

IN THE PUBLIC EYE.

BISHOP WILSON, of Melanesia, has recently visited Auckland. He took charge of his bishopric, which extends over a thousand miles of ocean, in 1894. Curiously enough,



Standish & Preece, Photo.,

Christchurch.

BISHOP WILSON.

by a transposition of the two last figures, Bishop Selwyn's first visit to the Islands is arrived at, viz., 1849. After five years hard work Bishop Wilson has to admit in his "New Year's letter on the present condition of the Melanesian Mission," published in the *Southern Cross Log*, that his Church has been wanting in encouragement and proper organization of Mission work. In place of the fourteen European Missionaries he has under him, he requires thirty-four, and considering he gives thirteen places where Missionaries should be stationed, to say nothing of new ground, his figure appears to be under the mark rather than over it. A new steamer is also a great requisite. The

antiquated *Southern Cross* is certainly not the craft one would wish to spend so much of one's time in as Bishop Wilson and his assistants have to do, and if a Mission is worth carrying on at all, it is worth doing well. Those who give their lives to bear the brunt of the battle should surely be fairly equipped for the enterprise. The Bishop has under him, besides his European clergy and laymen, some four hundred native teachers, twelve of whom are ordained. On his present visit to Auckland, the Bishop brought up with him sixteen Melanesian boys. It was their first visit to civilization, and their admiration of all they saw was unbounded.

WELLINGTON is not so wealthy, from a musical point of view, that it can suffer two of its most prominent musicians to depart without



MR. ROBERT PARKER.