Of . . .

MADAME MELBA'S CONCERTS *(New Zealand),*

MDLLE. DOLORES' CONCERTS *(Australia, New Zealand & Canada),*

THE PRINCIPAL MUSICAL FESTIVALS *(Australia & New Zealand),*

HERR WILHELM BACKHAUS' ENGLISH CONCERTS
(October & November, 1904), and

THE CHIEF LONDON AND PROVINCIAL CONCERTS.

✦

Mr. John Prouse

BARITONE.

✦

For Terms, &c. apply



ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL

IN

Oratorio.

Repertoire

All the Standard Works.

"Elijah."

"As the representative of the Prophet, Mr. PROUSE stands in the very foremost rank of living Baritones."—*Musical Courier.*

London Press Opinions.

Times.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE has a resonant voice, his enunciation is very clear, and he created a good impression.—*19th February*, 1904.

Standard.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE sings with appreciation of the poetic value of his contributions, and his diction is particularly clear.—*28th January*, 1904.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE's interpretation of M. Georg Henschel's beautiful "Morning Hymn" rang true, and the rendering of "Don Juan's Serenade," by Tschaïkowsky was also admirable.—*19th February*, 1904.

Daily Telegraph.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE has a good voice, and enunciates clearly; by his artistic treatment of Tschaïkowsky's very beautiful "Pilgrim's Song" he created a great impression.—*28th January*, 1904.

Daily News.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE, the new baritone, has a fine voice, easily produced, and his articulation was commendably clear.—*28th January*, 1904.

Musical Times.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE has great musical perception and an excellent baritone voice.—*1st April*, 1904.

Musical News.

In Brahms's "Die Mainicht," Mr. JOHN PROUSE reached the exalted mood of the music admirably.—*9th March*, 1904.

Daily Graphic.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE, a baritone with a fine voice, was particularly well suited in "Don Juan's Serenade."—*2nd March*, 1904.

St. James' Gazette.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE has a cultured style and melodious voice.—*9th March*, 1904.

Vanity Fair.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE's voice is a baritone of rich compass, and his enunciation is excellent.—*9th March*, 1904.

Referee.

Mr. JOHN PROUSE is endowed with a fine baritone voice and as fine musical feeling.—*2nd March*, 1904.

The "Backhaus" Tour.

RAMSGATE.—Mr. JOHN PROUSE met with an enthusiastic reception. He sang magnificently, and was compelled to comply with the emphatic demand for an encore.—*East Kent Times*, *26th October*, 1904.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Mr. JOHN PROUSE at once became popular with his audience, the wonderful compass of his voice being splendidly brought out in Tschaïkowsky's "Pilgrim's Song," and Schumann's "Two Grenadiers." The audience refused to be satisfied with bowed acknowledgments, and Mr. PROUSE responded by singing the simple and yet effective song "Youth."—*Weston Mercury*, *2nd October*, 1904.

BLACKPOOL.—Mr. JOHN PROUSE, too, was distinctly a success with his fine cultivated renderings.—*Gazette*, *8th November*, 1904.

An exceedingly fine baritone.—*Herald*, *8th November*, 1904.

Reminiscences
of
John Prouse.
1926

Presented to the Alexander Turnbull Library
by the Prouse Estate, 1958.

(1)

Clifton Terrace
Oct 16th 1926

Born at Waimeomata near Wellington and about half a mile south of the little ~~[illegible]~~ Church and ten chains from the present main road on what was then called Stony ridge, this ridge was practically flat but covered with large boulders & my parents made a stone fence around the garden but the earthquakes of that period demolished the fence & made the house a complete wreck so that it had to be pulled down

My elder brother was born a fortnight after one of the great upheavals & had to be satisfied with a tent to live in till the house was rebuilt

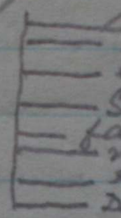
Some years later my father purchased a farm 12 miles farther down the valley & it was there I spent my boyhood days

At six years old I walked 4 miles to school & 4 miles home again and from 10 to 14 years walked the same 4 miles but milked four cows in the morning & six or seven cows in the evening during the summer And did I go to football on Saturdays Oh no! there was always firewood to get or thistles to dig and on Sundays we walked the same 4 miles to Sunday School & stayed to afternoon service & listened with much pleasure & profit to the giant preachers of those early days such as Dr Morley Dr Rigg & many others

I remember the singing was hearty every one sang or tried to. Father used to pitch the tunes, that was before the advent of the American organ

2/

It was at the day school I had my first lessons in singing We were fortunate in having a schoolmaster who was an enthusiastic musician Every day at 2/30 we put away our lessons & had half an hours instruction on how to read music by the Sol fa I remember distinctly our first lesson, he took a piece of chalk & drew the following on the blackboard



had to sing the simple scale taking end for many days we perfect and always in time, from care to have the intervals developed into singing rounds such as this small beginning we & so on until we could all read at sight especially if there were not too many sharps & flats May Comes Laughing & June Lovely June

During the winter this enthusiast invited all the people of the valley to come to a night school to be taught the tonic Sol fa & with such success, from 30 to 120 residents attended regularly old & young & the big boys & girls attending school, would also attend because we had the full weeks instruction & could lead the tunes The evening chosen was Friday & we did not mind the 4 miles walk home with the bottle lanterns after practise as there was no school the next day

At the end of the second winter we gave a concert & sang anthems glees part songs & made our enthusiastic instructor a present of a gold watch, which was much appreciated

3/

the whole of the instruction was a labour of love

During the third year a tragedy happened to our beloved musician
schoolmaster, he had 2 or 3 cows & these had wandered into the
bush during the winter & on August 1st set out one day to find
them & as he was unaccustomed to the bush he missed his track
& was lost. The alarm was raised at once & every one in the
valley was out on the hills the next day, some took two or three
days provisions & went into the srroundings, the first days search
was without success but on the second day a party found a
track & were horrified to discover his body not more than three
miles from where he entered the bush. The shock to the district
was great being a very nervous man with a high strung nature
he went out of his mind the first night & only lived a few
hours. The funeral took place the following day & was
possibly the largest ever held in the valley. The whole of
the Sol Fa class attended & sang at the grave that beautiful anthem
"Call to Remembrance O Lord" & often when I pass the
little cemetery & read on the head stone John Clark
aged 27 years I think how much I owe to this enthusiast
whose short life was bound up in teaching others what he believed to
be the foundation of successful singing

4/

The next year I spent at the Taita school Mr Williams our master was an enthusiastic musician I sang also in his choir at the Taita church & just about the time I left school a concert was given which was a great success some of the leading Sopranos were Mrs T G Williams Mrs Jackson Miss E Hallorin & many others The principal Tenor Mr George Beetham ~~was~~ sang a solo & I felt quite important taking part in the Chorus with the contralto with Mrs Mundgway as lead

This ended my school career & the next five years were spent on the farm bushfelling fencing milking shearing &c At 16 I was able to shear 60 sheep per day and at 18 years I assisted my brother to break in a team of bullocks as my father decided the best way to clear up the farm was to cut the logs into lengths with a small mill

During this period of farming and also two or three years later my music advanced very little & my voice changed from Contralto to bass

Our family were all musical & I had an idea my elder brother had a better voice than I & he certainly was more enthusiastic also my elder sister had one of those beautiful rich voices & although she never had

5/

a lesson in her life it was a delight to hear her while at work open her throat & sing in that beautiful natural tone which one so seldom hears now I remember what a thrill it gave me when I first heard her sing the solo part in "The Marvellous work from "The Creation" the sustained high C was taken without effort & I have never heard any one sing it better It was a great grief to the family when this voice was called away by a sudden illness before she had reached 27 years

At this time I had been married about two years & came to Wellington to live & I may just as well own up I never for one moment thought of a musical career, but my wife was a Welsh woman & she had made up her mind I could sing it was she who arranged for me to take singing lessons & I remember when we returned from hearing a performance of "Elijah" she said Now you shall sing the Prophets part when it is next given in Wellington, of course I scoffed the idea but she was persistant & about 2½ years later I made my first great success in Oratorio in this part, The whole of my study in this work was done with Mr Robert Parker & it is to his credit that in later years Sir Charles Santley commented so favourably on the way I had been taught

b/

From this time I became interested & with continual practise my voice developed, but the greatest factor in my musical success lay in the fact that during the long period of my studies, my wife was always ready to practise with me & I never heard her once complain of feeling tired, she had the advantage of an excellent musical education in England & had heard many of the great artists before coming to this country

In the year 1890 I went with my family to London We were lucky in finding a suitable furnished house in St Johns Wood within 24 hours of our Landing & I started study right away with one of Londons greatest professors My first lesson was spent in trying to get my mouth so open that I took control of sound & I was soon satisfied we had chosen the wrong master so I changed to T A Wallworth with whom I was quite satisfied went to Santley ~~as soon as he returned from Australia~~ while my London I heard many of the great singers & what a revelation Patti Albani, Nordica & so many others in their prime I also heard Sims Reeves & although he had passed Three score years & ten I have never heard such Poetry in singing before nor since & I have often wondered what was it that made "Come into the garden Maud" so real & so different to

m/

my

any other tenor I haven ever listened to It is nearly 40 years since I heard it & yet it brings back one of those delightful memories we seldom have & never forget I took the liberty of calling upon Sims Reeves as I heard it mooted he might come to Australia, he said how much he should like to come, but the long journey was the great drawback

I had not been in London 12 months when I filled several important engagements singing with Augustus Manns and the Chrystal Palace Orchestra also with the Cardiff Choral Society when Emily Spada & Philip Newbury were also soloists I was engaged to sing in Rossinis Stabat Mater in place of Santley who had not returned when expected from Australia & I was understudy for Signor Foli & sang all the latter part of "Elijah" in St James Hall I studied Italian under Signor Adelmann in Ganz's academy & sang with Helen Trust at her concert given under his direction Mr Ganz's I shall never forget meeting This celebrated musician when entering his academy, he asked me to sing something but I had not brought a song however a copy of the "Erl King" was lying on the piano & he asked me would I sing it, I commenced with fear & trembling & when he opened it he said this is a high key I thank you should sing it in such a key, but I will play in any key you prefer what shall it be & when I mentioned the Key I prefered he

