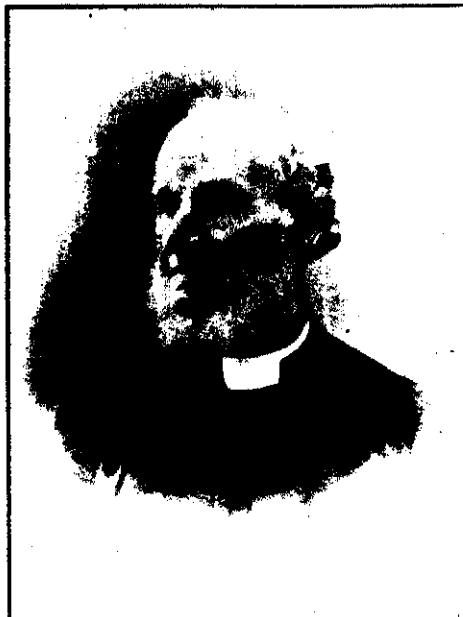


## OBITUARY.

THE death, on June 28th, at Dunedin, of the Rev. John Albert Fenton, M.A., late Archdeacon in the Dunedin diocese, removes one of the early workers in the Anglican Church in New Zealand. The venerable Archdeacon Fenton was born in Sheffield in 1821 and was a cousin of the late Judge Fenton, of Auckland, their grandfather being Colonel Francis Fenton, of an old Yorkshire family. The Archdeacon took his degree at Christ Church College, Cambridge. In 1844 he was ordained to the Curacy of Norton, Sheffield, and in 1851 he came out to Lyttelton as chaplain of the "Bangalore." When the settlers in Otago asked Bishop Selwyn for a Church of England clergyman the Bishop offered the charge to Mr Fenton, who landed at Fort Chalmers on January 1st, 1852, and worked, single-handed, as the first Anglican clergyman of what is now the diocese of Otago. At times its wide extent caused great inconvenience, as for instance on one occasion when Bishop Selwyn arrived unexpectedly, and wished to hold a confirmation. This was impossible, as the first knowledge Mr Fenton had of the Bishop's arrival was when he met him in the church already robed, and it would have taken days to communicate with his parishioners interested in the confirmation. In 1858 Mr Fenton intimated his intention of resigning on account of failing health, but refused a proposed presentation from his congregation, advising them to devote all their energies to providing his successor with a parsonage in a more central position. Mr Fenton removed to Waikouaiti, where he opened a church which had been built solely at the cost of Mr John Jones. He returned to England to act as Commissary there for Bishop Harper. He tried various health resorts in the futile endeavour to regain sufficient of his lost strength to enable him to again take a parish, coming back to Otago in 1880. He lived for a few years in Oamaru, Bishop Nevill appointing him Archdeacon. He later returned to Dunedin and was of great



THE LATE REV. JOHN ALBERT FENTON, M.A.

assistance to the Bishop by his clear judgment, vigorous intellect and unswerving devotion and loyalty to the Church. He has also been of service in the Diocesan Synod and the Standing Committee.

The Archdeacon married Miss Mary Lister, of Greenhill Hall, Norton, who came out to New Zealand to him, and who proved a most devoted helpmeet. She is left to mourn his loss. There were six children. One boy died in infancy, one son is a civil engineer in the Government service in Western Australia; another son, a B.A. of Dunedin University, is on the staff of the New Zealand Grand Lodge of Free-

masons, Christchurch. Of the three daughters, two are dead, and the surviving one—Mrs W. Rattray—lives in Auckland. The Archdeacon was a polished scholar and published sermons, lectures, tracts, etc., some of which have had a very wide circulation in England. Many of his hymns were greatly liked. The following are the last lines he wrote:—

### A PRAYER.

O, God and Saviour, who dost scan  
With faultless eye each fault of man,  
Yet to Thyself, thus knowing all,  
Dost tenderly the vilest call:  
Help me Thy promise to believe,  
And life and love and heaven receive.

### FIRST TEMPORARY ANGLICAN PARSONAGE, DUNEDIN.

The illustration represents the building used as a temporary parsonage by the first Anglican clergyman in Otago, then the Rev. J. A. Fenton, M. A. When the new parsonage was built, close to St. Paul's Church, the old house was pulled down and buildings erected which are now the boarding house for boys attending the Dunedin High School, ten acres being occupied as domiciles and playgrounds. During the residence of the late Archdeacon three bishops stayed in the small parsonage—Bishop George Selwyn, Bishop Patteson, and Bishop Harper (late Primate of New Zealand). The site is now covered by the boarding-house of the Boy's High School and is surrounded by buildings.

Death is still reducing the ranks of the old settlers in New Plymouth, three passing away within a week. Mrs Mary Collins, relict of the late Capt. Collins, quarter-master of the N.Z. forces, and formerly of the 57th Regiment, died on Tuesday, June 21st, at the age of 75 years. The deceased lady arrived with her husband and family in 1860, and has resided in New Plymouth ever since. The late Capt. Collins served in East Indies and Ionian Island, and when the Crimean War broke out went with his regiment there, acting as quarter-master. He was present at Balaklava, Inkerman, Sebastopol, and was at the capture of Kimburn. In 1864 having retired from the Imperial Service he was appointed quarter-master of the colonial forces, and was serving at Tauranga, where fighting was going on, when he died, November 13th, 1869. Mrs Collins leaves three children and several grandchildren to mourn their loss, the family consisting of Mr R. J. Collins, accountant of the Treasury; Mrs J. R. Hackett, of Wellington, and Miss Ellen Collins. The late Mrs Collins was of a kindly disposition, and was greatly esteemed in the circle in which she moved. She did not have a very long illness, but lived to see her son and married daughter, who were summoned from Wellington, dying about ten minutes after their arrival in New Plymouth.

Miss Lucinda Grey died at her resi-



TEMPORARY ANGLICAN PARSONAGE, USED BY THE LATE J. A. FENTON, M.A., FIRST ANGLICAN CLERGYMAN OF DUNEDIN.