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bore in upon me that it was a special thing for the Alhambra to do, and I had a peculiar mixture of feelings about it, a shy secret pride that we had so many possessions and should be the cause of such a marked event, and also that it was very tiresome of us to be giving the steamer people so much trouble in causing a special journey. At Sumner we halted to rest and change horses, and the hotel where we all got out was close to the sea. We reached Christchurch at dark, and without misadventure. My father took us to Kirdsey's Hotel where we remained for some time. The two little daughters of the landlord used to pass me sometimes on the stairs or in the passages, and we indulged in many shy peeps at each other, longing yet fearing to speak. Further than this we never got, being too well brought up and too shy. I was much interested in them as being New Zealand children, having had a vague idea that all

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the little girls and boys might be brown like the Maories. After some weeks it was announced that we were to leave Christchurch and go to Timaru. This journey took place at the end of August 1864, the date being impressed strongly on my mind by the fact of my eighth birthday coming very quickly after in September. My first New Zealand birthday! We left Christchurch very early one dark cold morning, the coach with its four fresh horses starting from Cobb and Co's office in the Triangle. The Canterbury Cobb and Co were two brothers - Messrs Lee and G. Cole - and their manager was Mr. W. H. Mitchell who I understand remained with them till the firm ceased to exist owing to the construction of the main line of railway through the Island. From Christchurch to Ashburton was a long day's driving, from Ashburton to Timaru another, two full long days being spent in doing what now takes exactly three hours and forty