

cussion, which was highly entertaining. As we shall be in our new premises in a fortnight's time, we intend to open the same with a large programme, when I will send a full report.

Yours truly,
W. TYRELL.
Sec. pro. tem. Wellington Freethought Association.

Sir,—I have to apologise to you for not sending in our last report in time, being new to the work—hence the omission. In our last communication we did not mention Mr Stout's lecture, but as I see you have reported it from the 'New Zealand Times' we thank you kindly. Since then there has been a little controversy on the subject, and the 'New Zealand Times' having closed the correspondence, Mr Stout has written to say, whether you will be good enough to publish the enclosed, which I have just received from the editor of the 'New Zealand Times.'

We closed our old premises in Courtney Place on the 8th instant, and took possession of the new on the 9th, and opened the same on the 15th, under the name of the Lyceum. We had the place very nicely decorated with flags and banners and a suitable number of good mottoes. The members having worked very hard to get the place ready and make it a success; unfortunately for us it turned out very wet and cold, but I must say that the public and membership attendance was more than we expected, the place being very nearly full. We had addresses from Mr Chantrey Harris, Mr Robertson, a new and very promising member of ours, and Messrs Innis and Grey. I enclose you a report from the 'New Zealand Times.'

We intend starting a Children's Lyceum class as soon as possible, having plenty of room for marching, &c.

Next Sunday Mr Chantrey Harris will give us a lecture. We are deeply indebted to this gentleman, he having acted so liberally in our behalf, and our success being attributed a good deal to his very able reports in his paper; we wish there were a few more like him.

Yours truly,
W. TYRELL, Secretary.

CANTERBURY FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION.

Mr F. C. Hall, the honorary secretary of the above-named Association, kindly favours us with the following items:—

Christchurch, 17th June, 1884.
Sir,—Since my last the following lectures have been delivered on Sunday evenings:—18th May, "The Religion of Humanity," by Mr E. M. Clissold. 25th May, "Why I seceded from Christianity," by an ex Roman Catholic. 1st June, "The Shades of London," by Mr F. Crook. 8th June, "Persons I have met," by Mr F. Crook. 15th June, "Colonel Ingersoll's Dying Creed," by Mr F. C. Hall. My opinion is that, although meetings like the above are very instructive, helping to keep Freethinkers together, ready to consider any subject affecting (even indirectly) Freethought, and besides producing a good feeling amongst members, yet there is nothing will repay the officers and leaders of different Freethought Associations for their trouble and pains like a Children's Lyceum.

The licensing case I previously referred to is again adjourned to the 22nd instant.

Yours faithfully,
F. C. HALL, Hon. Sec. C.F.A.

WAVERLEY FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary of the Waverley Association forwards the following particulars:—

Sir,—The progress of our Association during the past month has been so far encouraging, six new members having joined. The monthly meetings have been well attended, at which original papers and readings from the most cogent writers and lecturers bearing on religious and theological fallacies were selected, and, combined with unrestrained interchange of thought, quite a social and animated appearance is given to our Sunday gatherings. This is very different from the gloom that accompanies the dictations and threatenings in our rival temples.

On the 18th. Certificates of Membership were issued. Recognising the assistance a Library will prove, a start in the direction has been made, and, as was anticipated, a number of those who at present refrain from directly joining the Association, subscribe to the projected Library—and show a thirst for Freethought literature. We have been enabled to do this by the contributions of books by Members and the bountiful gifts of our earnest friend, "Blue Pencil," from whom papers, books, and leaflets have been received every week, for which we all tender our thanks.

You might observe that I have adopted the new Calendar date, as recommended by the National Liberal League in Congress, taken from the 'Truth Seeker Almanack,' New York.

Yours truly
W. G. WINCHECOMB,
Secretary.
Waverley, March E. M. 2, 84.

AUCKLAND RATIONALISTIC ASSOCIATION.

