

OBITUARY.

MR JAMES SMITH.

One of the largest funerals that has been seen in Wellington for a long time was that in connection with the last rites to the remains of the late Mr James Smith. Deceased was one of the senior elders of the church, having been appointed in 1872, and during the long period he held office he took a deep interest in every branch of church work. During his long connection with St. John's he had also done a very great deal for its advancement, particularly in connection with the fine organ which the church possesses. The coffin was carried into the church from the hearse by the eight senior elders. The front of the pulpit was heavily draped in black, and mourning also covered the family pew. The choir was present in strong force, Mr Maughan Barnett being at the organ. The Rev. James Paterson conducted the service, having the assistance of the Revs. W. Shirer, W. C. Oliver, J. K. Elliott, and H. B. Redstone. The attendance in the procession and at the services included many of the best known citizens, representatives of the directorate and staff of the Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company and the National Mutual Life Association (of which Mr Smith had been a director), and of almost every commercial house in the city, the whole of the elders and managers of St. John's Church, the staff of The New House, members of St. John's Bible Class, etc. The chief mourners were Messrs A. P. and J. G. Smith (sons), H. W. Kersley and J. B. Finlay (sons-in-law), and A. Pringle (nephew). A careful of beautiful wreaths indicated the sympathy and esteem of a host of friends.

Mr Smith was born near Edinburgh, and at an early age he began to earn his own livelihood. In 1863 he came out to New Zealand, landing at Port Chalmers and coming on to Wellington almost immediately afterwards. The firm of W. and G. Turnbull and Co. had at that time a soft goods department in its business, and Mr Smith was for some time in charge of it. In 1866 he purchased Te Aro House, and remained proprietor of it until about three years ago. He and the late Mr Walter Turnbull became partners in a large soft goods business, which was carried on under the title of Turnbull, Smith and Co. in the premises on Customhouse-quay now owned by the Australian Widows' Fund Life Assurance Society. In 1888 the business was acquired by Sargood, Son and Even, and Mr Smith then devoted the whole of his energies to the improvement of Te Aro House, which was for some time the largest drapery establishment in the North Island. After severing his connection with Te Aro House he and his two sons opened the drapery establishment in Cathedral-street known as The New House, and he took an active part in its management until quite recently.

Mr Smith leaves a widow and a family of two sons (Messrs A. P. and J. G. Smith) and three daughters, one of them being the wife of Mr John Finlay and another being Mrs H. W. Kersley. Mrs Smith and family will have general sympathy in their bereavement. "Post," August 4, 1902.

Mr J. E. Macdonald, late Chief Judge of the Native Land Court, is dead, aged 71.

The death took place last week in Napier of Mrs. Lawrence, wife of Mr. James Lawrence, of the Bluff Hill. She was found lying dead just within the door of her room at about seven o'clock on Friday morning. At the inquest, in accordance with the medical evidence, the jury deposed that deceased died from failure of the heart's action. Much sympathy is felt for Mr. Lawrence in his bereavement, and the deceased will be greatly missed by a large circle of friends.

MUSIC AND DRAMA.

"The Messenger Boy," which the Pollards put on for a fairly long run in Wellington, did very good business all things considered.

Mr Charles Carter, who, as already announced, leaves the Pollard Opera Company at the conclusion of the Auckland season, will give several concerts in New Zealand before proceeding to the Old Country to study. These should prove attractive to the public and highly remunerative to Mr Carter, who has a host of friends, and well-deserved admirers all over the colony.

We are extremely gratified to be able to announce to our readers that Jean Gerardy, the famous violinist, or, as he is justly named by the Melbourne "Argus" critic, "Absolutely and beyond contradiction the greatest living cellist," is returning to Auckland on Monday next from Sydney, and commences a short series of three concerts at the Choral Hall, Auckland, on Wednesday, 20th inst., and thereafter this distinguished artist visits in turn New Plymouth, Wangarui, Palmerston North, Wellington and the South Island. Not only will great interest centre in Gerardy's famous performances, but there will be additional factors, which should ensure a successful season, viz., the first appearance of Miss Electa Gifford, a highly-cultured soprano, who was prima donna at the Royal Grand Opera, Amsterdam, last year, filling leading roles with great success. Her range is phenomenal, as she can easily take G in alto. G. Galston, the pianist, is spoken of in most glowing terms by the Amsterdam press. Mr. John H. Tait, the manager, arrived by the Waihora on Monday. The box plan for the season opens on Saturday at Wildman, Lyell & Arco's.

