

THERE recently died in New Plymouth a veteran warrior who played a prominent part in the Maori disturbances on the West Coast of the North Island. Colonel Charles Stapp gained his first experience of New Zealand bush warfare in Heke's War. He was sent from Sydney with his regiment, the 58th, to assist in restoring order, having previously been sent there in charge of convicts. He was to the fore at all the principal engagements,

captain. Troublous times commenced shortly after for Taranaki, and Colonel Stapp was as usual in the thick of the fight. He received special mention in many of the despatches of the day, and was also honoured by the personal thanks of the Commander of the Forces, Governor Gore Browne. Wairoka, Pakakariki, Orongamangi, Kaihihi, Kaitake, and Huirangi were all scenes of strife wherein he did signal service for his adopted country. After the brutal massacre of the Rev. Mr. Volkner



COLONEL STAPP.

amongst which were the historic attacks on the Okaihau and Ruapekapek Pas, and he led the forlorn hope at Ohaeawai. During the time he spent in England in 1850, he was present at the funeral of the Duke of Wellington. Ever to be found where fighting was to the fore, his next move was to the Crimea, after which experience he retired from the army, and emigrated to New Zealand in 1857, choosing Taranaki for his home. He joined the military settlers there, and received successively the appointments of adjutant and

and his companions at Opitiki in 1865, he was second in command, as brevet-major of the force sent to capture the murderers; and again in 1869, commanding a force he had himself organized, he set forth to recover the bodies of the White Cliffs victims, and deal what vengeance he could on the perpetrators thereof. With such a record, it would have been difficult to select a more suitable man than Colonel Stapp for the post he held for twenty-two years, viz., the command of the Taranaki Militia.