

## Narrative of Events, 1872

### *January*

One of those social meetings which break the monotony of a life of toil, and also tend to create and foster that good feeling which ought always to exist between employers and employed, took place when Messrs Guthrie and Asher treated their workmen to a supper at the Ayshire Hotel. After the good things so liberally provided by the host, Mr Richmond, had been done ample justice to, and the usual loyal and patriotic toasts disposed of, "The health and prosperity of the firm" was proposed and most enthusiastically received. The remainder of the evening was agreeably spent with songs and toasts until the small hours of the morning called to mind the work of another day and they separated, feeling better pleased with themselves, their masters, and all the outside world in general.

The Highland Sports got up at Milton by Mr F. Julius on New Year's Day were held in a paddock belonging to Mr McLaren, and adjoining the township. The cricket match being held upon the same ground, there was a large concourse of people present, and all seemed to enjoy themselves to the utmost.

Evidence of the energy with which the New Zealand Meat Preserving Co. are endeavouring to create a market for the meat produced by them is afforded in a recent issue of the Glasgow Herald. There are 20 shops in Glasgow at which meat is retailed in 21b, 41b and 61b tins, the mutton being sold at 7d. and the beef at 8d. per lb. There is also a wholesale agency for the sale of meat in Glasgow and another in Leith.

All the single farm and domestic servants by the "Agnes Muir" who on arrival went to the Immigration barracks, have been engaged.

As an instance of the popularity already attained by the cloth manufactured by Messrs A. J. Burns & Co. at their Mosgiel factory they have received a large order for Volunteer clothing.

Four casks of iron sand have been shipped to England, from Auckland, by the Bank of New Zealand, for purposes of experiment.

### *February*

The duty paid in Dunedin on New Zealand spirits during the year 1871 was £4,942, as compared with £2,652 in 1870, showing an increase last year of £2,290.

The shop windows once more give evidence of the near approach of St. Valentine's Day, but this evidence is of a very undesirable character, consisting as it does, for the most part, of square yards of "mock Valentines" of the most vulgar description. What wit there is in sending either a lady or a gentleman a disgusting caricature as a hint that it bears a striking resemblance to its recipient, I cannot imagine. To do so to a gentleman is low and insulting — to do so to a lady is ruffianly. Why should the 14th of February more than any other day in the year be a licensed occasion for the display of vulgarity and insolence? It is surprising that respectable shopkeepers should sell these daubs, and equally so that public opinion does not resent the manner in which they are forced upon the notice of passers-by. There will always be snobs who will patronise such things, but that is no reason why respectable people should not be able to walk along the streets without having their sense of propriety outraged by such unseemly displays.

The Corporation Cattle and Sheep Market at the Head of Maclaggan Street will be opened on the 7th inst. His Worship the Mayor and the Councillors will be present and they no doubt will watch with interest the success or otherwise of the first day's sale.

The Cargill Monument, which was placed in the Octagon some years ago, in respect to the memory of the late Captain Cargill, has been removed and will shortly be re-erected opposite the Custom House.

On the premises of Mr Mathieson, Peninsula, there is now in full swing a complete plant for the making of cheese. Mr Mathieson produces an article for which colour, taste, texture and general appearance, leaves nothing to be desired. The cheeses are made of various sizes and there is now in stock over 100, amounting in the aggregate to upwards of three tons weight.

The unusual spectacle of a harvesting match was witnessed at Cromwell. The match had been arranged between Mr G. W. Goodger and Mr G. Redhead — each was to mow, gather and bind an acre of ripe oats without assistance of any kind. The amount of money staked was £25 a side. A considerable number of the friends of the competitors were present. The scythes were set in vigorous motion, and were deftly handled by the rival mowers. Mr Redhead completed his task 24 minutes in advance of his opponent — the latter having 42 sheaves to bind when Mr Redhead had finished. The time occupied was about four hours and a half.

### *March*

The Northern and Southern Escorts arrived in Dunedin with 9836oz. 8dwts. 22grs. of gold.

During the erection of the new tower for the fire-bell, the latter has been temporarily removed to Church Hill, east of Bedford House, whence a view of the entire city can be obtained.

The anniversary of the foundation of the Province will be celebrated on the 23rd and will be observed as a close holiday throughout the city. In addition to the great attractions provided at the Forbury Racecourse, trips to Port Chalmers and Portobello by the Harbour Company's steamers are advertised at excursion fares. The storekeepers at Port Chalmers have determined to open their places of business on Saturday the 23rd, but will celebrate the Anniversary on Monday.

