

and is thoroughly defined by leading marks by day and lights by night. Once round the bank, you find yourself in a fine natural basin, smooth as a mill-pond, and with eighteen feet at low water alongside a substantial wharf built with black birch piles.

"Every visitor praises Nelson; every one is captivated with its graceful outlines, and the easy and pleasant access from the port to the city, a distance of about a mile-and-a-half, which is travelled by a well-appointed railway car, drawn by a horse,—sixpence being the moderate fare for each passenger. The road is level, running by the margin of the harbour, and close to a broken line of street on the inner side. This portion of the upper harbour is extremely shallow, trending off from a shingly beach to a muddy swamp, which may perhaps be, in time, reclaimed, but which, in the meanwhile, can hardly fail to be injurious to health. At the port itself, and above the limits of this swamp, everything is of a widely different character. Each glen, gully, and peak boasts its mansion or cottage *orné*; and so sheltered are the grounds, from the hill-encompassed nature of the place, that the many nicely kept gardens, orchards, and pleasure-grounds bloom and blossom in undisturbed serenity. Nature, however, has circumscribed the limits of Nelson as a maritime city. There is no boundless space for construction of wharves or warehouses. Mountains dominate the town in every direction, so that, with the exception of the moderate extent of table-land in which the leading streets and thoroughfares are situate, the city may be said to be pushing itself into the sinuosities of the surrounding glens and valleys. The Coromandel township of Kapanga, in its natural aspect, is not altogether unlike the Nelson landscape, save that the area of the latter is more circumscribed, and that the mountains immediately overhang instead of trending gradually towards the coast line. The hills are, besides, uncovered in most directions, not possessing the stupendous and magnificent kauri trees of the North.

"The College is one of the chief ornaments of Nelson, whether one regards the mere building, or the excellent system of education pursued. It is one of the most meritorious institutions to be met with in New Zealand, and it is such as Nelson has just reasons to feel proud of. The building is situated on the left hand side of the Waimea-road, a short distance from town, and is a spacious, handsome structure, of the Elizabethan order of architecture, substantially, indeed beautifully finished both without and within. It is, necessarily, constructed of wood, the main body sprinkled all over with the unfailling sharp, reddish-grey sand, the quoins, doorways, and window jambs, with white sand, to convey the impression of a finished edifice of stone. With its play and pleasure grounds, it cost the sum of £10,000; and the money must have been very carefully disbursed to have achieved so much at so moderate an outlay.

"The Provincial Buildings are generally admired. They cover a good deal of ground, and have an imposing aspect externally. They, too, are of the Elizabethan order; centre and wings, each with turrets of moderate height, with pinnacled and floresent gables, painted and plastered with the all-prevailing, simulating red sand. The Provincial Council Chamber is a finely proportioned hall, some seventy-five feet in length by twenty in breadth, and about twenty-four feet in height. The lower parts of the walls are tastefully pannelled with rimu; the upper portion being nicely papered in wainscot, and varnished. The various departments are all housed within these Provincial walls, not even omitting the Supreme Court House—an additional structure just tacked on. The several offices are well adapted for their respective requirements; they are roomy, airy, and well finished. The Superintendent is lodged as befits an officer of State, his audience chamber being incomparably superior to that of the Governor at Auckland.

"Near to the Provincial Buildings stands the Institute, which, although of wood, like every other Nelson edifice, lays claim to some architectural pretension. It possesses a tolerable library and a museum.

"There is an Infants' school, and a Boys' school also, in this neighbourhood; both affording accommodation for several hundred pupils.

"The Wesleyan Church, situated in Hardy-street, is a neat, noticeable, and commodious building.

"The Episcopalian Church of St. John is not only beautifully, but commandingly perched on an elevated mound at the upper end of Trafalgar-street. It is one of those structures which captivate the imagination without one's being able to expound the reason why. It has a quaint, homely, honest look about it, that predisposes you in its favour on the instant, and you feel anxious to form a closer acquaintance. The prospect from this church is very inviting: in front, the harbour and the distant ocean; whilst in flank and rear, the college and quite a crowd of elegant villas, constitute a very charming picture. The grounds around the church itself are highly ornamental. They have been carefully planted with shrubs and forest trees. The walks are tastefully laid out, and there are benches accommodatingly disposed in different directions. The interior of the church corresponds well with its exterior.

"The ascent of the Dun Mountain is one of the grand achievements for Nelson's visitors. It has usually been accomplished in the Dun Mountain Companies' railway trucks. These are drawn upwards, when empty, by horses, and find their way downwards, when loaded, by their own impetus, regulated, by breaks under the drivers' charge, to a velocity of from four to six miles an hour.

"The roadway, which is a work of great engineering ability, is scarped from out, and winds along, the most precipitous mountain's side. It has been formed by Messrs. Doyne and FitzGibbon for a single line of rails, and is consequently little, if any more than six or seven feet wide; and, therefore, as it overhangs, and you gaze down upon sheer descents of some thousand feet or more in depth, to such as are not mountain born and bred, or whose heads are light or stomachs weak, it is, to say the very least, an exceedingly nervous pathway.

"We spent five days in Nelson. We had thus larger opportunities of making its acquaintance than that of any other port of call. It is a quiet, pretty place. Its inhabitants call it Sleepy Nelson, and they, it is to be presumed, know its character best. Its streets are laid out with great order and regularity, the shops and houses adjoining each other in compact, continuous rows. I have said there is more of architectural display than in other New Zealand towns; but this observation must be understood to apply to the better class of buildings,—the inferior order being probably inferior to those to be met with elsewhere, many of them giving evidences of desolation and premature decay more easily felt than expressed. In a word, Nelson is a nice, pretty, somewhat aristocratic and pretentious place. Many of its villa residences are beautiful. The grounds are enclosed with splendid living fences. The vegetation is most luxuriant, and redolent of all the comforts of a country rather than a seaport town."

The latest news from the Gold-fields, previous to publication, records that one party at least have been successful. They have sold to the bank agent at the Buller one nugget weighing 52 ounces, and three others weighing together nearly as much; and it is believed that they possess a nugget of nearly one hundred ounces in weight. Surely this should arouse Nelson folks from their slumber.