

I can well remember as a boy going to the Barracks. They had community singing, there is no doubt, in those days, and the song they sang was "Hard Times Come Again No More". They had left hard times, and felt that in a new country they could sing this song.

"Auld Lang Syne" we sang on the least provocation. I hope we shall continue to sing it for many a day.

The next phase of our songs was the arrival of the American Civil War songs. They came down in the early 60's, and I remember hearing them first introduced by an amateur troupe of Christy Minstrels in Lyttelton - "Sherman's March Through Georgia", "John Brown's Body", "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp the Boys are Marching" and songs of that kind, and they had a vogue for a long time. Some are still sung.

Later on we had a visit from the original Christy Minstrels. I well remember the rush for seats. They opened in the old Music Hall, just opposite the present Theatre in Gloucester Street. They sang - "Come Where My Love Lies Dressing"; "My Old Kentucky Home"; "Swanee River"; "Hollie Gray", and many others.

Lyttelton had a very fine Glee Club under the control of Mr. J. F. McCardell, and as a boy I remember coming to Christchurch with a party, and we sang at the first concert given in Christ-