Injuries	180	..	48	19		
Disease of Eyes	22	..	6	29		
Disease of Skin	152	3	41	44		
All other Diseases						
Total	1736	32	464	221	8·7	14·0

Comparing New Zealand with the healthiest Foreign stations of the British army, it will appear from the following table, compiled by the same authority, taking into account all classes of disease receiving Hospital treatment, that the comparison is greatly in favor of this country. And with reference to pulmonary disease, there are in Malta two cases for one in New Zealand. In the Ionian Islands there are three cases to two in this country. At the Cape of Good Hope there are ten cases for six in New Zealand. In the Mauritius there are the fewest number of cases treated after New Zealand—the proportion being about eight in the Mauritius to six in New Zealand; but the mortality from pulmonary disease is twice as great in the Mauritius as it is in New Zealand. While in Australia there are twice as many cases of pectoral disease as in New Zealand, and the disease being, at the same time, twice as fatal:—

STATIONS.	Annual ratio of Mortality per 1000 among the Troops from all diseases at	No. of men attacked annually out of 1000 by Pectoral Complaints	Average number of deaths out of 1000 men during a year from Pectoral Diseases
Malta	18	120	6·0
Ionian Islands	28	90	4·8
Bermuda	30	126	8·7
Canada	20	148	6·7
Gibraltar	22	141	5·3
Cape of Good Hope	15	98	3·0
Mauritius	30	84	5·6
United Kingdom	14	148	8·0
Australian Continent	[illegible]	133	5·8
New Zealand	8½	60	2·7

In cases of Fever, there are at least five in Malta, the Cape, and in Australia, to one in New Zealand.

Of Complaints of the Liver, there are two cases in the above-mentioned places to one in New Zealand.

And of diseases of the Stomach and Bowels, there are more than two cases at each of the above-mentioned places to one in this country.

TABLE showing the Annual Ratio of Admissions and Deaths among 1000 Troops at the following Stations from the undermentioned Classes of Disease:—

DISEASES.	Cape of Good Hope.		Malta.		Australian Continent.*		New Zealand.	
	Attacked	Deaths	Attacked	Deaths	Attacked	Deaths	Attacked	Deaths
Fevers	88	1·9	173	29	65	1·2	13	0·3
Liver Complaints	22	1·1	21	11	15	·1	7	0·4
Disease of Stomach & Bowels	126	3·1	165	36	153	1·5	60	·9

* From seven years observation, ending March 1850, kindly furnished by Staff-Surgeon Shanks, Principal Medical Officer, New South Wales.

But assuming the above Returns to shew correctly the comparative healthiness of our troops in Great Britain, and at the various Foreign Stations, it does not necessarily follow that they correctly exhibit the comparative salubrity of the climates of the countries to which they relate, so far at least as regards the community at large—and for this reason, that our troops are for the most part lodged in barracks; and that the health of the men is influenced by the manner in which they are lodged, as well as by the climate of the country in which they may be stationed; and that barracks vary considerably in the several important particulars of size, ventilation, construction, and position. This result, therefore, might easily follow—that men stationed in a bad climate but lodged in barracks erected on a well chosen site, spacious, dry, well ventilated, well drained, and supplied with good water, may have fewer hospital cases and less mortality than men stationed in a good climate, but lodged in barracks in a bad situation, close confined, ill drained, and badly constructed. But, making allowance for all such disturbing causes, there can be no doubt that the foregoing Tables afford satisfactory proof of the general salubrity of the country.

Compared with an English summer, that of Auckland is but [illegible] warmer, though much longer. But the nights in New Zealand are always cool and refreshing, and rest is never lost from the warmth and closeness of the night. It is also much warmer here both in the spring and autumn; and the winter weather of England, from the middle of November to the middle of March, with its parching easterly winds, cold, fog, and snow, altogether unknown. Snow, indeed, is never seen here; ice, very thin and very rarely; and hail is neither common nor destructive. The winter, however, is very wet, but not colder than an English April or October. There is a greater prevalence of high winds, too, than is personally agreeable: but with less wind the climate would not be more healthy.—There is most wind in the spring and autumn; rather less in the summer; and least of all in winter.

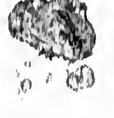
Compared with the climate of Wellington, that of Auckland is a few degrees warmer both in summer and winter: the air here, too, being somewhat more soft and genial. Auckland has less wind than Wellington—but more rain. A better climate than that of either Auckland or Wellington is to be found in the Bay of Plenty, and along the East Coast of the broadest part of the Northern Island where the weather is steadier and more settled, with much less wind and rain.

The Seasons are the reverse of those in England. Spring commences in September; Summer in December; Autumn in April; and Winter in the middle of June.

In the Summer, during settled weather, a calm commonly prevails until about ten or eleven o'clock in the morning: the heat is then moderated by a brisk sea breeze from the north, which dies away at sunset.

Fruits, flowers, and vegetables, all thrive well; but owing perhaps to their more rapid growth, or, it may be that the same amount of care and attention has not yet been paid to the choice of stocks, and to their cultivation and management as in England, the flowers are rather less highly scented, and the fruits and vegetables less highly flavored than at home. Cultivated flowers blow quickly; their color is fine, and no word but profusion can describe their quantity. Figs, peaches, grapes, and melons, ripen in the open air. Gooseberries and currants succeed better in the south, the climate being colder. Strawberries are in season in November, December, and January; cherries and gooseberries in January; apples, pears, plums, peaches, and nectarines in February; and melons, figs and grapes, in March and April. The Geranium, Arum, Fuchsia, Balsam, [illegible] Coronella, Hydrangia, Heliotrope, and Gladiola, and Cape Bulbs of every [illegible] enjoy a vigorous existence in the open air, and roses blow without [illegible].

In the winter, long continued heavy rain is frequent, and the [illegible] more excessive than it is, because the paths and bye-roads [illegible] their natural state, having their clayey surface unformed, unpaved, [illegible]



In the intervals between the heavy winter rains, the weather is bright, clear, and bracing,—the growth of grass is scarcely ever checked by the winter cold,—and the Geranium, Stock and Wall Flower, Scarlet Verbena and Daisy, Indian May, and other flowers, may be seen to blow throughout the coldest season; and the face of the cultivated country, with its ever springing pastures, and ever-green trees, looks as bright and cheerful between the rains—on a sunny winter's day—as on an English summer landscape. More rain falls in Auckland than in England, taking an average of the whole country. But there are more fine dry days in Auckland than in the Northern and Western districts of England. Fogs are rarely seen here; thunder storms are less common and less violent than in England, and lightning, though common, is generally harmless.

The days are an hour shorter in the summer and an hour longer in the winter than in England. Of twilight there is little or none.

The prevailing winds are the S. W. and the N. E., the latter being always the warmer of the two, but it commonly freshens into a gale. By observers of the weather, it is thought that the N. E. gales occur more frequently within a day or two after the full and change of the moon than at any other time. These gales, after blowing for about forty-eight hours, cease suddenly when the wind chops round to the S. W., and the weather becomes clear and bright. With the wind at S. W. or S., the weather is commonly steady—settled fine, or settled wet.—With the wind at W. or N. W., it is almost always showery, squally, and unsettled. Westerly winds fall in the evening. Occasionally the wind blows from the S. S. E. With the wind in that quarter, the weather is commonly cold, chilly, and wet. A shift of wind usually follows the course of the sun: when the wind shifts in an opposite direction settled weather is not expected.

In all seasons, the beauty of the day is in the early morning. At that time, generally, a solemn stillness holds, and a perfect calm prevails: not a sound is heard—not a breath is stirring, as the rays of the rising sun are gently stealing o'er a world at rest. Every object breathes repose; and the peaceful landscape, softly sleeping, suffused with golden light, suggests an image of the world before its fall.

The change in the weather from month to month is very gradual.

JANUARY is one of the finest months in the year, and very favorable for the grain harvest. The temperature indicated by the thermometer out of doors—in the shade—taking an average of several years, is, at eight o'clock in the morning, 66°; at two o'clock in the afternoon, 74°; and eight o'clock in the evening 62°. Taking an average of the same years and during the twenty-four hours, there are in this month, five showery days, two wet days (or days in which there is rain of three hours continuance,) and twenty-four dry days. But, in New Zealand as in England, there is now and then an exceptional season. For instance, in January 1852 the weather was wet and unsettled, altogether unlike that which commonly prevails. In 1846 the weather in January was equally exceptional.

The temperature of the month of FEBRUARY nearly resembles that of January, being 67° at 8 A.M.; 73° at 2 P.M.; and 62° at 8 P.M.; being also usually equally dry. Showery days 5½; wet days 2½; dry days 20½.

In MARCH the temperature falls a little: 8 A.M. 63°; at 2 P.M. 70°; and at 8 P.M. 60°; but the weather is equally dry as in the two previous months.—Showery days 6½; wet days 2½; and dry days 22.

In APRIL mosquitoes disappear, and the weather becomes sensibly cooler—more unsettled and showery. At 8 A.M. 58°; at 2 P.M. 66°; and at 8 P.M. 57°. Showery days 12; wet days 3½; and dry days 15½. In the year 1852 the very wet January was followed by unusually dry weather. Between the 23rd of January and the middle of May there was not one wet day, and the showers were unusually slight.

In the month of MAY the air begins to have an autumnal feel—but the weather

is wet—much more wet than in the preceding month. Towards the end of the month there are generally some of the finest days in the year—calm, temperate, and bright. Temperature at 8 A.M. 52°; at 2 P.M. 60°; and at 8 P.M. 52°.—Showery days 11; wet days 4; and dry days 16.

In the month of JUNE the weather is cold and chilly—but it is very little more unsettled than the two preceding months. In this month also the fine days are very fine. Temperature at 8 A.M. 49°; at 2 P.M. 46°; and at 8 P.M. 49°.—Showery days 11; wet days 4; and dry days 15.

JULY is generally the worst month in the year—the very depth of winter—cold and wet. The ground being now saturated with moisture the water does not readily drain away or evaporate. The dry days are commonly bright and clear; but there is little frost and no snow: the temperature being about 10° warmer here than in an English winter. At 8 A.M. 47°; at 2 P.M. 53°; and at 8 P.M. 47°. The number of showery days being 13; wet days 6; and dry days 12.

In AUGUST a slight improvement commonly takes place. There is rather less rain than in July, and towards the end of the month the air becomes perceptibly warmer. But if the preceding months have been unusually fine, August is then the worse of the two. Temperature at 8 A.M. 50°; at 2 P.M. 56°; and at 8 P.M. 49°. Showery days 10; wet days 5½; dry days 15½.

In SEPTEMBER, spring commences. The number of days on which rain falls may not be much less than in the preceding month, but the quantity is smaller, and, owing to an increase in the temperature, the roads are now observed to dry up after a shower, and a decided improvement is perceptible. Temperature at 8 A.M. 53°; at 2 P.M. 58°; and at 8 P.M. 51°. Number of showery days 8½; wet days 5; and dry days 16½.

The weather in OCTOBER is rarely the same for two successive years, being sometimes fine and dry, but more commonly coarse, cold, and boisterous. The temperature is higher than in September, but the number of days on which rain falls, as well as the quantity is usually the same. High winds and heavy squalls from the westward, with showers, commonly prevail at this season, and it sometimes happens that owing to the force of the wind the cold is as much felt as during the winter when calms prevail. The peach blossoms frequently suffer severely during this boisterous weather. Temperature at 8 A.M. 54°; at 2 P.M. 62°; and at 8 P.M. 53°. Showery days 11; wet days 4½; and dry days 15½.

In NOVEMBER the temperature increases rapidly, but the weather continues unsettled, rain being almost as frequent as in the two preceding months. By shutting up the meadows early, grass would now be ready to cut; but owing to the unsettled state of the weather in this month a sufficient interval of fine dry weather for hay-making cannot be counted upon. The practice is beginning to prevail of shutting up the grass later than was formerly the custom so as to postpone the season of hay harvest until December. Temperature at 8 A.M. 59°; at 2 P.M. 66°; and at 8 P.M. 55°. Showery days 11; wet days 4; and dry days 15.

In DECEMBER the weather is still warmer and more settled than in November; not so warm as January, but having commonly an equal number of dry days.—Temperature at 8 A.M. 58°. Number of showery days 6½; wet days 2½; and dry days 22. For travelling in the bush this is one of the finest months.

A Table of the Mean Temperature of the Air at Auckland; and showing the number of Showery, Wet, and Dry Days.

Months.	8 A. M.	2 P. M.	8 P. M.	Showery.	Wet.	Dry.
January	66	74	62	5	2	24
February	67	73	62	5½	2½	20½
March	68	70	60	6½	2½	22
April	58	66	57	12	3½	15½
May	52	60	52	11	4	16
June	49	56	49	11	4	15
July	47	53	47	13	6	12
August	50	56	49	10	5½	15½
September	53	58	51	8½	5	16½
October	54	62	53	11	4½	15½
November	59	66	55	11	4	15
December	63	70	58	6½	2	22

* The average result of four years observations with a Thermometer placed in the shade and exposed to a free current of air.

† For the same period.—The showery days note the slightest showers that fall during the 24 hours. The rainy days—rain for three hours continued.— The dry days are, with few exceptions, bright and sunny.

The following valuable Meteorological Table and Explanatory Notes were kindly furnished to the writer by Dr. A. S. Thomson, M. D., 58th Regiment.

METEOROLOGICAL TABLES for AUCKLAND, New Zealand, kept during the Years 1849, 1850, 1851. The results are deduced from Observations made during all these Years, unless otherwise stated.

MONTHS.	Mean Temperature of each month. (1)	Highest Temperature observed during each month in the shade. (2)	Lowest Temperature observed during each month. (3)	Average daily range of Temperature. (4)	Temperature of Solar Rays. (5)		Dryness of Air. Mean of three observations daily. (6)	Number of rainy and showery days. (7)	Quantity of Rain which fall every month. (8)	Barometer.		
					Highest observed.	Mean.			In 100ths.	High'st	Low'st	Mean
January	67	83	50	15	122	101	6·9	9	2·64	30·06	29·69	29·87
February	69	85	51	17	124	106	7·5	6	3·08	30·20	29·34	30·03
March	64	78	46	16	107	92	5·1	12	3·37	30·14	29·41	29·96
April	60	75	42	15	99	87	5·1	10	2·13	30·25	29·62	30·00
May	58	71	45	14	99	81	3·7	16	4·00	30·27	29·44	29·96
June	53	66	33	14	88	74	3·2	19	4·79	30·08	29·32	29·74
July	52	65	36	14	88	75	3·1	18	5·17	30·24	29·24	29·75
August	52	65	36	13	90	78	3·1	16	4·37	30·38	29·27	29·79
September	54	66	38	12	94	85	4·0	15	4·20	30·22	29·29	29·80
October	57	73	38	14	109	87	4·2	11	1·73	30·19	29·60	29·81
November	61	75	42	13	108	90	5·1	13	3·84	30·41	29·57	29·92
December	64	77	42	14	112	100	7·0	10	3·14	30·14	29·63	29·89
Annual Estimate	59⅛	85.	33	14	124.	89	4·8	155	42½ inches	30·41	29·24	29·88

1.—The mean annual temperature of Auckland during the above years was 59½ degrees, Fahrenheit's scale. This was drawn from four observations daily, and corresponds almost exactly with the mean temperature given by the late Dr. Johnson, Colonial Surgeon. Florence, Naples, Rome, Marseilles, Toulon, and some other places in Europe, have a similar mean annual temperature to Auckland; but the winter months are colder and the summer months are warmer in all these European places than in Auckland. The distinguishing feature of the temperature of Auckland is its monthly equability. The mean temperature of the Summer months,

December, January, and *February,* is.......................... 66

Of the Autumn months,

March, April, and *May,* 60

Of the Winter months,

June, July, and *August,* 52½

Of the Spring months,

September, October, and *November,* 57

2.—The thermometer rarely rises above 84° even for a few hours in the height of Summer. This column indicates the mean of the three highest temperatures registered each month during three years.

