



Foreward

Our thanks are due to Miss Arthur and to Miss Nora Buttle for the very careful and laborious research involved in the preparation of this centenary booklet. Very few Auckland people have ever heard of the Wesleyan College and Seminary, and only a dwindling number have any recollection of Prince Albert College, but each Institution did useful work in its day. The first Wesley College was established primarily for the education of the children of missionaries, and it is fitting that the story should be told by descendants of the original shareholders, who are able to interpret the faded Reports and Minute Books in the light of family tradition. As to Prince Albert College, the affection and pride of the writers, and the loyalty of the members of the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations over many years, are convincing evidence that the School was a success in every respect except financially.

The Prince Albert College Trust still functions and has certain assets, so that a third chapter may have to be added to the record some day.

E. W. HAMES,

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

President, Wesley Historical Society.

PROPRIETORS OF WESLEY COLLEGE AND SEMINARY.

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Rev. Walter Lawry | Rev. David Hazlewood (Fejee) |
| Rev. John Hobbs | Rev. James Watkin |
| Rev. John Whiteley | Rev. Samuel Ironside |
| Rev. James Wallis | Rev. John Warren |
| Rev. Thomas Buddle (Secretary) | Rev. H. H. Turton |
| Rev. James Buller | Rev. Matthew Wilson (Tonga) |
| Rev. George Buttle | Rev. Thomas Williams (Fejee) |
| Rev. Gideon Smales | Rev. R. K. Lyth |
| Rev. H. H. Lawry | Rev. J. Thomas (Friendly Isles,) |
| Rev. Alexander Reid | Rev. C. H. Schnackenberg |
| Rev. J. Watsford (Fejee) | Rev. William Kirk |
| Rev. J. H. Fletcher (Principal) | Rev. Charles Creed |

(Complete as far as available records show).

Published with the authority of the Prince Albert College Trustees, by the Wesley Historical Society (New Zealand Branch) as Vol. 8. No. 2, of its Proceedings, March, 1950.

PART THE FIRST WESLEY COLLEGE, 1850-1868

CHAPTER ONE.

Wanted—A College!

"Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy"—thus was the Gospel of Peace introduced into New Zealand on Christmas Day, 1814, by the Rev. Samuel Marsden of the Church Missionary Society. In less than a decade the Methodist Mission was proclaiming the same good tidings, her messenger being the Rev. Samuel Leigh. Leigh owed his passionate interest in New Zealand and her people to none other than Samuel Marsden, for in Australia they had been intimate friends for some years; and it was at Marsden's suggestion in 1819 that Leigh, then in poor health, visited New Zealand, partly on a health-recruiting visit, and also that he might report to Marsden on the progress of the Church Mission.

The scenes he witnessed soon showed Leigh how great were the needs of the Maori, and there and then was born in his heart the desire that his beloved Methodist Church should play her part in winning the Maori race for Christ. He spared no effort to bring this about, and after visiting England and gaining the approval of the Conference (not without some pleading) Leigh was finally appointed to the Mission, and with his young wife arrived again in New Zealand in 1822.

Such was the friendship between Marsden and Leigh that "no tinge of jealousy ever shaded their intercourse, each rejoicing in the triumphs of the other." Unfortunately, to Leigh was not granted as to Marsden the blessing of a robust physical constitution, and he soon fell ill again, becoming a very sick man, and within eighteen months of his arrival he had to lay down his task and return to Australia. But the work of the Methodist Mission went on, for God, in His providence put it into the heart of Nathaniel Turner and of John Hobbs to offer for the New Zealand field, and on their shoulders was laid the task of carrying on the work commenced by Leigh.

So the years went by; gradually the work extended and others joined the ranks; but the work grew faster than the band of workers and the need for more and more missionaries became urgent. In the year 1839 English Methodism celebrated its Centenary, and in commemoration of this, and also to mark its appreciation of the work of the missionaries in the South Seas, the Centenary Conference decided to purchase, for their use, the brig "*Triton*" to facilitate the transport of men and stores among the South Pacific Islands. Included among her passengers when she set out on this hazardous journey in September, 1839, were six young men—Revs. T. Buddle, J. Skevington, and H. H. Turton, with their wives, and three unmarried men. Revs. J. Aldred, G. Buttle, and G. Smales—selected by the Missionary Committee to go to

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

New Zealand to assist in the work there. As may be imagined this news was hailed with delight by the New Zealand Missionaries.

When, after a long and tedious voyage of about eight months, the "Triton" finally arrived at Hokianga, the new recruits, like their predecessors, found a stupendous task awaiting them. Some of them had to travel long distances through dense bush to reach their stations, and on arrival, had to prepare the ground and plant their crops; in some cases having also to fell timber, make bricks, and build their houses. These things, however, they regarded as merely incidentals; it was not for this that they had crossed thousands of miles of ocean, but to take their part in the civilising and christianising of the primitive and warlike tribes amongst whom they had come to live. Their primary object was to preach the Gospel, and to do this effectively they must be able to speak to the people in their own tongue. The Maori, too, must learn the English language, and much besides, he must be taught the use of tools, and encouraged to cultivate his land and grow his own food—indeed he must be taught almost everything, except warfare—and to this end the Missionaries devoted all their energies.

But, as time passed, and their families increased, they felt that they also owed a duty to their own children. While realising that, growing up as they were, in a new, and sometimes hostile country, they must necessarily forfeit much of the comfort and security which they themselves had enjoyed, they were resolved that, if at all possible, their children should be given the advantages of a good education. They had, in the limited time at their disposal, laid a good foundation in the rudiments of English and Mathematics, but they wanted more. They had proved the truth of the old proverb "Priucipium Sapientia" (Wisdom is the principal thing) and they desired to make it possible that their children should "Posside Sapientiam" (therefore get wisdom). They were men—and women—not easily daunted, so they set themselves to find ways and means; not a light undertaking in a young colony, with but a small European population, and with limited incomes. But, the will being there, the way was found.

At the District Meeting held in Auckland in September, 1845, the following resolution appears in the Minutes:—

"That the education of the Missionaries' children is felt year after year with increased pressure both in New Zealand and in the Islands. Here we have from end to end of the land no respectable school . . . The Brethren naturally look to the training and instructing of their children as of great consequence to them; and until some provision be made on the spot they will be turning their wishful eyes toward Home. We therefore earnestly request, that the Committee will turn its paternal attention to the matter, and send us a man and his wife, capable of suitably educating our children, both boys and girls; and we on our part shall feel bound to afford such persons all the facilities for establishing themselves in the land that our circumstances will admit of. Capabilities for teaching the classics,

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

mathematics, music, drawing, the French, etc., and going through the routine of a general commercial education will be absolute requisite."

The following year, 1846, finds the Rev. Walter Lawry, General Superintendent, of the Mission in New Zealand and Polynesia, writing to the Home Secretaries thus:—

"Let me say a word or two on the very important subject, of A Wesleyan Boarding School at Auckland. God has ruled concerning the South Sea Missionaries that they 'go forth and multiply'; and I am their witness that they are doing so with all convenient speed. This climate no doubt greatly favours the increase of the colonial population. You will probably be surprised to hear that in New Zealand alone we shall have **thirty** children of the Missionaries ready for a Boarding School by the time one can be established— say one year hence. The children of our friends, and of respectable Colonists no way connected with us may be fairly reckoned at **ten** more who would avail themselves of a good Boarding School in Auckland. I cannot well say how many may be sent from the Islands, but one may safely set down **ten** more from Tonga and Fiji. Now if you can help us to a good school here you have done almost all that can be asked or wished towards making the **stay** of the missionaries at their posts a long continued state of contentment: and when the proper education of our mission children is within our reach, in this fine climate, it may be doubted whether we can **withhold** it and be guiltless before our Heavenly Father. If you intend to keep your missionaries steadily in their great work, which God is more and more crowning with His blessing in New Zealand and the South Sea Islands, you will find that the education plan which we all agree to urge and to implore you to grant us the means of effecting, will be the only way to this most important end. New Zealand must and will be the England of the Southern Hemisphere; and what an impulse would our beloved Wesleyanism receive from the educational establishment recommended by us in our two last District Meetings. But you have a wide field of Missions to look after; and will naturally ask me what it is that I would desire you to do in this matter. We want, and if possible, must have a thoroughly good school, and in the absence of better and more mature plans suffer me to say that it might be well for you to do the following things:

1. Select the best Master (classical and otherwise) that you can find, with the best qualified wife to take the female Department.
2. Pay their passage out if necessary.
3. Equip them with all the books needed and all other school articles, globes, etc.
4. Authorise me to draw £100 in aid of this establishment for the first year, and if I find it necessary, the same for the second year also, for land,

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

buildings, and rent are awfully high here; and by the third year I am satisfied the thing will go along provided the conductors be of the right stamp. Our educational scheme for the Maori, which we began with much fear and trembling, has succeeded admirably well and won golden opinions; we hope this also will have God's blessing and equal success. Being no longer interested personally in this matter I may be allowed to speak the more boldly in behalf of my brethren, and I will venture to say that as a whole they are worthy for whom you should do this."

That the matter was of urgent importance is seen from the Rev. Thomas Buddle's letters:—

"We are anxiously waiting to hear your decision on this matter, viz., adult education for our children. I am sure if you knew how ill-supplied we are with the means of education, and the great uneasiness that prevails among the brethren in all these Districts on the subject you would at once feel the necessity of making some provision for us in the way of a suitable master and mistress. . . . A good Wesleyan Establishment here would be of incalculable benefit to our Cause generally, and we hope soon by your kind assistance to have one. We are all willing to help ourselves as far as we are able, but we can do nothing without your aid. If you could secure a suitable man and his wife and send them out with proper outfit and school apparatus, the necessary building we could provide, as well as the salary after the first year. ... I trust you will not take it for granted that because New Zealand is an English Colony therefore it possesses means of education. I assure you there is not a good school in this land, and the fact that so many children of the Missionaries are growing up, and likely to be sent forth into the world without education suitable to their position in society is distressing. . . . We are all anxious not only to educate our children so as to qualify them for respectable positions in the Church and in the world, but are most concerned that their education should be thoroughly Wesleyan. We love Methodism, and earnestly desire that when we have 'finished our course' that instead of the fathers should spring up their children. I am sure if you were here and could see the state of Society, the prevailing irreligion and ungodliness that exist, and the entire want of educational facilities there is, you would feel as we feel and write as we write, on the subject."

The Rev. James Wallis was also feeling most strongly on this matter as will be seen from the following letter:—

"Although it does not officially devolve upon me to make any remarks upon the Minutes of our District Meeting, I feel that I shall not have done my duty unless I add a few words in reference to a subject which engaged much of the attention of the Meeting, namely, the education of our children. ... It was to us a matter of the

greatest importance and astonishment to be told by you that when application was made to the Mission House by a gentleman offering his services as a schoolmaster to our children, you gave him no encouragement because you thought we should be able to obtain a suitable person in this country. . . . We have said over and over again that we cannot obtain anyone in this country fit to educate our children. It was this that induced me to ask permission to return home last year. I waited patiently, sacrificing the interests of my children, with the expectation that you would either authorise my leaving New Zealand, or make provision for the education of our families in this country. . . . We have never ventured to entertain the hope of obtaining anything more than a good plain education for our sons and daughters, and surely we are not unreasonable in asking you to aid us in this respect? I have again requested your permission to return home, but I have not made that request from any desire to leave my work, for though this Mission is, I have no doubt, one of the most laborious and trying in the world, I am still willing to devote my strength and energies to its interests. My children must, however, be taken away from native scenes and native society, or they will be in danger of being ruined. In this part of the country (Kawhia) there is no English society, no not a soul; and all my brethren in the district can bear testimony that I have tried every means within my reach to get my children educated, but in vain. ... It may be suggested that a removal to one of the English settlements would meet my case, but if I were to go there one of the other brethren must remove to the country, which would not be just towards their rising families who need education as well as mine. . . . Suffice it to say that while no provision is made for the educational wants of our children many of our missionary duties must be neglected unless it can be made to appear that we ought to instruct the heathen though our own children are allowed to grow up in ignorance and error. I will only repeat what we have said in our Minutes, 'that if your Missionaries' children are not taken care of, the sooner you recall your Missionaries from New Zealand the better.'

