

NEW ZEALAND GRAPHIC CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

POST BY THE OUTGOING ENGLISH MAIL

(Leaving on Saturday Next, the 30th).

A SPLENDID ISSUE.

PICTORIAL MAP.

In announcing the publication of the Christmas Number of the 'New Zealand Graphic,' there is no necessity to do more than simply draw public attention to the fact that this now deservedly famous annual can now be procured.

The public are excellent judges of a good thing and of its worth, so that the very obvious excellencies and artistic merits of the Christmas Graphic are certainly not likely to escape attention or to fail to command admiration.

In point of artistic merit, in point of printing, in point of paper, and indeed in all the details which tend to the production of perfection, the number now under review excels. We shall therefore make no attempt to extravagantly praise the various fine pictures, but merely mention a few of the subjects believing, as we do, that the quantity and quality of the work are eloquent enough in their own cause without the questionable assistance of puffery.

The whole-page engravings and half-tones which have been made a feature in the number this year comprise a series by Mr Kenneth Watkins on the Forest Kings of New Zealand.

No artist in this colony does the native bush such justice as Mr Watkins—he seems to catch the very spirit of the forest and its mighty denizens. The principal picture shows the felling of a giant kauri, while another and rather smaller picture represents the really stupendous spectacle of a 'fall' on one of the bush rivers after a winter flood when the logs are tearing down to the sea.

Those who know the grandeur of the sight when the logs fall in thundering confusion over some roaring bush cataract will easily imagine that so clever an artist as Mr Watkins has produced therefrom a spirited drawing.

Trout Fishing is dealt with in a large picture by Mr Bob Hawcrige, who is also responsible for the engraving in a New Zealand Orchard, which will, we think, perhaps be the favourite plate in the number. It is the fruit season, and a winsome lassie of sweet sixteen is standing on a ladder placed against a well-laden tree, plucking the fruit and laughing down at the inevitable youthful adorer, who stands gazing up at her while a very characteristic specimen of the New Zealand younger sister looks on sympathetically.

Mr Walter Wright, whose lengthy visit to the European Art Schools has so noticeably affected his work, illustrates a brightly written article on 'Life and Luck on the Gumfields,' and that famous explorer and guide, Malcolm Ross, contributes

RAMBLES ON THE REMARKABLES, in which he clearly shows that he

has lost none of his charm as a writer and none of his power of producing lovely photographs of Alpine scenery.

'The First Hoisting of the British Flag at Akaroa' furnishes Kenneth Watkins with a subject such as his soul loves, and such as he does to perfection. His fine full-page picture showing this ceremony, the Maoris squatting round, and the marines firing the salute, which is answered from ships seen in the bay, is supplemented by a series of photographs of historic interest.

Pay Day at the Waihi Mine and the Tairua Gorge are dealt with in large pictures by Mr Kerry, who has made his name in pictures of this class.

As we have said, it is not our intention to mention or describe every picture, and the beauties of the

'SOURCE OF THE AVON—A NEW ZEALAND VINEYARD,'

and the profusion of other fine engravings may be left with confidence to public appreciation.

The letterpress is full, and comprises two prize stories.

'Dr. Branton's Marvellous Operation,' a cleverly imagined and exciting story, by Mr Burford, of Auckland, and

'A BUSH CREMATION.'

A really admirable bush yarn. The dramatic interest and characteristic New Zealand atmosphere of the 'Bush Cremation' will commend itself to all, and it will be generally admitted that two such stories by New Zealand authors have not previously been published.

But the most novel and the most important feature is

THE COLOURED SUPPLEMENT.

In this the proprietors have struck out an entirely new line. A

LARGE PICTORIAL MAP,

beautifully executed, printed in several colours, and covered with numerous picturettes showing the scenic beauty or natural resources of the district or country. It shows at a glance what are the characteristics of each particular portion of the colony, and it will unquestionably do more to clear away the ignorance of New Zealand which prevails to so large an extent amongst our friends across the sea than thousands of letters and descriptions would do. Nothing better for sending away to friends can be imagined, and this attraction alone will certainly command for the 'New Zealand Christmas Graphic' a record sale.

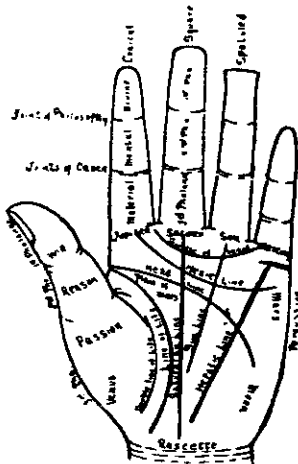
It is well known that Queen Victoria has a great dislike of smoke, so much so that she does not allow smoking in her immediate neighbourhood. And yet the cigar bill for her guests is a very heavy one. The principal item is the thousand of the finest Havana cigars which are specially made for her, and sent to Windsor in glass tubes hermetically sealed. It is said that Queen Victoria's cigars could not be had even in Cuba at wholesale prices under one dollar a piece. The men who make them receive 3 cents for each cigar, and none but the oldest and most skilful workmen are entrusted with their manufacture. At this rate they can earn quite a small fortune, for 200 cigars a day can be turned out by the most expert.

CHIROMANCY

Or the

SCIENCE OF READING HANDS.

