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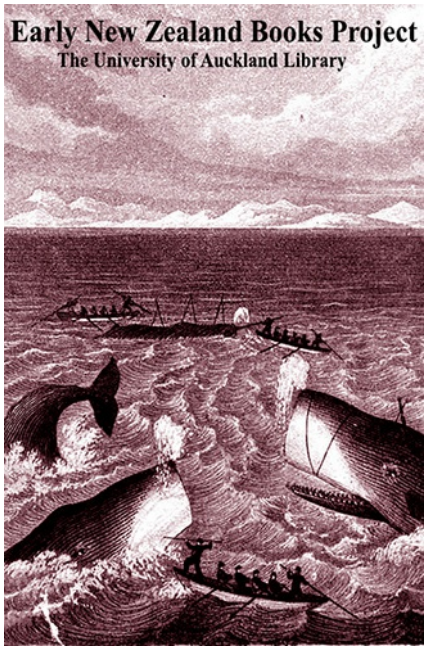

An Account of the Settlement of New Plymouth

Charles Hursthouse

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OF THE

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IN

NEW ZEALAND.

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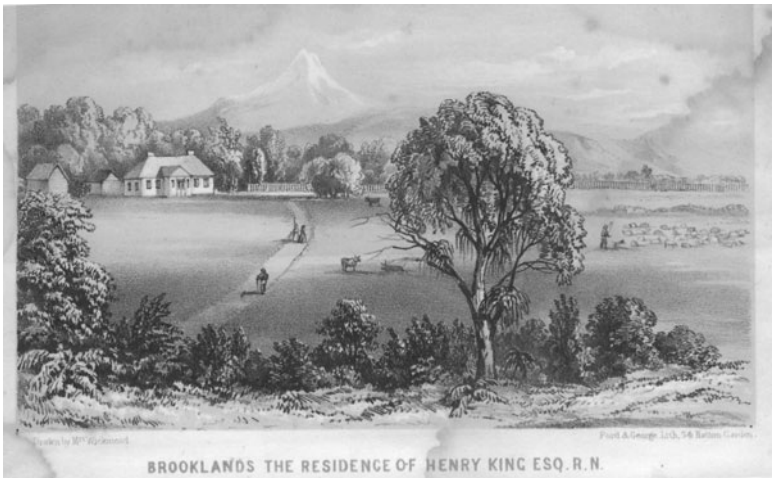

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IN
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BY CHARLES HURSTHOUSE, JUN.
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TO

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SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B.,

GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF.

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ERRATUM.
Page 114, note, line 2 from bottom, insert "on a capital."

[INTRODUCTION]

THE

SETTLEMENT OF NEW PLYMOUTH.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

AS there is scarcely any human act so important in its consequences as that of emigration, and as this step is frequently induced by some writer's description of a field for colonization, it becomes the imperative duty of every writer, first, to make himself intimately conversant with the natural advantages and disadvantages of the country, with all that affects, or may affect, its general prosperity; and then to state the plain truth, – the "bright side," in language of moderation, so that the emigrant may realize what he reads. This I have endeavoured to do, not only as right, but as expedient; for it is an egregious mistake, in aiming to attract capital and labour to any new colony or settlement, ever to exaggerate its merits. On arrival, emigrants are at once undeceived, and, in the bitterness of their disappointment, not unfrequently represent the country to their connections at home as one barely

habitable. Thus, two or three deceived and disappointed individuals may prevent twenty families from following their steps.

A grave error in the colonization of New Zealand has been the hasty planting of so many scattered Settlements – Wellington, Nelson, New Plymouth, Wanganui, Manawatu, Otago; powerless to afford mutual assistance, some of them almost unconscious of each other's existence; and, possibly, before the evils resulting from this system become clearly apparent in England, other little Settlements will be added to the list.

It has been well observed, that from the character of this country, its colonization will be best effected by scattered settlements on its coasts – the mistake has been in planting them too soon. It is notorious in the Colony, that if the New Zealand Company had confined their operations to one or two places, their persevering efforts, strict integrity, and large expenditure, would have been productive of more advantageous results.

An increase of capital and labour is so essential to the settlements first founded, that any observations directed against the formation of new ones may well be said to proceed from interested motives; but the advocates of still further dispersion (if any such there be), may rest satisfied, that, as emigrants, their own true interest should lead them to the earlier formed settlements, where they would reap as many advantages as they would confer.

It is considered that the present New Zealand Company have rather neglected New Plymouth; perhaps from ignorance of its true character, or from taking more interest in the Settlements of their own founding. From the first, Wellington and Nelson have had their papers for the publication of their individual claims, – the warm advocacy of their peculiar interests, – for the expression of public opinion on all local subjects affecting their prosperity; and thus have been brought prominently forward, and obtained almost exclusive attention, sympathy, and support. But Taranaki has never enjoyed the advantage of a paper; and the inhabitants – a quiet little community devoted to agricultural pursuits – have been rather indifferent to the publication of its great natural advantages, so that the Settlement is comparatively little known in England, and has not attracted that attention as a field for colonizing enterprize which I am prepared to show it pre-eminently deserves.

In this description of New Plymouth, I trust no evidence will appear of that absurd spirit of detraction so often the bane of young settlements in a new colony: Auckland enjoys an excellent port, with a commanding position of two seas; Wellington possesses a fine harbour, with great facilities for trade; Nelson has considerable grazing capabilities; Taranaki is proverbially the garden of New Zealand.

In conclusion, I may perhaps observe, that hav-

ing resided here five years, and been in the Canadas, the United States, South Africa, and New South Wales, my estimate of the capabilities of this district for colonization, however high, has been formed neither hastily nor in complete ignorance of the countries to which emigration is generally directed.

CHARLES HURSTHOUSE, JUN.
Taranaki, September 1848.

CHAPTER I: Situation – Climate.

CHAPTER I.

Page 5

Situation – Climate – General appearance – Natural features.

THE Settlement of New Plymouth, or Taranaki, was founded in 1841, by the Plymouth Company of New Zealand, which afterwards merged into the present Company. An. experienced surveyor, F. A. Carrington, Esq., was first despatched to choose the site of the future settlement. He arrived at Wellington in January 1841, and, after advising with Colonel Wakefield, proceeded to examine Queen Charlotte's Sound, Blind Bay, and the Taranaki district lying around Cape Egmont, which forms the north-west point of the northern island, near the entrance to Cook's Strait; and here, twenty-five miles north of the Cape, in latitude 39 deg. 1' south, longitude 174 deg. 15' east, the site was at last admirably chosen.

New Plymouth, by sea, is 180 miles from Wellington, 150 from Nelson, and 120 from the harbour of Manukau, whence there is an excellent road of only six miles to Auckland. This central situa-

Page 6

tion, between the Company's principal settlements and the capital, gives it ready access to the best home-markets; and, as part of New Zealand, its relative position to the Australian continent – to the beautiful islands of the South Pacific – to countries rich in tropical productions – is an important feature in its natural capabilities. For instance, on the one side, within 1,300 miles, lie Sydney, Port Philip, and Van Diemen's Land – on the other, about as near, the Friendly and Society Islands, the Marquesas, and Navigators', the Tonga, and the Fejee group; whilst Manilla, Batavia, and Singapore are within five to six weeks' sail.

The Settlement enjoys the usual climate of New Zealand. Emigrants may fail to realise all they read in the early and glowing accounts of this country; but an excellent climate will assuredly be found. In this respect, the greater part of New Zealand is as superior to Australia, as that country may be to Canada or the United States; for, although some portions of Australia possess a fine climate, the summer heat is everywhere excessive, which, if not the cause of disease, would nevertheless prevent the enjoyment of that robust health experienced in New Zealand; where it may be said, that Europeans are more capable of doing hard labour with comparative case than in any part of the world. Here, too, droughts are unknown, and though not of very frequent occurrence in Australia, the distress and ruin caused when they have

CLIMATE.

Page 7

occurred show the superiority of a country never subject to these dreadful scourges.

From the remarkable equality of the climate of this Settlement it is impossible to define the seasons with accuracy: the coldest and wettest months are June, July, and August; the warmest and driest, January, February, and March. For the following Table, which has been kept with care and attention, I am indebted to my brother, Mr. John Hursthouse.

No correct thermometrical observations having been made here, those given are the Wellington – the mean of 1846 and 1847, which will be found sufficiently accurate. The term "showery" is applied to days when there has been a shower of even half an hour's duration; "wet," when there has been rain which would have prevented out-door labour. It should be observed that this result is the average of three years; the variation was very little.

MONTH.	Mean Temperature in the Shade.	No. of Days Fine.	No. of Days Showery	No. of Days Wet.	Mean Temperature of the corresponding month in England.	
January..	65	25	5	1	July	62-97
February.	67	20	5	3	August..	62-90
March...	65	24	6	1	September.	57-70
April -	6l	10	11	3	October..	50-79
May.....	56	17	1l	3	November.	42-40
June....	53	1l	14	2	December.	38-71
July.....	51	18	9	4	January.	36-34
August...	53	16	1l	4	February..	39-60
September	54	2l	7	2	March....	42
October..	59	19	10	2	April.....	47-61
November	6l	IS	11	1	May.....	55-40
December,	67	2l	10	0	June.....	59-30

Page 8

Mean annual temperature.....New Plymouth. 59....England. 49

Mean temperature of the three hottest months 66.... 61
Do. do. three coldest months 52.... 38
Difference..... 14....23

During the three years, or 1095 days, the wind was –
Light and variable, or nearly calm..... 499
Moderate..... 393
Fresh..... 187
Very strong and gales..... 16

Snow is never seen except around Mount Egmont; ice is occasionally observed in the July mornings, but soon disappears under a brilliant sun, like that of an English September. The warmest weather is refreshed by sea-breezes, and the nights are invariably cool. Although the winter months are wet, and showers frequent through the greater part of the year, yet from the lightness of the soil, and the dryness and elasticity of the atmosphere prevailing in the fine weather, the climate is not felt to be damp. Fogs and mists are unknown; there are no hurricanes, and thunderstorms are neither so frequent nor severe as even in England. It is, however, a great but common mistake to suppose the climate of New Zealand almost tropical. For instance, the winter months on the east coast of the Middle Island are wet and raw; and even as regards Taranaki, on the

Northern Island, and on the warmer western coast, the idea of a "tropical climate" occasionally leads to an omission in the emigrant's outfit. Nothing is brought but the lightest clothing, as if he expected to broil under an Indian or Australian sun. Now although, strictly speaking, there is no winter, yet many days in the wet months are cold enough to make moderately warm clothing requisite; and there are not fifty evenings in the year when a fire would be found uncomfortable.

The climate is admirably adapted to agricultural purposes. A distinguished writer on the subject says, "The quantity of rain that falls annually in any country is a very inferior consideration, when compared with that of the general and equable distribution of that quantity throughout the several days and months of the year. A great quantity at the same time is rather hurtful than beneficial; whereas those moderate but golden showers which regularly fall on a soil calculated to receive them, are real sources of fertility." The Table here given shows that in January, the harvest month, there are only five days showery and one wet; thus, probably, not three in the thirty-one would stop work. February and March, the season for burning bush, taking up potatoes, and preparing finally for wheat, are nearly as dry; whilst for the remaining nine months – the mean number of showery days in each being ten, June with fourteen and September with seven – vary but little from the average.

The soil is so light that the effects of the heaviest rain soon disappear. In the richest district in Scotland, the "Carse of Gowrie," it is said that there are only twenty weeks in the year fit for ploughing, and thirty are probably over the average in England: here it would be difficult to find a day when, as regarded the mere state of the soil, ploughing, or any other operation, could not be performed with the greatest facility.

This climate, as might be expected, is highly salubrious. The children born here are considered by their mothers to be remarkably fine, and, making all due allowance for maternal hyperbole, they certainly promise to be a large and robust race. By the census of 1847, the population was 1137; the births that year and in 1846, when the census was 1089, amounted jointly to 104, the deaths to fourteen, two of which were accidental; yet, in 1847, fever and hooping-cough were introduced into the Settlement from Auckland. This shows the annual ratio of births to be one in 18; – of deaths, one in 159; whereas in England, the births are one in about thirty-two – the deaths one in forty-four. This comparison does not prove Taranaki to be superior in salubrity to England to the enormous extent indicated by these figures; for some fatal diseases common to humanity have not yet been introduced into the country, and most of the emigrants to this Settlement were in the prime of life. On the other hand, however, recollecting that the pioneers or

first settlers in a wild country have to undergo considerable hardships, it will probably be admitted that the small proportion of deaths to births which these returns exhibit, must be partly owing to the excellent climate of the district.[1]

The general appearance of the Settlement is very beautiful. On approaching it from sea, the town, or rather village, is seen snugly situated near the beach, its white houses contrasting prettily with the vivid greenness of all around. Behind, and on either side, are the near cultivations; whilst frequently some rising columns of smoke will indicate the more distant clearings. Almost to the water's edge, and for a considerable distance back, the country is covered with a luxuriant growth of fern, joining a forest ever fresh and green, and of the richest foliage; to this, as a fitting background, sixteen miles from the coast, is seen a range of wooded hills, from which rises Mount Egmont, the finest natural object in New Zealand: 9,000 feet high, of a beautiful cone-like shape, thickly wooded round its base, but always capped with snow and dazzling white, Mount Egmont is quite the pride of the Settlement, and the admiration of every beholder.

The country is undulating, and so interspersed with small dells, that almost every section possesses

one. These dells, although causing some broken ground, are nevertheless beneficial to the cultivator, and a marked and beautiful feature in the scenery. They vary in size from half an acre to two or three acres, are densely wooded, and generally contain a small but unfailing spring. Thus they afford a near supply of wood and water, shade and shelter for stock; or, when partly cleared out and opened to the right aspect, the finest spots for orchards, or for the growth of any plants requiring rich soil and close protection from wind. The graceful fern-tree here attains its largest size, displaying its elegant leaves in fine contrast with the fuschia, the laurel-like karaka, and the rich and varied shades of the dense foliage around. The dells mostly resound with the song of birds; and, scattered through the cultivations, give close shelter in harvest time to that petty depradator on the corn-fields – the elegant green parroquet.

The most phlegmatic admirer of the beauties of nature would be charmed with the appearance of the country. For those who prefer the grand and romantic, there is the lofty snow-capped mountain, with its noble slopes and wood-crowned ranges. The taste for sylvan scenery and quiet rustic beauty is equally gratified by the frequency of stream and forest, glade and valley, clearings and snug homesteads: few countries offer so many beautiful and convenient sites for either cottage or mansion.

The district possesses an abundance of water.

Between the town and the river Waitera, a distance of ten miles, there are eight fine running streams. Springs and rivulets abound; and in the few wells which have been sunk, water was generally obtained at from thirty to forty feet.

The soil may be called a very light, friable loam, with a porous subsoil; it is divided, locally, into three sorts, each marked by a different vegetation. The first is but a strip, extending along the coast, covered with light fern, interspersed with tufts of grass, and freely mixed, especially nearest the shore, with the black iron sand which is so plentiful here. The productive powers of this sand are rather surprising. Almost on the beach, within sixty yards of high-water mark, some early emigrants formed a few rough gardens, which produced excellent crops of vegetables; and, strange as it may seem to an English farmer, upwards of sixteen bushels of wheat have been obtained from a quarter of an acre of nearly the same description of soil.

The second division, adjoining this, is a tract of great extent, covered with fern, six to eight feet high, intermixed with a small bush called "tutu," and a species of tall grass called "toe-toe." The surface is a vegetable decomposition of from seven to ten inches, matted together by the fern-root, with a light, yellow subsoil, of many feet in depth, entirely free from stones, shells, gravel, or clay. The principal farms are on this land; and it may here be observed, that the chief difference, as respects the

cultivation of this soil and the preceding, is, that it requires more exposure before cropping.

The third division is the Bush, or forest-land, which joins the fern, and extends along the country in a rather irregular line, two to five miles from the coast, and a considerable distance hack into the interior. This soil in appearance resembles the second description of fern-land, but turns up quite mellow, and fit for cropping at once.

1 Vibrations, or slight tremblings of the earth, are occasionally experienced, but have never, in the memory of the oldest natives, caused the least damage.

CHAPTER II: Natural productions...

CHAPTER II.

Natural productions – Timber – Minerals – Birds – Fish – Insects.

THIS Settlement possesses a variety of valuable timber trees. The most common are Rimu, Kahikatea, Puriri, Rata, Kohe-kohe, Pukatea, Tawa, Rewa-rewa, and Hinau: there are others which attain a large size, but are not yet in general use. The Rimu, called Red Pine, more from its foliage than from any resemblance in the wood, is frequently sixty to seventy feet high without a branch, and from twelve to sixteen feet in circumference. Its foliage is remarkably graceful, drooping like clusters of feathers, and of a beautiful green. The tree opens very sound, is entirely free from knots, and, for a hard wood, works well. It is chiefly used for housebuilding; the finer parts for panelling and cabinet work: these are handsome, taking a fine polish, and in appearance something between Honduras mahogany and coarse rosewood.

The Kahikatea, or White Pine, is occasionally seen ninety feet high without a branch. In foliage

and manner of growth it resembles the Rimu, but has a lighter-coloured bark. The wood is not much unlike the Baltic White Pine, but always sound and quite free from knots: it is used for general purposes, for oars and boat-planking.

The Puriri, or Iron Wood, is one of the most valuable trees in New Zealand, growing from thirty to fifty feet high, and from twelve to twenty feet in circumference. The wood has a strong scent, is of a dark brown colour, close grained, heavy, and of a greasy unctuous nature; which last property is probably the cause of its being so much perforated by a large white slug, peculiar to this tree, when growing. Iron wood is principally used for foundations, fencing-posts, mill-cogs, &c, for all of which it is admirably adapted; as it would be for any purpose requiring great strength and durability in moist situations.

The Rata in its manner of growth is very singular. At first it is a creeper, clinging for support round some young tree; for a time both flourish together in close embrace; but, as they grow, the subtle Rata, appearing to sap the strength of its early supporter, winds its strong arms around, by slow degrees, crushes it to death, and eventually becomes itself the tree. The Pukatea is generally favoured with these embraces, which, though slow, are sure to kill. The wood of the Rata is a reddish-brown colour, very strong and tough, well adapted to wheelwright's work; and, from its crooked manner

of growth, furnishing suitable stuff for ship-building.

The Kohe-kohe attains a height of about forty feet without a branch; it has a handsome laurel-like leaf, and is the most common tree on the edges of the forest. It splits well, and is used for shingles, fencing-bars, and rails.

The Pukatea, a large tree, is a soft easy-working wood, of light brown colour; chiefly used for common work, and weather-boarding rough outbuildings.

The Tawa and the Rewa-rewa are handsome trees, particularly the latter; both, however, are of inferior quality, and not used except as split stuff: the first, being highly resinous, makes excellent firewood.

The Hinau is remarkable for the whiteness of its wood, and chiefly known for its valuable dying properties: the rich black dye of the native mats is obtained from its bark.

Of smaller trees, and shrubs forming the "light bush," there is a great variety; comprising the Fuschia, from twenty to thirty feet high; the Karaka, a beautiful tree of the laurel kind, bearing golden coloured berries in clusters, which contrast finely with the glossy greenness of its foliage; the Fern tree, occasionally attaining a height of even sixty feet, from its showy and elegant appearance, a striking feature in the forest scenery; and the Nikau, more rare, but the most beautiful of all. Many others are highly ornamental, and it is im-

possible to conceive anything prettier as a shrubbery than could be made by a judicious selection of these evergreens.

In a country so rich in vegetable growth, it appears strange that there should be no fruits: many trees bear berries in profusion, but even the best of these cannot fairly be called fruit. The Karaka, for instance, almost as large as a magnum bonum plum, has a fine perfume, and looks tempting; but it is very poor in flavour, mealy, and insipid. The Tawa berry, in appearance, is a fine damson; but should the unwary stranger be seduced to taste one, he will be unpleasantly reminded of turpentine. The Poroporo, a handsome shrub springing up by road sides, produces the finest berry; when quite ripe its flavour is something between that of apple-peel and a bad strawberry; but if tasted before it is soft and mellow, the Poropo is most nauseous.

The Kiekie, a creeping thing, called by some the "New Zealand Pine-apple," fruits every third year. In summer it bears a flower, the inner leaves of which are soft and fleshy, forming what may be called the "Flower Fruit" (Tawara); in winter the real fruit (Pirori) ripens, and is then about five inches long by two to three in diameter. Some little interest was at first excited by this vegetable impostor. It appeared that the country could boast one fruit, triennial, certainly, but a "Pine-apple:" tasting at once dispelled the illusion; in both

stages it has a medicated sweet flavour, earthy, and rather bitter.[2] The pith of a certain kind of fern-tree, with the Kamo-Kamo, a sort of gourd, were at first occasionally used as poor substitutes for fruit; and water-melons, of fair quality, the Kumera, and the Taro, all flourishing best on the black sandy soil, are raised in considerable quantities by the natives.

Lovers of fruit will probably grumble at the poor dessert here set before them; but they may console themselves with the reflection, that New Zealand, in this respect, as in many others, is preeminently a country for introductions. All English fruits will be obtained in profusion; with care some few others may succeed, one, the Cape gooseberry, being already so common as to be considered almost a weed.

Phormium Tenax, or New Zealand Flax, is plentiful and luxuriant in this district. Before the colonisation of the island, when the natives pre-

pared it as barter for European goods, Sydney vessels obtained many part cargoes of it on this coast; but after the Settlement was founded, as the natives could more easily procure blankets and tobacco by exchanging pork and potatoes, they entirely abandoned the trade. Their method of dressing the plant is slow and inefficient; the fibre is scraped with a mussel-shell, and the preparation of a ton would occupy five or six individuals a month. The material produced by their rude process is, however, made into excellent rope, and has been woven into beautiful fabrics. It is, probably, the strongest vegetable fibre known; and is remarkably useful to Europeans even in its natural state, answering for cord and string. The natives apply it to a great variety of purposes; they fabricate large fishing-nets of it, and excellent mats of great beauty and richness; useful baskets, in which onions and potatoes are shipped, and finer sorts to hold their wheat and provisions.

