

discovered that the blocks assigned to them were situated in a remote part of the province, and that they were almost inaccessible, owing to the lack of roads. It is hard for us to-day to realise the difficulties and hardships which these brave men and women had to surmount. A journey which could easily be made in a single day at the present time then took three weeks to accomplish. In many cases the settlers had to go to their homes carrying the younger children on their backs, and so complete was the isolation that they were often on the verge of starvation, living chiefly on potatoes and pumpkins, and such fish as they could catch. The cost of conveying necessary supplies was almost prohibitive. Much of the land was of the poorest quality. However, they stuck to their holdings. The land which was then valueless now possesses a rateable value of a quarter of a million sterling.

The Spirit of the Past.

The gathering itself was eloquent of the spirit in which the members of the Albertland Settlement faced the task before them. Mr. G. Tibbitts said that when they came out they did not expect to pick up gold in the streets, and he declared that in spite of all the hardships they had had to face, he would still, if he were young again, want nothing better than to take up land in the back-blocks. He declared that he had had a glorious life among the hills and the rivers, and that it had been one long picnic for 30 years. Mr. T. Wilson, of Paparua, recalled the great occasion when he returned home with his first cow, purchased at a cost of £20, and the manner in which he had been befriended by Mrs. Rowsell, of Maungaroa. This lady, who is now 81 years of age, was able to add her own memories of this famous occasion. The Premier, who was present, said that his parents, although not actually Albertlanders, had come out to New Zealand at the same time under similar conditions. He paid a warm tribute to the pluck, grit, and success of these pioneers of settlement in the North. He declared that they were not only heroes and heroines, but benefactors of the Dominion. Their monument had been established for all time in smiling fields and prosperous homes. This eventful gathering of old settlers was brought to a happy conclusion by a most enjoyable musical programme provided by the Albertlanders.

Early Pioneers.

It is the custom to-day to enlarge upon the magnificent physique, sturdiness, pluck, and resourcefulness of the native-born New Zealanders. This is often done at the expense of what is called the decadent Englishman, and many are never tired of pointing out the superiority of the local production over the new claim. It is, therefore, well to remember that those who bore the brunt of the hardships inseparable from early settlement all came from the Homeland. No settler taking up land to-day in the most isolated districts of the Dominion has to endure one-tenth of the privations so bravely faced by the men of old. One cannot read the story of these brave Non-conformists, seeking liberty and freedom in a new land, without feeling the pulse quicken with admiration for their heroism and their fortitude. Many have reaped a well-earned reward in the shape of material property; others have reaped but little of this world's goods, but have been strengthened with the knowledge that through their untiring efforts the wilderness has been made productive, and homes planted in waste places of the earth. Nor is this in any way to decry the noble work that has been done, and is still being done by our settlers of to-day. Only one cannot help feeling that many a lonely man and woman in the backblocks of New Zealand must have received an added strength, and a further inspiration to courage in the midst of privations and trials, from the records of those who half a century ago laid the foundations on which so many prosperous homes have since been built.

The Larger Patriotism.

Mr. Hallour, in addressing the Royal Scottish Corporation, dwelt at some length on the subject of patriotism in the Dominions. After referring to the patriotic spirit which was now being shown throughout the Empire, he went on to say, "The Canadian, the Australian, the New Zealander, the citizens of South Africa—I need not enumerate all the great dominions and dependencies of this country—they must have, and

they ought to have and they will have, their own feeling of separate nationality. A Canadian is a Canadian; he wants, and he ought to want, Canada to have its own principle of development, its own future. So, also Australia, pursuing the great experiment of freedom and self-government on very different lines from those of Canada. Lines which Australia has chosen for herself, she is following as a free country; as a member of that great congeries of free countries which make up our Empire. Do not let us discourage their feeling of local patriotism. Let us only ask them to follow the example of Scotland, and to cultivate that feeling of nationality for themselves, the Canadian for the Canadians, the Australian for the Australians, but all for the British Empire."

