

THE LATEST LIVE MOA STORY.

THE following is the full, true and particular account given by the 'Lyttelton Times' of the live Moa story that was telegraphed throughout the Colony, at the close of last week:—"A good deal of excitement was caused in Oxford on Wednesday last, by a report being circulated to the effect that footmarks of a large bird had been discovered on the property of Mr. Cooper, distant about five miles from Oxford. The origin of the report, and the facts of the discovery which led to the excitement referred to, are as follows:—On Wednesday morning last, a Mr. Cooper, an old resident in the place, observed, in what is called his ram paddock, a good many footmarks of what appeared to be a very large bird, and considering the phenomenon peculiar, he went down to Oxford for the purpose of communicating the intelligence to some of the leading men, so that the footprints might be traced and measured, with a view of eliciting information as to the nature and description of the bird. He informed Mr. Paul, chairman of the Road Board, and Mr. Woodfield, storekeeper, and they immediately accompanied him to the spot indicated, and found tracks of a very large bird, which they traced for nearly three-quarters of a mile. The distance between all the footprints was from eight to nine feet, showing that this bird (if bird it was) had remarkably long legs. In its travels they found it had stepped over a creek seven feet wide, and left a footprint on each side. They found excreta or droppings, in two or three places, which strengthened their belief that the footmarks were those of a large bird. Mr. Woodfield took impressions of two or three of the footprints, by running melted wax over them; and in two of the impressions the birds toes are clearly visible. The foot is a little over six inches in length. The place where the tracks of the bird were found, is only a short distance from the Oxford forest, and it was evident that the bird was not in the habit of straying far from the bush. It is only about three or four years ago since a son of Captain Foster saw a large bird in the bush at Oxford, and doubtless the footprints which have now been discovered have been very recently made by the same or a similar bird. The gentlemen who have taken the trouble to carefully inquire into and examine the evidence which has been laid before them of the existence of a very large bird at Oxford, do not assert that it is a Moa, as they are not in a position to do so from want of scientific skill, but before the footprints became obliterated by the weather they are prepared to show them to any persons who may be curious enough to require ocular demonstration. Mr. Woodfield came to Christchurch yesterday with the intention of shewing the impressions he had taken of the footprints to Dr. Haast. Latest accounts say that the supposed *rara avis* is a kangaroo which has taken up its abode in the bush. At a meeting of the Canterbury Philosophical Institute, that was held in Christchurch on the following Thursday evening, a letter was received, detailing the circumstances related as above. After the letter had been read, Dr. Powell said that at first the statement contained in the letter appeared somewhat credible, but on thinking it over, he noticed two points which at once disabused his mind of the footprints being those of a bird. In the first place, Mr. Woodfield said there were four front toes, and he need not remind them that there was no known bird possessing that number. Then again, the footprints were said to be nine feet apart, and though a moa might stride that distance when running, neither it nor any bird they knew of could do it while wandering around a house in the manner said to have been done in this instance. Subsequently, however, Mr. Woodfield called upon him and showed him the casts referred to in the letter. They were exceedingly well taken, and proved beyond doubt to his mind that the footprints had been made by a wallaby. Dr. Powell proceeded to give a sketch of one of the casts on the black board, and the result was a correct representation of the two hind feet of a wallaby, placed close together, as they would be in the act of jumping over the ground."

BISHOP REDWOOD AT MEANEE.

THE Right Rev. Dr. Redwood, Catholic Bishop of Wellington, proceeded to Meanee yesterday morning in a carriage and four accompanied by the Very Rev. Father Forest, and the Rev. Father Carew. On arrival at the Mission Station, his Lordship was met by the Rev. Father Reignier and a large concourse of people. The children were formed into a procession, carrying banners, and the ladies and gentlemen present lined both sides of the pathway leading from the road to the Church. While proceeding between the ranks thus formed, his Lordship bestowed the episcopal blessing. Having reached the door of the sacred edifice, R. D. Maney, Esq., M.P.C., read the following address:—

To the Right Rev. Dr. Redwood, Bishop of Wellington.

May it please your Lordship—

We, the undersigned, Catholics of the Meanee and Taradale districts, on behalf of ourselves and other members of the congregation, beg to offer our sincere congratulation to your Lordship upon this your first visit to our parish, and to express our sincere thanks to you for the honor you have done us in thus affording so early an opportunity of expressing our attachment and devotion to your Lordship and to our Holy Father the Pope.

We beg to assure your Lordship of our deep sense of gratitude to the Sovereign Pontiff for his wise selection in thus giving us yourself as our chief pastor, and to assure your Lordship of our heartfelt sympathy with him in his present trials, and our admiration and esteem of his patient endurance.