3.—The lowest temperature is taken from a Register thermometer. The temperature rarely falls to 32° Fahrenheit. Snow I have never seen on the ground; and perhaps once a year, when the nights are clear, a thin layer of ice is seen on some very shallow pools of water. The temperature indicated by the thermometer may not be 32° when this occurs; the evaporation tends to assist in the formation of ice. This column indicates the mean of the three lowest temperatures registered each month during three years. I have seen the Register thermometer at 32° Fahr.

4.—The average daily range is the difference between the lowest temperature on the Register Thermometer during the night, and the highest in the shade during the day. The average daily range for the whole year is 14 degrees. This is considerable. At London the average daily range is 11 degrees, at Montpelier 12, at Hastings 12, at Rome 11, at Newport, Isle of Wight, 14.

5.—The temperature of the Solar Rays was drawn from observations made in 1849 and 1850. A thermometer was placed in the sun's rays, in a place sheltered from the wind, about 2 P. M., and the temperature observed. The highest seen was 125. The result given is the mean of two years.

6.—These hygrometric observations were made during two years 1849–50.—A thermometer was hung up in a shady place, not exposed to the wind; its bulb was covered with muslin, which was moistened with water, and the fall of temperature caused by the evaporation registered in the morning, at noon and in the evening. February, December, and January are the months during which the air is dryest. The average fall during the year was 4½ degrees.

7.—One hundred and fifty-five is the average number of days on which rain fell at Auckland during the year. This is the mean of three years' observation, and includes every day on which any rain fell, even if the quantity was not sufficient to affect the pluviometer. It is necessary to bear in mind that many of these days were fine pleasant days—and during most of them out-door work could be carried on. Thus, in 1851, there were 148 days on which rain fell, but only 34 were what could be denominated rainy days. Dr. Johnson, Colonial Surgeon, found, in an average drawn from four years observation (1840 to 1844,) that there were 157 rainy and showery days at Auckland. In England the rainy and showery days are almost equally distributed over the whole year; but at Auckland there are twice as many rainy days during the three winter months as during the three summer months.

8.—The average annual fall of rain at Auckland during the foregoing years was 42½ inches. During the year 1851 only 34 inches fell; and Dr. Johnson

found that the quantity of rain at Auckland, for the year ending August, 1844, was 31 inches. The average fall of rain in the United Kingdom is about [illegible] inches annually; but in the western or hilly countries it is 48 or 50 inches.

9.—The column marked "highest" Barometer, indicates the mean of the three highest measurements registered each month during three years. A similar remark is applicable to the column marked "lowest." The mean annual height of the barometer at Auckland is 29·86. The annual range 1·17 degrees. The lowest I have seen the barometer at Auckland was 28·96. This occurred on the 18th October, 1848, the day on which the severe earthquake occurred at Wellington. The two barometers in my possession gave the same results on this day.

WINDS AT AUCKLAND.—Fine dry weather is sometimes seen in all winds; but, as a rule, when winds having a northerly direction prevail, the weather is often cloudy and unsettled, atmosphere moist: the thermometer rises a few degrees, and northerly winds often terminate in a short gale. When winds having much westerly prevail, the weather is often unsettled with showers; it frequently blows very hard from the west in winter and spring. Easterly gales often occur about the full and change of the moon, and blow for two or three days on such occasions: in winter these easterly gales are often very violent. When the winds have a considerable southerly direction, the weather is fine, atmosphere dry, sky clear, and the thermometer falls.

There is a sea breeze sets in from the north about 10 A. M., in calm weather, and dies away at sunset, when a light land breeze from the southward occasionally springs up.

CHAPTER IV.

AUCKLAND: *Social and Domestic.*

THE population of the Borough of Auckland amounts to between seven and eight thousand, of whom about four thousand five hundred occupy the town and its suburbs.

Considering its size, Auckland possesses the elements of a considerable society. The Officers of the Civil Government are themselves a numerous body.—Being the head quarters of the Bishoprick of New Zealand and of the Church of Rome,—the centre of the Church Missionary Society's operations in New Zealand, and of the Wesleyan Mission for the South Seas,—Auckland has an advantage over most small colonial communities in the number of its ministers of religion. It is also the head quarters of a Regiment; and has representatives from the Brigade, Commissariat, Artillery, and Engineer Departments. Two battalions of Military Pensioners, enrolled for service in New Zealand, with their officers, are located in the neighborhood; and a ship of war frequently lies at anchor in the port. A Banking Establishment connected with the Union Bank of Australia has also been established here. The officers and others connected with these various establishments, and their families, with a number of professional and mercantile men, together form materials for a very considerable society. In what may be termed its fashionable phase, the military element predominates.

In many respects, Auckland resembles an English watering-place. Most of the people, for instance, are living in comparatively small and inconvenient houses—many of them being, and feeling themselves to be, but temporary residents in the country. Acquaintances are quickly formed, and frequently suddenly broken by separation. New settlers and others are from time to time

arriving. Officers and their families, after being settled for a while, are suddenly sent "on detachment," ordered to "the depot," or go home on leave, and are relieved by strangers. As the naval officers are becoming friends and favorites on the station, their ship is suddenly relieved, and they also give place to new faces. As in a watering-place, there is little formal or state visiting; but there is much social intercourse amongst friends, easy, familiar, and without restraint. Although there is no lack of hospitality, there is but little extravagance or vain ostentation; and none of that foolish and expensive rivalry once so ruinously common in our Colonial possessions.

There is, of course, little of the staid formality which characterises the society of an old settled English town. Much more freedom of manner and action;—less uniformity, and more originality. There being few old people—no body of landed gentry, and no old settled families of independent means—no fixed standard of public opinion has yet been established: and society is mainly governed by the good sense and right feeling of its individual members. And, consequently, its usages, if such they may be called, differ considerably—but, in some respects, by no means disagreeably—from those of an English county or cathedral town.

New comers, especially those who have had no experience of the *"tittle-tattle,"* common, all the world over, in small communities, are struck with the prevalence of "gossip." But finding that it is "neighbor's fare"—that it is no respecter of persons—that its equal pressure in all directions destroys its force—they soon become almost as unconscious of its existence as of the air they breathe.

In one respect, Auckland is happily distinguished from most small colonial communities. Society is not divided by political animosities or religious bickerings. Party spirit is neither violent nor general; and owing to the perfect ventilation afforded by the newspapers, the political atmosphere never becomes surcharged by an accumulation of noxious vapors. In colonies, especially those not having Representatitive Institutions, a free and independent Press is absolutely essential: and in all our colonies the Press does actually enjoy unbounded freedom of speech; but this very liberty sometimes impairs its real influence; for unchecked freedom of speech tempts to the habitual use of strong language, and what is gained in freedom is lost in weight: for, by constant use, the strongest language is looked upon as but the "common form." Like a piece of music without any *piano* parts,—pitched throughout on a high key—without modulation—the same air being constantly repeated without variation—the tone of the Press in our colonies is sometimes more noisy than effective. In Auckland there are two newspapers, both published twice a week, which afford abundant facilities for those who love to see themselves in print. For real grievances—for wounded vanity—for disappointed ambition—and for injured innocence—a vacant column is ever ready.

A little more attention to dress, and somewhat more formality of manner, are observable in Auckland than the other settlements. —The colonial practice of standing idly smoking at the shop doors in broad daylight, and of wearing a bush costume, is more honored here in the breach than the observance.—There is little, in fact in the dress of the people, to remind a stranger that he is out of England. Black hats and black cloth coats do not, as in warmer climes, give place to cotton jacket and straw hats. *Mouslin-de-laines*, sometimes do duty for silks and satins; and in other respects, ladies dress much the same in Auckland as in England. But, being so far removed from the fountain head, it cannot be surprising if they are now and then, though very unintentionally, a *leetle* behind the fashion.

In so small a community, much amusement cannot be expected. Once a week during the summer, a Regimental Band plays for a couple of hours on the well-kept lawn in the Government Grounds. With the lovers of music, and with those who are fond of "seeing and being seen," *"The Band,"* is a favourite lounge.

Three or four balls in the course of the year—a concert or two—an occasional pic-nic or water party—a visit to the Island of Kawau—a trip to the Waikato or the Lakes of Roturua—are among the few amusements which aid in beguiling the lives of the Auckland fashionable world. While dissipation in the milder form of temperance and tea-meetings, school feasts, stitcheries and lectures, suffices for the recreation of the graver portion of the Auckland world. To sportsmen, the place offers few attractions; the annual Race Meeting is the great event of their year. Of hunting there is none: and wild ducks, pigeons and curlew, afford but indifferent sport for the gun. Riding, boating, cricket and bush excursions, are the favourite out-door amusements. Once in the year, nearly all of the ball-going portion of the community are brought together at a ball given by the Queen's representative, on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birth-day. Invitations are issued to nearly two hundred: each successive Governor taking for his guidance the list of the last preceding reign—making such additions to it as his judgment, taste or fancy may suggest. As a general rule strangers are well received; but a false step at starting is not easily recovered; and those who care for social position would do well to provide themselves with a suitable introduction.

A new-comer is immediately recognised. Fresh from the great centre of civilisation, and clad in dress of newest fashion, an air of conscious superiority not unfrequently betrays itself in every look and gesture. But not more surely does a new member find his level that dreaded ordeal—the Commons House of Parliament—than a new-arrival in this infant capital. In apprehension of character the people are marvellously clear-sighted—quick in detecting it, and just in appreciation. No one can pass for what he is not. Mere adventitious adtages, unaccompanied by solid worth, are of small account. Pretension and assumption are quickly seen through, and valued at their worth. Rank, station, fortune, family connection, unless supported by character, ability, public spirit or liberality, receive but small respect: while ready homage is always paid to real merit. The new-arrival if not distinguished by some useful or agreeable quality, soon finds his level in a modest insignificence. Many who, on landing, move confidently on, with buoyant step and lofty mein, may soon be seen passing modestly along, undistinguished from the common crowd. Almost the only serious drawback to New Zealand as a place of of residence for ladies is the difficulty of finding and keeping good servants—a difficulty by no means greater in New Zealand probably than in other colonies; but not the less felt on that account. The families of the Pensioners have not supplied the demand in the manner and to the extent that was anticipated. And those of the "needle-women" who have proved to be a valuable addition to the community, were too few in number to supply the demand. Good servants, too, brought out from England, cannot of course, be expected long to remain single; and even if they do make promise of perpetual celibacy, they cannot, of course, be expected to observe it. Small girls are the main resource of housekeepers; and a constant succession of them are continually in a course of training; the temper, time, and patience expended in the process are not, however, entirely thrown away; for though they may not turn their teaching to account as the staid domestic servants of the settler, they are doubtless better qualified to become true "help-mates" to the "rising generation;" but few are patriotic enough to derive much comfort from this somewhat "bird's eye" view of the question.

Almost everything necessary to comfort and convenience may now be procured in Auckland; but not always of the best quality. Although cheaper than Wellington, Auckland is by no means a cheap place of residence; certainly not more so than an English town of the same size. House-rent and servants' wages are at least double what they are in England. But there are no taxes, rates, or dues of any kind. Clothing of all kinds is also, of course, dearer in New Zealand than in England. But wine, spirits, and groceries are, for the most part,

cheaper. Bread and butchers' meat are about the same. The fish caught near Auckland, although of but moderate quality, is plentiful and cheap. Vegetables are also abundant: during the summer of 1852 there were brought to market by the natives, in canoes alone, upwards of eleven hundred kits of onions, (about 20 tons;) upwards of four thousand kits of potatoes (more than 100 tons;) besides corn, cabbages, and kumeras. Peaches, grown by the natives, and sufficiently good for culinary purposes, are very abundant and cheap. During the present summer upwards of twelve hundred kits were brought into Auckland by canoes alone. Those who cultivate a garden are well supplied with peaches, strawberries, apples, figs, and melons; while plums, pears, gooseberries, and cherries are by no means uncommon, although less abundant than the former.

To those who live in the bush, or at a distance from the town, and who are independent of hired labor, the cost of living in the Northern part of New Zealand is very cheap. A tolerable house can be built of raupo at a cost of about ten pounds. Pigs can be purchased from the natives for less than twopence a pound. Poultry, and turkies in particular, thrive better than in England, and almost find themselves: and wheat, potatoes, pumpkins, &c., can be easily raised, or can be purchased for a trifle from the natives. And, for life in the bush, the most inexpensive clothing is sufficient.

It is no inconsiderable compensation for some of the minor drawbacks of a colonial life to those who reside in New Zealand, to feel that they are not surrounded by a population suffering from want or the privation of the necessaries of life. As far as mere food is concerned, the whole European community may be said to live well. Those who have not, or who could not have animal food twice a day would think themselves ill off. A beggar would be looked upon as a curiosity: and those who may be reduced to distress by an accident or sudden bereavement, always meet with the ready and effectual sympathy of their friends and neighbors. And indeed it may with truth be said of the people of Auckland and its neighborhood that they are ever ready, according to their means, to aid in works of charity and benevolence.

Strange as it may seem, both person and property are more secure in this once dreaded land than in civilized England; for, with the exception of petty pilfering, crime is rare. Fearing, probably, a collision between the colonists and the natives, the founders of some of the more recent Settlements have planted them far away to the southward, and as distant as possible from the native peopled districts. But a different feeling prevails among the Northern colonists: the people of Auckland and its neighborhood were for several years almost entirely supplied by the natives with animal food, fish, potatoes, corn, and firewood; and to a considerable extent, with labor. The natives have also been extensive purchasers of horses, flour mills, and coasting craft: large consumers of imported goods—and, by means of their labor, they have also largely augmented the exports of the North. In the absence of the natives but little flax and not a single kauri spar would be exported from New Zealand. Their territorial rights as owners of the soil, too, have always been scrupulously recognised and respected by the settlers in the district; and each party, from the first, has seen the advantage to be derived from the presence of the other; and friendly relations have uniformly been maintained between them. Good-humored, ever ready to enjoy a joke and a laugh, and always appearing self-satisfied and contented, their presence does much to give life to the Northern District of New Zealand.

