

held, and there was a tremendous interest taken in rowing.

Altogether all those living in Christchurch at that time were by no means dull. There was plenty to interest and amuse.

I want to tell you now something about the "Songs we sang". Every age produces its own cycles of songs. In 1850 (the year of the gold rush to Victoria) Katherine Hayes was a wonderful draw and her great song was "Kathleen Mavourneen". She must have sung it thousands of times. The diggers wanted it, and they literally pelted her with gold. She must have collected thousands from that song, and the words "it may be for years and it may be for ever" almost became by-words. When the sergeants of police wanted to warn a man who was on the downward track, they would say "Be careful or you will get the Kathleen Mavourneen" - "It may be for years and it may be for ever".

The songs our early immigrants sang on their voyages out, and on their arrival were those composed by Henry Russell - the great English song writer, who not only wrote songs, but sang them all over England, and was considered to be the greatest emigration agent that England ever possessed, as hundreds of thousands of people were affected by the songs and emigrated to Canada, America and elsewhere.

His songs were - "Cheer, Boys, Cheer", "Far, Far, Upon the Sea", "Life on the Ocean Wave", and many others.