Two or three establishments in this town uphold the system of making dressmakers and sewing girls work at night time, or over eight and 10 hours a day. Every Saturday these women are kept at work till 10, 11 and 12 o'clock at night, in addition to which they often have to work for the same hours during the week. Should this system be allowed to remain amongst us?

A few weeks ago a fine covey of partridges, consisting of 12 birds, very strong on the wing, were flushed out of a paddock of standing corn, on the farm of Mr James Scott, Green Island. From other parts, we learn that pheasants, accompanied by large broods, as well as partridges, are frequently seen.

A Grammar School has been started at Lawrence with about 130 pupils.

Some of the bachelors on the Alexandra Road and Speargrass Flat complain bitterly against the Government for not sending a number of females into the interior of the country, now that money has been borrowed for immigration purposes.

The Provincial Government has entered into a contract for the erection of a quartz-crushing battery on the reclaimed land, Dunedin, to facilitate the testing of quartz. The sending of quartz elsewhere to be tested will be obviated and the work will be done at much less expense. The machine is to be worked by water power, and the Dunedin Water Works Co. has agreed to supply water free of cost.

### *April*

We are given to understand that it is definitely determined to open the fountains in connection with the Cargill Monument on the 13th inst. The ceremony will be performed by His Worship the Mayor.

The gathering of edible fungus has become a branch of industry in Otago. Messrs Kum Goon Lee & Co. have shipped by the barque " Seagull," 131 bales of that commodity, valued at £800. The same firm send to Hong Kong by the same vessel 131 packages of old iron and other metal valued at £100.

Just landing ex " Margaret Galbraith " 200 tons of Glasgow Coal. Screened and delivered in town at 50s. per ton.

A number of men have lately been actively employed in landing timber on the reclaimed ground for the proposed railway station. The timber is formed into rafts at the Port, and with the aid of the tide floated to Dunedin. Some of the planks are fully 60 feet in length, and are consequently rather awkward to stack. There are also a few tiers of rails, and another shipment of the latter is now on the way.

A number of gentlemen desirous of forming a Fencing and Gymnastic Club met in the Athenaeum. We understand a large number have agreed to join.

At Naseby it has been resolved during the winter months to close the shops at 8 p.m. daily except Saturdays when they will be open till 10 p.m.

At the complimentary ball to the Volunteer Representatives Mrs John Cargill presented a gold hunting watch to Captain Wales. It was inscribed "Ladies Prize to Captain Wales, winner of the Champion Belt 1872." The watch was procured from Mr George Young, Princes Street, and is valued at £26.

The General Government intended to erect new immigration barracks at Green Island. Disapproval of the site was expressed on account of its distance from the city.

The Government has abandoned the idea and has decided to erect them at Caversham. Considerable alterations are to be effected in the buildings on the Quarantine Island. New accommodation will be provided for the single women and families. The keeper's present house will be turned to account as a wash-house, bathroom and storehouse for luggage. A small building will be erected in the centre, the front part of which will be used as a residence for the keeper who will be able to exercise a more efficient supervision than under the present arrangements.

### *May*

Bell Hill is fast diminishing. At that part near the Court House, and on which the prisoners are now at work, a charge of 100lbs. of powder, in a drill 30 feet deep, was fired, bringing down a large mass of material and loosening a good deal more.

Of the local industries which have lately attained some importance here, may be mentioned the manufacture of cabin bread, sea and fancy biscuits, and confectionery. Mr Hudson of Dowling and Princes Streets, has recently added to his establishment several appliances for saving labour. One machine is driven by a water engine constructed after a most ingeniously devised plan, and in the first style of workmanship, by Mr Peters of Great King Street. With this two hundredweight of cabin biscuits can be turned out every hour.

A meeting of ladies interested in the foundation of a scholarship commemorative of their admission to the privileges of the Otago University, will be held in the Education office.

John Black, for riding in a waggon drawn by six horses, on the Main South Road without sufficient reins, was fined 40s.

On the 29th three sergeants and 17 constables belonging to the police force in Dunedin refused to perform duty in consequence of the Provincial Council having refused to increase their wages, and also because they considered that distinctions had been drawn between them and the warders of the Gaol. A deputation of businessmen waited upon the Mayor in the afternoon to enquire what steps were being taken for the protection of the city during the night. Four of the sergeants belonging to the force have not joined in the strike. A public meeting will be held to discuss the situation.

The Dunedin City Council will apply to the General Assembly for leave to bring in the "North Dunedin Cemetery Bill."

