

of New Zealand, the residence of the Governor (Sir James Ferguson), and seat of the Legislative Assembly, is but a small straggling city containing between 8000 and 9000 inhabitants. It is built almost exclusively of wood, the use of which has been found necessary, from the frequency of earthquakes. The position it occupies—lying high up in a bay—gives it a somewhat pretty appearance, surrounded as it is by mountainous land. To us, just coming from Sydney with all its gaieties, Wellington seemed a poor, dull place, especially at this season of the year. Possibly it brightens up a little when the Legislative Assembly is sitting. Auckland was the capital from 1840 to the date when this was chosen, which was not on account of its commercial prosperity, but because it was more centrally situated for political purposes. Had the weather been fine during our stay, there were several interesting spots round Wellington that might have been visited; for within two or three miles are the remains of an old forest; while up the valley of the Hutt is still a Maori village, to which a line of railway runs; and the Horokiwi valley, a beautiful glen 40 miles out of town, is well worth seeing. Near at hand are the Botanical Gardens, neatly laid out, and possessing great advantages in the position of the land and the shapes of the surrounding hills.

Perhaps no two countries in the world, within such a short distance of each other, are so wholly dis-