

the sad story of the depravity of the present day Maori in the far-away *kaingas*. How the pakeha had taken from them the restraining influence and guidance of their old forms of religion, and failed utterly in giving them sufficient means of hearing the new. Surely such facts point to the conclusion that New Zealanders, imbued with the missionary spirit, can find plenty of outlet for it at home instead of journeying to other lands, where their efforts meet with such deplorable results as have been experienced lately in China.

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MR. WILLIAM HENRY JOHN SEFFERN, whose death took place recently at New Plymouth, was one of the oldest journalists

in New Zealand. He was born in Cork in 1829, and served his seven years' apprenticeship as a printer in London. In 1851, when the gold fever was at its height, he sailed for Australia, and in due time acted in the capacity of printer and overseer on the *Illustrated Sydney News*. On the collapse, in 1855, of that paper, Mr. Seffern came over to Auckland. For some time he corresponded for Australian papers urging Victoria to extend her New Zealand trade. He refused offers to assist in starting the *Hawke's Bay Herald* and the *Southland News*, as not holding out sufficiently good prospects. The success of both these papers afterwards convinced him of his mistake, more especially as the ventures he undertook in Auckland were very unsatisfactory. They included a share with Dr. Kidd and Mr. James Heron in the *New Zealander*, and on this firm dissolving, owing to the unpopular reputation the paper's previous peace policy had gained for it, he and Mr. Michell, the sub-editor, took it over, and afterwards made it the first penny morning paper in New Zealand, but had eventually to relinquish it. In 1868 Mr. Seffern was appointed editor and manager of the *Taranaki Herald*, a position he held up to

1895, when he retired. Under his able management the *Herald* soon became a daily, and the *Budget* was incorporated with it as a weekly. In conjunction with his journalistic duties Mr. Seffern found time for a considerable amount of literary work, notably his "Chronicles of the Garden of New Zealand, known as Taranaki," perhaps the most reliable history of the province that has yet been written. Readers of the



MR. W. H. J. SEFFERN.

*Budget* will remember his "Skimpole Papers," utilizing weekly that impecunious character from Dickens as his lay figure, and making him discourse on local events. "Missing Leaves from New Zealand History," "Rip Van Winkle Papers," "Yarns with a Twist in Them," and "Taranaki of the Past," were also headings under which he has written from time to time. He had also by him at the time of his death a large and most valuable amount of material, dating from 1835 to 1841, for a future history of New Zealand.