

outstanding ability. He had held some position on Lord Ross' estate and was skilled in all matters relative to horticulture. His garden occupied the whole block bounded by Manchester, Cashel, Madras and Lichfield Streets, and it was, even in those early days, cultivated to its fullest extent.

Mr. Wilson married the eldest daughter of Mrs. Williams, who is also worthy of mention for the grit and determination she showed in very trying conditions. Her husband died suddenly on the Port Hills on his first journey from Lyttelton to the Plains, leaving his wife and large family to make their effort alone in the new land. This they did most successfully by starting a drapery establishment at the Market Place, as Victoria Square was called then.

Another close neighbour was Mr. Thacker, father of our present Mayor. Mr. Thacker's energies were devoted in the early days to running vessels up the Heathcote. Insurance for this dangerous trade could not be obtained, and Mr. Thacker sustained heavy losses, but on the other hand he made good profits.

His section was that now occupied by Turnbull & Jones in Cashel Street, and I remember how the deck houses and other parts of one of his wrecked steamers were brought up to his section and used for building.

A shoemaker occupied a cabin thus formed and did a good trade. Mr.