Mr. W. C. Dennes, Secretary of the above Association, has sent us the following report for the month of May:—

Sir,—Since my report of last month I have the pleasure of informing you that the Auckland Rationalistic Association has continued to progress very satisfactorily. We have added some twenty five new members, and the Association has got into more thorough working order. Our Sunday evening meetings are well attended, and have become much more orderly than at first, the harrikin element having been kept out to a great extent. We have just concluded an engagement with Mr. Chas. Bright of a course of three lectures, with very gratifying results, and added considerably to our funds as a consequence. In fact the Association was so well pleased both with the lectures themselves and the pecuniary result that they have engaged Mr. Bright to deliver a further course of three more, which doubtless will prove equally beneficial.

I may add that the Association, by a unanimous vote, have agreed to join the New Zealand Freethought Federal Union, and adopted most of the Clauses in the report of the Conference of Freethinkers lately held in Dunedin.

Mr. Bright, on Monday last, gave a lecture at Helensville, Kaipara, the first Freethought lecture that has been given in that district. Fully one half the entire adult population of the district were present. I think it quite likely that it will be followed up by some members of our Association occasionally going over there for a similar purpose.

Hoping to have some further interesting reports to make next month,
I am, &c.,
W. C. DENNES, Hon. Sec.

Auckland, May 20, 1884.

Sir,—I regret my last communication was too late for insertion in your valuable journal. I thought it would be in time as it was posted about the 20th. I am pleased to inform you that the A.R.A. is progressing very favorably. The recent visit of Mr Chas. Bright was quite an event and a success in every way—financially, to himself, and the Association, and the means of bringing quite a number of people to see the error of their ways and thus be led into a sphere of peace and harmony, and save their minds and bodies even if their souls are left to take care of themselves. In addition to the six lectures given for the Association in the Lorne Street Hall, a debate between Mr Bright and Mr Geo. A. Brown, of "conditional immortality," took place in the Theatre Royal, lasting two nights, subject: "Is the Christianity of the New Testament Detrimental to Human Progress." Mr Bright in the affirmative, Mr Brown in the negative; and, of course, as we Rationalists think, was a brilliant success on the part of Mr Bright. At least 1000 persons attended each evening's debate, and the utmost decorum was observed by everyone present, not a symptom of disturbance occurred; and the hearty applause so very frequently displayed during the evenings was about equally distributed between the two disputants. The pecuniary results to each were highly gratifying to them, and by the liberality of Mr Bright the A.R.A. were enriched to the extent of £7, and to my knowledge several converts were made to Freethought, since become members.

On Sunday last we had a lecture in our hall in Lorne Street by a lady from the Thames who lectured under the name of *plum* of "Jenny Wren;" title of lecture: "Woman's Work and Destiny." It was a well-written paper, with many very pretty and somewhat poetical passages, but the lady, as some of the critics said, failed to shew how woman was to fulfil her destiny of reforming poor fallen man, without being, in the first instance, reformed herself. I think the lady somewhat mistook the leading characteristics of Rationalists, and would have been more at home on the platform before a Young Men's Christian Association. The permission to give such and similar lectures on our platform, and, by the way, to pay for them, goes to prove that we have some title to the term Freethinkers, and that we are somewhat different to our friends of the orthodox Church, who attack our Society from their pulpits without giving us the chance of a reply. In order to neutralise the effect of this policy several of our members attended St. Matthew's to hear what was said, and a very excellent lecture was given on Sunday last at Lorne Street Hall by Mr Webb. Our Christian friends, not satisfied with traducing us from their pulpits have gone still further and have had a slip printed which was taken from the 'Auckland Herald,' a copy of which I send you relating to Madame Lotti Wilmet, and which pamphlet they post a man to sell at the door of our hall on a Sunday evening. The probable effect of this will be that in retaliation we Rationalists will post one or more at every church door in Auckland to dispose of some of our best Freethought tracts.

Yours faithfully,
W. C. DENNES, Hon. Sec.

WOODVILLE FREETHOUGHT ASSOCIATION.

The following letter was received too late for insertion in last month's REVIEW:—

Sir,—I am very pleased to report that we have been making progress. The Methodist Minister, the Rev. Mr Worboys, met the President of our Association, and a very interesting discussion took place on the 11th May on the "Genuineness of the Scriptures." I believe there was more solid information brought before the people in that time than would have been gained by attending Church for a month. The debate was continued on the following Thursday. The President very ably replied.