

## Correspondence

To the Editor, "Progress."

Sir,

In congratulating you upon the fine article on New Zealand Marble appearing in the February number of your interesting and most instructive paper, I would respectfully draw your attention to one glaring inaccuracy which rather detracts from the value of an otherwise admirable and well handled subject,—I refer to the comparison drawn between Iona Marble and the marble from Kairuru, Takaka Hills.

Iona Marble, (as it is termed) is really a rich green serpentine, somewhat similar to, but more beautifully variegated than the Ringborg Green Serpentine, owned and worked by the Nya Marmoribanks Aktiebolaget, Norrköping Sweden, or to the American "Verdi Anteo" Serpentine, but really most like the famous decorative Serpentine termed Green Mexican Onyx. The nearest approach to Iona marble in New Zealand is the Serpentine worked by the Greenstone Coy., near Kumara, on the West Coast, and another point of similarity exists, in that, both Nephryte and Serpentine are found in Iona. There is therefore, not the slightest similarity between Takaka Hills Marble and Iona Green Serpentine, and they come under an entirely different classification.

The Iona variegated Serpentine is entirely used for ornamental and decorative purposes. There is but one quarry in the island of Iona, and it was originally opened by myself only ten years ago, for the late Duke of Argyll, I was afterwards manager at the quarries for the Iona Marble Coy. Ltd., whose present address is, 36 Southampton Street, Strand, London, W.C., and their quarry manager's address is Mr. W. Edgar, The Quarries, Iona, Argyll, Scotland, to whom you may refer for confirmation of my statement. Several of the Wellington architects have seen a sample of Iona Marble, which I brought out direct from Iona Quarries six years ago, and Mr. Charlesworth may still have a small

*(Continued on next page.)*

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