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COLONIAL EXPERIENCES ;

OR,

INCIDENTS AND REMINISCENCES

OF

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS IN NEW ZEALAND.

BY

AN OLD COLONIST.

William Hall Pratt

"Hear, Land o' Cakes, and brither Scots,
Frae Maidenkirke to Johnny Groat's ;
If there's a hole in a' your coats,
I rede you tent it :
A chield's amang you, taking notes,
And, faith, he'll prent it."—*Burns*.

LONDON:

CHAPMAN & HALL, 193, PICCADILLY.

1877.

Dedication

*To the Hon. W. Fox, M.A., Late Premier
of New Zealand.*

*Sir,—As one of the pioneers of colonization in
New Zealand, with whose social and political
progress you have been identified through a long
course of years, this personal experience of an old
Colonist is, with kind permission, respectfully in-
scribed by*

THE AUTHOR.

CHRISTCHURCH, CANTERBURY, NEW ZEALAND,
February, 1877.

INTRODUCTION.

It is the peculiar privilege of an author to have the first and last word. In virtue of the former, I desire to make a few remarks, premising that they will be brief and to the point.

It is nearly forty years since the systematic colonization of New Zealand was commenced. The ranks of the earlier settlers are rapidly thinning, and a new generation of workers are occupying their places; to whom an epitome of the early days, written by one of the former, may possess special interest, albeit the writer may be without either literary ability or experience.

It is generally admitted that colonists do not often rush into print; they are either too busy, or the constant strain, and physical exertions of colonial life, indispose to literary efforts; from whatever cause, there is a dearth

of works relating exclusively to the colonies, written by colonists.

The writer of the following sketches has no pretensions towards supplying this want, but ventures to hope this humble attempt to produce a picture from his limited standpoint, of a primitive state of things now passed away, will be received with liberal allowances for its many faults and crudities.

And that it may also merit a kind consideration and support from a large and widening circle interested in the progress and advancement of "England's Colonial Empire," is the sincerest wish of the

AUTHOR.

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