

A TRAMP ABROAD.

By AJOR.

NELSON, in so far as a province is concerned, celebrated her sixty-seventh birthday last week. Under the auspices of the New Zealand Land Company, Nelson was actually founded in 1811, or about one year after the Treaty of Waitangi was signed. Colonel Wakefield, brother of Captain Wakefield, one of the victims of the Wairau Massacre, and commander of the first expedition which landed at Port Nicholson in the ship *Tory*, purchased from Te Rauparaha, chief of the Ngatitua, for 300 blankets, 200 muskets, 60 tomahawks, 320 fish-hooks, 100 steel axes, 276 pocket knives, 480 pauldkerchiefs, 144 jew's harps, 36 razors, 24 combs, and 12 sticks of sealing wax, or a total value of £8000, all those lands known as Auckland, Wellington, Taranaki, Hawke's Bay, Nelson and Marlborough.

The second, or Nelson expedition, consisting of three ships, the barques *Whitby*, 437 tons, the *Will Watch*, 216 tons, and the *Arrow*, 250 tons, under command of Captain Arthur Wakefield, arrived during the year 1841, in Blind Bay, and anchored off Astrolab. First choice of settlement was at Kaiterete, near Rowaka, but shortly after, the celebrated Boulder Bank, affording such exceptional harbour protection, appeared so strongly that the present site of Nelson was decided on. Within the following year, 1842, no less than sixty-seven vessels had visited the new port, and Nelson itself numbered over 2000 souls. Before the close of that memorable year 250 good dwelling houses had been built, and the province began to be settled by those hardy pioneer settlers who have made it one of the Dominion's fairest provinces. From this on the progress became steady and sure, so

that three years later we find the population in town and country doubled with nearly 2000 acres under cultivation, and about 10,000 cattle and sheep grazing; whilst flour mills, flax mills, and saw mills were springing up, and quite sixty

Treasurer Mr. Poynton. Soon other things, such as the discovery of mineral wealth, diverted attention from the cultivation of the soil, and company after company was formed to mine the coal beds of Nelson, the copper of the Dun Mountain, and the auriferous deposits of Motueka, Collingwood and other places to which small and insignificant rushes set in, but which, owing to the poorness of the gold, speedily died down. In 1859 Wairau, dissatisfied, claimed and obtained separation from Nelson, and by an Act of the General Assembly, Wairau and Nelson became incorporated under separate provincial councils. But notwithstanding

ommunication has alone lagged in every thing else advances have been made so that the province is now a smiling land of peace, promise and plenty.

Social progress, too, has not been omitted, for it maintains a high standard in its colleges and schools, as witness the continued success of its University examinations. High in reputation have they become throughout the Dominion, many of whose most brilliant scholars owe their promotion in life from here. From a scenic point of view Nelson can hold her own, too. The road skirting its matchless bay to the Glenn, Wakapuaka, or over the Wangamoa to



S.S. PATEENA LEAVING NELSON.

miles of roads joined town to country. Nelson's first representative government saw the light about 1853, in which the Constitution Act was passed. Mr. Travers and Mr. Mackay represented Nelson in the first New Zealand Parliament. The first superintendent of the Provincial Government was Mr. E. W. Stafford, the Speaker Mr. Donald Sinclair, and the

this serious loss. Nelson continued to advance in prosperity, and in 1871 it became a municipality, the first mayor having been Mr. J. R. Dodson. From this our progress has been continuous and steady. The harbour has been constantly improved, roads have been made and maintained, and communication with the back country established. Railway com-

Haveock, Blenheim, or Queen Charlotte Sounds; not forgetting Pelorus; its drives around the "Rocks Road," passing en route the walyves, the new entrance to the port, the Fishery-road, the many charming outlets or bays, laughing and sleeping under the frowning hills of Britannia Heights, which are picked out at all altitudes by the many beautiful homes



F. S. Jones, photo.

TRAFALGAR STREET, SHOWING THE CATHEDRAL IN THE DISTANCE.

NELSON'S ANNIVERSARY: SOME VIEWS OF THIS BEAUTIFUL CITY AND SURROUNDINGS.