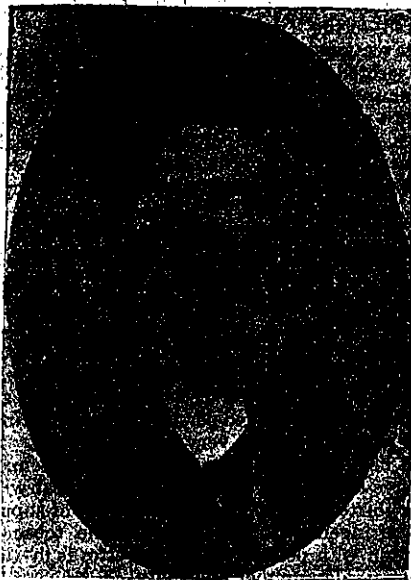


New Zealand Journalism and Journalists.



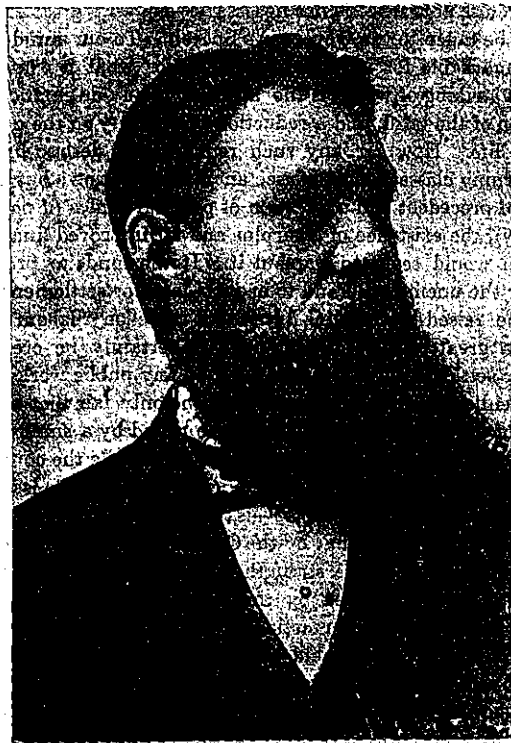
THE FATHER OF NEW ZEALAND JOURNALISM.

Many present-day newspaper men may not remember Richard Wakelin, for thirteen years have rolled by since the King of Terrors took him to the realm where contributors cease from troubling, and (let us hope) poor editors are at rest. Richard Wakelin is generally regarded as "The Father of New Zealand Journalism," and it is appropriate that he should take the first place in this series of sketches.

He was born in Warwickshire, England, 22nd December, 1815, and at the age of eighteen visited America, where he gained much information respecting American institutions. On his return he published the tale of his wanderings in one of the English papers, and soon after was appointed editor of the *Temperance Gazette*, established by George Kenrick, at Birmingham. Mr. Wakelin afterwards started a paper on his own account in the Isle of Man, which obtained a fairly large circulation in England, but in consequence of a Bill being passed imposing postage on papers published in that place, he embarked for New Zealand in the year 1849, and landed in Nelson the same year. After a short stay he proceeded to Wellington, where, after many disappointments, he was engaged to report the proceedings of the Nominee Council for the *Independent*, of which journal he was appointed editor. After five years of newspaper work he purchased a farm in the Wairarapa. His literary tastes, however, were not conducive to successful farming, and in the year 1859 he was appointed editor of the *New Zealand Advertiser*, a new paper just started, which had a successful career for five years under his guidance. He then became editor of the *Wairarapa Mercury*, but his greatest literary success was when he took over that paper some years later (1872) and changed its name to the *Wairarapa Standard*, and wrote with much vigor till a short time before his death in 1881. Mr. Wakelin was generally acknowledged to be "The Father of New Zealand Journalism," although the late Samuel Rivans, Judge Chapman, Dr. Featherston, Sir William Fox, and other public men were contributors to the Press of the colony previous to his arrival, but none of them followed up newspaper work as a profession. Mr. Wakelin was the first to give the name of "Empire City" to Wellington in an article he wrote some time previous to the seat of Government being shifted from Auckland to Wellington. He was almost single-handed in his endeavours to get liberal land laws, and was never

tired of pointing out the advantages of small-farm settlements. His knowledge of the political history of New Zealand was second to none, and he was induced to write a small book called "History and Politics," and a pamphlet on "Small Farms and Small Farm Settlements," which have proved very useful for reference.

G. W. Wakelin, a son of "The Father of New Zealand Journalism," was born in Willis street, Wellington, in 1851, was educated at the Te Aro School and afterwards at Toomath's Grammar school on the Terrace. He was apprenticed to the printing trade in the office of the *Wairarapa Mercury*, the first paper printed in the Wairarapa district, by Messrs Greig Bros., and under the editorship of the late Richard Wakelin. After a varied experience in many offices in the North Island, he took over the management of the *Wairarapa Standard* for his father, and during the latter's illness became editor of that journal. On his father's death he removed to the Manawatu district, and worked on the *Manawatu Standard* as reporter and overseer, and for a time edited the *Patea Evening News*. He came to Wellington in 1885, and for some years worked in the Government printing office, at the same time contributing articles and letters to various papers. His aspirations and natural talents being in a literary direction, in 1889 he applied for and obtained the editorship of the *Pelorus Guardian*, a paper just being started by a company, and which, under his literary guidance for the last four years and a-half, has been a power in the district. Mr. Wakelin during his life in the country watched the progress of settlement, and in consequence wrote with confidence on the land question, besides holding advanced ideas on all social and political questions. [We should like to have reproduced Mr. Wakelin's "counterfeit presentment," but, unfortunately, the photo to hand is not suitable for the purpose.]



THE EDITOR OF THE AUCKLAND STAR.

was born of Scottish parentage in 1850, at Nottingham, where his father was supervisor of Inland Revenue. He was five years at the People's College, Nottingham, and emigrated to