8/

played it faultlessly & I did my very best

One of the greatest treats I had was to listen to Henry Irving & Ellen Terry who were playing to full houses all that season The voice of Ellen Terry haunted one it was so beautifully musical I scarcely remember a voice like it except perhaps Maggie Pitt-Paterson when she was describing the wonderland of Rotorua —— also Sir James Carroll had that gift of making you believe you were listening to music when it was only the speaking attended several Operas at Covent Garden when Melba was rapidly coming to the front & the De Reszkes were a power in whatever they undertook I also attended several festivals Edward Lloyd was always like a rock so sure so artistic. Conductors That celebrated Tenor looked happy while Lloyd was singing, he took no liberties

Before the end of two years I returned to New Zealand, believing my family would have better chances than in the old world & it was not long before I was engaged to sing in those memorable towns of Antonia Dolores what I owe to this artist I could never explain no song was ever put on a programme until she had heard it & advised whether it was suitable or not & I could not understand how she knew all my songs until I found she had toured with Santley, Andrew Black, Plancon & other eminent baritones before coming to this country

She was always cheerful and on time except on one

9/

occasions in Dunedin In the month of August there had been a heavy fall of snow which had frozen, ~~the cabby~~ our cabby rang to say he was out about 2 miles & it would be dangerous to come in There appeared to be only one cab in town & he said it was impossible to get up the hill to the Garrison Hall However the good natured hotelkeeper Mr Palmer took 3 waiters & pushed the cab up to the hall & we were able to start at 8/15 We were surprised to find the hall well filled, no other city in New Zealand would turn up such a record on such a night

We had many interesting experiences on tour. One at the Thames where we had to stay all day before our boat left for Auckland, every place in New Zealand boasts of some wonderful thing & at the Thames it was Have you seen our giant Kauri Tree it measures 51 feet round so we started about 8 o'c on a clear sunny morning & walked up hill for hours, at 10/30 we came to a miners camp & they offered some tea which was most acceptable, we also borrowed their billy to boil when we reached this wonderful tree & sure enough at 12/30 there was The giant of over a Thousand years looking down at us We took some photos, boiled the billy had lunch & started back on that long walk but it was all down hill

At about 3 o'c we met a herd of cows making their

way home to be milked We were all thirsty & I thought if only one of these cows were quiet & sure enough there was one feeding on the side of the road I passed my hand along her back & gave her a bit of a scratch & then asked for the billy & after milking it half full we walked into the next land in the road & tasted this farmers fresh milk I shall never forget Mrs Vert exclaiming if we could only get milk like this to drink, how much better it would be than tea We caught our boat at 6 o'Clock & were soon in our bunks & fast asleep

In Australia we had long distances to travel but the weather especially in winter was more congenial than in New Zealand Adelaide in August is delightful & so is Broken Hill & we found the mining towns so enthusiastic In Broken Hill we gave an afternoon concert which was crowded

Melbourne & Sydney have each a great music loving public & for nearly twenty years Dolores held a most enviable position in the hearts of these people Her work was so thorough & sincere In Brisbane some music had been mislaid & the principal aria could not be procured so the manager said the item

would be altered but Dolores said the public would expect it & she sent for some music paper & wrote the accompaniment note perfect from memory so as to keep faith with her public My daughter was accompanist on this tour & she said every note in the accompaniment was correct

I accompanied Dolores on one tour through Canada but we did not have the large audiences we had experienced in Australia & New Zealand this was partly the fault of the management as the Australian season was so successful it was continued long after the time we were due in Canada consequently we toured Canada nearing midsummer The sight seeing crossing the prekies, Niagara Falls, & New York were all interesting & in a few weeks I was once more in London where I stayed over three years

My first tour in England was with Backhaus so quiet & unassuming but what an artist Charles McMillan was the violinist & we had a most delightful time together

The first At home I sang at was Lady Lesonfield's My daughter & Mr played my accompaniments & I sang 11 or 12 songs for I was introduced to many titled ladies & all thought the Duchess of Marlborough the most striking figure in the room that afternoon Lady Lionfield's brother Lord Rosebery was the only gentleman present & I had a most interesting chat with him on New Zealand affairs

One has to be prepared for all kinds of emmergencies in London one was to take the one of the bass parts in Gounods Redemption at very short notice Sunday was my alloted day & I went straight to him & he said Oh yes you can do it Get Robert Radford to take the second part he wont mind & you work hard for 2 days then come to me every day till you have got it & it was given at Queens Hall at the end of the following week

On one afternoon I had a ring asking if I would give a recital in place of an artest who had been suddenly taken ill & I promised providing they engaged Tito Mattei & play his accompaniments this was soon arranged & we went to a hall in West Kensington I had been studying Italian Songs with Mattei & it was a delight to sing with him We were taken to supper & Mattei kept us amused till nearly midnight relating his unusual experiences

I was in Paris on holliday when I received a wire asking if I could accept a tour with Kubelik commencing in a week I replied accepting & returned to London the same evening The management asked for a high class song in the first part & a popular song in the second The Pilgrims Song Tschaikowsky was chosen for the first but there was

great difficulty in chosing a popular song that had not been sung to death however a happy inspiration came along & we decided on "Queen of Connemara" Alexa Needham my wife suggested I should ask the Composer to hear the song as it would give me more confidence, this I did at once & received the following wire each morning, Meet me at Boosey's at 11/30 I go North on the 1 & C train I went at the time stated & we went into the Music room & before singing I explained I thought I should be able to make ~~more better of the song~~ than I did & after singing it over she said, do you know what is wrong I said I did not well she said I composed this song for Tolli & it is set a full tone low for your voice, then she played it in the higher Key & it was like a new song, she gave instructions for it to be copied in the higher key & delivered to me not later than 8 O C the same evening During the next half hour we had over several of her Compositions but none suited to suit me as well as "Connemara"

In Ireland this song was a great success, In Londonderry it caused quite a furore & Madam Rickelik paid me the compliment of saying this was my concert so after reaching my hotel I asked why these people were so enthusiastic & I was informed the song was composed there & every child in the town knew it & also knew the Composer

I shall always remember the 5th of May during this tour which was Kubelik's only appearance in London that season London Ronald conducted & the London Symphony orchestra were engaged to play all the accompaniments I was the only vocalist & you can imagine how happy I was when it was all over The Queens Hall was packed with a delightful audience & Kubelik received an ovation which he well deserved

While in London I took part in many functions, I met Lady Henry Somerset & she asked me (if not otherwise engaged) to sing at a Mission she was interested in in the West End of London & I consented The Bishop of London Dr Ingram gave the address & Lady Henry was in the chair. I shall never forget the Bishop's opening remarks, he said During my life time I have taken part in many ceremonies but I question if any have been under such peculiar circumstances as I am taking part in tonight Here am I The Bishop of London Opening a Temperance Session in the largest Music Hall in the West end of London on Sunday evening And then he gave one of those stirring adresses, that made one feel how good it was to be there. Mrs Isitt now the Hon Leonard Holt continued these temperance lectures during the rest of the week under Lady Henry Somersetts direction & with enormous success

As I had been singing many of Frances Allitsen's songs in Australia & New Zealand this lady expressed a wish to see me & I called at about 4/30 one afternoon & after a cup of tea I ventured to ask if she had any new songs as I wished to have a new song for a concert to be given in the Queens Hall She sang dozens of songs to me some in manuscript & at last we decided on one What a tale of woe this lady had to tell. Her publisher was refusing every thing except a few Sentimental ballads for tenors, she had gramfulles of serious songs but there was no chance of her publisher accepting them I thought I had spent an hour & half with her listening to her music but found it was 7/45 when I left & I did not mind missing dinner as I had a feast of delightful music with a composer I had known for many years by her songs but had not met till that afternoon Another striking composer I met was Sir Landon Ronald & I had the pleasure of his accompaniments to a bracket of his songs at a concert given in St James Hall I had heard much about this musician & I must say his accompaniments were an inspiration Another of the most delightful accompaniments I had was Hamilton Harty When playing one by Tschaikowsky I asked why he played the opening so fast & he replied When Tschaikowsky was in London some years ago I heard him

play this song & I have always tried to imitate him —
During the time I studied with Santley I spent many
evenings with my wife & daughter in his company It was
a delight to hear him recount his musical experiences
I remember one evening the conversation turned to Sims Reeves
& I was pleased to hear Santley say that never once in his life
had he seen Sims under the influence of liquor, & never
did he disapoint an audience on that account he said Reeves
was a bundle of nerves & he gave an instance where they
were engaged for a concert in the South of England, Sims were
a day early, & Santley arrived at 6 OC the morning of the concert
On enquiring at the hotel he found Sims in a frightful nervous
state, Santley insisted on his having some dinner but still he
said it was impossible to sing, at last Santley promised if he
would accompany him to the hall & if he was too ill Santley
would sing Songs in his place
After arriving at the hall when this concert number came on
it, but Santley was just as sure it would pass off ~~it was~~
so he put his music in his hand & pushed him through the
curtain Sims walked just like a drunken man, but as soon
as he opened his mouth his nervousness ceased & he sang as well

as ever & received a great ovation from the audience
Santley said if only the public knew what Sims Reeves suffers
during these nervous attacks they would have been much more charitable
than they were I felt how delightful it was to hear one great
artist speak in such glowing terms of his brother artist who was
so often misunderstood

The last time I visited Santley (now Sir Charles) was on his
86th birthday his health was good & his mind clear & his delight
was to talk about music & especially Oratorio We were discussing
"Elijah" & he suddenly asked did you ever hear a Contralto sing
"O Rest in the Lord" as it should be sung I could only reply I has
heard many fine singers, well he said in all my
hare never heard one to please me, you will remember you
have just sung "It is Enough" "O Lord now take away my life"
& the following Recitative which concludes "O That I now might die"
now he said my idea is the Angel should sing "O Rest in the Lord"
such a cheerful uplifting strain that Elijah would be so comforted
he would want to live again, but not a bit of it They begin
with those heavy dark tones & continue right to the finish
like this & he sang the opening as he had always heard it
& afterwards in quite a different tone of voice as he thought it
should be sung

I was on my way to Italy & when I mentioned the fact to Sir Charles he said I love Italy & when you pass Lenno on Lake Como think of the happy days I spent there & how I should like to go back again if it were possible I know of no place on earth more beautiful than Lenno

