

S. John's College, Tamaki, Auckland.

BY THE REV. J. KING DAVIS, M.A., SOMETIME MARSH SCHOLAR.

BISHOP SELWYN arrived in New Zealand in May, 1842, and before the end of June he had established his headquarters at Waimate, Bay of Islands. Here, accordingly, he first established the College that was to form the centre of his operations. He lived himself in the now historic parsonage, wherein was born John Richardson Selwyn, afterwards Bishop of Melanesia; while the students and the pupils of the connected schools occupied buildings in the vicinity.

The College, however, found only a temporary home in the northern settlement. In August, 1844, a group of notable men might have been seen on the bleak, ferny hillside at what we call now Tamaki

West; they were the first (and only) Bishop of New Zealand, Mr. W. Martin (afterwards Sir William), the first Chief Justice of the colony, and Mr. W. Swainson, the first Attorney-General. There they chose the permanent site of the College, and several hundreds of acres were purchased with a

portion of the legacy left to the institution by its first Divinity Lecturer, the Rev. T. Whytehead, M.A., Fellow of S. John's College, Cambridge, who had died at Waimate. It was in November, 1844 that the College establishment was removed to Auckland and placed at Purewa, on the banks of the stream, just below the present cemetery. Here, at first in tents and later in habitations covered with reeds, the College party lived until, in 1846, the buildings at Tamaki were sufficiently advanced to be habitable.

Difficulties, many and considerable, beset the work of erection. Anyone can read this in the heterogeneous character and the irregularity of the buildings. That

two-storied stone house, monastic in its stern simplicity, and the kitchen, also of stone, tell us that the original plan was to build the College of the more durable material; but in those days the artisans held the key of the situation, as they do in these; and after the desertion of the stone masons,



Bishop George Augustus Selwyn.

Photographed by A. L. Cleave from a painting.