

The Selwyn Centenary.

Laying the Foundation Stone of the Patteson Wing.

MEMORIES OF BISHOP SELWYN AND BISHOP PATTESON

THE celebrations last week in connection with the centenary of Bishop Selwyn, which included the laying of the foundation stone of the Patteson memorial wing at St. John's College, Tamaki, Auckland, revive memories of these two famous men. We have collected a number of photographs of pictures many of them unique—dealing with their lives in New Zealand, and gathered records of incidents connected

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eminent lawyer, and at the time of his death in 1855 was Senior Queen's Counsel. When he was seven years old, in 1816, Selwyn was sent to a famous preparatory school at Ealing, which had numbered among its pupils the brothers J. H. and F. W. Newman. Here he acquired two rather unusual accomplishments for a boy of seven—he became a great dancer, and picked up a knowledge, strange and incongruous as it seems, of the Racing Calendar. Although he never himself cared for the sport of horse-racing, yet in later years he used often to astonish his friends by his familiarity with the names and pedigrees of great performers on the Turf. From Ealing he went to Eton, where his career was marked by great proficiency both in scholarship and in athletic sports. His scholarship was unusually exact even for an Eton boy in the days of Keate, and once he was able to correct the doctor himself in a rendering of a line in Horace. He was reckoned one of the best oars in the Boats at Eton, and took part in 1829 in the first inter-university boat-race. Even as a boy he displayed that contempt for softness and luxury which enabled him in later years to endure so many hardships. The story goes that when he came home from school one Easter-tide, he wished to invite a friend to stay with him, the friend being none other than Mr. Gladstone. His mother said it was impossible, that the spring cleaning was going on and guests would be in the way. George rushed upstairs and soon reappeared with a great matter, which he huddled down on the wet boards, saying: "There, now, where's the difficulty?"

Cambridge.

On leaving Eton he entered at St. John's College, Cambridge, at a time when it was necessary for all aspirants for classical honours to first take a place in the mathematical tripos. He had a positive distaste for mathematics, but he managed to secure a place low down in the third class, and later in life was able to turn his mathematical knowledge to account in acquiring a knowledge of navigation. But he more than atoned for any failure in mathematics by gaining the second place in the classical tripos of 1831, being only just beaten by Kennedy whose name afterwards became a household word for exact and ripe scholarship. A Fellowship at St. John's followed in due course, and Selwyn returned to Eton in the capacity of tutor. It was at this time that he acquired that skill in riding

which was afterwards to stand him in such good stead in New Zealand. It will be remembered how he astonished the Maoris at Wellington by riding the worst buck-jumper in the country, and by breaking in a vicious horse called Rona, which no one before had been able to handle. Small wonder was it then that when Sir George Grey brought zebras into New Zealand, and no one was able to ride them, the Maoris suggested that the Bishop should be asked to break them in.

Life in New Zealand.

It was on May 30th, 1842, that Bishop Selwyn landed at Auckland. His first act was to kneel down on the sand and give thanks to God. The Bishop had studied the Maori language on board, and to the delight of the missionaries and the natives he preached in Maori on the first Sunday which he spent in the colony. He established his headquarters at the Waimate, where the Church Missionary Society possessed houses which could receive the whole party. His introduction to Henry Williams, the veteran missionary was characteristic. Williams had been expounding the Bible to his class of Maori youths in the mission-station of Paiaia. Dusk was setting in, and the class was drawing to a close, when three white strangers were dimly discerned dragging a boat along the sand. The dress of the leader assured the missionary that now, at last, he stood in the presence of a new authority and a new order of things. In many tones he welcomed the Bishop of New Zealand. Selwyn was soon seated at the missionary's hospitable



BISHOP CECIL WILSON, D.D.,
The present Bishop of Melanesia.

tutor, too, besides his intellectual work, took part in some of the manifold industries which made the college a very hive of activity—farming, bee-keeping, weaving, shoemaking, printing. At the same time the college was then the cathedral centre of the great diocese. It was par-



FIRM FRIENDS.