While in the company of great musicians I may be permitted to mention a few others I first met Madame Melba in Dunedin where I was engaged to sing with her I felt very nervous of course, but she gave me every encouragement & soon felt at home However I knew something was wrong with the Company & was told later the Government were making such demands & treated them with such suspicion they where sorry they had been included in the tour When I met Madame in London a few years later, she was so cheerful & gracious it was like meeting a different person She gave me box at Covent Garden to hear the finest performance of "Faust" I ever expect to hear with Madam as Marguerite and Plancon as Mephisto also she gave me a letter of introduction to her manager and advised me on many musical matters

In New Zealand I also met Madame Antoinett Sterling for the first time. I had heard her sing many times in Lon-

wou
mus
excite
A
Jack
are
love
when
her
every
not
drea
com
(Page 7)
as
This ca
as he
went
A

wonderful ballad concerts in St James Hall When Mary Davies
Edward Lloyd, Santley, Foli The Joachim Quartette & other Grant
musicians of those days took part but I did not meet her
until she came to Wellington
After her Concert season in Wellington I invited her to meet some
friends at dinner at my house & as she expressed a wish to
see the Summit of Island Bay I engaged Innes with those
lovely pair of horses he used to drive & we left at 3 O
in the afternoon. Before reaching Island Bay Madam said
to me you Know I am most unhappy & I asked
what might be the matter she explained she had left
her husband very ill in Adelaide & she received a telegram
every day stating the Doctors report but this day the telegram had
not been received & she said what worries me is I had a
dream last night (or rather this morning) & my husband
came to my bedside & kissed me & I was so startled I
scarcely slept after, However we visited the Hermit (the
hermit) became & Madam had quite a long conversation with him
as he was an intellectual man, We had dinner & all
went well except the worry over the telegram
One hour Later I met the manager & he said he had just received

a cable from Adelaide stating Madame's Husband had passed away early that morning. The fortune of this tour was cancelled & I did not hear that nobly soul stirring voice again.

Madames Tell Coke like Madame Sterling used to sing direct into the hearts of her audience & I had the pleasure of a tour in Company with this lady. I met her first in the artists room in St James Hall after a performance of "Elijah" & at once she impressed me as having a nature which was happy in advising young artists to avoid the pitfalls so common in the musical profession.

In travelling round the world we met many famous ones, one of these Sir Ernest Shackleton gave a lecture on the S S Ventura & went to no end of trouble to make a screen showing the route of their Polar expedition, he also brought out numbers of photographs showing the different points they had visited.

Also on the same boat we had Dr Mott who gave a lecture on the Oberammgau Passion Play & it seemed on that particular passage every one tried to see how much pleasure they could give to their fellow passengers, every one who could sing a song assisted or tried to & a Catholic Priest (I forget his name) gave some humorous recitations much to the delight of the passengers. In a speech on arrival at San Francisco the Captain stated it had been the most interesting trip he had travelled across the Pacific

To get back to music & Musicians I found in Albert Bradshaw a composer who has so many delightful songs which are not appreciated as they should be I had the pleasure of studying over a dozen of these songs with the composer & singing them at his recitals in Wellington I shall never forget the study of (The train Song) "We Away along the ridges" I seemed to feel a danger of being left behind or perhaps it was the speed of the train was greater than I had been used to in this country However it was always a success especially when the composer was on the engine I shall never forget Albert Bradshaws accompaniments

So far I have had very little disappointment with the singers I have met at the outset I must confess my disappointment with the singers gained with all the advanced musical teaching during the last say 30 years We have competitions galore, with Gold Medals, Silver Medals &c &c ~~I am wondering if some of the teachers in this vast organisation are not entitled to medals of another description for the small success obtained~~

Last year I met a girl coming out of the Town Hall who had won a first prize, she talked as if she were a full blown Prima Donna the judge praised her & her teacher praised her & every one thought she was wonderful & she had been studying 18 months, poor Child I wonder what will be her opinion after she has studied 18 years & discovers then she has so much more to learn

I was engaged to sing in Elijah in New Zealand not many years ago & at the rehearsal the Soprano ventures to ask, was I pleased with the Widows Duett I said certainly not, to me you sing like a racehorse, why rush at such a pace she explained the conductor had tried it over with her & told her she must sing all the quavers in strict time & thus had upset all her ideas I answered I had never heard any one sing it at such a pace & advised her to get back to her own ideas she took my advice but was still entirely for hurrying the part. The Contralto who was singing Lotos for the first time had the same tale of woe she had been taught correctly by an old lady artist & she had never thought of singing Quavers in strict time the conductor had suggested she could improve his part. he said he was in his seventh quarter with a good Master & hoped to get to England next year. Well I said I have been singing & studying this part for 37 years & still find something new every time I take part in it now how can you expect to get any idea of the part in the short time you have been studying, he seemed disappointed but in these matters it is far better to speak the truth even if it does offend.

Now I would not have you think that all conductors in this country are of this type, we have had & still have some excellent conductors & I say this after having had & given a lot of experience of conductors in the old land.

There is no doubt whatever we have some excellent natural talent in this country but to place that ~~extra~~ talent in such surroundings ~~as~~ that every step is a step forward is the difficulty. I was asked to give a lady (who had won a first-prize at a local competition) a letter to a friend in Milan & in due course she presents the letter & my friend introduces her to one of the leading Maestro for an opinion after hearing the lady sing a couple of Operatic arias the Maestro said to my friend in Italian has she had any tuition & he was informed she had taken prizes at competitions & he said oh what a pity had she had so many bad habits it would take 12 months or more to correct these, then it would take 3 years to train her for an Operatic career & her voice does not now show evidence of sufficient volume for the Operatic career stage & last of all I cannot detect that superior intelligence that will guarantee going to all this expense, but of course I will do my best if she decides to go on, When my friend explained the time it would take for a course the lady said it was impossible as she could not spare more than 2 years in Italy I have never heard of this lady since, but here is a fair sample of a first-prize Competition girl in New Zealand who thinks she has only to spend a couple of years abroad to have a great career open to her but return after spending her little all a sadder but a wiser girl

With all my experience I find giving advice in voice production
is a most delicate, difficult subject & being so intricate has given rise
to the enormous number of theories put forward
You find some people giving great study to the formation of
the different muscles in the throat but give me the student
that has not yet discovered they have a Throat, they were
born with a natural voice, & that is all they know. & I say
for this class there is great hope, there there is all the trouble
over breath control, diaphramatic breathing & a lot of other silly nonsense
also simply because their watchword in music was the Natural
& they trained on common sense lines & natural lines
The first lesson I had from Sanitty he said, now
whatever advice you have to the contrary dont allow anyone
to try & change your natural voice, it is the best you will
ever have & will last a long time if you allow no one to tamper
with it. One day I ventured to ask why I had such difficulty
in singing soft passages without loosing the quality or intensity of tone
his reply was fix the idea in your brain & work & in course
of time it will come to you, Now seeing that no two voices
are alike & no two throats are similar is it any wonder teachers

have such difficulties especially if they try to train every student on
the same lines I say every voice is a separate study & must
be treated as such Then there is the vicious habit of forcing
the contralto voice to sing high soprano parts How many
beautiful voices have been lost for ever on account of this practice
Why not watch the natural voice developing & it will go up of
its own accord if nature has promised to do it to try & force it up is like taking out the
foundations of a building to form the coping stone

I am often asked why is there such a poor result from all the
study now there used to be, a student cannot attend picture
& picture theatres & expect to make advancement when their
brains are filled with rubbish To acquire brain development
read Shakespeare & all the beautiful poets & get back to the study
of the Bible it may be old fashioned but it is surprising what
inspiration you can get if you study the Bible seriously
If you wish to study serious Songs read the history of the
composers life, it will help you, When I toured England with
Barkhaus many years ago I found what a student of literature he was
& when we listened to him recently in Wellington what a delight it was to
hear him revealing those noble ideals he had formed

As if he were in touch the whole time with the Composer
every bar had a message to those who had the intelligence to grasp
it ~~in meaning~~ If we study closely the character of musicians
we find it is only those who have grasped the inner meaning of the
composers intention who can give out that something which arrests immediate
attention but is not easily to explain Then there is the effect of the audience
upon the singer I well remember how I used to look around the hall
~~audience~~ especially in Oratorio & if I saw those deeper faithful
earnest listeners how it used to give me courage you cannot
imagine how I missed the beautiful face of James Patterson
when singing in "Elijah" in December 1925 it was one
of the faces I always looked for so intelligent, so strong, so inspiring
I called on him a few days later & he stated he meant to
be there but they never prompted his memory. Of course I knew
it was a risk for him to go out in the evening at such an advanced
age This gentleman loved to speak of the pioneers of over 60 years
ago when he used to walk from Wellington to Wainui in the afternoon
preach or lecture in the evening spend the ~~over~~ night with the Sinclairs
& walk back to Wellington next morning he used to say the hearty
reception he received from the Wainui settlers more than repaid
for the effort It was a peculiar coincidence that in discussing

with this gentleman

churches in Wales, my wife mentioned as a girl she was present at a great ceremony when the church was opened free of debt, There were three outstanding features about it she said one was the white locks of the Reverend Dr Guthrie who preached the sermon then the beautiful words of the young man who read the lessons & the third was there was no coin except gold in the collection plate Yes cried the Revd gentleman & would you believe it, I was that young man who read the lessons Now to get back to Music I would have all students of singing take lessons in elocution, not one half of the pupils of today have any regard for words & how they are pronounced you cannot make any mush out of it Also a wretched accent is creeping into New Zealand the schoolmasters know it occasionally a voice crying in the wilderness speaks his mind but we go on spending our millions on education & we must know that the stream at the fountain head is pure otherwise we should not have to complain of the slipshod and inefficient teaching in so many of our public schools To check this retrograde tendency I should be inclined to import a large number of Scotch teachers which would help our children to get back to a purer english I have lived near the Terrace over 40 years & have to admit the language of the children trained under Mr Macmorran School is purer & more beautiful than what you listen to today than was 1

We have some system of exchanging teachers & I have heard of a few exchanges with America & Canada & if this was persisted in we should soon hear that Yankee drawl which is so repugnant to all lovers of pure english, but if we sent 500 or 100 of our young teachers to Scotland each year & exchanged with them the influence would soon be felt & Scotland would be proud of her education system than she is today, & it would be a pleasure to listen to many of our students whose voices are so good but their pronounciation & diction is so faulty If we tolerate weeds in our garden the flowers will soon droop & die, so also impurities to thrive in our school system we can only expect the same results

