

(continued from previous page)

a reason for his great popularity then, and for his return to favour now, after nearly half a century of neglect. *He Knew he was Right*, reprinted in this *World's Classics* edition, is in a sense an exception to the Trollopian rule, for it is one of the few novels in which he ventured to doubt. It is a long, "psychological" account of the gradual mental deterioration of Trevelyan, the jealous husband who unjustly suspects that his beautiful young wife is being seduced by their friend, Colonel Osborne. The book is unusually analytical in method, and is distinguished by a masterly subplot concerning the affections of the bride's sister, Nora Rowley, and handsome Hugh Stanbury. In this section Trollope the craftsman is seen at his most effective, so that altogether it is a puzzle why he should have written in his *Autobiography*, "I look upon the story as being nearly altogether bad. I do not know that in any literary effort I ever fell more completely short of my own intention."

—P.J.W.

EARLY CANTERBURY

THE STORY OF CANTERBURY: LAST WAKEFIELD SETTLEMENT, by A. H. Reed; A. H. and A. W. Reed, Wellington. Price, 20/-.

WRITTEN no doubt with an eye to the centennial of the Canterbury settlement in 1950, this book tells part of the story of the province. The references to provincial politics are brief, and there is no treatment of Canterbury's place in national politics. The later development of Canterbury, including the growth of city industries, is omitted. What the book does, competently, is to give an account of the settlement of the province. This begins with the Maoris, and goes on to the white settlers before 1850, the organised plantation of that year, the growth of Christchurch, the spread of farming through the province, the gold rushes in Westland (which was for a time part of Canterbury), exploration in the mountains, and conquest of the main alpine peaks. Primarily, it is a book of physical adventure.

Its chief value to the general reader is that it collects for him records from a number of books, most of which are out of print, and weaves them into a story. Here are details of the pioneering of the Hays and Sinclairs on the peninsula and the Deans on the plains, before the First Four Ships; the story of the Studholmes of Waimate; the journeys of Bishop Harper and Bishop Selwyn; the pushing of flocks into the mountain country; the great snowstorm of 1867; the first crossing of the island; the trek to the diggings by the Harper Pass; the attacks on Mt. Cook, beginning with the Englishman Green and culminating in the New Zealanders' conquest. Mr. Reed's greatest asset as an historian is the keenness of his interest, especially in the human element. He has made a wide choice and assembled his items with skill. The writing is bright, but at times a little untidy and over-conventional. For example, it seems rather superfluous to describe the Maungatapu murderers as miscreants.

Some criticism of his facts is called for. To say Lyttelton was the original choice for the capital is an over-simplification. The first proposal was to put

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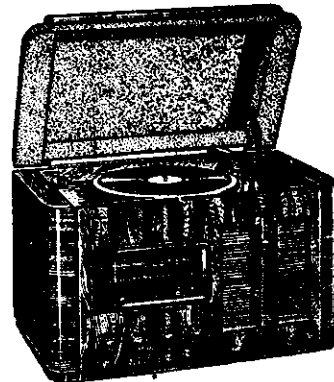
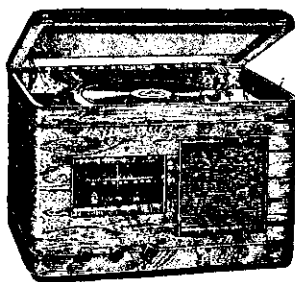
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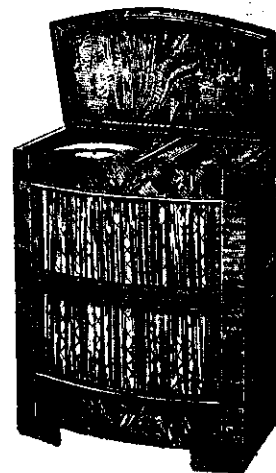


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