Bishop Selwyn and Mr. William Martin, afterwards Sir William Martin, first Chief Justice of New Zealand. This interesting old photograph was lent by Mr. W. H. Churton.

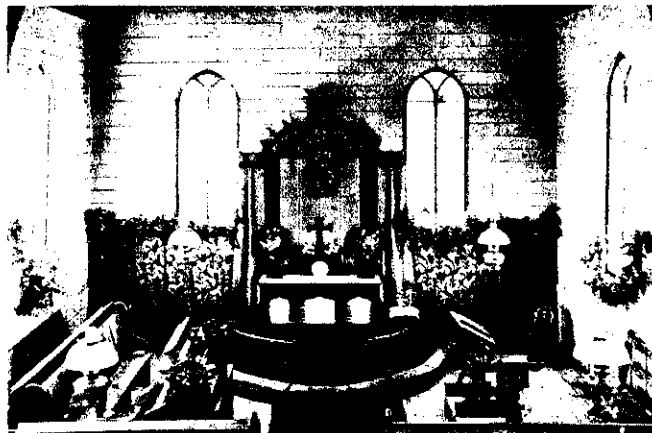
with early church history, which will appeal not only to church people, but to all classes, particularly in the case of Bishop Selwyn, so widely did he make his remarkable influence felt.

BISHOP SELWYN.

THE STORY OF HIS LIFE.

Schooldays.

George Augustus Selwyn was born at Hampstead in 1809. His father was an



THE OLD CHURCH AT RUSSELL,

Which is closely connected with the beginning of church history in New Zealand. It was fortified during Heke's war, and many soldiers and sailors who fell in the fighting lie buried in the little churchyard.

board, and at once charmed the large family, who were gathered round it for their evening meal, by the dignity of his presence, the graciousness of his manner, and the interest of his conversation. From the first he was indefatigable in travelling over his vast diocese, walking through the bush, swimming the rivers, cruising in small boats which he always navigated himself. Whenever he stayed in a settler's house, his great desire seemed to be to give no trouble. He would insist on carrying his own travelling-bags, would always tidy his own room and make his own bed, and on occasions would even do his own washing. His hospitality was profuse, and he kept open house; everybody who came received a hearty welcome, and all knew that formal invitation was not needed.

St. John's College.

Selwyn's labours in New Zealand were intimately connected with St. John's College, Tamaki. The college commenced its life immediately upon the Bishop's arrival in New Zealand in 1842, and was named after his former college at Cambridge. It was then situated at Waimate North, and was founded to become the home of "true religion, sound learning, and useful industry" for the Islands of New Zealand. There the Bishop lived; there John Selwyn was born; there the earliest ordination took place; there was held what was perhaps the first synod in the Anglican Communion since the silencing of Convocation in 1717. The college was moved from Waimate in 1844 to Tamaki, where every student, and every

particularly connected with the foundation of the Melanesian Mission, for from this spot the Bishop set forth in August, 1849, in the college schooner, Undine, 21 tons, on his first voyage to the islands, and it was to St. John's that he brought triumph.



THE FIVE BISHOPS.

A unique picture of the four Bishops of New Zealand, and Bishop Patteson, of Melanesia, taken in Christchurch. From left to right, standing, are Bishops Selwyn, Harper, Abraham, and Patteson, with Bishop Williams sitting. Photograph lent by Mr. W. H. Churton.



THE CATHEDRAL LIBRARY AT KERIKERI.

The stone building shown in this picture is the oldest in New Zealand, having been erected in 1841 by the Church Missionary Society. It was used as a store, and from it the missionaries drew their supplies. Bishop Selwyn used part of it as a library, and in an amusing letter to Lord Powis, written in 1844, while he was waiting at the Kerikeri for a change of wind, he describes the scanty furniture, one broken-backed chair and two planks laid upon bullock trunks.