The ruling spirit of this Settlement is so decidedly agricultural, that no attention has yet been paid to its mineral resources; in fact, in this respect, the whole of New Zealand is still a terra incognita. Rich iron-sand covers the beach, and substances, said to be manganese, nickel, and copper ore, have been accidentally discovered by the settler, and may be regarded as an earnest of what may be found when proper researches are made by qualified persons. Limestone has not yet

been found in the Settlement; but the banks of the Maukau river, forty miles to the north, and Massacre Bay, on the Southern Island, distant but a few hours' sail, possess both limestone and coal. Parts of the beach near the town are covered with granite, lying on the sand in stones of all sizes from a foot cube to those of some tons in weight; and a kind of sandstone is found in many parts of the district.

Taranaki, in common with the whole country, does not possess a single native quadruped; although from its dense cover, genial climate, and constant abundance of herbage, one might naturally expect to find some few herbaceous animals. This deficiency is, however, balanced by the absence of all reptiles; for there are none, excepting a few harmless lizards.

Birds are rather numerous; and as they are generally of active habits, flitting from tree to tree as if, from the profusion around, they were embarrassed in their choice of food; as some are fine songsters, and others seem rivals in making the greatest possible noise, they give an air of pleasing liveliness and animation to the woods. One of the most common is the Tui, a bird of singular habits, and very amusing. It is always in motion, darting from some low bush to the topmost twig of a high tree, it will commence making such a variety of strange noises, with such volume of tone, that it is difficult to believe they all proceed from the same

small bird. Should another Tui chance to be near, it breaks off to indulge in a little fighting; and, ending with a kind of shout, will throw a somerset or two, and dart into the bush, only to recommence another exhibition. This vivacious creature, sometimes called the Parson Bird, from its plumage, a glossy black, with two white feathers on the throat like bands, is larger than the blackbird, and, in the season of the Poroporo berries, gets very fat, and becomes excellent eating.

The Kukupa, or pigeon, is about a third larger than the English stock-dove; its plumage is richly shaded with green, purple, and gold. It is rather a stupid bird, and easily shot: feeding on buds and berries, it possesses, when in season, a game flavour not unlike that of the blackcock.

The Pukeko, in shape, is rather like the water-hen, but larger; its plumage is dark brown, slightly tinged with green, and a brilliant purple on the neck and breast. It is a shy, solitary bird, generally haunting rushy springs and old native gardens, where it digs up the potatoes, scooping them out in a curious manner.

The Kaka, a large brown parrot, prettily marked with red, is rather a shy bird, and difficult to shoot. It utters a loud and peculiar cry, and is here generally seen, early in clear frosty mornings, flying about the highest trees.

The Kakariki is an elegant parroquet, with green plumage, touched with gold about the head. It is

the only bird in the least destructive to crops: in harvest small troops of them are seen around the edges of the bush-land, carrying off ears of wheat.

The Kotaretare resembles the king-fisher, although its plumage is much less brilliant. It is most common about cleared bush-land, feeding freely on caterpillars and other insects.

The Tirakara is an elegant little fly-catcher, with black and white plumage, and a delicate fan tail; it is remarkably quick in its movements, and a great consumer of sand-flies.

One of the most delightful songsters is the Makomako, rather like the green linnet, but larger. It is heard about sunrise, near the edges of the forest, when several sing together, and the effect can only be compared to the soft tinkling of numerous little bells.

Wild ducks are not plentiful; they are seldom seen by day, but are occasionally found feeding at night on the stubbles. Of birds of prey there are but three varieties common to the district: the Kahu, a large brown buzzard, an expert rat-catcher, but fond of poultry; the Karewarewa, a sharp flying sparrow-hawk; and the Ruru, a small brown owl, hiding in the gloomiest recesses of the forest, and coming out to prey at night, when it utters a singular and discordant cry.

It should be observed, that with the exception of pigeons and wild fowl, there is nothing for the sportsman. New Zealand is undoubtedly the worst

country in the world for shooting; but this part of it, from climate, soil, cover, and productions, is well adapted to the introduction of game. For instance, it seems almost made for pheasants: the soil is light and dry; high fern is the finest cover imaginable, and almost every farm possesses a few acres of thickly wooded dell, affording the closest shelter with unfailing springs; around these, for feeding, lie the stubbles; and, at all seasons, there is an abundant variety of buds and berries; in summer and autumn, plenty of grasshoppers and other insects.

Partridges would perhaps succeed equally well, particularly the French variety; for, although they require a greater extent of stubble and cleared land than pheasants, they would already find abundance of food, and would probably often lie in the lightest fern around the farms, which are every year increasing in extent. The country is entirely free from such destructive animals as the fox, polecat, and weasel; whilst birds of prey are less numerous than in England. Should any intending emigrant be inclined to try a little game, he ought to procure that which has been bred in a domesticated state, as best adapted to bear the confinement of the voyage.

The numerous streams of this district afford but four varieties of fish: the Piharau or lamprey, remarkably rich and fine flavoured; the common eel, attaining a

large size; the Kokopu, a poor, coarse fish; and the Upokororo, a kind of

trout, seldom exceeding a pound in weight, but of very delicate flavour.

Of sea fish the varieties are more numerous. The best are the Hapuka, weighing from 30 to 70 lbs.; the Tarakihi, the Moki, and the Kawai, a mackerel-shaped fish of from 4 to 6 lbs.: it enters the mouths of the larger streams with the tide, when, with a net, it may be taken in considerable numbers. This fish will occasionally rise at a fly, and take any glittering bait, moved quickly through the water. There are also mullet, snapper, rock cod, crawfish, cockles, and mussels; and a small fry, almost equal to white bait, is taken in the river Waitera.

This country, destitute of animals and not particularly rich in birds, possesses many singular insects; a description of which would far exceed the compass of the present work. One of the most remarkable, is the vegetable caterpillar. It is occasionally picked up in raking light bush land from five to six inches long, and nearly as thick as the finger. It has then the exact shape and marks of a large dead caterpillar; but to the head, is generally attached something like a piece of slender twig or small fibrous root. On snapping the body, it is found to be white and pithy – a kind of petrified vegetable substance.

There are also a small caterpillar, destructive to barley when ripening; the common grasshopper; and a large one, flying something like a snipe. With the exception of a rare kind of fly, there is

not a single stinging insect; and although musquitoes and sandflies are troublesome at first, yet even these seem to partake of the mild nature of the climate, and are innocuous as compared with those of America and Australia.

2 Here I am sorry to differ so much from the author of a late amusing work, "Angas's Savage Life and Scenes in Australia and New Zealand," who calls this fruit a "vegetable luxury," and says, "their taste, when fully ripe, is something like that of a ripe and juicy pear, with an aromatic flavour resembling vanilla." Chacun a son gout; but I would observe that although the Tawara might pass as fruit with the toiling traveller in the "Poukemarpou Forests," it would probably never appear twice at dessert. I have known fern root, putrescent maize, and the karaka berry, eaten with considerable gusto in various expeditions on the coast among the natives; but never remarked that the relish for such delicacies continued long after return to the European Settlement.

CHAPTER III: Natives...

THE ABORIGINES.

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CHAPTER III.

Natives – Number – Habits – Usefulness – Present state – Future prospects.

THE natives of this Settlement form a portion of the broken and scattered Ngatiawa tribe, formerly very powerful here; but in 1834, attacked by the Waikato, under Te Whero Whero, a large and warlike tribe, dwelling more to the north, numbers were killed, many led into slavery, whilst others, retreating to the south, settled along Cook's Strait and around Port Nicholson, so that when the first settlers landed, there were scarcely fifty natives in the place. By degrees, however, as the scattered fugitives gained confidence from the presence of the white man, and were attracted by the advantages derivable from an European community, many of them returned to their old country; and the Waikato, influenced by the missionaries, manumitted their slaves; so that the number now dwelling in the Settlement is about 700.

They live in settled habitations called Pas, one of which, near the village, covers about an acre of

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ground. It is surrounded by two rows of strong split paling, three feet apart, and about twelve high; the entrance is by two or three narrow gateways, and the interior divided by similar paling into several little courts and passages: here are the houses, potato caves, cooking ovens, stacks of firewood, and small sheds for the drying and preservation of various edibles. The houses are chiefly built of raupo, a kind of rush; some of the most ambitious with a door and window, but in general they have only a low entrance serving for both. This pa contains a native-built Wesleyan chapel, has about twenty houses, with from eighty to one hundred inhabitants, and is merely noticed here as a common specimen of an ordinary native village.

These 700 natives have between four and five hundred acres of land in cultivation, of which three-fourths may be devoted to the growth of wheat and potatoes, and the remainder to maize, onions, taro, kumeras, melons, and other garden produce. They subsist chiefly on potatoes, but are becoming large consumers of flour, and are very fond of tea and sugar. They dislike spirits, rather preferring wine or beer, but all are inveterate smokers. They carry on a brisk trade with the settlers, and formerly, before there was much European cultivation, entirely supplied them with potatoes and other vegetables. Now, however, their chief article of sale is pigs, of which they possess great numbers, self-fed, principally on fern-root; these they drive from house to

HABITS OF THE NATIVES.

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house, and sell with great judgment and acuteness. They also carry round bundles of firewood, baskets of potatoes, wheat, maize, and melons; occasionally, pigeons, parrots, and fish; excellent flax lines, mats, well-plaited kie-kie hats, and useful flax baskets. The proceeds of these various articles are now chiefly invested in blankets, prints, calico, and tobacco. They are good judges of what they buy, examining everything minutely. The purchase of a blanket is undertaken as a grave business, requiring the advice of sagacious friends; even a pipe is not to be lightly bought, and the patience of storekeepers is often sorely tried in effecting the sale of one.

In personal appearance the men are superior to the women; their carriage is free and erect, and they are generally tatooed, though this custom is going out of fashion, and will not obtain with the rising generation. In complexion, many are no darker than gipsies; they are rather taller than Europeans, and perhaps stronger, though it may be questioned whether they possess the same power of endurance – equally good, or better, for a "dash," they would probably flag sooner under long-continued hard exertion. The women are of small stature, and generally of mean appearance. Willing drudges, the females work hard and undergo considerable hardship, so that their beauty soon fades; in fact, it is difficult to picture anything less attractive than middle-aged women who have led a

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strictly native life; they look quite old, and are certainly dirtier than the men. Young girls, however, taken early from the pa, and attached to Europeans, gain habits of cleanliness and order, and improve surprisingly in appearance. Although rarely beautiful, they are good-tempered, lively, and affectionate.

The usual dress of both sexes is the blanket; but the handsome flax mat, with a rich black fringe and tags, is still occasionally seen. They prefer European clothing for great occasions, and seem to be aware that it is necessary to suffer a little in order to be fine. Some few speak broken English, but as enough of their language for common purposes is easily acquired, all intercourse with them is carried on in the Maori tongue. The natives of this settlement have already made such progress in education, chiefly through the philanthropic exertions of the Episcopal and Wesleyan ministers, that, of males between fifteen and thirty, it is estimated that three out of four can both read and write. They are becoming anxious to acquire stock, and already possess a few horses and several head of cattle, of which they take great care. The Taranaki tribe, inhabiting the country south of the settlement, and who are rich in native wealth, contracted with our millwrights for the erection of three small grist mills, two of which, lately completed at a cost of 300l., have been paid for entirely in pigs.

Hitherto, it has been found difficult to induce

VALUE OF NATIVE LABOUR.

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natives to work steadily for hire, and employers must expect some trouble with them at first; but as they are rapidly advancing in civilization, the time is probably not far distant when they will be made most "efficient helps" – a consummation devoutly to be wished, not more for the advantage of the European, than for the true interest of the native.[3] They are remarkably quick in learning any manual operation, are becoming acquainted with harvest work, and such capital axe-men, as to fell timber in a style far superior to the European. In short, the native possesses such ability for becoming useful, that settlers should not be deterred by slight difficulties in endeavouring to bring him forward, but should use every effort to develop his capacity for work; recollecting that "native labour" is not only most valuable as labour, but that European pay and employment is the surest bond of amity between the races; and, far more than missionary teaching, a means of weaning the savage from the barbarism of his race.

The natives in this Settlement deserve great praise for their honesty, sobriety, and peaceful habits. With the exception of some petty robberies committed directly after the promulgation of Mr. Spain's

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award, as a kind of comment thereon, scarcely a single case of theft has occurred in four years among a population of 700. I have seen but three or four cases of intoxication, and the most serious battle was occasioned thus: by accident, a carpenter broke a ramrod belonging to a native, who, considering it was done designedly, retaliated by breaking the carpenter's pipe, who thereupon knocked him down; the native brought the case into court, and succeeded in fining his

adversary 30s., but was much disgusted at the whole amount going to the Queen.

It cannot be doubted, that when once the question of "land" is amicably settled with the natives, their presence in a district is highly advantageous; every year affording a better supply of labour, and materially increasing trade and exports. It has been superficially observed, that New Zealand would be a noble country if the aborigines were extinct; I believe that "native labour" will ultimately be found one of the most important elements of its prosperity. In estimating the character and disposition of these people, they have, however, been judged too favourably as to what they are, but not so as to what they may become, by proper treatment. It is said, that they have renounced cannibalism and heathenism in favour of potatoes and Christianity, whereupon "Exeter Hall" has declared them a regenerated and noble race. It is true that they are no longer cannibals, and true that they have made such advances in Christianity as to be already divided into Catholics,

Episcopalians, and Dissenters. The abolishment of cannibalism is a great step in civilization, and obedience to the "forms" of religion may tend to humanise the savage; but it is a great error to suppose, that as a people the New Zealanders are yet converts to Christianity, in aught save mere externals. The novelty has its charm, and they quickly see that, by professing conversion, they more readily obtain the countenance and support of missionaries, and other Europeans, which leads to trade, and the easier acquisition of what they covet. The New Zealander sees Christianity as clothed in blankets, stripped of which, and the novelty gone, it is to be feared that the neophyte would frequently relapse into darkness: it is well said, that true conversion must follow, or be subordinate to civilization; and the missionaries, who have done much good, would have done more had they always acted in the spirit of this truth. A Christian or "missionary native," as the term is, would not be deterred from injuring the European by any religious scruples arising from his so-called conversion; but during the attempt to convert him, he would acquire a taste for luxuries difficult to forego, a love of trade as the means of gratifying it, and possibly some slight knowledge of the simpler arts, causing a desire for more – all dependent on the European; who thus, in former days, was perfectly safe when surrounded by savages able to execute anything they willed: and these influences continue so strong, that unless friendly natives were much

excited by some provocation, they would be a complete safeguard against the attack of any hostile tribe.

The future fate of the New Zealanders is a question fraught with interest. Will they, like other savage races, be swept away before the monopolizing progress and hostility of the white man; or will his humane policy for their welfare, aided by their own superior nature, ensure the preservation of the race? The New Zealander is naturally passionate and capricious, but not selfish; he has warm affections, is acute, eager to learn, and, for a savage, not averse from labour. These last two qualities, as capable of influencing his fate for good, are inestimable, and, if properly encouraged, may save the race; but true it is, that the remarkable fitness of this people for civilization has been neutralized, in some measure, by the effects of their misgovernment. In our further efforts to promote their welfare, we should, I think, first establish our supremacy over those immediately connected with the various settlements, leaving the more distant tribes entirely to their own ways and means, to the insecurity and physical suffering incident to savage life. This accomplished, the first, ruled as children, kindly but with firmness, being, as before remarked, desirous to learn and not averse from labour, would soon so improve their condition as to become objects of envy and admiration to the outside tribes; who, courting the power which had so advanced their

fellows, would be anxious to attract European settlements among themselves. Thus, perhaps, their entire civilization might be peacefully effected; and their partial amalgamation, following as a consequence, would form an "Anglo-New-Zealand" race, which, physically at least, would vie with any in the world.

On the other hand, it may be said that, independently of emigration, the white population is fast increasing; and if the next generation, which naturally will be more warlike and better able to cope with the wild man than their progenitors were, should often or ever be horrified by such an instance of revolting ferocity as was displayed by the natives at the "massacre of Wairoa" – never to be forgotten by the present race of settlers – such a feeling of deadly hatred would be engendered, that no legislation of the Imperial Government would save the natives from a fearful retaliation, or prevent their gradually becoming an "oppressed people," in time to dwindle away like other aboriginal tribes when brought into contact with the Anglo-Saxon race.

In contemplating the state and condition of these beautiful islands seven years after the commencement of their colonisation, all men must feel indignant that the former hostility of the Colonial-office to the New Zealand Company – servilely copied by the early Colonial Governors; and the settled hatred of the "missionary clique" to any interest but its own – virulently expressed by Mr.

Protector Clarke – should have caused the ruin of so many of the early settlers, the pioneers of civilization; should have driven away hundreds of excellent men to other colonies, and so fearfully blasted the early prosperity of the country. Nor is it to be forgotten that under these rulers and their missionary prompters the "native" interest, that which they professed specially to foster, did in reality suffer more than any other. They found the natives peaceful savages, wanting only a kind but firm rule to develop their many excellent qualities, and to enable them to make such advances in civilization as in a few years would have elevated them to a state approaching social equality with the European. But, under the protective legislation of the local Government, the natives imbibed such monstrous ideas of their rights, as rendered all fair dealing with them impracticable; and the "Land Question" was made to assume that shape under which it has since led to such deplorable results. It awakened old quarrels among the natives, by recalling the bloody feuds of which land had frequently been the ostensible cause – excited their worst passions – deadened all desire for improvement in knowledge and civilization. And when, by such policy as caused the partial sacrifice of some settlements – the abolition of customs' duties – the passing over the revolting massacre of Wairoa – the cupidity and bad passions of the savage could no longer be allayed, and the local Govern-

ment did flounder into the war of its own creating, what a spectacle of incapacity was displayed!

Happily for the true interest of the native race, Sir George Grey here appeared upon the scene; and, though no human power could at once quell the storm his predecessors had raised, he has done all his reputation promised. Should he rule New Zealand for a few years, and be left unfettered by the Colonial office, he will do much to change 120,000 semi-savages into civilized and loyal subjects of the Queen, and thus render them of immense service in developing the resources of these splendid islands which now own her sway.

3 The Government, for the last two years, has employed a large body of natives in road making. At Auckland many have been engaged as masons in building the substantial stone barracks; and several are employed as policemen: in all these capacities they have given the greatest satisfaction.

CHAPTER IV: Land question...

CHAPTER IV.

Land question – Its final settlement – Compensation to Settlers.

THE "Land Question" of this Settlement will be best considered under four heads: –

I. The New Zealand Company's original purchase in 1840.
II. Mr. Commissioner Spain's award, June 1844, confirming that purchase.
III. Governor FitzRoy's reversal of Mr. Spain's award, August 1844.
IV. Sir George Grey's solution of the question, and consequent arrangements in 1847.

The first three points having no practical influence in consequence of the fourth, they require but brief notice as the mere history of the hapless past.

I. The preceding chapter shows that the original owners of this district were the Ngatiawa, who, in 1834, being attacked by the Waikato under Te Whero Whero, were destroyed, enslaved, or dispersed; and that the fugitives, flying to the south, settled along Cook's Strait and near Port Nicholson. The Waikato, glutted with slaughter and rich in slaves, never occupied the district, but at once returned to

ORIGINAL PURCHASE OF THE LAND.

their villages, when a miserable remnant of the broken tribe, about sixty, who had probably hidden themselves in the neighbourhood, appear to have stolen back; and, as too insignificant to excite further hostilities, were suffered to remain quiet in their desolated homes. The New Zealand Company commenced their operations by despatching Colonel Wakefield to acquire land from the natives, and to choose a site for the first settlement. He arrived in 1839, and, in the course of his arrangements, attracted by its proverbial fertility, sought to purchase the present district. He succeeded in buying up the claims of the fugitives in Cook's Strait; also those of the remnant in occupation, who were anxious to attract European settlement as a protection against further Waikato aggressions. Soon afterwards, Te Whero Whero asserting his claim by "right of conquest," threatening to march and take possession, it became necessary to treat also with him; and Governor Hobson, who maintained his claim as well-founded, paid him 400l. on the part of the Company for its extinction. It appears that the Company took all possible precaution to effect a legitimate purchase; whilst the Governor's interference and participation therein should have stamped it with validity.

The first emigrants arrived in 1841, and were warmly welcomed as protectors by the few resident natives. Other ships followed; by degrees the settlement took root and flourished, attracting at

intervals some of the fugitives from Cook's Strait; and, as the Waikato had commenced the liberation of the slaves, the aboriginal population of the settlement was every year fast increasing: gradually a disposition became manifest to dispute the white man's possession; although, as the Crown commissioner for settling "land claims" was soon expected to examine the Company's title to this particular district, in common with that to all others, the natives remained tolerably quiet.

II. Mr. Commissioner Spain, after many delays, during which the relations between the two races were gradually assuming a more serious aspect, at last arrived in June 1844, and at once opened his court; Colonel Wakefield appearing for the Company, Mr. Clarke, Sub-protector, for the natives. The case was tried in the presence of the settlers and about 300 natives; it lasted several days, and was thoroughly investigated. The Company claimed a block of nearly 70,000 acres; Mr. Spain awarded them one of 60,000. The Commissioner's decision was grounded on what he regarded as native custom and the natural justice of the case. And when it is considered that, under the Company's original regulations, one-tenth of the soil had been reserved for the natives, making in this instance 6,000 acres, to which the Commissioner added all their pas, gardens, and burial-places, while their actual cultivations did not amount to 150 acres, it must be admitted that a most liberal and philanthropic pro-

COMMISSIONER SPAIN'S AWARD.

vision was made for their future wants; and that their repudiation of the award could not arise from the slightest probable want of the disputed territory. Well knowing that Captain FitzRoy's government, banded with the savage, would not scruple to sacrifice the settlers to their imaginary rights, trespasses, cutting timber, petty robberies, followed close on the Commissioner's departure; and a marked determination was evinced, either to extort some enormous payment, or to stop the progress of cultivation by driving the Europeans into narrower limits. In this conjuncture, the settlers asked for protection, when Captain FitzRoy came in person.