The Dissatisfied Worker.

Labour troubles continue to cause concern in the Dominion. A couple of boats are still held up in Wellington because the owners decline resolutely to concede the demands of the firemen for more assistance. It is declared that the work is too heavy for the number of firemen employed. In another instance the firemen threatened to go on strike if the early shift could not get hot instead of cold meat for breakfast. The hot meat was given. The biggest and most serious trouble is in connection with the demands for higher wages by the slaughtermen. The men ask for 30% per 100 sheep, and an offer by the companies to give 27/6

Sir Robert Stout in his annual address to the Senate at Auckland on Saturday last. The syllabus had been stigmatised as "archaic" by the "reformers," yet, according to Sir Robert, the suggested alterations were trivial. The Conference, he pointed out, recommended that the degree of Bachelor of Science be abolished; that it was a peculiar method of selecting a course for the degree. It was true that the report stated that the conference had to consider in the future the creation of a new degree in Science; but, judging from the little said about it, one would infer that it was not to be a general Science Degree, but one of a technical character—that is, connected with agriculture, manufactures and other such pursuits. Under the existing system there are two primary degrees, B.A. and B.Sc. In the B.A. degree Latin or Greek is compulsory. In the B.Sc. degree four Science subjects are compulsory—mathematics, physical science, chemistry, botany, or in lieu of botany, zoology, or geology or physiology. The conference proposed one degree, but it was to be a bifurcated degree, that is, there would be a B.A. degree proper, with only one science subject, and a B.A. degree mainly scientific. In fact, the only change, said the Chancellor, was that, mathematics not being compulsory a student might get a B.A. degree for passing such subjects as he would have had to pass in B.Sc., only that three instead of four sciences were required. This was a slight change to get rid of the "archaic" nature of the syllabus. It had

that New Zealand would be as ready to answer as she had ever been.

Evil Days for the War Correspondent.

The war correspondent has fallen upon evil days. There was a time when he was an honoured guest, and when generals were by no means averse to an adequate report of their achievements. But all that has been changed. The correspondent has been voted a danger and a nuisance, and if his presence is tolerated at all it is on the understanding that he shall see nothing. The correspondent of the London "Standard," writing from Belgrade, says that he might as well be at Rome, that he is allowed to telegraph nothing and that the authorities have even destroyed the whole of the foreign correspondence in the mail after economically licking the stamps off. Letters sent through the Austrian bank might perhaps be forwarded, but everything else was suppressed. That the Servians have learned some of the gentle art of civilisation is shown by the fact that two of the censors were dismissed for themselves selling to foreign newspapers the items which they had deleted from messages of correspondents. Thus, through a community of knavery do we recognise the kinship of the world.

The Parity of English.

From time to time the question is raised as to whether the present generation can write English as correctly as did the one preceding. The use of "will" and "shall," of "would" and "should," is to many people a stumbling-block, a snare, and a delusion. How many ignorant of their heinous sin continue to employ the split infinitive which we are told sounds so barbarously in classic ears! Even the London "Times" has had to change its time-honoured phrase, "he intended to severely punish the prisoners," into "he intended to punish the prisoners severely." The gain is obvious. A learned doctor has been deploring the manner in which we fail to appreciate the subtle distinction between the two words "bide" and "abide." The readers of Meredith's letters have been scandalised to note that he writes "alright," instead of making two words, "all right," and as if in revolt at this pedantic love for grammatical exactness we have a learned Bishop of the English Church declaring that he loves nothing so well as to escape from the purist to the expressive language of the East End. He thinks that all real power of metaphor—all really expressive adjectives—are to be found amongst the coppers and the barges. Those who have listened to the fluent manner in which a hushman or bullock-driver can reflect on the ancestry and ultimate destination of all things living cannot fail to perceive that for real power of expression those who have never been brought up on Lindley Murray can give points to those who pride themselves on the precision of their English.