CHAPTER TWO.

Hope Fulfilled.

Although the help asked of the English Mission Committee was so long delayed, the Brethren in New Zealand, nothing daunted, launched their own scheme at the District Meeting in Fejee in 1847 which scheme also received the support of the District Meetings of Tonga and New Zealand. The Rev. Walter Lawry devised the plan of a Proprietary College, all the Missionaries becoming proprietors or shareholders, and each share to represent £20. Thus he writes early in 1848 to the Home Secretaries:—

"It occurred to two of the District Meetings simultaneously that a Seminary might be erected in Auckland on the share plan and that each Missionary taking part therein would meet the case so far as the expense of buildings was concerned. The cost would exceed £2000, but shares to this amount were fully calculated upon when all the Missionaries should be in possession of the case. As an investment it is believed that the shareholders will obtain a fair interest on their outlay, which of course with them is far from being the primary object. . . . The mode of settlement will be with the shareholders, who most probably will fix upon a few of their own number to act for the rest as Trustees, until then the Title Deeds will remain in the name of the General Superintendent, who however, will be guided in all things relating thereto by the majority of voices, each share to have a voice. The District Meeting should annually supervise the whole affair as a security to the absent members. The cash for each share to be charged in the account of each Missionary; one half in 1848 and the other in 1849, where it can be done, as in Fejee and New Zealand. The School Allowance and the Allowance for the Children will, it is believed, almost cover the expense of each child at school. Probably the Seminary may admit day scholars, and even boarders, from our lay friends, but it is considered best to keep the shares among the Missionaries. The government will then be our own. The brethren in the Tropics and others will need to visit Auckland occasionally for their health. Rooms will be prepared for such in the Seminary where the parent will be at home with the children when he may desire it. The proposal made to the Committee in London is this: Look out for a thoroughly good and competent man to conduct a little South Sea Kingswood School, and if possible let him have a wife who shall take charge of the female school under the same roof but apart from the other. Pay their passage here, and we will do everything in our power to make them happy. About £400 a year may be set, down for all the salaries, but at first it might be necessarily less; the Master, however, should be treated as a Christian man by Christian men, and surely where the buildings are prepared, and youths requiring education, the parents anxious for their

instruction, and having the means withal, there can be little risk on the part of those who may come out from England as the Headmaster etc."

With reference to the allocation of the shares the following Resolutions were later passed :—

Nov. 1852. "That a circular from this meeting be addressed to those brethren in each of the three Districts (New Zealand—Friendly Isles—Fiji) who have families and have not yet taken so many as five shares, most respectfully affectionately and earnestly requesting them as soon as possible to take at least that number (viz., five shares)."

Aug 1853. "Inasmuch as there is a great inequality in the number of shares held by the several Proprietors it is resolved: That the advantages of the Institution be thus determined—it shall be necessary for a shareholder to hold two shares in order to the admission of one child on the terms for Missionaries' children, four shares to entitle to admission two children, and five shares shall entitle a Proprietor to the admission of as many children as he may have eligible, provided always that no Proprietor be at liberty to send any child that is not, his own."

The English Missionary Committee in England agreed to the requests of the Missionaries, and, a suitable site of about 8½ acres in Upper Queen St., Auckland, having been selected, and purchased for the sum of £952 by the Rev. Walter Lawry, the building was erected. The contractor was Mr. Alfred Boon, who came out from England under engagement to Mr. Lawry; the total cost was approximately £3000. Materials were good and workmanship thorough in those days; the beams and floor were made of Kauri, and the roof of slate, and when, forty-seven years later, the building was examined, it was pronounced to be good for one hundred years to come.

The school was opened on January 1st, 1850—one hundred years ago—with about forty pupils, both boys and girls, who came from nearly all the mission stations in New Zealand, from Fiji, and even from Australia.

The first Principal was the Rev. Joseph Horner Fletcher. His father was a minister and missionary of English Methodism, and his mother (formerly Miss Horner) a daughter of a Methodist minister called to work by John Wesley himself. He was born at Brabon St. Vincent, in the West Indies, on October 1st. 1823, the eldest of a family of seven. At the age of seven he was sent to England to Kingswood School, where he remained for the next seven years; he speaks of the training there as being "at least a good breaking-in for the battle of life." He retained very vivid recollections of the extremely rigorous discipline of those days, and these no doubt had

Some effect on his dealings with the many boys who subsequently came under his control.

WESLEYAN COLLEGE & SEMINARY,
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

£20 0 0

SHARE No. 62

We, Walter Lawry, John Whiteley, James Wallis, Thomas Buddle, and James Buller, the Trustees of the above College and Seminary, do hereby certify that the Reverend Henry Mappale Lawry of Manukau is the Proprietor of share No 62 in the Registry of shares in the said College and Seminary, for which he has paid the sum of Twenty pounds. Dated the Twenty Second day of November one thousand eight hundred and fifty:

Walter Lawry
John Whiteley
James Wallis
Thomas Buddle
James Buller

TRUSTEES.

N.B.—This Share is transferable only to Wesleyan Ministers, or to persons on probation for the Wesleyan Ministry.

A Wesley College Share Certificate (Reduced facsimile).

Writing to his future wife in 1848 he speaks of his appointment to New Zealand:—

"My appointment there is principally to establish and conduct a school for the children of our missionaries in those parts. I shall preach to our congregations on the Sabbath, but give my time chiefly to this school. My attention has been most attracted to this post as one of great usefulness. Could we but succeed, not only in the education, but conversion of these children, who could estimate the amount of good they would effect in that rising Colony? Would they not grow up to be respectable professional and business men, honouring God with their wealth and influence? And some of them we might hope would become ministers and missionaries."

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Mr. Fletcher, with his wife and the Rev. Alexander and Mrs. Reid, who were coming to New Zealand to take charge of the Maori College at Three Kings, arrived at Auckland in April, 1849.



Rev. J. H. Fletcher

In a letter Home a few days after their arrival Mr. Fletcher writes:—

"By the great mercy of our God we arrived here safely and in health on Tuesday evening last after a fine voyage of 109 days from the "Downs," and were received with the heartiest of welcomes by our excellent Superintendent, Mr. Lawry. . . . We are extremely pleased with the climate and with the aspect of things here, both religiously and temporally. We find ourselves, however, set down in a field which will exact all our energies and resources if we would be in any worthy manner adequate to its cultivation. But we are of one heart to live for Christ and the advancement of His Kingdom. May His grace be abundantly ours, and then we cannot but succeed."

He gives his impressions of the College in a later letter:—

"Our School, dignified by the titles "Wesleyan College and Seminary" (the latter was added on account of the young ladies) is a plain but substantial and capacious brick structure, completely overlooking the town and beautiful bays which front it. In this neighbourhood of irregular wooden buildings it looks very well. It is capable of accommodating perhaps fifty boarders."

The District Meeting held in October of that year (1849) showed its appreciation in the following Resolution :—

"Resolved that the thanks of the Meeting be presented to the Committee for their prompt consideration of our request in reference to the appointment of a

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Principal to take charge of the Wesleyan Proprietary College for the benefit of missionaries' children. The Brethren at the same time would beg to express their very great satisfaction with the admirable selection the Committee have made in the persons of the Rev. J. H. Fletcher and Mrs. Fletcher as being possessed of the necessary qualifications for the important office to which they have been appointed."

The following year Mr. Fletcher writes:—

"We seem likely to obtain patronage, if we can only sustain public opinion, from all parts of the Island. But alas, the difficulty, almost impossibility, of getting suitable assistance, either domestic or scholastic, must always be a serious increase to the burden and anxiety of conducting such an establishment as this. Hitherto, by the signal blessing of God, we have got on well for New Zealand; but here, where everybody can live and everybody is his or her own master, I do assure you the arrogance and petulance of household servants is a most sore abomination."

(Although written a hundred years ago, how applicable much of this is to the present day!). They did "obtain patronage," and for some years the school, in spite of many difficulties, steadily progressed; the number of pupils increased to nearly seventy, and at one time the fees received were £390 per quarter.



Wesley College and Seminary, 1850

Referring to the College in his "Forty years in New Zealand" the Rev. James Buller writes:—

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

"Here both the sons and daughters of the missionaries in New Zealand and the South Sea Islands were prepared for the battle of life. Many of them began and ended their school life in that College, and reflect no discredit on their Alma Mater. Not a few of them are now filling influential positions both in the Church and in the State. For some years this was the only educational institution in the land in which anything beyond the merest elementary instruction could be had. Although its primary object was for the families of the missionaries it was not limited to them, and all who looked for a superior education availed themselves of it."

Mrs. Fletcher's part in the life of the school was no small one, as is seen from a letter she wrote in 1857 to Mrs. Hoole, wife of Rev. Elijah Hoole. Missionary Secretary:—

"I thank you for the things you so kindly gave us for our school, which I found very useful. Drapery, wools, crochet and knitting material are very expensive in this part of the world, so that a present of this kind is most acceptable. Our girls have done a great quantity of useful fancy articles, and we are frequently obliged to wait a month or two for necessary articles before they can complete anything. When we first arrived we found the building would not be finished for about six months; however, when only two rooms were ready we gladly went into it with nine missionaries' children from the Islands. The 1st January we opened school with nearly 30 children, but we had no one to help us (my dear little boy was born the same week). Our numbers soon increased to 50, about 34 being boarders. . . . Our servants have been a great source of trial ... we could not place the slightest dependence upon them. . . . My hands, as well as my husband's, have been more than full. The domestic affairs, as well as providing clothes, getting them made, mending, the girls' work etc., beside my own little baby (for I could not get a nurse girl), and my dear husband having to teach so many with such unsuitable help, and his preaching besides these things, have much tried us; but our Heavenly Father has never forsaken us. We desire to live for the cause and glory of God, and to be made a blessing to the young people of the Colony. . . . We have now 41 boarders including boys and girls, and 21 as day scholars."

Mr. Fletcher, although he had had no previous experience as a teacher, proved himself to be well fitted for the work, with a sympathetic understanding of boys.

"For the faults of boyhood we make great allowance. I have a great repugnance to flogging, and I think it easier to flog seven devils into a boy than to flog one out of him. We prefer the punishments which withhold pleasure to those which inflict pain."

But he never went to the other extreme of setting his face against corporal punishment in all cases and under all circumstances.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

"We must have obedience, cost what it may, and we insist on growing attention to order, and to rules and duties."

CHAPTER THREE.

The College at Work.

In 1850 Mr. Fletcher's sister, Miss Mary Fletcher, for whom he had sent to take charge of the girls' department, arrived from England, and took up her position at the beginning of the following year. Assisting her was Miss Hobbs, daughter of the Rev. John Hobbs, one of the pioneer missionaries to New Zealand. She afterwards became the wife of the Rev. William Gittos, also a well-known Methodist Missionary.

