

able donor of that magnificent property. There was a great gathering, and everything passed off with eclat, thanks to the excellent arrangements made by the Executive Committee, and especially the Hon. E. Mitchelson, chairman, and Mr. W. R. Holmes, secretary. After a speech by Mr. Mitchelson, His Excellency the Governor, Lord Plunket, paid a very graceful tribute to Sir John's princely generosity. The "father of Auckland" was received with great enthusiasm when he rose, and during his speech he was visibly affected. He said: "I uncover to the people of New Zealand, under the statue which they have this day raised to the donor of Cornwall Park. I thank you for this grateful tribute, and your trustees have endeavoured to make the ante park worthy the reception of your great memorial. I ask you to rejoice with me that it has been my good fortune to save from the inevitable encroachment of the future great city destined to arise on this plain, the most historic ground of all Maori-land, which will be handed down to posterity as a lasting memorial of the great aboriginal people whose country we now occupy. (Applause.) Here, where we are now assembled, once dwelt in thousands the native Maori of the land, a great, warlike and chivalrous race, who challenged us in intellectual capacity, and whose reasoning powers commanded our respect and admiration. Here the great chiefs held high council, arbiters of peace and war. Here let me say, that I consider we have a great duty to perform, the raising to the memory of this native people, a commanding obelisk on One Tree Hill, which shall be a memorial of the Maori race for all time. (Applause.) Now about ourselves and the great future which has been predicted of this the glorious land of our adoption, and our great inheritance? Away back in the early forties there was written a wonderful account of this country by a great German savant, Carl Ritter, who was entitled the "Creator of scientific geography," a man with the far-seeing mind of a great statesman, who told the world that these islands would become the Albion of the South Seas, where Great Britain's poor would find a land of plenty, that it lay in the latitudes which secured a genial climate, that it had down its coast many magnificent harbours, wonderful estuaries piercing inland, and a shore-line of thousands of miles, the cradle for the sailors of a future great maritime people, without which no country can become a truly powerful nation. He told of our ever-flowing rivers watering fertile plains, and that it had mountains sublime in their solitary grandeur; to dwell under their shadow and look upon them elevated the mind and ennobled the character.

"My stars are the mountains and the ocean. Earth, my stars; all that spring from the great whole Who hath produced, and will receive the soul."

Now listen to Carl Ritter's wonderful prediction, "New Zealand, before all other countries, is destined to be a mother of civilised nations." Do you grasp the magnitude of this great prediction, this little strip of territory of ours, which looks like a scratch on the face of the map of the world, lying away in the antipodean waters of the South Pacific, is destined to become a mother of civilised nations. And what does Froude, the great modern historian, after visiting us, predict? "If it lies written in the book of destiny that the English nation has still within it great men who will take a place among the demigods, I can well believe that it will be in the unexhausted soil and spiritual capabilities of New Zealand that the English poets, artists, philosophers, statesmen, soldiers of the future will be born and nurtured—the greatest nation in the Pacific." Since the Carl Ritter prediction was given forth, little more than half a century has elapsed, we have reclaimed the wilderness, and we now send the products of our fertile soil to the ports of the world; we have made formidable strides in liberal legislation, recognised and copied by other countries, and we already claim to have fulfilled the prediction. New Zealand has conceived and brought forth a civilised nation, and we are her first-born. These are great results to have achieved, but we must not forget that we are the children of a land bountifully supplied by lavish na-

ture, and we must take heed that we do not allow the luxuries by which we are surrounded to sap our true manliness of character. Look to it that you can shoulder and well use your rifle. The day of danger may come when the summoning bugle enrolls you in martial array, and standing side by side and raising rifles high in air, we may have to shout the Marmion call—(applause)—

"Where's the coward who would not dare To fight for such a land?"

