



OUR EMPIRE.

UNIQUE in the history of the colony has been the recent visit of the Imperial and Indian troops to our shores. It would be hard to imagine a more impressive military display in our little colony than the enthusiastic reception accorded to the representatives of those regiments who have made the world ring with their deeds of heroism on many a blood-stained battlefield. On their landing at our different ports they were received by their brothers in arms here, men whose comrades in South Africa (and in some instances they themselves) have in a few short months, although fresh from bush, station or office, earned such a reputation for themselves that the trained soldiers of the Homeland averred that they were proud to fight by their side. With their various bands playing inspiring strains the visitors marched through the streets of our principal cities arrayed in the respective uniforms of their regiments, which from a spectacular point of view showed off to greater advantage by contrast with the simple and serviceable, but decidedly unornamental, khaki of the colonials who led the way, thus giving New Zealanders a good idea of what is meant by the pomp and pageantry of war. In Auckland alone the Indian contingent's visit fitted in with that of the Imperials, making the occasion more typical still of the welding together of the Empire into one world-wide band of brotherhood, in as much as it was the meeting of those doughty warriors who practically stand here and there along the line of British possessions which encircles the globe, ever on the alert to guard them from all hostile aggression. Small wonder

then that our colonists rose to the occasion, and showed their visitors by every means in their power that hospitality on which colonials particularly pride themselves.

ENGLAND.

SIR EDWARD WILLIAM STAFFORD, K.C.M.G., G.C.M.G., of whose death we have lately heard by cable, will be well remembered by all old colonists as one to whom New Zealand owes much. Arriving in Nelson in 1843 he at once became a political power in the land. He was a man of keen forethought and masterly action. After serving for two terms as Superintendent of Nelson, and feeling the need of a wider scope for his energies, we find him forming a ministry in November, 1856, which lasted until defeated in July, 1861. This was a stirring time in the history of the young colony, as it was his Government which carried the resolution in favour of war to put an end to the trouble with the natives over the Waitara Block dispute. After an interval of four years Mr. Stafford again came into power, and remained in until 1869. Another slightly shorter interval, and he again became Premier, and held office until defeated by Mr. Vogel. During the greater part of his term of office the native troubles were more or less prominent, and his sound judgment, firm grip, and cool temperament peculiarly fitted him for coping with them. Mr. Stafford returned to the Old Country many years since. He took a great interest in the Colonial and Indian Exhibition of 1886, and acted as Commissioner of it.

Many of us who either had the pleasure of