The Provincial Council has decided to offer bonuses for the following purposes:—£1,500 for the establishment of a paper manufactory, £300 to facilitate the manufacture of bottles, and not exceeding £1,000 for the establishment of a sack and wool pack manufactory.

### *June*

The epidemic of larrikinism has extended to Mount Ida, having broken out with the virulence at Naseby.

The carriages for the Port Chalmers railway are being rapidly put together at the works at Port Chalmers. There will be 13 in all, capable of accommodating 342 passengers. The carriages now being built are for second class passengers, and are of a very substantial nature, being constructed principally of mahogany. The laying of the permanent way through the tunnel has been commenced.

The company formed some time ago to work the gold-bearing quartz reef on Mr. Christie's property, Saddle Hill, has resumed operations. In a week 200 tons of quartz was raised and 80 tons more per week have been contracted for.

Some 25,000 acres in the Kakanui, Awamoko and Marewhenua Hundreds have, on a resolution of the Government, been thrown open for sale at 10s. per acre, upset price.

Mr H. Wise, Princes Street, has undertaken to supply a want much felt by business men in New Zealand, viz, the compilation of a business directory for the whole Colony. Hitherto such trade directories as have been published have been of a purely local character, so that the purchase of many books has been necessary in order to obtain full information of the kind afforded by such publications. It is fitting that a work of this kind should be published in Dunedin, as the chief commercial centre of New Zealand.

The four flax mills in operation in the Waihola district are all hard at work, and the erection of a fifth is talked of.

The ship " William Davie " brings to this port 91 assisted immigrants. Of this number there are about 40 domestic servants, amongst whom are several dairymaids. A fair proportion of the immigrants are ploughmen.

Major Atkinson will proceed to Southland in a few days, to make his quarterly inspection of the Volunteers there.

A coach will leave the Glasgow Arms Hotel at 9.30 a.m. on the 12th inst. to convey to Merton Sir David Munroe's supporters in his candidature for M.H.R. for Waikouaiti. A coach will leave Cobb's office for Merton at 10 a.m. with Mr Cutten's supporters.

The addition to the market buildings in the Octagon is now about complete. A cartway is to lead through the centre of the building, but carts will not be allowed to enter during market hours. The space can, if necessary, be also used for stalls. The contract price is £270.

### *July*

A soap manufactory has been established at Oamaru, and another brewery is also to be added to the industries of the town.

The " glorious 4th of July " passed off very quietly throughout, apparently the only notice taken of the anniversary of American Independence being the display of stars and stripes above the business places of a few American citizens.

The application of Messrs Cargill and Anderson for 20,000 acres is causing great excitement in Lawrence. A numerous signed petition, requesting the Mayor to call a public meeting to consider the matter was circulated. A monster indignation meeting is to be held at Lawrence.

Mr John Muir writes of the success of the green linnet in the neighbourhood of Dunedin. Last month he observed a flock of from 20 to 30 of these birds at the southern end of the Peninsula. They were in good condition and beautiful plumage. Early last summer he saw a pair of rose linnets near Andersons Bay Road. These same birds afterwards bred in a gorse hedge on Mr Cutten's property.

The contract for the erection of the new First Church expires on the 26th November next and it is intended to finish the building within that time.

The favourite steamer " Phoebe " will leave Port Chalmers on the 13th inst. with the greater portion of the Otago members of Assembly. It has been specially arranged that the " Phoebe " shall stop only a few hours at Lyttelton on the 14th so that she will reach Wellington in the forenoon of the 15th thus giving her passengers a day to get settled in before the Assembly opens. Hon. members will also in this way be able to reduce to a minimum the loss of time occasioned by the passage to Wellington.

A local coach-builder is at present turning out a large number of wheelbarrows for use on railway works. He has lately sent 100 northward to the order of Mr Brogden, 50 of them being for Wellington and 50 for Picton. In a fortnight hence he will have 500 more for sale. The legs are, got from the bush here, the frames are of blue gums and the boards of white pine.

### *August*

Books have been ordered for the public libraries in the Province to the value of about £2,000. The first consignment is expected in about four months.

During the month of July there were 96 births, 8 deaths and 16 marriages registered in Dunedin.

An infant, of four or five months old, worn down by neglect and want of nourishment to a mere skeleton, was at the Mayor's Court, sent to the Industrial School for seven years.

The steamer " Wakatip," after lying submerged in the lake of the same name for about eight years, has been raised and beached.

