

of the hills, the track being often quite serpentine, above you are the "everlasting hills" generally clothed with magnificent bush - below lies a fearful precipice either veiled in dense verdure or stripped bare by the violence of the winds tearing down the gorges.

You look out of the carriage window and see ahead the engine pioneering cautiously, looking back are seen the end carriages far round the narrow curve. An accident here means death to some and probably life long injury to many. Only one has yet occurred owing to the great danger causing the utmost caution to be used. The sad affair happened some years ago at a place where the wind blows furiously, all the trees are bleached, and stripped of every twig and leaf, they stand like ghostly sentinels, gaunt and spectral. This point is named Liberia, as typical of desolation. Now breakwinds are erect-

ed which lessen the force of the gales and consequently the dangers of the spot. There are numerous tunnels on this line, which altogether is a most picturesque one. We unfortunately had a grey day for our trip, the beauties of hills and bush would have been greatly enhanced by the sunshine which is so necessary to throw up lights and shadows, and bring out the many tints and shades of green among the forest trees. We lunched at Featherston, meeting here a Christchurch friend, Mr. Hallam, of the Bank of Australasia, then engaged and since married to Miss Nellie Ormond, whom we know well. We also made excursions to places of interest in the neighbourhood, Plimmerton Petone and Lower Hutt, I particularly enjoyed listening to the waters lapping the bank along which the Petone train runs, the railway winds along the harbour for a few miles, and