

THE CHURCH IN NEW ZEALAND

MEMOIRS OF THE EARLY DAYS

(Contributed.)

WELLINGTON.

(Continued from last week.)

Marlborough.

Towards the end of 1842 Mr Cottrell, a surveyor, had explored a way from Nelson into the Wairau, and the glowing accounts given of that district determined Captain Wakefield to take up land there on behalf of the Nelson settlers, and preparations were made to extend the settlement in that direction. Captain Wakefield held that the whole of what is now known as Marlborough was included in the purchase made at the time of the Wellington Settlement, but the Maori chiefs thought otherwise. As soon as the news of the projected survey reached Kapiti Island, Te Rauparaha's stronghold, he, together with Te Rangiharata and Te Hiko, crossed the strait to Nelson, and warned Captain Wakefield that Wairau must not be taken over, as not included in the original sale. In reply Captain Wakefield restated the company's claim, but it was, in angry terms, repudiated by Te Rauparaha, who warned the officials that if they went to Wairau they would meet with resistance. Te Rauparaha entreated the surveyors not to proceed with the survey, but refer the claim to the Native Commissioner. Captain Wakefield was determined, a step which unfortunately led to the Wairau Massacre, when twenty-three Europeans were murdered. Amongst the victims were Captain Wakefield, Captain England, Messrs Thompson, Cottrell, Richardson, Howard, Brooks, Cropper, and McGregor, and of the twenty-six who escaped several were wounded. Looking back calmly, states the chronicler of this tragic event, after a long vista of over sixty years, one cannot help thinking the Europeans were much to be blamed. In the year 1859 Nelson suffered a severe loss in the separation of Wairau from it. The settlers in the Wairau complained that they were taxed for the benefit of Nelson without any compensating return, being left roadless and bridgeless. There was little opposition to the request of the discontented colonists. An Act was passed by the General Assembly in the same year separating Wairau from Nelson, and incorporating it under a separate government as the province of Marlborough. The new province shared in the gold discoveries of 1863-4, important finds being made in the Wakamarina district, about thirty miles from Nelson. There was then a good road over the Maungatapu, and a great rush took place. This road became notorious a year or so later owing to a dastardly tragedy perpetrated by a gang of bushrangers. Canvastown and Havelock grew into important little townships, boasting of a newspaper and Government officials.

Blenheim,

the chief centre of Marlborough, owes its Church foundation and the beautiful organisation of its works to the Rev. Father Sauzeau, S.M. Sent in November, 1864, to this new district, he found there only sixty houses, occupied by some hundreds of people. He celebrated the first Mass in the courthouse. The following year he built a church and opened two schools for the Catholic children of the settlement. Ten years later this temporary church was replaced by a beautiful edifice, which was erected on land acquired, with the liberal assistance of the small Catholic congregation, in a healthy and beautiful situation in the southern part of the town. In addition to Blenheim Father Sauzeau had charge of the whole of the province of Marlborough, and with characteristic zeal he had churches erected at Tu Marina, Picton, and Havelock. Being unassisted, he had to personally supply all requirements. In his correspondence he once wrote:—'On two Sundays of the month I celebrate mass in Blenheim, and once a month at Picton and Havelock, and when there is a fifth Sunday in any month I visit and unite as best I can the families scattered over the distant outlying districts. In New Zealand it is truly difficult for a missionary priest to find time to be lonely. Each Sunday I celebrate two masses, preach at different times, and baptise children. During the week I teach catechism, oversee the schools, direct affairs generally, visit the parishioners, and, above all, the sick on my four stations. Thank God, although our Catholics are scattered over the province, and in consequence a

great distance from the central residence, very few have died without the sacred rites and consolations of our holy religion.'

AUCKLAND.

Farewell Addresses to Sir George Grey.

From a cutting from the 'New Zealander,' a newspaper of the period, kindly lent by one of the clergy, who has consistently manifested the keenest interest in these memoirs, I am enabled to copy the following particulars, which, after the lapse of more than half a century, will undoubtedly prove interesting and instructive:—Bishop Pompallier, his clergy, and the schools under his care have not failed to unite with the other denominations and classes of the community in offering tributes of grateful respect and esteem to His Excellency Sir George Grey on the occasion of his departure for England, as the following series of addresses presented last week will testify. The first is from the Catholic Bishop, Vicar-General, and clergy of the diocese of Auckland:—

'May it please your Excellency,—The intelligence of your leaving New Zealand so soon has been rather sudden to me, and coinciding with the solemnities of the birthday of Our Blessed Saviour, during which the spiritual labors of my pastorate are multiplied in this dear city, and accompanied with abundant consolations. The most earnest prayers have still been said by the pastor and flock for your Excellency to the Divine Infant, who was born for us, and is the Source of all power and happiness. I shall never forget your cordial feelings in administering your paternal protection towards the prelate who writes these few lines and his vast flock of natives and Europeans in New Zealand. I am an old settler, who have witnessed the cradle of civilisation and religion in this country where your Excellency has displayed so much wisdom, prudence, and dignity. Providence has conducted me around the world to witness also the antiquity, universality, and unity of the Catholic religion. Its freedom is granted at present almost everywhere, and it is with deep feelings of pleasure and gratitude that I have seen it respected and protected under your high authority; for wherever this freedom reigns it is a sign of temporal and spiritual blessings. Accept, then, my congratulations for the success of your labors in New Zealand, my regret for your departure, my wishes for a safe voyage and return, and my prayers to God for obtaining blessings and happiness for your Excellency and Lady Grey, whose benefits towards the orphans and schools of my congregation will never be forgotten. May these sentiments, partaken by my clergy and flock, be acceptable to your Excellency.

Your most humble obedient servant,

† J. Bst. FRS. POMPALLIER,
Ap. Adm., Catholic Bishop of Auckland.'

'To His Excellency Sir G. Grey, K.C.B.,
'Governor and Commander-in-Chief of New Zealand.'

'We, the undersigned, unite with the beloved Bishop of the Diocese of Auckland.

'JAS. McDONALD, Vicar-General
(For him and for the following clergy absent:—Rev. Fathers Fynes, Alletay, Bourand, Garavel, Segala, Garin, parish priest of Nelson).'

'To which His Excellency returned the following reply:—

'Government House, Auckland,

'December 29, 1853.

'My Lord,—I feel much indebted to your Lordship and the clergy of your diocese for the very friendly terms in which, in the address you have transmitted to me, you allude to the efforts I have made to promote the welfare of the Catholic population in New Zealand, whether European or native, during the time that I have administered the government of these islands. Upon my part, my thanks are due to your Lordship and your clergy for the efforts you have, during my government, invariably made to promote peace and good order amongst all classes of the community, and the spread of civilisation and education amongst the native population—the efforts you have made in these respects demand my warm acknowledgments. Lady Grey unites with me in thanking your Lordship and your clergy for your prayers and wishes for our future welfare and happiness, and we beg that you will receive yourself, and express to your clergy and Catholic people, our heartfelt sentiments of enduring gratitude, esteem, and regard.'

(To be continued.)

The 'Advocate' states that 12½ per cent of the total population of Victoria, is concentrated in Greater Melbourne.

LANGFORD and RHIND

(late W. and H. Langford),
18 LONDON ST. Phone 689

Funeral Furnishers
and Embalmers

Christchurch

Addressees—HERBERT LANGFORD, 16 London St., Richmond. Phone 689
JOHN RHIND, 48 Montreal St., Sydenham. Phone 1608

Town Office—227 CASHIEL ST.
Telephone 812