Your Excellency, you have been graciously pleased to preside over to-day's ceremony and honour it with your presence, a compliment fully appreciated by all present. I have to thank you for the eulogistic terms in which you have spoken of me with regard to Cornwall Park. It appeared to me only fitting, that I should share with my fellow-colonists my good fortune, and make the gift which much enriches them and does not make me poor. (Applause.) Mr. Mitchelson, need I say how gratifying it is to me that I should be addressing so old a friend, who dates back his recollection of me to his earliest years. That it was you, as Mayor of your native city, who presided at the opening of Cornwall Park. On that day you asked your fellow-colonists then assembled to erect a statue to the donor. That appeal has resulted in today's proceedings. The statue has been erected, and I stand under its shadow with feelings of deepest gratitude, in much wonder that in the vicissitudes of life it should have fallen to my lot to be so greatly honoured, and breathing the words of Child Harold:

"Would I were worthier, I extend to you the hand of old friendship." (Applause.)

Your Worship, the Mayor, I greet you to-day as a brother worker for the welfare of our people. The action taken by you in securing to the citizens of Auckland Victoria Park, and the liberal manner in which it is to be hereafter dealt with will be gratefully remembered, is not the least of the many administrative successes of your Mayoralty. As a chronicler of events pertaining to the early history of New Zealand and its pioneers, I have to travel back over forty years. In 1864 there strode forth from his native village and home in the Mother Country a youth single-handed and alone to face the world, seek his fortune, and fight the battle of life. That youth's name and fame are known throughout the civilised world as the Premier of New Zealand. When the history of the colony comes to be written it will be recorded that in his own day he brought this great land of ours to hold a position in the world as the young nation of New Zealand. (Applause.) My friends, it is now a long look back to the dyas when I first trod the fern footpaths of the Tamaki Plain, when in possession of the native owners of the soil, before the advent of the Government. Great indeed are the changes since that day, and my life has been so prolonged that I have lived to see the birth of a fourth generation. I have lived to see your children playing by thousands in the green fields and pure air of Cornwall Park, and that has been to me a great happiness and is my reward. Yes, I have lived so long in the land that I well might say, "Now let thy servant depart in peace," and yet I would fain dwell yet a little with you were it given me to be one of the great assemblage destined to congregate here and witness the greatest historical event in the history of New Zealand—the uprearing heavenward from the summit of One Tree Hill a towering obelisk in memoriam to the great Maori race, whose traditions and history can be traced for centuries into past ages. How can I thank you all for your presence here to-day? We are told that "out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh"; but there are events in the course of a life when the fullness of the heart cannot find words. I ask you to believe this of me to-day. (Loud and prolonged applause.)

A stirring speech by the Mayor (Mr Arthur Myers) brought an historic gathering to a close.

The following is the list of people to whom invitations were forwarded to witness the ceremony:—
Mr E. W. Allison, M.H.R., and Mrs Allison, Mr and Mrs G. Aikin, Dr. R. Aikin, Mr and Mrs Alex. Aitkin, Mr and Mrs Arnold, Mr and Mrs T. Budge, Mr and Mrs H. Brett, Mr A. Bell, Mr E. E. Brunne, Mr James Burr, and Mrs L. A. Habelberg, Mr and Mrs E. Bennett, Mr G. W. Basley (Mayor of Darnley), Mr R. C. Brown, Mr L. J. Bagnall, Mr L. Benjamin,

Mr John Burns, Mon., and Madame M. Houtenry, Mr and Mrs A. Hooker, Mr J. M. Brigham, Mr J. Bullard, M.H.R., and Mrs Bullard, Mr C. Bagley.

Mr and Mrs M. A. Clark, Mr Wm. Coleman, Mr J. J. Craig, Mr Hugh Campbell, Mr A. Clark, Mr H. Carr, and Miss Carr, Mr and Mrs J. Court, Mr and Mrs M. Casey.

Mr and Mrs D. W. Dutton, Mr A. E. Devereux, Mr A. J. Douglas, Mr C. C. Deane, Mr and Mrs J. Edson, Mrs Erson, Mr and Mrs A. J. Entrican.

Mr and Mrs T. Finlayson, Mr and Mrs J. Pitt, Mr G. Fowlds, M.H.R., and Mrs Fowlds, Mr John Farrell (Mayor of Grey Lynn) and Mrs Farrell, Mr and Mrs D. Fallon, Miss Florence.