III. Captain FitzRoy arrived in August 1844, and very soon informed the settlers that although he had not even read the Commissioner's Report of the case, being satisfied that his decision was wrong, he should at once proceed to set it aside. In this, his professed object was to do justice to the "returned slaves," who, as his chief counsellor, Mr. Protector Clarke, assured him, had not, agreeably to native custom, lost their rights by slavery, – they were not parties to the sale, and thus the Company's purchase was null and void. The Commissioner maintained quite the opposite opinion; whilst Governor Hobson, disagreeing with both, had paid the Waikato as the true lords of the soil. These clashing opinions might have convinced Captain FitzRoy that any attempt effectually to decide the question by the vague and oft-conflicting customs of

barbarism would be utterly hopeless, and that the best guide would be common sense and common justice; consulting which, he would have taken some such view of the case as this: –

Three parties were supposed to have claims on the district at the time of purchase, – the Waikato conquerors – the few resident natives – and the absentees, consisting of the fugitives and the slaves. The first and principal were paid and satisfied; the second and the fugitives were also paid, and the slaves should have been compelled to receive the same, or some reasonable amount of payment. Let it be distinctly remarked that a high authority had pronounced their claims unfounded; and ample provision having been made for their future wants, they had not the slightest occasion for that land, the possession of which was necessary to the European.

This, I think, could have been peaceably accomplished; at least the attempt should have been made. Te Whero Whero, the conquering Waikato chief, fully recognised the purchase; he had always been on friendly terms with the Government, and was held in dread by those natives, who, recently his slaves, were now

disputing possession of the very district which he had himself sold.

Under these circumstances, Captain FitzRoy should have requested Te Whero Whero, with two or three of his principal chiefs, to accompany him to Taranaki; have then assembled the refractory

natives, and quietly told them that the Waikato had sold the district by right of conquest; but, as he wished to improve their condition, he would, for some stated period, make them an annual present, subject to their good behaviour, of blankets, cattle, and horses. That instead of the Company's indiscriminate tenths, he would throw the 6000 acre reserve into four or five blocks, so as to suit the convenience of the various harpu, or families – and finally have referred them to his friend Te Whero Whero for any further information they might require; when those best acquainted with this chief's influence, and the Waikato name, must see that quiet possession of the district would probably have been obtained.[4]

Far, however, from Captain FitzRoy was any such course: dealing with a Company opposed by the Colonial-office – blinded by maudlin sentimentality for "oppressed slaves" – spurred on by the missionary clique, he came to judgment in a spirit which soon stripped the unfortunate settlers of their land, and which virtually dispossessed the Company of the finest territory they had ever acquired. Some

suppose that his secret intention was to break up the Settlement – then to remove the wreck to Auckland; and whether this be true or not he nearly succeeded in accomplishing the first part. Governor Hobson had purchased the whole district for the Company, the Crown Commissioner had awarded them 60,000 acres, Captain FitzRoy repurchased a patch round the village of 3,800 acres, without any timber, forced all the settlers into it, abandoned the remaining 56,000 acres to the natives; and, as he says, "left New Plymouth perfectly quiet" – the quiet of death. In strict justice to Captain FitzRoy it should be observed, that the settlers who were thus removed received certain compensation in debentures, of which they succeeded in disposing on better terms than was expected.

This was Governor FitzRoy's settlement of the New Plymouth Land Question. It may certainly be said that the actual extent of land would more than suffice to grow food for the few dispirited settlers likely to be left; but for colonisation the Settlement was annihilated; a dangerous precedent established, likely to invalidate all past land sales; and further proof afforded of that "truckling to savages," which, leaving Wairoa unpunished, causing some singular freaks and the destruction of Kororareka, at length produced a disastrous war at both extremities of the island.[5]

In viewing this transaction it must appear that the natives exhibited blind rapacity; for, if they had yielded possession, emigration would probably have continued to increase when their 6,000 acre reserve would have been worth more pounds than it is yet pence. Their conduct must be attributed to bad counsel, to the ignorance of savages; and seeing that if they made further encroachments the settlers would be entirely driven away – the thing they least desired; or perhaps from some awakening sense of honour, they continued strictly to observe their bargain.

The Settlement, however, thus compressed could but languish; and nothing save its natural advantages preserved it from abandonment by all those who had the means left of returning to England, or of trying their fortune in other colonies. Two years passed away, when, to the tumultuous joy of the country, Captain FitzRoy, relieved from the cares of government, was superseded by Sir George Grey; who, closely engaged in quelling the native disturbances raised by his predecessors, was unable to visit New Plymouth before the commencement of 1847.

IV. Governor Grey took this practical view of the question. In abandoning the 56,000 acres to the natives, Captain FitzRoy had recognised their right thereto; and any attempt now to wrest that tract from them would lead to war, which, however successful, must seriously retard the progress of the Settlement. In Taranaki peace had been constantly maintained, and this pacific character it was most desirable to preserve. But, as more land was absolutely requisite for the increase and advancement of the Settlement, every effort must be made to acquire it by purchase. It should be observed that during the long period which had elapsed since Captain FitzRoy's visit, the two races had preserved a friendly intercourse; trade and its relations had produced the usual humanising effect on the savage, enlarging his views, and causing him to mistrust the old missionary cant, which represented the settler as ever grasping and rapacious – a fortunate state of things, as it tended to facilitate the excellent arrangement which the Governor was enabled to effect.

The natives in this Settlement may be divided, locally, into three bodies – the town and Waiwakaiho, the Mongaraka, and the Waitera party. The Governor assembled them, questioned their exclusive right to the whole district, reminded them of his Waikato friends, counselled them to avoid trouble by selling that which they could never require, pointed out the advantages derivable from

a large European community in increase of trade and civilization, and promised to make them good reserves wherever they might desire, in separate blocks.

The first party soon evinced a disposition to profit by the proposal, and, after several interviews, agreed to sell. The southern natives, owning the district adjoining Mr. Spain's award, came to offer more land. It was then expected that the Mongaraki party, on seeing the fine reserves made and the increased wealth of the sellers, would ultimately follow the example, and so influence the Waitera natives that the greater part of Mr. Spain's award would gradually be acquired. Having thus disposed of this long vexed question, His Excellency departed, leaving the authorities in charge to press the completion of the purchases with all possible despatch – when the land so acquired would at once be made over to the Company for the requirements of the Settlement.

The purchase first effected was the Grey block, comprising nearly 10,000 acres, sold by the town natives for 390l., to be paid in annual instalments. It forms part of Mr. Spain's award, and a portion of it was originally surveyed by the Company. It surrounds the FitzRoy block, and consists almost entirely of bush. The soil is of great fertility; it is level, well watered, and contains a quantity of valuable timber. The Native Reserve consists of 1,150 acres in two or three separate portions.

The second purchase was the Tataraimaka block, comprising nearly 4,000 acres, sold by the southern natives for 150l. It is detached from the Settlement, distant about ten miles; it was purchased for a cattle run, and is a beautiful small block bounded by two rivers.

The third purchase was the Omata block, adjoining the first, but just out of Mr. Spain's award: it comprises 12,000 acres, and was also sold by the southern natives; the price, 400l., to be paid in annual instalments. It is of similar character to the Grey block; but, containing more fern and light bush land, it is perhaps the more valuable district of the two for the present wants of the Settlement. The Company have laid out part of this block in a most efficient manner; and, as a proof of its available character, the contract for the survey was taken at the rate of 6 1/4d. per acre.

The completion of these three purchases occupied several months; the Government officers were scrupulous in obtaining the consent of every individual interested; title-deeds in the Maori tongue, showing boundaries and reserves, were duly signed by men, women, and even children; and the whole business, conducted with the greatest fairness and publicity, was concluded to the satisfaction of both Native and European.

As before observed, it was expected that when this was accomplished, the Mongaraki party would follow the example set by the town and southern natives.

PURCHASE OF THE MONGARAKI DISTRICT. Page 49

This body, however, numbering about one hundred men, consisting chiefly of the returned slaves under the guidance of a petty, turbulent chief, was the original cause of all the trouble. They had ever been unfriendly to the whites, and were still so decided in refusing to part with any portion of their land, that such efforts as were now made in this quarter proved abortive; and, as the southern natives were desirous of treating for further sales, the officers of Government appeared most inclined to obtain land by purchasing in the easiest direction. The acquisition of the Mongaraki district, however, consisting of rich open land lying between the Grey block and the Waitera river, was so earnestly desired, that, on a representation of the case, Governor Grey again visited New Plymouth in March 1848.

The settlers now prudently requested the direct assistance of the Company's late agent, F. D. Bell, Esq., and the Governor having expressed a similar wish, this gentleman at once commenced operations, with such vigour and judgment, that he soon succeeded in effecting a first purchase of 2000 acres in the heart of the Mongaraki district; whilst, by an excellent arrangement, the payment was made in cattle – a more durable kind of property than blankets and tobacco, and which may be regarded as an additional guarantee for the natives' advancement in the arts of peace and civilization. This small block, as a portion of Mr. Spain's award, has all been

surveyed, and is of the most available character; but it is an acquisition much less important from its intrinsic value than from the admirable results it will Page 50
probably induce. It has effectually broken up that system of exclusion which these natives, baffling every effort of the Government, have so rigidly maintained for a period of five years. By the tact displayed in the negotiation, the very men who, in its first stages, were most opposed to it, were so won over as to become anxious to sell more land; and in all human probability, if the officers of Government follow up this preliminary purchase with spirit, the greater portion of the splendid district around the rivers Mongaraki and Waiongena will soon be available for the purposes of colonization.

During the Governor's visit, he made public an arrangement which he proposed soon to carry out. It will be recollected that, when Te Whero Whero defeated the Ngatiawa, most of the fugitives settled near Port Nicholson; and although some had been attracted back, a large number still remained. Part of these, who had settled at Waikanae, amounting to about 270 men, and who, in 1814, had assisted the Governor in quelling Rauperaha, now longed to rejoin the headquarters of their tribe, and return to their old homes on the banks of the Waitera. As allies of Government, their location on that river would command the approach to the Settlement from the interior. As civilized and industrious natives,

THE MODEL NATIVE SETTLEMENT. Page 51

possessing boats, horses, and one or two coasters, they would afford a supply of labour, and materially increase trade and exports, if cultivating good land on the banks of a navigable river; whilst those resident on the Waitera had urged the absence of their relatives, and the necessity for their consent, as a reason why they could not justly part with any portion of the land. Moved by these considerations, the Governor had offered to assist them up to Taranaki, and locate them in the north Waitera district, having its north bank for their southern boundary; to lay out a site for their village; and to try to make them a model native settlement.[6]

Under Governor Grey's excellent arrangements, then, a tract of nearly 30,000 acres, in a district which is proverbially the garden of New Zealand, has already been peacefully obtained, at an expense of tenpence per acre. When required, more land is procurable from the southern natives; whilst it is almost certain that the greater portion of the Company's original block will eventually be acquired in a similar manner.

This land might have been "wrested" from the

natives; but "fighting," however successful, must have been attended with some deplorable results. The natives might have been, driven off, but with their Page 52
revengeful feelings thus excited, who, in a scattered agricultural community like this, was to insure the remote settler against the attack of some marauding band? – Certainly, not the soldiers. Consequently, several farms must have been abandoned, and the unfortunate owners, becoming dwellers for the time in some wretched military post, might thence, as at Wanganui, have joined their valiant yet discreet defenders in securely watching the destruction of their property. The progress of the natives in civilization would thus have been seriously checked; and instead of having them, as now, useful neighbours, the settler must long have regarded them as enemies, or at least with suspicion, as neutrals, perhaps awaiting only the opportunity for revenge.

Peaceful purchase, on the contrary, is attended with many excellent results: the large reserves made for the natives; the encouragement given them to invest the money received for land in stock; the friendly terms on which they are enabled to live with the European, will so advance their civilization, as in a few years to render them, if not the sinews of the Settlement, yet a valuable addition to its natural advantages. whilst, as regards a renewal of colonization, the emigrant would naturally prefer coming to a place where the Land Question, harmoniously

COMPENSATION TO SETTLERS. Page 53

settled, had never caused bloodshed, nor seriously disturbed the peaceful relations existing between the two races.

The question of compensation, as arising out of the land question, appears now to call for some notice; and, in making a few remarks on this subject, it may be right to observe that I have no pecuniary interest involved in the matter. It is necessary to inform those who have not paid attention to New Zealand affairs, that various bodies of settlers, who purchased land of the Company, and emigrated under their auspices to the different settlements, now claim compensation for non-possession. Against this claim the Company advance, as a general plea, that this grievance was attributable only to the hostile policy of Government, and to no acts or omissions of their own.

It cannot, I think, be shown that the New Plymouth settlers have a claim against the Company for compensation on this ground alone. The history of the land question here, shows that Governor Hobson interfered, participated in, and sanctioned the Company's original purchase – that the Crown commissioner, specially appointed by the home Government, awarded in their favour – and that Captain FitzRoy repudiated the acts of his predecessor, quashed the Commissioner's award, and abandoned the district to the natives – whilst the Company's "land orders" expressly stipulate that they do not "guarantee the title against the results

of any proceedings of, or under, the authority of the British Government." It is not, however, so necessary to consider the legal validity of the claim Page 54

advanced, as the Company have always expressed great sympathy for the early settlers, and their intention to deal liberally with these pioneers of civilization: there is yet no reason to mistrust that they will act in the spirit of their words.

It appears to me that the position for the settlers to assume towards the Company on the question of compensation should be this: – We emigrated to New Plymouth at your suggestion, under your auspices; adverse circumstances, over which neither party had control, prevented your giving us possession of the land you sold us; our losses have been heavy in consequence, and our unfortunate situation, in common with that of our fellows in the other settlements, excited such sympathy in England as to promote your late profitable arrangement with her Majesty's Government; you have now plenty of land at your disposal; instruct your agents to examine into our individual claims, and let them award us a portion of your superfluity. That, on such considerations, a great majority of the directors and proprietors would grant some compensation in land, there is no reason to doubt: to any small minority which might view the question in a mere pecuniary light, I would suggest, that such a course would eventually prove the most gainful: it is impossible to prove this by figures, still it is true.

If the great body of the settlers – the workers for the Company – over come to regard that body as hard and grasping; as profuse of good words, but chary of good deeds; as a distant monopoly with separate interests, it is easy to foresee that the scheme of New Zealand colonization by the Company would be virtually marred. The Company's profit – in fact their existence – depends upon land sales; to effect which, they must find purchasers in emigrants to their settlements. Now, persons intending to emigrate to New Zealand would naturally place confidence in the Company, and put faith in their representations, rather from the report of parties settled in the country, than from any statements which the Company might itself put forth. If, then, the Company were in general bad repute in the colony, it would, by certain exaggeration, be made to appear so much worse at home, as to be there regarded with great suspicion, and the stream of emigration would probably be diverted into the northern or Government division – where natural advantages are as great; where there is a larger Government expenditure; and, best of all, where there is almost the assurance that no new settlements will be planted until the old ones, having taken firm root, are making a flourishing growth.

Considering, then, that the Company would evince gainful liberality in making some compensation in land, there is yet one thing needful on their part to give full value to the act – necessary to pro-

mote the common welfare of all parties who own or intend to acquire property in New Zealand – namely, the determination to found no new settlements at present, but to vivify the old ones with more capital and labour. This subject has already been alluded to; its paramount importance must excuse my alluding to it again. It is utterly impossible to impress any one who has not lived in a young colony with a sense of its real state of backwardness as compared with England or any old country. No written or verbal description would convey to such a person a clear and distinct idea of the actual state and condition of things in the backwoods of America, the plains of Australia, or on the coasts of New Zealand. And certain am I, that if the most sanguine of the Company's Directors could possibly be induced to effect a voyage to New Zealand, and would just dwell in each of the Company's settlements one month, he would, on his return, strongly dissuade his colleagues from planting any fresh settlements for years to come.

1 would conclude this subject by advising the intending emigrant to choose Wellington, Nelson, New Plymouth, or Auckland as the field for his exertions. In the early settlements, the first roughness is gone; the way has been smoothed; there, he can avail himself of that practical knowledge which the dearly-bought experience of eight years has conferred on the old residents; and this alone would be of more real value to him than all the advan-

tages combined which he may expect to realize in any new place, even if that place really was the most favoured in all natural capabilities. It were easy to show, however, that, in this respect, the "sites" already chosen for settlements are equal, if not superior, to any others which could now be selected.

4 Te Whero Whero might have objected to this arrangement for the native reason, that these slaves deserved nothing; but if the matter had been properly represented to one so attached as he was to the Government, it is most probable that he would have lent this his pacific assistance. The Waikato, as the most numerous and warlike tribe in New Zealand, except the Ngapuhi and friends of the Government, are regarded with great respect; and although it is fifteen years since they so signally defeated the natives of this district, Te Whero Whero and the fight, or rather massacre of Pukerangiora, are still fresh in the memory of the vanquished.

5 For a fuller account of this case, the curious may refer to the "Commissioner's Report," the "Petition to Parliament from the Southern Settlements," and "Remarks on New Zealand," by Robert FitzRoy. This little pamphlet, put forth by our late Governor, has been a source of great amusement in the Colony. His Excellency's feats in the council chamber and the field caused such discomfiture to all save the missionary clique and the enemy, that his graphic recital of them, now creating such mirth among the sufferers, maybe regarded as an instance of poetical justice.

6 Under the able conduct of D. M'Lean, Esq., Government Agent in all transactions with the natives, this body left Waikanae in May 1848. It consisted of 273 men, 195 women, and 119 children; with forty-four canoes, one or two small schooners, some whale boats, and several horses. Natives are such arrant gossips, and these are now received in so friendly a manner by the intermediate tribes, that their progress is ridiculously slow: the coast journey, only 200 miles, will probably not be performed in less than four months.

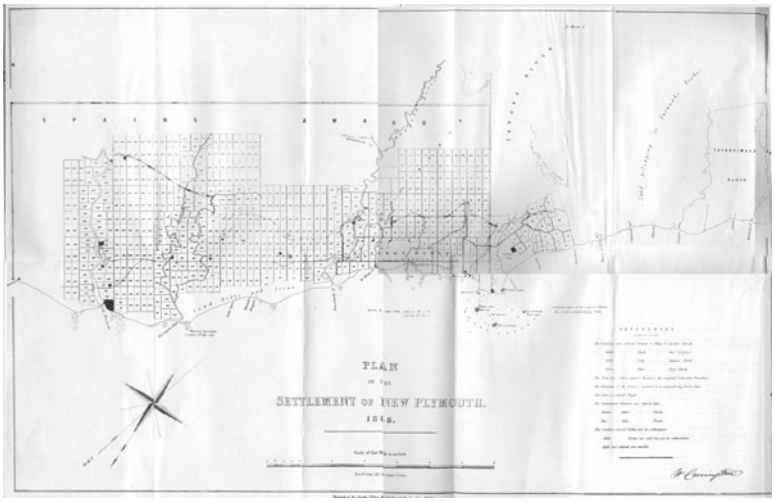
CHAPTER V: Statistical and general information...

CHAPTER V.

Statistical and general information – Original plan of the Settlement – Price of land, &c. – Population, &c. – Prices – Passage – Government expenditure, &c. &c.

BY the original plan of this Settlement, the laud was classed as follows: 550 acres town land, divided into 2,200 quarter acre sections; surrounded by 10,450 acres suburban, divided into 209 sections of 50 acres each; surrounded by 57,500 acres rural, similarly divided into 1,150 sections; making the total 68,500 acres, of which one-tenth was reserved for the natives. Mr. Commissioner Spain, however, awarded a block of only 60,000 acres to the Company, of which rather more than 14,000 have been purchased, leaving 46,000 acres unsold. As explained in the preceding chapter, it is highly probable that the greater portion of this award will eventually be acquired by purchase from the natives; but, as it is not yet in the Company's hands, the actual extent of land to which they have a clear title, recognised alike by Government and by the natives, of which they hold secure and undisturbed possession, is shown by the following statement: –

[Inserted map]



PLAN OF THE SETTLEMENT OF NEW PLYMOUTH, 1848.

PRICE OF LAND.

Name.	Extent in Acres.	Cost.	Land sold &c.	Native Reserves.
		£	ACRES.	ACRES.
Fitzroy Block In one continuous Tract	3,800	350	3231	219
Grey Block. In one continuous Tract	9,770	390	1300	1150
Omata Block. In one continuous Tract	12,000	400	1500	370
Tataraimaka Block	3,500	150	3560	Let for Cattle Run,
Puketapu Block	2,000			
	31,130		9591	1739

	11,330	Sold, Occupied, and Reserves.
	19,800	Residue for Sale.
Of this Residue..	200	Acres are Town Land.
	1,200	" Suburban.
	18,400	" Rural.

Under the new arrangements for the disposal of land in the New Plymouth Settlement, the size of rural sections has been reduced to 25 acres: it is proposed that the suburban land should be limited to a belt round the town and divided into small allotments. The price of a quarter acre town section is fixed at 121. 10s.; of a 25 acres rural section, at 50l. or 2l. per acre – the land to be chosen by the purchaser on his arrival in the Settlement. Of every pound thus received by the Company, 3s. 4d. is allowed towards defraying the cost of the purchaser's passage out; and 10s. expended in supplying labour. Thus, any one who, before his departure, paid the Company 50l. for a rural section, would have 8l. 6s. 8d. returned

him, and would have the privilege of recommending any respectable mechanic or labourer for a free passage. Full particulars on this subject may always be obtained by writing to the Secretary of the New Zealand Company, 9 Broad-Street Buildings, London.

Considering that Taranaki, as a marked agricultural district, must necessarily have a rather scattered population, it will probably be said that the planners of the Settlement exhibited great want of judgment in reserving 550 acres, or rather 2,200, 12l. 10s. sections for its town. It would easily contain half a million of inhabitants; the "great unbuilt," it looks important on paper, but bears a ludicrous proportion to the actual or probable future wants of the Settlement, and may almost be compared with the old clergy reserves in Canada, retaining tracts of wild land between cultivated parts. One hundred or one hundred and fifty acres, would have afforded ample expanse for the town; and the remainder should have been thrown into small suburban lots. Much of the rural land is worth more per acre than a great portion of the town tract; yet the first sells for 2l.; the other is offered at 50l. per acre. It may he said that four-sixths of these town sections have been sold; but most of them were purchased by speculators from the "plan," and will probably never be valued again as town land.

