

(continued from previous page)

probably begun while those friends were still roaming our streets and frequenting our bookshops. If so, the author has been unlucky. But charity begins at home. We ourselves need the book, and if it had been bought up and carried off before a few thousand New Zealanders had persuaded themselves to buy it, that might have helped the publishers, but it would have been a misfortune for the rest of us. Because very few of us really know our own story, and now that we are in our second century our ignorance is beginning to be dangerous. Besides, it is very difficult to get a clear, concise, accurate, and thoroughly readable book for 4/6; difficult to get a single-volume history at any price; and almost impossible to get one that the man in the street can (or will) read. Well, here it is; and if you do not get a cloth and board binding, you get this story, which more than makes amends:

"If Selwyn ever heard it he must have appreciated this story of a hard-bitten old salt who watched the bishop (Selwyn) sailing a boat up the Auckland harbour against a strong wind. 'Look at him,' commented the admiring expert. 'It's enough to make a man a bloody Christian!'"

MISSIONARIES AND OTHERS

MAORI AND MISSIONARY. By Harold Miller. Published by the New Zealand Church Missionary Society.

MR. MILLER calls this a "sketch," and since it ends at about 10,000 words it is hardly a book. But it is a most impressive sketch, scholarly and really luminous, and documented on every page. Mr. Miller has clear and strong opinions, and strong historical foundations for them.

"In the absence of military support, the first Governors were obliged to turn time after time to the missionaries to restore law and order and to clear up mistakes that were sometimes ridiculous and once or twice rather serious. For such offices officials are never grateful. No Governor was likely to enjoy dependence upon a parcel of preachers; Hobson found it irksome, and young Captain Grey found it intolerable. After the disorders of the Bay of Islands in 1845, he began a frontal assault on the leading missionaries, and somehow prevailed upon the young Bishop of the province to support him. Then followed one of the most shameful episodes in the history of New Zealand."

To those readers who may charge him with being prejudiced in describing this episode, Mr. Miller would probably reply that he would be ashamed to be anything else. For this is not a religious tract: it is an authentic chapter from the unknown history of New Zealand told by a writer who worked through the documents.

FOR TEACHERS OF SHORTHAND

STANDARDISING SHORTHAND TESTS. By T. L. James. New Zealand Council for Educational Research.

THIS book will have a limited appeal, but to those whom it does interest it should be of great value. The writer, who has clearly had considerable commercial experience, deals with the variations in different shorthand examinations and shows by means of graphs and tables the weaknesses of the present system of measuring dictation passages in words. He discusses the advantages and drawbacks of other possible units of measurement, the sound, the letter, and the syllable, and gives reasons why the sound would be the best unit. His standard would be four speech-sounds to the word.

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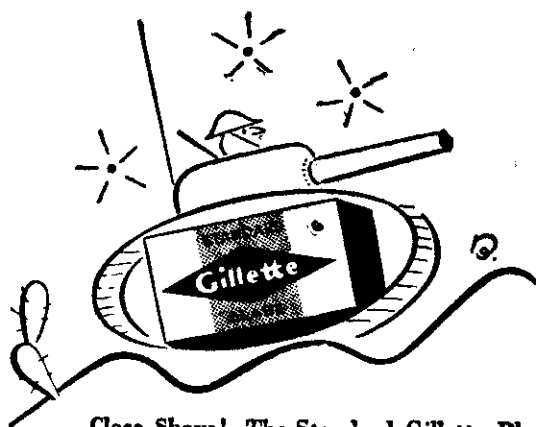


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