

ance Office that he is manager of here, and leaves for home next month. Mr Sidey will take with him the good wishes of all who know him in Napier, and although we regret losing them, we join in wishing him and Mrs Sidey every success in their new home, also in the good promotion he has received. We know well we cannot retain them. Mr Sidey we looked on as a Napier boy. Although not born here, he came a mere lad many years ago from Scotland with his father, and has been closely associated with us always.

Mrs Warren is not much better; her sister, Miss Leslie Thomson, is still with her.

The annual meeting of the Press Association was held here a week ago, when all the leading papers of New Zealand were represented. Amongst those in town during the day I noticed Mr Henry Brett, Mr Blundell (of Wellington), Mr Wilson (of Auckland), Mr Jago (Dunedin), Mr Carson (Wanganui). Most of the press representatives were present at the Bowling Green, Mr Henry Brett (Auckland) and Mr Jago (of Dunedin), also Mr Carson (of Wanganui) were playing most of the afternoon. The Hon. Mitchellson was on the ground part of the afternoon. Amongst the ladies were Miss Amy Brett (Auckland), Miss Blundell (Wellington), Mrs Wilson (Auckland), and many Napier ladies.

The gardens round our Napier Hills are quite picturesque at present, Mrs J. H. Coleman's, Mrs E. W. Knowles, and Mrs John Close's. The latter has had many improvements during the last year, and there is such a splendid view from her place that the garden shows round the hill and plainly from the Marine Parade. The terraced part is very pretty. We hope to see Mrs Close exhibit at the coming Show. No persuasion hitherto has made her do so, but with such a charming garden she should, and I think people should get a chance of seeing what choice flowers are in Napier. Mr Coleman's gardener exhibits at most shows. It is quite a treat to see the fine collection. We are looking forward to the Show at the end of the week, so now till next time, Bee, good-bye.

JACK.

LOOKING BACKWARD.

How hushed, how calm, and how serenely still;

Oppressive silence hangeth over all—
A time when evil spirits work their will,
And ghost and goblin haunt th' ancestral hall.

Weird fancy soon o'erpowered my eerie brain,
And stopped my senses, made me willing slave;
Changed all things present, wove a subtle chain
(Of old time memories, and youth once more me gave).

I played as child again in boyhood's home,
At cricket, leapfrog, ball and prisoner's base;
Again through woody dells I far did roam,
And strove to vanquish all in game or race.

But fancy played me false, the scene was changed;
Now far from childhood's haunts I next am placed;
In life's fierce battle I a part have ta'en,
In turn left joy, ambition, love and pain.

An angel, in a human form, didst weave
A charm as strong as iron round my heart,
But could I from th' thralldom find relieve,
'Twould prove not freedom's sweet, but bitter part.

In fancy we do sit and muse awhile—
Forgetful of the world and all things base;
With love's young dream we quickly time beguile,
And think ourselves the gayest of our race.

What castles in the air we proudly raise,
(And dwell therein, secure from worldly care.)
O'erlook each other's faults, extol their praise,
And sure of love, we anything would dare.

Love on fond hearts while tide and time roll by,
The world for thee holds nothing half so sweet
As true love's pure communings. Ah, e'en on high,
'Tis love that maketh heaven, and paves the street

With gold. Love on, be steadfast, trusting, true:
Drift down life's stream of life, and then at last
When God shall call you hence, your hearts at rest
So loving here, shall meet when earth has passed,
Shall sing together on that heaven'y shore,
'In love we meet, have met to part no more.'

WHEW.U.

Wellington.

COSTLY MERCHANDISE.

MRS DE LACE: 'This paper says that every pound of ivory in market represents a human life.'

Mr De L.: 'That's almost as bad as the whalebone industry.'

Mrs De L.: 'Is whale fishing so very dangerous?'

Mr De L.: 'No, that is safe enough; but think of the women the whalebones kill.'

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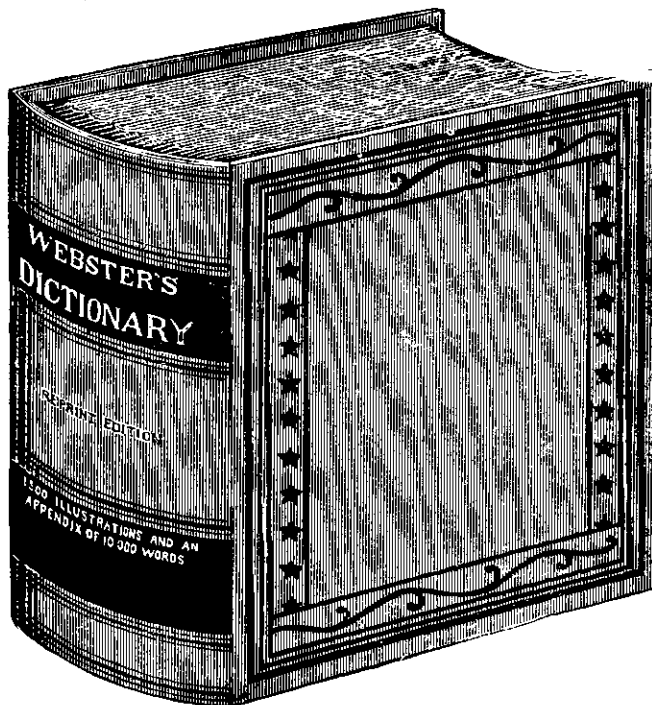
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