

William Isaac Spencer MRCS FLS



Doctor,
soldier,
citizen,
mayor

Auckland
Waikato
Whanganui
Napier

by Ian St George

WILLIAM
ISAAC
SPENCER
FLS

DOCTOR SOLDIER
CITIZEN MAYOR

by
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William Isaac Spencer 1832–1897.
Dr. Spencer 18th R.I., photographer William Francis Gordon,
collection of Puke Ariki, New Plymouth, PHO2014-0070.

*Principiis obsta: sero medicina paratur,
Quum mala per longas convalere moras.*

—Ovid

[Stop it at the beginning; a cure is attempted too late when, through long delay, the illness has gained strength].

How much how very much have I to be thankful for all—for the dear good husband & children & my happy comfortable home & indeed I do feel truly thankful for all God's blessings so richly bestowed.

—Anna (Heatly) Spencer

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CHAPTER 1: BRITAIN

Dr William Isaac Spencer was Napier's third mayor and yet we know nothing certain about his origins until an 1851 census record of his surgical apprenticeship in Yorkshire.

His birthplace is recorded there as "Mosley, Lancashire" and a later military document records "Mosley, Lancaster". Circumstantial evidence suggests he was the son of Elizabeth (Hines) Spencer and George Samuel Spencer 1803-1894, independent minister of (in 1841) nearby Smithy Brow in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Lancashire. William was born on 27 November 1832, the second child after his brother George, two years older. A sister, Eliza, was born in 1838.¹

Biographical details for his brother George Spencer 1830-1922 tell us something of his roots; George...

... achieved no mean success as a business man, musician, politician, poet and preacher of the Gospel... a man of unusual gifts and character.

The son of a Congregational Minister, who became Headmaster of an Endowed Grammar School, he inherited aptitudes for literary and oratorical pursuits, that account for the most striking features of his career. Born on December 14th, 1830, he enjoyed through his boyhood the advantage of



superior intellectual and religious environment. It was fortunate for him that in this formative period of life, he had the use of his eyesight, and thus in scholarship obtained a grounding that was of immense service in after life, and also gained a sense of his surroundings in nature that memory and reflection used afterwards with such excellent effect.

At the age of fourteen years, an accident deprived him of sight, and this, no doubt, deflected him from the course life might have otherwise followed....²

In the 1851 Census the family was living in Bradfield Yorkshire and William Isaac Spencer, aged 18, was an unmarried articled surgeon's pupil at 2 Pinfold St Sheffield, the house of George Turton MRCS, his wife Sarah and their servant Jane Clarke.³

In 1838 Turton was a member of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association as a Sheffield surgeon and in 1845 was a member of its Council, described as "Surgeon Accoucheur to the Dispensary, and Lecturer on Materia Medica and Midwifery at the Medical Institution, Sheffield, Yorkshire".⁴

Spencer took the MB First Examination at the University of London in 1853,⁵ and having passed the later examinations he was admitted to Membership of the Royal College of Surgeons by its Court of Examiners on 13 July 1855. He gave his address as York-Place, Portman Square, London.⁶

Possibly Dr Spencer's father, George Samuel Spencer had served as chaplain to the British forces at the Crimea. In any event ten weeks after Spencer's MRCS the *London Evening Standard* announced that, having been selected for service with the Turkish Contingent, "W.I. Spencer, Gent." would have the rank of Assistant Surgeon.⁷

1 1841 UK Census.

2 Dickinson G. George Spencer 1830–1922. Transcription of sketch in the *Christian Messenger* by Rev. John Bennett. *My Primitive Methodist ancestors*.
<http://www.myprimativemethodists.org.uk/page/index.aspx> accessed 23 October 2017.

3 1851 UK Census.

4 *Trans. Provincial Medical & Surgical Assn.* 1845; vol.13. Funded by public subscription, the Sheffield Medical Institution opened in 1829 on Surrey Street. It contained a museum/library, a dissecting room and a lecture room. It was the precursor of Sheffield Medical School.

5 *Globe* 12 August 1853.

6 *Morning Advertiser* 16 July 1855.

7 *London Evening Standard* 26 September 1855.

CHAPTER 2: SEBASTOPOL



“The Turkish Contingent for the Crimea”.
From *Illustrated London News* 23 June 1855.

Spencer was named among veterans of the Crimean War living in New Zealand;¹ he had been in the Turkish Contingent, a British medical contingent for the allied Turkish Army, first announced in 1854.²

The *Morning Post* of 26 December 1855 listed the Medical Officers of the Turkish Contingent who were to have a step up in rank while locally employed, with the date of their appointments in 1855: Spencer had been appointed on 25 September as a “Gent.” (Acting Assistant-Surgeon) but was to have the local rank of Assistant-Surgeon.³

That war was fought October 1853 to February 1856 between the Russian Empire (Nicholas I) and an alliance among Britain, France (Napoleon III), Sardinia and the Ottoman Empire, over the rights of Christian minorities in the Holy Land. It culminated in the battle for

Sebastopol, which fell on 9 September 1855 after an eleven month siege. Over the winter of 1855 the allies destroyed the Russian fleet and docks and finally the Czar sued for peace in March 1856. The Treaty of Paris was signed on 30 March.

The Turkish Contingent doctors were selected by Inspector-General Duncan MacPherson, who began recruiting from London medical schools in May 1855—Surgeons were experienced doctors over 30 years old, Assistant-Surgeons newly qualified doctors and Dressers were medical students.

MacPherson referred to “the liberal terms offered by the Government” and he pointed out “the vast opportunities young men accepting would have of acquiring a practical knowledge of their profession, and the *éclat* that would be attached to their names during the rest of their careers.”⁴

By no means all of the doctors and dressers recruited to the Turkish Contingent have been identified and Spencer’s name is not among those listed by J Shepherd (in Chap XVI: “The Turkish Contingent”, in *The Crimean Doctors: a history of the British Medical Services in the Crimean War* 1991), though he must have been in the second party to go. Most served in the primitive and unsanitary conditions of Turkish military hospitals: the *Medical Times & Gazette* reported in 1855,

THE TURKISH MEDICAL SERVICE.—The... *Daily News* Correspondent... mentions the arrival of Dr. Farquhar, one of the chiefs of a Medical Staff of twenty English Surgeons sent out and paid by the Government, for the purpose of organizing the Hospitals and medical service of Omer Pacha’s army; for anything more deplorable than the state of his sick and wounded hitherto can hardly be imagined. The Turkish army which, when the war began, was 140,000 strong, did not amount to 80,000 when Omer Pacha crossed the Danube. I doubt very much whether at this moment it musters 60,000 fighting men. At the outside, supposing all the wounded to have died, not more than 10,000 have fallen by the sword of the enemy. One-third have been carried off by diseases that, under the circumstances, no human means could arrest; the rest have been killed by the doctors, who, with the aid of the pachas,

turned the Hospitals into slaughter-houses. The doctors are, with half-a-dozen exceptions, Italians, mostly refugees, involved, so they say, in the troubles of 1848. I was for a long time unable to comprehend how it was that all these unhappy Surgeons who failed in their attempts to establish systems of government in which none but wise and good men should have places, should have, in one step, passed from the sublime to the ridiculous, and commenced plastering and blistering, and physicking Turkish soldiers. The fact, however, very soon burst upon me, that the vast majority were impudent mountebanks, who had followed all sorts of vile callings at home, who, if they had ever occupied any honourable position, had descended from it in ways that would not bear recounting, runaway bankrupts and blacklegs, escaped criminals, expelled students, forgers, coiners, and what not; that very few knew anything about medicine or surgery more than their patients, that but very few were *bona fide* political refugees, and that but an infinitesimally small number had gone through a regular course of study, and were properly qualified. I heard two or three months since, from an excellent source, of a man who found himself suddenly without funds at Constantinople, and who, while waiting remittances from home, became a military doctor, although he did not know the difference between the tibia and the os frontis, and resigned in three weeks, when the money arrived. Any European officer in the Turkish service will tell you at once that if sick or wounded he would as soon think of blowing out his brains at once as of committing himself to the hands of a regimental surgeon.... I often passed vacant moments in calculating how many men one of these killed a day in the hospital, and was rather glad, and by no means surprised, when he announced to me one fine morning that he had been made colonel of cavalry. At Roustchouk, at Shumla, at Silistria, wherever large numbers have been collected together, the same thing has taken place,—no doctors, no hospital attendants, no instruments, no medicines. To show you the estimation in which the authorities hold their doctors, I may mention an incident which occurred a short time ago at Roustchouk. Several of the latter went as a deputation to Aya Pacha, to ask for payment of their salaries, which were a long way in arrears.

He instantly ordered each of them to receive fifty blows of the stick, and the sentence was executed on the spot. The others murmured, and threatened to resign in a body. The Pacha then issued an order that every man who gave in his resignation should likewise receive fifty blows, and thus stopped the mutiny at once.⁵

In February 1856 the Contingent began its withdrawal from Turkey, unsung and barely noticed, despite good work under appalling conditions,

The Turkish Contingent was never given a good press. In June 1856 the *Times* described it as a “hopeless mission”. There is no mention of it in the official medical history of the war, nor in subsequent accounts. The Royal Commission did not discuss its activities or its value. Belatedly it seems appropriate to pay some tribute to the doctors of the Contingent who, in the face of great difficulties, and at considerable risk to their lives, brought to the Turks a great improvement in medical care.⁶

In 1857 Spencer was officially promoted, “William Isaac Spencer, gent., to be Assistant Surgeon, vice Barnett, retired Royal North Down Rifles”.⁷

The Royal Irish Rifles absorbed the Royal North Down Rifles, Queen’s Own Royal Rifles Antrim, Royal South Down Light Infantry and the Louth Rifles. Spencer went with the Royal North Down Rifles and in mid-1858 joined the “18th. Foot. Assist.-Surg. William Isaac Spencer from the Staff, to be Assist.-Surg”.⁸

The Royal Irish Regiment was known as the 18th Regiment of Foot until 1881. It was one of eight Irish regiments and had been formed in 1684. It was garrisoned in India but then moved to the Crimea to take part in the siege of Sebastopol; the 18th was largely responsible for the demolition of the port after the departure of the Russians.

The 1st Battalion returned to India in 1857; the 2nd Battalion was raised largely from Irish militia men in September 1857 and (by now with Spencer) it was mostly stationed in England and Ireland from then on.⁹
In May 1862,

MOVEMENTS OF TROOPS.—The following changes in the stations of troops have taken place:—... the 2nd Battalion of the 18th Foot, from Portsmouth to Jersey”.¹⁰

The movement was completed early in June,

The *Megæra*, 6, iron screw steam troopship, Commander Samuel Henderson, sailed on Monday evening with the remainder of the 2nd battalion of the 18th Foot and Royal Artillery for Jersey.¹¹

A crowd of two or three thousand was on the pier at St Helier to welcome the men of the 18th as they came ashore on the *Dasher* and the *Speedy* from the transport ship *Megæra*. They were preceded to their barracks by the local band and the local newspaper listed the names of the officers, among them William Isaac Spenser, Assistant-Surgeon.¹²

There were not there long. In February the *Army and Navy Gazette* announced the stations of the British Army, including “18th Foot, 2nd bat.—Jersey, ord. to N.Zlnd.; Buttevant”.¹³ They were to embark for New Zealand from the medieval walled town of Buttevant, about half way between Cork and Limerick.

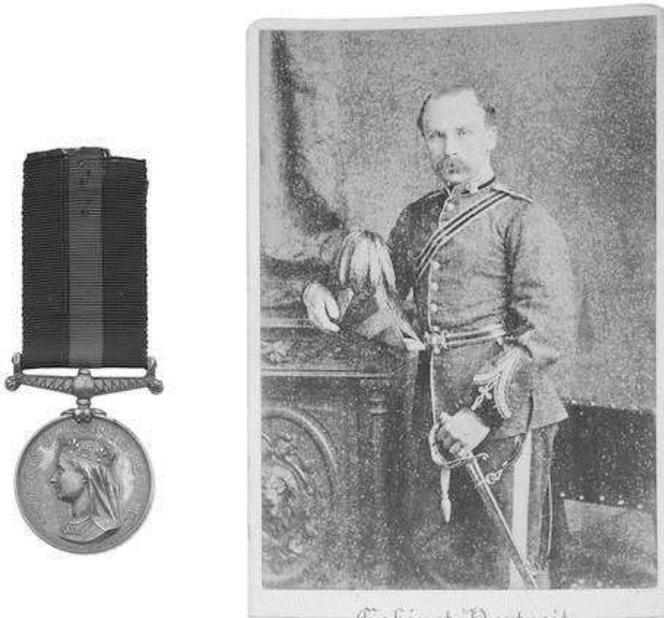
The 18th Royal Irish.—The following ships, Elizabeth Anne Bright, 1,919 tons; the British Trident, 1,500 tons; and the Owen Glendower, 900 tons, have been ordered for survey, for the conveyance of this regiment to Auckland, New Zealand.¹⁴

Their paymaster died in March but was quickly replaced by Charles Fade Heatly from the 86th Foot—with the honorary rank of Major.¹⁵

Possibly Spenser had his photograph taken in London before he left for New Zealand. On 16 October 2013 the London auctioneer Bonhams sold a medal collection that included a New Zealand War Medal dated 1860-1866 and engraved with the name “Asst. Surg. W.J. Spenser, 2nd Bn. 18th Ryl Irish Regt”. It was accompanied by a cabinet portrait photograph by Elliott & Fry said to be of him in uniform.¹⁶ Elliott & Fry set up their studio in London in 1863, so the date is possible: but is it really he? He looks rather different in his other photographs.

Spencer sailed on 11 April in the hired transport *Norwood*; he landed in Auckland on 5 August 1863. The *Elizabeth Ann Bright* brought others of the regiment, including the new paymaster Major Heatly and his family, landing on 4 July 1863. The clipper *Chariot of Fame* brought a further “One subaltern and 144 men, one officer’s wife, 28 soldiers’ wives, and 34 children”.¹⁷

“Surely,” wrote a correspondent to the *Naval & Military Gazette*, “every effort should be exerted to suppress rebellion in New Zealand, not by butchery or extermination, but by such a *judicious array of force* as would bring these, our subjects, back to proper subjection”.¹⁸



Dr Spencer’s New Zealand War Medal and a photograph said to be of him and, if so, probably taken by Elliott and Fry, London, in 1863.
From Bonham’s auction catalogue.

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- 1 <http://crimeanwarveterans.blogspot.co.nz/> accessed 23 October 2017.
- 2 Much of this material is derived from Shepherd J 1991. Chap XVI: "The Turkish Contingent". In *The Crimean Doctors: a history of the British Medical Services in the Crimean War; Vol.2.* Liverpool University Press.
- 3 *Morning Post* 26 September 1855.
- 4 Shepherd J 1991. p.559.
- 5 *Medical Times and Gazette* 1855; 1: 378–379.
- 6 Shepherd J 1991 p. 568.
- 7 *Downpatrick Recorder* 5 December 1857. Also in *Ulster Gazette* 5 December 1857.
- 8 *Evening Mail* 31 May 1858. Also noted in the *Homeward Mail from India, China and the East* 29 May 1858, *Jersey Independent and Daily Telegraph* 2 June 1858.
- 9 Combined Irish Regiments Association. Royal Irish Regiment (18th Foot). <https://www.ciroca.org.uk/home/the-irish-regiments/royal-irish-regiment-18th/>. Accessed 23 October 2017.
- 10 *Morning Post* 23 May 1862.
- 11 *Hampshire Advertiser* 7 June 1862.
- 12 *Jersey Independent and Daily Telegraph* 30 May 1862
- 13 *Army and Navy Gazette* 7 February 1863
- 14 *Dublin Daily Express* 16 February 1863
- 15 *Dublin Daily Express* 02 April 1863
- 16 <https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/20810/lot/24/> accessed 23 October 2017.
- 17 *Dublin Evening Mail* 9 September 1863.
- 18 *Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service* 19 December 1863.
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CHAPTER 3: ARMY SURGEON IN NEW ZEALAND

Dr Spencer must almost immediately have sailed from Auckland for New Plymouth:

During the performance of an intermediate trip between Auckland and Taranaki, for the conveyance to the former province of 173 rank and file of the 70th Regiment, under the command of Major Mulock, an accident occurred through the upsetting of one of the Taranaki surf boats, whereby Mr. Alexander King, an old settler was drowned. The *Ladybird* was sighted at Taranaki at about nine o'clock on the morning of August 9, and, at about eleven she went close in, the weather being fine. There was not a very heavy surf on, though there was a big roller at times. The boats went off as usual, but the first one, containing the passengers and mails, in returning, as

she was running in on the rope, was followed by a wave, and, the rope being slack, she broached to, partly filled, and capsized.... assistance was immediately rendered to the sufferers. Some of the persons clung to the bottom of the surf-boat among whom was Captain Renner who immediately pulled off coat and boots in order to render assistance to those who might require it. A second boat was immediately run out, and many of the settlers who were on the beach, made most praiseworthy and successful efforts to save those who were in danger, and all were brought safely ashore, except Mr. Alexander King, an old settler, who, though recovered among the earliest, was dead when brought to land. Several others had narrow escapes, including Captain Webster, T.V.R., Dr. Spencer, Captain Gresson (65th), Mr. Mitchell Fox (a boatman), and others.¹

Dr Spencer may have been sent to care for wounded men; he returned to Auckland on the *Airedale* with the troops of the 70th.²

The men of the 2nd Battalion of the 18th Foot (Royal Irish Regiment: "Paddy's Blackguards") were in New Zealand for seven years, 1863-1870. A contemporary history of their work is reproduced as Appendix A. They landed at Auckland, headquartered at Queen's Redoubt, Pokeno and were first involved in fighting between Pokeno and Drury in July 1863, then later at Papakura and Pukekohe. In November they advanced into the Waikato, to Pukerimu and in April 1864 fought at the celebrated Battle of Orakau ("Rewi's last stand").