The duties of Matron of the Institution were, for several years, most satisfactorily discharged by Miss Lucy Entwistle, a sister of Mrs. James Watkin, until failing health made it necessary for her to resign. In 1852 the Rev. William Fletcher, B.A., of London University, a brother of Mr. Fletcher, previously a master at Taunton, was appointed second master. On the Staff at that time was Mr. (afterwards Rev.) W. J. Watkin, and later Mr. Harris, Mr. William Arthur, and Mr. Rowlands, the last-named being appointed Classical Tutor in 1865. Other teachers mentioned— most of whom stayed only a short time—were Mr. Bridson, Mr. Seward, Mr. Charles, Mr. Hall, and Mr. Edwards.

At the end of the first year an examination was held in the presence of the promoters of the College, and the progress was pronounced to be excellent, reflecting great credit on the Principal and his assistants. The Principal reported:—

"The instruction has been, as might be expected during the first year of our existence as a school, mainly elemental, some of our little fellows from the Islands requiring to be taught the very rudiments of English education. . . . The change of scene and climate and companions has been of the most marked benefit to them already. The sallow tropical hue is exchanged for the ruddy tinge of European healthfulness; the spare figure has become somewhat robust, and the habits more orderly and English. The progress of even the most backward has been very satisfactory, and was the more easy because the conscience had already been taught and the fear of God instilled at home. New Zealand children enjoy many advantages denied to those above mentioned, but the frequent absence of the father, the abundant occupations of both parents, and the want of society in many of the bush stations were all unfavourable to mental discipline and systematic instruction, or indeed to any successful attempt to qualify young people for active and useful life. . . . Our highest class has been carefully instructed during the year in English and Roman History, with English Grammar, Geography, etc., higher rules of Arithmetic, and the rudiments of Algebra and Latin, Reading and Writing etc. We mention with special thanksgiving to God the very great moral purity which has characterised our scholars. . . . We have never seen a school of the sort so high in its moral character, and can attribute it

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

only to the many prayers which some of God's most devoted and holy missionary servants have urged on their behalf. Cautious, almost timid, as I feel in speaking or judging of religion among children, I have yet seen emotions and fruits which I have not doubted to ascribe to the Grace of God and the hand of His Spirit. To see our pupils all becoming intelligent and devoted followers of the Saviour would afford us more pleasure than if all the crowns and sceptres of this present world were laid at our feet. I have not attempted to force religion down the boys' throats, but I have tried to inspire a sincere reverence for all high things and noble qualities. Not having won a single prize in my own school life, I know how to sympathise with those boys who have been unsuccessful, and I hope they will not be discouraged. Hard honest work will bring its reward."

A number of valuable gifts were received for the College. The Rev. J. Calvert of Fiji donated £50, which sum it was decided should be invested under the name of "The Calvert Scholarship," the proceeds to be bestowed annually, after the examination, upon the most deserving pupil. Other acceptable gifts received were: a timepiece from Rev. R. B. Lyth of Fiji; from Rev. D. Hazelwood, also of Fiji, Mr. Wesley's books for the library; and Captain Buck of the "John Wesley" presented a pair of large and handsome globes. Also it was resolved—"That a letter of thanks be forwarded to Mr. Marsden for his valuable and very acceptable present of a washing machine, which has been, and still is, of great use in the domestic arrangements of the establishment." Economy evidently being necessary—"We need many articles for domestic and school purposes not to be got here but at great cost"—this help was much appreciated by the Trustees.

It is probable that the Mr. Marsden referred to may have been related to the Rev. Samuel Marsden. The Rev. Walter Lawry married a Miss Hassall, sister of the Rev. Thos. Hassall, who married Samuel Marsden's daughter. This would account for Mr. Marsden being interested in the College.

Mr. Fletcher's report for the year 1851-2 shows still further progress:—

"The public examination took place at the close of the year in the presence of several Ministers of the District, and a large number of ladies and gentlemen, including several chief officers of the Government, and many of the leading merchants in Auckland. The pupils are closely questioned in digressive and informal style so as to test their powers of promptly exhibiting knowledge in forms of their own. This examination extended through detached portions of Greek History, selected without warning, and with reference to Roman events at intervals—also through the Geography of many of the chief countries of the world, including their physical peculiarities and such other points as connect them with the commerce and politics of the age—through parts of the history of England, the main principles of natural science as exemplified in common

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

phenomena, commercial arithmetic and other topics germane to these. The senior class of boys read a portion of the first book of Aeneid, and were prepared in Algebra, Euclid, and Greek. . . . The Rev. John Inglis of the Scotch Presbyterian Church questioned the entire school in English Grammar. ... It is not of course for us to testify of ourselves, but it would be mere folly to profess that the congratulations of so many intelligent and capable judges did not encourage us to believe that our patrons were more than content, and that our labours have not been barren. ... It is difficult to divine how important will be the influence of this school on the nascent empire-germs of this land, if it can only survive the perplexities of its outseting. As yet, we furnish almost the only high-aiming educational agency in the entire Island. This must be regarded at least as a memorable experiment to supply education to the middle classes, under the auspices of unsectarian Christianity."

And a cutting from the "*New Zealander*" re the Annual Examination at Wesley College also makes interesting reading:—

"A large attendance gathered for the occasion, including the Colonial Secretary, the Attorney General, the Native Secretary, in addition to the Wesleyan ministers of the District, parents and relations of the scholars, and friends of education. The examination embraced classics, mathematics, astronomy, geography, English reading and grammar, mental arithmetic, and questions on general information, on all of which the pupils manifested an amount of knowledge which must have afforded lively gratification to their friends and to all who look with interest on the diffusion of a sound and liberal education, based on Christian principles, amongst the rising generation of our advancing Colony. . . . Specimens of writing and drawing were laid out for view and fully maintained the high character stamped on the Institution. Nor should we omit to add that the performance on the pianoforte by some of the young ladies, and the specimens of their fancy work, as well as the share borne by them in the general questioning, gave ample assurance that they also had received in full proportion the able and zealous care which had evidently marked the entire course of tuition in the College, and that Miss Fletcher's exertions had met with their most gratifying reward in the marked and cheering progress of her more immediate pupils. ... No one could leave the Wesleyan College on Monday without the pleasing conviction that families coming to Auckland do not lose the opportunities of providing an enlarged and liberal education for their younger members—fear of being cut off from which justly constitutes in many minds one of the most formidable objections to emigration."

Expressing the appreciation of the Missionaries the Rev. Thomas Buddle writes:—

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

"The formation of this Institution has been a great relief to many minds, as we can now secure for our children a thorough Wesleyan training in connection with a sound English education. I cannot but indulge the hope that some of these interesting youths will rise up to carry the Gospel to the regions beyond."

That this hope for the future, previously expressed also by Mr. Fletcher, was fulfilled, is shown by the following extract from an article on Wesley College which appeared in the first number of the Prince Albert College Magazine published in 1898:—

"During the first seven years a great number of pupils passed through the school. From the first who entered, a few may be mentioned as having attained degrees of eminence. Four of the boys entered the ministry of the Church of their fathers, three of them going out as missionaries to the Islands of the Sea. The one who stayed in the Colonies has been dignified by the title of D.I). One of the sons of a New Zealand Missionary reached Cambridge in the course of his academic career, and but for the loss of health would have gained a Senior Wranglership. Another, by his scientific productions, secured a fame which brought him the degree of LL.D., and further excellency resulted in an interview with Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria and a Knighthood."

The D.D. was Dr. Edwin I. Watkin of the Australian Methodist Church. He was the son of the Rev. James Watkin, who established the first mission in the South Island of New Zealand, and a brother of the Rev. J. B. Watkin of Tonga, and of the Rev. W. J. Watkin, for long so well known in our New Zealand ministry, both of whom were also pupils of Wesley College, and the latter for some time a tutor.

The K.C.M.G. was Sir Walter Buller, son of the Rev. James Buller. He was a noted New Zealand ornithologist and Doctor of Science, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society. Even in his school days, according to one of his teachers, "his room was always littered up with bugs and beetles, and creepy things."

There was only one real holiday given in the year, necessarily in the Summer, as many of the pupils had to travel long distances on foot to reach their homes. An interesting account of these journeyings is given in an article in a small missionary magazine for children, published in London in 1855, entitled "*Going Home for the Holidays in New Zealand*":—

"Travelling in New Zealand is very different from travelling in England. There they have no railroads, steam boats, stagecoaches—not even wagons or carts. When the Missionaries' children go from the school at Auckland to their homes for the holidays, their journeyings sometimes are very adventurous and romantic. The holidays are given only once a year, as some of the pupils come from a great distance—one hundred and fifty to three hundred miles. Not very far for us who can reach home in a few hours by rail, but a great distance for young people who

have no conveyance, and have to travel on foot part of the way. Some go home in small coasting vessels; they have but few comforts on their voyage, which is uncertain and sometimes dangerous. Those who take the inland journey start on foot, with their fathers, and surrounded by talkative and well-laden natives, direct their way towards some one of the rivers which form a highway into the very heart of New Zealand. On these waters, the travellers each morning launch their canoe, working their way with paddle and blanket sail; and every evening the tents are pitched by the riverside. In wet weather they rest in some shed of reeds, if such is to be found. Evening and morning all assemble for worship; the Scriptures are read, prayer offered, and hymns sung, in which may be heard the deep chanting tones of the natives. Fathers and children are soon at rest on their couch of dried fern or leaves, well spread with blankets, with heads too weary to think whether their pillows be soft; while round their fires their native attendants keep up a gossip of the things they have seen and heard at Auckland, till the stars are sloping to the West. Thus, during a week or more they journey, varied by walks through woods or wastes of tall fern, until they meet once more the greetings and rejoicings of home. The pupils from the Auckland Institution pass over a stranger road, in their journeys to and from school, than any other boys and girls in the wide world."

CHAPTER FOUR.

The Passing Years.

In April, 1855, owing to difficulties in management it was resolved:—

"That, the Young Ladies' Department be transferred to Miss Christopher for the remainder of the year."

(Incidentally a sketchbook belonging to a pupil of that period still remains, inscribed on the first page, "S. E. Buddle, Wesleyan College, 1855," and a little further on "At Miss Christopher's." Also an autograph album presented the following year to the same pupil by the Rev. Wm. Fletcher, prior to his departure for Fiji).

At the end of the same year Mr. Fletcher who, finding the unaccustomed strain of college life too great, had previously been obliged to resign the Governorship—the position of House Governor and Chaplain being filled by the Rev. Dr. Lyth of Fiji now also resigned his position as Headmaster, and became second minister in the Auckland Circuit.

Referring to his resignation Mr. Fletcher writes:

"Not having been trained to the work it has worn me pretty much I may be thankful, however, thanks to love of Arnold., and a high ideal of the teacher's vocation, and above all thanks to God, who helped in many a distracting hour, that I, have not, I believe, made any great mistakes, and have at least left the Institution in good odour with the public, and with a foundation for the coming man whom Heaven send—and may he be of the best."

After a few years in circuit work in New Zealand, Mr. Fletcher went to Australia, where he served as a minister of the Methodist Church in Queensland for a time, until — his health having improved — he resumed scholastic work, and for twenty-two years held the position of President of Newington College, Svdney and for four years longer, that of Theological Tutor, until his death in 1890. Near the end of his long career as a teacher Mr. Fletcher writes to one of his old boys:—

"How many times have I seen the need of patience on the part of teachers and all who have to do with young people. How much good often lies hidden behind the thoughtlessness and mischief of the boy. ... Of late years I used often to correct my first judgment of boys by remembering what I was at their age, and few boys I think, were so foolish and thoughtless as I was."

