

The Church in New Zealand

THE CHURCH IN TARANAKI: A SKETCH PREPARED FOR THE JUBILEE OF THE PARISH OF HAWERA.

(Continued from last week.)

With the coming of peace Father Rolland was free to turn to a long-cherished project. Men may smile at his ambition to establish a monastery at Koru, but he did establish it and it did excellent work while it lasted. He built several houses, or, were they only huts? Many of the disbanded soldiers joined this new Father-Abbot; some of them turning their swords into ploughshares, tilled the land after the manner of the monks of St. Benedict; others would spend their days instructing the boys who were sent there from many parts of the Colony, and all would join in the Vesper hymn as the sun was wooed to rest by the western waves. My old friend, Philip Putnam, Wellington's well-known choirmaster in the 'eighties and early 'nineties of last century, was at Koru. It was there he got his taste for music, and it was there he was charmed into the Church by the Father-Abbot's sweet and reverential

singing of the psalms of David. Father Rolland was a good musician and had a fine tenor voice. Many and many an evening during his visits to Wellington in the early 'nineties would he entertain me with songs grave and gay, patriotic and religious, in French and in English.

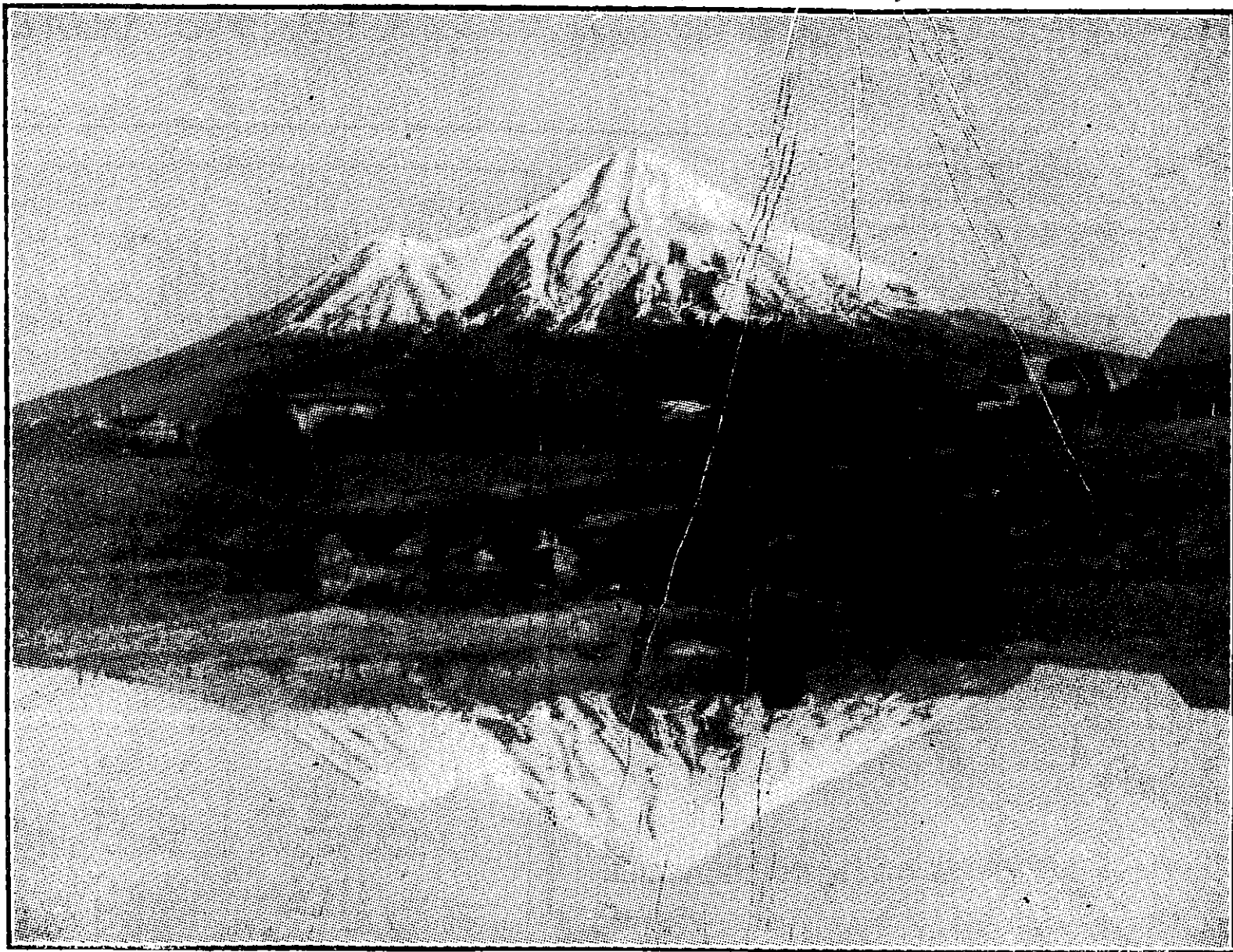
He made two trips to the West Coast of the South Island in quest of funds for his new venture, his place being filled successively by Fathers Binsfeld and Lampila. During the second of these trips news came to him of the death of Bishop Viard (June 2, 1872). The consequent disorganisation during the interval between this and the coming of Bishop Redwood in November, 1874, made the closing of the monastery inevitable. This brought great sorrow to Father Rolland and to his enthusiastic band of volunteers, and who can gauge the blessings of which it has deprived Taranaki? Its memory it is, perhaps, that disheartens those who would now like to see even one school

for boys in this the richest province of the land.

Father Rolland was born at Verdun in 1834, so that he was barely thirty-one years



FATHER CHASTAGNON.
An old-time Missionary in Taranaki.



MOUNT EGMONT, TARANAKI.

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