Of these 2,200 town sections, there are about 800, or 200 acres, still unsold. For the Company, the

proprietors, and the public, it would be an excellent measure to compress the town by drawing a circle from the Police-office, so as to include only 1,400 sections, the number sold. A purchaser whose section was outside would then exchange it for a Company's section inside, in the order of choice in which he originally selected; and thus, the Company's 800 would all be left outside and contiguous. The Company would benefit in this way. They now hold 800 scattered quarter acres which are utterly unsaleable at their upset price of 12l. 10s.; first, because, in all human probability, not even one-eighth of this number will ever be required as town land;[7] and, secondly, because sections belonging to proprietors can be purchased for half this sum; whereas, if the Company had these 800 sections as a belt round the town, the land would be readily saleable, and at good prices, if divided into five or ten acre lots. The proprietor would gain by having 800 sections withdrawn from an overstocked market, and by the increased intrinsic worth of his section: for, as the real value of town land in any Settlement depends far more upon position than richness of soil or other merits, the reduced size of the town would necessarily improve this position by bringing it

much nearer to the river, stores, shipping-place, &c. which, here, will ever form the real centre of the town. Almost every purchased section that would lie beyond the circle remains in a state of nature; but in any rare case, where buildings or cultivations existed, the owner might retain his section, or receive an additional one or two inside – for which purpose the Company should reserve a few, and make the town consist of, say 1,450 sections. The public would gain by exchanging 800 worse than useless town sections for 200 acres of market gardens, orchards, meadows, or small dairy farms: for to such purposes would eventually be applied the five and ten acre lots which the Company would have to sell.

The village contains a granite built church, handsomely fitted up; another, in rustic style, at the Enui; a Wesleyan and a Primitive Methodist chapel, two taverns, a gaol, and police barracks; and an elegant though costly native hospital is now in course of erection. On the different streams running through the village, there are three flour mills, two small breweries, and a tannery: at Moturoa, there are two shore whaling establishments. A Court of Requests is held every month for the recovery of debts as high as 20l. between Europeans, and 100l. between a Native and an European. The overland mail from Auckland to Wellington, carried by natives, passes through New Plymouth; arriving north and south every

alternate Saturday and departing the following Monday. From Auckland to New Plymouth by the coast, through Manukau and Kawhia, the distance is 199 miles; from New Plymouth to Wellington, through Waimate and Wanganui, 238. The quickest communication either with Wellington or Auckland is by sea, as dull sailing coasters, although generally three or four days in making the trip, can perform it in thirty hours. By a plan, however, which has been suggested, and which would be so admirable in effect that it will perhaps eventually be tried, not only these, but many other sea passages in New Zealand could, with certainty, be shortened more than half. This plan is to place a small steamer at Manukau, to make the voyage from Auckland to the Southern Settlements by the west instead of by the east coast. The following table shows the great difference in distance: –

From Auckland to New Plymouth.. West Coast. 126 Miles. East Coast. 710 Miles.
From ditto to Nelson.....West Coast. 280 Miles. East Coast. 665 Miles.
From ditto to Wanganui.... West Coast. 210 Miles. East Coast. 640 Miles.
From ditto to Wellington....West Coast. 300Miles. East Coast. 550 Miles.

On the east coast, there are no settlements; whilst on the west, a steamer would pass New Plymouth, Nelson, Wanganui, and Manawatu. Against this plan of communication, some might urge that Manukau is not a good harbour: shallow banks

partially obstruct the entrance, but there are three deep channels; and nothing but an accurate survey, and a pilot establishment, are required to constitute Manukau one of the best harbours in the north. Even now, without lights or buoys, coasters occasionally enter at night. There is abundance of coal at Massacre Bay; and, nearer still, it is found at Mokau. For the quick transmission of intelligence, or the transport of military supplies, New Zealand must chiefly depend on water communication. A steamer of about 200 tons, of light draught, leaving Manukau, would carry freight, mails, and passengers, from settlement to settlement, in as many hours as it now occasionally takes days: this would give an immense impetus to trade; whilst in case of further disturbances, such a vessel, able to ascend rivers, carrying troops and supplies, and conveying quick intelligence of native movements, would be almost equal in effective service to an additional regiment.

GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Commander Henry King, R. N. Resident Magistrate and Sub-Treasurer
James Webster, Esq. J P Sub-Collector of Customs, Harbour and Post Master
Thomas Standish, Esq.....Magistrate's Clerk.
Donald MacLean, Esq., J. P...Inspector of Armed Police, consisting of 1 Sergeant, 13 European, and 3 Native Privates.
John Hursthouse ..... Government Auctioneer.
John Watson..... Acting Pilot and Beach Master.
John Newland..... Gaoler
Richard Cock..... Coxswain.

NEW ZEALAND COMPANY'S ESTABLISHMENT.

William Halse, Esq., J. P.....Resident Agent.
John Rogan .....Clerk.

MAGISTRACY.

Commander Henry King, R. N.
George Cutfield, Esq.
William Halse.
John George Cooke.
John Tylston Wicksteed.
James Webster.
Donald MacLean.
Josiah Flight.

CLERGY.

Rev. H. Govett, B. A.....Church of England.
Rev. H. H. Turton.....Wesleyan.
Rev. R. Ward.....Primitive Methodist.

PROFESSIONS.

Peter Wilson, Esq.....Medical.
George St. George..... Medical.
R. Sherrif Low .....Medical.
William Turner, Esq.....Solicitors.
Solicitors. Thomas Standish .....Solicitors.
Wellington Carrington.....Surveyors
Edwin Harris..... Surveyors.
Messrs Charles and Edwin Davy..Surveyors

EUROPEAN POPULATION.

		Males.	Females.	
Adults above 18 years of Age.		267	220	
– – – from 14 – to 18..		43	36	566 Adults.
Children from 7 – to 14..		116	99	
– – – under 7		186	170	571 Children.
		612	525	1137 Total.

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

	Males.	Females,	Total.
Births during the year 1847	36	34	70
Deaths ditto	8	3	1l

Of these eleven deaths, three were accidental. In 1848 the mortality was only three.

NATIVE POPULATION IN MR. SPAIN'S AWARD.
Male Adults.....343
Female ditto.....236
Male Children..... 89
Female ditto..... 6l
729

EDUCATION – EUROPEAN.

	Boys.	Girls.	Total.				
6 Day Schools.....	104	81	185	4 Sunday ditto.....	98	85	183

A large native industrial school is now in course of erection by the Wesleyan mission.

LAND IN CULTIVATION.

Acres.

Wheat 766 1/2

Barley 128

Carried forward 894 1/4

STATISTICS.

Brought forward 894 1/4

Oats 108 3/4

Potatoes 167 1/2

Turnips..... 79

Rye 5

Maize..... 1 1/4

Hops..... 1

Grass..... 267

Fallow 85

Gardens..... 45

Native clearings, estimated at..... 450

Total..... 2103 3/4

This gives five acres of cultivated land to each European male adult.

From the impetus given to cultivation by the opening of the "Omata" Block, the statistics of 1849 will show a great increase of cleared land.

STATEMENT SHOWING THE PROPERTY ACCUMULATED BY SIXTY-NINE PERSONS – -CHIEFLY AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS FROM DEVON AND CORNWALL – SENT OUT BY THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY AS "FREE EMIGRANTS."

312 1/2 acres of Wheat, Barley, and Oats.
10 " Turnips.
80 3/4 " Potatoes.
46 " Grass.
97.....Head of Cattle.
143 .....Pigs.
27.....Goats.
59.....Houses.
238 3/4 acres of Cultivated Land.
180 " Wild ditto.

An average of 5l. each would probably far exceed the amount of property which these men possessed on landing.

No account is taken of property in money, furniture, &c.

LIVE STOCK.

	European.	Native.	Total.
Cattle.....	695	30	720
Horses	36	12	48
Sheep.....	898	0	898
Pigs	585	Numerous.	– – – -
Goats.....	177	0	177

Since this Table was compiled the number of cattle and horses has been considerably increased by importations from Sydney.

RETAIL PRICES OF ARTICLES OF CONSUMPTION.

s. d.
Wheat, per bush... 4s. to 5 0
Fine Flour, per lb.....0 1 1/2
Seconds Flour do... 1d. to 0 1 1/4
Bread, fine, per 4lb. loaf .....6d. to 0 7
Potatoes, per cwt... 2s. to 2 6

Pork, by the joint, per lb. 0 3
Ditto, by the pig.. 1 1/2d. to 0 2
Mutton 0 6
Bacon and Hams.. 4d. to 0 6
Lard.....0 6
Fowls, per pair 1 6
Ducks, per do.....2 6
Turkeys, each.....2 6
Wild Pigeons, per pair.. 1 0
Eggs, per dozen.....0 9
Milk, per pint.....0 1
Butter, per lb.....1 0
Cheese, ditto 1 0
Tea, of fair quality, per lb. 3 0
Coffee, ditto ditto.....1 10
Sugar, ditto ditto.. 4d. to 0 6
Salt, ditto ditto....1d. to 0 1 1/2
Soap, ditto ditto.....0 8
Candles, ditto ditto.....1 0
Tobacco, per lb.....2 6
Oil, for lamps, per gal... 2 6
Beer (Colonial) ditto..2 0
Brandy per ditto 16s. to 18 0
Gin, per ditto... 12s. to 14 0

STATISTICS.

WEARING APPAREL.

s. d.
Fine clothing little worn, but very dear.
Fustian Trousers ..... 10 0.
Sailors' Blue Frock Shirts ..... 6 0.
Common Blue Shirts .....3s. 6d. to 5 0
Men's Boots, Colonial make 20 0
Women and Children's Shoes are very dear.
Common Calico, 36 inches, per yard..... 0 6 1/2
Ditto Prints, per yard..... 0 8
Blankets, per pair.....15s. to 40 0

BUILDING MATERIALS, &c.

s. d.
Red Pine Board, 3/4 to 1 1/2 inch, per 100 superficial ft... 12 0
Ditto, scantling size, not exceeding 6 x 4 inches, per 100 running feet 12 0
Shingles, taking 700 to cover a square, per 1000.... 14 0
Lime, per bushel.....3s. 6d. to 4 6
Bricks, from Wellington, per 1000 about..... 60 0
Linseed Oil, per gallon 8 0
White Lead, per cwt..... 56 0
Weather-board Nails, per lb..... 0 6
Masonry Work expensive.
Cost of Post Raupo Cottage in native style, good for 3 or 4 years ....10l. to 15l.

MISCELLANEOUS.

£ s. d.
Firewood – ten days supply for a moderate family..... 0 4 0
House rent can hardly be given, as but few houses are hired: a comfortable cottage lets for, per week.....4s. to 0 6 0
Working Bullocks, per pair..... 30 0 0
Heifers. each.....8l. to 15 0 0
Hire of Cart, Driver, and pair of Oxen, per day..... 0 8 0
Grinding Wheat, per bushel..... 0 0 6

70 NEW PLYMOUTH.

£ s. d.
Landing Goods on beach from ship, per ton.....5s. to 0 6 0
Passage per Coaster from Taranaki to Auckland or Wellington .....2l. to 3 0 0
Freight from ditto to ditto, per ton..... 1 10 0
Cabin Passage from Auckland or Wellington to Sydney 8l. to 10 0 0

Freight from Sydney to New Zealand, per ton.... 30s. to 2 0 0
Agricultural Labourers, shorter hours than in England, per day... 0 2 6
Mechanics, per day 0 5 0

PRESENT EXPORTS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

Flour, Wheat, Bran, Barley, Oats, Potatoes, Onions, Pork, Bacon, Lard, Butter, Eggs, Black Oil, Whalebone.

– – – –

SHIPPING WHICH HAS VISITED THE SETTLEMENT SINCE ITS FOUNDATION.

Number of Vessels.	Tonnage.	Wrecks.	Anchors Lost.
259	22,834	1	14

– – – –

TABLE OF DISTANCES.

	Miles.
From New Plymouth to Sydney, is....	1145
" " Hobart Town..	1300
" " Adelaide	1900
" " Swan River....	2800
" " Sandwich Island:	4760
" " Manilla.....	5000
" " Batavia.....	5460
" " Singapore.....	5800
" " Mauritius.....	5800
" " Hong Kong....	5600
" " Valparaiso...	6000

STATISTICS.

The average length of passage from New Plymouth to Sydney would be about 12 days. The passage from Wellington to Valparaiso has been made in 30 days, and to Bombay in 56 days. The passage to Manilla would be about 40 days.

– – – –

DUTIES.

£ s. d.
British and Foreign Spirits .....per gallon 0 5 0
Wines..... per cent. 20 0 0
Malt Liquors.....15 0 0
Tobacco – Manufactured.....per lb. 0 1 0
Ditto – Unmanufactured..... 0 0 9
Cigars and Snuffs 0 2 0
British and British Colonial Goods and Produce.. per cent. 10 0 0
Foreign Goods and Produce..... " 12 10 0
Munitions of War prohibited.

– – – –

DUTY FREE.

Glass Bottles (Full) – Specie – Plants and Bulbs – Live Animals – Printed Books.

– – – –

EXPENSE OF PASSAGE TO NEW ZEALAND, IN THE REGULAR PACKETS FROM LONDON TO THE COMPANY'S SETTLEMENTS.

For each Person.	Chief Cabin.	Fore Cabin.	Steerage.
	GUINEAS.	GUINEAS.	GUINEAS.
14 years old and upwards....	45	25	18
7 " " and under 14....	27	15	10

1 year old and under 7....	18	10	8
Under 1 year old	0	0	0

These ships are first class, from 500 to 600 tons, carrying experienced surgeons, and sailing under the direction of the New Zealand Company: the dietary and accommodation under their particular regulation and inspection.

Provisions, medicines, and medical comforts are put on board, on a liberal scale, for six months. No trouble is given to passengers in apportioning the fare, which is daily cooked for them, and each passenger is allowed half a ton, or 20 cubic feet space in the hold for baggage. Wines, beer, &c, may be purchased of the steward at certain specified prices, but no passenger can take any private supply of spirits. The average passage of these ships is about 110 days: further particulars may always be obtained from the secretary of the New Zealand Company.

Viewed as the great field for emigration, New Zealand, like the Australian colonies, when compared with America, may at first appear too distant; but an emigrant to New Zealand would reach the scene of his future operations with less trouble than one to Upper Canada, whilst there would be no great difference in the expense. A person of the middle, or upper class, going to New Zealand, would have a cabin passage in an excellent ship for forty-five guineas, and be landed in the settlement where he wished to stop. An emigrant to the Western States, or Upper Canada, would pay 20l for an equally comfortable cabin passage; after

landing he would have 1000 to 1500 miles further to travel; and, passing through two or three large towns, would probably spend another 20l. before he arrived at his final destination. The voyage to New Zealand is disagreeably long, and here, America has the advantage, although the chief thing – the "settling down" to sea life – has to be accomplished in either case; and on this point, I think it may fairly be said, that as the New Zealand voyage is much the safest, its extra duration is almost balanced by the trouble and annoyance caused in the frequent reshifting of the emigrant's goods and baggage, which occurs in the transit from New York or Quebec to the Western States or Upper Canada.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF PUBLIC RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS IN THE SETTLEMENTS OF WELLINGTON AND NEW PLYMOUTH, FOR THE YEAR 1846.

Expenditure at Wellington: –

Civil....	£3115 10 9	
Judicial.	5746 19 9	
Public Works[8]	5668 15 0	£14,531 5 6
Revenue at Wellington: –		
Customs....	6509 10 5	
Miscellaneous	1082 16 6	7592 6 1l
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue...		£6938 18 7

Expenditure at New Plymouth: –		
Civil....	£216 0 0	
Judicial....	1185 5 0	
		£1401 5 0
Revenue at New Plymouth: –		
Customs	130 0 0	
Miscellaneous.	185 10 0	315 10 0
Excess of Expenditure over Revenue...		£1085 15 0

[The figures are taken from "The Southern Settlements of New Zealand;" a statistical pamphlet which may be called semi-official.]

"Officially," New Plymouth contributes but little to the revenue, for being chiefly supplied with duty-paid articles, coastwise from Wellington and Auckland, its real contribution only goes to swell the customs receipts of those places; and, as an agricultural exporting Settlement, it necessarily shows a less proportionate revenue than places which, as yet, have to import everything. The actual customs' revenue drawn from New Plymouth in 1846, has been estimated at 800l., which would show the excess of disbursements over receipts to be only about 400l. Here, then, is the only or principal food-exporting Settlement in New Zealand, with a Government expenditure of little more than 400l. in excess of the revenue it contributes, whilst at Wellington this excess is nearly 7,000l. In 1846, almost 6,000l. were expended at Wellington on public works alone; probably even more in 1847 – and Auckland would perhaps show a similar expendi-

ture; whereas the total sum spent on public works in New Plymouth since its foundation, a period of seven years, is under 1,200l.

This profuse but partial expenditure, confined to Wellington and Auckland, has had a most injurious effect on this Settlement and Nelson; it causes a drain of labour, for mechanics and labourers are naturally attracted by the high cash wages which it produces; and it is the cause why Auckland and Wellington alone exhibit those fine roads, bridges, and public works, of such great utility and so attractive to emigrants. It would be absurd to contend that public expenditure should be confined to places which nominally produce the revenue, for wherever there is a government expenditure, or an increase in it, there follows a revenue, or an increase of revenue; as a proof of this, the customs' receipts at Wellington, for 1847, doubled those for 1846. If the Government were to concentrate the troops

and the official corps on the barren island of Kapiti, and there commence a large outlay on public works, Kapiti would soon produce the revenue now drawn from Wellington.

It is unnecessary to dilate on the injustice of this partial expenditure, which tends to show the want of some more popular form of government. If the new charter ever comes into operation, it is to be hoped that the representation of each settlement will be proportioned rather to its population than to its official revenue; otherwise Taranaki will not be

very potent in the councils of the nation, as may appear from the following comparison.

Representation from Revenue.			Representation from Population.	
	Official Revenue for 1848.	Representation.	Population.	Representation.
Wellington..	Say £16,000	40	4480	4
Taranaki..	" 400	1	1137	1

The Taranaki district has lately been gazetted as belonging to the northern division of New Zealand or province of New Ulster; and this, coupled with the recent purchase by Sir George Grey of the residence formerly occupied by the Company's Agent, and a rumour that he intends to reside here occasionally, has induced the belief that he is desirous of effecting an arrangement with the Company, whereby the New Plymouth Settlement shall be "made over" to the Government.

Geographically and politically considered, this would perhaps be a good measure. New Plymouth is twenty-five miles north of Cook's Strait, which is generally regarded as the particular scene of the Company's operations, and by sea, is one-third nearer Auckland than Wellington. New Ulster, or the Government province, including this settlement and having the Patea river for its southern boundary, would then comprise the finest agricultural district in New Zealand; and this would tend to balance

[Inserted illustration]

Mount Eliot – lately purchased by His Excellency Sir George Grey, G.C.B.

"THE ONE THING NEEDFUL."

the greater extent, the superiority in harbours and fisheries of the southern or Company's province. And as in the Taranaki district there is a large native population, in common with the whole northern division, it would require a similar kind of legislation, – not that which might be best for almost unmixed European communities like Nelson or Otago.

Whether, however, the Government or the Company would, on the whole, best promote the direct interests of this Settlement, is another question. The great desideratum – the one thing needful – is an increase of capital and labour, that is, a renewal of emigration. Now, on this subject, the Government authorities hold opinions far too sound to dream of yet forming more new and scattered Settlements; and whether they promote an emigration of civilians or only extend the scheme of military colonisation by fencibles, they would certainly concentrate the new comers in or around the Government Settlements. Not so the Company; for their last report almost justifies the fear, that when Otago is so far realized as to have received its first emigrants, they will at once commence the planting of other little Settlements; in which case, New Plymouth could not too soon be made over to the Government. On the other hand, however, if the Company, growing wiser on this point, should direct their energies "to the filling up of the rough outline of the old Settlements," it might well be questioned

whether New Plymouth would gain by passing from those founders who have expended on it more thousands than the Government have expended hundreds.

7 The present village may remain the seat of business for some years; but the Omata settlers will eventually form a village in their district, and ship produce from Muturoa; whilst on the acquisition of land at the Waitera, another town or village will undoubtedly arise on the banks of that fine river.

8 A further sum of nearly 6000l. spent at Wellington, on militia, works of defence, and for miscellaneous purposes, is not included, as it may be called an extraordinary expenditure, caused by war: although works of defence, as permanent improvements – in fact, public works and some of the miscellaneous items, ought not in fairness to be omitted.

CHAPTER VI: Character of the Roadstead..

THE ROADSTEAD.

CHAPTER VI.

Character of the Roadstead – Improvements – Calling of English ships.

IT is well observed that the roadstead of New Plymouth has not so good a character as it deserves, – a circumstance not very difficult to explain. In the commencement of the colonisation of New Zealand, public attention was strongly drawn to the first accounts from the various infant settlements established by the Company. One of the first things known in England respecting the Settlement of New Plymouth was the wreck of the third vessel despatched to it; and as the bad first impressions thus made, were soon afterwards confirmed by the report of the danger of the emigrant ship Oriental, the roadstead was condemned as highly dangerous, – a mistake which has not yet been thoroughly rectified, by the fact of the safety of every ship which has since visited the Settlement. The best roadstead is not generally so well liked by sailors as even a bad harbour, where, once in, they can so much more easily go ashore; and, owing to this natural preference, masters of coasters who, as a class, are best acquainted with the place, have frequently damned

it with faint praise, even when they have had every reason to give it an excellent character. But perhaps the chief reason why the real character of this roadstead is not more generally known, may be found in the fact of most of the inhabitants being farmers; who, well aware that they can boast the finest land, and that Taranaki is first in agriculture, take less interest in any question relative to the roadstead and improvement in the shipping facilities of the place, than, from the great importance of the subject, it might reasonably be expected. When they have looked at the sea, they may have observed it smooth, and if at intervals any flying rumours have reached them that a vessel has lost an anchor, or met with difficulty in discharging, the circumstance has soon been forgotten in the overwhelming importance of a crooked furrow or a lost bullock.

The following short account of the New Plymouth roadstead, which has been submitted to the harbourmaster and the pilot, may tend to remove some misconception respecting it.