Cobb and Co's driver, Mr Craig, had a rough passage from Clyde during the snow storm. He started with one passenger in the coach at twenty minutes past five o'clock on Wednesday 14th inst. and had scarcely got fairly away when snow began to descend thickly. When Alexandra was reached, a delay of an hour and a-half had to be made, as the fury of the storm prevented the punt from crossing the river. When the storm had somewhat abated a passage was effected but soon after the storm redoubled its fury. It was with considerable difficulty that the horses could be induced to travel and they sometimes could scarcely drag the coach through the drifts. The cold was most intense; the snow freezing as it fell, and it descended so thickly that it was impossible to see a yard. Kemp's was reached at half-past ten. Mr Craig was so benumbed that he could not get off the box and had to be lifted down. His beard was frozen together in one solid mass ; his gloves frozen as hard as boards, and his comforter and his other clothing also being frozen. It was found impossible to leave Kemp's during the day. About nine o'clock, the storm having somewhat abated, Mr Craig and his passenger started on horseback and after a difficult and dangerous journey through, in many places, deep snow drifts, arrived at Aylings — a distance of 14 miles from Kemp's, about 3 a.m. Mr Craig arrived in Lawrence with mails at one o'clock on Thursday. He started back at twenty minutes past six the same evening, and got as far as Rae's, whence he started the following morning, arriving at Clyde at half-past seven the same evening.

### *September*

A number of leading maltsters in Dunedin have placed at the disposal of the Otago Agricultural and Pastoral Association two money prizes and medals for the encouragement of the growing of malting barley in Otago during the coming season. First prize £30 and a gold medal, second prize £20 and a silver medal, the quantity produced in each case to be 500 bushels.

About 70 gentlemen have lately subscribed their names to a roll for the formation of a Dunedin Bowling and Quoiting Club and at a meeting it was decided to establish such a club.

Mr Shapter, assisted by some of the Roman Catholics of Dunedin, is taking active steps for the formation of a company having for its object the issue of a weekly paper in the Roman Catholic interest, to be entitled the New Zealand Tablet.

The screwing down of the piles of the Moeraki jetty is now being Proceeded with.

A charge of 225 lbs. of powder, deposited in a hole 52 feet deep and four inches in diameter, was fired on the face at Bell Hill, near the prisoners' shed, on Thursday evening, and dislodged a large quantity of material, estimated to amount to over 2,000 tons. A gang of 25 prisoners is employed on that part of the hill daily, and the work is being carried out under the supervision of Sergeant Outram. The stuff is taken away in trucks, and is being used in the formation of that part of Castle Street which crosses the inlet near the Stuart Street Jetty.

A bullock was roasted whole in Invercargill on the occasion of the turning of the first sod of the Mataura Railway.

The nights of "slush illumination" at the meat market are numbered, as the Corporation is about to light up the market with gas.

A hat-making industry has been carried on in Dunedin for a number of years, but the demand for silk hats has not been sufficiently extensive, until within the last three or four years, to enable the pioneers in the business to compete successfully with the foreign producer. Now, however, that the silk bell-topper is becoming a general favourite, owing to its lightness and durability — much less material being employed in its manufacture now than formerly — the business has improved, and the prospect is that our local manufacturers will succeed in driving the imported article out of the market.

### *October*

The members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade will celebrate their anniversary by a torchlight procession and a supper.

Another of the landmarks of old Dunedin is about to be removed. The store of the late Mr John Jones, the store emphatically of the old identity days, is being demolished.

There was a crowded audience at the re-opening of Murray's Circus. The Company has been strengthened by the addition of a group of gymnasts, whose attainments are of the highest class. The excellent barebacked riding of Master Braham, and the comicalities of Mr Murray, helped to vary the rather lengthy programme.

Singer's Universalled new Family Noiseless Lock-stitch sewing machine now available.

The discharge at Moeraki of the brig Pakeha, chartered by Mr G. F. Reid, and loaded with Waitaki bridge material, is now nearly finished. About 10 tons still remain on board to keep the brig righted, pending the receipt of her outward cargo of oats.

A Gun Club is to be formed in Dunedin and a Committee has been appointed to frame rules. The movement that resulted in the formation of the Club arose through several private matches having taken place.

Among the exports by the Alhambra were 30 tuns of whale oil shipped by the Maoris, being the result of their late catches outside the Otago Heads.

A sign of progress. We notice that the ship May Queen is not only to discharge at the Railway Pier at Port Chalmers (as the Wave Queen did before her) but that her cargo is to be forwarded to Dunedin by railway, "at the rate of 4s. 6d. per ton in full."

