

the season again opens he comes back to his old quarters. Where he gets to in the interim no one knows, but it has been remarked that, while he goes away lean and scraggy, he returns fat and plump.

One theory is that he reposes on the bosom of the deep, and makes his home on the ocean wave. That theory, however, is discarded by many whose opinions on the point are worthy of respect. Amongst others I would name Captain John Fairchild, of the Hinemoa, who is not only a keen observer, but who has enjoyed favourable opportunities for making observations. His contention is that they make their way to the great lone land of the south a land which still lies beyond human ken. That land, the worthy skipper contends, will yet be found; and, arguing from hypothesis, he thinks it not improbable that some of the mysteries of the deep will then be cleared up. Vessels wholly unaccounted for may have been driven on to these desolate shores, and even at the present moment the unhappy sufferers may be experiencing all the rigors of the shipwrecked mariner on a desolate shore.

In getting to and from his summer quarters the penguin proves himself a navigator of no mean degree. Observations made on these points suggest the conclusion that when they make their sea-voyages each colony or contingent forms itself into a breastwork miles and miles in length, and that whenever one catches sight of the land they are in quest of he passes the word along the line, and they all double up round the island. That information may not be strictly correct; still, in the absence of anything more reliable, we cannot do better than accept it.

WHEN THE PENGUIN TAKES TO THE WATER

he parcels himself up into a neat, sharp, diving attitude, and takes a header over the kelp, making as pretty a sweep or gyration through the surf as could well be imagined. They then go leaping and diving through the water porpoise fashion, but their movements and motions are infinitely more sharp and agile than those of that clumsy brute.

We noticed both at the Snares and at the Antipodes that a section of the colony was always in the water, either for sport, prey, or sanitary purposes, and we concluded from that that this indulgence or relaxation was accorded to each section in its turn.

It is said that if you carry away a penguin to the utmost ends of the earth, and then liberate him, he will make good his way back to the colony from whence he came. In part corroboration of that doctrine, a Snares Island penguin was liberated off Waipapa Point, south New Zealand. After floundering about for a few minutes, as if sniffing up his bearings, he immediately shaped away for the southeast, and, as far as we could see him, he was making a straight course for the Snares, not by the way we had brought him, but in a direct line.

In his billing and cooing moments he strokes down the back hair of his partner with his beak; but, as his nature is for the most part belligerent, the fighting attitude is the one most congenial to him.

ANTIPODES ISLANDS GOODS DEPOT

is situated on a high neck of land, having a fine frontage seaward. We climbed up to the depot, and, after examination, everything was pronounced correct.

On the brow of an adjoining hill two head of cattle, liberated two years ago, were seen. The pair originally liberated were a bull and a cow. The latter, after giving birth to a calf, got killed by falling over the cliff, and its skeleton is still to be seen on the ledge below. The bull is said to be a very fierce fellow, and he looked it. We only saw him at a distance, but, as it was not the distance that lends enchantment to the view, discretion became the better part of valour, and we did not seek his close acquaintanceship.

Like the Snares, the Antipodes will never become a place of great commercial value. A stray Mongolian may some day find space for a kitchen garden; but the Mongolian will have to look a long way ahead before he sees a market for the produce.

The time may come, and probably may not be far distant, when

THESE ISLANDS WILL BECOME OF IMPORTANCE FOR DEFENCE PURPOSES.

Under a judicious system of federation and federal administration both Auckland and Campbell Islands would be valuable as naval stations for the intercolonial defence of Australian and New Zealand waters. Ships of war of any build or burden could run in and out of the magnificent harbours with which they are provided without much regard to either wind or weather, and, from their situation, scour the southern ocean, in defence of each and all of the federated powers.

With a fleet such as Carnley Harbour could accommodate, and still have room to spare, no foreign foe would be at all safe in the attempt to make his descent on these waters. He would be caught in the act, and have the point disputed with him before he could make either Australian or New Zealand harbours. The costly defence-works constructed at those harbours could then be to a great extent dispensed with, and the danger of their invasion dealt with at a distance.

In that view of the question, however, the Antipodes Islands cannot participate. They have

NO HARBOURS, LITTLE OR NO SOIL, VERY LITTLE EXTENT OF COUNTRY, AND ABSOLUTELY NO HISTORY.

The best thing, therefore, to be done is to get well away from them. Pursuing that course to its practical application, after a few hours' detention, the Hinemoa cleared out for the Bounty, coming up to them at daylight in the morning.

NOTE.—In the second column of this article some of the edition was printed with two lines transposed. The first and second lines of column two should read as the third and fourth.

MUSICAL PROFESSION.

Mr ERNEST WOOD, Organist and Director of the Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne, and Conductor of the Royal and Metropolitan Liedertafel, trains youths as Musicians. Exceptional Advantages.—Daily Cathedral Service. Magnificent Four Manual Organ by Lewis of London. Students receive LESSONS on the Organ, Choir Training, Pianoforte and Theory.—For further particulars, address ORGANIST, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, MELBOURNE.

AUCKLAND PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

SPECIAL MEETING

AT

POTTER'S PADDOCK,

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:

- TRIAL OF SHEEP DOGS, 1.30 P.M.
PONY JUMPING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS, 2.30 p.m. Under 15. Ponies under 14, 2.
HUNTING COMPETITION FOR LADIES, 3 P.M.
POLO MATCH,
AUCKLAND V. KIHIKIHI,
3.30 P.M.
SHEEP-SHEARING MATCH,
HUNTING COMPETITION FOR GENTLEMEN (AMATEURS), 4.30 P.M.
HEAVY-WEIGHT HUNTING COMPETITION, 5 P.M.
LEAPING MATCH, 5.30 P.M.
LADIES' DRIVING COMPETITION, 6 P.M.

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RETURN FARES:

Table with columns: To, 1st Class, 2nd Class. Rows include NGARAWAHIA, HA MILTON WEST, OHAUPO, TE AWAMUTU, CAMBRIDGE, MORRINSVILLE, TE AROHA, OKOHOE, TARGAKA (for Rotorua).

The journey must be commenced on the day of issue, and may be broken at any stopping place after traveling 20 miles from the issuing station.

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