I shall never forget my first impression of Oratorio singing in Wellington Living in Wainui I rode to the Lower Hutt & took the bus (there was no train) into Wellington The "Messiah" was being performed in the Wesleyan Church in Manners St with small but efficient orchestra & organ accompaniment There was ~~a~~ double bass players ~~& as it was difficult to~~ ~~get trombone~~ I thought he was wonderful The striking features of the performance which will remain in my memory for all time was the beautiful quality of the two soprano voices Miss Rutcliff (afterwards Mrs Greenwood) & Miss Randall The former sang "Rejoice Greatly" & the solo in the

for
as
su
25
go
wo
of
two
wo
pl
wi
all
&
he
te

first part + Miss Randall sang "I know that my Redeemer liveth" both
of these ladies were style in their tone, ~~but the beautiful quality~~
~~in each voice had remained a delightful memory for over fifty years.~~
and they sang in that natural voice which is so impressive because it is so pure

A question often asked are we as enthusiastic in Musical matters
as we were 20 & 30 years ago I do not think we are, considering our
numbers have trebled, we certainly had better orchestral accompaniments
25 years ago because there were no pictures and so many of the players
gave their services for pure love of the advancement of music
Then there was an enthusiasm in the home + numbers
of quartetts + trios could be heard passing a delightful hour or
two plodding through the old masters I knew of one Catholic Priest
who used to gather his quartett after service on Sunday evening and
play on till the small hours of the morning

The last time I met this enthusiast in Auckland his first
word of greeting was when ~~I am~~ have an hours music together
it was about 10/30 + I said right now I am disengaged
all the morning In a short time we were in his music room
+ he said what shall it be I said whatever you wish + he said
he would like the solos in the "Messiah" + then we had one or
two from the "Creation" + "O God have Mercy" from "St Paul" + then

he said I wonder are you too tired to sing "Thou'rt Passing Hence"
he assured me it was the best song Sullivan ever wrote &
he gave me a mock oration as accompaniment
At the finish neither spoke for a moment & then he said
putting his hand on my shoulder Oh how I wish I could hear
that again & I offered immediately as it was not even
to tire me if I was singing in congenial company
We spent altogether about 3 hours together & I promised I
would come again for a sing when I came to Auckland
Both in less than 2 months this dear old musical father
had passed on which to me was a very great sorrow &
I fear I shall never meet this like again I am sorry to
confess but I do feel my friends in music 30 years ago were more
real, more enthusiastic, more earnest & more sincere in their work, than my
friends in music to day

In November 1920 I left Wellington in the R.M.S. Corinthic
for a long holiday Passing Through the Panama Canal for the
first time. In conversation with a dark man he said with
pride we made this canal meaning 90% of the labour
was supplied by the dark race who today only receive 25 to 39 dollars
per month as against 80 to 100 dollars paid to the white American

It is a great engineering feat & should be seen by all who are interested in big world achievements arriving in Southampton on the 31st December after one of the smoothest journeys I had made to England I was very soon settled in Porchester Terrace & the next morning took a walk through Hyde Park & Kensington Gardens I love this part of London having spent 3 of the happiest years of my life in this locality On Sunday went to City Temple especially to hear the renowned service & was not disappointed The boys voices are beautifully trained & their singing always in tune Of course I visited Westminster & St Pauls where the music is excellent but to me The City Temple music reached the highest level During the following week I renewed acquaintance with Sir Henry J Wood's orchestra in The Queens Hall & experienced the same pleasure as I have done on so many former occasions

I attended one Ballad Concert at The Albert Hall & could not but in each being bored with many new fifth rate songs ~~by the publishers~~ the only outstanding vocalist was Carrie Tubb her selection being quite a bright spark in a most drab & dreary concert

If visitors to London think they are going to hear good music at these concerts they are very much mistaken the bulk of the songs are new & being tried out at the composer or publishers expense

During my two months stay in London I frequently visited the National + Tate Galleries + Wallace collections, I have many old friends in these Galleries + I never tire of their acquaintance ~~They speak each~~ The beauty of the old masters seems to radiate + give each a message that will never die + every visit you make only creates a longing you hope soon to come again.

The most outstanding music I heard was a concert in Queens Hall. Sibelius conducted his latest orchestral composition + Sir Henry WOOD conducted a pianoforte Concerto by Mozart with that master of the instrument + pianoforte ~~virtuoso~~ Busoni. I have heard it said English audiences are cold but if you ~~wants bravos~~ ask for ten minutes while the audience ~~would~~ alter no less than ten times amid waving of handkerchiefs + shouts for encores + it seemed to me most appropriate ~~unassuming~~ as it was Busoni's last appearance in the Queens Hall — a few months later his call came, but all who heard him that day will consider what a privilege to have been present as it will remain a pleasant memory for all time.

My destination being Italy we crossed the channel in anything but fine weather + after 2 hours in Paris took train to Milan via the Simplon Tunnel, the lake and

mountain scenery is very beautiful & the Italian clear sky after London reminded one of New Zealand
We arrived at army sons flat at 3 oc in the afternoon & there were many friends to greet us & afterwards we went to the Duomo & revelled in the architecture of the 14 + 15-th century as displayed in this beautiful edifice, the next day was spent in the wonderful galleries & in the evening I heard a performance of Rigoletto which was perfectly satisfactory, every day was now filled with some interesting visit - To the Certosa di Pavia 20 miles by rail from Milan contains some of the most beautiful Marble Mosaics in existence also fine paintings by the old masters The whole layout of this building is a work of art 24 Monks were in residence here in former days & none came out after entering, their whole life was spent in research & meditation & they were buried in the inclosed gardens where they had lived & studied I was so impressed with this building & its surroundings I visited it several times during my stay in Milan All the historic churches were visited, it was in St Ambrogio I heard Cardinal Ratti who was soon to be Pope Pius delivered a stirring address some parts of this sacred edifice dates from the 3rd Century & the literature connected with it would fill many large volumes

One of the most wonderful cemetories in the world is to be found near Milan & those interested in art should not miss spending a few hours there

Among the galleries The Brera seems to hold first place Raphael Carlo Crivelli & many of the old Masters have some beautiful paintings there & every visit you make leaves a feeling you must return again

The first Symphony concert I listened to in Milan was conducted by Faitoni a young conductor 24 years of age The Programme consisted of works by Beethoven Mendelsohn Liszt & a new work by a young Italian composer The performance was a great success & had to be repeated & the young conductor received an ovation at the conclusion of the Programme as ~~the~~ every item was memorised the conductors stand being empty the whole evening Two weeks later I heard ~~the~~ Toscanini's orchestra in the same hall all tickets were sold in advance & it appeared as if every one were in their seats 5 minutes before the great Conductor appeared, The doors were closed & as this was the first appearance of this famous conductor since his arrival from America, there was wild enthusiasm when he stepped on the platform to take up his baton after two minutes the furore ceased & you could hear a pin drop so in the audience it seemed to be breathing. Every man

in the orchestra had his eye first on the Conductor Oh what a contrast when I think of some ✱ orchestras who come to chat & have a good time & if they are not ready at the first beat of the bar they chip in as soon as they possibly can

With Toscanini it is a serious business & carelessness is unknown I sat at one of these concerts in view of the conductors eye & what an eye it seemed to sparkle volumes & every performer knew it & you feel the lust that every man has is given out so that perfection or very nearly perfection is aimed at & after spending one evening in such company the whole thing haunts you for days & you discover why this man is such a giant in his profession Every note of every piece performed is memorised by this genius whether before he attends a rehearsal or not

I had the pleasure of listening to many performances of Opera in La Scala under this great master & I look forward with intense interest to a renewal of my acquaintance before many years have passed

My visit to Lake Como on a bright spring morning will remain in memory as a beautiful picture in light & shade the spring blooms smiling from every nook & corner in the

foreground against the snowcapped rugged mountains
still covered with their winter mantle in the back ground ~~and~~
give an inspiration which so many artists have tried to copy
The Cathedral built in black & white marble has many admirers
at the entrance of the lake
On the lake a large comfortable steamer is provided with
excellent arrangements for catering for the inward man
and there are often magnificent so great is the fascination
to see all the historic points of interest which come into view
in quick succession The Villa Pliniana in a quiet secluded
spot has a wonderful spring the origin of which is the cause of
much speculation by scientists We step off our steamer & for an
hour to view the lovely gardens surrounding the Villa Carlotta
The statuary in the grand Hall of the Palace by Canova is one of that famous
sculptors best known ~~pieces~~ of works of art and when you
wander through the gardens it is like being in fairy land acres
of Azalias in full bloom grouped so that the colours astound
impress you there has been a master brain at work here
I have never seen Rhododendrons which are in B forestry Dept
would consider nearly mature enough for ornamental purpose
but here is a forest of large trees in beautiful preservation &
the spring bloom as seen from the lake or near by is most
fascinating

The gardens showed us a gully of ferns many of which come from New Zealand & for a moment you forget you are not in your own Botanical gardens & for a New Zealander this is one of the most picturesque spots on the lake. We spent a week in these delightful surroundings staying at Hotel Florence in Bellagio. The picturesque Serbelloni hill with the remains of its old castle is only twenty minutes walk from the Lago & imagination takes one back to the strong fortress here in the many wars which were fought in this locality. With its beautiful walks today it is one of the most restful spots on earth and from every point of this wooded hill a delightful view of Lake & mountain can be obtained. Directly opposite Bellagio is a mountain 5200 ft in height & with my son I climbed this leaving the lake at 5/30 am we reached the top by 10 oc here we made friends with the farmer who was at this time milking 40 cows, the grass was delightfully green & haymaking was in progress in many places, but the farmer informed us no one lived there in winter as it was covered with snow. The views was magnificent Seven lakes can be seen distinctly & the City of Milan on the plains away in the distance with a great range of snow capped mountains including Monte Rosa & the Gregna mountains for a back ground