Dr. Mouatt, Deputy Inspector-General, arrived from Pukerimu about noon; and the wounded were likewise attended by Dr. Spencer, of the 18th, and other medical gentlemen connected with the various regiments on the field.³

Eighty-one were killed or wounded, including 13 from the Arawa. Spenser amputated the left arm of one Tepene Te Waru and attended military funerals, as the *Daily Southern Cross's* war correspondent reported,

The remains of the late Ensign Chateu, 65th Regiment, were interred at 11 a.m. to-day. The coffin—a plain one of common deal boards, covered with the Union Jack—was borne by men of

the 65th Regiment, the pall bearers being Ensigns Spillen and Becks, 65th, and Ensigns Chapman and Jackson, 18th, and followed by a numerous concourse of the officers and men from the regiments in camp, amongst whom I noticed Brigadier General Carey, Colonel Leslie, Colonel Young, Colonel Haultain, Major Tupper, Brigade Major; Captain Baker, D. A.A.G.; Captain Kernley, Dr. Whyte, M.O.; Dr. Dempster, Staff Surgeon; Dr. Spencer, 18th; Captain Brooke, R.E.; Lieut. Carre, E.A.; Lieut. Rait, Mounted Force; Mr. Main, Interpreter, and many others whose names I did not know.⁴

The war in the Waikato was effectively over, though the regiment headquartered at Ngaruawahia for a period before returning to Otahuhu.

In January 1865 the battalion was shipped to Whanganui where the men were involved in fighting, largely in Taranaki.

Spencer's only surviving diary is for 1865: a terse, military doctor's account. On 2 January, for instance,

Embarked at Onehunga with Dels. 18th. 50th & R.A. for Wanganui—on H.M.S. "Falcon" & "Eclipse". "Eclipse" grounded on Manakau bar. We took all the troops in board the Falcon & as the tide rose she floated—the men were then reembarked.⁵

On 11 January,

A party composed of Mounted Militia & 400 infantry went out to reconnoitre a pah 9 miles off on the Waitotara. It was found in possession of the Maoris who danced the war dance & fired a few shots—party returned at 7 p.m.

24–28 January,

9.30 a.m. 13 Officers 300 NCO & men 2/18th, 500 50th, 2 guns RA, 15 RE & a few M.T. marched from Kai Iwi & encamped at 5 p.m. at Nuku-mau near the hostile pah. The natives were seen amongst some whares in bush ½ a mile distant & Capt. Shaw & 80 men sent out as a picquet. The natives attacked & Lieut. Johnson 40th. was wounded. Subsequently Major Rocke & 100 men proceeded to the scene of action & I followed to

attend the wounded. I was relieved at 9 oC by Asst Surgeon Watson M.T.

Forwarded 4 wounded men to Dépôt Hosp; Kai Iwi.

600 Maoris made an attack on the camp, & down in the pickets. They were repulsed after 2 hours fighting.

Our loss was—

18th. Officers 0, men killed 1 wounded 8

50th. Officers wd. 2 “ “ 11 “ 18

9 Maori bodies were brought in & buried.

Lieut. Johnson 40th. died.

“ Wilson 50th. wounded through leg.

Grant 50th. “ chest.

Remainder of detach. arrived from Kai Iwi with Inman, too late to take part in the action. Bicknel on sick list.—

Genl. Cameron left camp for Wanganui.

Three Maoris wounded under my care,

Te Haka. (1) Fracts. left thigh & left ulna. 3 flesh right thigh ball lodged. D. 28th. at Kai Iwi.

Te Arawa. Through abdomen. 6 inches omentum protruding. D. 25th.

Name unknown. Ngatiruanui Tribe. Sabre cut back of head exposing brain. D. 26th.

Recommended issue of extra ½ ration of rum to men on account of excess fatigue & loss of 1 life.

Sent 7 wounded to Wanganui.

Dr Mouatt left camp.

Forwarded abstract of Boyle's case.

Total casualties, 24th & 25th.

Killed

Officers

Men

Staff—1

18th. 3

50th. 11

1

14

Wounded

50th. 2

18th. 14

50th. 18

2

32

It was not always so exciting. The Royal Irish took charge of a line of military posts between Whanganui and Patea; Spencer's weekly statements show most of his patients consulted him for diarrhoea, rheumatic pains, skin diseases and conjunctivitis ("ophthalmia").

In October 1866, though, the *Evening Post* reported,

LATEST FROM THE FRONT.

The following important intelligence has reached us by express from the Front:—

Te Whakumuku 4th Oct.

I take an early opportunity of sending you an account of one of the most dashing and successful affairs that have taken place on this coast. The rebels of late, evidently under the impression that our inactivity arose from the smallness of our number, regained confidence, and were constantly shewing near this post, and on the road to Hawera, lying in ambuscade for the unwary. Skirmishes were of frequent occurrence, as I have already related, and although we were always successful in these, they tended to harass our men, and risked a loss of life without any compensating advantage.

Major M'Donnell determined to wait no longer for reinforcements, but to resume the offensive at once. Accordingly at dusk on Monday, the 11th instant, he started from his post with a small but determined force of 120 of all ranks. As in nearly every instance the rebels with whom we had been skirmishing had been seen to come from the north side of the Waingongoro River, it was in that direction that it was decided to look for them, but as the river was flooded by the late heavy rains, and in order to deceive the enemy in case they might have had any scouts on the watch, we started in an entirely opposite direction, crossed the river at its mouth by the bridge between the posts held there by the 18th Royal Irish, and then struck straight inland



Thomas McDonnell

for the bush. In crossing the river one of the Wanganui Rangers, Private Henshaw, fell off the bridge and fractured his left arm above the elbow. Dr. Spencer, 2-18th Royal Irish, took him into his hospital at Waingongoro Redoubt. To give your readers an idea of the discomfort of a night march, I need only state that the night was inky dark, the wind cold and bleak, the ground wet and sloppy. At a little after midnight we entered the bush. I have so often described a bush march, that I will tire you by a repetition. A couple of hours before dawn, we halted in a clearing, and snatched such repose as we could get under the circumstances. We had marched about fourteen miles, while in a straight line to our right Te Whenuku was not more than six miles distant. Shortly before dawn we heard cocks crowing,—a sure sign that our gallant leader's usual luck and judgment had brought us to our quarry. We again moved on through bush and clearings, and across a creek and eventually came out into a broad dray track. A turn of this disclosed to us the village of Rungarehu. There was just light enough to distinguish objects faintly. We could see that it was situated in a clearing surrounded by bush, and it contained several large whares, nearly every one of which was closely fenced in. A soft swampy creek separated us from the village. Over this there was a crossing made of logs of wood laid close together. Stepping over cautiously, we ascended the other side at the double, and in less time than it takes to write it, we were over the fences and had so surrounded the whares, that escape was impossible. We called upon the inhabitants to surrender, but they blazed at us out of the small doors and windows of the whares, several of which were shot proof, having their sides slabbed, and their roofs covered with earth. It took us a good half-hour to pull these places about their heads; and they resisted well. By that time not a ware remained standing, and the Hau Haus, with the exception of eight men and a boy who had surrendered, were either shot down or burnt in their whares. Twenty dead bodies were counted, and the prisoners have since informed us that there were eighteen rebels in one ware alone whose earth covered roof fell in when the sides had burnt, and from which only two men ran out.

In the assault and destruction of the village we had three wounded, amongst them Farrier-Major Duff, W.Y.C., mortally. His loss is deplored by the whole force, by whom he was justly looked upon as the bravest of the brave. Foremost in every fight, he never seemed to know what fear was. No one expressed more regret for his untimely end than our gallant Major, who had a very high opinion of him, and with whom he was a prime favourite.

Hardly had all resistance in the village ceased, when a heavy fire was opened upon us from the bush on the other side of the clearing, proving that the inhabitants of the other villages had been aroused by the firing, and were hastening to the assistance of their people, but they were too late. Having done all the mischief he could, and having three wounded to carry, and prisoners to escort, Major McDonnell wisely determined to return. The enemy, under the impression evidently that he would follow the track we had come by, worked without direction, but a shorter and better track led out to the open, and the Major made his arrangements to return to Waingongoro by this. And here his skill in bush warfare became apparent. Extending the best part of his force along one side of the clearing, and under cover of the bush, he kept the enemy in check, whilst the wounded and prisoners were brought to the track or about to follow. Poor Duff was lying at the upper end of the village. To bring him down to the lower end was a service of great danger, as an incessant, and strange to say, most accurate fire was kept up by the enemy. In this service Cornet Hurtszel, W.Y.C, and volunteer Wright, survey staff, were wounded. As soon as the wounded, who now numbered seven, were collected along the track, we gradually drew off. The enemy followed us for a short distance, but having now secured our wounded and prisoners, we turned and chased the rebels back, and they paid dearly for their temerity, for their leader was shot dead by Ensign Poma, Native Contingent, and four others, whose guns were captured, bit the dust. This apparently sickened them, for their firing suddenly ceased.

The firing of the enemy on this occasion was the heaviest and most accurate we have experienced, and their yelling was terrific and enough to appal any tyro in bush fighting. They

could not have numbered far short of 100, and we only had 50 men to oppose them, as far more than half our number were employed escorting the prisoners, and carrying the wounded, each of whom required six men to carry him. Nothing could have exceeded the gallantry of the officers and men. Captain Newland was ubiquitous, and encouraged the men by his example. His pluck, and the cool manner in which he stalks about in the heaviest fire is proverbial. Our gallant Major had a narrow escape, a button having been shot off his coat. One little incident I cannot help relating for the information of the powers that be; two volunteers who behaved in the most dashing manner were Sergeants Rushton and White of the Patea Rangers, who, disgusted at the unjust treatment they had received from the Government, claimed their discharge with the remainder of that corps, and thus of their own accord, threw up 4s a day, sooner than receive pay from a Government who could treat them so shamefully. They had nevertheless still continued to serve as volunteers without pay, and have been out in every affair. On this occasion Sergeant Rushton had two bullets through the clothes, and the stock of his carbine smashed by another.

Taking into consideration the accounts of the prisoners, there could not have been less than from 30 to 40 Hau Haus killed. Twenty-three to thirty stand of arms were burnt in the whares, besides several brought home as trophies. Two or three casks of powder also blew up when the whares were fired.

To return to the force—when it reached the open, stretchers were made for the wounded, and after a short rest, we recrossed the Juaba, and soon reached the Waingongoro redoubt, where we were most kindly received by Captain Noblett, 2-18th R.I., and the officers and men stationed there. Dr. Spencer, 2-18th R.I., relieved our assistant-surgeon of the care of the wounded, and took them into his hospital. Three of them died, and soon after Captain Noblett placed a sentry over them, and they were interred the next day at Waingongoro, as many of the Wanganui Rangers as could be spared, attending from Te Whenuku.⁶

The *Wellington Independent* of 15 November 1866 reported under the proud headline,

GALLANT CONDUCT OF THE 18th ROYAL IRISH: A STRONG PA TAKEN, AND FOUR VILLAGES BURNED.

Major Rocke, 18th, was in command of the whole force: and every man here wishes to have him always at the head, for his coolness and judgment in action.

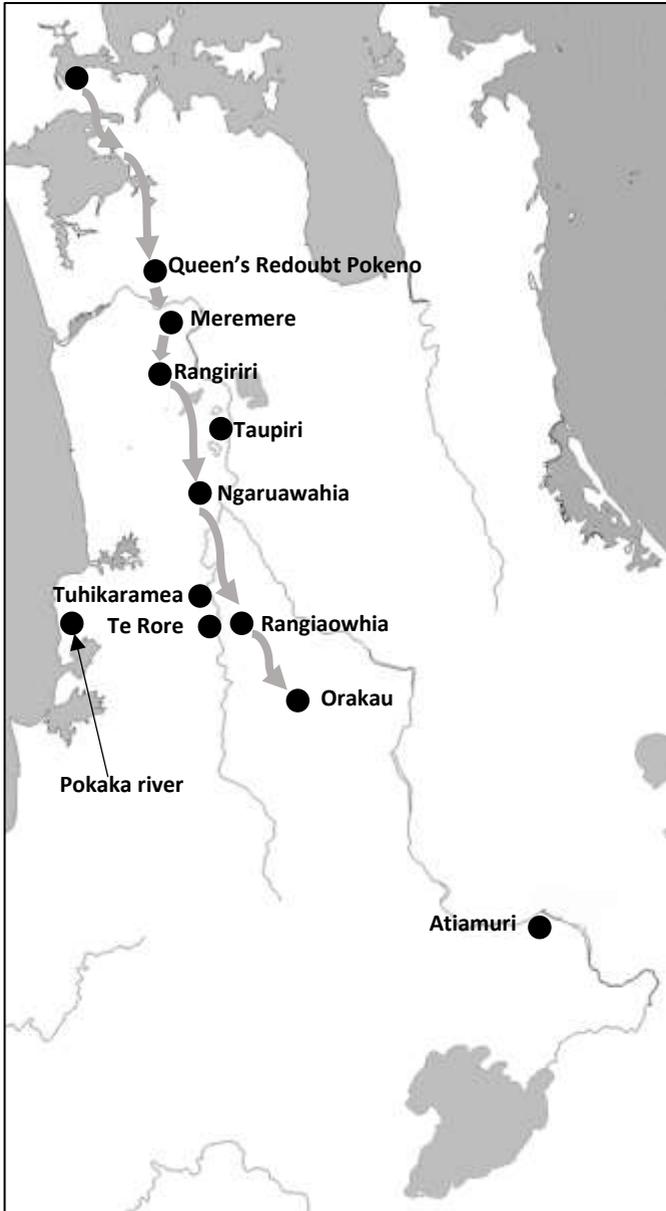
The following officers were in action with the field force this morning:—Major Rocke, 18th, in command; Captains Bishopp, Noblett, and Dawson; Adjutant Wray, Dr. Spencer, Lieutenants Briggs, Thacker, J. B. Jackson, Butts, Phillips; Ensigns Milner, Pringle, and Swindley, 18th R.I., Captain Stone, Military Train; Staff-Assistant-Surgeon Jobson; D.A.C.G. Innes, and Lieutenant Baird, Wanganui Cavalry.