Ships bound to New Plymouth, approaching from Cape Egmont with a light wind, should keep well off shore, to avoid getting becalmed. The Outer Sugar Loaf, in south latitude 39 deg. 3 min. 48 sec, east longitude 174 deg. 47 min., may be called the west-south-west mark of the roadstead, and can be passed within a cable's length. The best, anchorage for large vessels is in 13 fathoms, with the Outer Sugar Loaf, or Saddle Back, bearing

THE ROADSTEAD.

south-west by west-half-west; and the flag-staff east south-east. The water shoals to about three fathoms at low water, within half a mile of the landing place. The bottom, for the most part, is sand over rocks, consequently the holding ground is bad; and the safe character of this roadstead is attributable to its open position, to fine weather, and to the prevalence of certain winds.

"North-westers" raise a heavy sea and surf; but these are of comparatively rare occurrence. Southeast, off the land, south-west, to west-south-west along the land, broken by the Sugar Loaves, are the prevailing winds. With the first, the roadstead is as smooth as many harbours; with the others, ships can generally ride with ease; and, from the observations of seven years, it may be safely said, that there are not more than fifty or sixty days in the year when vessels could not discharge in perfect safety. The weather here has one almost invariable course; for instance, with the wind from the usual quarter, south-east to west-south-west, it is generally bright and fine; when a change occurs, the mountain becomes hidden, and the wind shifts gradually by east, north-east, and north-west, round to its old quarter, – squally at first, then lighter, and fine weather again sets in. It should be well noted that in this change, the wind moves steadily on from the fine-weather quarter round to north-west, and thus gives ample warning.

On the approach of a "north-wester," a ship, to

avoid any risk of losing an anchor, should stand out a few miles, steering about west by south, so as to make a fair wind of the south-west breeze, which, invariably soon follows; and she might generally return to her anchorage the following evening.[9]

Mount Egmont, usually clear, and the Sugar Loaves, always to be seen fifteen miles off, are such excellent landmarks, that a strange vessel could not mistake the place. The Sugar Loaves are three rocky pinnacles two and a half miles south-west of the town; the first, about 400 feet high, is on the main land; the second rises from the sea nearly three quarters of a mile off; and the third is about the same distance still further out. There is a good deep passage between the outer ones.[10] With the exception of a small reef, about a quarter of a mile south of the flag-staff, running out half a mile in a northerly direction, and the one as shown in the present map, but which is out of the way of shipping, there is not a single obstruction in the roadstead. Neither is the place embayed, but stands boldly out, so that any vessel anchored in the right position, yet, by gross negligence, caught in a "north-wester," would clear the outer Sugar Loaf,

THE ROADSTEAD.

and, if necessary, weather Cape Egmont, twenty-five miles distant, bearing by compass from the anchorage south-west by south; when, of course, she could either lie-to, or, if bad weather were likely to continue, in six hours fetch Port Hardy. If, whilst a vessel was discharging here, the wind veered suddenly from any smooth water-point to west, and blew a gale, this would then be a bad lee-shore, and the ship, if a dull sailer, would probably not succeed in beating off; but as, for seven years, no instance of such a shift has occurred, it is reasonable to suppose that it never will occur.

Heavy moorings were laid down by the Company in 1842, which were of great service for two years; but, having never been raised for examination, they got out of order, and as the Theresa was lying at them in March 1844, a shackle parted in the night when the ship was in considerable danger by drifting in shore, – they have not since been replaced. Government maintains a boat-establishment, superintended by the harbour-master and the acting pilot, who boards all large vessels before they anchor, and, if required, takes charge. The cargo-boats carry from four to five tons; their construction is capable of improvement, and the whole establishment could easily be made more efficient; but, in its present state, cargo is generally discharged with despatch.

The customs' records show that 259 ships, of the burthen of 22,834 tons, have visited New Ply-

mouth, of which only one has been wrecked; 223 of these vessels have partly or wholly loaded or discharged here; but neither in the great boating work

which this has caused, nor in whaling or fishing, has there been a single loss of life, since the foundation of the Settlement. The one wreck in these 259 vessels was that of the Regina, a fine schooner of 164 tons, and the third ship direct from England. It appears that she was anchored inside the small reef before named, and so close in shore that in standing out in one of the regular shifts of wind, she struck almost before she was fairly under weigh; the greater part of her cargo was saved. The Oriental, an emigrant ship, was in some danger here. A coaster was once driven ashore, though afterwards got off; and, in the course of seven years, fourteen anchors have at different times been lost.[11] It is worthy of remark, that few of these anchors have been lost through stress of weather. Owing to the rocky nature of the bottom, the chain has generally parted from the strain of weighing; and every vessel anchoring in this roadstead should invariably bend a good, strong, stout, "buoy-rope."

If the simple fact was generally known, that of the 259 vessels which have visited this roadstead,

at all seasons of the year, but one ship and fourteen anchors had been lost, nautical authorities would probably admit that, as a roadstead, the place merits an excellent character; for it must be distinctly noted that some of these accidents were such as, after seven years' experience, would hardly occur again.

Captains of vessels now coming to New Plymouth can safely rely upon this, – that they may incur some inconvenience, for it is possible that they may be compelled to stand out before the cargo is discharged; but, on the other hand, they will probably meet with good despatch, and, by taking the pilot, there will be less chance of actual danger to the ship than would be incurred in entering many excellent harbours.[12]

The best measures for the improvement of this roadstead, and for increasing the facilities for shipping, would be these: –

I. Laying down moorings.
II. Improving the boat establishment.
III. Licensing the acting pilot.

First. As regards fine weather, and the actual

safety of the ship, this roadstead is second to none; but from the nature of the anchorage – chiefly sand over rocks – vessels are liable occasionally to lose an anchor in weighing. Moorings would be signally useful in removing this risk, and in enabling ships either to hang out a gale, or to slip at any moment of its duration. They would have to be annually examined. In order to make this examination, the most effectual plan would be to build a "lump," or lighter, expressly for the service. By a "Plan for Moorings," suggested by the pilot, a set to hold ships of 500 tons (using certain parts of the original set) could be laid down for about 300l. The lighter, to be built here, and which might be serviceable in landing cattle, would probably cost 200l. A set of light moorings, laid close in shore for coasters, would also be extremely useful.

Secondly. What is most needful here is a good boat's crew. Except the coxswain, there are no regular men, and when a ship arrives, as the best hands are frequently engaged elsewhere, their places are supplied by any motley crew which the coxswain may succeed in pressing. It has been proposed that the boats should be manned by the police force; but this is a duty which they would not perhaps willingly perform: they are better employed in coasting, road-making, or bridge-building; and they are not fit for a service which requires good rowers, and men handy in a boat. A good crew makes a greater difference in the despatch

which a vessel meets with than would be supposed; and six of the best men, to keep a look-out and perform all Government work, could be secured for 10s. or 12s. per week. The boat establishment in other respects is less efficient than when it was in the hands of the Company. It is unnecessary to describe the many little things requisite for its completeness, but an allowance of 50l. per annum would supply them, and keep the establishment in so high a state of efficiency, that the landing of goods and shipment of flour without damage could always be insured.

Thirdly. A stranger captain coming here, and finding the pilot without a license, would naturally suppose, either that the authorities considered a pilot unnecessary, or that the person so acting was not duly qualified; consequently, he might decline to give him charge of the ship. Owing to this, the Madras lost a valuable chain and anchor, and the Guide (brig) running from the place in a northwester, instead of merely standing out for a few hours, was totally wrecked near Nelson. These accidents not only entailed a serious loss of property, but were most injurious in bringing the place unduly into disrepute.

The improvements here suggested would require an outlay of about 500l. with an annual expenditure of say 300l. This may appear a large sum; but, as it is generally acknowledged, that if New Plymouth possessed a harbour it would be superior in most

natural advantages to any other settlement, the Government and the Company can estimate the importance of doing that which, at no extravagant cost, would to some extent supply the deficiency of a harbour.

The roadstead must always be the best place for large ships; but for vessels of from fifty to seventy tons the Waitera River would form an excellent port. Even now, without marks or buoys, coasters enter it to refit. There are from ten to twelve feet on the bar at high water; a considerable depth inside for three miles up; and great natural facilities exist for the construction of wharfs and quays.

Could the noble harbour of Auckland be combined with the fertile plains of Taranaki, the result would be a "site," position and climate considered, perhaps unequalled in the colonies; but in New Zealand it appears impossible to find a first-rate port combined with a district pre-eminent for fertility and other agricultural advantages. In the latter respect, however, New Plymouth has no rival; whilst it must be evident that, in possessing a safe roadstead for large ships, with capabilities for a river harbour for smaller vessels, it is at least equal in natural facilities for shipping to various places in the world which enjoy a very considerable and important trade.

In connection with this subject, and as a proof of the misconception which exists in England respect-

ing this roadstead, it may be observed that the Company's regulation, by which the ships despatched under their sanction were to call at New Plymouth, was generally evaded. It will probably be admitted, that vessels incur no danger by touching here with moorings, no risk of losing even an anchor; whilst from its position near the entrance to Cook's Strait, it is naturally the first settlement at which an English ship would call. The cargo for New Plymouth should be stowed

last, when there would be so little detention that the delivery of the Nelson and Wellington goods would seldom be retarded more than eight-and-forty hours.

It is not, however, for the more speedy delivery of bales and cases that it is so desirable to have the English ships call here – they bring a much more important kind of cargo; namely, passengers who may become settlers. An emigrant farmer resolves to see one or two of the principal settlements before he decides in favour of any, or to settle in the Taranaki district should the country satisfy the high expectations which have been raised: the vessel does not call here; he is put ashore, perhaps at Wellington, and however disappointed with that place, he finds the loss of time and annoyance would be so great in making the passage by a small coaster to see Nelson or New Plymouth, that he is almost compelled to remain where he was first landed. In fact, the calling of an English ship confers so many advantages on a young settlement, that

the New Zealand Company, if desirous of treating all with justice, should not permit the rule they made in this respect to remain any longer a dead letter.[13]

9 As a general rule, under these circumstances, a large vessel should commence getting her anchor before the wind is further round than north.

10 There is a small rock, generally marked by a "wash," about midway between the two. Close round the Outer Sugar Loaf, there are from twelve to eighteen fathoms at low water.

11 Of this number one was lost by the Madras, an accident attributable only to the captain's refusal to take the acting pilot, and anchoring his ship near the Sugar Loaves, in the worst position that could well have been chosen.

12 Captain FitzRoy, R. N., when here, expressed the following opinion of the place: he said "that a vessel would generally find it easier to call and land cargo or passengers at New Plymouth than at Wellington, or even Auckland; because, on account of the 'lay of the land,' a ship lost no time in getting in with it." It is true that in his pamphlet, New Plymouth, in common with all the Company's Settlements, receives a considerable "setting-down;" but this may be regarded as only the Captain's parting blow at the Company.

13 Certain Wellington merchants and shipowners connected with the coasting trade have ever been so hostile to the arrangement whereby the Company's vessels were to call at New Plymouth, that generally, in speaking of its roadstead, they have been careless about ascertaining the real truth, or have allowed self-interest to overcome veracity. This may appear strong language, but as some proof of its correctness, a letter from Wellington was written to "Lloyd's," in which the ingenuous author informs that important association, that the Taranaki roadstead is at all times hazardous for large vessels, and that a northwester is the prevalent wind!!

CHAPTER VII: Agricultural and grazing capabilities..

CHAPTER VII.

Agricultural and grazing capabilities – Farming – Markets – Resources and probable exports of the Settlement.

THE Taranaki district is pre-eminent for its agricultural capabilities; experience has proved that English grain and root crops, seeds, vegetables, and fruits, are easily produced of excellent quality. In the virgin forests of America, where trees are deciduous, a mass of foliage is annually shed, forming in time a deep vegetable mould; but here, where all is evergreen, the foliage, dropping only leaf by leaf, is partially withered up and dissipated before its decomposition into this vegetable mould. Thus the rich surface soil is comparatively shallow, and the peculiar adaptation of this district for agriculture arises less from any extreme fertility of soil, than from the genial and forcing nature of the climate, the extent of level land, the low cost at which it can be cleared, and the extraordinary ease with which the soil can be worked at all seasons of the year. Here, neither droughts nor wet harvests occur; water and water-power are abundant; all animals thrive, and no winter-provision is neces-

sary for stock. Violent storms, which occur even in England, blights, rust, and mildew, so injurious to grain crops, are here unknown. Except the rat and the parroquet, there is no destructive animal or bird – these are comparatively harmless; and no insects are found so injurious as the locust, wire-worm, turnip-fly, and others, which occasionally commit such ravages in various parts of the world.

It is only within the last four years that the Taranaki settlers have been engaged, generally, in cultivating; and although in this period several important facts have been discovered, it can hardly be said that farming is yet reduced to a settled system. The principal cultivation, hitherto, has been on land covered with fern from six to eight feet high, intermixed with a small bush, called "Tutu." The surface soil is a vegetable decomposition, of seven to ten inches, matted together by the fern root, with a light, yellow, loamy subsoil of many feet in depth, entirely free from stones, shells, gravel, or clay; in fact, no real clay or brick earth has yet been discovered. When this land is broken up and got into order, the soil becomes so pulverised, and is ever after so easy of cultivation, that a pair of oxen will easily plough an acre a day, even with the rude and clumsy implements which are still generally in use.

Fresh fern land has one marked peculiarity, called "sourness" by which is meant some property hostile to the growth of crops, put in directly

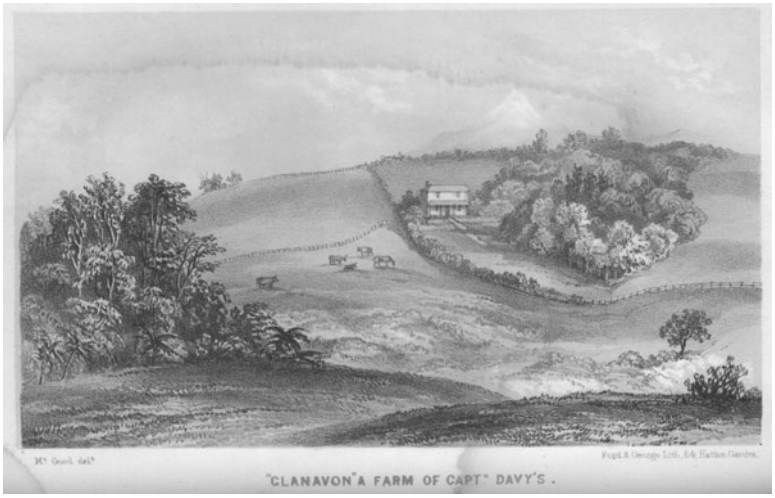
after the breaking-up. The probable cause of this, is the absence in the new soil of such promoters of vegetation as the ammoniacal gases, readily absorbed from the atmosphere when the soil is loosened and exposed; although if "sourness" arose entirely from this cause, it would appear strange that the bush-land also is not subject to it. If a piece of the finest fern land be cleared and sown at once with wheat, the yield would probably not exceed fifteen bushels per acre; the same piece prepared nine months beforehand might yield from thirty-five to fifty bushels; but on timber land this would make no difference.

In cultivating fern land, the first operation is to clear away the fern, which is best done in some dry month. Choosing a gentle breeze, the fern is fired; if it burns well, all the thick and matted dead stuff at the bottom, with the leafy part of the live fern, will be consumed, leaving only the shrivelled "Tutu," and the cane-like fern stalks, which, as softened by the fire, should be cut at once, either with a strong hook, or, still better, with a short scythe, and the "Tutu" slashed down with a bill-hook. Lying a few days to wither, the stalks are loosely raked up and burnt with the "Tutu" branches, and the "Tutu" stumps have then to be taken up, and carted into a heap, or carried off. After these operations, which cost from 15s. to 20s. per acre, the land is ploughed with a strong plough, having a wrought-iron share, and four oxen. The

best depth is about ten inches, turning up a little subsoil. When broken up, the soil should lie some time to get pulverised, and to dry the fern root. It should then be harrowed and rolled so as to allow of the easy raking-up and burning of the fern root; and, to get it into superfine order, ploughing and these subsequent operations, should be repeated, when the land, after lying about six months, will be in the finest possible condition for any crop which may afterwards be grown.[14]

A complete course of "double working," such as this, costs from 2l. 10s. to 3l. per acre; but it should be observed that as this sum is for work performed chiefly by bullock-power, it will be materially reduced as cattle become cheaper. The price of working oxen in New South Wales is about, 81. per pair, in Wellington and Auckland 20l., whilst here it has generally been about 35l.; but as cattle are fast increasing, and as a direct trade has been commenced with Sydney, it is probable that in another year a pair of oxen will be purchased here for 20l.

[Inserted illustration]



"Glanavon" A Farm of Captn. Davy's

The best method of cropping fern land thus prepared is hardly yet determined. If the soil has been exposed about nine months, well mellowed, perhaps the best course would be two wheat crops, then manure a little for potatoes, or fallow, and so round; but if it is likely to prove at all sour, the first crop should be potatoes, which might be followed by two grain crops and then a fallow. Sheep have a surprising effect on fern land: a flock folded a single night has been known to increase a crop of wheat in the particular spot nearly 100 per cent.; and all animal manure is considered to go twice as far as in England.

It is probable, however, that fallowing will become a more general, and for some years a more beneficial, plan than manuring. In a new colony like this, farming is never conducted with half that care, labour, and regularity required in old countries; and here, the mere collecting, carting, and spreading manure would frequently be thought to entail too much trouble; whereas "fallowing" would be made a very simple operation. Messrs. Davy, Glanavon Farm, have a piece of 20 acres of fern land, on which the course was first, wheat (a splendid crop); second, barley; third, a fallow, receiving two ploughings; and fourth, wheat. This crop was at one time expected to yield an average of nearly 50 bushels per acre; but from being too rank[15] – the

straw six feet long – its average will not be 40 bushels. On my brother's farm, a piece of fern land which had borne three successive grain crops, the last very light, was also fallowed, receiving merely one rather deep ploughing; the fourth crop was wheat, estimated at 45 bushels per acre.

The clearing of bush land should be commenced in October or early in November, so that the stuff when cut may dry and wither through the hot months, and burn-off freely in March. The forest has a thick undergrowth which should be cut first and low; the smaller trees are then thrown with an American axe, the larger with a cross-cut saw. When a tree is down, all its straggling limbs, which would prevent the next from lying close and compact, should be lopped-off; and any little extra care in the felling effects great saving in the "burning-off," for which a very dry day, with a steady breeze, should invariably be chosen. If the fire acts well, almost everything will be consumed save the trunks and heavy branches, which are lopped-off, heaped, and burnt: the trunks are then cross-cut, rolled together, and burnt; or the best are suffered to lie, or at once drawn away for firewood and fencing.

Timber can be thrown for 30s. to 40s., and burnt-off for 2l. 10s. to 3l. per acre; but, by a plan that will generally be adopted as the clearing of bush land becomes better understood, a saving of 15l. or

20l. per cent, will probably be effected. This plan is to leave standing, here and there, any particularly large or hard-grained tree: the great labour of cutting it down and clearing it away is thus saved. Killed by the fire, it is not injurious to any crop underneath. It occupies no greater space standing as a dead tree than as a stump; and it can be taken down whenever it may be required for firewood or fencing.

The forest here, although the land is level and the timber lighter than in some districts, is nevertheless such a tangled mass of luxuriant vegetation, that it presents rather a formidable appearance to the English axeman; and fern land, seemingly, much easier to work, has commonly been selected for farming. Which is the most profitable to cultivate, is a question not yet decided by experience. The best plan of clearing timber land would be to employ natives, through some European of influence among them. A dozen good men, living on the spot, working together, stimulated by "utu" (payment), would soon cut down a 20-acre clearing in such a style as to ensure a good burning; so that this work, frequently costing 3l. per acre, would probably be done for 30s.

Both fern and timber land will eventually be cultivated at less expense, though the greatest reduction may be expected in the latter. At present, the one to be cleared, thoroughly worked, and got into the finest order, costs 3l. 10s. per acre; the other is

cleared for 4l 10s., and for its first grain crop the seed can be "chipped-in" for 10s. per acre more. Now, if this "chipping-in" would answer for three or four years successively, the surface roots and smaller stumps would so decay that the land might easily be prepared for the plough, when the difference in expense between cultivating fern and bush land would be very trifling. This plan, however, is thought to succeed only once, for when tried again the crop is frequently choked by sowthistle. If wheat, then, be required a second time, the land is generally "hacked-up," cleared of surface roots, and hand raked; an operation called "grubbing," which costs from 5l to 6l. per acre – too great an outlay for the production of any common grain crop.

It has not been fully proved that this plan of "chipping-in" would answer only once; but, assuming such to be the case, the most profitable method of cultivating bush land would probably be this: a heavy wheat crop might be taken first, and then the greater part of the section laid down in grass; for dairy produce would pay well as an export, and the bush land soon affords luxuriant pasturage.[16] Twenty-five acres, or any quantity which the settler could stock, might be applied to this purpose; and about ten left standing as shade and shelter, and as a small run. Cattle browse on the undergrowth, and a cow on the bush alone will keep herself in

good order throughout the year. Twenty-five acres would keep at least twenty milch-cows in the finest condition; and the remainder of the section might be devoted to the growth of "Cobbet's corn," which, with the surplus milk, would enable the settler to fatten a quantity of pigs for hams and bacon – a staple article of trade, almost everywhere in demand. After the land had been a few years in grass, four good oxen would pull up so many of the stumps that, if desirable, the plough might be worked; and a succession of fine grain crops obtained at small expense.

The comparative value of bush land has been underrated: it is the richest soil; in all grain crops there is a considerable saving of seed, the yield is greater, and most things may be put in nearly two months later. It is admirably adapted to some of what Loudon classes as "Plants cultivated on a limited scale for various arts and manufactures," such as flax, hemp, oil plants, hops, mustard, tobacco, &c. Bush land also yields the quickest return: for instance, an emigrant arriving in November or December would be enabled to get down a few acres of timber to burn-off in March; and, by sowing wheat in July or August, he would ensure a heavy crop the following January, but on fern land this could not be done, for the reasons given at page 92.

In summing up the respective merits of fern and bush land, it may be said, that on farms of from

100 to 200 acres, or of any size, with the necessary stock and implements, the common crops – wheat, barley, oats, and potatoes – can be produced cheapest on the first. But in the case of a settler with a small capital and a grown-up family, who required only fifty acres, and who desired to make the most of the hand labour[17] at his command, or for dairy farming on any scale, the preference should certainly be given to bush land.