The "coming man" referred to by Mr. Fletcher proved to be his brother William—already on the Staff—who succeeded his as Headmaster, Dr. Lyth continuing as House Governor. But Mr. Fletcher held the position for a short time only, as in 1857

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

he was appointed as a missionary to Fiji. Towards the end of Rev. Wm. Fletcher's term at the College, owing to various causes, among them the opening of other schools, and the unsettled state of the country due to the growing disaffection among the Maoris making it no longer safe for the children to travel—the agreement with Miss Christopher having terminated — it was decided to discontinue the boarding Establishment. After a short interval, during which the Rev. J. H. Fletcher agreed to return to carry on the work of the school—"I am again at the school, but it is only for the year, and to save it while we are getting the property transferred to the Connexion"— Mr. John Fletcher, "another brother of the same gifted family," arrived from England as Principal of the College. He held the position for about eleven years, until the school was closed. During the earlier part of that time his stipend was guaranteed by the Trustees, who received the fees; later he was allowed the building at a nominal rent, while he undertook the financial responsibilities. After leaving the College he started a private school on the newly-opened goldfield at the Thames. Mr. Fletcher was himself a local preacher, and his six sons also became either ministers or local preachers; the youngest is the well-known evangelist, the Rev. Lionel Fletcher.

In 1858, on account of financial difficulties, it was resolved that:—

"The Superintendent of the Auckland Circuit having informed the meeting that the following Ministers and Gentlemen have consented together to become Trustees and to purchase the whole of the College lands and buildings for the sum of £3700 in order that they may be secured to the Connexion on the Trusts set forth in the Model Deed, to be employed for the support and maintenance of a Connexional school or college—the Proprietors now assembled in their Annual Meeting do by virtue of the powers conferred on them in the original Constitution hereby authorise the Trustees to transfer the property to the above-named persons in trust for the purposes specified; and on the receipt of the purchase money after discharging the other liabilities of the College, to pay the amount of their shares to the respective shareholders with any proportion of surplus moneys which may accrue to them—and then dissolve the Proprietary."

At the same meeting the following Resolution was also passed:—

"That in consideration of the generous and truly Wesleyan spirit in which certain gentlemen have consented to become Trustees in order to carry out the designs of the Proprietors in the perpetuation of a Connexional School of a superior class, the Proprietors authorise the existent Trustees to present to the new Trustees the library, school books, and the schoolroom furniture and apparatus,, with twelve beds and bedding, as a donation for the use of the school."

It says much for the courage and determination of these men that, in face of the many difficulties with which they had to contend, they had carried on for so long.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

In connection with the erection of the College a debt had been incurred amounting to several hundreds of pounds, which was owing on mortgage. In order to clear this liability it was found necessary to sell some of the property. The original area of 8½ acres had a frontage to Queen St. of approximately 764ft, and extended over and beyond the present Liverpool and Turner Streets; and also Lawry St. (which is now the lower part of City Rd.). A narrow section where City Rd. now is gave a frontage of 72ft. to Symonds St. In 1865 about half the land, at the rear of the College, and towards Symonds St., which had been surveyed and sub-divided, was sold. Good prices were realised, and the Trustees were thus able to free the property from debt. Prices ranged from £1/7/6 to £16/10/- per foot, the highest price obtained being £544/10/- for the section at the corner of Queen and Turner Streets, while three other sections with Queen St. frontages realised £333/10/-, £478/10/- and £511/10/-. The total nett result of this sale was approximately £7000, in addition to which several sections had been sold privately the previous year.

Several of the sections were bought by Mr. Partington, adjacent to the one on which, some years previously, he had erected a windmill, which for many years served in helping to supply the needs of Auckland. Though long idle, the "Old Mill" still stands, a prominent and familiar landmark—of special interest to old Aucklanders as one of the few remaining links with the old pioneering days.

As time went on difficulties increased; the country was suffering from an economic depression due to the Maori War, many of the former pupils had grown up and left school, and a number of the Missionaries had either returned to England or removed elsewhere in the Colonies, and it was found impossible to carry on. Consequently, in 1868 the school was closed, and—the small mortgage having been paid off—the property was passed over to the Connexion free of debt.

And so ended the first chapter of Methodist European education in Auckland. But it had served its purpose, and had trained a generation of men and women fitted to walk in the footsteps of their fathers, and to continue the work they had so ably begun.

The Rev. W. J. Williams in his "*Centenary Sketches of N.Z. Methodism*" writes :—

"Specially noteworthy is the contribution made to the advancement of Auckland Methodism by the sons and daughters of the early Missionaries. There would be a large excision from the list of workers in every department of the Church if those representing the families of Hobbs, Wallis, Buddle, Buttle, Lawry, Reid, and Schnackenberg were to be eliminated. They honour the God of their fathers by doing what they can to carry on the work which their fathers bravely began."

And the old school was to live again, under a new name, and in a rejuvenated building. Many years later, for a short time—all too short—Prince Albert College entered the scholastic field, and worthily upheld the reputation and carried on the

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

teaching and traditions of its predecessor; and so the next generation of the descendants of our Methodist pioneers had also the privilege of being educated in a College belonging to their own Church.

**COLLEGE SQUARE,
QUEEN-STREET.**

**45 FREEHOLD BUILDING ALLOTMENTS,
AT AUCTION,
THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 12 O'CLOCK, NOON.
1865**

C. ARTHUR & SON,
AT THEIR AUCTION CHAMBERS QUEEN STREET.



This truly valuable property now thrown open to public competition presents many peculiar advantages. The situation is one of the very best in the City either for health or business. The spacious College grounds retained in the same manner as open and beautiful neighbourhood, and site of the late former business in the street.

THE CHIEF STREET AND THROUGHFARE OF THE CITY.

The Park Lane are advantageously situated, having on one side the extensive gardens and residence of E. Fitzroy, Esq., & Park Lane, Esq. In the other John Williams, Esq., Esq. and is the other the open space and grounds of the College. There is also an excellent and convenient front, viz. (157) East, connects the place with the city.

TERMS:

Sold for CASH: remainder by Bills of Three and Six Months, with Bank Interest added.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

In the meantime, as it did not then seem possible to comply with the terms of the stipulation set forth by the Proprietors, it was decided to let the College to other educationalists, so that, although not distinctively a Wesleyan College, it might still continue to help in the advancement of education in the City, the revenue thus obtained being used for various connexional purposes. When, in 1876, the Three Kings College was reopened, the Trustees of Wesley College voted £750 towards the furnishing, and during the subsequent sixteen years they were able to contribute an additional amount of over £2000.

The property was first leased to Air. Robert Kidd, B.A., LL.D., who conducted a Collegiate School until he was appointed as first Headmaster of the Auckland Grammar School, with which his own school became merged ; and later to the Auckland Education Board, which established in 1877 a Girls' School under Mr. Neil Heath. It was subsequently leased to Dr. McArthur, who for some years conducted a school for boys, until in 1895 it was reopened by the Methodist Church as Prince Albert College.

PART THE SECOND PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE, 1895-1906

CHAPTER ONE.

A New Beginning.

Many years passed after the closing of Wesley College and the Methodist Church once again felt the need of more facilities for the training of its youth, and the desirability of being represented in the educational life of the community. "Wesleyan Colleges had been established in all the other Colonies, and in some of them had been exceedingly successful. It was thought, therefore, that with the premises already held, and in such an excellent position, another start might be made."

As the old school was still in good repair, and as the trustees of Wesley College had handed over the whole of that valuable property free of debt, it was finally decided that, with some improvements, and under a new name—Prince Albert, in honour of the late Prince Consort—it should be reopened as a school for boys.

"In that important matter" — higher education — "Methodism led the way and set the pace for all Protestant Churches in New Zealand. The idea of starting such a College emanated from the fertile brain of Dr. Morley. A committee of Auckland ministers and laymen was appointed by Conference to give effect to the proposal, and a marked success was soon recorded." (Rev W. J. Williams).

"In promoting a High School Education under the auspices of the Church the New Zealand Conference is following the example of England and the older Colonies. . . . The benefits to be gained thereby will become more apparent every year, and if, from Prince Albert College there goes forth year by year a band of young men and maidens intellectually equipped and morally fitted for the battle of life, the Church, as well as the community, will be the gainer." (Minutes of Conference).

The aim of the promoters was to secure for boys and girls a high-class education upon Christian but not sectarian principles. A Board of Governors was appointed, consisting of three ministers and three laymen, appointed annually by the Conference, with six laymen elected by the Trustees, and the Chairman of the District. The Secretary and Treasurer was Mr. Thomas Alien, who held the position until 1906.

Applications for the Headmastership were invited from England and the Colonies, and Mr. Thomas Jackson, M.A., with Honours in English and Classics (London University) was appointed to the position. Mr. Jackson was the son, and grandson, of eminent English Wesleyan Ministers, and was himself a local preacher. He was a pupil of the famous Kingswood School, where many years before, the Rev. J. H.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Fletcher, first Principal of Wesley College, also received his education. He was interested in sport, a tennis player, "and in youth a cricketer and footballer of some prominence, on several occasions being a school Representative." For six years he was English and Classical Master at the same school, and afterwards held two Headmasterships—at Truro College, and at Romford, relinquishing the latter to come to New Zealand to assist in the establishing of Prince Albert College. "A man of lofty ideals, a loyal servant of Christianity and his own Church, of refined scholarship, and ardent enthusiasm in the work of teaching, he was in every way eminently qualified for the position to which he was appointed. The school just established by the Methodist Church was indeed fortunate in securing him for its first Head."



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jackson and their daughter Dorothea.

So, on February 12th, 1895, Prince Albert College came into existence with every prospect of fulfilling the high expectations of its promoters.

"Under the able leadership of Mr. Jackson and his capable Staff it may reasonably be hoped that the former glories of Wesley College will be eclipsed, and that Prince Albert College will serve the Church and the Colony for many generations to come, by training Christian men and women." (Dr. Morley).

The school opened with thirty-six scholars, three of whom were boarders. The boarders, unless otherwise arranged, attended the Pitt St. Methodist Church. Among the names on that first Prince Albert College roll appeared many of those so familiar in the days of its predecessor—Buddle, Buttle, Lawry, Watkin, Wallis, Warren, and probably others. Accommodation was also provided for the Theological Students, who, up to that time had received their training at the Three Kings College. The first students were A. B. Chappell and T. J. Smith, second year students from Three Kings College; those received for training were J. W. Burton, W. S. Bowie, J. A. Hosking, H. Craddock, B. A., and M. K. Gilmour, a private student.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

"The presence of six Theological Students residing in the College and, while pursuing their particular studies, sharing in the general life, has been a distinct advantage. Their influence has been naturally, good and wholesome, especially on the boarders; they have joined effectively in our sports, and it is not too much to say that our Literary and Debating Society, founded mainly for the training of the boys in right thinking and good speaking, has owed most of its conspicuous success to the sustained interest of the students in its proceedings." (Headmaster).

They also assisted at the meetings of the Students' Christian Union, a branch of which was later formed on both sides of the College. "The Society is greatly indebted to the Theological Students, who have aided it by all means in their power, and have contributed in no small degree to its success." The chief concern of the students—as expressed in the following lines—appears to have been lest they should be removed from College before their three years' term of training was completed. The name of the Poet, unfortunately, is lost in the mists of time.