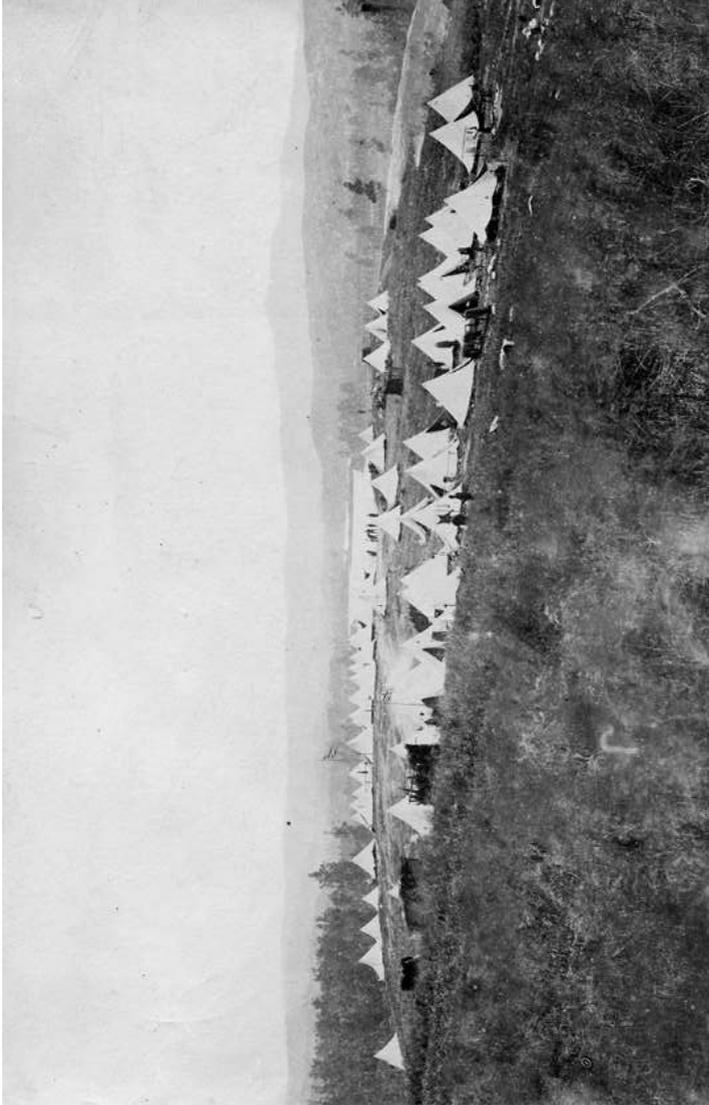
A bayonet belonging to the 18th Royal Irish, and a bayonet scabbard belonging to the 67th Regiment, No. 480, were found in the rebel pa after it was occupied by the troops this morning.

The Governor is still here, and Major McDonnell is on the sick list, I understand.⁷

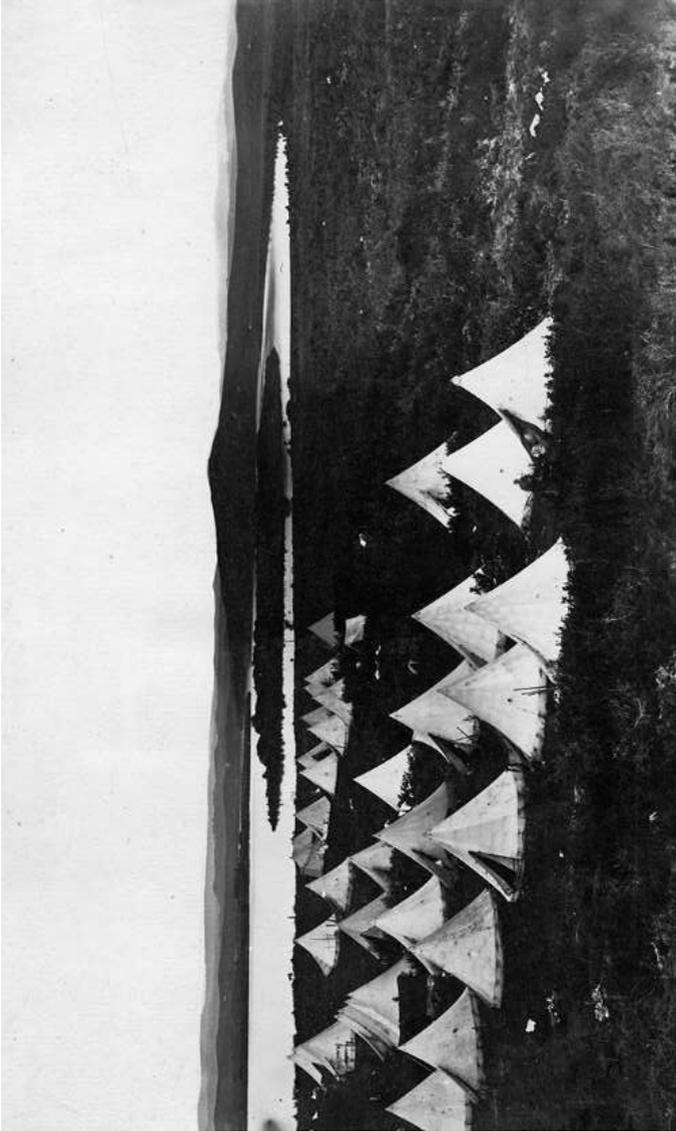
Spencer photographed a number of war sites and his photographs were mostly made into albumen prints, using egg whites to hold chemicals on the paper surface, so are very fragile now. His images are of peaceful landscapes and camps: there are no battle scenes and none of his surgery.

I am grateful to the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, for permission to reproduce them in the following pages. (Among them are other illustrations of these sites).

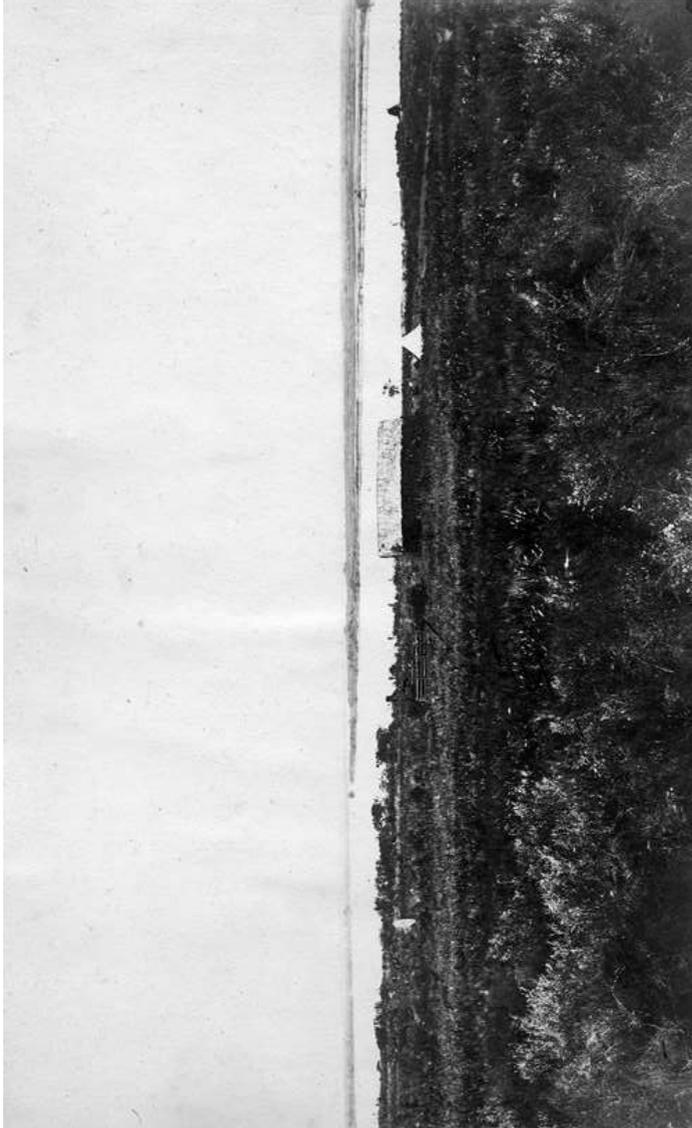




British Camp at Meremere, Nov 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 13



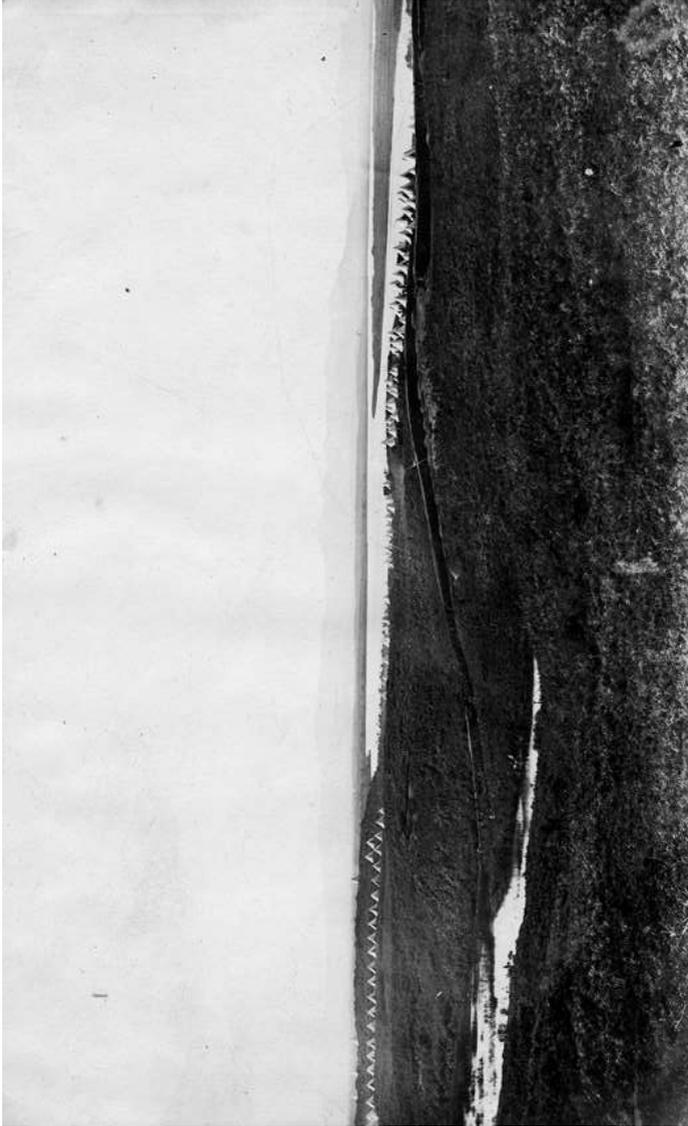
Rangiriri Encampment, Nov 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 -14



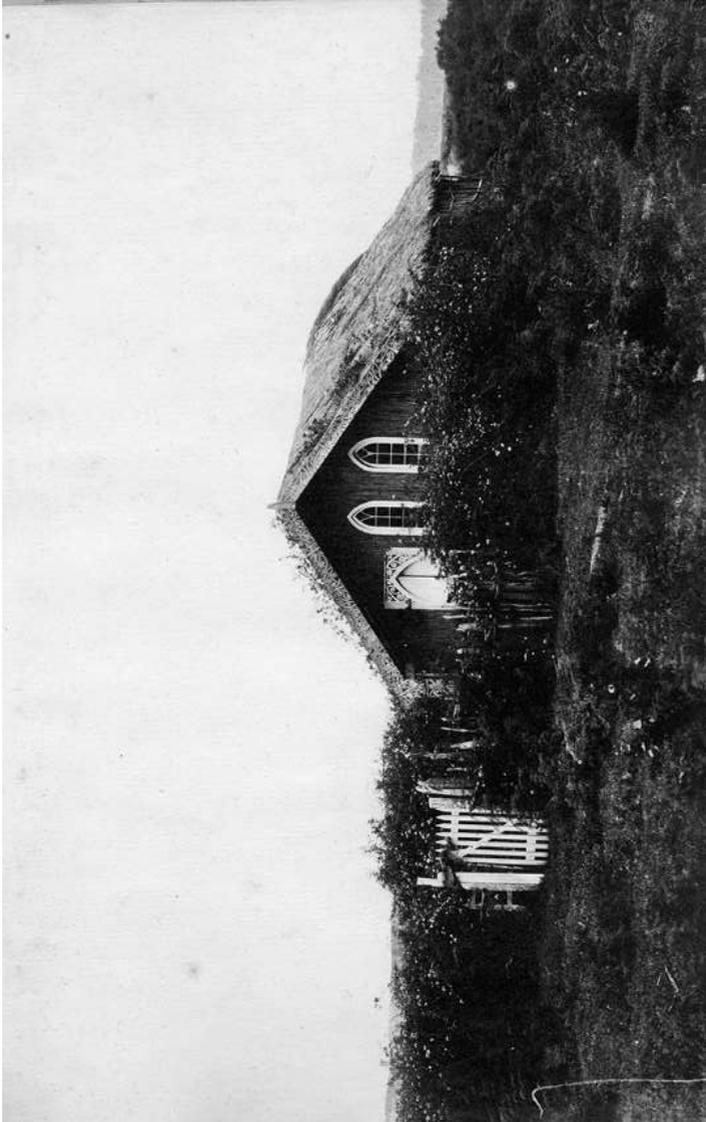
Rangiriri, Nov 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 40



Rangiriri Redoubt, Nov 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 41



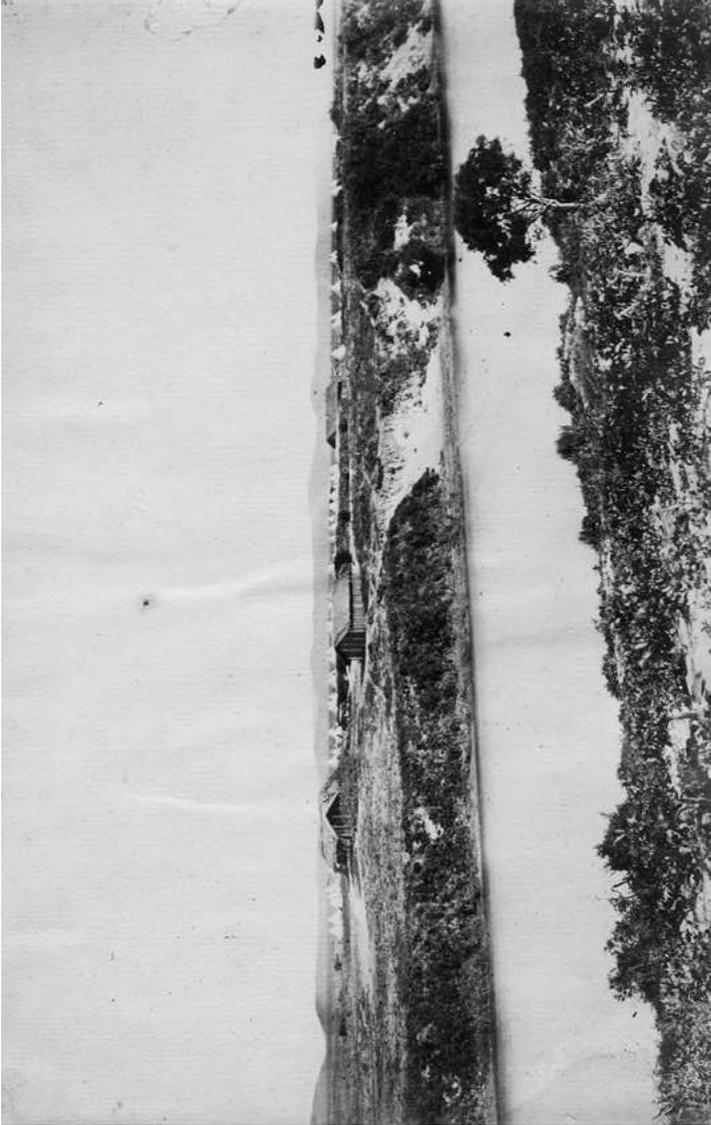
Rangiriri Encampment, Nov 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 15



Māori Church, Taupiri, Dec 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 42



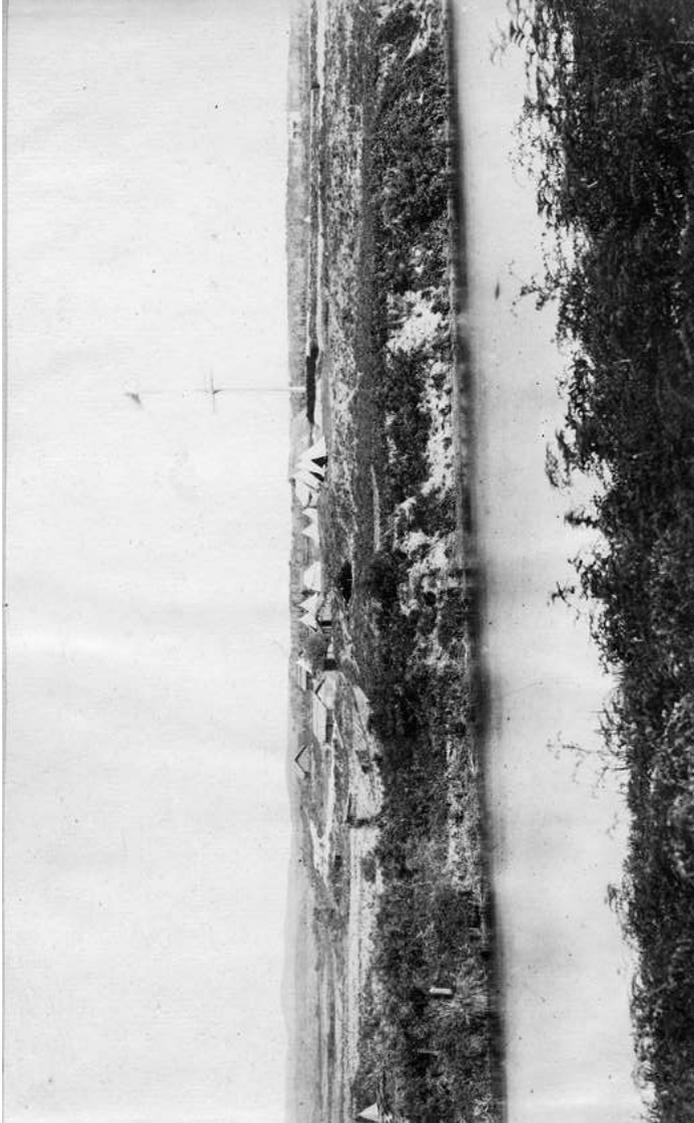
Mission House, Taupiri, Dec 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 43



Ngaruawahia, Dec 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 -1



Ngaruawahia, Dec 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 35



Ngaruawahia encampment, Dec 1863, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597–34



Waipa, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 32



There was time to visit the fluted limestone formations in the lower Pakoka valley. Waikato Region, Aug 1863-Dec 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 29



Whatawhata, Jan 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 3



Tuhikaramea, Circa 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 33



Te Rore, Jan 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 20.