Wheat is a certain crop – not subject to rust, mildew, or the attack of any insect. It is best sown on fern land early in May, at the rate of from two to three bushels per acre, though one is sufficient, and August is soon enough on bush land. Harvest is general about the 10th of January, when wages are 5s. per day, or wheat is cut for 12s. to 15s. per acre. Threshing was formerly a slow and tedious job, costing 1s. per bushel, and even then badly done; but as machines are now coming into general use, this expense will probably be reduced to 6d., and much valuable hand labour saved for the clearing of fresh land. The wheat grown here is of excellent quality, but in the present state of farming it is impossible to give the correct average yield per acre. In fact, the yield of crops in a young colony is a subject on which rather wild notions seem generally to prevail, and on which is expended no

little exaggeration.[18] Fern lands apparently alike in every respect have varied in yield the same season as much as twenty bushels per acre – a difference attributable to bad preparation and premature cropping. Small cultivators have not always been able to farm properly; and others, until lately, have not been fully convinced that fern land pays best when thoroughly worked at first, as in the manner before described. The most practical men are of opinion, that when this is done the general average yield of wheat in this district will be from thirty to thirty-five bushels per acre. The heaviest crop that has yet been obtained on any large piece was 448 bushels from eight acres, equal to fifty-six bushels per acre; sixty bushels have occasionally been obtained on small pieces; and in one instance, it is said that the first crop on an acre of bush land sown with four pecks was nearly eighty bushels of clean wheat.

From the apparent nature of the soil, it was expected that barley would succeed even better than wheat; it has, however, been found inferior both in yield and quality; and if the common crops were

placed in the order in which they have answered best, they would stand nearly as follows: –

Wheat, say.....3
Potatoes, ...2 3/4
Barley and Oats.....2

As wheat, however, has been grown in the proportion of eighteen to three of barley, and eighteen to two of oats, the latter have scarcely had a fair trial. Three to four bushels per acre more of wheat would be obtained if the operations of harvesting, thrashing, and dressing were better performed; and in estimating the agricultural capabilities of this district by the present yield of crops, it should be remembered that if farming were conducted with that practical knowledge, skill, and attention required in England, the yield would be materially increased; in some cases, perhaps, almost doubled.

Barley, as before observed, has not been grown so extensively as wheat, nor has it generally received the same degree of attention. Some difference of opinion exists as to the proper season for sowing. The best time would probably be early in September, but if tilled then, it begins to ripen in December, and is generally attacked by a caterpillar, which, making its appearance in that month, is very destructive in biting off the ear just as it changes colour. As this insect comes at one particular time, and is injurious to barley chiefly when ripening, late sowing, about the 20th of October, has

saved the crop; but in this case the yield is deficient.

Owing principally to the caterpillar, barley has not yet been grown with much success; fifty bushels per acre is the most that has been obtained, and twenty to twenty-five is about the average yield. However, as it would pay better than wheat, if the yield were only equal, more attention will he paid to its cultivation; and by getting the land into finer condition, late sowing will probably be found to succeed in every respect.

Oats have been but little attended to. From the high relative price which they bear in Auckland and Wellington, this is rather surprising, but may be partly accounted for by the fact that seven-eighths of the farmers here are from English counties, where their culture is not found profitable. Oats, also, though in a less degree than barley, arc subject to the attack of the caterpillar. The best crop was grown by a settler from Lincolnshire, who, sowing-very early – the 6th of April – succeeded in saving it before the caterpillar made its appearance: the yield was about forty-five bushels per acre; but the crop being sown on fern land, after a good fallow, was too strong, and became partially lodged before harvest.

Maize grows luxuriantly on bush land, and the natives raise it in warm spots; but the climate of this district, like that of Van Diemen's Land, is not sufficiently hot to ripen maize as a general crop.

Cobbet's corn, however, succeeds remarkably well; under garden cultivation it has yielded nearly a bushel of shelled corn to a rod. It would be an excellent first crop on bush land.

Potatoes are a certain crop; not subject to disease, nor, if planted in proper time, to the attack of any insect. On bush land they attain a great size, but are not so good

in quality as those grown on fern, which are remarkably dry and mealy. The early sorts should be planted in August; the later, for a general crop, in September, or early in October. On fern land, without manure, about six tons per acre are considered a fair crop; but bush land will produce from ten to fourteen. An extraordinary potato plant once grew in a garden on the "Black Iron-sand;" in size, the haulm and top resembled some bushy shrub rather than a potato. It was taken up in the presence of witnesses, and the tubers, carefully counted, numbered 240, of which 170 were of fair cooking size.

Turnips have not been extensively grown. The middle of October is the best time for sowing, although a fair crop has been obtained when tilled as late as Christmas; twenty tons per acre are considered about the average yield. Turnips, like all other roots grown here, are of excellent quality, and specimens of Swedes weighing thirty pounds are not uncommon.

Beans, peas, cabbages, parsneps, carrots, and onions, have been grown chiefly as garden vege-

tables; but from the luxuriance of their growth, some of them may become rotation crops. Parsneps and carrots yield most abundantly, and nearly 300 lbs. of onions have been obtained from three-quarters of a rod of the black sandy soil near the beech.

About three years ago, some interest was excited by an attempt to introduce the cultivation of English flax. From some experiments tried chiefly by Mr. Flight, a gentleman conversant with the subject, it appeared probable that the soil and climate of the Taranaki district would be found well suited to the production of this important article, and a sample was sent to Messrs. Marshall, the Leeds flax-spinners, and to a Dorsetshire house, whose report of its quality was considered favourable. Seed was imported, but owing chiefly to the want of capital, and to the then unsettled state of the Land Question, none of it was sown, and the subject has not since been revived.

About 260 acres have been laid down in grass; chiefly white clover and rye-grass mixed, other varieties not having been generally obtainable: grass seeds are best sown in March. The white clover is very luxuriant, and by banks and road sides, from farm to farm, is gradually spreading over the country. For pastoral purposes, however, the district adjoining the present southern boundary of the Settlement, extending sixty miles along the coast, is one of the finest in New Zealand, and as

capable of supplying cheap working stock for the farms, and beef and wool for exportation, portions of it would form a most valuable appendage to the present agricultural Settlement.[19] The greater part of this district is better adapted for cattle than for sheep, or rather, for cattle first. The roughest tract is so improved in two or three years by the depasturing of cattle, as entirely to change its character. The fern is destroyed to some extent, and is succeeded by coarse grasses. If sheep follow, the fern is gradually killed, grasses become finer, and white clover soon appears: thus, in the end, luxuriant pasturage is obtained, never here burnt up in droughts, but always green and succulent.

Cattle and sheep thrive, and, like all other animals which have been introduced, increase very fast; both are subject to a kind of delirious attack, arising from over feeding on the "Tutu;" but this seldom affects them more than once or twice, and the actual loss caused by it is probably not more than 2 1/2 per cent. A strong dose of spirits, for a bullock two to three bottles, is considered the best remedy, but quick bleeding has been found very efficacious. Sheep are never attacked by the "fly," are free from their common diseases, and fatten quickly; half-bred Southdowns have been killed weighing

nearly 30 lbs. per quarter. From the regular feeding and equable nature of the climate, wool will probably be of fine quality.

It is of course an advantage that the New Plymouth Settlement, distinguished for its fine arable character, should border on a district capable of supporting numerous flocks and herds, and possess a climate so favourable to stock; but it is not as a pastoral country that I should wish to recommend it as a field for successful colonisation. In our Indian possessions where the climate is so baneful, in the Australian Colonies where society is generally bad, the emigrant is naturally less desirous of settling for life than of accumulating money for after enjoyment at home, But in New Zealand, where robust health is ensured in a rich and beautiful country, where no penal taint exists, the emigrant may wisely regard wealth as a more secondary object, and be well content to make the field of his labours his happy home and resting-place. Now, in any mere pastoral country, the population is so thin and scattered, that the "Settler's life" is almost semi-savage; the very reverse of that in an agricultural district like this, where the inhabitants, living in closer vicinity, command society, and can more readily combine for the promotion of their social interests.

The fences made here are a grip and bank, or post and rail. The first costs about 7s. per chain, and is a good external fence when well made and

kept in order. Owing to the rapid growth of coarse grasses, the face of the bank requires to be slightly pared every year, and the grip cleared out. The post and three rail fence costs about the same as the bank; it is the better cattle fence, and with good Kohekohe posts will stand five years. The best fences have the posts of iron-wood, which is rather more expensive, but almost imperishable. Excellent hurdles, costing 10s. per dozen, made of the karewa, or supple-jack, are useful as temporary fences for gardens, &c. Except in the town, damages caused by cattle trespassing cannot be recovered unless the ground is fenced.

Agricultural Implements[20]

The plough which has been found most useful for general purposes – for the one plough on a small farm, is "Meredith's" of Kington, a village in Radnorshire. It is made entirely of iron; the share, and indeed the greater part of it, being of wrought metal. The only objection to this plough is, that although not at all too strong for "breaking-up" land, it is heavier than is necessary for all subsequent operations. It would be improved by having a wheel, and an extra share should be provided, made of the best wrought iron; for in "breaking-up" fresh land, hidden roots of old puriri trees will

occasionally wring the share as if it had encountered a granite rock.

Perhaps, however, the best plough for the particular and important purpose of "breaking-up" new land, is one of Messrs. Ransome's, of Ipswich. It is known at their manufactory as the "X. P." plough. To make it stronger, the share and coulter should be welded together; when, with six oxen, this plough will be found a most powerful and effective implement. Another excellent plough of the Messrs. Ransome's is the one known as the "Y. C. P." plough. The frame, as well as the beam and handles, is made of wrought iron.

Wheat is cut here in the manner generally practised in Devonshire, called long and "round-hewing" – a quick and efficient plan. The hook used, less curved than

the hand-reaping hook, is, I believe, commonly known as the "bagging-hook;" and as young fern is frequently found in first crops, it should be of good temper and quality. The mowing of wheat is, however, coming into practice, and will probably supersede reaping; for it is well adapted to the common fern land crops of about thirty bushels per acre, with short straw; and here, as corn is cheap and labour dear, a little waste is not much regarded if the work be performed quickly. The Kentish corn-scythe and binding-rake, described in the Farmer's Magazine of Sept. 1840, answer well, as would probably the common Cornish scythe and crooks.

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Owing chiefly to bad roads in winter, the wheel carriages in general use are small, strong, bullock carts, made in the Settlement. In harvesting, fore and back ladders are added, which materially increase their capacity; but, for this work, they are of course much inferior to light wagons, or to the improved one-horse Scotch cart. It would be advisable to bring the necessary iron-work for a cart, with a pair of strong wheels, four feet four inches in diameter, and the tire four inches and a half broad. The axles, made only of the best iron or steel, should not be less than two inches and a half in diameter. Spare tire iron, and iron rods for bullock-bows, would also be found serviceable.

Capital harrows are made of Puriri and Rata, but two or three sets of tires, about eight inches in the clear, and fastening with screws and nuts, should always be provided. As to the numerous implements called grubbers, scufflers, tormentors, &c. the price is generally high even in England, and their real value perhaps overrated. If, however, the emigrant, as a practical farmer, knew of any very useful thing, he would do well to bring it – remembering that the soil, though light and easy to work, is at first infested with fern and tutu roots, which makes a fair degree of strength requisite in every implement.

Drilling has never yet been practised; but, as it would undoubtedly be an improvement on the usual plan of "broad-casting," a drill would be service-

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able, although the extra fittings for sowing bone-dust, rape-cake, &c. would be quite unnecessary.

Winnowing machines, complete, would be rather expensive as regards freight. The iron-work and sieves might be brought, and the wood-work added here.

Thrashing machines arc much wanted. The best one yet tried here was imported by J. G. Cooke, Esq. The maker's name is "Farribee," of Stroud. It is worked by two horses – oxen not moving fast enough to keep up the necessary speed; and being light and compact is easy to remove. It runs on two wheels, but four would adapt it better to the inequalities of our roads. The carriage part should be made rather stronger; the wheels higher, and constructed of wood; and as oxen are better adapted to remove it on bad roads than horses, a pole should be substituted for the present shafts. The parts of a thrashing machine most liable to wear out or break should be brought in duplicate, with a good supply of brasses, gudgeons, and all minor appurtenances. The present hire of a machine, without oxen or horses to work it, is about 20s. a day.

A list of various tools and other articles actually necessary to a small fern land farmer is given at page 117; and of course it will not be forgotten, that if a person intends to cultivate bush land, either as an arable or dairy farm, he must make the necessary alterations in his outfit. For instance, ploughs and harrows he would not require; but he

should bring a better supply of grass seeds, axes, bill-hooks, cross-cut saws, &c, with all things necessary for a dairy; and a little seed of "plants cultivated on a limited scale for various arts and manufactures" – such as flax, hemp, oil plants, hops, mustard, &c, with a good collection of fruit-seeds or cuttings.

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Although Taranaki is a fine agricultural district, farming has hitherto not generally been a lucrative pursuit; nor is this surprising, if we come to consider attendant circumstances. It is only within the last four years that the settlers have been engaged in cultivation. In a new country, the proper method of clearing land, the right seasons for sowing, the best rotation of crops, and other things conducive to successful farming, can be decided only by trials necessarily sinking some capital. Moreover, at the commencement, so dear was labour that if the best system of cultivation had been discovered at first, the expense of clearing land would have left no chance of profit; whilst the cost of even rude and clumsy implements, the dearness of stock, and the frequent scarcity of good seed, have all pressed heavily on the "pioneer" farmer. If to these disadvantages are added those which arose from the unsettled state of the "Land Question," almost annihilating trade and paralyzing that energy and enterprise so essential to success in a young colony, no surprise will be felt that farming has not made greater advances, nor generally been a more profit-

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able occupation.[21] However, as experience has nearly indicated the best system of cultivation – as the price of stock has been considerably reduced – as the "Land Question" is settled – as trade is reviving, and new markets are opening for produce – farming, now commenced clear of early losses, would prove a more lucrative pursuit.

He who, in warm visions of new countries, sees gold strewed thick on every side, will nowhere realize his dream; but the man who is willing to labour for a season to ensure independence and a modest competency, may now safely adopt New Zealand as his home. To such, and to those who would prefer the quiet pursuits of agriculture, to the more hazardous speculations of trade, the following statement is offered to show what could now be done on a small farm. No brilliant fortune is promised, but small risk of loss is incurred, and only a moderate capital is needed.

The calculation is made for a term of three years, and is grounded on the fact that an active farmer, with one good labourer, and a stout lad, four oxen, and the necessary implements, can in that period clear, cultivate, and fence in the best style a fifty-acre fern section; having a surplus of bullock labour to exchange for any extra hand labour

needed in first clearing the land, in harvest-work, and thrashing.[22] The calculation is made for a young married couple, possessed of about 400l. and without children, who, for the first three years, would be content to work hard and live economically; the husband to plough and do the lighter out-door work, the wife to manage without a servant. Children are left out of the case, to simplify the calculation. Here, on a farm, a well-ordered family, partly grown up, would be a source of profit rather than of additional expense.[23]

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As there is, in fact, no winter in New Zealand, the mere season of arrival is a matter of comparatively little importance; but in this particular calculation, it is assumed that the emigrant would arrive in November.

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OUTLAY.

Remarks on	£ s. d.
I. – Outfit.....	60 0 0
II. – Passage and Freight of Goods over the allowance of 1 ton	60 0 0
Purchase of 50 acres of Rural Land, 100l, less the drawback of 3s. 4d. in the pound towards the purchaser's passage...	83 15 0
III. – Cost of a Four-Room Verandah Cottage and Common Furniture....	70 0 0
Expense of living 12 Weeks in the Town before moving on to the Section....	15 0 0
IV. – Purchase of 4 Oxen and a Cow	60 0 0
Implements: – Cart wood-work – Roll – Harrow, &c.	20 0 0
V. – Seed: – For the "first year," 10 acres of Barley and Oats, 30 Bushels, at 5s....	7 10 0
Ditto: – 10 acres of Potatoes, 6 tons, at 40s.	12 0 0
Ditto: – For the "second year," 30 acres of Wheat, 75 Bushels, at 5s.....	18 15 0
VI. – Cost of Barn, Granary.....	30 0 0
Labour: – 1 Labourer, for 3 years, at 15s. per week, less half a day a week lost through bad weather.... £107 5 0	
Ditto: – 1 Boy, to live in the house, at 5s. per week.. 39 0 0	
Extra Labour at harvest time. 30 0 0	
– – -	176 5 0
VII. – Housekeeping Expenses: – 1st year, at 15s. per week... 39 0 0	
Ditto: – 2nd and 3rd year, at 10s. per week.....52 0 0	
– – -	91 0 0
Interest.....	60 0 0
Profit – to Balance	261 5 0
	£1025 10 0

Remarks on

RETURNS.

Crops of "1st Year."

VIII.

10 acres of Barley and Oats, at 20 Bushels per acre = 200 Bushels, at 3s. 6d... £35 0 0
10 acres of Potatoes, at 6 tons per acre = 60 tons, less 8 tons for Seed, &c. = 52 tons, at 20s. per ton 52 0 0

£87 0 0

Crops of "2nd Year."

30 acres of Wheat, at 30 Bushels per acre = 900 Bushels, less 130 for Seed, &c. = 770 Bushels, at 4s. per Bushel... 154 0 0
10 acres of Potatoes, at 8 tons per acre = 80 tons, less 8 tons for Seed, &c. = 72 tons, at 20s.... 72 0 0
Calf, Cheese, Butter, &c.... 10 0 0

£236 0 0

Crops of "3rd Year."

Same as the "2nd year"

£236 0 0

Value of Produce

559 0 0

– -

ASSETS.

IX.

Buildings, Stock, Implements, and portion of Outfit.. £210 0 0
Deduct 25l. per cent, for Risk and Deterioration.. 52 10 0

157 10 0

Seed and Household Wheat and Potatoes on hand – the produce of the "3rd year" – 34 0 0

X. – Value of 50-acre farm, cleared and fenced at 51. 10s. per acre....275 0 0

£1025 10 0

EMIGRANT'S OUTFIT.

Remarks.

I. This sum, spent economically, would suffice to procure all necessary things. Every article brought to a young Settlement like this, should be of plain and simple fashion, but of the best quality. For an emigrant who came to farm on this scale, the proper things to bring would be as follows: –

First. A stock of plain strong clothing, with a good supply of stout boots. It is difficult to give the approved female costume; fashions are fickle, even in Taranaki; but a gentleman's good common dress is a flannel under-waistcoat, strong blue shirt, No. 7 Coker canvass or stout duck trousers, a sailor's blue frock, or shooting coat, and a native-made kie-kie hat. By adding a waistcoat in cold weather, and changing the hat for a blue cap, this dress, cheap, fashionable, and becoming, is almost perfect for every month. Some warmer clothing should, however, be provided, for although there is no winter, considerable changes of temperature occur in the colder months.

Of furniture, &c, there should be taken out hair mattresses, blankets, and two iron bedsteads, fitted with musquito curtains; a few camp chairs, a camp oven, a set of three-legged iron pots, common cooking and domestic utensils, strong earthenware, table-linen, and some perforated zinc, for a meat-safe; a 3l. medicine chest, and a box of books,

including "Tegg's Hand-Book for Emigrants," and the "British Husbandry."

Secondly. For the house and buildings. – Boiled linseed oil, and a cask of white lead; three and four inch spikes; proper weather-board and shingle nails, fittings for doors and windows, sashes, ready glazed, and a box of glass.

Thirdly. – Miscellaneous. – A small chest of the most useful carpenter's tools, including some one and a half to two-inch socket chisels, and screw augers, with a couple of mortising axes. Blocks and tackle for hoisting up a heavy pig, a pair of steelyards, butter scales and weights, and a set of imperial measures; steel wedges and a beetle, two or three American axes, with spare handles, three or four bill-hooks, and a grindstone. Broad iron wheel for a barrow, a crosscut saw, two or three short, strong scythes, for cutting fern-stalks, with a set of sharpening stones; two or three mattocks and strong slat axes, for grubbing up tutu stumps; forks; half a dozen flails, shovels, a set of corn sieves,[24] a winnowing sheet and tarpaulin, one of Meredith's ploughs, hooks, harrow-teeth, cart wheels and axle, – all as described in the remarks on "Agricultural Implements," at page 108. A bushel of the best seed wheat, barley, and oats, with grass, turnip, and other useful seeds. These should be well dried,

CHOICE OF LAND.

and then effectually tinned up, or swung in the cabin and kept aired and free from damp.

By far the best things for packing in are good strong thirty-six gallon casks, having the address on each end; and it is necessary to have every cask containing perishable articles, tinned inside. Casks make bad stowage, but are much stronger than boxes; they can be rolled away by a man, when a box of the same weight would almost require a cart; and may stand in water, yet receive no injury. They answer admirably for beer, water, or pork casks – cut in two, for brewing or washing tubs, and are very useful for holding corn and seeds.

II. Particulars as to the passage will be found at page 71. These ships are frequently laid on to call at New Plymouth first; but the emigrant should procure a distinct agreement to that effect; as the detention at other settlements might occupy as much time as the whole voyage.

III. In the course of two or three weeks after his arrival, the settler will have chosen his section, which should contain from five to ten acres of bush; and, if possible, join some unsold sections. Great care should be taken to select the best situation for the homestead: an excellent one is that on a gentle eminence backed by a few acres of timber; which, by proper management, will afford a near supply of firewood, shade, and shelter, a fine background, and a piece of bush soil for garden, orchard, or paddock. The section chosen, the settler should at

once engage some neighbour to clear two or three acres for turnips, which can be sown nearly as late as Christmas. A piece of light bush would be the best for this purpose. He should then employ a carpenter to build his house (this is a matter of taste – a dwelling could be erected for much less), and contract for the mere felling of an acre or two of timber, and the clearing of twenty acres of fern land, ready for the plough. These arrangements made, and the house in course of erection, he should engage some good labourer to assist him in making a stockyard, sheds, &c. The house and these little jobs could be finished by the end of December; when the settler would of course leave the town, move on to the section, purchase oxen, and commence ploughing.

IV. By giving the cattle a few hours' run on the section before and after work, and buying some oat straw with a few potatoes, the cost of first feeding them would be trifling. The turnips would soon come in, and by laying down a couple of acres of bush land in grass, there would soon be abundant keep.