1

make one of those views which lingers in the memory for a long time We were back in Bellagio at 3 OC, & although very tired we spent two hours at & directly afterwards with the Duchess Melzi in her beautiful Villa only half a mile down the lake This wonderful lady was in her 93rd year & being educated in England 80 years ago it was like going over a page of old history to hear her discuss the early Victorian age & all the people she met in England Her Villa is one of the most renowned on Lake Como Napolion was a constant visitor here & his painting by Italys foremost artist at that time hangs in the Grand Salon rests the Keys of Lodi presented by Napolion to the Duke many years ago The Duchess was intensely musical & her description of opera in Milan covering ~~nearly~~ ~~two hundred~~ twenty five years & recounting ~~counting~~ many of the first performances of Verdi's operas to me was intensely interesting

This Lady has since passed on & I ~~will~~ shall feel sad ~~when~~ I pass this ~~delightful~~ spot again with all its delightful reminiscences

While in Bellagio 200 American Tourists passed through, they had been in Italy 24 hours & 6 hours later they were in Switzerland

Many were press representatives & in conversation with them I learned they only wished to note sensational incidents

The Music & art of the country scarcely interested them but when you mention a bomb explosion which had just happened in Sicily killing 16 people, the work of a small band of Anarchists, they were at once interested & carefully noted down any harrowing details in connection with it — & this is how many people form a daily part of this wonderful country

On my way to Rome I stayed a week in Florence every minute of which was pure delight The Uffizi & Pitti Galleries with that great collection from the brains of Raphael, Titians, Rubens, Murillo Salvator Rosa & all the rest require to be seen half a dozen times to get any idea of their full value & The more you study these great masters the more you discover how utterly incompetent you are to criticise The art work of this period. A short train ride to the Piazzale Michel Angelo where stands that noble statue of David with a great panoramic view of the surrounding country, is quite interesting also a trip to Fiesole you view the ruins of the old Roman open air theatre with its wonderful baths & you can imagine the festivities of this city & its people so many hundred years ago. Arriving in Rome in the evening of the 14th of May & having secured comfortable rooms in a Pension quite close to the Station we take a short walk around the principal streets admiring the Columns & fountains We rise early next morning & the impression of swallows flying round

it round passing quite close to your windows screaming all the time as if to say come out in the sun it all over wonderful City & we soon discovered their message was perfectly true for a week spent in Rome is worth half a life time of book learning about this ancient City

The first morning spent in the Vatican is hard to describe you try to cram into 4 hours what requires 4 weeks constant study & where in many galleries there is a suspicion many pictures are copies there is no doubt that there you have the originals because so many of the painters spend a part of their lives in these surrounding must they have put in, only consider the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel here is the work of a life time for many men & then as you wonder round & try to get a faint idea of the conceptions of Cranelli, Titians, Leonardo da Vinci, Corregio, Rubens, Murido, Van Dyck & so many others you feel what a worm you are in such company Then there is the stationary and a wonderful collection of presents ~~from~~ of all descriptions from all parts of the world You linger here much longer than you intended & you cancel other engagements to spend more time here during the week It is not in my power to describe St Peter's but as I pass through ~~it~~ and admire the wonderful works of man every one must feel that

spirit of thankfulness & devotion for the privilege of being one of the millions of worshipers who have wended their way through this sacred edifice

During the afternoon a visit was paid to the Colleseum & Arch of Constantine & Titus The Colleseum, dispite the life of many men who have spent their lives in pleasure, selfishness, brutality & now there is nothing left but the wreck & desolation a telling rebuke to all who pass by & warning them against such a life, what volumes of eloquent sermons these ruins can preach

In the evening we visited the Grand Opera House & listened to an excellent performance of "Rigoletto" & This was our first acquaintance with that delightful soprano Toti Dal Monte who has since become world famous, it was a fiesta night & the Royal Box was occupied thus giving the artists a stimulus to do their very best

At the Villa Borghese we spent many hours, here the statuary by Canova is world renowned & the collection of paintings ranks high in the collection of art works in Italy or even in the whole world & the gift to the nation of such a gallery excites an admiration from all visitors of the magnificent liberality of the Borghese family

During this week we were fortunate in hearing one of the first performances of "Il Piccolo Marat" Mascagni's new opera with the Composer conducting The Soprano Della Rizza and Tenor Lazzaro were

well chosen for the principal Parts The enthusiasm was so great from the packed audience "Nazzagni" was at times quite embarrassed & at the conclusion amid a round after round of lusty cheers, flowers of every description seemed to leap from the boxes till the conductor was standing knee deep on the middle of the platform bowing for at least ten minutes before these musical Romans would allow their enthusiasm to cool down It was worth travelling from Wellington to Rome to to have the privilege of witnessing what to me was one of the greatest pleasures of my life, I was fortunate in securing a signed photograph from this eminent musician, & shall cherish it as one of the most important in my collection of artists

To cross the bridge of 4 heads B C 62 & examine the arch of the old Roman Bridge 181 B C is evidence of the skill of these early builders. From the Castle S Angelo completed by Hadrian we get an extensive view, it was in this castle one of the Popes took refuge for many months

An afternoon is spent in visiting Diocletian Baths & here we have evidence of the cleanly habits of the ancients but we pass on to Trajans column The Pantheon & Church of S Maria, the ceiling of this church is decorated with gold being some of the first discoveries of this precious metal in America The Americans still have the habit of sending much gold to this country, but in return they procure works of art which no

other sovereign can supply The magnificent Church of St Paul
~~suppose~~ on 80 granite columns in the outskirts of the city ~~one can idea~~ gives
~~London~~ of the noble architecture of that period + as we ~~drive past~~ visit
+ Palatine Hill and investigate the Rose gardens + villa in Piazza Venezia
we linger here for some time + then visit the church of Jesu + St Andrea
then drive to the Palace of Justice through Piazzi del Popolo and the charming
Borghese Gardens + Passing the Palace of the Queen Mother +
also drive through Piazzi Montanara + witness a very old custom, harvesters
with their reaphooks + Scythes awaiting engagement with the farmers
Then on to the Old Roman Theatre Marcellas with truth ~~amazing~~
stones still in evidence, This custom ~~should~~ be ~~seen~~ in our opera
Dominions with profit The fascination of St Peters compels us to
return again + again + the more we investigate the greater our admiration
+ we understand why there is a constant stream of visitors to this sanctuary from all
parts of the world Our last ~~night~~ evening is spent at the Grand
Opera House when "Carmen" is being performed It was a different performance
from what we had listened to in New Zealand every artist seemed to put exactly
the part given them + with the multitudes of artist the Country produces it
must be a simple matter to choose a cast of this Kind. The conductor
Cimara has since been in New Zealand + proved to be one of the
outstanding musicians that has visited this country

After a week of sunshine, flowers & music, & mixing with a people whose traditions are among the most remarkable in the history of the world we take train back to Florence. A complete days rest was required after the strenuous week in Rome. There are still many interesting parts to be visited in Florence, We take tram to the Certosa a building designed by Orgagna in the 13th Century This architect held a leading Position in Italy during that period & the beauty of design & solidity of structure go to show how advanced they were in their profession in those days When the Pope was banished from Rome by Napolean it was here he lived with the monks for 5 months It commands a delightful view of the City & Surrounding country, There are still monks or priests in residence & it is with pride they discuss the glories of the Past in connection with this wonderful building These Priests are most industrious utilising their spare time in ~~making~~ attending the good making some special liquors, scents, & preserves. Another visit to the Pitti & Uffizi Picture galleries to bid adieu to our dear friends in residence there, we watch for a time some excellent artists making copies of these noble creations & we wonder if it would not be possible to have some copies, that is when New Zealand has sufficient love of art to provide a suitable gallery to house them in, It is certainly can never expect to purchase originals but it would be a great education to our young artists to see good copies

On arrival back in Milan my son urged me to attend a Symphony concert conducted by Toscanini & my reply was I am really too tired to listen to "Strauss" I have heard this piece in London & am not particularly anxious to hear it again, however it was a pity to waste the tickets & I went, Brahms & Wagner were included in the programme & instead of being bored I found myself so enthusiastic I would not miss the repetion of the "Strauss" item for anything & this was another evidence of the master mind of this Super Conductor It is very difficult to procure a ticket for these Symphony concerts many days having been allotted months in advance The orchestra had been on tour in America for months & their playing was nearer perfection than anything I had listened to

A visit is paid to the Ambrosiana Gallery where there are beautiful representations of Botticelli, Carlo Dolci, Salvator Rosa, Luini, & many others also visit state apartments, here is Napoleons bust and the famous picture "Michelangelo's final request" with that appealing something it is so hard to describe

As the summer is getting warm we decided on a trip to the Mountains leaving Milan at 6/30 AM arriving at Desenzano two hours later & take Steamer on Lake Garda arriving at Riva in the evening after a most interesting day. Lake Garda is teeming with historic interest at every point The island of Sermidone is a beauty spot standing in

the centre of the lake; The beautiful lemon groves on this lake are evidence of the mild winter & both summer and a sunset with all the changing colours of snow capped mountains deep valleys & water completely breaks the monotony of the journey From Riva we journey on the next day by narrow gage railway to Trori & here we have evidence of destruction caused in the late war New buildings & restorations are going up in all directions & the structures with much reinforced concrete are very much more substantial than the old brick buildings Continuing we pass through Trent & on through the Trentino valley arriving in Bolzano early in the afternoon From engineers we decided Blobenstein should be our resting place for the night & after two hours in a Funicular train about the same grade as Kilburn we reach one of the most restful places on earth, no motor cars, no carts the peasants all around in their small holdings appear to be a happy people & the change now during the late war from Austrian to Italian rule does not disturb them in the least, very few have been away from their farms except the men in wartime On the morning after our arrival these people congregate at 6 oc in the morning Old & Young in their distinctive Tyrolese costumes & marched about 2 miles from one church to another singing & chanting sacred hymns The Priests of course led the procession & conduct the service at the end of the journey

The people of the Tyrol country are most industrious + if you happen to be out at 4 or 5 in the morning you find them at work pitching, mowing + haymaking at this time of year, they sometimes rest for an hour or two in the heat of the day + then work on in the cool of the evening till 7 or 8 o'clock The view from Klobenstein is hard to describe The Dolomite mountains in this vicinity have a peculiar fascination when you first make their acquaintance + this grows as you remain + study their beauty + grandeur, You lay awake for hours so as not to miss the ever changing colours of the sunrise + the rose tints at sunset have to be seen to get any conception of their magnificence