In a small community so far removed from the bustle of the world there cannot, of course, be many events of general interest; the consequence is, that a general impression prevails that time passes quickly. In earlier times, doubtless, when the settlers met to train to arms—when the Churches were loopholed—when Pahs were assaulted, and English Settlements were swept away—there were incidents enough of stirring interest. But happily now all that is changed, and the incident of most general interest is the arrival of an "English Mail."—

The whole community, from the Governor downwards, are on the alert at the prospect of receiving intelligence from England. Houses commanding a view of the Flag-staff are considered to have a decided advantage for the prospect. Some there are of whom it is scarcely too much to say that they keep a constant watch upon the telegraph; and not a few who, morning, noon, and night, turn a keen eye in the same direction. Hour after hour, and sometimes day after day, "that observed of all observers" will "make no sign," but continue to maintain an attitude of provoking and imperturbable composure. Suddenly, however, a "*Ball*" appears on one of its outstretched arms signifying a "sail in sight," but what may be her rig cannot yet be made out by the signal-man. And now commences speculation. "It may be the *William Hyde*, from London. She is a fast sailer; and if she sailed at the time appointed, she has been out a hundred days. She will bring us late news." Or, "perhaps it is the *[illegible]*, from Sydney; if so, she may bring an English Mail." In the course of an hour, the range of speculation is narrowed. A flag appears at the eastern yard-arm, indicating the coming vessel to be a brig: so it cannot be the *William Hyde*, for she is a barque. The sanguine expectation of letters direct from England is now considerably abated. But to the initiated—a favored few—the oracle now speaks plainly—A stream of flags adorns the telegraph, and indicates the "Number" of the "coming" brig. Those who possess a copy of Marryat's Signals are eagerly consulted, and speedily it is announced to be the brig *John Wesley*, direct from England. A few minutes after she has dropped her anchor, a boat comes on shore: a number of bags are seen to be landed, and it soon becomes known throughout the town that she has brought "*a large English Mail*." And now comes a trial of patience. A large mail is rarely delivered within less than four hours after its arrival. The usual hour for closing the Post Office is four o'clock: it is now two o'clock. Will the letters be delivered to-day? A notice makes its appearance on the door of the Post Office that there will be no delivery until to-morrow morning, at ten o'clock. To-morrow morning comes, and, long before the appointed hour, men, women, and children, and people of every degree, begin to collect around the letter-box door, and when the delivery commences there is a rush, a squeeze, and a struggle, like the rush at the pit-door of a theatre on the performance of a new and popular play. It sometimes happens that English letters arrive with less note of eager expectation: by the overland mail, perhaps, from the South; or it may be, by some small coaster by way of [illegible]; but be it as it may, the arrival of an "English Mail" is an event of lively, never-failing interest. Let those who are accustomed to penny-postage and hourly deliveries, imagine, if they can, the non-delivery of letters for the period of three weeks—they may then form some idea of the eagerness with which letters from England are received by the dwellers in this distant quarter of the world.

To receive English letters on an average about once only in three weeks—letters which, under the most favorable circumstances, are at least four months old—is generally complained of as one of the most serious drawbacks to a residence at so great a distance from home. Bad as it is, however, the evil would be tolerable compared with the aggravation of it to which the public here are subjected in consequence of the ignorance of the Post Office authorities in England of the topography of New Zealand, and of the unfrequent and irregular means of intercommunication between its several Settlements. Instead of sending all Auckland letters either by vessels direct to this port or by way of Sydney, mails for Auckland are not unfrequently despatched by vessels bound for Canterbury, or Nelson, or Wellington, the consequence is that letters and newspapers frequently arrive here six, seven, eight, and nine months old. In the mean while, later dates have been received direct, and the newspapers when they do arrive are put aside unread, having become but records of old news; and private letters are deprived of nearly all their interest. Upon inquiry into the cause of the delay, it is found that the letters in question were sent by a ship bound for Canter-

bury; that they remained in the Post Office there for a fortnight, waiting an opportunity for Wellington; that after a voyage of several days, they reached Wellington; that after there waiting for the next opportunity to be forwarded, they were despatched in about ten days by the overland mail—and that after an overland journey of a month, they reached Auckland six or eight months after date.

It would do the Auckland public an essential service to bring the following facts under the notice of the Postmaster-General:—That about once in six weeks a vessel is despatched from London to Auckland direct—average voyage four months. That on average one vessel a fortnight arrives here from Sydney—and that English letters by this route are less than five months old. But that if letters for Auckland be sent by a ship to Wellington they would be nearer six than five months old on their arrival here—and for this reasons: By sea, there is not an opportunity of forwarding mails from Wellington to Auckland once in three months, and the overland mail is despatched but once a fortnight, and occupies a month to make the journey. To send Auckland letters by a vessel bound for Nelson or Canterbury would still further retard their delivery by at least a fortnight. It should be a rule, then, at the Post Office Department in England, *on no occasion to forward letters addressed to Auckland except by vessels bound direct for Auckland or by way of Sydney.* The observance of this rule would cost the Department nothing, and would relieve the community here from a serious grievance—the more annoying because it is known to be neither necessary nor irremediable—and naturally irritating, because it appears to originate in the ignorance, negligence, or indifference of a Department distinguished by the attention, vigilance, and despatch with which, in England, its business is conducted. If some such rule be not adopted by the Post Office authorities, every one who would have his letters reach their destination before they are six months old, ought to take the rule for his own guidance, and direct them to be sent by the first vessel bound direct for Auckland; or if no vessel be about to sail for Auckland direct, then direct them to be forwarded "*via Sydney.*"

The arrival of *"a box from England"* is an event which creates still more lively and exciting pleasure; but it is an event of rare occurrence, and confined in its interest comparatively to a *few.* The degree of pleasure enjoyed by the receiver of "the box" may be imagined when it is known that it is quite worth while to be but present at the opening of a box received by another, for the sake of the reflected pleasure to be enjoyed from witnessing the unmingled delight of the happy recipient, as she draws out, and unfolds to view, one by one, its various contents. Let those who have a fair friend in New Zealand, whose exile they would cheer by something more than a momentary pleasure, try the experiment by sending her a *Box* and they shall not be disappointed.—What shall be its contents must depend upon the taste of the absent friend for whom it is intended.—A little new music, good drawing pencils and paper, boots and shoes of good quality, well made, and of fitting shape, [illegible] gloves, the "book of the season," novel, travels, or biography, &c., according to taste. A piece of crotchet-work of the last new pattern, the last new paletot or a chambord cloak, of the newest style, a Talbotype miniature, an assortment of wools, and a ball-dress of color and material, suited to the figure and complexion of the intended wearer. These, and a few nic-nacs to fill up the box, will secure for the gift a ready acceptance, and for the giver a grateful remembrance. There would be no objection to its being known in the neighborhood that "a Box" was about to be made up, in order that friends and neighbors might have an opportunity of contributing their mite. But no letters should be admitted. Sent by post, letters will be received within a few hours after the arrival of the ship; but if sent in a box, they will probably remain for a week at least in the vessel before they shall have been disinterred from the depths of her hold.

But perhaps no picture of the business and amusements of a people can be

given so faithful and life-like as may be gathered from the pages of their local newspapers. Take as an illustration the *New Zealander*, for Wednesday, the 21st of January, 1852. The *New Zealander* is published at Auckland, twice a-week; the number referred to, chronicles the sayings and doings of the Auckland public for the four preceding days. The *Shipping Intelligence* informs us that, during that time ten small coasting vessels had arrived from the neighbouring ports, with their various cargoes of pork, apples, onions, pigs, peaches, maize, flax, and firewood. That on the 15th there were at Monganui twenty-seven whalers, chiefly American. That H. M. S. *Calliope* had arrived at that port, and sailed again for Wellington. That H. M. brigantine *Pandora* and schooner *Brambel*, had also touched at Monganui. The *Governor Wynyard* steamer is advertised to sail between Auckland and Otahuhu (on the Tamaki). Another advertisement informs the public that "this new steamer is open for engagement for excursions, pic-nics, &c., on reasonable terms." The brig *Emma* is advertised to sail for Sydney, the schooner *Julia*, for Canterbury, the clipper schooner *Cicely*, for Taranaki, and the Baltimore clipper schooner *Falmouth* for San Francisco. The Master of the "Auckland Academy" intimates that his Academy will be re-opened on Monday next. "Branches taught—English Reading and Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Geography, Mathematics, Latin, Greek, &c."—The public are also informed that the Grammar-school, Victoria Cottage, will also re-open on Monday, January 26th. Tenders for the annual army contracts are called for by the Commissariat Office; and under the head of "Onions" we are informed that "the undersigned are purchasers of Onions in quantities of *one ton and upwards*." The announcement of £100 REWARD next attracts the eye. Under this title we find that "£100 has been subscribed as a Reward to any one who shall first discover an available GOLD FIELD in the Province of New Ulster, (New Zealand)." A column and a half is occupied with a list of books to be sold by Auction. And an advertiser makes it known that "[illegible] good potatoes are wanted by Saturday next." A goodly portion of space is taken up with a report of the proceedings of the Auckland Municipal Council—of motions made and withdrawn, amendments proposed, reports [illegible], and of matters referred to select committees. So much for business. Now for amusement. Under the title of "Cricket," we find that the concluding and decisive match was played on Friday, when the Aucklanders proved victorious over the Military; "The Auckland Club winning with three wickets to go down." "The band of the 58th Regiment will perform in the grounds in front of the old Government House, to-morrow (Thursday) afternoon, from four till six o'clock," is the next announcement. Then follows the "Programme," containing a selection from the music of Donizetti, Strauss, Jullien, Balfe, &c. The sporting world are informed that "Mr. J. Codlin's bay gelding *Jack* is open to run any horse, mare, or gelding in the country, &c. for £100 aside;" and the "Auckland Regatta" is announced to take place on Thursday, the 29th. Eleven prizes are offered to be contested for by boats of every description, of shapes, names, and size. "For small Canoes, not to be manned by more than twelve natives," and for "Canoes manned by an unlimited number of natives." The literary world too makes sign of life—"Now published, price one shilling, Two Lectures on the Aborigines of New Zealand, &c.," and "Just published, price one shilling, WHY AND BECAUSE, an essay on the strange infatuation that stimulates individuals to the practice of Intemperance." Nor are the wants of the epicure overlooked; various advertisements inform him where Burgundy, Claret, Champagne, White Hermitage, Hock and Moselle, Yarmouth Bloaters, Kippered Salmon, Pickled Oysters, Hare Soup, &c., can be procured at a moment's notice. Of some forty other advertisements one may be cited for the purpose of piquing the reader's curiosity—"On sale, *Three bales of Gunny Bags!*" The editorial column is occupied with the great event of the preceding day,—"The launching, and now the actual plying," says the Editor, "upon our waters, of a steam vessel,

in all its parts constructed by the skill and industry of *Auckland* artificers, as well as owned by *Auckland* proprietors,* may without exaggeration be regarded, as an event in the history of our settlement and colony." We are then told that the ceremony of naming was performed in the usual manner by the Mayor; that after receiving the name of *The Governor Wynyard*, she proceeded on her trip, gallantly buffetting wind and waves, and that all things considered, this, her first excursion, passed off in as satisfactory a manner as could have been anticipated. Thus, from the pages of a single newspaper, is to be gathered a picture of the business, occupations, and amusements of the community more truthful and lifelike than could in any other manner have been portrayed for the benefit of the distant spectator.

Such, then, "little extenuating, and setting down nought in malice," is a faithful picture of Auckland, social, and domestic. To the frequenters of Almack's, the Opera, Ascot, and the Highlands, it will probably appear surprising that people can be found capable of surviving a lengthened residence in this half-barbarous distant land. But on the other hand, it may be doubted whether those who have been accustomed to the easy freedom of society in New Zealand, would gain much addition to their enjoyment, by exchanging it for the chilling atmosphere, and the stiff, cold, formal usages of English fashionable life. For fine ladies, whose happiness depends on the luxuries, refinements, and thousand trifles which are thought essential in highly civilized life, and to the mere idle man of pleasure, without occupation and without an object, a small community in a newly settled country, can have no attractions; but those who are occupied with the ordinary business of life make no complaint of the dullness of existence; while those who are advancing the outposts, and acting as the pioneers of civilization, those who are gallantly leading the all but forlorn hope of preserving and maintaining an aboriginal native race, and those who are actively engaged, whether in Church or State, in laying the foundations, and rough-hewing the Institutions of a future Empire, instead of lamenting that their lot has been cast in the stony places of a dark and distant land, appear rather, in its very remoteness, in the depth of its darkness, and in the rugged character of the country and its people, to find in New Zealand its principal charm.

CHAPTER V.

"Night and Morning."—*The "Past and Present" of New Zealand.*

Any account of "Auckland and its Neighborhood," however slight, would be imperfect indeed which should make no mention of its early history; or of the condition, "Past and Present," of its Native people.

The position and natural advantages of New Zealand, are such as, under any circumstances, to secure for its colonization a large amount of public attention. But it was not because it was a good land—a land of wheat and barley, and vines, and fig-trees—of oil, olives and honey—a rich and promising field of emigration—that the undertaking was viewed by thoughtful men with deep and serious interest; but because it was about to be made the field of an experiment affecting the interests of humanity. A pledge was given by the Ministers of the

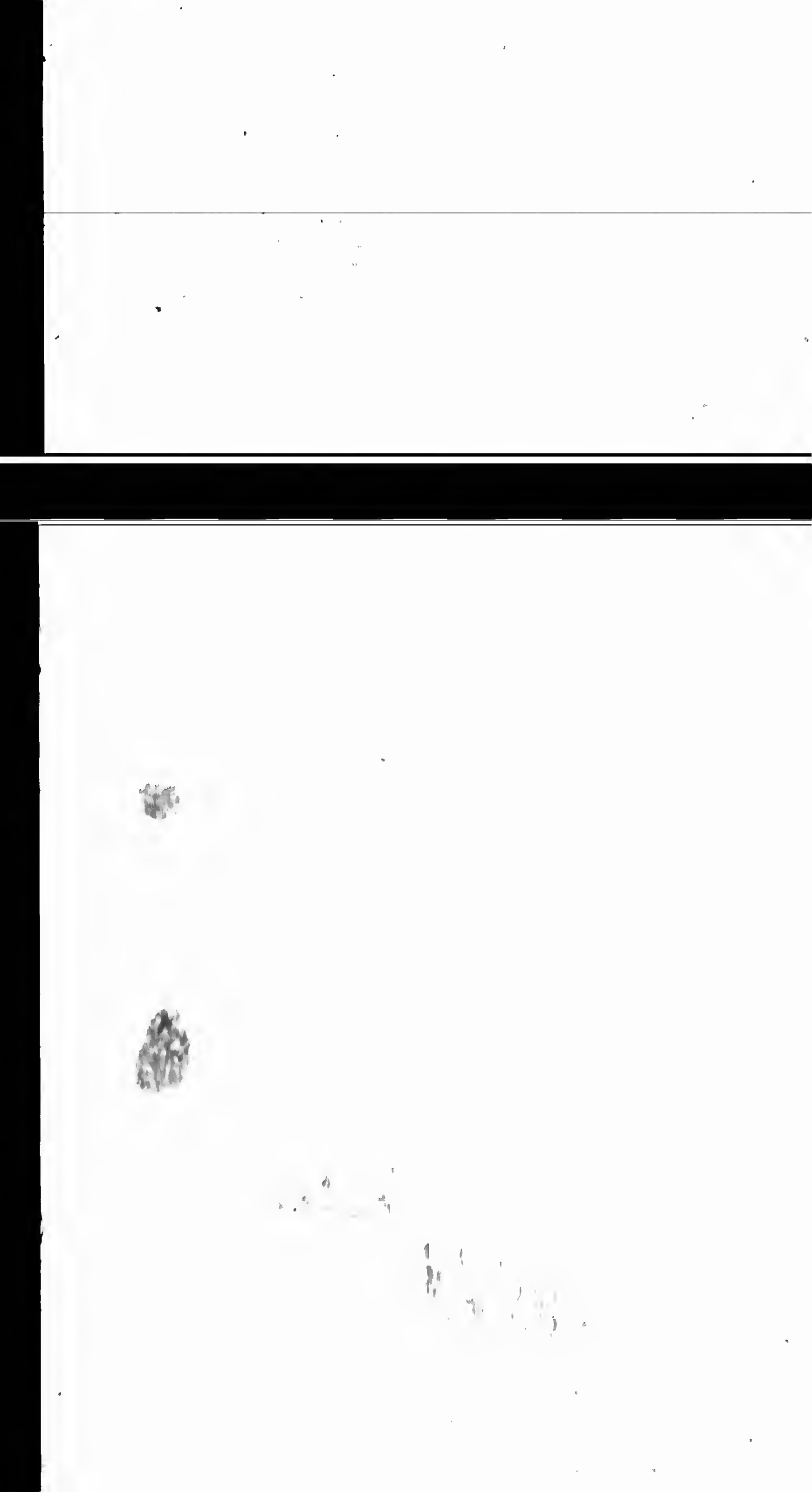
* It ought to be recorded, to the credit of their enterprising spirit, that Messrs. Stone, Gardener, and Lankford, of Auckland, were the projectors, builders, and owners of the first Steam Vessel that was launched on the waters of New Zealand.

