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J. BALLANTYNE & CO., GENERAL DRAPERS,

TOURISTS' GUIDE TO CANTERBURY.

THE PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

INTRODUCTION.



THE PROVINCIAL DISTRICT OF CANTERBURY, speaking accurately, is bounded on the North by the Hurunui River; on the East by the Ocean; on the South by the Waitaki River; and on the West by the Snow-clad Range which forms the backbone of the Southern Alps. So much for the geographical boundaries which will not interest us much further, as many of the places of interest herein mentioned, lie outside them, and the main objects of this little book are to describe what is to be seen, taking Christchurch as a focus, and to so lay all available information before the tourist, that he will be able, in the calm seclusion of the smoking or reading room to decide upon the trip which best suits his tastes. It may not, however, be out of place to remark here that although the official settlement of Canterbury did not take place until December, 1850, a fair sprinkling of hardy colonists had made their homes here long before that time, and had grown sufficient stock to keep the new settlers going with meat, &c. To give an idea of the growth of the population during the past fifty-one years, it may be mentioned that in 1851 the total white population of Canterbury, exclusive of Maoris, was 3,273, while in 1900 it had risen to 143,041; and the number of sheep had, during the same period, increased from 28,416 to 3,951,008. The present population of Christchurch with suburbs is 57,041, but as most of the City people live out of town, the suburbs account for 39,503 of the above total.

DUNSTABLE HOUSE, CHRISTCHURCH.