Wild flowers are so abundant it is unnecessary to keep a flower garden + it is quite common to find fruit trees principally apple + pear trees over 12" + some I have seen 2 feet in diameter If you want pure air, rest from the noise of the motor, beautiful scenery + absolute quiet go to Klobenstein in the summer

We left this beauty spot with a firm conviction we shall return at some future time The next morning we spent at Trent where stands that beautiful monument to the memory of Dante. On resuming our journey next morning we have the pleasant experience of travelling with 500 school children who had spent the week end at Trent + as soon as the train moved out these youngsters opened their throats like so many birds

& their songs echoed in the hills & valleys as we Travelled on our way to Verona. not one of them had a strained voice ~~possessed by~~ ~~as whether their diaphragms had the right power to finish the~~ ~~sound of sound~~ Oh No they sang with heart & soul & voice & we were sorry to loose their company

The scenery consisting of beautiful lakes & high mountains as we travel through the valley from Trent is most interesting and the wire entanglements & miles of trenches go to show the amount of energy required to keep the enemy at bay

We arrive at Venice at 3 P M & secure comfortable rooms overlooking the water The historical St Marks & the Dodges Palace claim our attention & in the evening we go out in the harbour in those delightful gondola which are known to all visitors to this ancient City The surroundings must be seen to be appreciated to its full value

The square in front of St Marks with the myriad of sacred pigeons is unique & the lack of motor or wheel traffic of any kind does away with the necessity of Policemen at street crossings It is not so many years since this City was one of the most prosperous commercial centres of the world & there is still abundant evidence of that splendour & wealth the beautiful works of art in their galleries, Tintoretto did some of his best work here & must have spent many years in decorating the Doges Palace Titians is also well represented & so

many others whose fame have not gone outside the country
The musical tones of the fine old Bell in the Campanella Tower is taking part in
one of the features of this City of peace & a procession of gondolas on a
grand festa where artists delight to let their voices float out over the
waters in the late evening lend to the whole surroundings a something
of exquisite beauty which is so hard to describe
We visit The Lido which is one of the most famous bathing
resorts in Italy & make a round of the historic churches all having
something of peculiar interest, In St Georgio we are shown a painting
by Tiziano very beautiful considering when the work was completed the artist was then over 95 years of age
& still interested in the art which has made his name a delightful memory for all
time & instead of jumping in a Car & pushing to the Station you enter
your Gondola & glide along through the waterways, The boatman delights
to give you the history of all the principal buildings & the residences of
notable men who have made their mark, reach your paid station feeling what a rest & delight it must be
to all who can afford a short time in such surroundings as Venice can give
On July 2nd we are back in Milan & in the evening attend a
Grand performance of Gioconda in the arena This is a novelty
about 25000 music lovers congregate in what is used for a sports
ground chairs are provided & the ground has supplied fall towards the
stage so that every one has a good view There are lots taking part

In the opera & with artists such as Poli Randaccio Soprano & Tortolini Tenor you found nothing but enjoyment sitting out 2 hours in the balmy evening open air. I attended several of these open air performances & the weather was all that could be desired

During the week end visited Genoa which in some ways resembles Wellington we have an old friend in Captain De Alberti & two hours spent at his Castle & museum are most interesting. This Captain has travelled many times round the world & his collection of Moore war weapons is astonishing as well as his big antique collection of curiosities from nearly every country in the world Verdi was a great friend of the Captains & Garibaldi paid several visits to this castle. Syndicates are now the Captains special study & he has several in different Parts of Italy

Genoa has the same difficulty as Wellington in carrying her residents to the heights & one of these is worth noting A large tunnel is driven 5 or 6 chains with sufficient width to have show cases on both sides The floor & sides are covered with artistic tiles & at the end a lift which takes you up to the high level for a penny. The tunnel is well lighted & the rents from the show cases on each side of the tunnel pays a considerable amount towards the upkeep of the lift At Palazzo Bianco some 16th Century pictures belonging to the aristocracy of that period and many articles of Pottery supposed to belong to ancient furniture 300 B C are worthy of special attention

Another innovation ~~was~~ in Genoa was instead of tunnelling for a street crossing in congested areas, as in London, they have dug out the whole area under the street + here are baths dressing rooms lavatories hair cutting saloons + many small conveniences required in a large city. This might be copied with advantage in Wellington on the years to come in the triangle where John Martins fountain used to stand

One of the most interesting journeys for a week, and was spent at Lake Maggiori + a visit by row boat to Isola Bella one of the most captivating islands standing out not far from the main land is most ~~attractive~~ About the year 1650 Count Borromeo built a palace + made very exellent proportion + the house rooms with 3 pianos of that period gives an idea of the culture exercised by this people, some of the paintings are by renowned artists. The gardens are extensive + rise from a barren rock in ten terraces to a flat Plateau on top + the soil for making these terraces was all brought from the mainland a distance of over a mile Trees + rare plants from all parts of the world flourish in this sunshiny and many specimens of New Zealand ferns make one feel quite at home We were fortunate in having a gardiner of 35 years constant service to explain the home of the trees + Plants + the New Zealanders seemed quite happy in their new surroundings beautifully laid out + tended by the artistic Borromeo family

57

On our return from we pass the small but picturesque island of Pescatori, a fishing village having quite a history of its own. There are some beautiful residences at this part of the lake & one of these the Villa Clara is noted for having been occupied by Queen Victoria during a holiday visit to Italy.

A short trip is made to Stresa not far away and an electric tram lands us at the top of Mount Motterone. The large hotel is open here all the year round & in summer the guests indulge in tennis &c & in winter skating on the lake near the hotel & all sorts of winter sports on the ice is fascinating for those who enjoy it. The panorama from 5500 ft as the eye can reach with Milan & the beautiful Duomo plainly visible in clear weather is most inspiring. The trip up & down this mountain is most interesting revealing extensive chestnut groves many fine chalets, wild flowers in great variety, & an ever changing scene of lake forest, & mountain beauty & grandeur.

There are also some very fine Quarries in this vicinity & the piles of granite being prepared principally for South America in the large factories is evidence of the spending power of that Country. Also these quarries are famous for having supplied the whole of the material required in the construction of the Milan Cathedral.

We take steamer on the lake the following day passing many towns & pictures

53

villages + have a good view of the ~~statute~~ imposing statue erected in 1695
to the memory of Carlo Borromeo now Patron saint of Milan This statue is 112 feet in
height + of excellent proportion + design
53 One of the largest processions witnessed in Milan was in connection
with the installing of the new Cardinal it was impossible to gain admission
to the Cathedral + I was fortunate in having a good view from a friends
window in the vicinity, it is estimated 70,000 people took part in
the procession + service + when a few weeks later I heard the new
Cardinal preaching I little thought this man
so loved by all the people should be called to fill the highest position
in the Catholic church, but those who knew the career of Cardinal Ratti
were satisfied he was the best fitted of all the Cardinals to fill the position
of the new Pope
Comparisons are often odious but I cannot help thinking
in Spain you might find 70,000 people assembled to see a
bullfight + in America the same huge crowd to see a manfight
but what other country could you find such a gathering
of people taking part in a religious service
Another visit to the Certosa di Pavia + our guide informs us some
of the wonderful mosaic work on the different altars took nearly 200
years in execution, four generations of one family worked continuously
at these designs which became a labour of love, these great
artists like many of the great painters received very little remuneration
but their memory is worth more than gold can give + will be a rich
heritage to future generations for all time

5-4

One of the delights of life in Italy is the easy access to either Mountain lake or sea for a week end. One of these I spend at Portifino (we take train to St Margharita via Genoa & then motor bus 5 miles & you have all the quiet you wish with vineyards & olive groves & extensive plantations all around while in the port which is a snug little harbour in the shape of a horse shoe there are hundreds of lace makers & the lace makers do not pester you to buy their good but if an English or an American lady can visit this spot without purchasing a beautiful souvenier I should think their health was not normal in the evening we go to the historic church of St Georgia where the rocks drop perpendicularly into the sea some hundreds of feet below & you stand a chance of one of these enchanting sunsets so familiar in this part of the Mediterranean To watch the small fishing fleets is most interesting with their artistic coloured sails, & we have these way these fish are so cunning they will follow the nets & eat as much of the catch as they require their make off carrying all the gear that comes in their way & doing immense damage I have one of these porpoise schools sporting about 4 miles out from shore immediately they were sighted by the fishermen their boats were put on

a different tack. An exceptionally interesting drive by bus, to Rapallo where many Americans have fine winter residences. Fruits are rare along this coast & the balmy breezes from the Mediteranean make it an ideal winter resort. A bridge supposed to be built by Hannibal was visited & it was in this city so many heads of the war department got together & decided General "Hoche" should have the supreme command of the allies & this decision by some was considered the turning point of the great war. On our return to Milan we stay a few hours in Genoa & visit the Church of the Annunciation where hangs a beautiful painting (The Conception) by Guido also (The Last Supper) which is one of the most noted paintings in the city. The church was built in 1587 & the Columns of unique design inlaid with colored marbles are very beautiful.