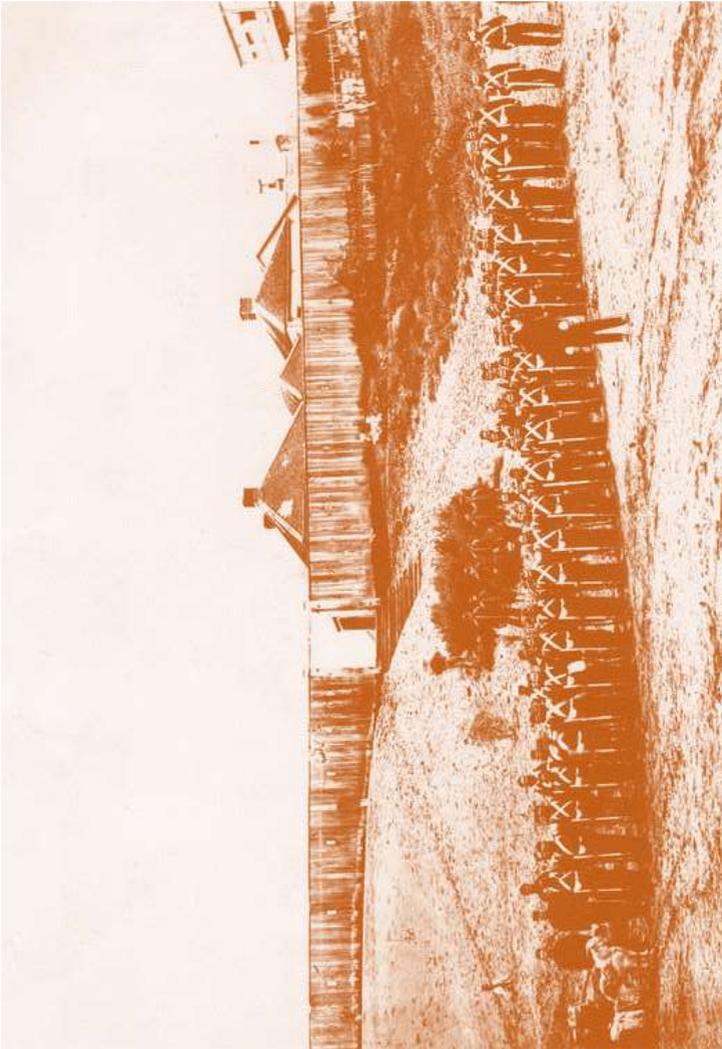
I was one of 15 children at Te Rore school 1947-1949. Musketballs were often dug up in gardens and paddocks and every boy had some in his bag of marbles; they were not considered to be as good as glass ones.



Pā Terangi, Feb 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897),
from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust,
Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 21



Soldiers and prisoners: Rangiaowhia, February 1864, Feb 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 23



Soldiers of the 18th Royal Irish at Rutland Stockade, Wanganui 1865–1866.
Alexander Turnbull Library Reference Number: 1/1-000095-G.

By late 1867 it seemed the war in Taranaki was over. Land confiscated under the New Zealand Settlements Act 1863 was being settled by 1865 and Major Thomas McDonnell and Major-General Trevor Chute's raids in 1865-66 further dispirited the tangata whenua who appeared to accept the loss of their land. Riwia Tītokowaru c. 1823–1888 declared 1867 to be a year of peace and reconciliation.

In August 1867 the *Daily Southern Cross* announced,

MARRIAGES

On August 1, at Christ Church, Wanganui, by the Rev. C.H. Nicholls, William Isaac Spencer, Esq., Assistant-Surgeon 18th Royal Irish, to Anna, eldest daughter of Major C.F. Heatly, paymaster, 18th Royal Irish.⁸

In November 1867 six companies left Whanganui for Auckland, two to New Plymouth and the B and G Companies to Napier, with Dr and Mrs Spencer,

The following left this morning by the s.s. Ahuriri, for Napier:—130 non-commissioned officers and men, 17 women, and 42 children. Officers: Capt. Wray, Lieut. J. B. Jackson, Ensigns Milner and Swindly, Dr. Spencer, and Mrs. Wray, and Mrs. Spencer. For Taranaki, by the s.s. Rangatira:—135 non-commissioned officers and men, 14 women, and 32 children. Officers: Capt. Noblett, Lieut. Thacker, Lieut. Manners, and Ensign Pringle.⁹

Ahuriri had attracted European settlers as early as 1844 when the Colensos set up the Waitangi mission and 1846 when Alexander Alexander built a store at Onepoto and began trading in pigs and dressed flax.

In 1857 the route of the steep, narrow road that winds its way up the hill was formed and the following year 120 soldiers from the 65th Regiment arrived in Napier in response to anxiety among the European settlers about native unrest. The men camped in and around Main Street. Later some were housed in barracks built on the hilltop, later the site of the hospital.¹⁰

Napier was named for Sir Charles Napier, the British Army's Commander-in-Chief in India when the 18th Foot were there.

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- 1 *Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle* 15 August 1863. Mulock and his men of the 70th would embark in HMS *Miranda* for the Thames and would later join the forces at Tuhikaramea.
- 2 *Daily Southern Cross* 18 September 1863.
- 3 *Daily Southern Cross* 7 April 1864.
- 4 *Daily Southern Cross* 26 April 1864.
- 5 Spencer WI 1865. Diary
- 6 *Evening Post* 10 October 1866.
- 7 *Wellington Independent* 15 November 1866: supplement p1.
- 8 *Daily Southern Cross* 28 August 1867.
- 9 *Wanganui Herald* 15 November 1867.
- 10 Onepoto Story. <https://historicplacesaotearoa.org.nz/onepoto-story/> accessed 28 October 2017.
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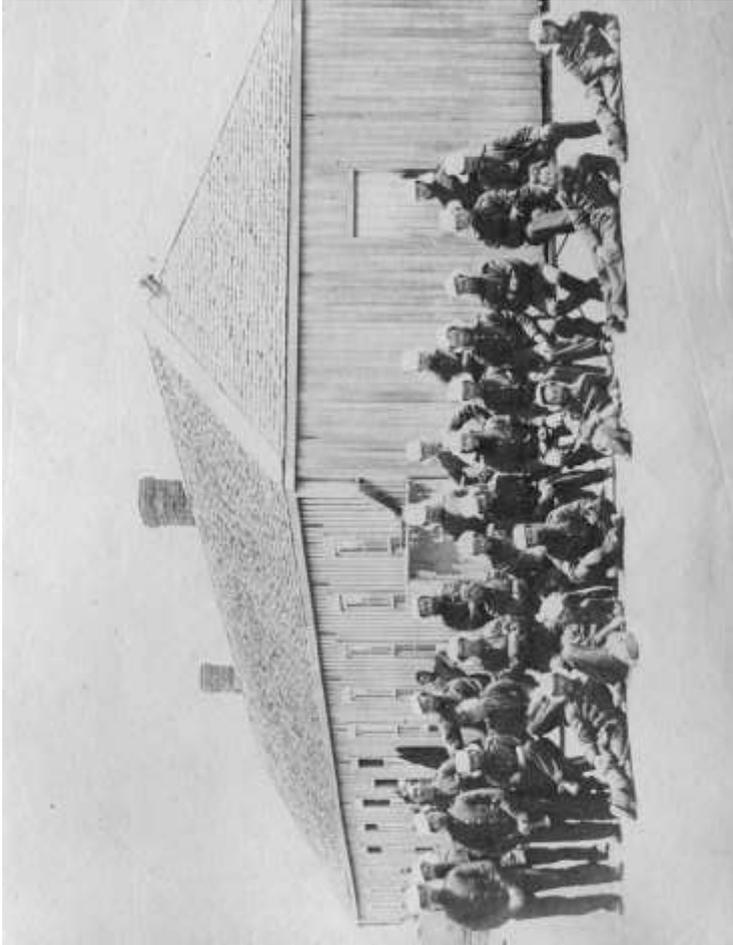
CHAPTER 4: THE WAR IN HAWKE'S BAY

At the end of 1865 there were 10,000 men of the Imperial forces in New Zealand, but the high cost of maintaining them, along with different views of land confiscation between Britain and New Zealand, led to a self-reliant policy by New Zealand and the withdrawal of Imperial troops after 1866. The 18th Foot was the last: they should have gone in 1869, but were detained until 1870 because of the colonists' alarm about Te Kooti's guerrilla war.¹⁰

A year before the arrival in Napier of the two companies of the 18th Foot, in October 1867, Napier had been threatened by the Hauhau.¹⁰

Hawke's Bay had not been seriously troubled until late in 1866. Shortly after the Volkner tragedy at Opotiki in 1865 and the arrival of the Pai Marire prophets in Poverty Bay and the East Cape, Donald McLean and JD Ormond took measures to persuade the Hawke's Bay chiefs against the spread of Pai Marire in their territory.

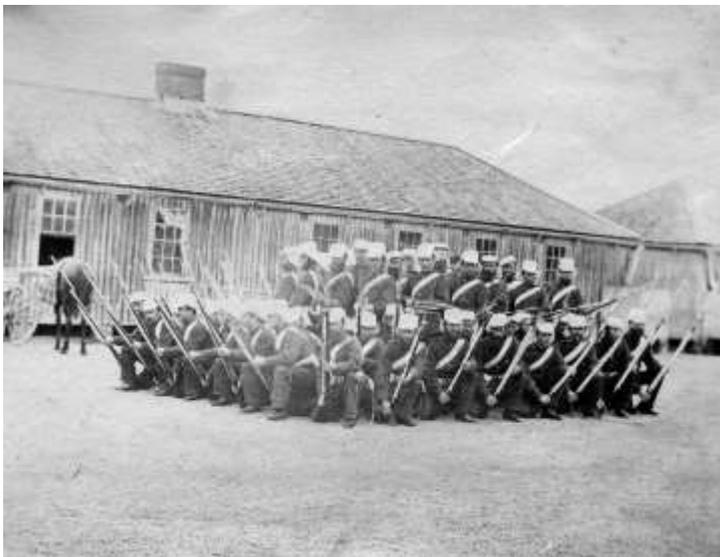
McLean was Provincial Superintendent and was the Government Native Agent for the East Coast. Ormond had been elected to the House of Representatives in 1861. McLean called meetings of the Hawke's Bay chiefs to urge them to set their faces against the Pai Marire apostles. The principal rangatira of Ngati Kahungunu—Tareha, Te Moananui, and Renata Kawepo, supported by Karauria, Karaitiana Takamoana, and others—agreed to try to stay the spread of Hauhau unrest.



Napier Barracks 1867, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 6



Army Barracks, Napier, 1867, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 9



Militia Training, Napier Barracks, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 12



Militia Training, Napier Barracks, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 12



Military Training, Napier Barracks, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 11



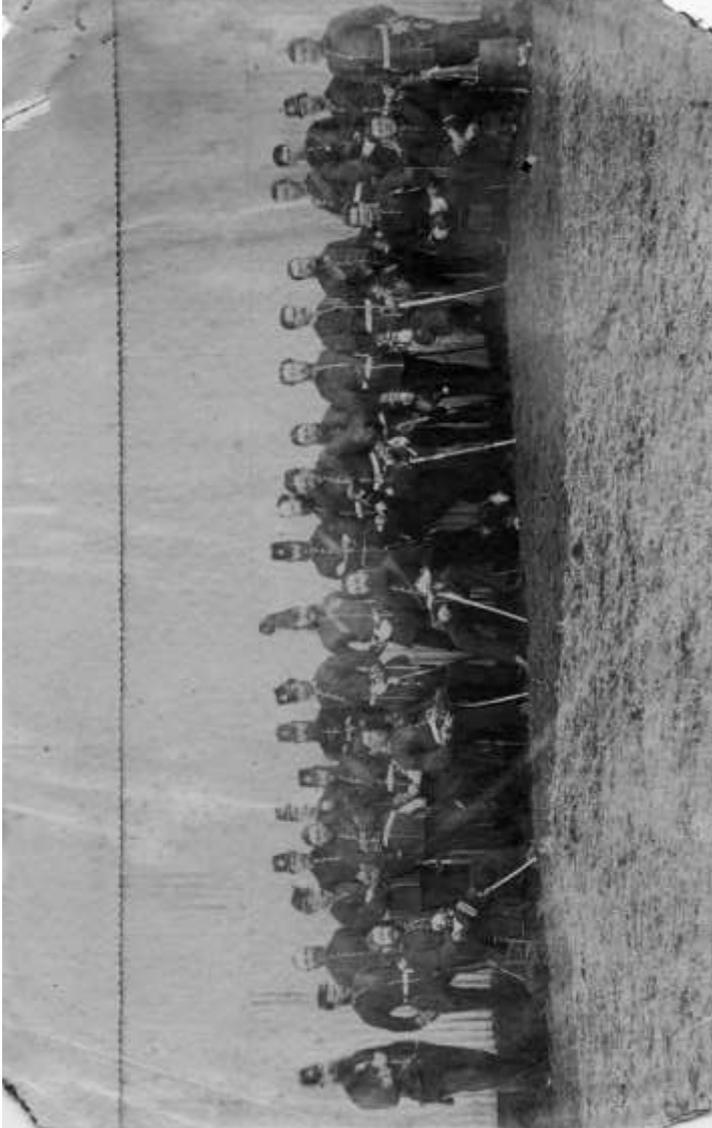
Men outside Napier Barracks, 1867, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597-5



Gore Brown Barracks, Napier, from the estate of Mr C D Cornford, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 1978



Eighteenth Royal Irish Regiment, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 5597



18th Royal Irish Regiment, gifted by Miss Jerome Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 2118



William Spencer, Circa 1865, from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 8

William Colenso was invited but was unwell and could not attend. He wrote to Native Minister Walter Mantell (6 March 1865),

Do not believe all—or a tittle—of what you may hear respecting our Natives and their Pai Maraire visitors. It is a great pity the venal local papers should go so far as they do—acting so unthinkingly. I believe Hapuku to be very very far from joining them.

Colenso was referring to an alarmist editorial in the *Hawke's Bay Herald* in which editor James Wood, now a Provincial Councillor, suggested local Ngati Kahungunu, with paramount chief Te Hapuku, would join Hauhau fighters against Europeans,

The presence of bodies of the *hau hau* converts, or perverts, and their reception by Te Hapuku, shows us pretty plainly that on the will of a single chief depends the whole question. If he were a straight-forward, well-judging man, in whom confidence could be placed, it would be something of a risk to be run. But Te Hapuku has always been dark and inscrutable; he has private wrongs to redress; and, though his making any such movement would be considered the height of madness, who can guarantee his sanity? At any moment, if he so chooses, or can in any way be induced to do so, he can cry "Havoc! and let slip the dogs of war".¹

The menace to European settlement in Hawke's Bay came not from local Ngati Kahungunu but from an outpost of Hauhauism in the interior, on the mountain track to Taupo. At the beginning of October 1866, the Ngati Hineuru, from Te Haroto and Tarawera on the present Napier Taupo road, set out with the intention of attacking Napier, led by the chief Te Rangihiroa and the Pai Marire prophet Panapa. They had the approval of Rewi Maniapoto and other Kingite leaders.