Idiomatic English.

For really powerful and expressive idiom one frequently has to go to the foreigner who, untrammelled by any precise rules of grammar, often succeeds in expressing himself in a manner that must excite the envy and admiration of those to whom English is the native tongue. We give two specimens to illustrate this point. One is an advertisement of a Siamese paper, which is to be published in English. The advertisement reads as follows:—

"The news of English we tell the latest. Writ in perfectly style and most earliest. Do a murder get commit, we hear and tell of it. Do a mighty chief die, we publish it, and in borders of sombre. Staff has each one been college, and writ like Kipling and the Dickens. We circulate every town and extortionate not for advertisements. Buy it. By it."

The other is the welcome of a Kaffir spokesman to a resident magistrate just arrived at Cala, Transkei, South Africa: "We cordially welcome your pluck and goodness in coming among such pusillanimary and unwisely ignorant people. We are over-joyful to get such a weak, non-excitable, superabundantly harmonious one as a magistrate." Both are curious examples of how ignorance and inferiority can, between them, achieve all the effect of style. No proficient English scholar would have the courage to write that admirable "borders of sombre"; and the "Buy it. By it" has a crescendo of appeal which not the latest devices of Fleet-street could surpass.



THE LITTLE DOG: "If they'd only start fighting, I might get away."

"Turkey is looking for the same development now as took place in 1830 and 1877. On both these occasions she was saved at the moment of defeat by the quarrels of the Europeans."—Mr Harold Spender in the "Daily News and Leader."

per 100 has been rejected by ballot. Notice has been given that work will cease next Monday. At present neither side are prepared to yield. A strike is certain unless a compromise is effected.

Nipped in the Bud.

A police prosecution at Auckland last week was responsible for a rather startling revelation, pointing almost certainly to the existence of an organised business resembling the horrible white slave traffic in the older countries, and controlled by recent arrivals of very questionable repute. All the people concerned were of foreign nationality, and not desirable immigrants. One of the males, who had got away to Australia, but was enjoying a monetary share of the business, had been deported from London and flogged in South Africa for engaging in the white slave traffic. Another male with the capital had been a saloon-keeper in Seattle, and he was forced to get out because even in that unconventional country his establishment did not come within municipal requirements. Two others appeared to be batteners on the women. The result of the police vigilance has been to drive these objectionable foreigners out of the country and to stamp out, for the time being, at least, a serious menace to the morality of the city. The alarming consequences of such a trade getting a successful footing in the Dominion emphasises the need for unflinching care on the part of the authorities.

University Reform.

Some reforms in university work suggested by the Professorial Conference, held in November last, were criticised by

taken two years or more of labour and thought of the reforming professors to discover this wonderful remedy. The proposal was really a lowering of the science requirements. Sir Robert dealt at length with the proposal of the Conference that teachers in each subject must examine in the subject, indicating clearly what it all meant, and summed up the position by declaring the resolutions framed by the Conference centred all power and authority of the university in the professors.

British Pacific Fleet—Government Declaration.

Speaking on the subject of naval defence at the Thames, the Prime Minister said that he was well satisfied with the progress of the defence movement as far as the land forces were concerned, but he was not so well satisfied with naval matters. The Balkan War had shown clearly the consequences of a lack of preparedness, and in the final struggle the nation that was best prepared would succeed. There was much discussion as to the form which the establishment of a fleet in the Pacific should take, but as far as New Zealand was concerned, it stood straight out for a British Pacific fleet. It might consist of ships of Canada, of Australia, and of New Zealand, of the British Navy, or of ships of all the countries he mentioned, but however the details were arranged, there should be no possible question as to the supremacy of British naval forces in the Pacific. When the first shot was fired, the fleet must be a purely British Imperial fleet, and under Imperial control. Its constituent parts must stand shoulder to shoulder, and when the call came, that he believed would come, he was satisfied