La Scala had not yet opened but performances of Opera were given in two other Opera Houses so there was always a choice whenever an evening was vacant. One of the most fascinating of these performances was The Barber of Seville. Soprano Ada Sari had all the vivacity required for the part & I have never seen a better. The Tenor Polvorosi belongs to the younger generation of tenors & his voice so liquid must be nearly the ideal Rossini had in his mind to create this part while the bass & baritone were excellent. I went several times to hear this Opera & every time became more fascinated so complete in every detail was every part under Conductor Padrelli

5/6 ~~The following week~~ ~~During the same week~~ I saw the opera "Aida" at the same opera house under the Condiction Lucoon it was a fine all round performance the orchestra & chorus under perfect control, & the soloists lived their respective parts or seemed to which is everything in opera I was much interested in Boitos opera "Mephistopheles", hearing it here for the first time The orchestration is difficult but with the choice of players in Milan it is always a pleasure to listen to the accompaniments as all of the players are professional men The Soprano Gina Spani was excellent & the appearance of Tosconini & Serafin in a box caused to put every artist on the qui vive During the week week I renewed my acquaintance with Mascagni's new opera Le Piccolo Marat which I first heard in Rome The Soprano Vigano & Tenor Lazaro were ideal & the duett at the end of the first part by these two great artists created quite a sensation & had to be repeated I heard this opera four times in Milan every performer appeared to be working in harmony with the conductor and at the close of the season it seemed as if all the enthusiasts were there to do honour to their beloved composer & what an honour it is, Mascagni looked tired at the close of the last performance but he had the satisfaction of knowing the people appreciated his composition & it was a great success

5-11

Armistice Day was noted by a devotional service in the Cathedral the music being a special feature

Afterwards many wanted to see the Crypt containing Carlo Borromeo Tomb. In the afternoon a procession which took 2 hours to pass a given point was most impressive of Garibaldi's soldiers wearing their red shirts took part in the procession & received a tremendous ovation flowers were thrown from almost every window & the old warriors were quite embarrassed all eyes were upon them as they were the only remaining survivors of the old army

Where so many grand Opera performances are given it is hard to discriminate but in listening to the "Forlei" with Vigano Braggotte, Rotondi & Baratto in the principal parts you get some idea of the high ideals of the Composer (Catalani) who wrote composed only three Operas in his short lifetime, he was so poor he could not afford to push his compositions consequently they lay on the shelf for 10 years or more & it is supposed the composer died of a broken heart before he had reached 35 years

These Operas are now among the most popular in Italy & in attending Six performances of the "Forlei" I felt what a tragedy such a musician should have passed away before his ability had been recognised. During an interval I heard one old musician with tears in his eyes remark to another "My God" If only "Catalani" could have been present this evening The orchestral opening is long but so rich in tone colour it is quite a feature of the Opera

59

No visitor to Italy should miss a visit to Parma. Just
close to the railway station stands a grand statue to the memory
of Verdi whose music is known in every home
The art Gallery in Parma has some of the most beautiful
paintings to be seen anywhere & ~~There~~ two by "Correggio" have
a room to themselves & are hung on a screen which is hinged
so you can turn it round to get the best light I was so
fascinated with these two paintings I secured large photographs &
they hang in my bedroom & although it is 18 years since I saw them
I can recall the sensation I felt when I first visited this gallery
The Cathedral in Parma ~~stands~~ is on Columns of beautiful oriental marble
of exquisite design & the frescos & paintings are works of art by Correggio
Mazzjoto & others The Battistero has a magnificent vaulted ceiling
decorated by Giotto & the small organ is preserved with great care as
Verdi used it much for practise. My son was allowed the privilege of
playing on this quaint old instrument while I felt it an honour
to act in the capacity of blower
Parma has much of historic interest and being the birthplace
of Verdi the greatest musician of his time & "Correggio" one of
the greatest Painters makes a visit here a necessity for those
who wish to advance their education in Music & art

While at Parma I was invited to spend an afternoon inspecting a farm & I found much to interest me. The cheese factory in all the different grades of development in the making of a cheese took some time in explanation. The cows were in splendid condition but the one thing above all others that struck me was the housing of about 100 pigs. I have seen many pig farms in my wanderings but nothing could approach the sumptuous cleanliness in the way these pigs were kept on the Parma farm & there was no special preparation for my visit. ~~I should just like some of these pig farmers~~ It would seem that the beauty & art of the city had spread itself out to the farms & after all what an art it is to keep a farm clean.

From Parma I went to Mantua. The Ducal Palace where hang those 9 renowned Tapestries designed by Raphael, made in Belgium & hung in this Palace until taken away by Austria 65 years ago but returned to their former position after the Armistice in the French wars, are worthy of special attention also the decorations by Julio Romano are admired. A visit to the Cathedral reveals many old paintings of unique design. A visit is made to an old Palace standing outside the city being the former residence of the Gonzaga family which has many treasures. The Sala of the Giants is quite unique

60/

From Mantova to Cremona is only a short distance by rail, here we visit one of the most notable pianoforte factories in Italy The Amelli family have been in the business for generations & the explanation of the choice of woods suitable for different parts of a piano was most interesting also a visit was paid to the house of Stradivarius where many of the world famed violins were made It is said that Stradivarius studied the character of different woods from the time he was a small boy & he used to go amongst the forests & select the kind he particularly required & if a violin did not come up to expectation after all the care he had taken he would smash it up & burn it how is it man has deteriorated to such an extent he cannot make an instrument to be compared to Stradivarius & the answer appears to be a life study is required with such concentration & an absolute high ideal that nothing but perfection in every detail would be tolerated consequently Stradivarius reached a higher standard than any other man in his profession & the same remark applies to violinists, the success of the great singers of a hundred years ago was not that their voices were any better than the singers of today but they worked ten fifteen or twenty years with a fixed determination & many they would succeed & so it their life work was often crowned with success

61
re

The opening of La Scala after being closed for 3 years was a feature in the musical world of Milan the stage had been enlarged & many improvements carried out Toscanini the idol of conductors in Italy had been engaged to supervise all the alterations & he was appointed permanent Conductor

Verdi's last great Opera "Falstaff" had been chosen as the opening Performance The enthusiasm of the Milanese was unbounded The orchestra were a smooth perfect company of musicians giving an artistic support & intelligent interpretation to all the accompaniments, every player seemed to have one eye fixed on the conductor & gave of his very best A great ovation was accorded Toscanini at the conclusion It is very questionable if there is a more complete organisation in any part of the world for the production of opera than La Scala Milan

The last evening I spent in Italy was at this delightful Theatre every one was on the Qui Vive because Toti Dalmonte was to make her first appearance in La Scala under Toscanini's baton Rigoletto was the opera chosen & it was generally known Dalmonte had been climbing the ladder of fame & the whole critical fraternity were there The opera had not proceeded very far

before the critical audience were more than satisfied & from
that evening Tota Dalmorès became one of the leading
Sopranos in Italy. The Tenor Tolpi & baritone Galeffi were both excellent
I was interested to hear Parsifal & wondered how the Italian
setting would suit this great work but with such artists in the
cast as Wilderbrun Soprano Bassi Tenor Galeffi Baritone
and De Angelis Bass I had to acknowledge I had never heard
such a perfect performance of this beautiful opera
And now I come to the conclusion of my 12 months
holiday in Italy, when I arrived the Fascisti movement was
growing like a mushroom & it was not long before that
~~wonderful~~ wonderful leader Mussolini was chosen to take the reigns
of this ~~wonderful~~ great organisation There were many who prophesied
disaster but for those who lived in the country & saw the marvellous
improvement day by day the whole nation rising out of chaos &
from the seeds sown by Bolshevism to become a Law abiding &
God fearing nation it was no wonder they hailed with delight such
a leader It was not Mussolini's asking to take such a position
but the nation demanded a leader & I say all honour to
the man who takes his life in his hand & risks everything to save
his country from utter ruin

63 On new years eve I paid a visit to the square facing the Milan Cathedral where it is estimated 100,000 people congregate to see the old year out & the new year in & I never saw any one of that vast multitude intoxicated

One feature that strikes a New Zealander in Italy is the sobriety of its people and during my long stay I only saw five persons the worse for liquor in that country ✱ I wish I could say the same about the city of Wellington where I see more than five unsteady people ~~in one hour. I say I could~~ ~~who said Amen to the~~ ~~complete with all nations of the world~~ This liquor question is one of the problems the world is facing today ✱ Among musicians I have not found much intemperance ✱ of all the artists I have travelled with only one (a Tenor) took liquor to excess ~~& he did it on the sly but he had reached the age of 40 years~~ ~~I did not think of such a vice last so early as Sir Frederick Bridge~~ ~~remarked after hearing Caruso after a performance in Rome~~ ~~Albert Visetti was a tenor & one of~~ ~~the greatest exponents of oratorio living today~~ ~~The temperance question is a much larger~~

Those who have temperate Parents should thank God for their heritage I have never had any inclination to take strong drink any consumption of that beverage has probably not reached one gallon during my lifetime ✱ ~~I have no hesitation in saying my good health is partly due to that cause~~ but I do not boast There are millions born into this world whose parents are partly responsible for excessive habits shown in the lives of their children

64

When in London I often listened to Canon Basil Wilberforce at Westminster. May I be permitted to quote a few of his ideas on this question he states

"It is not a sin to drink a glass of wine but it is often the temptation of a sin to refuse to drink one. Physiologically total abstinence is a great agency; Theologically it is Christlike, Philanthropically it is influential. The one destructive argument that can be urged against it is that it is unconventional & unconventionality is the Sin of Sins. But the resistless logic of the Man of Nazareth has proved that conventionality & social custom & even religious propriety vanish into thin air before the pressure of necessity. Can language exaggerate the depth and horror of the national pit of intemperance from which the agony of thousands rises surging upwards like the melancholy wash of restless waves.

In the days of the Crusades men of the bravest hearts & noblest blood in Europe bound themselves together in a semi-religious semi-military order under the strongest vows, one of which curiously enough was that they should drink only water in order to defend the Holy Sepulchre against the infidel. Today tens of thousands of men women & children are bound together by a solemn obligation of total abstinence from all intoxicants that they may

65

wage
& dep
and
nec
of
from
or
the
Can
the
the
lus
be
to
hea
of
mo

was a modern crusade against this curse of nations
& defend the human temples of the Holy Spirit against a foe
more bitter than the Saracen or Turk. When I appeal for
new crusaders under the banner of total abstinence more
of you, especially the respectable & the religious are held back
from joining us by the fear of singularity, unconventionality
or fanaticism than from any other motive. I answer
the ox and the ass the strong and the weak together are in the R.V. 1-4
Customs or no customs conventionality or no conventionality
Christ calls you to His side to
help in doing it. The imagination of man is not able to
conceive any hell more fiend than the drink-cursed slums of
a densely populated English town. You who are shielded by
the pure surroundings of your quiet homes imagine
that we are fanatical & speak in terms of exaggeration. It is
because you do not know what drunkenness is & we do -
because you have descended into hell I plead with you
to consider earnestly whether by any alteration of your social
habits by any denial of personal indulgence for the sake
of your weak & stumbling brethren you can unite yourselves
more actively in the holy crusade against the curse of your nation

The remedy is in the hands of the Christians of England
If the professors of the gospel of the crucified would each and all
resolve from henceforth to stoop down with self-sacrificing compassion
into the midst of the bitter cry of homes ruined & blighted by the accursed
pestilence of our day, a tide of blessedness would flow over
our land. So please no longer on the other side. I do not dictate
Work in whatever way you please but I know of no remedial agency
in the present crisis so useful as total abstinence.