The large number of Chinese are now located in the Adam's Flat and Woolshed districts, and parties of 30 or so continue to arrive from Tuapeka every few days.

The number of ounces of gold exported from Otago since its first discovery has now "turned" the third million, the quantity exported up to 30th September last being 3,003,841 ozs. valued a £11,746,800.

An interesting lecture was delivered in the North-East Harbour Schoolhouse, in aid of the funds of the District Library, by Mr G. B. Bell, who took for his subject the "Electric Telegraph." The speaker announced his intention of delivering a lecture on the steam engine at some future period.

### *November*

Thomas Thompson will make to measure Men's and Women's Strong Calf Shoes 5s.

The arrangements for the establishment of a flour mill at the Dunstan are almost complete.

A sample of peat from Flagstaff Hill, forwarded to Professor Black by the, New Zealand Distillery Company, which is a large consumer of Scotch peat, has been analysed by him and also a specimen of Scotch peat, to ascertain which is the better. Professor Black judges the Flagstaff peat perfectly adapted for all the purposes to which Scotch peat is applied.

A pneumatic tube apparatus to be used for raising gold from the bed of the Molyneux, has been manufactured at Mr Wilson's Otago Foundry and sent up to Clyde. It is now being put together there and it is expected that the work will be commenced by the beginning of next year.

Tenders are being received for the erection of Immigration Barracks at Port William, Stewart Island. The designs for these buildings have been prepared for the General Government. It is the intention of the architect to avail himself, as much as possible of the timber and other building materials obtainable on the island, thus reducing the cost to a minimum.

The Deacon's Court of Knox Church invite their friends at 4 o'clock in the afternoon of the 25th inst. to witness the laying of the foundation stone of the new Church, at the junction of Pitt and George Streets. At the request of the Deacon's Court Dr D. M. Stuart will preside and lay the stone.

A meeting of Warehousemen was held in Murray's Rooms for the purpose of forming a Cricket Club, which has been a long felt want among them. There was a very full attendance and members enrolled to the number of 40.

Our Temperance friends intend to celebrate St. Andrew's Day in an appropriate manner, by holding a grand picnic, which has been improvised by the joint Committees of the Mornington and Dunedin Bands of Hope. These gentlemen have been working hard for some time east to make the meeting an entire success. They have selected a very suitable site in a paddock opposite the Cattle Market, and which has been kindly lent for the occasion. Here, the juvenile portion of the cold streams will be able to indulge in every kind of amusement, including a merry-go-round, swing, cricket, racing, etc. The Committee have made provision for 1,000 persons, and will be able to supply double that number with good things if they should be present. The procession will start from the Octagon at half-past nine o'clock and will include the Dunedin Fife and Drum Band, arrayed with their new uniforms of blue and white, the Mornington and Dunedin Bands of Hope, the Sons and Daughters of Temperance, and the Good Templars of Dunedin and Caversham.

### *December*

Flower-stealing is an offence which is in most towns developed most fully on Sundays and Dunedin is no exception to the rule. An example is required to be made, and the sooner that consummation is arrived at the better for those whose flowers are within the reach of strolling vagabonds.

The experiment initiated by Mr Colman Burke, of growing hops in this Province, is likely to prove highly successful.

The hospital at Oamaru was formally opened by Mr John McLean. It is a neat stone building, situated on a spur at the back of the town and has accommodation and every convenience for 12 patients, or even more if occasion required. Sergeant-major Ross and his wife have been appointed warder and matron. No appointment of house-surgeon has yet been made.

Complaints have lately been made respecting the annoyance certain larrikins give to passersby in Princes Street on evenings. They chiefly " loaf " about Bullen's Corner, and pass offensive remarks on persons in the street, and especially on young women. Special attention is being given by the police to these worthies and any against whom a charge is proved need not expect to get off lightly.

Hall mats, made of twisted cords of flax fibre, are manufactured at the Marewhenua Flax Works.

The long looked for formal opening of the Dunedin and Port Chalmers Railway will take place on the 31st when the line will be formally opened by His Excellency the Governor. The opening train will proceed to Port Chalmers from the Dunedin Station at 12.30, returning at 1.30. At 2 o'clock an invitation luncheon will be given by Messrs Proudfoot and Oliver in the University Hall. We are requested to state that as the hall is too small to admit ladies as spectators, Messrs Proudfoot and Oliver will provide seats in carriages for ladies accompanying gentlemen for whom tickets have been issued.