We beg to express our sincere thanks for the indefatigable and untiring efforts of the Rev. Father Reignier and others connected with the Mission, and to take this opportunity of acknowledging how much we owe them for their solicitude and zeal in the cause of education and our spiritual welfare.

My Lord, we beg to assure your Lordship that it will ever be a pleasure to us to aid in all good works in which you may be pleased

to continue or initiate in this part of the diocese, and among them we hope it may be possible to make arrangements for the higher education of the Catholic youth of the district, in connection with the college at Meanee.

In conclusion, wishing your Lordship may, with God's blessing, long be spared to us, we humbly solicit your episcopal blessing.

[Signatures.]

On the conclusion of the address, his Lordship thanked Mr. Maney, as the representative of the congregation, and stated that he would reply from the pulpit. Dr. Redwood then entered the Church, and was presented by the Rev. Father Reignier with an address from the Catholic clergy of the Meanee district:—

The Right Rev. Dr. Redwood, Lord Bishop of Wellington.

May it please Your Lordship,—With feelings of the most profound respect and veneration, we congratulate your Lordship on your elevation to the Episcopal dignity, and welcome you to St. Mary's Mission, Meanee.

Doubtless it will be a source of satisfaction to your Lordship to see and hear what progress our holy religion has made in this district. Not sixteen years ago all this district was a complete wilderness, inhabited by a few natives, and still fewer Catholics. Neither Church or school was to be seen.

As the Christian education of our youth is a subject alluded to in your Lordship's letter, we will be thankful for your advice and direction on that all-important topic.

With reference to the Native portion of this district and the province at large, your Lordship will kindly interest yourself on their behalf to promote their spiritual welfare.

Uniting with your Lordship in our best wishes for the welfare of His Holiness the Pope, and the prosperity of our Holy Mother the Church,

We remain,

Your Lordship's most respectful and obedient children,

E. REIGNIER.

High Mass was then celebrated, and his Lordship delivered a most impressive and eloquent sermon taking occasion to reply to the addresses he received first from the laity, and secondly from the clergy. In thanking the laity for their expression of welcome to himself, he assured them of the satisfaction and pleasure it afforded him to receive such testimony of good will and affection towards His Holiness. He was also pleased at the evidence of the desire of the laity to aid in the cause of education, and of their appreciation of the past efforts of the clergy. His Lordship then most affectionately replied in a most suitable manner to the address of the clergy.

In the afternoon, Dr. Redwood visited the schools in connection with the Mission Station, expressing himself well pleased with all he saw.

In the evening his Lordship attended Vespers, and after again preaching a most impressive sermon Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given. His Lordship then returned to Napier.

Bishop Redwood proceeded by train to-day to Pāki paki to meet the natives of that settlement. We understand his Lordship has expressed much regret at being unable, through press of time, to visit Waipawa.—'Daily Telegraph.'

THE NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA.

A CORRESPONDENT of the Melbourne, 'Age' writing of the above, says:—"The resources and natural advantages of the place are truly wonderful, and, unless all the go and pluck of the colonising races are exhausted, the Territory will soon become one of the largest and most important colonies. No country ever started before with a telegraph uniting it to the civilized world. None can have a finer or more beautiful harbor, not excepting Sydney. The seas teem with fish of great variety and excellence. The coasts abound with pearl-shell, with pearl and trepang. The prosperous colonies of to-day had no known gold or copper to start with, as the Northern Territory has, to help it in its early struggles; they relied entirely on their pastoral lands, and that, too, without any apparent market for their beef and mutton. The Territory has not only the largest reeling country in the world, but rich copper has been found; coal formations are also known to exist on the Victoria River. Vast tracts of agricultural lands are reported on the Daly. The Victoria River has splendid squatting country; the Alligator River and the Adelaide have excellent pastoral lands, which are free to anyone, with long leases, at 6d per mile. Agricultural labor is at the very door. In the adjacent islands, Malay men and women can be had in thousands for 6d per day, and men accustomed to field work. I paid 10s per week to those I imported, but this was caused by the want of any law to regulate such labor, or to bind them to their agreement, and they paid their own passage. The island trade in coffee, rice, sago, spices, pepper, and timber, is now done by native praus or Chinese junks, with Macassar, Singapore, or Batavia, all free ports; but now that Palmerston is to be a free port, there remains no reason why this important trade should not be diverted by the superior energy of our race and the near proximity of the Territory. These are a brief outline of a few of the known advantages possessed by the Northern territory. If South Australia carries out the proposed overland railway with the foresight and pluck already shown in planting the overland telegraph, the rise and progress of the place must be marvellous, and the permanent union of the South and North thus cemented will form one of the greatest and most prosperous colonies, outstripping all competition."

During a secret session of a Chicago board of commissioners, one was astonished to see an augur-tip projecting through the carpet, and, upon an examination, found that a party of reporters had bored through from the cellar for the purpose of hearing what was said.