The war party of about eighty men marched over the range at Titiokura and descended to Pohue and the plains. At Te Pohue they were joined by recruits from Wairoa, making up a total strength of one hundred and thirty. Panapa went to Omarunui, on the Tutaekuri River, six miles from Napier, with the greater portion of the force, while Te Rangihiroa remained with about twenty-five mounted men. Te Rangihiroa was to make a night attack on the town by way of Petane, the settlement near

the sea on the north side, while Panapa would deal with the out-settlements of pakeha and Māori and then join in the sack of Napier.

Omarunui was a fenced village on a flat above the cliffy bank of the Tutaekuri; Pa Whakairo, Tareha Te Moananui's pa, was a mile away.

Friendly Māori reported Panapa's arrival at Omarunui to McLean; and Mr. Hamlin, Native Interpreter to the Superintendent, who had been sent out to inquire the intentions of the strangers when they were halted at Petane, was now deputed to warn them to return to their homes, otherwise they would be attacked.

For a long time the Hauhau said nothing. At last Panapa said, enigmatically, that peace and war were both good—providing no clue as to his intentions. It seemed clear they meant mischief, although on Panapa's instructions they remained quiet.

Colenso offered to act as peacemaker: on 9 October he wrote to McLean,

Thinking over the present state of affairs (Hauhau and settlers) it has occurred to me—to offer you my personal services to go and see these unhappy people—this morning, if you approve of it. To try to bring them to a better state of mind—or, at all events, to know their wants, and (if possible) their intentions—before proceeding to the last resource.

I suppose you know well the old Native Custom (which these half-wild peoples no doubt still hold) or in such matters to treat with “Chiefs”—or those whom they consider to be such. I will call on you at your office at x a.m.

He was either ignored or he was too late. The people of Napier were now preparing for action. The armed militia numbered about one hundred and thirty men and youths and there was a company of forty-five Napier Rifle Volunteers. Major Fraser with forty men and a party of Wairoa Māori under Kopu Parapara and Ihaka Whanga reached Napier on 11 October.

Colonel George Whitmore commanded the Napier forces; he had left the Imperial army and was now a settler in Hawke's Bay. He despatched Fraser and his veterans to guard the approach from the

Petane side against Te Rangihiroa and his party. Whitmore himself moved on Omarunui to demand the surrender of Panapa's force.

The Napier citizen soldiers marched out soon after midnight on 11 October and took up positions on the Tutaekuri with friendly Māori under Samuel Locke, Native Agent, and the chiefs Tareha, Renata Kawepo, and other tribal leaders. By daylight Omarunui was surrounded, the Māori contingent taking up a position on the edge of a swamp in the rear.

Hamlin was sent into the village under a flag of truce with a message from McLean demanding the Hauhau surrender in an hour or they would be fired upon. Hamlin reported that the Hauhau would not listen. After an hour the order was given to attack.

The Hauhau had intended to delay their offensive until the signal was given that Te Rangihiroa was attacking Napier, but there was no word from him. They thus allowed the militia to approach and so were at a disadvantage. Orders were now given to open fire and volleys were poured into the village from three sides. The Hauhau ran for the shelter of their whares and the large meeting-house and returned the fire; some skirmished out to the open, but a number fell, and the huts proved precarious cover. Panapa, the war-priest, came out into the open and was shot dead. The firing continued for over an hour, and the Hauhau casualties grew heavy. At last, seeing it hopeless to hold the village longer, and disheartened by the fall of their prophet, whom they had believed to be invulnerable to bullets, the majority of the survivors decided to surrender.

A number of the defenders rushed out in the rear and attempted to escape to the hills across the swamp, but Captain Gordon and his volunteer cavalry galloped round and intercepted the fugitives. All except one or two were killed, wounded, or captured. Those who remained alive in the village hoisted a white flag, and the "Cease fire" was ordered. The Hauhau lost twenty-one dead and about thirty wounded, of whom some died in hospital. Fifty-eight unwounded prisoners were taken. Whitmore's casualties were slight.

Those prisoners who could walk were marched to Napier whence they were shipped to the Chatham Islands.

Meanwhile Fraser's small force had gained an equally decisive victory at Petane. They intercepted Te Rangihiroa's twenty-five mounted men in a narrow pass. Fraser cut off their retreat and they had to fight against heavy odds. Te Rangihiroa was killed along with eleven of his men; one was wounded and three were taken prisoner.

Thus the bold enterprise of Ngati Hineuru and their allies ended in complete disorder. That so small a war party would attack a well armed European settlement can be explained by the extraordinary confidence in supernatural aid roused by the Pai Marire preaching. Panapa's disciples believed their atua would endow them with strength to prevail over their enemies; Te Ua had assured them the pakeha's bullets could be averted by magic incantations and the favour of the gods.

Napier was never again menaced. Nonetheless its defence was bolstered and its confidence boosted by the arrival of the two companies of the 18th Foot.

Colenso would go on to publish his peace and appeasement masterwork, *Fiat Justitia; being a few thoughts respecting the Maori prisoner Kereopa now in Napier gaol, awaiting his trial for murder. Respectfully Addressed to the considerate and justice-loving Christian Settlers of Hawke's Bay, and also to our Rulers, in a Letter to the Editor of the "Hawke's Bay Herald"*.

He was ignored, of course. Rather than treat him as a war criminal the authorities hanged Kereopa as a murderer in January 1872.

Dr Spencer treated Napier civilians as well as soldiers,

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—On Saturday afternoon, about 3 o'clock, an accident happened to a boy named Robert Willis, the dreadful nature of which is calculated to make one's blood run cold. It appears that the soda water machine in the establishment of Messrs. Torr and Co., Shakespeare road, is driven by horse power. The lad in question was sitting on one of the shafts, driving the horse, when the end of his whip got entangled in the wheels. He got down in order to extricate it, but, in doing so, the sleeve of his coat was caught in the machinery, and, shocking to relate, his arm was literally wrenched from the socket and left suspending by a single muscle. Some time elapsed before medical aid was procured,

but, eventually, Dr. Spencer, military surgeon, was in attendance, and he at once ordered the sufferer to be conveyed to the hospital, where the arteries were secured and the limb separated. The little fellow, who is only 10 years of age, is we believe, progressing favorably, but of course, even with the most favorable result, he is maimed for life.²

Provincial Surgeon Thomas Hitchings mentioned the case in his report, referring to Dr Spencer as "my friend".³

ACCIDENT. —On Saturday last a man named Warrington, in the employment of T. Tanner Esq., and one of the ploughmen at the recent match, had his leg broken under the following circumstances:—He was driving a horse team out of town; and, when near Mr. Caldwell's house, West Clive, he had occasion to get down. On springing from the dray, however, the reins caught his foot and he was thrown on the ground—the wheels at the same time passing over both his legs, and breaking one. The sufferer was attended by Dr. Spencer, and was brought into town yesterday. He is, we believe, doing well.⁴

In August 1868 the Spencers' house was burgled,

ROBBERY.—We understand that the dwelling house of Dr Spencer, 18th Royal Irish, was broken into by two men on Friday night last, and a quantity of plate, &c, stolen therefrom. A woman servant was in the house at the time the men (who were disguised) entered the house. They told her not to be afraid, as they were not going to touch her. She, however, ran out of the place and gave the alarm at the nearest neighbor's house. Assistance being procured, she returned to the house, but the birds had flown. We have not heard the exact quantity of articles stolen. Information of the burglary was given to the police, who, we trust, will be successful in discovering the thieves.⁵

Perhaps it is a measure of the high esteem in which Dr Spencer was held in Napier that the thieves seemed to reconsider,

THE LATE ROBBERY.—No clue has yet been obtained to the identity of the robbers. Strange to say, part of the stolen

property has been returned, it having been thrown over the fence of Dr. Spencer's house.⁶

In May 1869 a piano arrived for the Spencers,⁷—an anchor, perhaps, to keep them in Napier.

In July the town bid farewell to the officers,

18TH (ROYAL IRISH) REGIMENT.
FAREWELL DINNER TO OFFICERS OF
NAPIER DETACHMENT.

On the evening of Tuesday last, in the Oddfellows' Hall, a farewell dinner was given by the inhabitants of Napier to Capt. Wray and the officers of the detachment of the 18th (B and G companies) which has been for some time stationed in this place. Covers were laid for 62, and about 55 gentlemen sat down. The chair was filled by Joseph Rhodes Esq., and the vice chairs by John A'Deane Esq. and Major Green. The dinner was served by Mr. Johnson, and the Napier Brass Band occupied the gallery and played throughout the evening.

Upon the cloth being removed, a number of ladies were introduced upon the stage, where they remained for an hour or two as spectators of the festivity.

The usual loyal toasts—those of “The Queen,” “The Prince of Wales and the Royal Family,” and “His Excellency the Governor”—having been given from the chair, and duly responded to,—

The CHAIRMAN in giving the next toast—that of the “Army and Navy”—referred in highly eulogistic terms to the services of the British army and navy, which had so often covered themselves with glory. But the occasion upon which they had met reminded him that the British troops were about to leave New Zealand, and that, most likely, they would soon leave the Australian colonies altogether. Such an event would be chronicled by the future historian as a memorable epoch in England's history, for he firmly believed that, the day upon which the last British soldier left the Australian colonies, would be the first day of the decline and fall of the British Empire. (Cheers.)

Band — Red, White and Blue.

Capt. WRAY responded to the toast on behalf of the sister services, expressing regret that the military should be leaving New Zealand without assisting in the punishment of murderers and the restoration of peace. The soldier had nothing to do with politics; he had only to obey orders. But he hoped and believed that the prognostication of their worthy chairman would not be realised; for, wherever Englishmen were, the British Empire would maintain its position. (Cheers.)

The VICE-CHAIRMAN (Mr. A'Deane) in giving the next toast—the toast of the evening—said:—Fellow settlers of the province of Hawke's Bay, we have assembled here this evening in honor of the "Officers of the 18th Royal Irish," one of the oldest regiments in Her Majesty's army, and which has earned the distinction of badges for services in the Peninsula, Chinese, Indian and Russian wars. I cannot help comparing the traditions of such a regiment to those attached to an old and honored name, the inheritors of which have a noble inducement to add to its laurels. My theory is supported by the conduct of the Royal Irish in New Zealand; they have never failed to distinguish themselves when they have been given the opportunity. (Cheers.) They have had amongst them a son of the illustrious Havelock, and we must not forget the name of Captain Ring, who, with many of his brave comrades, fell in our cause (I think) at Orakau. The officers may not have found this station a pleasant one, but we all know that their most painful reminiscence of Napier will be the Mohaka massacre, when they, in common with every man of the detachment, were eager to avenge the slaughter of our women and children, but were compelled, by Imperial orders, to chafe in their barracks, while the colonial forces started in pursuit. (Cheers.) This, gentlemen, was a bitter trial to the best drilled and best companies in this fine regiment. Many of you, gentlemen, have been present in Napier on similar occasions, to say adieu—to the old 65th, to the 14th, to the 70th, to the 12th, but in each of these cases, while saying farewell to old friends, you have had to cry welcome to new ones. But our dinner to-day has a peculiar significance. With deep regret we all feel that it is possibly—nay, probably—the last that will take place in Napier in honor of a British regiment. For the first time in history, Great Britain

deserts her offspring in the time of trouble, and I record my opinion that it will be a dark chapter in her history, as well as in that of this her afflicted colony, when she severs this connecting link between us. (Great cheering.) I call upon you to drink health and prosperity to Captain Wray and the officers of H.M. Royal Irish.

Capt. WRAY, in responding, spoke as follows:—In returning thanks for the corps to which I have the honor to belong, and for the officers and men of the detachment, to whom you have extended such liberal hospitality, I feel that a duty devolves upon me which I am hardly able to perform, as I am quite unaccustomed to making speeches. In making the demonstrations in our honour the settlers have struck a cord that has never failed to animate the soldiers of our country—the cord of *esprit de corps*. (Cheers.) It cannot fail to make a lasting impression on those who have served here, and make them look back with feelings of pleasure mingled with regret—I say mingled with regret, I hope I shall not be saying too much when I say that we do regret that we were not able to give more active assistance, and that, directly the soldier was properly armed with breech-loaders, there were muzzle stoppers to hinder their effective use on the murderers of defenceless women and children. (Much cheering.) It is, however, a consolation to know that our places are well filled in the field by the forces the colony has at its disposal, and to the health of these forces I have to call on my brother officers to drink. (Great cheers.)

Major GREEN responded. Having just been appointed captain of the N.R.V., and being, therefore, the youngest officer of the local forces present, he but conformed to the etiquette of the service in acknowledging the toast. At the same time, as an Imperial officer of 20 years standing, he felt competent to judge of the merits of soldiers, and he felt proud at the opportunity of paying this tribute of respect to the Royal Irish. (Cheers.) He would conclude by proposing the health of the ladies.

The toast having been enthusiastically acknowledged, Mr. Routledge responded on behalf of the ladies, and spoke eloquently of the effect of their blooming faces on the present occasion.

Capt. WRAY, in a few remarks, gave the toast of the Superintendent and settlers of Hawke's Bay.

The CHAIRMAN, in reply, said that he did not despair yet of the future of the province. They had other resources than wool, and he would not be surprised if he yet lived to see a railroad between Auckland and Wellington, via Napier.

Mr. A'DEANE proposed the health of Mr. Tylee, who, whatever portion of Her Majesty's troops was in Napier, had always ably and assiduously conducted his own department.

Mr TYLEE briefly acknowledged the compliment that had been paid him.

The CHAIRMAN gave the toast of the Press, referring to its inestimable value as a public institution, and to its influence for good observable in the brief history of Hawke's Bay.

Mr. WOOD, of the Herald, briefly responded. He concluded by proposing a toast—the health of a gentleman who was prevented by a well-known cause from being present to-night—a gentleman who, while in Napier, had performed innumerable acts of unostentatious kindness,—and who, he was sure, would be greatly missed after his departure. He alluded to Dr. Spencer. (Great cheering.)

Capt. WRAY, in responding, said that Dr. Spencer himself regretted much that severe illness prevented him from being present that evening. Had he been, he would no doubt have been gratified at the thoroughly cordial manner in which his health had been drunk.

Other toasts followed, intermingled with singing and piano accompaniment, and a very pleasant evening was spent.⁸

Apparently, at least at that time, Dr Spencer was planning to leave with the troops. His brief biographical sketch in the *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* has this, however,

He was an army surgeon, attached to the 18th Royal Irish Regiment, and came to New Zealand with the troops that took part in the second Maori war. Subsequently, on account of his eminent qualities as a surgeon and physician, he was induced by the people of Napier to resign his commission, and to practise his profession in their town.⁹

The 2nd battalion of the 18th Royal Irish, the last of the Imperial troops in New Zealand, would finally leave Auckland for England on 19 February 1870, with them Spencer's father-in-law Major Heatly, his wife and their family.¹⁰ They would reach Gravesend on 1 May.¹¹

NEW ZEALAND DISTINCTIONS

The following General Order, issued three days since, will surely gratify the Regiments concerned. They have fully merited the distinction.

DISTINCTIONS.—The Queen has been graciously pleased to approve of the words “New Zealand” being borne on the colours of the following Regiments, in commemoration of their services in that country during the years 1845-6-7, 1860-1-2-3-4-5-6:—12th Foot, 14th Foot, 18th Foot, 40th Foot, 43rd Foot, 50th Foot, 57th Foot, 58th Foot, 65th Foot, 68th Foot, 70th Foot, 96th Foot, and 99th Foot.

Scrolls with the above words for attachment to the colours can be obtained on application to the “Director of Clothing, Pimlico.”¹²

Although his resignation as Assistant Surgeon in the 18th Foot was not announced in England until 18 May (after the battalion reached home),¹³ Dr Spencer had resigned in New Zealand in January: he left Napier in the *Phoebe*,¹⁴ arriving in Auckland on 23 January 1870¹⁵ and returning to Napier on the 31st.¹⁶

A week later he made his intentions clear,

MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS' REGISTRATION ACT. 1869.

