

Turning now to lighter matters, we have been well supplied with amusements. We have now a permanent Theatre, where the highest and the slightest productions of the older and the more modern dramatists have been placed on the stage in a very creditable manner. We must not pretermit, to use a Scotch phrase, the visit of the Lyster Opera Company, who presented us with a variety of operas of every school of music, in the most excellent style. Their stay amongst us was an epoch in our history. They achieved a grand success, their performances being received with the greatest enthusiasm, and being furnished at the highest price paid here for theatrical entertainments.

The world-renowned All England Eleven arrived at Lyttelton on February 6th, and were received with acclamation. The days of their stay were kept almost entirely as holidays, the whole city wearing an aspect of gaiety. Several matches were got up on the ground at Hagley Park, where some good play took place, the Canterbury Clubs sustaining their reputation. After being fêted in every possible way, and entertained by his Honor the Superintendent, they took their departure from Lyttelton on February 20th, amidst the cheers of the assembled crowds.

Musical taste has also made some progress here. Our Musical Society comprises several accomplished amateurs, and they executed in capital style many difficult masterpieces of music at the various concerts which they have given.

During the past twelve months a variety of races, both flat and steeplechase, have taken place. Two of the latter took place in the neighbourhood of Christchurch, one at Kaiapoi and one in the Heathcote Valley. Some good sport was shown at all of them. This is the first year in which this kind of racing has been witnessed here.

We have had to deplore the deaths of some of our oldest settlers, who were so thoroughly identified with the establishment and continuance of the settlement. Mr. Ebenezer Hay, so well known and respected at Pigeon Bay, lost his life by accidentally falling from the cliffs, as he was passing from Christchurch to Lyttelton, during the month of October, 1863. The Venerable the Archdeacon of Akaroa died (after a short illness) on the 18th June. He was one of our oldest settlers, and was greatly regretted. He was buried in the cemetery, Christchurch, on the 21st, amid every demonstration of respect, the Freemasons, of which body he was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Chaplain, attending the procession. Mr. George Rhodes died on the same day, and almost at the same hour, as the Archdeacon. His death, which took place at Purau, caused a great feeling of regret. His remains were interred in Lyttelton cemetery, on the 23rd. The inhabitants of Lyttelton did all in their power to show their respect for the deceased gentleman.

In conclusion, we may remark that Canterbury has great reason to be satisfied with the advance it has made in every respect, and may with confidence look forward to the great future which awaits it.

MEMORABILIA OF THE YEAR, 1863-4.

DECEMBER.

- 16th.—Anniversary, kept as a holiday in the Province.
- 17th.—Examination at Grammar School.
- 23rd.—Confirmation by the Bishop; 45 candidates confirmed.
- 24th.—Bonnington's Hall opened by a Concert by the Canterbury Musical Society.
- 28th.—Akaroa Races.
- 29th.—Moorhouse Tunnel illuminated.
- 31st.—Mr. William Thomson, M.H.R., addressed his constituents at Papanui.

JANUARY.

New Year's Day.—Regatta at Lyttelton and at Akaroa. New Presbyterian Church opened, as well as a Congregational one, temporarily, at Bonnington's Hall.

- 19th.—Canterbury Races.
- 23rd.—Mr. Rolleston, Provincial Secretary, elected M.P.C. for the Heathcote.
- 26th.—Meeting of Canterbury Presbytery.
- 27th.—The corner-stone of the new Wesleyan Church laid.
- 29th.—Mr. Jollie, M.H.R., addressed his constituents at Timaru.

FEBRUARY.

- 6th.—Arrival of English Cricketers.
- 20th.—Departure of the Eleven.
- 24th.—Timaru Races.

MARCH.

- 1st.—Session of the Supreme Court, criminal cases.
- 15th.—Sittings for the dispatch of civil business.
- 16th.—Horticultural Show in Cathedral Square Gardens.
- 21st.—Hansom's Cabs introduced into Christchurch. Daring robbery of jewellery, at the house of Mr G. Taylor, Lyttelton.
- 30th.—Concert for the benefit of the Christchurch Orphanage at Bonnington's Hall.
- 31st.—Bazaar for the same institution at Kohler's Gardens.

APRIL.

- 11th.—Public meeting (preliminary) at the Town Hall, on the subject of the Panama contract.
- 18th.—Another meeting held on the same subject. Swing-bridge across the Heathcote opened. News of the discovery of gold at the West Coast reached Christchurch.
- 20th.—Mr. W. Wilson elected M.P.C. for Kaiapoi.
- 25th.—Meeting at the Town Hall, on the subject of Acclimatization.

MAY.

- 16th.—Trotting-match at Timaru. Pillar letter-boxes introduced into Christchurch.
- 17th.—Confirmation by the Bishop in Lyttelton; 25 young persons confirmed.
- 29th.—New Roman Catholic Church on the Ferry Road opened.

JUNE.

- 1st.—Session of the Supreme Court, criminal cases; civil business commenced on the 10th.
- 2nd.—Foundation Stone laid of the new Presbyterian Church, in Lyttelton.
- 4th.—Great Fire in Colombo-street. "Ivanhoe" brought out the apparatus for the light-house on Godley Head.
- 17th.—Distribution of prizes at the Christchurch Grammar School.
- 18th.—Deaths of Archdeacon Mathias and Mr. George Rhodes.
- 28th.—Fire at the Golden Fleece.

JULY.

- 1st.—Meeting of the Church Institute at Bonnington's Hall; Mr. Louis read a paper on the establishment of churches in the colonies. The first plant of the Gas Works arrived by the "Amoor."
- 6th.—Meeting of the Governors of the Hospital for the purpose of handing over its management to the Government.
- 24th.—Fire at the Villa Hotel, Akaroa.

AUGUST.

- 2nd.—The Diocesan Synod met and continued in session until the 13th.
- 4th.—Canterbury Maiden Steeplechase.
- 10th.—Foundation Stone of Lyttelton Parsonage laid.
- 11th.—Ploughing Match at Kaiapoi; testimonial to Mr. W. White.
- 25th.—Fire at the stables attached to the Oxford Hotel.

SEPTEMBER.

- 1st.—Fire in Colombo-street, on the premises of Mr. Younghusband. Session of the Supreme Court, the civil cases commenced on the 10th.
- 6th.—Arrival of the "British Empire," the largest ship which ever visited the port of Lyttelton.
- 8th.—Annual Ploughing Match at Leithfield.
- 16th.—The new Town Hall inaugurated by a concert.
- 17th.—Opening of the new Union Bank of Australia in Hereford-street, Christchurch.
- 19th.—Daring robbery at the stores of Messrs. Walton, Warner and Co.
- 28th.—Opening of Victoria Bridge.
- 24th.—Heathcote Steeplechase.