V. Of the fifty acres, it is assumed that forty would be devoted to the growth of crops for sale, and that ten would be taken up by broken land, homestead, garden, and grass and roots for the cattle. By the 1st of January, the settler would be comfortably established on his section; when, of the twenty acres he had previously had cleared, he

BUSINESS OF THE FARM.

should at once begin to plough and thoroughly work the ten for barley and oats, and then the ten for potatoes. The cultivation of these twenty acres should be carried on with despatch, so as to give the land all possible exposure before sowing time – about the middle of October.

This work accomplished, it may be said that the regular business of the farm would commence; and the remaining twenty acres might be gradually brought under cultivation, for cropping the second year. The division of this farm into the crops as shown in the calculation is arbitrary: those would be grown which might appear the most likely to pay best; but it would be unwise to try any wheat, as a crop, the first year; for, as it is sown early in May, and as the land could not be prepared before March, the soil would be much too sour.

VI. If the settler knew a little of carpentry, he could erect these buildings himself at leisure times. So useful is this knowledge, that any young emigrant farmer would do well in devoting a few months before leaving his English home to learn the use of the common tools. To myself, the knowledge so acquired has been a source of considerable pleasure and advantage.

VII. This allowance is ample, for after the first year, the farm would produce pork, bacon, poultry, eggs, flour, butter, milk, and all vegetables in profusion: in fact, all necessary articles of consumption, except groceries. New clothing would

not be required, as the outfit should last four or five years.

VIII. The yield of the twenty acres is taken at this rate, because the land would not be in such fine order for the first, as it would be for the second and following crops. An average of nearly thirty-five bushels per acre would perhaps be obtained; for this farm ought to be cultivated in the best style. Plenty of labour is allowed – no operation need be hurried – and that system of farming would be adopted which the experience of several years had indicated as the best. Considering the average price of Taranaki flour in the Auckland and Wellington markets, it would perhaps be right to allow rather more than 4s. per bushel for wheat; but here, as in all other parts of the calculation, care has been taken to keep on the safe side.

It has been questioned by some, whether the natives will not eventually grow wheat cheaper than Europeans. However desirable this might be in a social or political point of view, the question is here to be considered only as affecting the direct interests of the "Taranaki farmer." Those who deem it possible for the native to undersell, argue that, as time appears of no value to him, he sets little or no price on his labour, and living in a state of nature has no expenses; so that 2s. 6d., or any price which he may obtain for a bushel of wheat, is to him all profit. Such reasoning must, I think, appear quite fallacious. The natives just

emerging from barbarism have begun, partially, to grow wheat for their own use, the surplus of which, partly from its inferior quality, is occasionally sold for 1s. or 2s. per bushel less than the European grown. But if we assume, that the natives are so to advance in civilization as to cultivate wheat as a general crop for the markets, we must also then assume, on their part, regular habits of industry, a knowledge of the value of labour, an approximation to European habits and manner of living, the sure result of which great changes would naturally be that they would rate the value of wheat, or of any article they might produce, by the European scale. If the New Zealanders remain but one step removed from savages, they will not grow enough to affect the price. When they become civilized, they will expect the wages of civilization. Moreover, there are branches of industry in which the natives would be more successful than in this, for the economical cultivation of wheat requires numerous implements and expensive machinery.

IX. Buildings, stock, and implements, amount to only 180l.; but as part of the outfit, such as articles for the house, ploughs, tools, &c, are real assets, 30l. are added. Judging from experience, a very small per-centage would cover risk, nor would the actual deterioration be great. The deduction of 25l. per cent, is made chiefly because timber and mechanical labour – the principal ex-

pense in the buildings – would probably be lower at the expiration of the "three years," and thus reduce the value of the property.

X. As we assume that this farm would be substantially fenced both externally and internally, and kept in high cultivation, it ought to be in the finest order at the expiration of the "three years," and 275l. is a less sum than it would actually be worth. If, three years hence, the Settlement is in that condition which even present circumstances justify us in expecting, the real value of such a farm would probably be upwards of 300l.[25]

The foregoing calculation, which has been carefully sifted, shows a profit of more than 80l. per annum on a money-capital of 400l.; and as the great comparative labour of first "breaking-up" the land and reducing it to cultivation, occurs but once, this farm ought to show even a more profitable result for any following term of "three years." The settler must, however, never forget, that money is not a more necessary part of his capital than, industry and economy. At the expiration of the

"three years" there would be such an excess of labour at command, that it would be necessary to increase the farm to 100 acres; hence the advisability of choosing the first section contiguous to some other unsold.

The following statement will show in another way the rate of profit now obtainable from growing wheat. From 1844 to 1846, inclusive, the import of fine flour into Wellington alone was 1,475 tons, and the average price was 16l. 17s. 9 1/4d. per ton of 2,000 lbs.:[26] it is generally rather higher in Auckland. The greater portion of this quantity was supplied by New South Wales, where there has been no great failure in the crops for some years past; 16l. 17s. 9 1/4d. may, therefore, be considered as the average price at which the flour of that country can be sold in the New Zealand markets. But the occurrence of an "Australian drought" might raise this average to 20l. per ton. Taranaki flour, owing to the rude construction and inefficient machinery of the small grist-mills, which have hitherto ground it for exportation, is usually quoted at from 30s. to 40s. per ton lower than the Sydney; a difference which will probably cease, after the completion of a powerful mill now in course of erection. At present, however, the value of the best Taranaki flour in the Auckland and Wellington markets must be rated at about 35s. per ton less than the Sydney, namely at 15l. From

the bad manner in which wheat is ground here, it requires forty-five bushels, each weighing 60 lbs., to produce a ton of fine flour, and it would take 1 1/2 acre of fern land to produce the forty-five bushels. As the seconds flour and the bran will nearly pay for grinding, none of these items appear in the calculation, an allowance being made for the slight difference.

Average Value of 2 tons, or 4000 lbs., of Taranaki Fine Flour, in the Auckland and Wellington Markets, at 15l.... £30 0 0

Cost of Producing the 1st Ton.

Clearing, Ploughing, Preparing, and Sowing 1 1/2 acre Fernland, at 4l. per acre	£6 0 0
4 Bushels Seed, at 5s....	1 0 0
Harvesting and Stacking	2 0 0
Thrashing and Dressing 45 Bushels	2 5 0
Carting to Mill and Beach, and Shipping	0 15 6

20 Calico Bags, for 1 ton Flour	0 15 0
Freight to Wellington on ditto	1 10 0
Landing Charges ditto	0 5 0
Auctioneer's Commission ditto	0 16 0
	£15 6 6

Cost of Producing the 2nd Crop.

Same expense as the 1st, less 5l., the difference between preparing the land for the 1st Crop and the 2nd 10 6 6

25 13 0

Nett Profit on the 1 1/2 acre in "3 years"... £4 7 0

This calculation assumes only two crops to be taken in three years. Thus, say in 1848 the land

PROFIT FROM WHEAT CROPS.

would be cleared and worked, – the first crop taken in 1849, the second in 1850; the nest year the land would be fallowed, and then cropped as before. It is not, of course, contended that this would be the best method of farming; the statement merely shows the profit obtainable from growing wheat on what may perhaps be called the "lazy system," supposing a capitalist producer paid for every item at the present cost of things. It appears, then, that the profit on the acre and half for the first term of three years, is 4l. 7s.; but as the expense of clearing and breaking up the land would enter into the cost of producing only the first two crops, the profit on the acre and a half for any following term of three years, would be about 91. 7s., or 2l. 1s. 6d. per acre annually.

Hitherto, the absurd custom has been for farmers to ship their own flour; but to conduct the trade with proper economy, there are wanted parties who, acting as corn merchants and exporting millers, would buy the wheat, and ship flour in their own vessels. In considering this statement, it will be seen that probabilities are favourable to an increase of profit. For instance: on the completion of a better mill, it may be expected that Taranaki flour will eventually realize the same price as the Sydney. Land cropped in the manner above described would probably yield nearer forty than thirty bushels per acre. The great expense of 1s. per bushel for thrashing and dressing will be materially reduced when

more machines are obtained. Owing to the scarcity and badness of coasting vessels, the present freight is so exorbitant as to equal that from Sydney to Wellington, although one is a passage of three, the other of fourteen days.

Dairy farming, as a distinct and separate business, has not yet been tried; but there is every reason to suppose that it would answer well, especially if combined with the curing of hams and bacon. Good firkin butter ranges from 7d. to 10d. per lb. in the colonial markets; cheese, bacon, and hams, from 4d. to 6d.

These would be remunerative prices. It has been shown that bush land is well adapted to dairy farms, which certainly possess an advantage over arable farms, in being less dependent on good roads; for whilst internal carting and carriage of produce to market are trifling considerations on the first, they form an important part of the labour necessary on the latter.

Markets.

As it is probable that the chief exports of this district will long continue to be agricultural, it may he necessary to consider what are likely to prove its principal markets. For all practical purposes, it is sufficient to know that an excellent home market is found in Auckland and Wellington. The imports of these towns are even now larger than this Settlement can at present supply; and, from the character of the

MARKETS.

country around them, neither place will raise agricultural produce so cheaply as it can be supplied from the fertile plains of Taranaki; whilst the gradual formation of new Settlements, or the extension of old ones (the result of that great emigration movement which will eventually be made to these fine islands) will continue to open new home markets.

As all young colonies must at first import food, and as the growth and progress of this one has been so lamentably crippled, New South Wales, herself a large importer, has hitherto almost supplied it with flour. This, however, will not be the case much longer; and when the immense agricultural resources of New Zealand are fairly developed, and it becomes what it will te, the – "Granary of the South Pacific," – New South Wales herself will probably be an excellent market for some of its grain exports.

As an agricultural country, the superiority of the one is as strongly marked as the inferiority of the other. By the Sydney "Official Book" of statistics, from 1835 to 1844 (including the Port Philip district), the average annual yield of wheat for the ten years was not fourteen bushels per acre. The annual consumption is taken at eight bushels per head, and the year 1836 was the only one in the ten which produced a surplus crop; the average annual deficiency of the other nine years being upwards of 250,000 bushels, to be imported. The average yield

of barley and oats appears to be about sixteen bushels; maize is much the best crop, yet the yield was only twenty-five bushels per acre; whilst potatoes gave only three tons and a half. It is necessary to bear in mind that these returns are for an old colony, where it must be supposed that the experience of more than half a century has indicated the best system of cultivation, and where there is plenty of capital and labour to carry that system into effect. Destructive storms, floods, and droughts, have occasionally raised grain to such extravagant prices in New South Wales, that, in 1806, wheat was 15s. per bushel, and 1l. was given for a bushel of seed maize; whilst in 1840, flour ranged from 50l. to 60l. per ton.

If, with the certainty of good home markets for some years to come, and the probability of others in New South Wales,[27] it be considered necessary to look still further, we find that New Zealand is conveniently situated for supplying several places which may become excellent markets, such as the British possessions in China, the French in Bourbon and Tahiti, the Mauritius, the Cape Colony, and some of the numerous islands in the South Pacific, which English enterprise and "steam communication" may soon enliven with the busy hum of commerce.

RESOURCES AND PROBABLE EXPORTS OF THE SETTLEMENT, OTHER THAN "AGRICULTURAL."

Ironsand.

The scarcity of capital and the paralyzing effects of the early misgovernment of New Zealand, are strongly marked by the little progress hitherto made in developing the natural resources of the country. Rich ironsand is plentiful here; but, at the expiration of seven years, a few rude experiments, tending to prove its great value, have satisfied the slight curiosity of the Settlers, who almost appear to think that nature ordained them only to till the earth and raise food for their more speculative and enterprising brethren in the sister Settlements.

A small sample of this sand sent to a Sydney foundry was at first disregarded, as ironsand from some part of Australia, previously tested, had been found comparatively worthless. However, on trying the Taranaki sample, it yielded so great a per-centage of iron of a quality equal to the best Swedish, that it at once attracted attention, and a larger quantity has since been forwarded to afford a conclusive trial. A sample was also sent to England and submitted to an analytical chemist, who made the following-report upon it: – "No. 5 is magnetic iron-ore, in the form of fine sand from the sea-shore. It consists of the peroxide and protoxide of iron mixed, containing about 71 per cent, of iron. It is free from the admixture of other substances, and, if

obtainable in large quantities, is likely to be in considerable demand, as it is the most valuable of iron-ores. The celebrated Swedish iron, in such high repute for the making of steel, is obtained from a mineral of precisely the same character." The sand covers the beach for several miles; a simple washing is the only process necessary to prepare it for the furnace; and, from the smallness and purity of the particles, it is remarkably easy to flux. An imperial pint of the washed sand, when dry, weighs four pounds, and on applying a magnet it becomes quite incrusted.

For working the ore on a large scale in the Settlement, and exporting bar iron and steel, coal would probably be necessary. Massacre Bay coal could be delivered here for about 30s. per ton, and coal is found at Manakau, forty miles distant. Indications of it have also lately been discovered in the Omata Block, whilst from the abundance of hard timber and the gradual clearing of forest land for the purposes of cultivation, charcoal of excellent quality could be obtained at a low price. It may also be remarked, that the cost of those expensive mining operations generally needed in raising the metallic ores would, in this case, be entirely saved; for two men could collect and prepare for the smelting furnace from 3 to 4 tons of ore per day.

The "Phormium Tenax" or Flax Plant.

A person practically acquainted with the flax

trade on coming to New Zealand, travelling through the Taranaki district, remarking the quantity and luxuriance of the plant, and testing the strength of the green leaf, would probably consider the feeble efforts hitherto made to invent that machinery which should render flax a "staple export" of the country, to be a reproach to the mechanical skill and enterprise of the age. The great consumption of hemp and flax in England renders them articles of national importance; and as the supply, drawn chiefly from the Baltic, might be so diminished by an European war as to raise these necessaries to an exorbitant price, it appears to me that Government, or even the New Zealand Company, would be justified in sending out a kind of "flax commission" to New Zealand. The commission should consist of a scientific man, versed in botany and chemistry, one or two intelligent persons acquainted with the best modes of preparing flax, and two or three practical machinists, selected for their inventive ingenuity. It would determine whether the reported inferiority of the "Phormium tenax" for manufacturing purposes has arisen from any imperfection natural to the plant, or from the rude, careless, and slovenly manner in which it has generally been prepared. The latter is by no means improbable. A Sydney merchant would station an agent, frequently an old whaler, sealer, or other roving spirit, on some part of the New Zealand coast, to collect flax by barter with the natives. Such agents being generally quite

ignorant of the quality of flax, the natives would soon learn to swell the bulk, by still more imperfectly freeing the fibre from the fleshy part of the leaf; would use not the best of the numerous sorts, but that which might be nearest, and, to supply a demand, cut the leaves indiscriminately at all seasons. The very inferior article so obtained, would generally be still further deteriorated by great carelessness in the packing and shipping. From the disordered state of the country since its colonisation, very little attention has been paid to any of its natural resources; but the excellent rope, cordage, sacks, &c, now made at Auckland and Wellington, of New Zealand flax, prove that the article, even in the first stage of its improvement, does possess some good manufacturing qualities.

There are nearly a dozen varieties of the Phormium tenax indigenous to New Zealand, but that most prized by the natives, the "Hateraukawa," of which they make the finest kaitaka mats, is confined almost to the Taranaki district. And, in considering the practicability of cultivating and preparing this sort as a regular export, it should be borne in mind that, of all branches of industry, this would probably be the one in which "native labour" would be the easiest obtainable, and the most effective; for the natives already understand the cultivation of the plant. Moreover, it would be grown on bush land, in the clearing of which they excel Europeans.

Tobacco.

The tobacco plant grows luxuriantly on bush land; and there appears to be no reason why it should not eventually be raised for a crop, as in New South Wales. Its cultivation, like that of flax, would be a branch of industry well suited to the natives; and there is already a surprisingly large and increasing consumption of tobacco among both races. As, however, the duty levied on it (1s. per lb.) forms one of the principal items in the customs' revenue, the Local Government might be disposed either to prohibit its cultivation or to excise it. The difficulty of the latter course in such a country as New Zealand is very obvious, especially among the native population. The wiser course would be to encourage its free cultivation and manufacture, and to meet the consequent deficiency in revenue by a higher rate of duty on spirits, and on articles of luxury which could not be produced in the country.

Hops.

About two acres of hops have been grown as an experiment. They answered remarkably well as to yield; but the sort introduced was one of inferior quality. With an apparently favourable soil and climate, this district, in other respects, is well suited to the growth of hops; for, from the undulating character of the country – its numerous wooded dells – the exact aspect and degree of shelter most

congenial to any tender plant may be obtained on almost every section. The native women and children would make capital hop-pickers, and poles are

cheap and plentiful.

Brewing.

Brewing has hitherto been chiefly confined to the wants of the Settlement. The climate is well adapted to both malting and brewing, the nights are always cool, and soft, pure water is everywhere abundant. Hops may be extensively grown; but, if not, they would be the only import necessary. With so many natural advantages, it is not improbable that malt liquors will eventually become a considerable export. In fact, Seacome's ale is already in repute in the Northern Settlements.

Provision Trade.

This trade – the supplying of beef and pork for shipping – may become a business of considerable importance in New Plymouth. Cattle thrive and multiply so fast in New Zealand, and are so freely imported from New South Wales, that in a few years they will be as cheap in the one country as in the other; and whilst the rich and succulent pasturage of New Zealand is favourable to the production of fine well fed beef, its climate is far better than that of Australia for the curing process. The acquisition of portions of the district, described at page 105, would open a tract for cattle runs perhaps

superior to any in either island, when the rapid increase of stock would naturally lead to the introduction of the curing business.

The pork trade, comprising the curing of hams and bacon, has been commenced on a small scale, and might at once be considerably extended. The natives rear great numbers of pigs, which are bought for about 1 1/4d. per lb. Salt is imported for 4l. per ton; and the forest produces abundance of wood well adapted for casks.

Some idea may be formed of the extent to which the provision trade might be carried in New Zealand, when we consider that, already, upwards of 40,000 tons of shipping annually enter its ports; and that, as a country possessing such natural advantages for the prosecution of the business, it will probably find a market in the large and rapidly increasing mercantile marine of Australia.

Whaling.

Shore whaling is carried on here by two parties with four boats, employing about thirty men. The season commences in June, when the black whale comes in shore to calve, and ends in October. The catch by one party in 1846 was five whales, yielding about forty tuns of oil and forty hundredweight of whalebone. Last season, as usual, several whales were seen; but, owing chiefly to the warm rivalry existing between the two parties, the fishery was unsuccessful. Two fine boats, constructed of white

pine and Rata, have been built in the Settlement; and the oil of this season's fishery will be shipped partly in casks of home manufacture, made from the "Mai," a wood which appears well suited to the purpose.

Tanning.

This business has been commenced on a small scale with considerable success, and a portion of the leather used is now manufactured in the Settlement. The gentleman who introduced this branch of industry – Mr. Gledhill – states that the bark of the Rimu, a very common tree, possesses tanning qualities far superior to any of the Australian barks.

Fruit.

Nearly all the varieties common in England have been introduced; they grow luxuriantly and promise well, but are yet too young for full bearing. Some fine apples and gooseberries have been gathered, and strawberries and peaches are becoming plentiful. Near the banks of the Waiwakaiho, in a deserted native clearing, half hidden and smothered by the dense vegetation around, were formerly to be seen two large peach trees, the stem of one being three feet in circumference. They had sprung up from stones dropped or planted by the natives; and, although growing wild and quite neglected, bore a profusion of fine fruit.

The Cape gooseberry is almost a weed, springing up wherever seed is carried by the birds, and pro-

ducing abundance of fruit nine months in the year. This plant appears too common to receive any cultivation; but it yields finer berries if partly chopped down or thinned every year. The Cape gooseberry is not a pleasant dessert fruit; although, from its remarkable juiciness and richness of flavour, it makes an agreeable wine or liqueur, and excellent jam and jelly.

The vine grows luxuriantly, and about four hundredweight of a common white grape have been, obtained from cuttings of four years' growth. This will not, however, be a wine district. In sheltered spots, with a little care, it may be easy to produce grapes of the early sorts; but the climate does not possess that steady continuance of heat necessary to ripen the fruit for wine. At the same time it should be remarked, that a few miles in the interior, away from the influence of sea-breezes, the climate is warmer than immediately on the coast; and there, such fruits as the fig, olive, loquat, orange, and lemon, would probably ripen, if planted in hot and sheltered situations.

Timber.

A great deal has been said on what are called the "fancy woods of New Zealand," and their fitness to become one of its chief exports. Fancy woods, properly so called, have not yet been discovered. Curls and knots of grain, more or less handsome, are occasionally found in every sort of tree, but

these are probably not more beautiful in any variety indigenous to New Zealand, than in the oak, elm, or walnut; whilst for furniture woods, existing in such plenty as to become an export, the country has nothing to compare with rosewood, mahogany, or even cedar.

As, however, most of the woods of Australia are hard and difficult to work, the pine timber of New Zealand may eventually become a regular back freight to that country, although this Settlement will be one of the last to make such shipments – not from any scarcity of the article, for red and white pine are here both plentiful and of superior quality, but because there are no streams in the district of sufficient capacity to float down large timber to saw-mills, which might otherwise be erected on their banks.

As before observed, so little attention has been paid to anything save farming, that it is impossible to speak with certainty as to the existence of valuable gums and dies. It can only be said that, as the district possesses a large forest with a variety of trees, something may be discovered when proper researches are made.

14 In "Terry's New Zealand," a work written in 1841, will be found an amusing account of the process of clearing fern land. He says the only effectual plan is that of the natives, and describes the operation as most laborious, performed by three men in a "triangle," who, each armed with a pointed pole having a kind of step, "simultaneously jump" thereon to force it into the ground, when, together, they tear up a mass of roots, &c. Such a method is not practised in this, the heaviest fern district in New Zealand, but it should certainly be described in Loudon's brief notice of the agriculture of this country, or in some of D'Israeli's "Curiosities of Agriculture."

15 It is supposed that this was caused by turning up too much of the subsoil, which seems to be a powerful fertilizer when mixed with a surface soil that has become partially exhausted. This piece is in wheat again, which will probably be a finer crop than the last.

16 Rye-grass, sown thick in March, on bush land, had afforded good feeding for stock in six weeks.

17 In support of this view, it may be observed that the natives, who of course cultivate only by hand labour, invariably choose bush land.