Crown, that as to the Islands New Zealand, its Native inhabitants—to use the measured language of a Ministerial despatch—should, if possible, "be saved from that process of war and spoliation under which uncivilized tribes have almost invariably disappeared as often as they have been brought into the immediate vicinity of emigrants from the nations of Christendom."

Awakening to a sense of its past proceedings as the invader of defenceless heathen lands, the British nation was about to try the experiment whether a fragment of the great human family—long isolated from the world, destitute of all spiritual light, and sunk in heathen darkness—could be raised from their state of social degradation and permanently maintained and preserved as a civilized people? Or whether those desolate portions of our fellow creatures must be for ever left in a state of hopeless barbarism? Whether, in fact, it were possible to bring two distinct portions of the human race, in the opposite conditions of civilization and barbarism, into immediate contact, without the destruction of the uncivilized race? And whether, in rendering the colonization of a barbarous country possible, by his religious teaching, the Christian Missionary is not also at the same time the pioneer of the destruction of its heathen people? Such were the questions involved in the colonization of New Zealand.

While the Novelist was delighting his readers with imaginary pictures of moving incident, striking change, and high-flown sentiment, a few of our countrymen were taking part in reality, and witnessing a "Past and a Present," in the remote Islands of New Zealand, too startling even for the pages of Romance. Although but twelve years has elapsed since the undertaking was commenced, yet the modern traveller, now arriving in the country since light has dawned upon the land, seeing the neighborhood of its Capital cultivated like an English landscape—the colonist living in peace and plenty—the New Zealanders supplying the markets with the produce of their industry—the two races dwelling together in uninterrupted harmony—English laws regularly administered—order prevailing—and Christian teaching eagerly received—can, with difficulty, now imagine that so bright a "Morning" was preceded, and so recently, by so long and dark a "Night"—and can hardly realize the difficulties, the anxieties, and the grave responsibilities of its early founders.

To appreciate fully the contrast between the "Night and Morning" of New Zealand, it is not sufficient to call to mind some general vague expression that once upon a time these Islands, on account of the savage character of their people were so dreaded by the mariner, that nothing but the last necessity would induce him to land upon their shores. A yet nearer and a clearer view of their condition must be presented to the mind. Go back but sixteen years—not to view a picture drawn from imagination, but to view a stern reality. The conflict ended—traverse a Native field of battle. Horror-struck, you may be: thankful, indeed, you ought to be, that you have lived yourself in a blaze of Christian light; but repress all self-exultation—remember the revolting barbarities once committed in the streets of the boasted capital of refinement and civilization—and learn, with all humility, to what depths we ourselves might fall if, like the inhabitants of New Zealand, we should be left for ages without all knowledge of a God. Take, then, for instance the scene at R * * *. Time, 1836. The bodies of fallen men, weltering in their blood, are here and there strewn about the ground. Here "a number of bodies are laid out, previously to their being cut up for the oven." You "turn away in disgust, and sick at heart;" but which every way you look, "some sight of horror salutes you."—By-and-by, a body, apparently that moment killed, is dragged into the camp. "The head is cut off almost before you can look round—the breast is opened, and the heart streaming with warmth, pulled out and carried off." At every turn you are exposed to the most revolting scenes. "Halves of bodies, quarters, legs, and heads, are carried away, and some of them are purposely thrust into your face." You now visit the spot where the opposite party is encamped, and



where "for two days after the battle they remained to gorge on sixty human bodies." "Bones of all kinds, the remains of their cannibal feast, are spread about in all directions." Two long lines of native ovens mark the spot where the bodies were cooked: and a smaller oven, with a wreath around its edge and two pointed sticks by the side, on the one of which was a potatoe, and on the other a lock of hair, points out the place where they set apart, a portion of their horrid meal for the Evil Spirit." Retired somewhat apart is a little child, "nursing in his lap, as if a plaything, one of the slain chief's hands." Such were the frightful scenes to be witnessed in these Islands but sixteen years ago. Standing in the midst of them, the appalled spectator might hardly have been persuaded, thought one rose from the dead, to assure him of the fact, that he himself should live to witness, within less than sixteen years, Native children of New Zealand, neatly clad in English dresses, assembled for Christian worship on the Sabbath-day, chanting the "*Magnificat*" and the "*Nunc Dimittis*" and singing, in English, the Evening Hymn, in a manner to put to shame many an English congregation. With the battle-field of R * * * fresh painted on its pages, what author of Romance would venture to represent the actors in these scenes, after so brief an interval, assembled together at a Meeting to promote the spread of Christianity among the heathen people of the neighboring Islands—gratefully acknowledging the benefits which they have received from their own Christian teachers—quoting from Scripture the command to "Go into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature"—animating each other to speed the Christian work, and contributing, according to their means, in aid of the newly founded "Melanesian Mission." If made the subject of romance, a contrast so striking would be deemed to outrage probability. But fact is stronger than fiction: and there are those now living who can bear witness to its truth. Jowiri Kumumoko, addressing the Native Missionary Meeting at Taripari, may be taken as a striking illustration of the "Past and Present" of New Zealand, and as a living personification of its "Night and Morning":—

"My Friends,—Although I am not an old man, I have tasted human flesh; some years ago it was sweet; the Gospel came, and I would not receive it. I then went to Taranaki, and again tasted human flesh—but it was no longer sweet. Why was it not as sweet as before?—it was now bitter to my taste. The reason is, the Gospel told me it was wrong: and if any one in this assembly should again taste of human flesh it would no longer be sweet to him. Although he may not believe in Christ, yet he would find that his old habits and customs were no longer sweet, because he has heard the truth and the Scriptures, and the Holy Spirit would speak to his heart. The light had come, and he would be unhappy. The Bishop and myself have been to the islands near to us; many of the islanders are cannibals: five Europeans had been killed a few months ago, and perhaps eaten. What are we to do? We must send the Gospel of Christ. It has already begun its work; thirteen children of the chief's of those Islands have been given to the Bishop to educate. You must do the same; send your children to the schools at Kaetotoche, Maraitai, and Auckland. They send their children a great distance, while you are but a short distance from the schools, and yet some of you do not send your children. At one of the Islands we had a near escape. We landed to get fresh water; when inland, the people came around us, stopped our path, but let us pass when we came in the midst of them; they then went aside and some of them threw stones at us. They had their hands on their bows ready to send their arrows: we were obliged to leave our water-casks. When we reached the sea, the Bishop and all of us had to swim in our clothes to the boat, which was some distance from the shore: we reached the boat and ship in safety. And why? Because God protected us; He will protect all his servants who make known His Gospel. Why did He not allow an arrow to be shot at us? Why did we not sink whilst we were swimming to the boat? I had coat and shoes on—

they were heavy—but God strengthened us all. The Bishop says he will not give up the Islands—he will persevere to carry the Gospel—and if he says I shall go with them and remain there, I am willing; but what am I doing? I am boasting which is not good. This is all my speech."

Such is a faithful version (translated) of the speech of a native of New Zealand in the year 1852.

To have foretold, some sixteen years ago, that New Zealand—the terror of navigators, the scene of war, rapine, and cannibalism, the very bye-word of barbarism—might in this present year of 1852 be traversed throughout its length and breadth in fearless security by a solitary, unarmed traveller, would in itself have been a bold assertion. But it would have taxed the faith of the most sanguine to believe that nothing in that same year should surprise the traveller more than to find, wherever two or three are gathered together, the close of dawn of a single day unmarked by the sound of prayer or praise—yet such is the record of the modern traveller.

But contemporary events are seldom rightly discerned, or fully appreciated, even by their principal actors; for to be seen distinctly, objects may be placed too near as well as at too great a distance from the eye. To those who are occupied with the near realities and the pressing exigencies of their daily life, there may appear to be nothing remarkable in the work of civilization which is going on around them. Nay, the very rapidity of its progress—the ease and quiet with which it is accomplished—tends, in the view of the immediate spectator, to rob it of its interest; but, in some far distant age, when the "Present" of New Zealand shall have become time-honored, and shall be dimmed in the antiquity of the "Past," it will be regarded as an historical fact of curious interest that a little band of Englishmen, strong only in their weakness, were sent forth by the Parent State to found a Colony in these Islands, and to govern and control, not only their own countrymen, but a barbarous, well-armed, warlike people a hundred thousand strong—jealous of their liberties, and impatient of control. How fared these early Founders—what were their hopes and fears—what their difficulties—and how were they surmounted? How gain even a footing in the land, and how maintain their ground? How was the armed barbarian made amenable to their laws? By what means were a powerful, independent people induced to yield even a semblance of obedience to an almost powerless foreign sway? These, and questions such as these, will then be matter of curious history. And the "Past and Present" of New Zealand—though, to its living actors, it may be of little interest—will, if faithfully recorded, be read by a remote posterity as a "Strange eventful History."

In other regions of the world, England has, by conquest, extended largely the bounds of her dominions—the result of many a brilliant victory. But what is won by the sword—and that which is held by the sword—by the sword may also perish. Here the issue still is pending, and the victory yet unwon; but if it shall be given to the Founders of this colony to be also the instruments of preserving a barbarous native race, and of raising them in the scale of civilization to a level with ourselves—then, crowned with these unwonted blessings, the first fruits of a coming age—the colonization of these islands will be one of the noblest conquests in the annals of our country's history: and New Zealand, already the cradle of civilization and the Day-Spring of light to the heathen people of the Southern Seas, will be the brightest ornament in the borders of her empire.

CHAPTER VI.

Letter from New Zealand.

The following Letter from Doctor S. J. STRATFORD, formerly of Woodstock, C. W., to his brother, Dr. William H. Stratford, of Brantford, C. W., will be read no doubt with interest, as it gives much general information relative to the country, climate, soil, people, &c., &c.:

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, 20th July, 1855.

MY DEAR WILLIAM:

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

I did not like the look of things in Melbourne, so immediately started for New Zealand, and arrived in Auckland in the latter end of January, 1855.—It was now mid-summer; every thing was gay and beautiful, the temperature most pleasant, and country, although young, most delightful to look at. I have sent you a printed publication describing Auckland and neighborhood, which I trust you will receive. I presume ere this, you have received a newspaper from me, with a slight detail of a Lecture given at the Mechanics' Institute in Auckland; from it you will see that I am trying to get land set apart for Canadian emigrants at Mongauni. I have sent the lecture to Canada by Mr. Campbell, a Government Surveyor. He has gone for his father's family, who reside at Cobourg, and expects to bring them out to Mongauni. The land is to be sold at 10s. per acre, when an agent is appointed in Canada. I also intend going to Mongauni, and shall make a point of describing this land and the country generally, so that the Canadians shall be able to understand the character and beauty of the country, and the advantages of the climate before they attempt to come here.

To give you an idea I am now sitting in a room without any fire, although it is midwinter, the temperature is but a few degrees different from that of summer—indeed I presume that the thermometer does not range over twenty degrees from the hottest to the coldest time ever known here—indeed it is a land of perpetual Spring. You may have two crops in the year, and it requires but the hand of man to cultivate and improve it, to make it a paradise on Earth, if such can happen in the present dispensation. I have a very considerable practice considering the time I have been here. I see more Gold in the shape of sovereigns in a few days than I saw all the time I was in Canada, but everything is extremely dear. If my plans with regard to Mongauni should take, I may perhaps go there, where I shall build me a house, and in all probability have my vineyard, my plantation of figs and olives, &c., but God only knows—in his hand I place the result of all my plans. I hope I am forwarding the [illegible] and hastening the time when the Gospel of Peace shall be disseminated over the Isles of the Ocean. Our Southern Britain is fast becoming a Christian country, a few years back the land of cannibals, and now for the most part a semi-civilized and praying people. Their zeal for learning is great, only fancy to yourself a naked savage tatooed all over, with only a piece of New Zealand flax tied around his waist, coming up to you in the streets of Auckland, among gay dressed folks, and with slate and pencil in hand, praying you to prove a sum which he had been doing in the rule of three. Most of the natives can read and write—when they sign their names to any document, do not, like the poor of England, put their cross; is not this encouraging?

If I was near you I could present you a beautiful nosegay gathered from the hedges of Fusia Roses, Jerrania, Lauristinus and a vast variety of other beautiful flowers that blossom all the year round, from the constant spring-like character of the atmosphere. I must tell you, however, that the desiduous trees of Europe and America do not forget to shed their leaves. The oak, the maple, the fig, &c, are all bare, but you will know it is not from the frost, when the Fusia are in full blossom. The soil is all volcanic, and from the top of Mount Eden, an extinct Volcano 600 to 700 feet high, with a deep crater at the top, I can count some 17 or 18 volcanic vents. The Harbor of the Warlimela and Gulf of Hounia on the one side, with their numerous and distant islands, and the Harbor of Manikin with its mountain ranges on the other, forms really a splendid view, besides which cultivated farms and neat villas, spread out in the Isthmus that joins the east and west coast add great effect to the scene. I think there is little doubt that when the hand of man shall have fully developed all the natural beauties of the place, it will really be a garden of Eden. Nay, the three Islands of New Zealand eclipse any part of the world in beauty of scenery, fertility of soil, with a temperate climate—a climate that traces the animal and yet produces all the luxuries of the Tropics without excessive heat. In the gardens you see all the choicest productions of Europe, Asia, and America, growing side by side.—The aloe, the cactus, the fig, the apple, the peach, the plum, the olive, the laurel, the gutta percha, the Norfolk Island pine. I could go on until I had named every kind of fruit and grain you can mention; Bees abound, a most beautiful kind of native pigeon, while the pheasant, (e. g.) the guinea hen, rabbits, pigs, and the deer have run wild. Curious to relate there is not a venomous animal of any kind to be found. I may continue to tell you that I have sent a package of geological specimens to the Toronto Canadian Institute, also some views of Auckland that have been given for the purpose. The views are of Auckland many years back, say 5 or 6. Auckland is only 15 years old itself, but is already a place of great trade, there may be some 25,000 white people, but there are also 100,000 natives; they will work, but require to be well paid; any one can command 7s. 6d. or 10s. sterling a day. I have heard of a white man getting £1 10s. a day; a man, horse and cart always demand it. The natives have considerable farms, on which they raise great quantities of peaches—I measured one in the summer a foot in circumference—great quantities of wheat and potatoes. They own and navigate their own vessels, and are often dressed better than Europeans; they are great hands at a bargain, and extremely careful of their gold; so much so that many fancy they must be the lost tribes of Israel. Only fancy the Maurie Girls tatooed in the face, dressed most gaudily, standing by a tailor's shop discussing the last patterns from England. They are the best customers the stores have, and hence we have a small place and a very considerable trade. You can see the Maurie boys playing at marbles and the other Europeam games which they have learned from the whites. You may often see the natives arrive in Mackinau Bay with their long canoes highly ornamented with carved work—real clippers, full of all kinds of commodities; you may see them carrying around the town strings of fish, crying "fish ho;" the women often with bundles of wood or straw; when sold they go and purchase biscuits or bread, so that in Auckland we have some 30 or 40 Bakers, while in a town as large as Brantford you have not over 5 or 6. We have oysters, clams, periwinkles, shrimps and lobsters for the taking, notwithstanding every body is so much better employed he cannot spare time to obtain them. A Maurie will often drive in a pig from the bush and ask ten guineas for it. They do not condescend to take coppers, you must find them silver for change; you will often see them in the pastry cook's shops stuffing in the pies and tarts with a gusto quite European.