IN conformity with Section 14 of the Medical Practitioners' Act, 1869. I, WILLIAM ISAAC SPENCER, hereby give notice of my intention to have my name registered as a duly qualified Medical Practitioner under the above Act.
Feb. 8, 1870.¹⁷

His would be among the first names on the new register of medical practitioners in New Zealand.

1 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 March 1865, quoting Mark Antony in Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

2 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 March 1868.

3 *Hawke's Bay Gazette* 11 February 1869.

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- 4 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 June 1868.
 5 *Hawke's Bay Weekly Times* 10 August 1868.
 66 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 August 1868.
 7 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 25 May 1869.
 8 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 July 1869.
 9 *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand (Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts)*.
 Cyclopaedia Co., Christchurch, 1908.
 10 Major Heatly was a shareholder in the curiously named Pai Marire Gold-Mining Company
 while he was in Auckland (*Daily Southern Cross* 29 July 1869). The *New Zealand Herald* of 14
 February 1870 gave notice of "Sale of Furniture, &c., by Messrs. S. Cochrane & Son, at the
 residences of Major Bishop and Major Heatly, and Captain La Mottee, Grafton Road, at 11
 a.m."
 11 *Morning Post* 2 May 1870.
 12 *Naval & Military Gazette and Weekly Chronicle of the United Service* 8 June 1870.
 13 *Army and Navy Gazette* 21 May 1870.
 14 *Hawke's Bay Times* 24 January 1870.
 15 *Daily Southern Cross* 24 January 1870.
 16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 February 1870.
 17 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 February 1870.
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CHAPTER 5: SOLDIER AND CITIZEN OF NAPIER

1870s

In May 1870 Thomas Hitchings, Provincial Surgeon, wrote to His Honor the Superintendent, Hawke's Bay and the *Herald* published his report,

REPORT on PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL.

Sir, — I have the honour to report to you that, during the last financial year, there have been fifty-nine admissions into the Provincial Hospital; seventeen of these have been members of the Armed Constabulary, and the others have, for the most part, consisted of the ordinary labouring population of the province. Of the diseases, little need be said here, possessing no public interest, and comprising the usual class to which the labouring population is prone, namely, fevers, rheumatism, fractured limbs, &c. I am happy in adding that only two deaths have occurred; one, James Mackie, a hopeless and long-standing case

of diseased liver, with dropsy; the other, Jane McLeod, who was an inmate for only three days, being brought in in a moribund state. The other cases have offered in themselves and their results the satisfactory testimony of the humanity and usefulness of the institution. I may be permitted here to express my entire approval of the appointment by the late Superintendent of a Board of Management. It has seemed to me to embody every desirability in the well working of the institution, both financially and otherwise; and the Board has aided me most cordially in curtailing expenditure, short of not doing an injustice to those under our care. The Board has sanctioned the expenditure of a small surplus, voted in the last session, by supplying the Hospital with a complete set of surgical instruments, for the use of which it has heretofore been the custom of borrowing from the Imperial forces stationed at Napier; a source which is now denied us. Moreover, every province is furnished with such, to which private practitioners can have recourse in cases of importance or emergency. I have to regret that in consequence of a severe accident, I have, for two months, been unable to attend personally to the duties of the Provincial Hospital. I feel sure that my absence was more than supplied by my friend, Dr. Spencer, who most willingly gave his time and skill, for which kindness both I and the province generally are his debtors. I have the honor to be Sir, Your most obedient servant, THOMAS HITCHINGS,¹ Provincial Surgeon.

In August the *Herald* carried this story,

Sudden Death.—Mrs. Rollins, wife of the Overseer of Roads, residing on the White road, expired suddenly on the night of Tuesday, or morning of Wednesday, under the following circumstances. She had been ailing for a long time—being, we believe, in the last stage of consumption. Her husband was in the country at the time, and a neighbour, Mrs. Doherty, was attending to her wants, but no immediate danger was anticipated. Mrs. Doherty saw her at ½-past 9 on Tuesday night, when she was no worse than usual; but on Wednesday at 6 a.m., when Mrs. Doherty went in with some warm milk, she found the patient dead in bed.²

For some reason Spencer read it as a professional slight and wrote to the editor,

SIR. A paragraph appeared in the H. B. HERALD of the 19th instant, headed "Sudden Death," and stating that Mrs. Rollins, expired suddenly, under circumstances which, as detailed there, would lead to the supposition that her death was unexpected, and that she had not received that care and attention which a case such as hers demands. I beg your permission to correct the statement, and to say that Mrs. Rollins' death was not sudden, as she had been suffering from consumption for a period of, I believe, some years; it was not unexpected inasmuch as her friends well knew it might happen at any time; neither was the deceased without attendance as the paragraph in question would lead one to infer. She has been under my medical care, ever since her arrival, in Napier, some six months ago, and has been visited almost daily; by the Rev. Mr. Townsend and other gentlemen, as well as several ladies, from whom she received all the assistance that Christian sympathy and benevolence could afford, and to all of whom, as well as to her husband, her state of danger was known. The cause of her being alone at the time of her decease was simply this. During her husband's absence she found it necessary to dismiss her servant, and until another could be procured the neighbors undertook to wait upon her as far as they were able. On the night in question Mrs Doherty proposed remaining in the house, and only left at the urgent request, of the deceased. On returning next morning she found her, as reported, dead. I apologise for troubling you with this letter. My reason for writing it is that the statement in the HERALD has led several people to raise the question of the propriety of an inquest being held, and also because it appears to me that the friends of deceased have just grounds of complaint, that family affliction should be made the cause of the appearance of a sensational paragraph in a public journal, a paragraph which I feel assured would never have appeared had due enquiry been made into the real facts of the case,—I am,
&c.,

W. I. SPENCER.

Editor William Carlile was nonplussed,

We cannot conceive that the paragraph in question would leave such an impression as that alluded to by Dr. Spencer; it was certainly not intended to convey anything of the kind.—Ed.³

February 1871 saw the arrival of Sister Mary Joseph Aubert at the Marist Mission at Meeanee near Taradale, where she spent the next twelve years. She had attended botany and chemistry classes as well as several of the courses prescribed for medical students at Lyons University. In Hawke's Bay she ministered to the sick—making medicines from native plants—rongoa Māori.

There was a large room in one of the houses at the Mission, and this she had fitted up for a dispensary where she used to keep and make up her medicines, for which she soon got plenty of calls from the Maoris, and also many Europeans.⁴

Later Dr Spencer would visit and collaborate with her. Years after the event she would write to Dr Thomas Harcourt Valentine, Director General of Health, about a case of leprosy in which Dr Spencer seems to have been a rather reluctant colleague,

... I became haunted by the thought of disclosing to you what happened in Hawke's Bay in 1876–1877. I was then residing at the Meanee Mission Station. One day a Maori brought me (from a long distance) his wife, lying in a cart, and he asked me if I could do anything for her as he had tried everything in vain. A look at the woman (of about 35 years of age) made me suspect leprosy, but, as I had never seen a leper before I thought it best to go to Napier and show the patient to Dr Spencer, an experienced ex-Surgeon of the Army. He told me that it was a bad case of leprosy. The fingers of both hands were badly deformed, the woman complained much of her feet, and her general appearance was most pitiful.

After long hesitation, Dr Spencer agreed that absolute secrecy should be kept about the nature of the case, and that I could take private charge of the poor woman if I had her completely isolated, under a tent, in a paddock of the Mission. Rev Father Reignier, Superior of the Meanee Mission, having given his consent with full knowledge of the case, the tent was erected, and the woman and her husband were installed in it. Then the treatment began. The only chemical ever used was: daily increasing doses of "arsenate of soda". Flax was used as a purgative when necessary. The patient was

sponged carefully all over four times a day with a warm, concentrated infusion or decoction of blue gum leaves. An infusion of the inner bark of kowhai was occasionally taken as a tonic.

The patient grew gradually worse, during the first, the second, and the third week. The Doctor kept away, though advising to go on with the treatment. At the end of the fourth week the symptoms were alarmingly aggravated. A slow haemorrhage of black, putrid blood, with a most offensive smell, oozed out by every possible way. I felt sure that I had killed the woman! I made a desperate appeal to the Doctor to come and see for himself. He came only the next day, when a horrible sweat of the same putrid blood was covering the body of the apparently dying woman. The doctor looked for a while, from a respectful distance, and then said: "I am not so sure that you have killed her, it may be a cure." "Did you ever see one like this?" "No, but it may be one all the same, we will see to-morrow. Go on with the sponging and the tonic." The sweat decreased a little on the morrow, but ceased only two days later. From then the woman slowly improved.

It took four and a half months to bring the hands and fingers right again. Altogether the treatment lasted about six months. Without letting me know it, the Doctor sent to London a full report of the case, which proved Interesting to the medical authorities, who sent their appreciation to the "Lancet", encouraging new trials, which they regretted could not be made in England for lack of the proper flora.

After being cured, the woman went away. I never saw her again, but ten years later I heard that she was still enjoying good health...⁵

The story is repeated by Mulcahy: "One cure of hers was written up by Dr Spencer in 'the Lancet'". There is no such communication by Spencer in the *Lancet* archive 1875-1900, however. Eucalyptus oil was being touted from South Africa as a new remedy in the *Lancet* in 1882.⁶

In August 1871 Dr Spencer was on the organising committee for the Scott Centenary, "An Evening Entertainment Consisting of Songs and Readings from the works of Sir Walter Scott" at the Oddfellows' Hall.⁷ He was secretary of the Athenæum (HS Tiffen was President).⁸

In 1874,

A trap belonging to Mr Harvey met with an accident yesterday. Mr Harvey was driving to town from the barracks, and when in

Milton-road one of the horses took fright and became restive, pitching the driver out upon his head. The horses then dashed down the Milton-road, and coming into collision with Dr. Spencer's carriage, caused it considerable damage. A capsizing of the vehicle followed, but fortunately none of the occupants were injured. Mr Harvey himself sustained an unpleasant cut in the head, when thrown out.⁹

The Spencers lived at first in Lincoln Rd on the hill near the Barracks, but in 1869 advertised it for lease¹⁰ and at some later time moved to Tennyson St, to the house originally occupied by Rev. Marshall.¹¹



Spencer Residence, Lincoln Road, Napier, gifted by Mrs F Hutchenson, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 5111.

The house in Tennyson St is shown in an 1860 or 1861 photograph and is labelled as "Rev. Marshall" in Edward Lyndon's 1861 pencil sketch. Presumably that was William Marshall of whom William Colenso wrote at length.¹² The *Daily Telegraph* office is currently on the site.

Spencer's surgery was connected to his home in Tennyson Street. He held hours first thing in the morning and would often be kept so busy

that, much to Anna's annoyance, he and she would not breakfast until after 10 (see Chapter 8).



Rev. Marshall's Tennyson St house is at right in this 1860 or 1861 scene by an unknown photographer.¹³



Home of Dr William Isaac Spencer and his wife Anna, Tennyson Street, Napier, Sep 1876, Charles D Kennedy (b.1858, d.1929), Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 115 b

The first British Medical Association branch meeting in New Zealand was held at Dr George St George's house in New Plymouth in 1855.¹⁴ Twenty years later Napier followed suit: Anna wrote in her 1876 diary,

11 July: Willie sent notes to all the Medicos apropos of forming a branch society for Hawke's Bay.

In 1877 Dr Spencer was Churchwarden at St John's church. Just why the Vicar of St John's, Rev. John Townsend and his Curate, Rev. Samuel Robinson were fighting is unclear because the newspapers of 1876 have not survived. William Colenso gives a clue in a letter to Andrew Luff in August and September,

Great fuss just now, again, between Revds. Townsend and Robinson (new)—both the extreme of each other in Doctrinal matters. A meeting is to come off this evening: shall I go?²¹⁵

Anna Spencer wrote in her diary,

Saturday 26 August 1876: This wretched business gets worse & worse. A notice appeared in this morning's paper to the effect that there would be no service in the church tomorrow—that is throwing down the gauntlet with a vengeance—it is scandalous. Willie went up to see Mr Tabuteau & the Robinsons before breakfast. Did not come back till 10 a.m. Brought news that Mr Townsend had gone by the steamer this morning to Wellington. I went to see Mrs Townsend after breakfast. She was out. I met her in the lane with the Tanners—she looks so cut up—her sad face quite upset me. I felt quite miserable. I then drove with Willie part of the way & went to see Mrs Tabs & Mrs R Stuart & then to the Robinsons. Mr R. showed me an official letter he had received in which he has been cited before the Primate for heresy. That is why Mr Townsend has gone south & Mr P C Anderson has gone with him. The plot thickens. This is persecution indeed!! Poor Mrs R is so distressed. I stayed with them some time. Mr R looks resolute cross & prepared to stand his ground. He has hosts of friends. I drove home & found Tabs & Burke at lunch with Willie talking over plans for action. I went out again to see Mrs Brandon & Mrs Wilkinson. We did not get dinner till 7.30 p.m. Willie was to

have gone with Tabs to see that old fiend D'Arcy, but it was too late.... I feel dreadfully done up—tired in mind & body & so I am sure is poor Willie. How will the wretched business all end.

Colenso again,

*Great disturbances here between the 2 Clergymen (Townsend & his new Curate Robinson) 7/10ths. side with R. so T. is nowhere! It is not yet ended.*¹⁶

By early 1877 matters had come to a head. Townsend had complained to the Bishop who had refused to give permission for Robinson to conduct his own services in a church hall. Dr Spencer, clearly a Robinson supporter, was incensed, joined a building committee to raise funds for a new church, and wrote at some length to the *Herald* on the issue.¹⁷ Robinson, on a hiding to nothing from the conservative Church of England establishment, decided discretely to leave for home.

The Rev. GM D'Arcy Irvine, headmaster at Napier Grammar School, stood in but did not entirely meet with Spencer's approval either, responding to something Spencer must have said,

SIR, If Dr Spencer thought he would gall me by his latest piece of malignancy, he mistook my character. Even his own friends regard his recent conduct towards me as gratuitous, and entirely uncalled for. In obedience to the Primate's wishes I undertook, in the interests of the Church of England, to do duty at St John's—"until further arrangements"—and, because I obeyed the orders of my Bishop, he grossly insults me in this evenings *Telegraph*, and endeavors to lower me in the estimate of the Primate. I cannot think there is one man on the vestry who would endorse the course he has taken. I have only to say, that if Dr Spencer does not take care, he will effectively prevent any educated and independent gentleman and clergyman from undertaking duty at St Johns. If great care not be taken, no respectable clergyman will ever be found to accept the Incumbency, should Mr Townsend think proper ultimately to resign. I may perhaps be wrong in my view, but I think I can discover a feeling now in many minds, that "for the peace of the

parish and the good of the Church," it would be very advisable that Dr Spencer's tenure of office should also be "as brief as possible." I am etc G M D'Arcy Irvine. M.A.¹⁸

Spencer wrote again to the editor, ostensibly on another matter, in June,

THE BENEVOLENT FUND.

SIR, — In the statement of receipts and disbursements of the Hawke's Bay Benevolent Fund, which appeared in your advertising columns this morning, I notice an item which, for the credit of the profession to which I belong, may, I hope, receive some explanation. The item is, "By doctor's account, £11 3s 6d," and, as it stands, certainly conveys the impression that the "doctors" of Napier have been receiving emolument from the benevolent fund. I for one do not for one instant believe that any medical man in this town could so far forget his position as a gentleman, or the dignity of his profession, as to permit a purely charitable fund to be applied to purposes of personal aggrandisement. I therefore trust either a denial or an explanation of the item in question will be afforded by the dispensers of the funds.—I am, &c, W. I. Spencer.¹⁹

The Fund was, of course, managed by Rev. Townsend and this was further criticism of him.

There was time for relaxation. The Spencers went to the Calico Ball, Dr Spencer in the full dress uniform of a Medical Officer of the 18th Royal Irish Regiment (splendid in his scarlet tunic) and Mrs Spencer (who had been born in Karachi) as...

... a Parsee Lady—Oriental costume or sorree of white cashmere, with scarlet figured border; the scarf like end of the dress, falling from the head over the shoulder; scarlet short sleeved bodice with gold trimming; ornaments, necklace, earrings; bracelets from wrist to elbow, and crescent shaped jewel on the forehead.²⁰

At the St John's church annual meeting in July 1878 Spencer read the Churchwarden's report, including, "the Church Wardens and Vestry beg to congratulate the Parishioners on the appointment of the Rev.