18 As some proof of this, it may be observed, that in the "Southern Settlements of New Zealand" (a work of tolerable accuracy on most points), it is stated that the average yield of wheat at Wellington, in 1845 and 1846, was 40 bushels per acre; in 1844, 45 bushels per acre; whereas, in a letter to the Wellington Independent, written apparently by a settler conversant with the subject, it is stated that the average yield of wheat at Wellington was found to be only twenty bushels, not 80, as once expected.

19 This district belongs to the Taranaki tribe; and although it can neither be hoped nor expected that they will part with it as a whole, it is highly probable that detached portions, like the Tataraimaka Block, will gradually be purchased by the Government, and leased as cattle stations.

20 This information has been furnished chiefly by my brother, and by Messrs. Cooke and Davy.

21 In the history of colonization, it would perhaps be difficult to adduce another instance where a Settlement, in the fifth year of its existence, and under so many difficulties, commenced and kept up a regular export of food raised by cultivation from the soil.

22 The present hire of a cart or plough, pair of oxen, and driver, is 8s. per day, at which rate there is a demand for general carriage, and in working for labourers about to rise into the class of small farmers, who give hand-labour in exchange. Such demand, although perhaps at a lower rate, will increase with the progress of the Settlement; and a farmer in the circumstances here supposed would probably earn more than enough to pay for extra hand-labour. As, however, it is intended that the industrious Settler shall at least realize in practice as much profit as is shown on paper, 10l. are allowed for extra assistance at every harvest.

23 100 acres of fern land would be more economically managed than fifty, but would of course require a larger capital. An emigrant with a family who came to farm on a capital of from 100l. to 200l. should choose a bush section.

24 Two or three might join in a winnowing and small threshing-machine.

25 In a young agricultural Settlement like this, where capital is very scarce, no property realizes a price proportionate to the income it produces; and if a few farms of this description were in the market, on sale for cash, they would probably not fetch 275l. each. The real value of this farm must, however, be estimated with regard to the income it would produce, or to the rent at which it would let, for we do not assume that the Settler is going to "sell-out" at the expiration of the term, but that he will continue farming, and even extend his operations.

26 Grimstone's "Southern Settlements of New Zealand."

27 A Sydney firm have lately instructed their agent here to endeavour to procure them about 10,000 bushels of malting barley, at from 4s. to 4s. 6d. per bushel, at New Plymouth.

CHAPTER VIII: Requirements of the Settlement...

REQUIREMENTS OF THE SETTLEMENT.

CHAPTER VIII.

Requirements of the Settlement – Emigration.

THE chief requisites for the rapid advancement of this Settlement are: –

I. Improvements in the roadstead, as described in Chapter VI.
II. Establishment of a newspaper.
III. A share of Government expenditure, a body of pensioners, &c.
IV. A loan fund.
V. Renewal of emigration.

II. It would be quite superfluous to dilate on the advantages which a "journal" would confer, but it may be observed, that nothing has tended to retard the progress of the Settlement more than the absence of a newspaper. Auckland has three; Wellington, two; Nelson, one: and although these prints deserve credit for the trifling interest they have manifested in a sister Settlement, they have, perhaps unconsciously, been the means of disseminating many prejudicial misstatements respecting it.

In a pecuniary point of view, a small weekly journal would answer well. It would be warmly supported by the settlers, both as subscribers and contributors; and if one page were devoted to plain practical articles in the "Maori tongue," it would probably be the means of great usefulness among the natives. The paper should be combined with a small printing and stationery establishment; and the concern, in the hands of an active practical man, would be as advantageous to the proprietor as to the public.

III. The justice of a more equitable division of public expenditure has been pointed out at page 74.

There is no part of New Zealand where the plan of military colonization by pensioners could be more effectively carried out than in this district. The Settlement offers every facility for their location. Mixed with an industrious agricultural population, the pensioner, by force of example, would probably be made industrious too. He would here be removed from those temptations to dissipation which naturally exist in the vicinity of the capital.[28] A considerable private expenditure, a partial supply of labour, a rapid increase of population, would form part of the many advantages derivable from a body of pensioners; and although they are required here only as settlers, they would be useful in training a militia.

MILITARY COLONIZATION.

Considering the importance of the Taranaki district – its midway position between the northern and southern capitals – its large native population, – it would be advisable to make New Plymouth the regular station of a small military force – say two companies. The "Land Question" being amicably settled, the natives, as a body, quiet, orderly, and industrious, it may perhaps be imagined that soldiers are required here chiefly to secure a greater expenditure; this, however, is not the desired object. High as we may estimate the character of the New Zealanders, we must remember that, only just emerging from barbarism, they still follow some of their old usages, opposed alike to English laws and customs. Let us suppose, what would certainly be a very extreme case, that an European, in a fit of passion or intoxication, strikes and kills an unoffending native. The homicide is arrested, but it is possible that the friends of the deceased, in the passion of the moment, would attempt to force the gaol, and seize the prisoner; and the civil authorities, in trying to prevent such a violation of the law, could only swear in special constables, who, if they did their best, might just do enough to provoke a general quarrel. Now, among the natives there are several who, in knowledge and civilization, have advanced far beyond their fellows; and if, in such a conjuncture, this more enlightened party were supported by even a small military force, they would not only join in effectually resisting the contemplated

violation of the law by the riotous and ill-disposed but, as being able to assume a stronger tone, would probably succeed in convincing them that the Queen's custom, or "English law," was far preferable to their own.

The introduction of soldiers into a quiet agricultural Settlement like this might be attended with some unpleasant results; but, all circumstances considered, a small military force would be a desirable acquisition – not as aggressive, nor for the purpose of overawing the natives on any question connected with "Land," but simply as an "efficient police" for the maintenance of the "common law," and the moral assistance of the more enlightened natives in promoting the civilization of those who are still semi-barbarians.

IV. This Settlement would now be greatly benefited by the introduction of a system of small loans to the class of working farmers; or occasionally to poor but honest and enterprising men, anxious to try some of the natural productions of the district. Cases frequently occur, when the small cultivator suffers much from the want of a little ready money at the commencement. For instance, he may be compelled to make shift with wretched out-buildings, and cannot purchase the necessary stock and implements to farm in the most economical style. If a body of the Company's shareholders, the absentee proprietors, or any parties interested in the prosperity of the Settlement, would devote even two or

TARANAKI ASSOCIATION.

three thousand pounds to be loaned in small sums at 5l. or even 10l. per cent. – holding the farm as security; they would be protected from loss, and would afford great assistance to a most industrious class, who will do much to develop the agricultural capabilities of the district.

Considerable good would also be effected, if a little pecuniary aid were afforded to a society which it has been proposed to establish under the name of the "Taranaki Association." It will be a kind of agricultural society combined with a Mechanic's Institute, and would embrace among its members all the magistrates, and most of the farmers, tradesmen, and respectable mechanics, of the place. It is proposed to establish a library and reading-room, to hold annual agricultural and horticultural shows, and monthly meetings for the discussion of any given subject of importance; so that the association would not only aid in the improvement of farming, but materially promote the general interests of the Settlement.

V. The local measures and improvements here suggested, perhaps involve the consideration of a subject which, of all others, is the most important – the "Renewal of Emigration," – when this question naturally presents itself, Is Taranaki a district where secure possession of land can be ensured? Happily the time has at last arrived when this question can be answered in the affirmative. It has been explained that, under Governor Grey's arrange-

ments, a legitimate purchase has already been effected from the natives for 30,000 acres, – not swamp, or sheep runs, or bare hill sides, but 30,000 acres of rich soil, well wooded and watered, and capable of producing luxuriant crops.

Estimating from data furnished by the present Settlement, this block alone would require for its fair cultivation and development a community of about –

50 capitalists, or large farmers;
200 smaller farmers;
2000 agricultural labourers;
800 of the common mechanical trades;
300 engaged in trade and commerce;
50 professionals.

3400 male adults.

If, with a present population of scarcely 1200, the "speculative should wish to consider the practicability of acquiring a larger tract than would require even for its fair development a gross population of more than 12,000, Chapter IV. shows that in all human probability the Government authorities will succeed, quietly and gradually, in making fresh purchases. But should this not be the case, the most sceptical may rest assured that, by the time the land already secured is properly "filled up," no difficulty will be found in further expansion.

As emigration should be commenced at once, and

gradually extended, the first vessel should be despatched in the autumn of 1849. At the time I write, the greater part of the land which the Company have for sale is bush land; and the most effectual plan for laying out a small block of this, merely as a beginning, would be the following: –

I. From some given point, a main road seventy feet broad, and three miles long, should be formed half a mile in the bush, and carried about parallel with its edge, deviating a little, if necessary, to avoid any broken ground. The timber on the whole breadth of seventy feet, should be cut down and burnt, but thirty feet would be sufficient to form as the actual road. With seventy feet cleared, a thirty feet road could be so turned as to avoid any large stumps; by which means the expense of the work would be materially lessened.

II. Through this main road, three narrower cross-roads should be formed, extending half a mile each way, deviating, if necessary, from a straight line.

III. The sections should then be laid out, not exactly in fifty acres, and of the absurd parallelogram form of the first great survey, but sized and shaped with reference to the nature of the country, natural boundaries, &c, as in Mr. W. Carrington's late excellent survey of a portion of the Omata purchase.

A block as here defined, containing nearly 2,000

acres, level, well-watered, and of the richest soil might be selected within three miles of the present village. The expense of the roads has been estimated at about 20s. per chain; whilst the complete survey would be undertaken for 1s. 1d. per acre.

The classes most wanted at the present time are farmers and capitalists (with from 200l. to 2,000l.), agricultural labourers and machine makers, sawyers, carpenters, wheelwrights, and blacksmiths, with those of the other common trades. In colonies, married men succeed best, and steadiness and industry are more conducive to prosperity than the mere knowledge of any particular occupation. In farming, he who possessed these qualifications, but who had never seen a plough, would succeed better than another who, without them, might be practically conversant with all the details of agriculture.[29]

It is an excellent plan for two or three families of neighbours to emigrate and settle together. Mutual assistance is thus obtained throughout the voyage, and in all subsequent operations, whilst pleasant society is ensured at first landing. This is of great importance; for when all is strange around, the "old familiar faces" are doubly dear. As re-

gards most colonies, the emigrant of capital would act prudently, if, before leaving England, he invested 25l. per cent, of his money in the funds, as a kind of reserve, to be employed to the best advantage when he had gained full experience. Here this precaution is scarcely needed, for Taranaki boasting neither mines nor railroads, a new corner is not liable to be misled by any scheming projector. If, however, a young man with from 500l. to 800l. is coming out, who has never before been entirely his own master, I should strongly advise him to leave 100l. or 200l. behind. Having less money on his arrival, he would be more economical in his habits, more circumspect in all his undertakings. In the course of a year or two he would discover that certain articles, much wanted in the Settlement, would pay a large profit to the importer; or he might himself require certain machinery, agricultural implements, &c, any of which, with money at command in England, he could readily obtain by writing to his agent.

This is particularly the poor man's country. Of the labouring population of the Settlement, there are not twenty men who work for hire six days in the week; almost every man is a "freeholder," possessing a house, some stock, and a few acres of land. As a proof of the high prosperity attained by this class, the statement at page 67 may be worth the attention of those who are desirous of im-

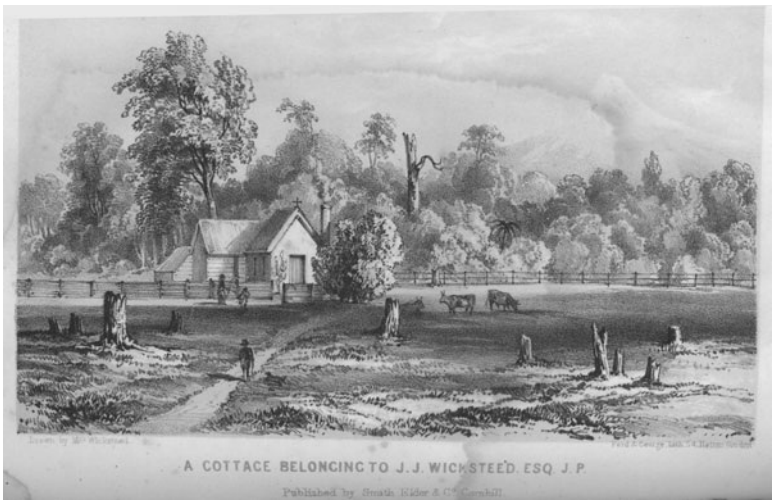
proving the wretched condition of some of the labouring classes in England.

The emigrant may here be cautioned not to judge of this, or any new country, merely from first impressions. Few Englishmen ever land in a young colony, whose first real feelings are not those of disappointment. Even where much of the country has been reclaimed, and arts and civilization have produced cities and their refinements, as in the Canadas and Australia, the English eye seeks in vain, either in town or country, for that air of finish, comfort, and substantiality, found only in England. In a young Settlement like this, where the land, however fertile, is still chiefly in a state of nature; its rich and luxuriant vegetation is at first suggestive

of difficulties in reducing it to those neat corn-fields and trim-fenced meadows, which the emigrant may have laboured and rejoiced in at home. This is, perhaps, a natural feeling – here, happily, it is but a transient one.

Let the emigrant remember, that on landing he will find a village not a town; for here, unlike the other settlements, labour has been expended chiefly in the country; and that the land immediately around the village is perhaps the worst and most broken part of the district. Let him bear in mind, that the population is under 1,200, and that the crops and cultivations he may see, principally in the "FitzRoy" block, are on partially exhausted soil. Suppose it about harvest time, and let him then stroll among

[Inserted illustration]



A Cottage Belonging to J.J. Wicksteed, Esq. J.P.

the farms; see the district around Omata and the Mongaraki; mark the beauty of the country; reflect on what a handful of people have accomplished under almost overwhelming difficulties; and he will gratefully acknowledge, that his lot has fallen in "pleasant places."

Other countries may boast some particular excellence in a higher degree; but for a land in which are found combined a prolific soil of the easiest cultivation, beautiful scenery, and a climate at once delightful and invigorating, this part of New Zealand is probably unequalled. Let no one unacquainted with the district call this exaggeration. I have seen several parts of the world, but none so admirably adapted as this to the support of a large and prosperous agricultural population; and though I may be charged with enthusiasm, I would soberly venture to predict that the "Taranaki district," numbering its happy thousands, will eventually be known and celebrated as the finest part of perhaps the noblest islands in the world.

It is frequently charged on works descriptive of new countries that the "promised land" is painted in colours far too glowing. The charge, however, should rather be, that they seldom sufficiently impress the emigrant with the stern fact, that, in order "to reap the fruits," industry is as requisite in a new as in an old country. In this respect the chief difference between them is, that in the old labour frequently goes unrewarded, in the new

never; but labour is necessary in both. Numerous cases have occurred in which the extravagant ideas formed of a colony, by a person of sanguine temperament on the perusal of some seductive book, have caused his utter failure. He reads of a delightful climate, and the richest soil, of fruits, flowers, and brilliant skies, of noble rivers teeming with fish, and the forest alive with game; but not of the axe, the saw, the plough, the first roughness of "bush life," and the numerous petty discomforts to which for a time all must submit. Bitterly disappointed, he soon becomes the idle grumbler, damping the energy of others; then, perhaps, the confirmed drunkard; and, finally, quite ruined, returns home to damn the scene of his folly, and to picture the colony as the abode of misery and desolation. But let every man come prepared to work, and he will surely reap the reward of his labour.

Fully convinced, however, that New Zealand as a field for colonization is superior in natural advantages to any other country which I have seen, I should yet be sorry to induce a single fellow-countryman to emigrate, if there were the slightest chance of his having to suffer those troubles and anxieties which a hostile Government inflicted on the early dwellers in the Company's Settlements. Now, however, thanks to a sounder policy, that monster grievance of New Zealand, the "land question," may be considered practically settled. A

military and naval force fully adequate for protection, and causing a considerable expenditure beneficial to the settlers, has been concentrated in the country. The Local Government, warned by dearly-bought experience, will never be hurried into hostilities against, the natives, nor probably again undertake them without grave reason, and such a force as shall insure victory; whilst the natives, aware of their own prowess, and justly proud of their partial successes, have nevertheless learned enough to know, that a force could be brought which would render resistance to English law utterly hopeless. Besides, as they are rapidly advancing in civilization, they are beginning to discover that peace is more "profitable" than war, and hence they will not be readily induced to incur the liability of extermination. There may perhaps, occasionally, be petty local interruptions of the general tranquillity; but the universal tendency and order of things is peace and its prosperous consequences, an opinion I may be allowed to fortify by quoting the following recent words of the Governor-in-Chief, Sir George Grey: – "At the present moment there is probably no portion of the world in which life and property are more secure than in New Zealand; nor is there any country which holds out greater promise of prosperity and happiness to intending emigrants."

It must, I think, be evident that nature has been lavish in her gifts to this beautiful district. The

salubrity of the climate is proved by a ratio of births and deaths, to which it would be difficult to find a parallel. Here, no Canadian winter locks up the land in ice; no Australian hot winds scorch and blight; and here, unlike South Africa, there are no noxious reptiles or animals of prey. The soil is highly productive, easily worked, and capable of supplying all the necessaries – many of the luxuries of life. The district is rich in a variety of valuable flax and timber; and is pre-eminent, even in New Zealand, for an abundance of the purest water. The shipping facilities of the Settlement are equal to those enjoyed, naturally, by places of considerable commerce. Its situation with respect to Australian and home markets gives it many advantages; whilst, as part of New Zealand, its relative position to countries rich in tropical productions, is an important addition to these great natural capabilities.

What is now required is an influx of capital and labour. Always assuming that the emigrant be duly qualified by energy and industry, the Taranaki district is one where, with moderate means, a man whose life in England has been a constant weary struggle to maintain his station, but who sees with bitterness that his children must descend in the social scale, may soon create a fine estate, and live ten years longer to enjoy it; where the tenant farmer, whose sons may become labourers on the land he tilled, may escape high rent, tax, and tithe, and soon rise to be the independent proprietor; where the steady

mechanic may escape the crushing competition existing in old countries, and find constant employment, with good wages and cheap living; where the half-starved labourer may revel in rude plenty, build his house on his own land, and soon raise himself to comfort and prosperity.

[Page 156 is blank]

28 About 600 of these men with their families have been concentrated around Auckland.

29 It is a common remark in Canada, that the most successful agriculturists are frequently those who were ignorant of the art before they emigrated; as such men (unlike the English farmer), having nothing to unlearn, at once readily adopt that ruder but more profitable method of cultivation practised in new countries.

POSTSCRIPT

POSTSCRIPT.

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Since my arrival in England, I have learned that various beneficial measures are in progress for the advancement of this beautiful Settlement.

The Lords of the Admiralty have given instructions to Captain Stokes, of H. M.'s steam surveying sloop Acheron, now in New Zealand, to report to his Excellency the Governor-in-Chief, on the best plan of constructing a small harbour, and of laying down moorings, at New Plymouth. On receipt of such report, the Governor is authorized to incur the necessary expenditure, and to carry the works into execution.

Before the expiration of another year, regular steam communication will probably be opened between South Wales and the various Settlements in New Zealand: this would give a considerable impetus to the general trade of the Colony, and quickly develop the resources of each particular district.

With respect to further purchases of land, the

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opinion expressed at page 51 has been confirmed; and there is now a fair prospect of the Settlement being soon extended to the Waitera – in which case, the south bank of that fine river will become the seat of a flourishing town.

The following despatch shows that the New Zealand Company, evincing judicious liberality, have made an amicable arrangement with their early settlers on the subject of "compensation."

EARL GREY TO SIR GEORGE GREY, K. C. B.

Downing Street, 11th January 1849.
SIR,
I have received your despatch of October last, in which you report the successful result of your mediation between the Chief Agent of the New Zealand Company and their Settlers at Wellington, the adjustment of the differences between the Company and their Settlers at Nelson, and the prospect of an equally satisfactory arrangement at New Plymouth.

When I suggested that you should undertake the office of arbitrator between the Company and their Settlers, I was not unmindful of the difficulties which inevitably attended such an undertaking; but I, at the same time, was influenced by a firm conviction, that the judgment and ability with which you would apply yourself to the task, would suffice to save you from any serious embarrassment, if not to lead you to a completely successful result.

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I have now the pleasure of expressing my entire approbation of the manner in which you have conducted this difficult and delicate undertaking, and. of the arrangement which you have effected at the Chief Settlement of the Company. I cannot but regard the result as highly satisfactory, and as calculated to contribute materially to the prosperity of the Colony.

I have received with sincere concern the intelligence of the sudden death of Lieut.-Colonel Wakefield, whose services on this occasion are entitled to so much commendation. The ample testimony which you have borne to the talents and the merits of that officer, serves to confirm the conviction that his loss will be severely felt, not only by the Company, but by the Public generally in New Zealand.
I have the honour to be, &c,
GREY.

Private letters, lately received, describe the state and prospects of the Settlement as most satisfactory. A small public library, and a literary institution had been established. The first races had come off with considerable spirit, and much to the delight of the natives, several of whom rode their own horses, and took an active share in the sport. The natives are, in fact, becoming useful and influential members of the community. Many of them were in the employ of the settlers. They had purchased another cargo of live stock from

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Sydney, and owned more horses and coasting-vessels than the Europeans. The crops promised to be most luxuriant, and the farmers were busily engaged in extending their cultivations.

Without the least pecuniary interest in the country, the Author, accompanied by several members of his family, intends to return to New Zealand; believing, after visiting various colonies, that there is no place which offers more inducements to the emigrant than New Plymouth; few which offer so many.

Parties desirous of obtaining any particular information which may not have been given in this little work, are invited to communicate with the writer by letter, addressed to the care of Messrs. Curtis, Finsbury Street, Chiswell Street, London.

London, July 1, 1849.

THE END.

London: Printed by STEWART and MURRAY, Old Bailey.
January, 1848.

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"A luxury of taste pervades the illustration, the printing, even the binding. The jar is filled with delicate and noble fancies; with genuine Christmas associations of 'poetry, piety, revelry, superstition, story-telling, and masquing;' with pastoral and fire-side thoughts, and thoughts of deep humanity; with Fairy tales of antiquity, and the gossip of ancient holidays, and the Christmas poetry and cheerful piety of old. Everything is turned to pleasurable account." – Examiner.

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