Will any heart here rise out of isolation & selfishness & in
the power of the Cross give back a fresh response as that of a well known
am I one? Will you go to the drunkards & the profligates and the wife-beaters
& the tortures of children & the tavern-keepers & the makers & purveyors of the
deadly drug & find out which side they are on & then in Gods name
put me down on the other side. Go down to that wretched house
where sits that poor mother, worse than widowed with her worse
than orphaned babe at her breast, her heart's blood dripping away
drop by drop. Put your ear down close to her heart & hear which
side she is on. And then pick me down on her side.
Canon Wilberforce attacks this evil with no uncertain sound
& I deem it a great privilege to have listened to such an orator

early

64 Many great minds have tried to solve this very different problem & we have yet to find the man who could give a perfect solution.

We are not without our fighters in this Cause in New Zealand the names of Leonard Isitt & Frank Isitt Tom Taylor & many others will go down to posterity as gallant defenders of the cause of temperance & although it may take a ~~generation~~ long time for the good seed sown to mature, it is certain that generations to come will thank God for such men whose names will be held in everlasting remembrance

I may be accused of wandering from my musical subject but there is one song I know of, which appeals as much to all British as the song of Liberty and when I listen to the phrase as often used "God's own Country" I wonder what it is prevents us from making this a reality We have the climate We have the glorious heritage of our forefathers who carved out our future homes & sacrificed so much that we should be a happy & prosperous people & with all this liberty why cannot we enter into this heritage & make the source of the stream pure that surpasses our civilisation so pure that we can say in truth & without fear of contradiction This is Gods own country & shall be kept so for all time* And what a Country: It is only 84 years since my Father & Grandfather stepped off the Good Ship "Duke of Roxburg" on to Petone beach That was early in February 1840 They should have landed about the 22nd of January.

* We might quote here the following

many great minds have tried to solve this very different problem &
we have yet to find

We are not with
the names of
a many others
defenders of the
take a postcard
is certain that
such men w
I may be asse
but there is one
perfect as this age
making this a
heritage of our fore
so much that
this liberty why cann
of the stream pa
can say in truth
it shall be kept
only 8½ years
Good Ships
in February

*

God planted in this Country fair
a tree of knowledge & of good
And said to man this be thy food
But Satan passing by at eve
Observed the plant with rich perfume
So wandering up the chrystal stream
That gave the tree its nourishment
He breathed and from that hour
Gave poison to the roots below
And man has toiled & toiled in vain
To purify this stream again
But faith shall never be denied
For those who trust the Crucified
It may be soon it may be long
But one & all shall sing this song
The Lord who gave the perfect tree
Shall stay the curse we shall be free
And all enjoy our liberty

Zealand
Taylor
the
ory
ch
for
branch
get-
to all
as
ns from
glorious
rejoice
with all
assured
if we
our country
It is
the The
That was
22 nd
nuary

but a treacherous southerly came on & the Captain was afraid to venture in through the narrow entrance consequently he was driven through the straits & nearly up to Taranaki ~~where they did not go~~ The sea was so rough the Captain was swept off the deck & lost his life in Cook Straits & it took several days to get back to Port Nicholson

The first business after landing was to build a raupo whare, & when a fire swept the village they had to cross the Hutt river & cut down the huge white pine trees & with pit-saw convert them into weather boards & shingles They did not wait for the Carpenter the painter & the plumber they did the work themselves as best they could I was upon many years now if a piece of this wood happens to be put into a building it is likely to be condemned for fear of the dread borer but in those days necessity overcame all obstacles & the children raised in those weather boards white pine houses stand comparing favourably with any children of today raised under the Plunket or any other System They Pioneers without paint or lime wash or lasses & without a horse or bullock team for many years carried out their homes & were as

happy & probably happier than we are today At times there was no money available & a card was given to be exchanged at the store for flour sugar & tea & when money was available these sturdy workers toiled hard & received from 4/- to 6/- per day now our workmen complain they can hardly live on 14/- or 16/- per day

In the Wairau where I spent my early days the settlers were a thrifty lot helping each other over the many difficulties in which they were placed. Before the road was made over the hill, most of the goods & provisions were carried on these backs, & their butter & eggs were also carried to market in the same fashion Some of the stalwart women taking part with their husbands in the undertaking

My father was fortunate in having a couple of pack bullocks & I well remember as a small boy walking behind this pair over the hill near Mt Graces & across Gollans Valley to the beach on the understanding I should have a ride on top of the pack part of the way home I remember Jacob Phillips had a fine orchard in Gollans Valley & he used to invite me to go in & shake the apple trees & fill my pockets I always thought Jacob was a perfect gentleman

I admire those who are enthusiastic over the heroes who fought in the late war & it is quite fitting we should raise monuments to

to those who sacrificed all for our freedom, but might we not
pay a little more respect to those early pioneers who spent not
but but sixty years of their whole life, fighting the
cause of freedom. Think of the multitudes who were swept
down the treacherous rivers before any bridges were built
my uncle being included in this number. Think of the women
who raised those large families without grumbling & in many
cases without medical assistance. We are too apt to forget that many
of the greatest heroes in New Zealand were those who went into the backblocks
in the early days. Our brave soldiers received the Victoria Cross for special
bravery but many of those early pioneers both men & women would
have their breasts covered with medals if their acts of bravery
& heroism & endurance had been justly recognised. For Each Man his own Lead.

Another feature connected with the early settlers was their piety
80% of the inhabitants of Wanaka valley attended Divine service every Sunday, for a
time they used a large room for worship but as soon as it was decided to build a
church every one offered to assist. My father & uncle with the two Colly Bros
did most of the pitsawing & going home from school I often called
at the sawpit & listened to the swish of the saw as they ripped off
the boards & scantlings. John Crowther was the principal Carpenter in
the valley but he had a gallant band of workers & soon the church

was
portion
also
nothing
Valley
evening
before
the
time
of all
Pastor
Can
the of
blind
concer
who has
who ow

+ no one received a penny for their services it was all (a labour of love

was an accomplished fact. The Church has been enlarged but the original portion is still sound after standing over 60 years. These men also as children were a band of young preachers in the early days nothing of leaving Wellington at 6 oc in the morning preaching at Golans Valley at 11 oc. then on to Wainui & take the 2/30 service & in the evening preach at Lower Hutt reaching home in Wellington before midnight. Two of these are still with us. Nearly All over New Zealand the same interest in religious matters prevailed & there can be no doubt that the high positions this country has held among the people of the world is due to a large extent to the foundation of character & early teaching of these pioneers, how base we become as time goes on and what a sorry figure we cut in the light of all that has been done for us, That we refuse to have a selected portion of the Bible read in our public schools if we stop short of all we stand to lose

Can we wonder if Socialism, Bolshevism, Communism and all the other evil isms takes root & flourishes when we endeavour in our blind conceit & calm indifference actually prepare the ground for these vicious weeds to grow. What would Samuel Marsden & some of those early missionaries who endured the hardships & trials of the Maori people think of our actions today

Thousands of their heroic deeds coued be recorded but—I will only quote one, It was on the 17th of January 1858 one of those floods which were such a terror to the early settler swept down the Hutt Valley carrying destruction & death in its train no less than 9 lives were lost— One settler (was away from home on a bush felling contract + his wife was on the eve of her confinement + The custom was every one to help their neighbour, the mother of a large family attended this woman. During the night the child was born but the storm raged on & the flood waters rose higher & higher, necessitating their removal to the roof & here they waited for dawn listening to the roar of the waters carrying its debris away to the sea Soon after daylight the tragedy reached its climax when the house was swept down the raging torrent with these heroic women clinging to the roof. The next day their bodies were found, the child wrapped tight in its mothers bosom What a picture of desolation & death & yet This is only one of instances of womans bravery when her sister is in trouble Can we imagine the thoughts of this brave nurse going to certain death & leaving her large family of young children behind ~~what a picture for a great artist~~

On our farm in the Waimea we were troubled with these heavy floods once my mother became nervous & we were all carried to a shed on high ground, this was occupied by calves & pigs & other animals sheltering from the storm

We were glad to share the accomodation with them it was like a little Noahs ark but we were out of reach of the dreaded flood which was over 12 ft deep in the house when we left

During the night the storm abated & the next day we were able to go back for the most after cleaning out the mud & silt which had accumulated while the flood was in progress

As a boy I have watched the swollen river for hours it was exciting to see huge trees branches roots & all being carried down the stream, sometimes striking a bank when the current would swing it round & away it would go

Floods are not only unpleasant but they are expensive I have known as much as 10 acres of beautiful land being carried away in 24 hours & only a stony track left as compensation, thousands To cope with this many breakwaters are required otherwise there is a danger of loosing the whole of the valley by constant scouring & undermining there is no respector of time or persons

I have been asked my opinion about music in New Zealand
30 years ago as compared with Today & I remember it a very
difficult question to answer I may be wrong but I enjoyed the
performances 30 years ago better than I have of late years
Think of those musical festivals in Wellington inaugurated &
conducted so successfully by Sir Robert Parker Who can
forget the first performance of "Israel in Egypt" also the first
Performance of "The Creation" when Charles Saunders and
Sir W H Lee sang the principal parts with such wonderful success
It would seem there was a wave of musical effort about this
period that gave enormous satisfaction to both performers & listeners
And it was not confined to Wellington I shall never forget the
many Performances of Mendelssohn's "Elijah" in Christchurch
conducted by Sir H Wells. The Chorus was not large but they had
volume & gradation & not only was their articulation distinct but they must
show in every Chorus they understood the full meaning of the words
It was an inspiration to me to sing the Prophets Part with such
a chorus & I always felt a delight in taking part in these performances
also at Dunedin I will never forget performances of Oratio
especially Haydn's "Creation" when Dolores took the soprano part
The house was crammed & the chorus was excellent, I love

the Scotch accent which lends itself to purity of diction + clear enunciation so essential in Choral Singing Dunedin has one of the most appreciative audiences in the Dominion and the colder the night the more heartily they applaud

Auckland also was fortunate about this period with the enthusiasm of Harry Brett who said so little but did so much carrying the whole burden of choral music for many years

I enjoyed very much taking part in some of the performances, singing "Why do the Nations" under the baton of Carl Schmidt was a delight, + in later years I had many engagements in the large Hall under that painstaking conductor + sound musician Mr Maughan Barnett