THE STUDENTS' LOT.

.... Just think of those poor fellows who are sent to P.A.C.
To stuff a little Latin, Greek, perhaps Divinity.
Why man, before they get a chance to settle down to work
There comes a wire, "A student's wanted to supply a Kirk,
A Chapel or a Church somewhere, and off the man must go;
It's no use his protesting, and still less his saying "No."
So, with the best grace possible, his traps he has to pack,
And on Prince Albert College then forever turn his back.
The students at Prince Albert live in constant trepidation,
For any day they may be sent to occupy a station.
Now, is a life worth living that has no more certainty
Than that of the Divinities who lodge at P.A.C.?

The School colours were crimson and black, and the motto—that motto which was to become so popular with the masters (not so with the boys) as an imposition — Principium Sapientia Posside Sapientiam, "our excellent but too familiar school motto." "By much writing of that school motto I am certainly getting wise; why couldn't they have had a nice short one?"

The first assistant masters were Mr. F. A. Pemberton, M.A., and Mr. J. G. Bollard. It was really they who opened the school, and carried on until Mr. Jackson arrived ten days later; Mr. Pemberton acting as Headmaster, and Mr. Bollard in charge of the Primary Department. The death of both within the first three years was a great loss to the College.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Mr. Pemberton, when quite young, went from England to South Africa. "There he distinguished himself as a scholar, becoming an exhibitioner in the Cape of Good Hope University, and also senior Queen's scholar of the South African College. After coming to New Zealand he became an exhibitioner of Canterbury College, also Junior and Double Senior Scholar. Later he took his M.A. with double honours (N.Z. University) and taught at Canterbury College before coming to Prince Albert. He took a keen interest in athletics and volunteering, and put his knowledge of volunteering, gained at the Cape, to good use by forming a Cadet Corps at the College." As there was at that time no gymnasium he taught the boys wrestling and physical exercises. He died in 1896 at the early age of twenty-eight. Mr. Jackson says in his Annual Report:—

"The one sad record in the annals of the College is that which relates to the lamented death, at the beginning of the year, of the second master, Mr. F. A. Pemberton, M.A. His scholastic attainments gave promise of an exceptionally brilliant career in his profession. That career was mysteriously and prematurely cut short, but we gladly recognise the permanent value to a new institution of his high character, his moral influence, and earnest advocacy among the boys of honour, truth and manliness."

Mr. Bollard was the son of Mr. John Bollard, M.P., of Avondale. He had previously taught at the College when conducted by Dr. McArthur, and then known as Queen's College. He died in 1897, and again the Headmaster had to report the loss of one of his Staff.

"Last December it was my sad duty to record the death of the first senior master appointed to this College, Mr. F. A. Pemberton. To-night I have, with great regret to record the death of his colleague and mine. Mr. J. G. Bollard, the first master of the Lower School.... In him we lost one who was ever faithful to duty, humble, sincere, always thinking more of others' interests than his own, always ready to do more than his own share of work. ... I think that no boy who knew him will ever forget Mr. Bollard."

Mr. Pemberton's position was filled by Mr. B. H. Low, B.A. (Canterbury College). The second assistant was Mr. H. O. Craddock, M.A. (Canterbury College), who resigned the same year to take a position at St. John's College, and his place was filled by Mr. P. Drummond, B.A. (N.Z. University). Mr. C. W. Wright succeeded Mr. Bollard in charge of the Primary Department. Later Mr. F. W. Hilgendorf, M.A., with first class Honours (N.Z. University) joined the Staff, Mr. Low having taken a position as first assistant at the Thames High School.

Two scholarships, each of £20 a year for three years, were awarded by the Board of Governors at the beginning of 1896. These were gained by D. W. Sibbald and H. L. Watkin. Another scholarship of £25 per annum tenable for three years, to be called the

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Canterbury Scholarship, was presented to the College, open for competition to the sons and daughters of Wesleyan ministers residing in New Zealand. The two competitors who headed the list, Hugh C. Rishworth and Herbert Lawry, obtained an equal number of marks, and the scholarship was divided between them. The following year the Trustees of the Rawlings Scholarship Fund offered two scholarships for competition. They were tenable for three years, and provided free tuition at P.A.C. with the addition of £10 per annum. The Board of Governors also offered further scholarships providing free tuition—one scholarship for every seven new pupils.

In his report at the end of the first year Mr. Jackson says:—

"A year ago we were an idea, to-night we are a substantial fact... The College was opened last February before my arrival in the Colony, with the names of thirty-six pupils on the roll—the present number is fifty-nine. I am glad to say that very few of this number have come to us from other secondary schools. The object of the foundation of the College was not rivalry of others, but to supply a want felt by many of the community... I came here knowing little or nothing of New Zealand boys; I have been a learner quite as much as a teacher, and the general result of my observations is that boys are much the same anywhere—impulsive, fond of variety, careless beyond description, respectful to those whom they respect, easier to deal with apart than in company, not opposed to holidays, and with firm, but occasionally perverted notions of justice. The P.A.C. boys possess all these phases of character with others. ... I have sedulously kept in view the double object with which the College was founded. The reading of Scripture, prayer, and a few words of counsel or instruction precede every day's work. I regard this as one of my most important duties. Scripture instruction is also given regularly in class."

From the next year's report:—

"We shall be ready soon to bear a worthy part in the various competitions for scholarships and degrees; but at present, for the majority of pupils, we are laying good foundations against the time to come. All the members of the Staff are striving by precept and example to show our pupils that the beginning of all true knowledge is the fear of God."

CHAPTER TWO.

Years of Progress.

The school proved so successful that the Trustees decided that provision should be made for girls also, as had been intended from the first should results warrant it. This was done the following year 1896, a substantial brick building of two storeys being erected on the adjacent section—at a suitable distance. "The grounds are entirely distinct from those of the Boys' College. A separate entrance has been formed from Queen St. and the playground fenced off to divide it from the portion used by the boys." (Prospectus). The long flight of steps between was for the *exclusive* use of the Staff. "The College buildings, which are large and fitted up with every modern convenience, stand upon a magnificent site of considerable area in the very centre of Auckland, and have one of the most charming outlooks in the Colony."

During building operations the classrooms of the Baptist Tabernacle were kindly lent by the Board of Deacons for the use of the girl pupils. The new building was completed, and opened on July 11th, 1896, with thirty-eight pupils, one of whom was a boarder.

The first Head Mistress was Miss W. McKerrow, M.A. (N.Z. University) with Miss E. M. Rainforth, M.A. with honours (N.Z. University) as assistant and Mathematical Mistress. Miss McKerrow, left at the end of the first year to be married, and Miss Rainforth was appointed Head Mistress, her place being filled by Miss M. Salmond, B.A., a daughter of Professor Salmond of the Otago University.

The number of pupils increased so rapidly—the original thirty-six having by the end of the third year grown to two hundred and six, one hundred and nine boys and ninety-seven girls—that it was found necessary to enlarge and remodel both buildings. This, with the erection of a large and well-equipped gymnasium, cost about £7000.

In the P.A.C. Magazine, May 1898. we read:—

"Great changes have taken place during the last few months in the appearance of Prince Albert College. Those who have for so long-been familiar with the square red brick building of Upper Queen St., which has stood unchanged for over forty years, would hardly recognise the College in its transformation. To the Boys' College two wings, each three storeys high, have been added to the front facing the Harbour, and a fourth storey has been added to the main building, doubling the size of the dining hall, and providing three more large class-rooms. The whole of the building has been faced with cement, and its appearance thereby much improved. The addition of another storey to the Girls' College has also considerably increased the accommodation, while the style in which the architect, Mr. White, has executed the work entrusted to him has greatly added to

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

the beauty of the building. The result is that Prince Albert College now presents an imposing and attractive appearance, worthy of its object and of the City."

The increase in the number of pupils necessitated additional Staff, and three new teachers were appointed—Mr. Stuart Stephenson, M.A. (Oxford) as Second Master, and on the girls' side Miss C. M. Cruickshank, M.A. with Honours (N.Z. University), and Miss E. M. Reid, a daughter of the late Rev. Alexander Reid, who took charge of the Lower School. " In Miss Emilie Reid we have obtained an almost ideal teacher for little girls." Referring to the appointment of Mr. Stephenson, Mr. Jackson says:

"I am glad to announce that the Staff will be strengthened after the new year by the arrival of a senior master. Mr. Stuart Stephenson, M.A., was a personal friend of mine in England. He had a distinguished mathematical career at Oxford University, and has since had several years of secondary schools' experience in Melbourne. He will bring with him scholarship, experience, and energy, which I know he will place unsparingly at our disposal."



PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE STAFF, 1898.

Left to Right:

Standing—Professor Carrollo, T. Cranwell, C. W. Wright, K. Watkins, G. A. Paque, L.A.M., J. H. Colwill, Miss C. M. Cruickshank, M.A. Sitting—P. Drummond, B.A., Miss M. Salmund, B.A, Miss E. M. Reid, Mrs. Jackson, Thos. Jackson, M.A. (Principal), Stuart Stephenson, M.A Miss E. M. Rainforth, M.A., F. W. Hilgendorf, M A

There were also visiting masters for various subjects. Violin and pianoforte instruction was given by Herr Schmitt, Mr. W. F. Forbes, and Mr. F. R. Trevithick, the singing class being at first conducted by Mr. T. Cranwell, afterwards by Mr. A. Boulton. The

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

well-known artist, Mr. Kennett Watkins, superintended the drawing-class, and Mr. J. H. Cohvill the shorthand. The gymnasium, under the direction of Professor Carrollo, was for the use of both boys and girls; later a physical culture class for girls was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Heap—also an evening class for the old girls—both of which became very popular. The needlework class was supervised by Mrs. Hyams. The school orchestra was conducted by Mr. G. A. Paque, L.A.M.

"Mr. Paque deserves our best thanks for the great interest he has taken in his work, and particularly for the patience he has manifested as conductor. When a new piece of music is put in practice for the first time the effect is not always soothing, and in his concluding 'Thank you, that is quite sufficient for to-day' there is sometimes a slight touch of irony; but with heroic courage he returns each week to face the music (?)."

His patience was rewarded, and the school orchestra—"a very capable band of musicians under the careful baton of Mr. Paque L.A.M."—was later able creditably to play its part at the Prize-givings, Literary Society, and other social functions.

Speaking at the Prizegiving at the end of the third year the Rev. H. R. Dewsbury, Chairman of the Board of Governors, referred to the non-sectarian nature of the training given at the College:

"Here there is essentially moral and religious training—not sectarian or denominational by any means. The personnel of the teaching staff sufficiently contradicts that; amongst the teachers there are Baptists, Presbyterians, Anglicans, and Methodists, while 'the last named are in a hopeless minority.'"