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Late of Woodstock and Toronto.

CHAPTER VII.

In order to give the reader still further information regarding New Zealand,—the following views by Chambers, taken from his "Papers for the People," on the Country, Climate, Soil, &c., will be read with interest:—

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New Zealand being now a British colony, we may cast a glance at the region—its aspect, its resources, its geographical divisions, its climate, and its people.—Afterwards we may follow the fortunes of the young settlements formed upon its soil, and conclude with a fair view of its actual state. In all these details there is something of the remarkable, and much to rouse in us a regret that the islands have not been more liberally developed. New Zealand lies in the immense Austral Ocean between New Holland and Cape Horn. On the east that ocean rolls to South America, on the south to the Pole, on the west to Van Diemen's Land, and on the north it stretches boundlessly away to the Arctic Circle. The group is situated between 34 and 48 degrees south latitude, and between 160 and 179 degrees east longitude. It consists of two large islands—the North and the Middle, otherwise New Ulster and New Munster, with a lesser one called Stewart's, or New Leinster, and several scattered islets. The extreme length from North to South Cape exceeds 1100 miles; its breadth varies from 300 to 1 mile, though 100 is the average. The larger islands are separated by Cook's Strait, and Stewart's is divided from the Middle Island by Fourneaux's Strait. The North Island contains, it has been computed, about 31,174,400 acres of area; the Middle 46,126,080; and Stewart's 1,000,000.

To afford the reader an idea, by familiar comparison, of their extent, we may say that the North Island is about a thirty-second part less than England, exclusive of Scotland and Wales; that the Middle is about a ninth less; and that the whole group contains 78,300,480 acres, or not more than 50,000 acres less than the whole of Great Britain and Ireland with all the adjacent isles; consequently we have in New Zealand an extensive country, capable, in respect of its size, of accommodating 35,000,000 persons at the least. Its natural capabilities are by no means of inferior proportion. Tracts of barren hills, irreclaimable bogs, naked sandflats, and considerable expanses of water-surface, there certainly are; but amply allowing for these, it appears no exaggeration to assert that at least two-thirds, or about 52,000,000 acres, are fitted for settlement, and might yield abundant sustenance to a population, whether by herds and flocks, or vintage and grain. New Zealand is most nearly of all countries the antipodes of Great Britain. It lies 1200 miles east of the mighty island of New Holland; and if we suppose an immense semicircle formed by the continents of Asia, Africa, and America, extending in a sweep from Cape Horn, by Behring's Strait, to the Cape of Good Hope, encompassing the Indian and Polynesian Archipelagos, and comprising the greatest oceans on the globe, New Zealand occupies nearly the centre.

New Zealand, like many other groups in the Southern Sea, is of volcanic origin. A chain of lofty hills, broken into high sharp peaks, runs along the Middle Island from north to south, their summits towering in some instances to a height of 14,000 feet. The most elevated pinnacles are wrapped in a robe of everlasting snow, and during the winter season, when the whole ridge is clothed in this magnificent covering, its effect is beyond the power of art to describe. The mariner has compared it to a gigantic crest of foam rolled up by the billows of the Austral Ocean, and appearing ever ready to sink down and disperse over the

waves. In the North Island the hills are lower and less distinctly connected; but a few of their isolated peaks invade the regions of perpetual snow. One of them, Mount Egmont, is an extinct volcano, reckoned to be 8840 feet high: it is situated at the South-West Cape, near Cook's Strait. The first person who ascended it was the intelligent traveller Dr. Dieffenbach in 1839. Tongarreo, a volcano still active, and Ruaperhue, whose fires have long been extinguished, stand in the centre of the island—one 6200, the other loftier, both crowned with perpetual snow, and forming, with two or three others, a magnificent group of mountains, reared in the middle of a more level but picturesque country. Mount Edgecombe is an extinct volcano near the Bay of Plenty. No one has ever been known to ascend its summit, which is supposed to be about 7000 feet high. Hence the surface of the island north-east to Mount Egmont wears the traces of violent volcanic action, chiefly proceeding from the crater of Tongarroo. Boiling fountains break from the ground in many places, geysers spout up their foam, fumeroles emit columns of sulphury steam, solfataras shoot forth clouds of luminous vapor, and hot springs in constant ebullition spread over the district in an extended line. In White Island, lying in the Bay of Plenty, exists a low crater, with the rim composed of alloyed sulphur. A chain of lakes, connected closely with the volcanic agencies we have enumerated, gives additional proof of the formation of the region. Lake Tago, in the south-west, is the most extensive.—Of an irregular triangular shape, its greatest length is about thirty-six miles, its width twenty-five. Many little creeks indent its borders, and several streams feed it from the south; while the Waikato River, flowing away westward, bears to the sea the superabundant waters. Around spreads a broad level tract of table-land, beyond which the surface is depressed, and gradually formed into hills and valleys, where the drainage of the peaks, ranges, and plateaus, accumulated in the beds of streams, is carried to the ocean. Detached ridges, more or less elevated, diversify the aspect of New Zealand, lying almost invariably in one direction—from north to south—and dividing the low alluvial plains from the high table-lands.

In the Middle Island also there are several bodies of fresh water of various capacity. Lakes Arthur and Howick are the principal in the north-west Waiora in the south-west. They contribute at once to adorn and to fertilize the country, resting in beds hollowed out no doubt by volcanic action. Earthquakes are not infrequent, but the shocks are slight, and little regarded by the people: numerous outlets easily allowing the subterranean power to discharge itself, render the region, indeed, safe from these terrific and destructive explosions which in the Indian Archipelago have cleft islands asunder, and covered a plain with the ruins of a mountain. Formerly, according to tradition, severe convulsions of the earth took place; but the memory of no living man reaches so far back as a time when any terrible calamity was caused by them, unless the loss of property to the amount of £15,000 in 1848 may be reckoned as such. The natives consequently betray no fear when they happen, and even the settlers are becoming habituated to them.

New Zealand has in many of its natural characteristics been placed in close comparison with Italy. It is a narrow, lengthy tract of land, divided into sections by chains of hills, watered by streams of long course, but inferior capacity for navigation, containing many provinces adapted for rich culture, and covered in many parts with a fertile volcanic tufaceous soil, resembling that which in the south of Europe favors the cultivation of the vine. It resembles the beautiful Peninsula—the crown of the ancient world and cradle of the arts—in offering opportunities for a species of colonization similar to that which peopled it—namely, the settlement of numerous independent communities, each with abundant resources in its own territory, and little facility for communication with its neighbors, except by sea. It has been compared also to the British Isles in its irregular, straggling, oblong shape, its detached position from the nearest continents,

the ready means of water-communication between all parts of the coast, its numerous estuaries and bays, and its natural capacities for trade. Like Great Britain, its climate is influenced by the sea-breezes; and its coast abounds in fish of the greatest delicacy and variety.

Casting a general glance at the aspect of the country, we find it very various: it is not all beautiful nor all unpicturesque. Near the river Thames the voyager approaching casts his view over a tract of low, rolling hills, clothed with fern, and surmounted by one or two black, scoria-covered volcanic peaks, dull, barren, and cheerless to the eye. In other parts an impenetrable forest is spread over the surface, a mass of evergreen trees and shrubs, matted and twined together with supple-jacks, creepers, and wild vines. Precipitous hills, deep, black, boggy ravines, and dismal gullies, spread in monotonous succession for miles. Then perhaps you emerge on a wide country of valley and plain, lake and forest, with snow-capped mountains glittering in the distance, long grassy slopes, and all the features of English scenery. Fields of vivid green, streams winding among them, hills with blue or rosy peaks, and woods fringed with flowery thickets, vary the landscape, which is made still more enchanting by the light brilliant atmosphere, the fresh breeze, and the sky unblemished by a cloud.

As in most countries presenting similar geographical features, New Zealand presents numerous indications of mineral wealth. Copper, silver, and iron, with coal, sulphur, and manganese, have been discovered, each in at least one spot, and worked with considerable success. They already form articles of exportation, and will probably furnish materials for manufacturing on a large scale.—Lead-ore, tin-ore, and what is supposed to be nickel, have been detected, but not hitherto procured in any extraordinary abundance. Many other riches remain, doubtless, for further research to discover; but it will be well if what has been already brought to light is developed even to a moderate extent. Compared with the geological formation of the Andes, the ranges of New Zealand present very similar characteristics, and it is believed they may contain even the more costly metal which is found in the giant chain of South America.

In these mountains are traced the sources of streams and rivers which flow into the sea at various points along the extensive coast-line. Some rise from many springs, play down the slopes in rivulets, accumulating and meeting until their associated waters form a river. Others gush from copious fountains, and break into many brooks, which ramify until they shoot like threads of silver over the surface of the plains. Rising, as all the streams do, at a considerable elevation above the level of the sea, into which they discharge themselves after a very abrupt course, or long windings through a rugged country, they are not generally navigable for any great distance. Some, however, tortuous and broken as they are by falls and rapids, flow one, and even two hundred miles. The high peaks of the hills, intercepting masses of cloud formed by the congregated vapors of the surrounding ocean, bring them down in floods, which supply the rivers with a perennial flow, affording an exhaustless water-power in every hollow and valley of New Zealand. Advantageous as they would thus be were the region densely peopled in the more elevated tracts, they are in the lower provinces blessings to the population, spreading out wide alluvial flats, fertile beyond exaggeration, large spaces of which are now ready for the plough and the drill; while in others the axe of the woodman and the task of drainage still remain to render the land susceptible of cultivation.

Intersected as its surface is by rugged tracts or lines of peaked hills, extensive plateaus variously elevated, and alluvial districts, New Zealand is still further varied by large fens, which might easily be drained, and are generally situated near the sea. In these divisions four peculiar classes of vegetation severally thrive—forest, grass, fern, or a mixture of grass, fern, and native flax, and a few humble shrubs and clumps of trees, including the cabbage-palm.

Few regions in the world in comparison with the extent of coast-line—about

three thousand miles—equal New Zealand in the excellence and abundance of their harbors. Here a commodious, safe, and central rendezvous is offered to the vast shipping trade of the Southern Seas, including myriads of islands, many of them the most fruitful in the world. It might form the entrepot of commerce between the Indian and Polynesian Archipelagos, and will probably, when its affairs have been liberally settled, literally become, as many orators, writers, and economists have prophesied, another Great Britain in the Austral Ocean.

To the British emigrant, however, one consideration is paramount above all views of profit. It is nothing to him that a region abounds in harbors, ports, and bays; that it has a fertile soil, is rich in minerals, abounds with timber, and promises wealth to the industrious settler, unless its climate be genial to the European constitution. A mine of gold or an estate near Cape Coast Castle would not induce him to make his habitation there; the gold-washings of Borneo will not allure him to live amid its marshes; but in New Zealand soil and climate equally invite his enterprise. We have with respect to this subject heard many erroneous statements; but a careful examination of accounts by the most competent authorities imposes on us but one belief. We maintain without reserve that the climate of New Zealand is better adapted to the English constitution than that of any other British colony. The immense preponderance of water over land in those latitudes causes a less degree of average heat than in the northern region, where the land greatly preponderates over the water. In temperature, therefore, New Zealand resembles that of the country between the south of Portugal and the central departments of France, or rather that which, from its insular character, Great Britain would enjoy if its centre lay twelve hundred miles to the west of Cape Finisterre. The extremes of heat and cold in winter and summer range within very confined limits. An immense expanse of ocean stretching away on all sides, tempers at once the heat of the tropics and the cold of the Antarctic Circle. England, indeed, in many phenomena of its climate differs widely from New Zealand. Its cold is more intense in winter, and some of its prevailing winds are more constant and disagreeable; but this would appear to arise more from the nearer proximity of a continent to us than to any of our possessions in the Austral Sea.

In the order and character of its seasons, the climate of New Zealand is not strongly distinguished from Australia itself, especially New South Wales. August ushers in the spring, to dress the country in the attractions of verdure exquisite in its variety of tint and form. In December summer comes, flourishing until March, when the leaves are gilt by autumn, the bloom of the earth fades, and winter falls in July. Temperate as the climate is, summer does not scorch, and winter does not nip with cold. Nowhere except in the southern districts, nearest the region of perpetual ice, does the water ever remain frozen under the beams of the risen sun. Snow never lies on the plains. Even at that extreme point where the coast is washed by a sea which rolls its unbroken billows to the pole, evergreen plants, more vigorous than any in Devonshire or the Isle of Wight, thrive to the edge of the water. At the Cape, and in New South Wales, hot winds occasionally prevail, drying up the ground, and producing disastrous droughts; but in New Zealand no such visitations occur. A supply of water which never fails is continually brought by the winds to the source of springs in the mountains, and the mild temperature renders it peculiarly refreshing to the soil.

Frosts, at times on the lofty plateaus, nip the acacia and the potato plant, but near the coast they never are observed; and the presence of winter is only felt by more frequent rains and more boisterous breezes, which to the stranger, as they whirl in savage gusts over the hills, appear as though announcing a disagreeable climate. They scarcely, however, prevent the bud from spreading into bloom. There is no absolutely rainy season. Showers continually fall, and a

fortnight rarely passes without their descending to invigorate the sources of production. The country is speedily dried by a pleasant genial warmth. Still it is comparatively a moist atmosphere, like that of the Malay peninsula, and more rain probably falls in the year than in Great Britain. Winter and spring are the wettest. Heavy dews fall in those seasons, and in the morning foamy mists hang over the lakes and river channels: an hour of the sun, however, melts them away, and leaves the air perfectly pure and lucid. Indeed, from its geographical formation, and the character of its surface, water in New Zealand flows rapidly to the coast. Large outlets discharge the super-abundant contents of the lakes; and the few swamps which exist might in almost all cases, as we have already noticed, be destroyed by a careful though simple system of drainage, such as was adopted to dry up the Lancashire morasses. In spots where a clayey subsoil lies deep, the waters accumulate in fens, but not in sufficient quantities to affect the climate. The harvest season is almost completely dry, the general average of showery days being 124 in the year. In Cornwall at home it is about 180; in Bristol, 140.