Hon. S. T. George, M.L.C., and Mrs George, Mr and Mrs G. J. Goddard, Mr and Mrs D. Goldie, Mr and Mrs Gibbhan, Mr and Mrs C. Grey, Mr and Mrs A. E. Glover, Mr H. Rees George.

Mr and Mrs H. Horton, Mr and Mrs P. Hansen, Mr and Mrs C. V. Houghton, Mr Edwin Hall, Mr R. Hall, Mr and Mrs W. H. Hume, Mr and Mrs W. H. Hume, Mr and Mrs W. E. Hutchinson, Mrs Harrington, Mr and Mrs R. Hobbs.

Mr and Mrs J. Kirker, Mr A. Kidd, M.H.R., Mr and Mrs J. G. Knight, Mr and Mrs A. Keyes.

Mr and Mrs T. W. Leys, Mr F. Lange, Mr and Mrs G. M. Lason, Mr and Mrs R. Logan, Jun.

Mr and Mrs J. M. Mennie, Mr and Mrs H. B. Morton, Mr W. F. Massey, M.H.R., and Mrs Massey, Mrs L. Myers, son, Mr and Mrs Leo Myers, Hon. E. Massey, and Mrs Mitchellson, Mr and Mrs M. Clark, Mr T. Masfield, Mr and Mrs G. M. Morris, Mr B. Myers, Colonel, and Mrs Morrow, Dr. and Mrs McDowell, Rev. Canon and Mrs MacMurray, Mr J. M. McLachlan.

Bishop and Mrs Nelson, Mr and Mrs A. Nathan, Mr and Mrs Sydney Nathan, Mr John Neatley, Mr and Mrs O. Nicholson, Hon. Sir G. M. O'Rourke, M.L.C.

Mr and Mrs C. J. Parr, Mr and Mrs W. W. Philson, Mr and Mrs A. F. Porter, Mr W. Prickett.

Mr and Mrs J. Reid, Mr and Mrs E. W. Robinson, Mr J. Lewis.

Mr and Mrs W. H. Smith, Mr and Mrs J. M. Shera, Dr. and Mrs E. W. Shurman, Mr and Mrs H. M. Smeeton, Mr and Mrs C. Seeger, Mrs H. L. Somerville, Mr W. Sowers, Capt. Sharp.

Mr and Mrs H. C. Towsley, Mr and Mrs I. Thompson, Mr and Mrs E. Tuleague, Mr and Mrs J. H. Upton, Mr and Mrs S. Valle.

Mr and Mrs W. R. Wilson, Mr John Wolster, Mr and Mrs H. W. Wilson, Misses Williams, and Mrs T. C. Williams.

JUBILEE OF DEVONPORT PARISH.

On May 18, 1856, the first clergyman appointed by Bishop G. A. Selwyn took up his residence at North Shore, and to commemorate this event special jubilee services and meetings of a most interesting character were held in Devonport from May 18 to 25 this year. In 1854 about 15 families were settled in the North Shore, and in the next year these settlers determined to erect a church and a school. There was no State education then, and no board to make grants for education, so the settlers paid 1/ per week for each child's tuition. The Rev. E. H. Heywood undertook the duties of both clergyman and schoolmaster. He held services every Sunday at North Shore, Stoke's Point (that is Northcote) and the Lake, and made his journeys on foot. Mr Heywood was exceedingly popular in all the settlements, and it was his boast that during his whole ministry of eight years he had never been embroiled in a single village trouble or difficulty. The first settlers of the North Shore were Mr T. Hammond, Captain Burgess, Mr F. Duder, Mr T. Alison, Mr Oliver, Mr R. Dunne, Captain Wynyard, Captain Fildes, Mr Alan O'Neill. In 1860 the establishment of the shipbuilding industry on the North Shore brought a considerable increase of householders, and the little building, part of which is still standing at the back of the present vicarage, became crowded both as a church and school, so it was resolved to enlarge the building. To raise part of the money a social tea was held in Beddoes' shed, which stood where now the Devonport ferry slip is. It is interesting to note that about 60 people were brought over from Auckland in the cutter Betsey, and in whaleboats to join the merry party. In 1864 the Bishop removed Mr Heywood to Remuera, and the vacancy was filled by the Rev. T. Kerr. Mr Kerr had been a lieutenant on board H.M.S. Pandora, and in course of voyages in that vessel visited the Melanesian Islands he frequently visited the Church of England mission stations. He was so filled with a desire to evangelise the heathen that on his return to Auckland he resigned his position as lieutenant and offered himself to the Bishop for ordination. Mr Kerr's desire was gratified, he was ordained, and placed on one of the islands where a station had recently been established.