He might have added that amongst the pupils there was even greater diversity, no less than eleven denominations being represented; the interest of the other Churches, and also the universal esteem in which Mr. Jackson was held, was further evidenced by those who took part in the opening of the Girls' College, and various other functions from time to time. To name a few—the Ven. Archdeacon Dudley (Anglican) said he must congratulate the College on the excellent judgment shown in the selection of such a worthy Principal; on every hand he had heard of the excellence of the work and of the ability of their Headmaster, Mr. Jackson. While the Archdeacon was an "out and out" Anglican, he was always in sympathy with the progress and development of such a school as Prince Albert College; with all his heart he wished it success and prosperity. Rabbi Goldstein (Synagogue) also congratulated the Board and the Staff on the success of their work. A good deal, he said, was heard about higher education, but it was an egregious failure unless made complete by religious and moral training. Although he believed in Sabbath Schools, still, a one day a week religion would never make a good Jew or Gentile, any more than one day a week at a gymnasium would make an athlete. Rev. Scott West said he was pleased when the Wesleyans opened Prince Albert College; when his people spoke to him about it he had pleasure in

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

recommending it as an educational establishment. He understood a number of Presbyterians were attending. Others who took part were Rev. A. H. Collins (Baptist), Rev. Joseph Parker (Congregational), and Rev. W. Jellie, B.A, (Unitarian). Mr. Muir, Chairman of the Board of Education, remarked that, as the head of a State Educational Department, it might seem anomalous for him to be present, but he was gratified at having the opportunity. It was right to impart knowledge concerning the material world and its affairs; it was no less important to tell the children of that "House not made with hands."

There were in connection with the Boys' College, as well as the cadet corps, the usual football, cricket, and swimming clubs. Mr. Stephenson was keen on sport, and did much to stimulate the enthusiasm of the boys. "It was almost entirely due to Mr. Stephenson's efforts that for some time P.A.C. held the blue ribbon of athletics amongst the Secondary Schools. He brought our cricket team to the proud position of champions for two successive years, and one of last year's Reps. has to thank Mr. Stephenson for much of his success." Mr. T. Southall, who took Mr. Wright's place in 1899, was also a cricketer; he distinguished himself as a left-hand break bowler, and was very successful against an Australian team in a match at New Plymouth. He was an ex-Navy man, and at the end of the next year, having been offered and accepted a commission on the Flagship of the Australian Naval Squadron, he resigned his position at the College.



Prince Albert College for Boys

The girls also had a swimming club—and a Tennis Court. It has but recently been divulged that that tennis court was at one time the cause of some hard feeling among

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

the Theological Students. Apparently they were allowed the use of the court before school hours, and on arriving one morning found it already occupied by two day girls who had come for an early game. They explained the situation, and the girls, being polite and kind-hearted, asked them to join them—which they did. But never again! Being "too gentlemanly" to say they were invited, they took the blame—and a severe reprimand—and thenceforward the tennis court was barred to students! One of them recovered sufficiently to win the Church's highest honour, becoming in 194— President of the Conference.

From the first the school had its share of successes in the public examinations. The first name on the school Honours Board was that of A. Gray who matriculated in 1895, and in the following two years there were ten successful candidates, including Mr. W. Wills, the first Theological Student to matriculate from P.A.C. In 1898 fourteen, out of the sixteen who entered, passed Matriculation, and at the end of six years sixty pupils had passed. In 1902 no less than 21½% of the successful candidates from Auckland in the Matriculation Examination came from P.A.C., while a number also passed the Junior and Senior Civil Service. The opinion of the Headmaster was that no college in the Colony with the same number of pupils had done better. In the Junior University Scholarship Examination, Aldred E. Lawry came first in the Colony in Mathematics—"a notable achievement." The same boy had previously had the rather unusual distinction of being Dux of the school for three years in succession. He is a great-grandson of the Rev. Walter Lawry, who was chiefly instrumental in founding the old Wesley College.



Prince Albert College for Girls

CHAPTER THREE.

Activities and Personalities.

One outstanding name is that of Ernest Chitty, who, though blind, passed Matriculation in 1902, and in 1905 obtained his B.A. degree—the first blind graduate of the N.Z. University. He afterwards became a Minister of the Anglican Church.

"Among the most remarkable successes announced by the N.Z. University this year is that of Mr. Ernest Chitty. He is a blind student, who, in spite of his great physical defect, has won his way without a single failure through every examination of the

N.Z. University, till this year he has secured his degree. His secondary education started at Prince Albert College, and he matriculated as a boy at the school. In part of his Varsity Work, Mathematics especially, he depended wholly on the Staff of the

College, and the success which reflects such credit upon Mr. Chitty is a source of pride to all those who have been privileged to help him win it." (*Outlook*).

From the "*Auckland Star*":—

"Among the University students who have received word that they successfully passed the examination for the B.A. Degree an important place must be assigned to Mr. Ernest Chitty. The interest that attaches to his success is due to the fact that he is totally blind. Though unable to read books in the ordinary way, Mr. Chitty by a rare combination of ability and courage, has been able to cope successfully with the tremendous disadvantages of his position. No praise can be too high for the courage and perseverance that can face unflinchingly so terrible a calamity, and can surmount such an obstacle with conspicuous success."

Another boy, Keith Murray, whose name appears as having gained a prize for drawing, is now a designer for the famous Wedgewood Pottery.

Brakenrig Memorial Lecture. "This lecture was established in 1946 as a memorial to the late Leslie R. Brakenrig, who, at the time of his death in 1940, was Honorary Organist at Trinity College Chapel, and was occasional Lecturer in Hymnology and Church Music. It is designed to keep before the Church, and particularly before the Students, those ideals for the service of the House of God to which he devoted himself in life." Leslie Brakenrig was also a pupil of P.A.C.

The first two boys to reach Edinburgh for medical training were A. C. McMaster and D. W. Sibbald; they were soon joined by S T Chamtaloup and P. Vickerman. All four

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

names appeared frequently on the Edinburgh University lists with First Class Honours in many subjects.

"Auckland papers draw special attention to the McKenzie Bursary which McMaster and Sibbald have divided; but the University seems to distribute its honours with an equal hand to all four. There is no doubt that P.A.C. should feel extremely proud of the manner in which a reputation has been built up for us across the seas." (P.A.C. Magazine).

Among the girls first place must be given to Miss Jessie Hetherington. For two successive years she was Dux of the School, and then continued her studies at the Auckland University, obtaining her B.A. degree—the first pupil to be capped from P.A.C. Miss Hetherington afterwards went on to Cambridge University, where she graduated with Honours (Law Tripos and Historical Tripos) from Girton College. After a period of High School teaching in England and three years as Head Mistress of the Methodist Ladies College (Burwood) Sydney, she held Training College lectureships at Cambridge (England) and Wellington, New Zealand; and was finally appointed as the first woman Inspector of Secondary Schools (N.Z. 1926-1942). Miss Hetherington is now well known in educational circles in Auckland, and is a member of the Auckland Grammar School Board.

The first P.A.C. pupil to win First Class Honours at the Auckland University was Miss Elsie Griffon, daughter of the late Rev. C. Griffon, who earned that distinction in Botany.

The representative of the girls in the medical profession Dr Mary Champtaloup, was appointed District. Health Officer at New Plymouth—the first woman doctor to hold that position in New Zealand.

Another former P.A.C. girl, now well known in dramatic circles in Auckland, is Mrs. Zoe Bartley Baxter, who inaugurated the Auckland Children's Theatre. About fifteen years ago, "to counter the influence of the cheaper Hollywood films, and of undesirable vaudeville, Mrs. Zoe Baxter created the Theatre," and it has proved a great success; last year they staged an original play at His Majesty's Theatre.

Many of the pupils, both boys and girls, took degrees and entered the professions, while a number of the former attained leading positions in the business world. About this time too, it was beginning to be recognised that girls were capable of filling other spheres than those—very important ones—of "Domestic Duties" and "Married Woman," and many responsible positions with leading business firms were open to them. Whereas, too, the girls of "Wesley" married missionaries, P.A.C. girls—having advanced another generation—went themselves as missionaries. Some went as nurses and V.A.D.'s to the First World War, while others rendered equally valuable service in the Hospitals at home. Two important positions as librarians were held by

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Miss Winnie Mellsoy and Miss Alice Minchin, the former of the Supreme Court Library, and the latter of the library at the Auckland University College.

In 1899 Mr. Hilgendorf, who had succeeded Mr. Low, resigned to take up a position at Lincoln Agricultural College, where, among many other useful things, "he has been discovering a fungus which will destroy the moth which eats the turnips which feed the sheep which live on the plains of Canterbury." He afterwards became Head of the College, and took his Doctor's degree. He was followed, first by Mr. W. D. McLennan, and then by Mr. A. R. Crump, both only for a short time. Mr. Crump, having been awarded the Grey Scholarship in Mathematics and Science, decided to devote himself to Varsity study for a time in order to take his degree. "There is not a boy in the school who does not regret his departure." He afterwards held positions at Clarendon College, Ballarat, and as Mathematical Master at Scotch College, Melbourne. His place was taken by Mr. A. W. Short, B.A., in 1901. Mr. Short later held positions at Te Ante College, where he was for a time acting Head, Auckland Grammar School, and at Takapuna Grammar School from its foundation in 1927 until his retirement in 1946. Others who joined the Staff the same year were Mr. F. Field, B.A., Mr. P. D. Mickle, Mr. O. W. Williams, and Mr. M. Hunter, M.A., B.Sc. Mr. Hunter won the International Science Scholarship, and went to London to continue his studies at the School of Mining. Mr. Williams later entered the Anglican Ministry, and was for some years Chaplain of Christ's College, Christchurch.

There were also changes on the Girls' side of the College. In 1900 Miss A. Blennerhassett, B.A., succeeded Miss Cruickshank, who had taken a position at the Girls' High School, Timaru and later became Principal of the Wanganui Girls' College. Miss Hodge, who had taken Miss Reid's place, resigned on account of ill-health, and was succeeded by Miss Olive Cunninghame, B.A. The following year Miss M.B. Thomson, M.A., and Miss A. Alexander joined the Staff, while Miss Salmond's place was taken by Miss M. L. Crump M.A., with Honours (N.Z. University), a daughter of the late Rev. John Crump—"The first sweet girl graduate from our parsonages in New Zealand." She afterwards joined her sister, Miss S. L. Crump, who was Principal of Clarendon College, Ballarat.

A very popular institution in connection with the College was the Literary and Debating Society, which, under the Presidency of the Headmaster, met every Monday evening during the middle term and was open to all pupils and visitors.

"An occasional visit to the weekly meeting of the Prince Albert Literary and Debating Society creates the best of impressions. The Principal sits throned—a combination of ruler, teacher, priest father, and brother—dispensing wisdom and luminous and salutary criticism. To all outward seeming P.A.C. people are a happy family. It is as though Principal, Masters and Mistresses, Theological

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

Students, and young folk conspire to make the College a first-rate substitute for home, and to give it a position of light and leading in the ranks of the educational establishments of the City."

The Staff and the Students were mainly responsible for the syllabus, and many and varied were the subjects chosen for debate-serious and otherwise. Mentioned as taking part in one of the earlier debates is a young probationer of the Methodist Church whose name was to become world-famous — Harold Williams, afterwards Dr. Harold Williams, Foreign Editor of the "Times"- "One of the greatest journalists of this or any age, whose linguistic attainments were almost without parallel." (He spoke over fifty languages) He was the eldest son of the Rev. W. J. Williams, at that time Minister of the Pitt St. Methodist Church, and also one of the College Board of Governors. His brothers were pupils of the College, one of them, Mr. Owen Williams, being also a teacher for a time.

