

## OFFICIATING MINISTERS

UNDER THE MARRIAGE ACT.

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The Right Rev. Charles John Abraham, Bishop of Wellington

The Right Rev. Edmund Hobhouse, Bishop (late of Nelson.)

The Right Rev. William Williams, Bishop of Waipatu.

The Right Rev. John Coleridge Patteson, Bishop of Melanesia.

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The Right Rev. P. Y. Viard, Bishop of Wellington.

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The Reverends William Moore Biss, P. H. Cornford, Decimus Dolamore, J. L. Parsons, Edward Thomas

## PRIMITIVE METHODIST SOCIETY.

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## HEBREW CONGREGATIONS.

The Reverends Moses Elkin, David Isaacs; Mr. Henry Isaacs, Mr. Benjamin Aaron Selig.

## CANTERBURY.

NARRATIVE OF EVENTS FOR 1864.

THE colony of New Zealand and the Province of Canterbury have no history in common. The former contains the latter geographically, but, in the eye of the historian of current events, Canterbury must appear an entity, wholly apart and remote from the colony within whose boundaries it is to be found on the maps. The story of each for the past few years, including that of which we have now to write, must be told separately. New Zealand would have her war, her native population, her gold fields, almost everything on which her notoriety rests, even though Canterbury did not exist within her territory. On the other hand, the silent progress which we have made in this Province, the works which we have finished, begun, or projected, even the difficulties under which we labour, form matter for our own historians in no way connected with the exciting topics rising outside our borders. We do not say that the gold which Otago has produced so largely within the past few years has done nothing to advance the material interests of Canterbury. On the contrary, a portion of the wealth of the sister Province has poured across our borders, and undoubtedly hastened our prosperity. And no less true is it that the war in the North, mismanaged and procrastinated as it has been, wasteful of the resources of the colony, and fruitless of result, will bring before long injurious consequences even upon Canterbury. The cause and the effect are there, but the one is remote from the other; the sequence of the event is hardly perceptible, and the agency is wholly invisible; and even if a connection may be traced, there is nothing to indicate any close relationship between Canterbury and the colony at large. So far is this the case that when, during the past year, a temporary monetary difficulty was experienced in this province, the most experienced could hardly say whether the pressure was due to the difficulties of the neighbouring Provinces or to the tightness of the money market in England. Canterbury is, indeed, wonderfully independent of its northern and southern neighbours. Much the same may be said, no doubt, of the other Provinces. And so it falls out that the chronicler of the year's events in Canterbury feels himself to be writing no page of the history of New Zealand as a whole.

The history of Canterbury during 1864 has not been altogether of that happy brilliant character which, we may say, is natural to the province. Along with a great deal of prosperity and material advancement, some misfortune has to be chronicled. The state of trade during the winter was dull, and to some extent it still continues so. The Government found themselves unable to sell the debentures of the Province as readily as they wished in London, and so the large public works, railways to the north and south, improvements in Lyttelton harbour, bridges over the dangerous rivers, and other expensive undertakings have not been proceeded with so rapidly as was anticipated last year, and in some cases not at all. At the same time, the rise and fall of new gold fields, and a falling off in the present productiveness of some old and favourite diggings, have attracted and repelled hither and thither across this Province, to and from the Wakamarina, the Grey and the Dunstan, numbers of people who would be in their place among a gold-mining population, but looked as much out of place on the alluvial plains of Canterbury as did their tents in a Canterbury sou'-wester. Besides, there continued to be, as there always has been, a not inconsiderable immigration from other provinces and colonies of persons hoping to find a comfortable home among us. The discharged militiaman from Auckland, the impoverished settler from Taranaki, the small trader from Australia, the writing-clerk from Dunedin, and the roving man-of-all-work from everywhere, after tasting the sweets and bitters of the last new gold field in Cook Straits, next thought of Canterbury, and came on hither, hoping to find a new land of Goshen, where the plagues of war and gold should be unfelt. Canterbury, nevertheless, can claim no exemption from the operation of economical laws; an unusual influx of a heterogeneous population in a short time could not but have its natural effect—the production of a temporary stagnation of commerce. In dull, Canterbury has prospered during the past twelve months; but the prosperity has been less and her progress slower than usual. With this general glance at the state of the province, we pass to a detail of facts.

A remarkable event in the political history of the Province has been the resignation of the Executive, under which Mr. Maude was the Provincial Secretary. The causes that led to it are thought, in some degree, to be due to the action of the Superintendent, his Honor having openly expressed his intention of resigning, which intention he afterwards declined to carry into execution. Differences had arisen between him and the Executive with reference to the conduct of public works, which, taken in conjunction with the circumstances just alluded to, left them no other course to pursue. Another Executive was shortly after formed, with a gentleman comparatively unknown amongst us at its head, but who has since shown so great an aptitude for business, and so much energy in pushing forward the work of the Government, that the selection of Mr. Rolleston to fill the important post of Provincial Secretary must be considered a happy one. The creation of the office of Secretary of Public Works, and the appointment of the Hon. John Hall to the post with a seat in the Council, was rendered necessary by the increasing business of the Province; and from the well-known administrative ability of that gentleman, it may be safely predicated that, at a period in the history of Canterbury when important works were projected, the Council exercised a wise discrimination in allowing Mr. Hall to carry them out.

There was a short sitting of the Provincial Council in April, for the consideration of some urgent business; but the session of the year commenced on the 11th of August. The business embraced several important subjects, among which may be noticed the consideration of the reports of the commission appointed to report upon the Lyttelton harbour works, and the projected railways to the north and south of the Province. The Education Bill of 1863 having been found objectionable in its operation, a