The moisture which generally charges the air invigorates the soil, and covers it with blooming vegetation. The fecundity of the earth is wonderful: it springs easily into cultivation. Some small tracts have only a slight layer of mould lying on a rocky, untractable substratum, but even here the verdure thrives thick and rank. Sandy flats, which in regions less profusely irrigated would be naked and valueless, are here speedily overgrown, while the salt spray of the sea showering upon the green mantle that in some parts overlays the islands to the water's edge, does it no injury.

In this mild and agreeable climate man attains old age without pain, nor is he compelled ever to be on his guard against the influences of the weather. During three-fourths of the year the settler in the neighborhood of Cook's Strait may sleep with his bedroom window open; but when violent winds and showers prevail, a small fire is by no means a superfluous luxury, especially as the colonists' residences are very often no more than partially wind-and-water-tight. With the exception of these intervals, occupation under the open sky is before all others the most healthy and pleasant. The luxuriant vegetation, the everlasting green of the trees and pastures, the atmosphere so transparent that objects can be discerned at an amazing distance, the varying tints of the sky, with the picturesque landscapes afforded by the harmonious mingling of hills, plains, lakes, and woods—all these delight the eye, and kindle the animal spirits. Herds and flocks may wander unhoused at all seasons of the year without excess of wet or bitter frosts to injure them.

Every climate of course has its incidental diseases; and in New Zealand the humidity causes sometimes ulcers, boils, abscesses, and eruptive affections, which, however, never assume a malignant character, and disappear without medical aid. Among the natives, from various causes foreign to the climate, carbuncles occur. The Europeans, when acclimatised, may be all but sure of health. Inflammatory complaints, strictly so called, are unknown; they almost always assume, when their symptoms do appear, the form of catarrh. No endemic disease exists—influenza and croup occasionally appear as epidemics, and with careless people rheumatism is not uncommon. But, on the whole, no country on the earth is more salubrious. We do not find in it, as a traveller has observed, the bilious planter of the East or West Indies, or the aguish settler in the forests and on the river banks of South America. There are no epidemic or endemic fevers, as in the East and West Indies, and parts of the United States; no ague, no dreary winters, as in Canada; no hot winds, long droughts, conflagrations, snakes, and vermin, as in Australia. The pure air, continually in motion, invigorates the frame and braces up the mind. Invalids rapidly recover. The thermal springs in the North Island indeed, with the attractive scenery and delightful atmosphere, present it as a healthy and picturesque place of sojourn for those who have worn down their constitution in the dangerous climates of the East.

The value of New Zealand consists rather in its soil, its climate, its position, and its commercial capabilities, than in its natural productions. The indigenous fruits of the earth are few, and not important; while those that have been introduced render it one of the richest countries in the world. It does not yield, indeed, spices or camphor, or all the luscious delicacies of the Oriental orchard: but it affords the growths of Europe, and that which will purchase from the neighboring East every rarity its inhabitants could desire to enjoy. Besides the mineral treasures we have noticed, it contains others most valuable to the English settler—abundance of water, timber, coal, lime, and stone of various kinds, the chief materials of industry. The soil is variously distributed over the surface of the country, supporting, as we have already remarked, various classes of indigenous vegetation. On the banks of streams among the hilly tracts, a deep, rich, alluvial mould prevails, and in some of the valleys—that of the Hutt in Wellington District in particular—a pure black or brown sandy loam lies in a stratum so thick as to appear inexhaustible. Wherever dense forests exist, the same soil abounds. When the woods are cleared from parts covered only by a thin layer, this is often washed away by the rains, leaving nothing but a cold, clayey earth fit only for pasturage. To illustrate the effect, however, of climate or weather upon the soil, it may be mentioned that this, which is spread over the drier, hilly, and undulating districts, when well turned over, and subjected to the influence of the atmosphere, becomes extremely fertile. In other respects the same influence is remarkable. Sandy strips of land, which from their nature would in many other countries remain sterile and naked, are here by the natives planted with potatoes very successfully; stony hills, most impracticable in appearance, flourish with abundant crops of that nutritious vegetable.

One great drawback, nevertheless, to the agricultural capabilities of New Zealand, is the fact, that even in the richest valleys of plateaus, where the forests have been cleared, the waters wash away the upper soil, laying bare the less liberal clay; but an improved system of husbandry, with the judicious rotation of crops, the use of proper fertilizing appliances, and, above all, the careful regulation of the water-flow by drainage, all such inconvenience can be remedied: such at least is the opinion of well-informed residents in the group. Industry can afford, however, to be vigorous in its exertions when the soil is so ready to reward it.

We may now approach the subject of the natural and acquired wealth of the province, and here its peculiar character should be remembered. We shall find it possessing many of the characteristics which Adam Smith pointed out with respect to England, and Sir Stamford Raffles, with modifications, in reference to Java. It is an agricultural, pastoral, and mineral country. First among the productions of the soil we may reckon timber, which in regions destined, as Lord John Russell once said, to give laws to a great part of the southern hemisphere, deserves to be considered as of great importance. The indigenous trees tower, many of them, to a prodigious height, producing timber in unequalled perfection—some close-grained, heavy, and durable, for domestic and public architecture; some fit for ship-building; others hard, light, of fine texture, and elegantly veined, for cabinet work; and others indeed for every variety of purpose: the white, yellow, and red pine—the last with leaves like ostrich plumes; the *totara*, a reddish wood, with roots that take a beautiful polish; and many others, not known in Europe, which it would be useless minutely to describe. Some of the timber-trees bear fruit; others rich clusters of flowers, like the purple honeysuckle; others leaves like the myrtle, and blossoms with crimson petals and golden stamens. One produces leaves affording a fragrant beverage resembling tea. All are in immense variety and abundance, yielding materials for every kind of [illegible]. Beautiful furniture has been made in Edinburgh and London from some of these finely-grained, hard-textured, brilliantly-polished woods, several of which yield rich dyes, while others emit a grateful perfume. Among the trees which have

been introduced are the oak, the ash, the horse-chestnut, the Spanish chestnut, the walnut, and several species of the mimosa. They appear to thrive well; but the experiment is not yet sufficiently mature to decide on the quality of the timber in its full development.

Equally important with the timber is the flax of New Zealand, a peculiar plant, of which ten or twelve varieties have been found—some in the low marshes, others on the surface of rich alluvial plains, others on hill-sides barren of everything else. The largest kind has leaves ten or twelve feet in height, and tapering from three or five inches to a point. These never lie open, but are folded in a graceful curve, like huge eccentric sea-shells. Bunches of flowers grow from the stem with purple chalices full to the brim of a delicious syrup. Though it grows wild everywhere, it must be planted and cultivated with care, to be made available for manufacturing purposes. Fifty or sixty fern-plants exist in New Zealand.—Their roots once formed an important article of food with the natives; but since the settlement of Europeans, so many materials of subsistence superior to them have been introduced, that the lordly Maories have abandoned to the wild hogs this humble provision, together with the root of the bulrush. From an edible pulp contained in the stem of one variety the early colonists used to make a very respectable imitation of apple-tart. The fruit of one shrub, called *tutu*, affords the natives an insipid but harmless wine; the seeds, however, are poisonous, and at particular seasons the leaves are highly injurious to cattle. A few indigenous grasses occur, all of them perennial; but the scrub-flax and fern occupy the wide plains and slopes, where myriads of sheep and cattle might find pasture. An indigenous anise-seed grows in many parts, greatly improving the flesh of the animals feeding on it. European grasses, however, spread rapidly, and the native species promise soon to be altogether extinguished.

Like Australia, therefore, New Zealand is on the whole poor in natural vegetable growths. Only one indigenous fruit of any importance is known—the *kickie*, a parasitical plant, bearing a cucumber-shaped fruit, said to come to perfection only once in three years. Poor as it is, however, in this respect, the country now possesses almost every vegetable produced in Great Britain, with many others transplanted from the exhaustless soil of the East. Captain Cook, it is believed, introduced potatoes more than seventy years ago: new varieties have been added from time to time to improve the quality. The root now thrives in great perfection, and the natives subsist principally upon it. In the poorer soils two crops are annually obtained. During the prevalence of the California gold-fever, speculators in Wellington bought large quantities of this vegetable for £5 a ton, shipped them, and sold them at San Francisco with a profit of 700 per cent.—A small sweet potato is also grown, and a small but delicious yam, which some suppose was brought by the Maories when they came to New Zealand from their original country, undetermined by ethnographers, in Polynesia. Maize was introduced before the islands were systematically colonized, and flourishes in great abundance, except near Wellington, and in some of the more southern districts, where there is scarcely sufficient hot weather to ripen it. Melons, pumpkins, gourds, and others of the same class, wild oats, yellow trefoil, and other grasses, now prevail plentifully, affording abundant subsistence to man and the creatures which minister to his necessities. Every sort of grain known in Europe, with its numerous varieties, has been introduced. Wheat from an Egyptian mummy has been sown with great increase, and the black-beared wheat with solid straw, so plentiful in the south of Spain. The corn grown in the Valley of the Hutt is of a quality so fine that it might be exported with advantage even to England. Its straw is nearly six feet high, and it yields an average of from forty-five to fifty bushels per acre. The ordinary qualities thrive to rich perfection in the alluvial valleys, and along the borders of streams where a fine soil prevails.

Oats are cultivated as much for the straw as the grain. Two crops of eaten straw are frequently cut in the course of a single year—the first yielding four tons

and a half per acre. Hops and Barley grow in great profusion, and if industriously cultivated would prove of immense importance to the colony. Free as the climate is from injurious electrical phenomena, and abounding as the islands do with pure wholesome water, they might supply Australia, India, and South America with malt liquor, of which it is calculated more than 100,000 barrels are annually exported from England. The moderately rich soil on the hill slopes is best adapted to this description of husbandry. As we have already said, almost every grass in the pastures of Great Britain has been introduced into New Zealand. Twenty-five species mingle on the Hawkshead Plains in Wellington District, carpeting them with a soft, beautiful covering, where herds of sleek cattle and thickly-fleeced sheep fatten all the year. When the curing of flesh for exportation to the neighboring regions is undertaken on a large scale, this branch of husbandry will prove of eminent importance, and every emigrant carrying out good seed will be a benefactor to the colony.

Clover, saintfoin, trefoils of various kinds, vetches, tares, lupines, lucerns, beans, peas, buckwheat, linseed, mustard, rapeseed, and mangel-wurzel thrive extremely well; and though coriander, caraway, and cress—which grow so abundantly on the fertile hundreds of Essex—have hitherto been neglected in New Zealand, they would no doubt afford an ample profit to the propriotors of the land in the alluvial districts.

In the vegetable garden we find peas, broad beans, French beans, cauliflowers, carrots, turnips, broccoli, potatoes, celery, cucumbers, strawberries, tomatoes, radishes, lettuces, parsnips, beet-root, spinach, onions, asparagus, sea-kale, artichokes, cardoons, rhubarb, capsicums; indeed every thing of the kind grown in Great Britain.

Picotees, carnations, geraniums, polyanthuses, primroses, cowslips, crocuses, tulips, hyacinths, roses, pinks, pansies, dahlias, balsam, China asters, peonies, honeysuckle, violets, and almost all other European flowers flourish richly; and in December no sight can be more beautiful than the bloom of a New Zealand garden.

The orchard contains plums, apples, pears, figs, peaches, nectarines, grapes, currants, the common gooseberry, quinces, filberts, raspberries, apricots, cherries, and the Cape gooseberry—a wholesome, pleasant fruit, whether raw, cooked, or preserved, which thrives like a weed wherever it is introduced. The banana, and a few others of an Oriental character, form immense orchards. Many fruits which are annual in England are biennial, or even perennial, in New Zealand; while others which we delicately rear in the hot-house, grow there vigorously in the open air. If the flower-garden be managed well it will shew a fine bloom all the year round. Geraniums, as in Portugal, take the shape of shrubs; hedges even are formed of them; and if the varieties are judiciously mixed, this beautiful fence of verdure will throughout all the season be spangled with bright flowers. Considerable plantations of tobacco have been raised by the natives, but the manufacture of it, even for consumption among themselves, has not yet been attempted by the colonists.

If Australia be poor in the animal creation, New Zealand is still more so. No beasts or reptiles native to its soil, except bats and lizards, are found upon it.—In the neighboring seas, however, abound those mammalia which crowd all parts of the Pacific Ocean—the sperm, the humpback, the fin-back, the pike-headed, the large-lipped, and the black whale, frequent its coasts, and their capture for the valuable oil and bone afforded to the early colonists their most adventurous and profitable occupations. Seals of numerous kinds formerly abounded in Cook's Strait and on the shores of Middle Island, but the sealers since 1827 have nearly exterminated them: this has doubtless been through an inconsiderate plan of fishery; for by judicious arrangements, leaving the seals in breeding seasons unmolested, this source of profit might have been perpetuated. The [illegible] sole, plaice, and flounder, inhabit the waters, with an infinite variety of [illegible]

unknown to Europe—a kind of shark or dog-fish, some like the cod, others the horse, others the mullet. Immense fisheries might be established, especially as salt is easily procured by evaporation; and a large and lucrative market is offered among the Roman Catholics of the west coast of America, of Manilla, and of Australia.

Several kinds of birds are indigenous to the woods and neighboring waters of New Zealand—among them a gigantic albatross, the oyster-catcher, the bittern, the king-fisher, cormorant, quail, wild-duck, mocking or parson bird, parrots, parroquets, woodhen, pigeon, and others; some of them with superb plumage.—There have been introduced peafowl, pheasants, turkeys, geese, ducks, common fowl, Guinea-fowl, canaries, and bullfinches. The varieties kept in cages for their song are continually increased by the favorites which emigrant families carry out with them.

A degenerate mongrel-breed of dogs exists in the islands. It was probably introduced by the early voyagers, and is used by the natives in the chase of the wild-hog. The skins of those with silky white hair are made into garments by some of the wilder Maorie tribes, and tufts from them adorn their spears. Bull-dogs, kangaroo-dogs—a mixture of grey-hound and mastiff—Scotch deer-hounds, German boar-hounds, Scotch colly sheep-dogs, Newfoundlands, terriers, and spaniels, thrive well, and are rapidly multiplying. It is remarkable that distemper and hydrophobia have been hitherto unknown among the dogs of New Zealand. Horses are already supplied in considerable numbers to New South Wales, and a swift, strong, hardy breed is furnished to the cavalry regiments in India.—Cattle have been introduced from Australia and Van Diemen's Land, as well as some Devon bulls and cows. Beef and pork might be cured in great quantities, to supply whaling and trading ships. Goats are still few. Sheep will probably furnish at no distant time one of the most important articles of export. The country is peculiarly well adapted to them, even more so than the neighboring pastures of New Holland. In New South Wales the average weight of a fleece is two pounds and a half; in New Zealand it is from three to four pounds. Few burrs exist, and the wool is silky, long, and fine. The annual increase is from 90 to 100 per cent. Cats, rats, mice, pigs, asses, mules, locusts, caterpillars, ants, centipedes, spiders, flies, mosquitos, and maggots, enter into the animal kingdom of New Zealand. In the native villages or *pahs*, where the people are dirty, vermin abound, as they do in all communities distinguished by habits of uncleanliness. Colonization has introduced also besides some insects not particularly valuable, others extremely useful to the settlers; among the most important are bees. In New Zealand the months make little difference to this valuable insect. The bee-keeper is often overwhelmed by the multitude of swarms. The land may indeed be one day overstocked, but such is not yet the case, and the quantity of honey yielded is amazing. A single swarm was, in the summer of 1843–44, placed in a good situation, near an extensive flowery tract of woodland. In September 1844, it yielded 30 lbs. of honey; in 1845, 205 lbs.; in 1846, 721 lbs.; and in 1847, 1211 lbs.; or altogether, 2167 lbs. in four years. Hollow trees are very numerous in the woods: these are quickly occupied by the industrious little colonists whose industry is so beneficial to the country. With all these natural advantages, without extending our speculations to others still to be discovered, we may without hesitation assert that New Zealand possesses every qualification which it can require to become one of the most prosperous and noble provinces of the British empire.