De Berdt Hovell, of Prebbleton, Canterbury, to the vacant incumbency".²¹

Spencer was Churchwarden, surgeon to the Hibernian Australian Catholic Benefit Society,²² chairman of the Working Men's Club Library committee²³ (in June he read from *The merchant of Venice* and gave an interesting description of the plot²⁴), Councillor of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society²⁵ and Vice-President of the Mutual Improvement Society²⁶ (in August he lectured on "Yeast"²⁷).

In October 1878 the *Herald* reported that at the Spit a child with smallpox was allowed to run about the streets, then that the child was being quarantined, then,

We learn that the case of small-pox at the Spit to which we referred on Thursday is undoubtedly that disorder, though not of a malignant type. Still there is enough danger of contagion to render it necessary that precautionary measures should be taken. It was reported that the lad afflicted with the disorder was allowed to go about the streets, but although that report was incorrect, it is quite certain that no steps have been taken to isolate the case, in order to prevent the disorder spreading. The responsibility in the matter rests with the Corporation, and the Mayor, as its head, should have taken action in the matter long ago. Indeed, we have no hesitation in saying that the neglect of the manifest duty devolving upon him in this respect may lead to very serious consequences. It may, at any rate, lead to this being declared an infected port, involving the quarantining of vessels proceeding from it to other ports.²⁸

Two days later,

We have good reason for stating with respect to the case of reported small-pox at the Spit, that the child is convalescent, and there is no reason whatever to fear infection.²⁹

Dr Caro waded in with heavy sarcasm, seeking to identify the doctor involved, lest some might suspect it was he,

SMALL-POX OR NO SMALL-POX.

SIR,— Considering the serious loss which may result to the Napier community from the stupid report spread about by an

inexperienced “Æsculapius” about a case of small-pox having arisen spontaneously amongst us, I cannot but admire the apathy and good nature shown by the inhabitants in allowing such an injurious report to go forth without public censure by showing their indignation in a marked manner. The medical attendant of the case, whilst he is to be commiserated for making a laughing-stock of himself by displaying a mistake in the nature of a simple skin eruption for *variola*, is, nevertheless, to be greatly blamed for bruiting abroad his egregious error, which could not but have tended to do incalculable damage to the port and city. As Drs. Hitchings and Spencer have both publicly reported against the case having been one of small-pox, I think it but fair to the other medical men practising here that the name of the medical expert who so successfully treated the alleged disease, and who, by his wonderful skill managed to isolate the case, should be given publicity to....³⁰

Spencer responded,

THE SMALL-POX QUESTION.

SIR,—It was with a feeling of regret that I read a letter in your issue of this morning signed J. S. Caro. I regret its publication because in the first place it evinces a state of feeling that should not exist amongst the members of a profession whose aim and object is one of the highest that man can aspire to, namely, the relief of the bodily ills and sufferings of our fellow creatures. And in the second place because the names of Dr Hitchings and myself are introduced in such a way as to make it appear that we vaunted ourselves on having found occasion to draw a diagnosis of a case different from that drawn by a brother practitioner. So far from that I believe that when a man has fairly and honestly studied medicine, not merely theoretically, but also practically, for a quarter of a century, the result will be not a feeling of superiority to others, but a strong sense of his own fallibility. The diagnosis of certain cases of disease is one of the most difficult subjects the medical profession has to cope with, and occasional cases of irregular small-pox are amongst the most puzzling of even these difficulties. “Doctors,” even the most eminent and learned, do not always agree about individual cases of illness, but they can and ought to agree to differ, if

difference exists. But to rush into print and endeavor to draw public obloquy upon a brother practitioner, because he has come to a different conclusion from certain facts to that arrived at by others, is, to my mind, an opprobrium to the profession we practice in common, and I sincerely hope that the letter in question was penned without due consideration, and that it will be withdrawn, —I am, etc., W. I. Spencer.³¹

An anonymous correspondent considered, “It will be a day of thankfulness to be remembered in Napier — when Dr Hitchings and Dr Spencer reported that there was no small-pox at the Spit”,³² but Dr Caro was not finished,

SIR,—Having... been taken to task by no less a personage than Dr. Spencer for my want of professional etiquette, I am compelled to take up the pen once more.... Now, Sir, if the mistake made by the medical attendant on the case in question had been one of a private nature, and of no public concern whatsoever, I would have been the last person to cavil at an erroneous opinion unfortunately given by a confrere (as I carefully avoid all such short-sighted policy as may tend to raise one’s self at the expense of others, and strictly eschew special methods for gaining notoriety by newspaper puffing, &c.), but remember, Sir, that the case under consideration had been one of paramount interest. The medical attendant had not—as a wise man—consulted with his brother practitioners before pronouncing a decided opinion on the nature of the case, but had permitted his mistaken diagnosis to be paraded before the public through the daily press, and had thus become the means of raising throughout the district a regular small pox panic, which might have led to serious consequences. “It may,” according to the HERALD of the 19th instant “at any rate, lead to this being declared an infected port, involving the quarantining of vessels proceeding from it to other ports.” Grant that in some exceptional cases the diagnosis of small-pox may be difficult, then, I opine, that the medical attendant ought to have had so much the more reason for not coming to a hasty conclusion, but to have been modest and cautious in giving an opinion, and thus not to have allowed himself to become the unenviable author of a mischievous report going abroad. In

conclusion, I beg to assure Dr Spencer that I quite sympathise with his generous sentiments about the state of good feeling that should exist between members of a profession, whose object is the relief of suffering fellow-men, and, I trust that I shall in future find him always acting in the spirit of his own precept, and never unmindful of the duties owing to those treading the same path as himself.—I am, &c. J. S. Caro.³³

At the Napier Boys' Trust High School prizegiving in December 1878 the headmaster read the reports of the different examiners, including,

In Latin, Dr Spencer reported that the general examinations in Latin were very satisfactory, and showed not only a fair knowledge of the rules of construction, but also of the grammar and syntax.³⁴

Napier's population was increasing and the infrastructure was inadequate. In 1878 Dr Spencer wrote to the *Herald*,

SANITARY CONDITION OF NAPIER.

SIR,—It is some years since I attempted to draw public attention to the sanitary condition of the town in which we live. At that time our local government consisted mostly of gentlemen whose interests were situated in the country districts, and who apparently imagined that the smallest benefit conferred on Napier involved a corresponding depreciation of their respective sheep runs, consequently it is no matter of surprise if Napier was allowed to be almost decimated by typhoid without so much as a finger being raised to either prevent or mitigate the plague. During the last three years, however, the borough has been under the management of a Council composed of residents who may be fairly considered as being personally interested in its welfare, and it appears to me that the question may now be asked, Has the sanitary condition of Napier been improved during that period? I would ask the question more especially because last summer we suffered from a severe epidemic of fever and dysentery, and if the present hot and dry weather continues much longer we have every prospect of an equally severe infliction in the approaching summer.

Before I attempt to suggest an answer I will ask you to accompany me from my front gate to the railway station—that is,

through almost the most central part of the borough. Passing through the gate, the first thing we come across is a drain by the footpath. Now this drain conveys the runnings of Brewster-street and Shakespeare Hill through Hastings, Tennyson, and Dalton streets, and eventually deposits them in the swamp. But why should this drainage be paraded through the town? Almighty Providence placed the South Pacific Ocean at the foot of Shakespeare Hill for the ostensible purpose of receiving its emanations, and further saturated the water of that ocean with salts containing chlorine, iodine and bromine with the express design of at once disinfecting and rendering innocuous those emanations. Crossing Tennyson-street, opposite the HERALD office we find a stagnant pool which has been emitting foul odors for some months past. Leaving this pool we cross Emerson-street and enter Dalton-street. Here we again meet the Tennyson drain (joined by a similar one from Emerson-street), which turns at a right angle opposite the Presbyterian Chapel and proceeds towards the swamp. From the Star Hotel for a distance of about 100 yards, there was, when I saw it a few days ago, the most filthy drain imaginable, we may term it for distinction "The Municipal Ditch"—a long drain, scooped out, so that the water it contained could flow neither one way nor the other, for the simple reason that even at the antipodes water has not yet acquired the facility of running up hill. The consequence was, that there was a long reach of putrid, stagnant, green, slimy ooze, at once offensive to the eye, disgusting to the nose, and nauseous to the stomach. As we have seen, this ditch cannot empty itself, but if it could, would matters be any better? Apparently not, for it only ends in a corner of a stagnant swamp, where its deposits would simply meet the same fate they do at present, namely, be dried by the sun and then wafted by the wind in the form of impalpable dust, to be inhaled by passers-by, and in their bodies find the nidus of fever, dysentery, cholera, and diphtheria. If we approach the ditch we find the surface of it covered by myriads of brown flies, which rise in swarms and buzz angrily about our feet and knees. They are our best friend, their life-work consists in endeavoring to remove poisonous matters, which we have placed in the public thoroughfares, and their angry buzz is merely a loud spoken but

friendly warning to retreat from the proximity of danger. Pursuing our walk along Dickens-street we meet in Clive-square a large stagnant pool, which contains the evaporating results of the last years rain, and further on we again come upon the swamp, discharging through a culvert a certain amount of water, the most part of which is the underflow of the hydraulic rams which fill the high level reservoir. If we walk round the swamp and mark the influx and efflux we shall easily see that the stream of fresh water which flows through it has little influence on the general state of the swamp itself, and absolutely none on the outpourings of the municipal ditch. Before the railway was made the inner swamp was, to a certain extent, under the influence of the tides, and so far by the admission of the sea water disinfected itself; now, however, since it has ceased to be tidal, and has become the recipient of the drainage of a considerable portion of the town, it is converted into a stagnant cesspool, and it is far more deleterious than it was before.

I know I shall be met with the statement that the Corporation is preparing a general scheme of drainage; but I reply in the first place, that three years seems rather a long time to be still "preparing" in a matter so essential to life and health; in the second, that efficient drainage is of equal, if not far higher, importance than the obliteration of the swamp; and in the third, that we know from bitter experience what happened whilst the grass was growing. The proverb, as Hamlet says, is something musty; but not half so musty as many parts of Napier. In conclusion, sir, may I express the hope that my strictures will have the effect of awakening the Corporation and the public generally from their sanitary lethargy before more of us fall into that state of eternal lethargy which is so often the termination of typhoid, dysentery, and diphtheria.—I am, &c, W. I. SPENCER.

By January 1879 the *Herald* would state,

The most prominent as well as the most important subject claiming the attention of the people of Napier just now is certainly that of the drainage of the town.... It is not very long ago that we published a letter on this subject from the pen of Dr. Spencer, which quite satisfied us, as it must have done many others, that if Napier, with its ever-increasing population, is to

become fit to live in, we must have a system of drainage, and also provide means for the disposal of our sewage.³⁵

When the election for four members of the Hospital Committee took place the next day, Dr Spencer topped the poll in a field of thirteen.³⁶ He kept up his campaign,

THE DRAINAGE QUESTION.

SIR.—I was unable to be present at the meeting of the Municipal Council and burgesses on the 1st instant, when the drainage question was discussed. After, however, reading the account of the meeting as reported in both the local papers, it appears to me that several bearings of the whole question have never been fairly brought under notice. The question, as at present before the Council and the ratepayers appears to me to be something like this, and it is essentially a sanitary question:—Given a town (Napier) lying scarcely above the sea level, how to get rid of its refuse matters so as not to injuriously affect the health of its inhabitants? Now, refuse matters are of two kinds, solid and liquid, and the methods of disposing of them are twofold, viz., water-carriage and dry conservancy. Whenever practicable the former plan is by far the more effectual, but in a town like Napier, in which from its low level a system of underground sewers is impossible, the Municipal Council has adopted the only feasible plan for dealing with the former portion of the refuse, viz., the dry conservancy plan—and the night man and the dust cart do as much for us as is possible under the circumstances. The only question then that remains for solution is: What is to be done with the liquid portion of the sewage? and the answer is very simple. It is to be run into the sea. But the liquid sewage consists of two very different constituents—first the slops and fluid drainage of the houses, matters which it is of the highest importance, to dispose of at once, and, second the storm waters which accumulate suddenly in tropical rains, and disappear with equal rapidity if the storm, fall upon the town, but which if the storm be in the country districts are liable to flood the lower portion of the town, by the overflowing of the rivers. Of the latter, being purely a matter of engineering, I have nothing to say, but of the former, viz., the disposal of the fluid drainage, which is apparently the question at present before the

Council, I ask permission to make a few remarks. And here three facts come under consideration—1st, the amount and character of the slops; 2nd, the climate of Napier; and 3rd, the gradient of the drains. With respect to the last item, I may say at once that I think it is the least important of all.

To take the, 1st and 2nd factors together, as they are intimately connected, one may only take a morning walk to see that the stuff that oozes into the side drains from the houses is merely semi-fluid matter able to flow slowly, but quite incapable of a quick current. This statement may be verified at almost any time of the day in Brewster-street, Dalton-street, or near the summit of the Shakespeare-road. In dry weather the watery part evaporates with great rapidity, and the solid portion dries so that it can be disseminated as impalpable dust by the wind—the very condition which it is the object of all sanitation to avoid.

And now comes the all-important question—How can this dessication and consequent dissemination of pernicious material be prevented? And this, I apprehend, is the actual problem the Municipal Council has to solve. It appears to me that this can be accomplished only in one way—by conveying it to the sea whilst yet in a fluid condition, and no system of surface drainage, even with perpendicular gradients, will ever do this during the heat and drought of a Hawke's Bay summer. The only method therefore that remains is to wash it into the sea; and this can be done alone by flushing the drains. Let only a moiety of the water which is now running to waste into the lagoon from the hydraulic rams be utilised for sanitary purposes, and I imagine it would be no difficult task, and the question of high and medium levels might be allowed to lie in abeyance for generations to come, it not for ever—presuming always that there is sufficient fall for flushing. I do not mean to say for one moment that a certain amount of adjusting of levels and gradients is unnecessary; but that in a climate such as we enjoy here no amount of surface drainage, apart from periodical and systematical flushing will ever effectually carry away those deleterious matters which always and unavoidably accumulate wherever large numbers of human beings are closely congregated.

In conclusion, Sir, may I be permitted to express a hope that the stated intention of the Mayor and Councillors to resign *en masse* if the high level system of sewerage is not adopted, was only a hasty statement, and that on more deliberate consideration it will be rescinded as, although many of the burgesses may differ from the Council in matters of detail, yet I am sure they will agree with me in the belief that a resignation of the Council as at present constituted would be a public calamity.

W. I. SPENCER.³⁷

Civil engineer and surveyor Charles Herman Weber agreed,

Sir,—The thanks of the public are due to Dr Spencer for the lucid manner in which he has treated the drainage question in his letter in this morning's HERALD. Dr Spencer proves from the nuisance prevailing during warm weather in Brewster-street, and other streets with steep gradients, that the fall of the drains, to obtain which the Council has adopted the high level, is of less importance than their frequent flushing, and he infers that Mr Bell's scheme has sufficient fall, provided that the drains are flushed with the waste water from the hydraulic rams. I am glad to find that Dr Spencer's views coincide with those set forth by Mr Bell in his report to the Council, where he not only recommends the flushing of the drains from the present waterworks, but moreover advises the sinking of two, or three additional wells for that purpose. In his estimate of cost he provides for two wells at £135 each. As two wells of 3in. bore will give fully 250 gallons per minute, there should be ample water to keep the drains sweet. If more water should be required, additional wells can be sunk any time.

I fully concur with Dr Spencer's concluding remarks concerning the expressed intention of the Council to resign *en masse* in the event of the ratepayers rejecting the scheme proposed by them, and I may add that every person with whom I have conversed on this subject coincides in this view, and that there is no ground for resignation.