Other evenings were devoted, to Evenings with the Poets Junior Members' Evenings, and to Concerts, on the programmes of which appeared the names of many of the well-known artists of that time— Madame Chambers, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton Hodges, Miss Alice Rimmer, Mrs. and Miss Boulton. Lectures also were given by many of the leading Ministers of our own and other denominations. Among them were the Revs. C. H. Garland, J. J. Lewis, W J Watkin J. H. Simmonds, W. J. Williams; and the Revs. W Gray Dixon, Hugh Kelly, M.A., H. B. Gray, M.A., W. A. Jellie B.A. Other speakers were Dr. Bamford (A.U.C.), Mr. Theo Cooper, Mr J. J. Holland (Mayor of Auckland), Mr. S. Vaile, and Mr. A. T. Ngata M.A.—a member of the Society. In a lecture on "The Past and Future of the Maori," Mr- Ngata—now the Hon. Sir Apirana Ngata D.Litt., M.A., LL.B., the eminent Maori Politician—referred to "the regrettable probability of the extinction of the Maori as a race"- they at that time numbered about 40,000. The latest statistics however, show this prediction to have been incorrect, the Maori population at the present time being upwards of 100,000.

The Society was one of twenty-one Societies affiliated to the Auckland Literary Societies' Union, and had the privilege of sending six members to the Auckland Union Parliament, and of competing in the Annual Competitions and Debate Tournament. In 1898 first place was obtained by Mr. A. B. Chappell for extempore speech, and impromptu essay, and by Mr. Ngata for prepared essay, with second place for poem. Among those Students who took part in the debates were many who have since become well known in our Methodist Ministry, a number having attained to the Presidential Chair. One of the first Students trained at P.A.C., Rev. J. W. Burton, is now Dr. Burton, General Superintendent of Methodist Missions in Australia, and the author of several books on the Pacific. Meetings of the Literary Society were generally well attended, many people being glad, in those quieter, more peaceful

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

days—when wireless and picture theatres were unknown — of the opportunity of spending an entertaining or instructive evening. "Members are agreed in their unstinted praise of the enjoyment and profit, derived from each of the meetings."

During the Boer War the school was caught in the wave of patriotic fervour which swept the country. This found expression on the girls' side in a telegram sent to Major Robin on the departure of the N.Z. Contingent from Wellington for the Transvaal—"Wishing you and your brave companions God-speed, success, and a safe return. From the girls of Prince Albert College." They also purchased a flag, and with the assistance of the boys a flagstaff was procured, from which the flag was flying on May 24th, 1900, to celebrate the relief of the besieged towns of Ladysmith, Kimberley, and Mafeking. This was not the first flagstaff raised in these grounds—that came direct from the Waitakerei Ranges. Forty-seven years before, a party of boys from Wesley College were spending a day's holiday in the bush. They wanted a flagstaff—they saw a tree that looked suitable. It was not long before it was felled, stripped of its branches, and ready for transport—but how? Thirty feet in length, fifty pounds in weight, it was a contract to convey it to its new home—fifteen miles at least.

"A co-operative scheme was adopted. The carriers, six or eight at once, slung the pole with handkerchiefs, until they reached a flax region, and there slings of 'phormium tenax' were procured. Patiently, slowly, painfully, the spar was carried over rough roadless country, until, as the shades of night were falling, the toilers finished their journey."

The pole was erected, and in due course displayed the miniature flags made by the girls of the College.

"Having Mt. Victoria, North Shore, in view, the self-appointed observer watched what was done by the Government Signalman, and repeated in his small way the signs of the ship, or barque, or schooner coming to port. All this happened in 1853. The chief actor has developed into a portly Doctor of Divinity—he studies other signs of the times. . . . The place wherein that College Flagstaff No. 1 stood was just about the conjunction of City Rd., Lawry St., and Liverpool St. What shall be when Staff N. 2 flies the Union Jack on New Year's Day, 1947?"

There was no Union Jack flying from a Prince Albert College flagstaff on New Year's Day, 1947.

CHAPTER FOUR. The March of Time.

In 1900 the Old Boys' Association was formed, and the Old Girls the following year. They lapsed for a time after the closing of the school, but revived, and now after more than forty years are both flourishing institutions. The O.G.A. has a membership of 120 with an average attendance at the Reunions of 75; and thanks to the untiring efforts of our Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs Ruby Forgie and Miss Doris Harbutt, who have cheerfully given their services for many years, and are still in office, we are able, by means of food parcels, to keep in touch with many of the old girls now living in England, and numbers of appreciative letters have been received. The Old Boys Association—out of a total number on the old school roll of 453—has a membership in New Zealand and overseas of 321, the average attendance being about 60. This disparity in the number of members in the two Associations is due to the fact that the O.B.A. has a much more comprehensive way of computing its membership. Some years ago they passed the following resolution:— “That every living old boy be constituted a member of the O.B.A. regardless of whether he paid his annual subscription or not ” (J. E. Wade, Sec.. P.A.C.O.B.A.).

The Rev. Jasper Calder, for many years Anglican City Missioner whose brother attended the College, writes: "The School must have had a wonderful esprit-de-corps seeing that it has maintained its O.B.A. so well, even though the School has been closed for so many years, leaving no further supply of pupils to fill the ranks." Strictly adhering to the principles so firmly and continuously instilled into them in their youth, they hold their Reunions at different times, and at different places, though at one of the earlier meetings of the O.B.A. "one member made the excellent suggestion that the Old Boys and Girls of the College should join forces and hold an annual gathering, and from the applause which followed the idea seemed to meet with considerable favour." Another suggestion was that the Old Girls be *very occasionally* invited to a social evening but early training proved too strong. They do, however meet at the Sunday morning service held annually at the Pitt St. Methodist Church.

In 1901 Mr. and Mrs. Jackson took a trip to England, Mr and Mrs. Stephenson taking over the management of the College during the fifteen months of their absence. After their return, life at the school, to all appearances, fell back into the normal routine for a time, Mr. and Mrs. Stephenson being now in residence at the Girls' College. A Kindergarten Class for very junior boys and girls was started under the experienced management of Miss Alexander, and Miss Rhoda Collins. B.A., a former pupil, joined the Staff. The following year Miss Mary Alexander was appointed to take charge of a combined class of second form boys and girls. But then came changes. Universal regret was felt throughout the College, and among her old pupils, when in 1903 it was learned that Miss Rainforth, who had endeared herself to all, was obliged, for health

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

reasons, to resign her position. It was hoped that a sea trip and a prolonged rest would effect a cure, but though her health improved sufficiently for her to take a position for a time at the Wellington Girls' College, she never fully regained her strength.

"She has been connected with the College since its commencement, and has taken a leading part in guiding its work and forming its traditions. It would be difficult to express the affectionate regard in which she was held by all girls, and especially by all senior girls who came under her influence. She never had the least difficulty in securing obedience to her slightest word, and it may truly be said that for years the fear of grieving Miss Rainforth was of greater power in preserving order than the fear of punishment. Her love of the College shone brightly to the end." (P.A.C. Magazine).

Miss Rainforth was succeeded by Miss Thomson as Head Mistress, much to the satisfaction of the girls, as she had been on the Staff since 1901, and held a very high place in their regard. Miss Thomson retained the position until the school was closed. She afterwards married, and was subsequently for many years the very successful and popular Principal of Solway Presbyterian Girls' College, Masterton, where, among her pupils, were a number of Methodist girls from Auckland and other parts of New Zealand. A fund has been established by the Solway Old Girls' Association for the purpose of erecting a College Chapel (Undenominational) at a cost of £10,000 "as a tribute to the life and work of Mrs. M. B. Thompson, the first Principal of the College," who has now retired.

In 1900 Conference had by a special Resolution commended the claims of Prince Albert College on the Century Fund, and tills was followed by a letter to the "*Advocate*" from the Board of Governors:

"The mere fact that it is situated in Auckland should not debar this Institution from the support of N.Z. Methodists in general. It is a connexional, not a local Institution, and it is hardly fair to our Auckland friends to expect them to maintain it unaided. We have a fine property and buildings, but unfortunately no endowments. . . . This College, in fact the representative of Methodism in the educational world of New Zealand, has no means of subsistence except the continually fluctuating income derived from the fees of pupils."

The amount raised for the Fund did not come up to expectations, and the College received only £140/4/5. In his report for 1903 the Headmaster states that it was with some degree of anxiety that the Board awaited the opening of the College in 1904, owing to the fact that National Scholarships had entitled no less than 103 boys and girls to free education at the Auckland Grammar School, which competition must of necessity menace their prosperity. Yet they did not begin the year badly—60 boys and 64 girls, about 40 of the scholars being new pupils.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

It is evident that matters did not improve, and the long continued strain and anxiety proved too much for Mr. Jackson's strength. In September, 1905, he became seriously ill with meningitis, and for some weeks it was feared that he would not recover. The boys' classes were held in the Pitt St. Sunday School, and over the old building, accustomed to so much life and activity, settled a strange stillness. The girls remained in their own building, and continued their ordinary routine—but with a difference.

The most important event of the term has been the serious illness and consequent absence of Mr. Jackson from the College. His illness has cast a gloom over the whole school. In his absence we have learnt to appreciate his scholarship, his unflinching cheerfulness, and his ready sympathy, and without him things have seemed out of joint. We have missed him greatly—more than words can tell." Those were dark days for the College and for Mr. Jackson's wide circle of friends, and it was with intense thankfulness that the news was received that he had regained consciousness, and the danger was passed. But convalescence was slow, and it soon became evident that it would be long before Mr. Jackson would be able to resume the arduous duties of College life. "Perhaps it is partly owing to the zeal with which he sacrificed his time to the duties of his position, and the readiness with which he placed his gifts as a preacher or lecturer at the disposal of his own and sister Churches, that told so seriously on his vigorous health." Mr. Jackson decided to return to England, and at the end of the year he resigned his position as Headmaster of the College.

"There is widespread regret in the district at the necessary retirement of Mr. Jackson, from Prince Albert College. His medical advisers were so insistent on the necessity of prolonged rest that the Board had no option in its reluctant acceptance of his resignation." (Outlook).

"All old boys will join in expressing their deepest sympathy with Mr. Jackson, who has been compelled by his late illness to relinquish the Headmastership. By his sterling integrity, his fair and just dealings, his devotion to duty, and his deep interest in his pupils, both at school and in their after career, Mr. Jackson has obtained a deservedly high place in the esteem of every one of us, and we feel that P.A.C. can ill afford to lose one who has so long and so ably controlled affairs at the College. Mrs. Jackson has also won the regard of many old boys, more especially those who came more directly under her care as boarders."

On February 24th, 1906, Mr. and Mrs. Jackson and their daughter sailed for England. "They carry with them the regrets of many friends, and we who had known them so long and so well at the College all join in the hearty wish that Mr. Jackson's health may be quite restored, and that he may have many years of useful work before him." It is possible to quote only a few of the many tributes paid to this cultured English scholar who had been with us for a time, and in that short time had left an enduring impression on so many. He will never be forgotten by his old pupils. "In the characters

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

and lives of hosts of pupils Mr. and Mrs. Jackson see something of the harvest from the seed they have sown at Prince Albert College."

Mr. Stuart Stephenson in the annual Report says:—

"To me personally, and to all my colleagues, and to all our pupils it is a source of great regret that this duty cannot be discharged by Mr. Jackson. His connection with Prince Albert College has dated from its foundation, and he has stamped his impression upon the history of the College. It would be impossible to estimate how much of its success has been due to his untiring energy, and to the constant interest of Mrs. Jackson in all that appertains to the domestic life of the College; and now that we are deprived of his fellowship and help there is no one that does not feel that he has suffered a great loss."