There is, however, one other important consideration necessary in a view of New Zealand with reference to its capabilities as a field of emigration—the character of the native inhabitants. In many other parts of the world occupied by white men, the aboriginal race has contracted the limits of its dispersion, retreated into the wilds, and is vanishing before the genius of civilization. In this group, however, they appear as a superior family of men, capable of refinement,

willing to associate with the strangers who have located themselves on their shores, and desirous of mingling with them in amicable intercourse. The savages of Australia are among the lowest of humankind; the natives of New Zealand are among the most intelligent of barbarians. Physically they are a fine race of men, well built, with an intellectual expression, possessing considerable powers of conversation, aptness for invention, and easy manners. Their garments are not inelegant or immodest; but sexual immorality strongly prevails among them. Balancing their good and evil qualities, it is difficult to find a general term to characterise them. They are filthy in their persons, bestial in their habits, grasping, bullying, lying, treacherous, cruel, and gross; yet they are good-natured, light-hearted, fond of their children, ready to learn, simple in their deportment, trustworthy and honest, despising fraud or theft as the most contemptible of crimes. Gradually they are improving in their social habits; adopting better clothes, dispensing with shark-oil and ochre, which disfigure their persons, learning to use mirrors, brushes, combs, and clean shirts. They are not indeed a whit inferior in intelligence to the uneducated classes of Europeans. A Maori scholar, beginning to learn after fifty often becomes extremely proficient. They pay attention to the culture of their lands, eagerly accept improvements, gladly exchange their own rude implements for European tools, sow grain instead of living on roots, hire themselves for fair wages, and put money in the bank. They have acquired ideas of freedom, which is a mighty sign of progress, and are jealous in their rulers. A few have abandoned their ancient customs of polygamy, and those who hold intercourse with the whites have improved in their treatment of the female sex. The women possess numerous qualities, which might be developed to good purpose. Many of the British settlers have Maori wives, who soon acquire the neat habits, the domestic skill, and matronly aptitude necessary to the comfort of a home. Perhaps, however, the most curious indication of their progress is a newspaper, in the full, soft, and flowing Maori language, which is circulated among them. In industry and the useful arts they had indeed, before the arrival of Captain Cook, made considerable progress, which was remarkable in a cannibal race; and even in the fine arts they have long exercised themselves. In one respect, however, they are far below the dwellers on the coast of New Holland and the savage artists of Depuch Island—their carvings are generally representations of the grossest immorality. The immorality, which is one of their national characteristics, was long encouraged and aggravated by the dissolute crews of whaling-ships arriving at the station. They became friends with the people through an intercourse of vice; but year after year, as civilisation takes firmer root, reforms are effected in the manners of the people. They formerly carried on their vilest practices in the clear light of day; they now seek the dark, and exhibit shame when detected. In this we perceive a hopeful sign of progress.

In their domestic life, and in their war-practices also, they retain, nevertheless, many savage and uncouth customs. These we need not describe, since details of barbarian manners are of all things the most monotonous to European readers. From all we know, however, and from the testimony of the most eminent writers on the subject, it appears evident the Maories of New Zealand are a superior race, capable of high civilization, whom we may one day see living peacefully in cities, villages, and hamlets, engaged in all the occupations of industry, and contributing as much to the prosperity of New Zealand as the white settlers themselves. A considerable fusion of the races is already going on. The most cheerful thing the philanthropist can promise himself is to see this state of things continue without the recurrence of those harassing wars, excited by the ambitious chiefs, which have been the curse and the blight of the country. The native population is estimated at about 130,000. These, with about 20,000 settlers, form the tenants of a region capable of supporting 25,000,000 of human beings, besides contributing through the means of commerce to the support of millions

more. Whenever civilization has taught them the value of peace, their numbers may be expected greatly to multiply; while the immigration of settlers, still considerably checked by the ferocity of the natives, will increase in a still larger proportion. We may look to the natives as well as to the colonists for consumers of our manufactured articles; for as soon as they have imbibed a taste for cotton and cloth, the half million sterling of exports, which at present forms all our commerce with New Zealand, will increase rapidly.

From this general account of the group, we may pass to a sketch of its various divisions, separated into colonial provinces, and indicate the history and actual progress of each settlement which has been formed. Wellington was the first founded by the association of 1840. The fertility of the districts in its neighborhood, the excellence of the harbor of Port Nicholson, with its admirable position for communication with all parts of Australasia, and the amount and character of its population, render it the most important European establishment in the group. It comprehends all that part of the North Island which lies south of the 40th parallel of south latitude, forming a tongue of land ninety miles in length, with an average breadth of sixty miles including about 5400 square miles, or 3,456,000 acres. At least 2,000,000 of these may bear crops or feed flocks and herds. A lofty ridge of hills divides the province into two nearly equal portions. The western slopes down to Cook's Strait, and is watered by many streams. A uniform sandy bank, moderately wide, rims the shore, except at a few places where the hills jut out in prominent bluffs. Thence for four or five miles scarcely any elevation occurs, it being a sweep of grass or fern country, intersected by swamps and morasses easy to drain. Further the land rises in degrees of undulation, covered with woods which continue almost without a break to the highest line of the ridge, which is covered with snow only in the severest days of winter. The hills which shut this district in shelter it from the cold south-east winds; but a warm northern gale, with cool sea-breezes, blow over it, fertilising the soil and refreshing the air. East of the mountains spreads an extensive plain, known in its southern part as the Vale of the Wairarapa—a spacious lake, whose numerous tributaries profusely water the whole province. Near the sea a chain of hills encloses this spacious level, carrying a high plateau which continues to the shore, and there sheers down to the beach in tall majestic cliffs. It is principally open pasture; well-irrigated valleys opening at intervals through this lofty tract afford avenues to the interior, while inferior ranges intersect the country in various directions. In one of the valleys lying between is the mouth of the river Hutt, and the noble harbor of Port Nicholson.

The Valley of the Hutt extends from the sea to the Tararua Range, running between high slopes for fifty miles. It is of extraordinary fertility, irrigated by periodical floods of the stream, which spread over the alluvial tracts on its border a rich deposit from the hills. When the settlement of Wellington was founded, a site for the town was laid out and divided into 1100 sections of one acre each. Round about 1100 sections of 100 acres each were also surveyed. Every purchaser of a right of selection in London, according to an order of choice to be regulated afterwards by lot, could choose one town and one rural section. A hundred lots of the same kind were chosen for the natives with similar regulations, as though they actually purchased the land. The site chosen was close to Lambton Harbor, where a sea-frontage extended along the beach for three miles, comprehending levels known as Thorndon and Te Aro Flats. Some slopes on the contiguous hills were included, and the boundaries were carried south of the harbor two miles from the beach.

At the southern extremity of Lambton Harbor, twenty-one sections formed a private property down to high-water mark. With this exception the public road runs between that line and the houses along the beach. A frontage of [illegible] feet was allotted as a public wharf, but is occupied by a native village. The sections especially favored in situation were eagerly sought for by commercial merchants

of the community. Three solid jetties were built, and vessels of seventy tons can unload alongside. Many substantial dwellings and warehouses, some built of bricks made on the spot, stand near at hand. The office of the Union Bank of Australia, the Wesleyan Chapel and Mission-House, the Custom-house and the Exchange, also occupy positions in this eligible part of the town.

Further back from the beach, a crowd of houses, various in size and construction, forms a nucleus for the city, which is destined, we believe, to shine conspicuous amid the offspring of Great Britain in those remote seas. Wind-mills for grinding flour, a brewery, and two or three hotels and taverns, have already impressed it with the characteristic stamp of British civilization. A flat, a hollow, and some charming wooded slopes, are dotted with edifices of different kinds. On a low eminence in the centre, conspicuous above the rest, a jail and barracks stand, reminding the settlers of two among the greatest banes of humanity—the necessity for a permanent military force, and a prison to punish the evil passions of man.

Following the beach-road outward, a continuous street, or single line of taverns, shops and stores, full of bustle, meet the eye. Prominent among other edifices the Scotch Presbyterian Church attracts by its simple architecture. At the end of this line, near Thorndon Flat, a neat English church and parsonage, with the residences of the principal inhabitants, another set of barracks, the old Company's offices and buildings for the reception of emigrants, the chief hotel, and other buildings, impart to the landscape a lively English aspect, sufficiently curious in a region which has for little more than a decade been included in the recognized possessions of Great Britain. Near the spot the shopkeepers and housebuilders of the neighborhood have with admirable liberality built a jetty, and given it freely to the public use. Wellington is thus picturesquely situated. Steep, wooded heights rise in the background, with foliage of lively green and open glades in the forest, whence a long sweep of pastures is unrolled towards the sea. A belt of land is reserved all round the town for public purposes; and a wood of fine timber being enclosed, will probably be properly preserved. Streams descend from the western range to irrigate the district; they yield an exhaustless supply of pure water. To ships they are a great convenience, as lying at anchor in three fathoms' depth they can load by hauling their long-boats to and fro along a line stretched from the vessel to the shore—discharging cargo often in the same way.

Te Aro Flat is of a poor gravelly soil, partly consisting also of undrained marsh. Near the hills, however, much improvement may be observed, and gardens blooming with fruit-trees and flowers stand in beautiful contrast with the uncleared tracts, still clothed in the ancient drapery of nature. All around, indeed, is perceived the struggle between civilization and a savage land. Wellington itself, though putting on the aspect of an English town, wears still the raw appearance of an infant settlement. A few main streets only have been built upon, and the roads are far from easy to wheeled vehicles. Improvements, however, are rapidly taking place, and paths are cut from the harbor to the various dependent settlements; some of these are extremely small and interesting. Laboring families in communities of forty or fifty, with a number of cattle and sheep, settle down, saw up the timber, and carry it for sale to Wellington or its vicinity, while the smaller wood is useful as fuel. The operation of clearing thus pays its own expenses. In the Karori District, an upland valley to the [illegible], a cluster of houses was built in December, 1846, and an edifice was erected to serve as chapel and school; and it was remarked that in 1847, on the public ceremony of opening it, when the whole population of 100 gathered, not one death had occurred during the twelvemonth. Another circumstance of this kind, still more curious, was observable at Wanganui. During seven years from its foundation, when the number of inhabitants rose from 200 to 600, [illegible]

But perhaps the most remarkable evidence of a salubrious climate is the fact that, during a period of twenty-eight years—from 1814 to 1842—the Church of England Missionary Society had not to record the death of a single one among their numerous missionaries and catechists in any of the New Zealand colonies.

In various other parts of Wellington province settlements have been established with more or less success, and patches of barley, wheat, garden and orchard cultivation, enliven the aspect of the country. The natives, in a great number of instances, have been friendly to the strangers; and New Zealand women have been taken to wife by many a British settler. These little promises of civilization, springing up amid the beautiful wilderness of those remote and romantic islands, suggest the most agreeable ideas. Imagine a steam-engine on the banks of the Mawanatu! A short way up the river an English house of entertainment stands near a cluster of habitations surrounded by cultivated land. Nearly opposite, two brothers named Kebbel, settled in 1842, and brought with them from England a steam-engine of twenty horse-power, expecting to derive a good profit from cutting up the timber, which flourished in boundless abundance along the stream on both sides for more than seventy miles. With a perseverance that no difficulty could subdue, a zeal that no disappointment could quench, they made friends of the natives, paid them for a right to occupy land, engaged them to work, and set to to erect buildings. Gable after gable, roof after roof, was constructed. Wooden frames, with simple thatch, constituted the materials. At length a cast-iron chimney, forty feet high, arose amid the pile of edifices; the engine was placed in position, the steam was got up, and the machinery set in motion. Language cannot describe, and fancy hardly conceive, the wonder and admiration of the New Zealanders. In all that district the fame of the Brothers Kebbel spread, and their engine was regarded as a marvellous invention of the white man's genius. Unfortunately for their speculation, however, timber of admirable quality was abundant in all the districts contiguous to Wellington, and no necessity existed to seek it on the banks of the Mawanatu. In addition to this discouraging circumstance, an accident occurred by which some of the thatched buildings caught fire. The machinery indeed was saved, but great loss occurred. As a timber-mill, therefore, the engine was useless; but it was afterwards adapted to a flour-mill, and with success. Many white settlers came to the neighborhood, who, with the numerous native villagers scattered along the river, brought grist to the mill of the Brothers Kebbel.

Wellington, by the latest accounts, is thriving. The old rough roads are being replaced by fine highways; cultivation is extending its circle; the aspect of the province is rapidly changing—cottages and gardens multiply in the wilds, while in the town itself a society is becoming distinct; dinners, dances, soirees, and tea-parties are civilizing the colonists; polka and Cellarius are tripped to Jullien's tunes; public meetings are held; and the "Wellington Independent," an admirable paper, reports of the orators, each in his turn, that "the honorable gentleman sat down 'amid loud and long reiterated cheers.'"

The district in immediate dependence on Wellington is occupied by about 6000 European settlers, engaged in cattle and sheep-farming, whale-fishing, trade, manufactures of various kinds, and agriculture. In 1848, 2178 acres of land were in cultivation in Wellington itself, while about 50,000 head of live-stock fed on the pastures. Emigrants with cattle will make fortunes there; emigrants with only their labor to offer will find a comfortable home. From 30 to 100 per cent. profit is realized in the farming of stock. One man who settled more than ten years ago, possessed 200 sheep, 15 or 20 horses, and a small sum of money, owns now £10,000, an estate, and a brig of his own. Many others have prospered in a similar degree, and still more may prosper, who in England can scarcely preserve themselves from the Insolvent Court.

Though Wellington is the commercial, Auckland is the political capital of New Zealand, being chosen as the seat of government: it was selected in 1840 by

Governor Hobson from a strange caprice of fancy—lying 150 miles from the nearest northern settlement, and several hundreds from the Straits. The district in its vicinity spreads round the shores of an extensive gulf known as the Waiho, or Firth of the Thames—hilly and woody, with valleys of extreme fertility.—Numerous harbors and creeks pierce the coast, and these are in many places bordered with vegetation to the water's edge. The surface of the province is curiously varied—undulating tracts, table-lands, and vales, conical hills, small low plains, and rugged sweeps of land; some bare, others covered with pine-forest, others wrapped over with fern-scrub, and others composed of rich red or black loam thinly sprinkled with grass. The town itself presents an uninviting aspect, and has never been a favorite with the emigrant, yet a population of more than 2500 has been attracted to it. The resources of the district are of a character somewhat peculiar. It yields the magnificent *kauri* pine, furnishing the navy with noble spars; but on ground where this tree has grown nothing else will thrive for many years. It is a cold, gray clay unfit for cultivation; but in its neighborhood soils of splendid fecundity occur, on which the vine flourishes abundantly. Other timber-trees are found in Auckland province, many of them very valuable. Copper, tin, sulphur, and manganese may be enumerated among its mineral productions. Its exports, besides these, consist of grain, flax, bark, whalebone, salt, oil, wool, ropes, hides, and other articles—the whole amounting in 1848 to £15,096, though in 1845 it was £27,239.

