

Zamona (Castile) went to France at the time of the Inquisition.

"Mr. P. E. Thoreau, of Timaru, was good enough to autograph my copy of *Walden*. His father was born in 1813 and died in 1879. Mr. P. E. Thoreau was a second cousin of H. D. Thoreau, of Concord. Their paternal grandparents were brothers.

"The son with whom I had travelled became a land and house agent in Timaru. There are several Thoreaus listed in the New Zealand Directory in recent years (all in Timaru)), but the latest issue of the Directory names only one—Mr. Abyn (?) Thoreau, Crescent Point, Timaru, Canterbury. The family portraits and other material may still be in his possession. According to H. S. Salt, Henry D. Thoreau's grandfather married a Scotch woman. It persists in my mind that she was the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Burns, a relation of Robert Burns, the Scottish poet. Pronunciation of the name Thoreau by the New Zealand members of the family was Toro (accent on the first syllable).

"Yours sincerely,  
"JAMES WALKER."

THAT letter has already appeared in the *Saturday Review of Literature* and is reprinted in *The Listener* in the hope that New Zealanders may be moved to communicate with its editor (direct or through us).

But Dr. Canby introduced it to his American readers with a romantic reference to Timaru. We quote this in full:

"Timaru in Canterbury Province of the South Island of New Zealand is a little red-roofed city close to the bluffs and the sea, and not far from Christchurch, the university centre. I flew over it in June, and if I remember



H. D. THOREAU

rightly the green and white surf breaks in front of it on the black sand beaches so characteristic of the South Island. Behind, lie the stretches of the great Canterbury Plain, a checkerboard of farms, and beyond, the foothills, snow crested when I was there, and still further and higher, the great Alpine chain, 'the long white cloud,' as the Maoris called it, with its glaciers and fjords. It was over this mountain barrier that Samuel Butler climbed to his fabled Erewhon. He knew, of course, that only the Tasman Sea was on the other side, but the setting is perfect for something unknown over the ranges. Butler lived from 1859 to 1864 at a sheep station on the Rangitata River, which is just above Timaru. If a Thoreau was in Timaru at the time, he would surely have known him in a country so sparsely settled in the 1860's."

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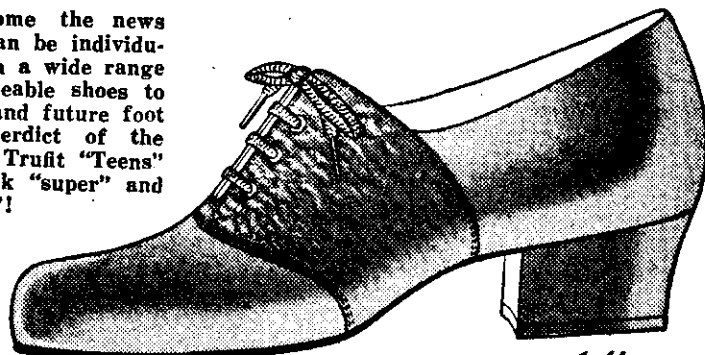
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