

## Obituary

### MRS. MARY KELLY, KAKARAMEA.

At Kakaramea, on February 19, an old and highly esteemed resident in the person of Mrs. Mary Kelly, relict of the late Thomas Kelly, of Co. Clare, Ireland, passed to her rest after a comparatively short illness. Until three years ago Mrs. Kelly lived at the old home in Ireland, but on her husband's death she decided to come out to the Dominion to be near her married daughters, and came to live with her son-in-law, Mr. J. T. Dwyer, of Kakaramea. Up till a few months ago Mrs. Kelly enjoyed perfect health, but then she began to fail. She moved to Mrs. R. Dwyer's, and gradually grew worse until the 19th, when she passed away in her sleep. Although she had only been a short time in Kakaramea, her kindly nature secured a warm place in the affections of many friends. She is survived in the Dominion by five members of a large family—Messrs. S. Kelly (Pihama), M. Kelly (Opunake), Mrs. R. Dwyer (Kakaramea), Mrs. Joha McCarty (Ohangai), and Miss A. Kelly. The late Mrs. J. T. Dwyer was also a daughter. There are also 23 grandchildren to mourn their loss. With them all sincere sympathy will be felt in their sorrow, although the memory of a well spent and useful life will to them be a great comfort. Rev. Fathers Pheban and Masterson attended the deceased lady during her illness. The funeral, which took place at Hawera, was largely attended by sympathisers from all parts of the district, many coming long distances to pay their last respects to the deceased. Rev. Father John Power officiated at the church and afterwards at the grave. Her six oldest grandsons (P. and J. McCarty, R. and P. Dwyer and T. and J. Dwyer) were pall-bearers.—R.I.P.

### MR. JOHN SCANLAN, LYNDON, WAIANU.

Mr. John Scanlan, of Lyndon, Waianu, who died on March 12 following an operation at the Lewisham Hospital, was born in Co. Kerry, Ireland, near the Lakes of Killarney. As a young man he arrived in New Zealand in 1871, and for some time was engaged in farming pursuits in the Springston district. He was afterwards employed for some years in cropping and contracting on the late Sir John Hall's property at Hororua. Later he undertook the construction of water-races for the Selwyn and Amuri Counties, and for the Waimakariri-Ashley Water Supply Board, and for the latter body he successfully completed contracts abandoned by other contractors. In 1901 he took up land in the Lyndon Settlement, developing and occupying this property up to the time of his death. His varied experiences and keen insight into public matters made his assistance a valuable acquisition to the various discussions for promoting the advancement of the district. He took a keen interest in sport, having been a prominent member of the Waianu Racing Club and of the Waianu Football Club, holding the position of president of the latter body at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Amuri A. and P. Association and of the Waianu branch of the Farmers' Union from the time of their inception. His genial disposition and kindly consideration made him very popular in Waianu, and his familiar figure will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Mr. Scanlan was never married, but leaves a sister, Mrs. Cronin, and two nieces, who reside in Sydenham, to mourn their loss. Two nephews fell in the Great War.—R.I.P.

### MR. JOHN ALBION SMITH, LEVIN.

The death from heart failure occurred on Thursday night, the 27th ult., at the residence of his son, Mr. J. P. Smith, Winchester Street, Levin, of a very old resident of this district in the person of Mr. John Albion Smith, of Moutoa, Foxton. The deceased, who had not been ailing long, was born in Callaghton, Shropshire, England, in 1834, and went to Australia in 1855, engaging in gold digging at Goulburn with some success for the following 12 months. On the discovery of gold in New Zealand he came across to this country, landing at Wellington in 1856, and for the next two years was engaged in alluvial mining on the Clutha, Otago, and in Nelson. In 1858 he took up land at Moutoa, where the first settlement on this coast was then commencing, and during the following thirty

years went through all the hardships and difficulties inseparably associated with the early pioneering days, and including absence of roads, severance from civilisation, and alarms from the then numerous and warlike Maoris. Mr. Smith was in the Moutoa during the whole of the Maori war days and in the '60's when the fighting was in progress in Taranaki and it was feared that the conflagration would spread to the Manawatu, he assisted in transferring the families of the other settlers of the Moutoa, to Foxton, where a redoubt was built at the rear of the local State School. He himself remained on his farm during the whole of the period. Among the many other hardships of the life in those early days was the entire absence of roads, and Mr. Smith in the days before the first track was cut over the hills to Wellington, on numerous occasions walked the distance over the old Maori track. He naturally had seen the whole of the settlement of the district and remembered when Palmerston North was a manuka flat with a few huts scattered on it, and much later when there was one where in Levin situated a few chains below the gravel-pit at the Werarua Settlement. The late Mr. Smith was the pioneer dairy farmer of the Moutoa district. When he took up land at Moutoa, it was covered with dense bush, with a track along the river bank. By strenuous labor he converted his holding into one of the most valuable farms in the district. The late Mr. Smith was a man of sterling integrity whose word was his bond and was held in the highest esteem by all who knew him. He did not take part in public affairs, applying his time to the improvement of his farm. He possessed all his faculties right up to the last and was talking to his son and daughter-in-law a few minutes prior to his peaceful passing. Deceased was a staunch Catholic and a very generous supporter of his Church, being probably best known for his donation of the sites for the Catholic Church, school and convent at Foxton, all of which were built mainly through his exertions and financial assistance. A man of the highest integrity, he was deservedly popular with all who knew him. Rev. Father Fitzgibbon who regularly attended him, administered all the last rites of Holy Church. He leaves a family of three sons and three daughters—Mrs. W. Matheson (Rongotea), Mrs. N. Martin (Wairoa, H.B.), Mrs. Jacobson (Foxton), and Messrs. W. H. Smith (Moutoa), J. A. Smith (Martinborough) and J. P. Smith (Levin)—to all of whom the sympathy of a large circle of friends will be extended in their sad loss. His wife predeceased him by nine years, and the youngest son (Mr. F. B. Smith) made the supreme sacrifice during the war. The late Mr. Smith was a subscriber to the *Tablet* from its very first issue, and he often related that he bought a copy of the initial edition about 51 years ago from a boy who was selling them outside St. Mary's old Cathedral, Hill Street, Wellington. The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon, the 30th ult. The body was conveyed from Levin to St. Mary's Church on the previous Saturday afternoon, where it remained until the service. The officiating priest was the Rev. Father Fitzgibbon, of Levin, assisted by the Rev. Fathers Melu (Otaki) and McDermott (Foxton). As the cortege left the church the "Dead March" from "Saul" was played on the organ. All the sons and daughters of the deceased were in attendance at the service and several relatives, including Mr. G. Turley Smouth (nephew) of Apati, Mrs. C. Pettigrew (niece) Kimbolton, and Mrs. G. Southie (niece) Kimbolton. Among those present were friends from all parts of the district and the cortege was one of the largest seen in Foxton. The casket was covered with beautiful floral tributes and the family received letters and telegrams of sympathy from all parts of the Dominion.—R.I.P.

There are many at peace as long as we hold them in good esteem; but let their honor be ever so slightly touched, they at once lose all their peace.—St. Teresa.

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