Next to Auckland we may notice New Plymouth, described as the garden of New Zealand, known to the Maories as Taranaki. It is a considerable tract of country, extending more than thirty miles round Mount Egmont, and thence spreading away in ranges and valleys to an indefinite distance inland. It was founded in 1840 by a company. They fixed on a position a little to the east of Cape Egmont, 180 miles from Wellington, where a thriving little settlement is now in existence. Its early progress was much retarted by quarrels with the natives respecting the ownership of land. The company could only secure about 60,000 acres, though the name of their possession appears to cover the district. The land here is remarkably level, covered with ferns, and bordered by beautiful woods. Numerous running streams afford irrigation to the soil, which is a light friable loam, of different kinds, remarkable for its powers of production. Agriculture succeeds to a surprising degree, though the capabilities of the district have hitherto been only partially tested. Wheat, barley, maize, potatoes, turnips, all kinds of garden vegetables, and several grapes, have been introduced, and yield plentiful returns. Cattle and sheep fatten admirably on the natural pastures, though subject to a peculiar disease—probably arising from over-feeding on the *tutu*—which destroys about two and a half per cent. Native labor is cheap; and when the best land in the neighborhood is cleared, the plains of New Plymouth will undoubtedly be reckoned among the granaries of the Southern Seas. Already the town wears the aspect of prosperity. Churches, chapels, jails, court-houses, private residences, farm-houses, and laborers' cottages, are sprinkled over a block of land—some built of granite, others of sandstone, others of wood, which are abundant in the district. Iron, nickel, coal, and ochre, are also found; and gradually, as enterprising colonists congregate to it, new resources are discovered.

Nelson is the capital of several small settlements on the southern border of Cook's Strait. It was founded in 1841. The province consists of all that part of the Middle Island lying north of the 42d degree of south latitude. Towards the sea it is mountainous, being composed of about seven ranges, terminating in giant bluffs or spurs, which enclose magnificent harbors. Their slopes are densely wooded. Above lie extensive plains, or undulating tracts, covered with deep fertile soil, much of which, however, is matted over with useless vegetation difficult to remove.

The progress made by the colony is not brilliant. About 6000 acres of land

have been fenced in, though not all put under cultivation. Where this has been done, a return of twenty-four bushels an acre of wheat, twenty-five of barley, twenty-one of oats, six tons of potatoes, and twenty-four tons of turnips, has been procured. An export trade of about £12,000 sterling is carried on by a population of nearly 3000 persons dwelling in the town, while more than 2000 inhabit the rural plantations, employed in the tillage of the ground.

These numbers will no doubt greatly increase within the next few years, when the knowledge of New Zealand is more familiar to people in this country. What can a man with £200 do in England? He can turn it, indeed, to some account; but he must set great reliance on the favor of fortune if he expect to become wealthy upon such a capital. In Nelson, however, there is a gladdening prospect open. Landing there with that sum in his pocket, the emigrant may collect the materials of future opulence. With a farm of fifty acres, rent free for the first year, he may have a good wooden house, fence in part of his land, provide household necessaries for a twelvemonth—furniture, seed, draught-beasts; a foundation upon which the industrious, frugal man may build a splendid fortune. At the end of one year his farm may be worth a clear £220, and at the end of the second £320, which is an enormous per centage on the outlay. Clearly, therefore, those who have the ability to seek an independence in this, the antipodes of Great Britain cannot claim compassion if they remain there repining in profitless despair. Nor is life in New Zealand, even in the country far from towns, an uncouth course of labor undiversified by enjoyment. A neat cottage, built of bricks, wood, clay, and wattles, or other cheap materials, with a neat fireplace and homely furniture, should be a paradise to those who have been accustomed to the unwholesome air of some squalid attic in a back street; but with a garden glowing with the bloom of a hundred flowers, and furnished perhaps with a rustic seat made from a whale's backbone, and a pleasant farm spreading around, or a pasture sprinkled with flocks, it appears a grateful sight even to those who have enjoyed competence in the old country. The settlers usually bake their own bread, cure their own bacon, and live, in fact, literally on the produce of their own industry.

The Free Church Scotch colony of Otago was founded in 1847, near the southern end of the Middle Island, in a district well watered, fertile, and excellently adapted for husbandry and pasturage. The worst parts of it afford abundance of food for sheep; while in the best, grain of unequalled quality is yielded at the rate of from sixty to sixty-five bushels per acre—oats, barley, maize, and potatoes being grown in similar proportion. The settlement was planned with admirable judgment, except, perhaps, that the price of lands is somewhat too high. However, conducted as it is with a vigorous spirit, and great general liberality, it can hardly fail of realising a success worthy of the enterprise which established it.

The Otago territory is an oblong tract of land running from north to south about seventy miles, with an average width of twelve. Like all the others, except that of Canterbury, it is composed of alternate hill, vale, and plain, but is covered over its whole extent with evergreen vegetation; this is occasionally devoured by conflagrations, accidental or otherwise. The climate, variable though it be, is mild and very agreeable. Summer is dry and genial, refreshed by occasional showers; winter is unpleasant, from its unsettled character. The soil is, as we have said, fertile; and the settlers who occupy it appear bent on developing its riches with vigor. The last account of the land in cultivation showed, indeed, only [illegible] acres laid out in wheat, oats, barley, field-oats, potatoes, and garden culture, while [illegible] more were in preparation; but the promise of increase is abundant, and every sign of progress is displayed. The live stock of the colonists consisted in March, 1850 of 62 horses, 796 grazing cattle, 26 working bullocks, [illegible]7 sheep, [illegible] goats, 350 swine, and 451 poultry. In the little infant town of Dunedin there were then 139 houses, composed of clays and poles, of brick, of stone, and other materials; at Port Chalmers, 15; and scattered round about in

rural situations, 119. Several good roads have been formed, which are rapidly improved. A population of 1189 inhabited these dwellings—673 men and 516 women—filling the occupations of farmers, stockholders, laborers on the land, traders, innkeepers, boatmen, and domestic servants—belonging to various religious denominations, but all inspired by a spirit of industry, of good-will, peace, and a common zeal for the common welfare. It is supposed that there are not more than forty natives in the district; so that no fear exists of a massacre such as that of Wairu some years ago. The revenue of Otago for the third quarter of 1850 was £1179. An interesting fact in the economy of the settlement is, that during two years from its foundation only one criminal case occurred, and that of so trifling a nature that a bench of justices might adjudicate upon it.—No civil cases occurred, and litigation was unknown, though one lawyer was among the settlers. There is no settlement in New Zealand, or indeed in the world, which offers more advantages to the emigrant. Its soil, climate, and public economy are equally admirable.

We have some private letters which describe the settler's mode of life at Otago. Finding himself there, with £100 he may purchase and stock a farm. Upon this he labors, and it is only on four or five days in the year that the weather is not so warm as to enable him to work in his shirt-sleeves. He spreads his table with the produce of his own land, dressed to his taste by a frugal wife—perhaps a native. When he desires an excursion he starts away to chase the wild hog, and at the farm-houses or sheep-stations is always sure to find a hospitable lodging.

The country chosen by the Canterbury settlers consists of about 2,500,000 acres, enclosed by a range of hills. It is perfectly level, watered by many rivers and rivulets, and covered with grass. A few swamps, easy of drainage, some stony patches, and other impracticable spots occur; but almost the whole is adapted for pasturage, while a great part may be profitably cultivated. Few native inhabitants exist in this territory; but laborers have been brought down from other parts of the island. The agricultural characteristics of the Canterbury province vary little from those of the other parts of New Zealand, except perhaps that they are of a superior order. We wish well to the association; and though varieties of opinion may exist as to the policy of its particular constitution and designs, we have no doubt the whole country is equally solicitous for its welfare. Whatever may be their peculiar objects or views, those men are worthy of praise who endeavor to transplant from our overcrowded islands men and women to quicken into life the waste places of the New World, to people its solitudes, and give a bloom to its neglected deserts. As one sign of progress, the first number of a newspaper—"The Lyttleton Times"—was lately issued.

Whether, therefore, he choose Wellington, Nelson, Otago, Auckland, or Canterbury as the field of his enterprise, the emigrant will find in New Zealand all the materials which industry can desire to work upon. He will enjoy a fine climate, a ready soil; a land where coal, iron, copper, stone, and wood are in abundance; where sweet, pure, wholesome water is plentiful; where corn, and all other kinds of grain, may easily be raised in splendid crops; where his labor may be well rewarded; where he will have few taxes to pay, and few of the [illegible] [illegible] imposed by our old society to observe. Shortly, doubtless, he will be admitted to a share in those free institutions which are the peculiar pride of the [illegible] people; and thus, with every natural aid to his energies, he may enjoy [illegible] in a region which, of all others on the face of the earth, most [illegible] [illegible] his parent country.

We now find thousands of the Maories collecting in schools and chapels, reading the New [illegible], learning the elementary arts of civilization, entering into [illegible] and friendly intercourse with their white teachers, and evincing [illegible] as well as an aptitude to receive instruction which forbids us to despond

of their ultimate complete conversion. It is only recently that white men have adopted a humane philosophy in their dealings with the savage; formerly the rifle and the powder-horn, the cutlass and the pike, were the instruments employed to impress him with respect for his civilized brethren. To hunt and shoot down the savage has been a favorite occupation with many adventurers, and it is still a doctrine maintained by some, that the sword must utterly root up the ancient barbarians, the original possessors of those distant regions, before the soil can be made ready to receive the seeds of civilization. That idea is now, however, exploded in the mind of Great Britain, and to conciliate is found a better and wiser policy than to coerce or destroy. Anecdotes might be multiplied to show that among many of the New Zealanders there exists a feeling friendly to the British people; that they appreciate the advantages of the new government, which secures their peace and defends their property. Even so early as the death of Governor Hobson in September, 1842, the chief Werowero wrote thus to the Queen of the British Islands:—

"Good Lady Victoria,—How farest thou? Great is my love to you, who are residing in your country. My subject is—a governor for us and the foreigners of this island. Let him be a good man. Look out for a good man—a man of judgment. Let not a troubler come here. Let not a boy come, or one puffed up with pride: we, the New Zealanders, shall be afraid. Let him be as good as the governor who has just died. Mother Victoria! let your instructions to the governor be good. Let him be kind. Let him not come here to kill us, seeing that we are peaceable. Formerly we were a bad people, a murdering people; now we are sitting peaceably. We have left off the evil. It was you who [illegible] this line of conduct, and therefore it is good to us. Mother, be kind."

No doubt the terms of this letter were dictated by the [illegible] of it, among a large number of the people at W[illegible] [illegible] more than a year ago there were [illegible] [illegible] 300 European and native teachers, [illegible] of others are in different stages of enlightenment. In another [illegible] the Queen the New Zealanders expressed a desire to receive [illegible] their country, but, instructed by their teachers, [illegible] [illegible] a depot of crime upon the mother country— [illegible] "we shall be perplexed if the convicts come here. [illegible] of the Europeans, and the natives would be [illegible] [illegible] be very much displeased. Rather let gentlemen [illegible] [illegible] come out. We like such men. Let them be numerous, for our [illegible] is large." Hitherto these arguments have prevailed on the Colonial Office to abandon a design it once formed of sending convicts to New Zealand; [illegible] such a project be revived, a powerful opposition will be made, and we [illegible]. Many as have been the struggles to which these [illegible] [illegible] none of their past obstacles to progress will have been [illegible] the curse of a convict population. It will have a [illegible] [illegible] the Maories as well as upon the settlers. This is above all [illegible], as they are approaching the threshold of civilization, [illegible]

[illegible]

they landed, are enjoying independence now. We know an instance of one man, a Scotch gardener, who arrived at Otago without a shilling, and has now a little fortune. Altogether the European population may number a little more than 20,000, scattered over an extensive region, and separated into sections by large intervals of wild country. These have at length established peace with the native population. We are assured by the governor, that probably in no part of the world are life and property more secure than in New Zealand. So pacific indeed are the prospects of the picture, that a considerable reduction of the military force is in contemplation. War, we hope, is there at an end; for the Maories appear to have adopted the philosophy of one of their chiefs, who may be styled the Elihu Burritt of New Zealand. There was a great meeting in the open air, and the sister of Ranghiheata the rebel harangued her countrymen.—She declaimed on the aggressions of the white men, and upbraided the warriors of her tribe for listening to offers of peace. An old chief then started up, desired this Amazonian orator to resume her seat, informed her that she was "the silly sister of a sillier brother, and no better than a dog's daughter." He then addressed the crowded assemblage, and put it to them "whether pigs and potatoes, warm fires and plenty of tobacco, were not better things than leaden bullets, edges of tomahawks, snow-rain, and empty stomachs." The former were to be enjoyed, he said, in the plains, by preserving friendship with the white men; but the latter must be suffered in the mountains if they maintained war with those invincible strangers. Thunders of applause greeted the old man's oration, and the close of the war was determined upon. Two hundred hogs roasted, three hundred baskets of stewed eels, and mountains of baked potatoes, were then brought forward to inaugurate the treaty with a feast of peace.

The voyage to New Zealand remains to be considered. The length of the sea-journey is of course greater than that to British America, the United States, and the Cape of Good Hope. It is, however, safer. Only one vessel was ever wrecked while proceeding to these colonies, and no crew was ever lost. The expense is not by any means great; for a hardy man, who will consent to be satisfied with rough comfort, may reach Otago, for example, for £15.

Containing as it does, therefore, extensive tracts of unpeopled country, only wanting moderate labor to cover it with the materials of wealth, New Zealand offers home and fortune, health and happiness, to the emigrant. His anticipations, however, must be reasonable, and his resolve must be to prosper by the labor of his hands. Perhaps a few words of advice may not here be out of place. They are offered from a writer who held the position of magistrate in the colony, and derived his knowledge from a residence of four years.

In the first place, the emigrant should educate himself for the object he has in view. A little knowledge of European languages, of mathematics, of land-surveying, of mechanics, architecture, geology, botany, chemistry, and veterinary surgery, will be most useful to those who desire to attain superior success. More practical accomplishments, however, will suffice for those of the humbler order. As to the outfit they require, it is impossible to lay down a plan. Clothes of a strong durable kind, useful tools and implements,—nothing tawdry or fanciful, but all strong, plain, and durable; seed of all varieties, plants, a few serviceable books, and strictly such things as will be necessary to your absolute comfort.—Arrived in New Zealand, listen to no grumblers, and be careful how you accept the services of strangers. Waste no time in the towns, but proceed at once to the scene of your future labors. There, if the choice of situation be tolerably prudent, industry, frugality, and thrift will certainly bring independence and fortune in their train. It should be remarked, also, that young women of good character and habits are invariably well married in the colonies. But their views must be temperate, and their notions of happiness such as are consistent with vigorous application to the duty which settlers owe to the society of which she forms a part,—that of speedily acquiring the means to become independent, pros-