After a year's work his health became so bad from fever and ague that when the Southern Cross visited his station he was found prostrate and helpless, and being carried on board that vessel he was brought to Auckland for medical treatment. When Mr Kerr's health had somewhat recovered he was placed by the Bishop in charge of North Shore. Through his activity and perseverance a new church was built in 1865, and was opened by the Bishop one stormy day in September of that year. It was on that occasion that the first ferry steamer, called the Waitemata, ran between Auckland and the North Shore. The Rev. T. Kerr remained in charge of the parish for two years, during which time he gained great popularity.

In the beginning of 1866 the Rev. B. V. Ashwell was moved to the North Shore. He had been for about 20 years one of the Church Missionary Society's agents in the Lower Waikato and Taupiri. The war of 1864, which originated in Taranaki, spread to the Waikato and stopped all missionary work among the natives there. One of Mr Ashwell's first works in the parish was to raise funds to build a Sunday-school. Up till then, that is for eleven years, the old school building in which so many young men and women had received their education was the only school building in North Shore, but in 1866 the Wesleyan chapel, which occupied the site of the present district school, was purchased by the inhabitants for a day school. Mr Ashwell returned to his missionary labours in the Waikato in 1872, peace again reigning there, and the Rev. T. Bates was appointed by Bishop Cowie to the North Shore. During Mr Bates' incumbency of 25 years the present handsome church was erected in 1881 over the old building. The Sunday-schoolroom was removed to its present site, and the church of 1865 was added to it; while the vicarage was built on the site of the old school. The Rev. S. Havthorne succeeded Canon Bates as vicar in 1898, and the present vicar, the Rev. T. Evershed, was instituted on January 9, 1905. At the jubilee reunion of past and present parishioners the widows of three former vicars, Mrs Heywood, Mrs Ashwell and Mrs Bates, and many old settlers of 50 years' standing, whose portraits may be seen in this number.

THE WARSHIP BALTIMORE.

The United States cruiser Baltimore, which is paying courtesy calls at the principal ports of Australasia, is now in Auckland.

The visitor is a second-class cruiser, and is at present attached to the Asiatic station, with headquarters at Cavite, in Manila Bay, in the Philippines. She has been on that station for upwards of 12 months, and was previously on duty in the Mediterranean station. Her officers and men a few months ago were provided with some amount of excitement during the riots at Shanghai. When the trouble started in December last the Baltimore happened to be at Woosung, on the river immediately below the scene of the riots, and she was ordered to proceed at once to Shanghai. On arrival there marines and soldiers were landed, and they camped on the shore for several weeks. No real difficulty, however, was experienced, but there were disturbing elements, and it was a time when serious complications might have arisen at any moment. As soon as the Baltimore was relieved of this duty in January last she proceeded to Cavite, where she arrived on February 8.

A very prominent part was played by the Baltimore in the historical engagement of Manila Bay, fought on May 1, 1898, and which decided the result of the Spanish-American war. The flagship of Commodore (now Admiral) Dewey on that occasion was the Olympia, and among other vessels composing the fleet were the third-class cruiser Boston, the small cruiser Raleigh, and the gunboats Concord and Petrel. This engagement—the first decisive battle in the war—was fought and won practically without any casualties on the American side, while the fleet of the Spaniards was completely destroyed or captured. The present officers of the Baltimore, however, were not present at that engagement.

After visiting New Zealand ports the Baltimore will proceed to Hobart and Melbourne, and possibly Adelaide and Albany. On her return journey to the Philippines the Baltimore will make calls