Quite beside the fact that she does come out under generous terms from Manager Musgrove, when all is said, Melba makes a big financial sacrifice to visit her native land. Her recent triumphal re-entrance at Covent Garden in "Higoletto" shows that, if she felt that way, she might have filled in the time she will spend out here in engagements at a far higher rate than she will ever get in Australia. The trip means three months of idleness on the water. Furthermore, she will lose all private engagement fees, there being few, if any, in Australia who would or could disgorge her ordinary fee for attending a musical "at home"; yet a big proportion of her income comes from that source, as is proved by her agents lately announcing that she is already engaged for sixteen big musical "at homes" in London at 500 guineas a time. In each case the host is a millionaire, local or imported, and members of the Royal family will be present—and the advertisement resulting from being reported on in such company is one which even Melba would not sneeze at. Nellie Melba is not coming out here to make herself richer, says the "Bulletin." In Melbourne, at any rate, she will spend a lot of money.

Cinquevalli is, with all his strength, a model of grace and symmetry. There is no balloon-like muscular development; the limbs are smooth and graceful as a woman's. His is the strength of the panther—lithic, quick, sure—rather than of the bull. The cannon-ball act, in which Cinquevalli makes a heavy ball of iron play around his arms and torso, as lightly as a will-o'-the-wisp around a marsh, is a marvel of agility as well as of strength. The cannon-ball runs from arm to arm, around the chest and the back, propelled by the muscles, with swift certainty—never a mistake, never too much or too little effort. Since reaching Sydney Cinquevalli has been suffering from a knee-trouble, necessitating the care of a doctor and a masseur, but he doesn't let this interfere with his act, nor with journeyings to the homes of Italian compatriots, who provide in his honour "maccaroni suppers." He can never resist the temptation of "maccaroni cooked by

Italians," says "Cinque," "and nobody else knows how to cook it."

The critics cannot agree about "Iris." Pinerro's latest play of the woman with a past. Most of the Sydney papers damn it with faint praise, and all seem to agree that, good or bad, artistic or unartistic, play-goers have had about enough of the "lady with a past." The "Bulletin," always "agin" everyone else, admires "Iris." It says:—The new Pinerro play of "Iris," staged at Sydney Royal on Saturday, is a great work. As a tragedy it even "lays over" "Mrs Tangueray." If it had struck Australia in a less stony day and impecunious generation it would be a notable financial success, for even Pinerro never constructed a story on more artistic lines. The whole Brough co. shows up well in "Iris." Miss Temple and Leslie Victor and some other highly deserving people may be mentioned at greater length next week. Many tears were shed over "Iris" on Saturday night, and with anything like good management there should be a bitter pulp controversy over it, and it should be severely spoken of by the church. There is a moral in it somewhere; still, the solicitor gets away with the money, and Iris, if she went quite straight in the first place, would only inherit a log cabin in British Columbia; and the wages of sin are an elegantly furnished flat; and it is indirectly the lady's better nature which leads to her becoming an outcast; and it is indirectly Maldonado's desire to undo the evil he has done which leads him to become an embittered furniture-breaker and to drive the heroine into the street.

This very latest stage dog story is from Norway, and is related by a correspondent of the "Pall Mall Gazette": For the last two or three months a grey Laplander dog has been observed on the steps of the National Theatre in Christiania. He was chased away day after day, but always appeared again the next morning, and begged for admission to rehearsal. Finally, the actors thinking it a pity that such enthusiasm should be denied a chance, arranged to send the dog to Copenhagen to complete its artistic education. But "Graatass" (grey paw) managed to slip ashore from the steamer, and was at his usual post the next morning. After this it was determined to give him a part, and he duly appeared the other evening as the lapdog in the fourth act of Helberg's "Finken Politician."

OUR ILLUSTRATIONS.