"In Remembrance." "It is a hard thing to say Good-bye. . . . We bid farewell to our old Master, not as to the conquered retreating from the battlefield with no standards won, no conquests achieved, but to the victor leaving" the scene of his triumphs with drums beating and flags flying, and behind him the imperishable monument of a great work. . . . He has left his mark on the character of every man and woman, every boy and girl with whom he has come into contact, and just how many and how deep these marks are none of us can tell. . . . It was only the few who saw below the quiet strength of his nature, and realised the great heart, the intense longing to do his very best for each, and to lay the foundations of broad and strong characters. And he will never know his own success. 'The little nameless unremembered acts' that so often and so unconsciously revealed his true nobility, have done more for many of us than all the sermons we have listened to. He lived his creed, and, willingly or unwillingly, we were compelled to admit that a creed producing such a blameless life could not be lightly thrown aside as a little thing. . . . In the darker hours that come to all of us, his life, pure and strong, has shone out like a beacon light, pointing us to better things. He can never know in this world the extent of his work; but in this he can rest assured, that every one of his pupils has been the better for his influence. . . . His monument, more lasting than marble, more enduring than granite, is engraved on the lives of his pupils. His work can never crumble to dust, but unnoticed, and without the outward honour and glitter that men call fame, it will run its onward, ever-widening course to Eternity." (An Old Pupil).

That Mr. Jackson regained his physical and mental vigour is shown in a letter written by a former P.A.C. teacher who spent some time with Mr. and Mrs. Jackson after their return to England:

"After a year's rest Mr. Jackson was teaching at the Metropolitan College, Portsmouth, for several years, until his retirement; they then spent some two years wandering about France and Italy. We were with them for a time on the Continent, and I also spent a holiday with them in a Somerset village. He read aloud like no one else I have heard before or since (Jane Austen and Meredith

specially), and he poured out Matthew Arnold from memory on walks in country lanes."

He died at Highgate, London, in 1933.

CHAPTER FIVE.

Closing Days.

Other changes took place at the College in 1905. Miss Alexander was obliged to resign, and Miss Mary Alexander was appointed to take charge of the Lower School. "Miss Alexander will be missed at the College. She has given of her best untiringly, and her quiet manner and loving sympathy have gained for her the love and respect of every girl who has had the privilege of coming into contact with her." Assistant teachers in the Lower School were Miss Marion Lason and Miss Marjorie McMaster, both ex-pupils. The latter succeeded Miss Lela Button, B.A., another ex-pupil, who went to England for training as a missionary. She taught at an English school for missionaries' children at Chefoo for a time before joining the China Inland Mission.

Mr. J. D. Dinneen, B.A., was appointed Senior Master and Messrs. H. E. Gilbert Smith, A. M. Alien, C. Roberts, F. G. Dunlop B.A., W. Given, M.A., and W. J. Fletcher also joined the Staff - some for short periods only. Mr. F. W. Gamble, M.A., who later became the first Headmaster of the Mt. Albert Grammar School was Tutor in Mathematics to the Theological Students. Mr. Gilbert Smith was afterwards for many years first Assistant Master of Whangarei High School.

In 1906 Mr. Stuart Stephenson, M.A., who had been supplying for Mr. Jackson during his illness, was appointed Headmaster. This appointment met with general approval; Mr. Stephenson was well known, having been on the Staff for eight years, and was very popular with the boys, past and present.

"If anything could reconcile us to the loss of Mr. Jackson it is the appointment of his successor." "There is a little need to enlarge on the qualities by which Mr. Stephenson has endeared himself to every past and present P.A.C. boy; he himself knows our regard for him, and we can only again congratulate the Board of Governors on having such a worthy successor to Mr. Jackson."

"Self-sacrifice has been the keynote of Mr. Stephenson's life at, P.A.C.—the College first—the College second—the College always. I have known him give hours a week from his time to help individual pupils who were studying for special examinations. His interest has continued long after the pupils have left school." (Old Boy).

But Mr. Stephenson's term of office was short; at the end of the year he returned to New College, Box Hill, Victoria, with which College he was associated on his arrival

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

from England. Mr. Dinneen also left to join the Staff of the Auckland Grammar School.

The College was closed for the holidays in December, 1906, and never re-opened. The property was leased for fifty years; shops were built on the Queen St. frontage, on the old playground.

"And so, with the College closed, and the property leased, Prince Albert College—for a time at least—passes out of history; but even this experience should not prove a perpetual barrier to a movement that is called for in the best interests of the future of New Zealand Methodism." (Rev. W. J. Williams).

It was with more than regret that the pupils, present and past, saw their beloved College pass into the hands of strangers, and realised that they no longer had any right within its precincts.

There is some slight satisfaction in the thought that while the Old Boys' and Old Girls' Associations continue Prince Albert College has not altogether "passed out of history," and some of the spirit of the two old schools still survives. It is a very real affection for, and loyalty to their Alma Mater which prompts these old pupils to meet year by year to recall "the good old days at P.A.C." and those, many of them now no longer here, who made it what it was—in their opinion at least—"the best secondary school in this, or any other city of the Colony." It has been their constant hope that some day they might see it re-established in the position it once so honourably filled.

Although the Theological Students now have their own Trinity College, and Wesley College, Paerata, and the Wesley Preparatory School, Mt. Wellington, have, to some extent, provided for the boys, what of the girls? May we not hope that before many more generations have passed, the Methodist Church of New Zealand, like others, will find it possible to make some provision for the education of its girls.

EPILOGUE.

The following notes were kindly supplied by the Rev. A. H. Scrivin, who terms his contribution "Interlude de luxe."

"For a brief period, early in 1911, Prince Albert College again housed the theological students. It was then a private hotel known as King's Court, and the students were billeted there pending the completion of alterations to the temporary College at Ponsonby and the arrival of the Acting Principal. With wistful sighs the students remembered those halcyon days when early morning tea was served in their rooms by attractive maids and they waded with gusto, from soup to toothpicks, through a rich and varied menu. To crown their joy was the thought of the groans of the fathers, and the turning in their graves of the more ancient, when the facts were revealed."

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Compiled from *History of Methodism in New Zealand* (Dr. W. Morley).

Centenary Sketches of New Zealand Methodism (Rev. W. J. Williams).

Minutes and Records at Trinity College and Prince Albert College Magazines.

We also wish to thank Miss A. Watkin, Mr. J. Edgar Wade (Secretary P.A.C.O.B.A.), Mr. K. J. Dellow, M.A., Mr. H. D. Buddle, and Mr. W. H. Waddell for assistance given.

Appendix

PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE STAFF. (BOYS' COLLEGE)

HEADMASTER,

- 1895-1905. Thomas Jackson, M.A., with Honours in English & Classics (London University).
1895. F. A. Pemberton, M.A., with double Honours (N.Z. University). Acted as Head Master until Mr. Jackson arrived. He died while on the staff " J.G. Bollard. In charge of Primary Department. He died in 1897.
1896. B.H. Low (Canterbury College), filled Mr. Pemberton's place.
H. O. Craddock. M.A. (Canterbury College). Second Assistant.
1897. P.Drummond, B.A. (N.Z. University). filled Mr. Craddock's place.
F. W. Hilgendorf, M.A., with First Class Honours in Nat. Science.
Sometime Senior Scholar of N.Z. University.
C. W. Wnght (N.Z. University), took Mr. Bollard's place in charge of Primary Department.
1898. Stuart Stephenson, M.A. (Oxford), Second Master. Had a distinguished mathematical career at Oxford University.
1899. W. D. McLennan. Took Mr. Hilgendorf's place for a short time
T. Southhall. Followed Mr. Wright.
1900. A. R. Crump, M.A., with Honours (N.Z. University), succeeded Mr McLennan.
1901. A. W. Short, B.A. (N.Z. University), succeeded Mr Crump
F. Field, B.A.
M. Hunter, M.A., B.Sc. (N.Z. University).
P. D. Mickle. Succeeded Mr. Drummond.
O. W. Williams, B.A. Succeeded Mr. Southall.
1902. R. Hay, B.A.
1903. J. D. Morton.
1905. J. D. Dinneen, B.A. Senior Master.
H. E. Gilbert Smith.
C. Roberts.
W. Given, M.A., A. M. Allen, W. J. Fletcher and F. G. Dunlop, B.A.
(all for a short time only).
F. W. Gamble, M.A. Tutor in Mathematics to the Theological Students.

A Tale of two Colleges by Aylesbeare Arthur and Nora Buttle

1906. Stuart Stephenson, M.A., appointed Headmaster after Mr. Jackson's retirement.

Visiting Masters: Herr Schmitt, W. F. Forbes, F. R. Trevithick, K. Watkins, J. H. Colwill, Professor Carrollo, T. Cranwell, A. Boulton, G. A. Paque, L.A.M.

Note: Some of the above took their degrees either during their term at or after leaving the College.

**PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE STAFF.
(GIRLS' COLLEGE)**

Principal: THOMAS JACKSON, M.A., with Honours (London University).

1896. Miss W. McKerrow, M.A. (N.Z. University), Head Mistress.

Miss E. M. Rainforth, M.A., with Honours (N.Z. University), 1st Assistant

1897. Miss E. M. Rainforth, M.A. Succeeded Miss McKerrow as Head Mistress
Miss M. Salmond, B.A. (N.Z. University), filled Miss Rainforth's place.

1898. Miss C. M. Cruickshank, M.A., with Honours (N.Z. University).
Miss E. M. Reid. In charge of Lower School.
Miss W. St. Paul.

1899. Miss H. Simpson, B.A.

1900. Miss A. Blennerhassett, B.A. Succeeded Miss Cruickshank.
Miss M. Hodge. Filled Miss Reid's place.

1901. Miss M. L. Crump, M.A., with Honours (N.Z. University), succeeded Miss Salmond.
Miss M. B. Thomson, M.A. (N.Z. University).
Miss A. Alexander.
Miss O. Cunninghame, B.A. Succeeded Miss Hodge.

1902. Miss Rhoda Collins, B.A. (Ex-pupil).

1903. Miss M. B. Thomson, M.A. Appointed Head Mistress after Miss Rainforth's retirement.
Miss M. Alexander.
Miss Lela Button, B.A. (Ex-pupil).

1904. Miss Marjorie McMaster. (Ex-pupil), took Miss Button's place.

1905. Miss Marion Lascron. (Ex-pupil), Assistant Lower School.

1906. Miss Ironside, B.A.
Miss W. Hill.
Physical Culture Class: Mrs. Heap. Needlework Class: Mrs. Hyams.

THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS TRAINED AT PRINCE ALBERT COLLEGE.

1895 to 1906.

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| A. B. Chappell | C. E. Godbehere |
| T. J. Smith | B. J. James |
| § J. W. Burton | * A. McBean (1939) |
| W. S. Bowie | A. C. Randerson |
| J. A. Hosking | A. J. Reed |
| + M. K. Gilmour | * F. Copeland (1937) |
| W. Beckett | G. Snadden |
| D. Wetherall | H. H. Roget |
| W. Wills | T. T. Thomas, B.A. |
| * J. H. Haslam (1935) | F. J. Wylee |
| R. P. Keall | W. W. Avery |
| * A. N. Scotter (1930) | R. H. Wylie |
| G. P. Howell, M.A. | * P. R. Paris (1938) |
| # W. Greenslade | E Cox |
| * C. Eaton (1934) | C. Blair |
| * E. D. Patchett (1931) | W. G. Maslin |
| A. Reader | F. Rands |
| W. J. Oxbrow | C. B. Jordan |
| J. Belton | * R. B. Tinsley (1944) |

* President of the Conference.

President-Elect, unable to assume office because of illness (1931).

§ President N.S.W. Conference 1931, President General, Australasia 1945.

+ President of N.S.W. Conference, 1935.