THERE has been so much interest taken in the Graphology Column, that it has been decided to start a 'Chiromancy' Column, under the able guidance of Madame Vero. This lady has devoted a great deal of time and thought to this very interesting subject, and has thoroughly studied it in all its branches. Her 'readings' have been extraordinarily successful, and 'The Graphic' is fortunate in securing her services. A sketch of a hand with all its lines is given, as a guide to those wishing their hands to be read. No one has all the lines indicated on the specimen hand, but some few of them will be found on each hand. The following suggestions will help in drawing the hand:—



Lay your hand, palm downwards, on a piece of clean white paper, the fingers as far apart as they will comfortably go. Then with a pencil trace all round it. Next hold it up against the window, and reverse it so that it will appear with the palm uppermost, as in the sketch. Then ink it carefully all round, taking pains to have the fingers the exact length. In the first sketch indicate the joints as you come to them by dots; this makes it much easier to get the correct distances when filling in the lines. Draw all the lines you see, as far as possible at correct distances from each other. Put no names in. Then send your hand with 24 penny stamps, to

MADAME VERO,

Care of the Lady Editor, "New Zealand Graphic," Auckland.

CHERRY RIPE.—Your hand is a most interesting one, but it is also very complicated. I have been studying your diagrams carefully, yet I am doubtful whether I can unravel the tangled skein of lines, nor am I confident which is the predominant mount. I think you are a subject of Apollo, and if so, inventive, imitative, quick in temper, and somewhat incapable of close friendship, which endures; yet generous, benevolent, and even devoted, were it not for the inseparable strain of fickleness. Your fingers denote love of excitement, movement, and general activity, independence in thought and action, and realism in preference to imagination. This is contradicted by the head line. The thumb differs much in the two diagrams, but I think your will is fairly strong. The life line in the left hand indicates two illnesses, before 25, of a serious nature—the first about twelve, the second ten or twelve years later. Soon after the latter there are signs of increased wealth and prosperity, and the line denotes a long life, but not a strong old age. The heart line or lines (for there are distinctly two in the left hand) are most difficult to understand. I infer that you possess warm affections, but that in youth you are fickle and capricious. You have many attractions for the opposite sex, and several admirers. I think there is a broken engagement, of which pride is the cause, but this is not marked in both hands. There is another and much more lasting attach-

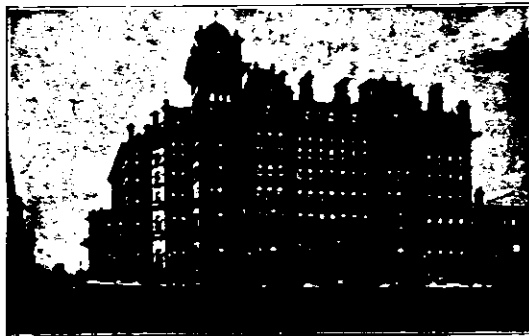
ment, which commences about 25, perhaps younger, and there is no love affair marked in your drawings after that. I am afraid that I cannot predict that all will run smoothly then; and the course of true love seldom does; and the signs of caprice disappear as time advances; but there is trouble connected with this last deep affection, although of what nature I cannot tell, neither can I fix any date for marriage, as the line is absent. Some very dark person—a gentleman, I presume—has a great influence in your life. There is no line to signify interference, and you are not of a jealous disposition. You have to contend with three if not four enemies, of which sex I am unable to discover. The head line betokens a vivid imagination, especially in youth. You must beware lest it mislead you, as with such a heart line as yours its influence must be powerful. The fate line rises well, shows a change in position for the better at 28, or thereabouts, and another between 35 and 40. I am not sure if the latter be so advantageous as the former. Rising high on to the Mount of Jupiter, this line displays lofty ambition, but I am doubtful if it be fully gratified. Again, there is an indication of an unfortunate and misplaced attachment which causes unhappiness and is a bar to success; but remember this is not confirmed in both hands. There may only be a fear of such unhappiness. Three voyages are marked two long and one short, with some danger attendant on one of them, or from water in some way. I think you possess dramatic talent and very acute sensibilities. VERO.

MOPSY.—You have made my task an easy one, your diagram is so clear, and with few exceptions remarkably fortunate. No mount appears to be distinctly predominant, and the harmony of the faculties is shown by the equal division of the spaces. You are honourable, sociable, and cheerful, equable in temper and a lover of order and method. Not only are you reasonable and logical, but you like to have a practical reason for both motives and actions. You analyse a subject thoroughly before you form your opinions, yet you are decisive and independent, and although sufficiently imaginative, not any too ready to trust and place confidence in untried theories. I draw these inferences from the shape of the fingers and thumb, which, as I think you understand something of my favourite study, you will easily comprehend. The life line is strong and good. The upper angle is perfect in proportion, and as such, says Ed. Allen, indicates nobility of disposition. You lost some near relative, not a parent, at or about the age of 10, and at or near 25 you had an illness of some severity. Between 45 and 50 a lawsuit appears to cause you annoyance, but an access of wealth will follow it, and prosperity and advancement late in life are also predicted in your hand. The life line extends to a great age. The heart line displays exceedingly strong and self-sacrificing affection. Your love is faithful, tender, and true; and, but for one slight and youthful disappointment, I think it is fortunate. Apparently you are to be twice married, as there are two distinct crosses on the Mount of Jupiter and two marriage lines. The first marks the age on the fate line, soon after 20; the second union is after 30, and further than that I cannot tell the date. The head line confirms the indications of constancy, decision, and high intelligence shown in other parts of the hand, but its commencement betokens that you are deficient in self-confidence. The fate line rising from the Plain of Mars denotes that your success in life will not be attained without effort on your own part. There are two important changes of position or residence before 20. Soon after that age a fresh and auspicious influence appears in your life, and your path, from the diagram, continues smooth until 45, when there is another change, and yet another at 50; after which, with the exception of one trouble, your life seems peaceful and happy to an advanced age. The triangle below the little finger gives skill in politics. The branch from the line of life to the Mount of the Moon shows a tendency to rheumatism, according to some authors, and I have seen this confirmed. Others consider it to signify 'much travelling.' No enemy lines are visible, and there are not any decided indications of legacies. VERO.

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