

atmosphere," the pamphlet continues, "there is a purity and lightness of which persons newly landed are quite sensible, producing a buoyancy and elevation of spirits which they never before experienced. All children landed or born here convey to the mind of the physiologist the most satisfactory evidence of the salubrity of the climate. The child of the poor man never knows what it is to want wholesome food." Many of the scenes are so striking or magnificent that they "may indeed be looked upon, but cannot be described."

Under the heading of Natives (not once is the word Maori used) the pamphlet says the country had but recently been adapted to people of agricultural and pastoral pursuits—"Of this there are many evidences, the most wonderful of which is the sudden decrease of the aborigines during the last half-century." The aborigines (or aboriginals, as later they are called) are reported to profess Christianity, "many of them understanding its leading truths, and all of them manifesting the greatest veneration for the Sabbath . . . The settler of the Middle Island has nothing to fear from man, beast, or reptile."

The picture painted by the pamphlet must have been particularly attractive to women. "And ladies," it says, "who are willing to fill the place for which Nature originally intended them, will find unfailing sources of amusement in the dairy, the kitchen, the fruit and flower garden, or, if this fail, in watching tenderly over the young olive plants of a well-filled nursery; for while children are a source of wealth and happiness in Otago, they are not infrequently one of anxiety and fear in Britain." Advice is given to the male emigrant that he "should provide himself with a *really useful* woman for his wife . . ." And, "But ladies are very scarce, and those who are now shooting up to womanhood can always select a good husband out of four or five applicants; for the Statistics of 1856 show that there is a discrepancy in the sexes of five hundred, and the only way of remedying this unfortunate defect is for the parents to give us of their daughters, as the Israelites once did to the tribe of Benjamin . . .", and so on.



*On Lawrence's Main Street.*

A contract organized by the local Government and a firm in the colony enabled emigrants to be landed on the jetty at Dunedin with a cost for the voyage of only £16 for adults and £8 for children. "The Scale of Dietary" (framed on the most liberal principles), as the allowance of rations was called, with its salt beef and pork, biscuit, preserved potatoes and carrots, lime-juice, and a restricted quantity of water, in these days of luxury liners, modern refrigeration, and six-course meals, is interesting rather than attractive.

After the discovery between 1858 and 1861 of small quantities of gold, miners and prospectors began to drift into Otago Central. Gabriel Read's discovery in 1861, and the rich find of Hartley and Reilly the next year swept the drift into a flood that covered the country with men, and some women; a few were practical miners with experience of the Australian and Californian fields, the many had never before seen even the colour of natural gold, but all were eager and determined to make an easy fortune. Inexperience, shortage of food, unaccustomed severity of climate, and tough almost trackless country caused, at first, all but unendurable hardship, widespread suffering, and many deaths. Many returned in despair. But their places were quickly taken; more valuable fields were found; gold poured in.

Gold worth more than £7,000,000 was packed from the district in the four years after 1861. The greatest number of miners on the fields, in 1864, has been estimated at more than fifteen thousand