

**THE LATE INSPECTOR THOMSON.**

MONUMENT ERECTED TO HIS MEMORY IN NEW PLYMOUTH CEMETERY.

**T**HERE has recently been erected in the Cemetery at New Plymouth an obelisk to the memory of the late Mr Thomson, Inspector of the Police of Taranaki, who died somewhat suddenly at Patea on March 1st, 1896, whilst on a tour of inspection of the numerous police stations in the district. Inspector Thomson was well known throughout New Zealand. He came to New Zealand in 1863 from Victoria, having spent several years of stirring and active service in the Constabulary of that colony, where he earned the reputation of being a zealous and smart officer. He first, on coming to this colony, joined the police force in Dunedin, and soon made a position for himself, owing to his being able to conduct the whole of the Police Court business. In those days this was often exceptionally heavy, and there being a strong bar practising in Dunedin at the time, it called for



THE LATE MR JOHN BELL THOMSON, Inspector of Police, Taranaki.

no small degree of legal knowledge, acumen, and judicious tact on the part of the prosecuting police officer. When the colonial forces, who were engaged fighting with the Maoris, were demilitarised by the late Sir Donald McLean in 1869, the Armed Constabulary was organised with Commandant Branigan at its head, and Mr Thomson received the commission of Inspector, which was equal in rank to a major in the old colonial force. In 1877 Inspector Thomson was appointed superintendent of the Auckland police force, which position he retained until 1887, when he was removed to Wellington, where he remained till 1892, when he took over the

Taranaki and West Coast district in the North Island. The position of Chief of the Police in any district is one that requires consummate tact, in order to make the duties as little unpleasant as possible, but in Taranaki, owing to its large native population, the duties are more than usually onerous.

Frank, genial, unassuming, unobtrusive, and always affable, Inspector Thomson gained the esteem of everyone who came in contact with him. No more faithful officer ever held a commission, and although he would in no way relay his duty for anyone, yet, when a man had to be arrested, he carried out the necessary provisions of the law in such a nice manner, making the prisoner feel that his unfortunate position was not made more painful to him than was absolutely necessary. To the men in his charge he was kind and considerate. There was no bullying, but they had to do their work when required—and they did it thoroughly, too, knowing full well that Inspector Thomson would not expect them to do anything he would not undertake himself. The respect and esteem in which the deceased officer was held is shown by the erection of the monument to his memory in the New Plymouth cemetery by the members of the Police Force of the colony, nearly everyone of them subscribing. The originating and the carrying out of the idea is due to Mr C. W. Hendry, of the Taranaki Police Department (Clerk of the Taranaki and West Coast district), who has most successfully carried out the project.

The monolith which has been erected over the grave of the deceased gentlemen of a very beautiful addition to the many substantial monuments in the New Plymouth Cemetery. The obelisk, which is twelve feet high, has over its top a heavy fringed and tasselled drapery, carved in a veined Sicilian marble, and stands on a mounted base, and die, which is four feet square, on three sides of which are inscriptions. On the front:

'In most loving remembrance of  
**JOHN BELL THOMSON.**  
who departed this life on 1st March, 1896.  
Aged 60 years.'

On one side:—

'Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for his end is peace.'

On the other side:—

'This monument has been erected by the officers and members of the police force in affectionate remembrance of a good officer.'

The grave is enclosed with an ornamental curb and a handsome iron railing. The whole work has been carried out in a most satisfactory manner by Mr W. F. Brooking, statuary and monumental mason, of New Plymouth, and I have no doubt that many of the friends of the deceased gentleman when visiting Taranaki will make a point of going to the cemetery to view the spot where rests the remains of a genial, generous, and kind-hearted man.

For the photograph of the monument I am indebted to Mr T. P. Lister, of the Police Department, New Plymouth, who took the negative himself, and the portrait of the late Inspector Thomson has been furnished me by Mr C. W. Hendry.

W. H. J. SEFFERN.

**THE ORIGINAL 'CHERRY RIPE.'**

MARRIAGE OF MILLAIS' MODEL.

**NOTE** was made recently of the marriage of Miss Edie Ramage, an English girl who, as a child, posed for the artist Millais, and who was the original of his famous picture, 'Cherry Ripe.' There was a children's fancy dress ball given by the manager of the *Graphic*, and the belle of the party was generally considered to be Edie, the tiny daughter of Mrs Ramage, who had so successfully arranged her costume after the picture of 'Penelope Boothby,' by Sir Joshua Reynolds, doubtless inheriting her artistic taste from her father, the well-known artist, George H. Thomas. Edie was taken the next morning to Sir Everett's studio, with the result that all the world knows. The original price of the picture was £1,000, and the present possessor would, doubtless, require £10,000 or more, even if he would part with it at all. It has been admirably engraved by Cousins, and also reproduced in colour as a supplement to the *Graphic* Christmas number for 1880. It is no exaggeration to say that never has the sweet, simple face of a child met with such world-wide sympathy and admiration. The reproduction of the picture was at that time a feat of colour printing, and being executed entirely by British printers, gave an extraordinary impetus to an important industry. Over 600,000 copies were issued, and if by any means it had been possible to produce them in sufficient quantity at the time, the number would have reached a million. The publisher had to return in cash several thousands of pounds for copies he could not deliver, and sustain actions at law for damages for non-delivery. Miss Edie Ramage married a Spanish gentleman named Francisco de Paulo Ossorio.

**PERFUMES.**

THE MOST AGREEABLE NOT THE MOST HELPFUL TO NERVES.

**THE** perfumes which are most agreeable to the senses are not always the most helpful to the nerves. Ambergris, for instance, is positively offensive to many, yet it is said to possess a wonderful power of clearing the brain and driving away those evil spirits known as the 'blues.' On the other hand attar of roses, with the suggestion of glowing suns and gorgeous eastern colour, predisposes one to tears. A faint odour of musk acts as a tonic, while civet brings drowsiness of soul, for which the best antidote is the pungent odour of sandal wood. The fragrance of citron and sassafras is as soothing to nervous people as far-off music.

Many perfumes, delightful in the open air, become particularly disagreeable in a close room. A whole evening can be spoiled by the presence of tuberose or lilies in a reception-room. Their strong fragrance has a very bad effect. Magnolia blossoms, too, have a delightful perfume in their native grove, but woe to her who sleeps through the night with a single blossom on her pillow. There are many fragrant flowers, such as carnations, clove pink, sweetbriar and apple blossoms, that are as beneficial as they are sweet-scented.

A vivid perfume is nearly always bracing, while a subtle one is generally enervating. One may become positively intoxicated through inhaling the odour of the peach, almond, wild cherry, and other blossoms of the same class, because they all contain a suggestion of prussic acid.



COLONEL POLK-PENTON, Commandant N.Z. Forces.



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