AN INTERESTING OLD PICTURE

The above picture will be of special interest to the many friends of the late Primat, the Most Rev. Bishop Cowie. It represents an incident in his early career when he was with the Army in India. In 1863 the Bonairs, an Afghan tribe next the Frontier line, had been getting troublesome by raiding their peaceful neighbours' cattle, etc. It was resolved to punish them, and at the same time exterminate a nest of old mutineers who were reported to be living in a village called Titana at the head of the Umbeyah Pass. A force of 6000 men, including two English regiments and nineteen ghus, under Sir Neville Chamberlain were continually engaged from October to the end of the year fighting a combination of all the tribes between the Indus and Kabul rivers—about 15,000 men in number. Chaplain Cowie was out one day with a party of the 101st Regiment, who captured one of the enemy's flags. The sketch (taken on the spot) represents the late Bishop returning to camp with the flag in one hand and a drawn talwar (native sword) in the other. We are indebted for the picture to Captain Brodie, of Renuera, an old Auckland resident, who, previous to his coming to New Zealand, saw service in India with the 71st Highland Light Infantry, and was present on the occasion described. He then made a rough drawing of the scene, and it is from the same that our picture is taken.

PERSONAL NOTES

FROM LONDON.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, July 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Westman (Auckland) had a pleasant six weeks' sojourn in Brazil, half the time being spent in Rio, and half at Petropolis, a beautiful health resort in the mountains, twenty-five miles from Rio. They finished their journey in the Athenic, and will remain in the Old Country for some years.

Mr and Mrs Arthur Brett, who have been staying with Mr R. B. Brett, have been seeing the sights of London and visiting their relations in Hastings. They leave to-day for a week in Paris.

Mr J. C. Entrican (Auckland) broke his journey home at Marseilles and took a month's tour somewhat out of the beaten tourist track. Proceeding by steamer to Cadiz, he first toured in Spain, visiting Malaga, Grenada, Cordova, Madrid and Seville. He found the people well disposed, but could come across no one who could speak English. Even in the hotel at Madrid only one man knew any English, and his vocabulary was limited to two words—"All right." Crossing from Gibraltar, Mr Entrican spent some days in Morocco, meeting with no mishap. After staying with friends in Londonderry, Belfast, and Liverpool, he will make a tour in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany, then see something of Scotland, begin his homeward journey at the end of September, and travel via Canada, U.S.A., and Japan, reaching Auckland at the end of January.

Mrs F. W. King and Miss Marion Gifford-Cooper (Auckland) broke their journey across America, first at Frisco, where they spent a week, then at Portland, Oregon, Seattle and Vancouver. Banff received a short visit, and a halt of three weeks was made at Minneapolis, where Mrs King's brother lives. By Chicago, Buffalo, Niagara, Albany and the Hudson River the travellers proceeded to New York, where they put in a week. Before coming on to London they visited Glasgow, Edinburgh and Bristol. They are now off to some of the watering places, and on Dr. King's arrival from South Africa will tour on the Continent. They will return to Auckland next spring.

Mr. J. H. Wright (Tauranga) is staying with friends in Belfast, and has planned an exhaustive tour of Ireland, including Cork Exhibition, Blarney Castle, Lakes of Killarney, Glengariff, Giants' Causeway, Donegal, Highlands, Bundooran, Dungal, Erne and Galway, where he will study Irish peasant life. His stay in the Old Country will occupy about 12 months.

The "Times" Johannesburg correspondent, cabling on July 7, says: "This week a group of settlers, possessed of some capital, will be established in the Ermelo district. The Government has secured about 100,000 acres, the first group to take up part of this area will be 50 to 70 men, mostly New Zealanders. These hold the land on the purchase system."

"Daisy Davidson, the New Zealand soprano," now figures on the regular programme of the Tivoli Music Hall.

Since their arrival two years ago Mr. and Mrs. Fred. D. Hewin (Auckland) have travelled widely, wandering over the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Belgium and France. They spent last winter in the Riviera, where Mr. Hewin had good luck at Monte Carlo. They came over to London to see the Coronation, and are off again soon to Norway and Russia, spending next winter in the Italian Riviera. They will meander homewards by Canada, Japan, China and India, and will not be back in Auckland for eighteen months yet.