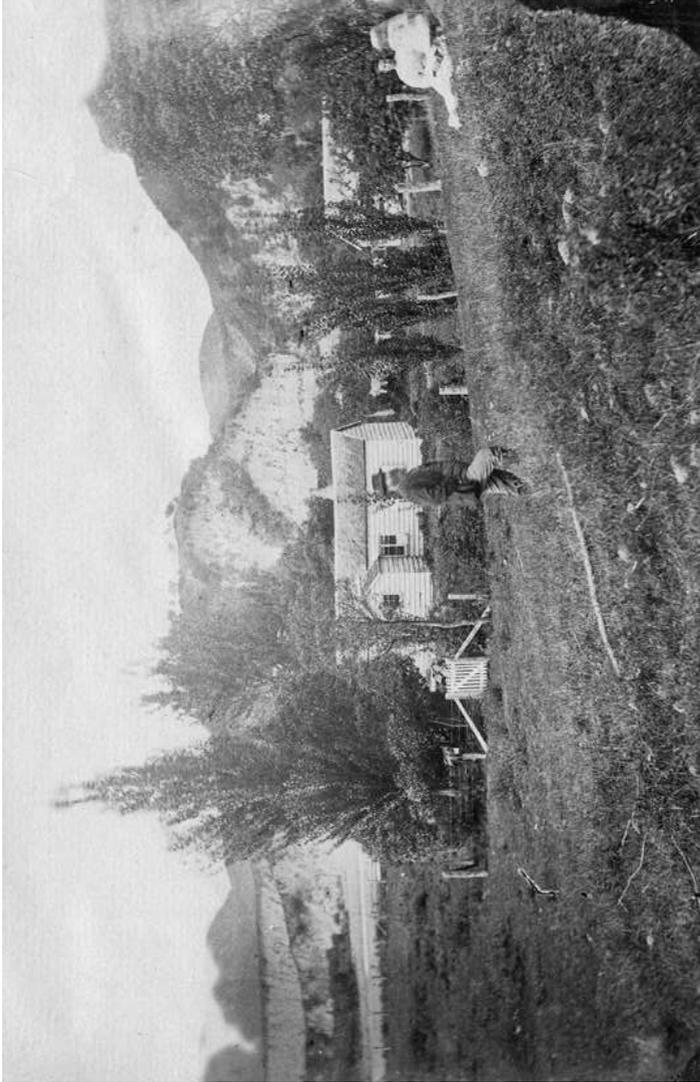
—I am, &c, CHARLES WEBER.³⁸

On the 5 March 1878, the Napier Engineers were formed and Dr Spencer was gazetted as their Honorary Surgeon.³⁹

In the collection of photographs in the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust collection are a number clearly taken much later than those from the New Zealand Wars. Perhaps they were taken on a journey from Napier to Taupo in the 1870s or later.



Rangataiki Bridge, Aug 1863-Dec 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 - 39



Mohaka - Pene lives at Raupunga, Aug 1863-Dec 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 16.

Did "Pene" (Spencer?) have a cottage at Raupunga on the Mohaka river?



Tarawera, Taupo Road, c 1870, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 26



North Island Scene with bridge, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 25.
Perhaps on the Napier-Taupo road?



Bridge, North Island, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 30.
Atiamuri: Te Niho-o-te-Kiore ("Rat's Tooth")—the bridge was completed in 1873.



Atiamuri on the Waikato River, Aug 1863-Dec 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 37



Atiamuri, Waikato, Aug 1863-Dec 1864, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 36. Probably these Atiamuri photographs were all taken after 1873.

1880s

In the summer of 1880 Spencer sailed back and forth between Napier and Pourerere beach by the coastal steamer s.s. *Fairy*.

In January 1880, unexpectedly, he was not re-elected to the Hospital Committee,

The result of the election of four members of the Hospital Committee is as follows:—Mr M. R. Miller, 19; Mr Littlejohn, 18; Mr Winter, 18; Mr Cotterill, 15; Mr Banner, 4; Dr. Spencer, 2. While we have nothing to say against any of the gentlemen named, we cannot but regret that Dr. Spencer is not elected. He has always been one of the most useful and energetic members of the committee, and as a medical man his presence there was in many respects of special value. We do not regard the result of the election as a proof that he is not popular—his rejection is, we take it, merely the result of apathy on the part of the subscribers. He was generally regarded as sure of re-election, and many did not trouble to register their votes at all, while others considered that he would be quite safe without their votes, and so gave them to others. There is yet an opportunity by which Dr. Spencer's presence on the committee may be assured, and that is his election by the County Council. It is unusual for a public body to go outside its own members in such a case, but we know of no law which prevents them electing anyone they please, and in the present instance there would be every justification for a departure from the customary rule.⁴⁰

Members of the County Council were divided on the propriety of this but after some argument did nominate Dr Spencer.⁴¹ He attended on 30 January and was elected to the Hospital's Executive, Charitable Aid and Visiting committees.⁴² He resigned in 1881 and was replaced by Dr de Lisle.

Spencer had written the hospital's rules, one of which forbade the admission of women in childbirth. In late February 1881 a girl in labour was brought to the hospital and turned away for that reason.⁴³ Spencer wrote at some length defending the hospital's policy⁴⁴—but he was no longer a member of the Hospital Committee and Dr de Lisle argued

strongly against Spencer's claims, adding that Spencer had refused to admit an urgent case de Lisle had sent to him after hours. Spencer in turn accused de Lisle of "unmitigated falsehood".⁴⁵

Spencer became a member of the Licensing Committee and retained his positions on the Philosophical Institute, St John's Vestry and the chair of the Athenæum. He stood for the Hospital Committee again in 1882 and received the highest number of votes.⁴⁶

In March the Committee received the offer of resignation of its resident surgeon, Dr Menzies, who demanded to be allowed to live near the hospital.⁴⁷ Spencer recommended Menzies's resignation be accepted. A few days later he wrote to the paper after inspecting waste disposal at the hospital,

HOSPITAL DRAINAGE SCHEME.

SIR,— From your report of the highly interesting debate in the Borough Council last night I gather that some of the councillors are under the impression that the hospital committee propose as part of their drainage scheme to honeycomb the Onepoto valley with cesspits. Fearful that some such cobweb has been woven in the municipal brain I ask your permission to make at least an attempt to sweep it away.

When in temporary charge of the hospital, my attention was attracted to the fact that patients who occupied certain beds in the two large wards exhibited, after a few days, symptoms which indicated the inhalation of sewage gas. I therefore made an inspection of the whole system of drainage and conservancy, and found—well, perhaps I had better not say what I found—at any rate, it was evident to both eyes and nose that the kitchen and ward refuse had for 20 months been carried a distance of about 30 feet and then emptied into the sloping ground overlooking what is known as Main-street! All the drains, with one exception, had discharged their contents in the same place, and thus added their quota to the formation of a veritable valley of Hinnom. To talk of sanitary science in front of such a mass of putridity as this, is to talk undiluted rubbish. Cleanliness follows godliness, and scientific sanitation forms the rear guard. The hospital committee cannot sit still and see their patients poisoned to death, even to accommodate the science of

municipal councillors. The only course in their power is to cleanse the valley and to make arrangements for the future to have the drainage carried by suitable pipes to the utmost boundary of their territory. Beyond this they are powerless. Having done so much, it remains for the Council to decide whether the drainage shall be carried on to the lagoon or not. If they decide in the affirmative—well. If in the negative, the hospital authorities must do the best they can, and the best that presents itself is to bury the stuff as deep under the ground as possible, and endeavor, by suitable ventilation and trapping, to prevent the dissemination of mephitic vapor in the atmosphere which the patients are necessitated to respire.

—I am, &c, W. I. SPENCER.

Dr Menzies took this as a personal affront, suggesting Spencer had “swept a good deal of dust into the eyes of the public generally, and lost himself in a maze of supposititious circumstances” and that he was talking “unpulverised rubbish”.⁴⁸

The good citizens were unmoved, however, and,

Mr Lyndon having declined to become a candidate for the office of Mayor, a deputation, consisting of Messrs J. W. Neal, H. H. Wall, N. Williams, and P. Dinwiddie, waited on Saturday on Dr Spencer and requested him to allow himself to be nominated. He consented to consider the matter and give a reply either to-day or to-morrow.⁴⁹

Spencer was unopposed and was declared Mayor on 21 June 1882 and at the Napier Municipal Council meeting,

The Mayor returned thanks for his election, during which he reviewed the improvements that had taken place since the establishment of the borough, and prognosticated further and more extensive improvements in the future, including the construction of a harbor and the successful application of the electric light to purposes of street and domestic illumination, and of the electric force as the motive power for every description of machine, the generation of which force by the tide motion, he believed to be not only not chimerical, but feasible.⁵⁰



Spencer at about the time he was elected Mayor.

In 1880 Anna had delivered her fifth child and in 1882 they sold their old house in Tennyson St for removal (“the old residence brought £50”⁵¹), though they kept the land and allowed it to be used for various charitable purposes. They may have had little choice: a new bye-law, designed to limit fires, required new building in non-flammable materials,

The section of land now vacant by the removal of the late residence of Dr. Spencer is likely to remain unoccupied in the face of regulations that compel the erection of stone, brick, or concrete buildings. The value of building sites has been materially depreciated by this hard and fast law, which does good to no one except to afford additional protection to insurance companies.⁵²

We are requested to deny a statement which has been circulated to the effect that the project for building a new theatre on Dr Spencer's ground in Tennyson-street has been abandoned. Large promises of support have been received, and a meeting of the promoters has been called for to-morrow evening.⁵³

The first hit of the cricket season was made yesterday afternoon. Some young men were practising with bat and ball on Dr. Spencer's "commonage," when one of them, Mr Pirani, in splendid style, sent the ball through the office window of the Daily Telegraph. The force may be guessed at when we say that the ball made a clean round hole through the glass, just where the manager's head would have been had he been at his desk. Mr Pirani at once ran over to see if he had killed anybody, and then sent for the glazier. Later on, Mr Davis, builder, was passing along, and received a ball on his mouth, knocking a tooth out.⁵⁴

Dr Spencer has granted permission to the Clive Square Improvement Committee to hold the English Fair on his ground in Tennyson street.⁵⁵

The Princess of Wales Theatre Company that was to be floated for the purpose of erecting a new theatre on Dr. Spencer's land, opposite the Daily Telegraph office, has not come to anything, and Mr. R. Lamb is now engaged in drawing plans for a row of shops on the proposed site of the theatre.⁵⁶

We are informed that a "Public Produce Market Company" will shortly be floated in Napier, having for its object the providing of ample means for country settlers getting rid of their produce in the most direct way. It is proposed to erect a large market hall upon the section belonging to Dr Spencer, near the Herald office, and to hold sales of produce twice weekly for cash. The idea of the promoters is to bring the producers of butter, eggs, bacon, cheese, etc, into easy and quick communication with storekeepers and householders without the intervention of agents. It is proposed to work the market in conjunction with the dairy farms now in existence in Hawke's Bay, and with the cheese and butter factories now on the eve of

commencing operations. Such a project deserves the most hearty support, and country settlers are likely to prove their appreciation of the scheme in a practical manner. Mr B. Lamb it engaged upon plans for the proposed market, the design for which will include a row of shops fronting Tennyson-street, with suites of offices above.⁵⁷

The Spencers rebuilt,

The building trade has been very brisk for some time past, and carpenters and bricklayers have been in demand. Mr M'Kay has no fewer than five extensive contracts in hand. He is building a large new house fronting the beach, for Dr Spencer....⁵⁸

This was “Tiromoana”. It was between Byron St and the Esplanade, north of the Hawke’s Bay Club building—twin peaked with a large verandah overlooking the beach.



The Hawke’s Bay Club with its 1906 extension, Tiromoana to the right of it.

Hannah Ormond wrote in her diary,

Wednesday 16 August 1882: Mrs Carlyon Ada & I went walking & called on Mrs Spencer saw all over her new house & admire it very much so home like fine large windows handsome staircase. Nice servant's part—I wonder I get any decent women in such accommodation as I can give.⁵⁹

22 August: Fanny & I went to look over all Mrs Spencer's house—we think too heavy wood work.

The Spencers sold it to Dr Preston five years later, in 1887, then to John Hindmarsh in 1890.⁶⁰ It was later the site of Dr Moore's Hospital, destroyed in the 1931 earthquake.

At a fancy dress ball for the benefit of the fund for providing a Childrens' Ward at the Hospital on 6 October 1882, Anna Spencer went dressed as a Sœur de Charité and he (again) as a Military Surgeon.⁶¹

When it came to his re-election to the Mayoralty, the *Telegraph* wrote,

A report having been circulated that Dr. Spencer would not stand for re-election in the event of a contest for the Mayoralty next month some gentlemen called upon His Worship yesterday afternoon for the purpose of ascertaining from him the truth or otherwise of the rumor. We are glad to learn that the result of the interview was that Dr. Spencer promised to stand for re-election "against all comers." His Worship has had but a short experience in the duties of a position which he accepted at a time when there was a difficulty in finding a candidate for the office. It is but fair to state that he has filled the office as satisfactorily as any one could whose profession occupies so much of his time. It cannot be expected that a medical practitioner has very much leisure to devote to public business, and it is very much to the credit of His Worship that the time he would otherwise have for relaxation he gives to the duties of a post that was more thrust upon than sought by him. There is another point of some importance in connection with the retention of the office by Dr. Spencer, and that is the maintenance of his seat at the Harbor Board. His Worship has taken a decided stand in the matter of a harbor for Napier, and,

though we do not think that any one holding the position of Mayor could be otherwise than loyal to the interests of the borough, we do not think those interests could at present be left in much better hands than those of Dr. Spencer.⁶²

Not to be outdone by “our evening contemporary”, the *Herald* joined the song of praise,

THE MAYORALTY.

THE fact that no one ever seemed to think of looking about for another Mayor, and that as the result Dr Spencer has been elected unopposed, is the best proof of the general satisfaction he has given while holding that office. He has certainly been most assiduous in his attention to the duties imposed upon him, and on every occasion has been ready to do all that a Mayor could do to forward the interests of all sections of the community. But, more than all others, his services on the Harbor Board entitled him to the compliment of an unopposed re-election. But for the initiative taken by him we might still be urging the necessity for a first step being taken towards harbor improvement. When Mr Vautier retired it was feared that there would be great difficulty in obtaining a suitable successor; but Dr Spencer’s mayoralty—it is no disparagement to Mr Vautier to say it—will bear favorable comparison with any other year, taking the results achieved as the test of success. We have not always agreed with the Mayor, and perhaps we shall disagree with him again, but we are heartily glad that he has consented to retain for another year the office he has shown himself so well fitted to fill.⁶³

A monster old English fair and fancy bazaar is on the *tapis* in aid of the hospital building fund. It is proposed to hold the affair in Dr. Spencer’s vacant section, to which he has kindly given his consent. The ground is to be roofed over with canvas, and nothing left undone to ensure the complete success of the undertaking.⁶⁴

In early 1883 the question of the Government subsidy for the Hawke’s Bay Hospital was discussed by members of the Hospital Committee vigorously, publicly and with personal invective (was it not ever thus?), the two major figures involved being the Mayor, Dr Spencer, and the

local Member of the House of Representatives, Frederick S Dutton. Spencer wrote to the *Herald*,

THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—Mr Sutton's letter in yesterday evening's issue of your contemporary reminds me of the schoolboy who, having got into trouble, endeavors to escape the result by throwing the onus on some other boy's shoulders: "Please, sir, it was not me; it was that chap."

Mr Sutton talks about confusion in hospital business. Well, who brought the confusion but Mr Sutton himself, by his mischievous and uncalled for interference. Had he not meddled, the hospital would have gone on working smoothly and steadily, as it had done for two years and a half previously, under local management, and supported in part by local subscriptions. This, however, did not suit him; it was necessary to show the natives of Napier that he was something more than a mere *nominis umbra*. It was also necessary to have a popular hustings cry ready for the next election, and, what so popular as a hospital cry? The result of his meddlesomeness will be that our hospital will be removed from local sympathy and support, and become, instead of an institution in which all classes of the community took an interest and were proud to support, a General Government department supported by and managed through Wellington. This is centralism of a truth. I wonder how Mr Sutton's constituents will thank him for this little political game. His reasons for this suddenly assumed interest in hospital matters are too transparent, but he might at least have qualified himself to speak by entering his name on the list of subscribers, its absence from that list having rendered his vote for members to the committee nugatory.

As for Mr Sutton's assertions that I was not duly appointed chairman of the hospital committee, and that I did not work with the committee, they are too barefaced to require any answer from me, and I can quite afford to treat them with contemptuous silence.—I am, &c, W.I. SPENCER.

He was voted off the committee at the election and replaced as Chair by his rival Mr Sutton. In May 1883 Governor Jervois visited Napier

His Worship the Mayor, accompanied by his two little daughters each bearing a bouquet, and the members of the Borough Council awaited the arrival of the tender from the Hinemoa.... (Speeches were made and) Lady and Miss Jervois then landed and were presented with bouquets by the two Misses Spencers. His Worship the Mayor then called for three cheers for the Governor which were heartily given, and three cheers more for Lady and Miss Jervois. A carriage drawn by four grey horses then drew up and the Gubernatorial party were rapidly driven into town, a long procession of carriages following.... The Gubernatorial party had luncheon at Dr. Spencer's....⁶⁵

On 8 June Hannah Ormond called on Anna Spencer and wrote in her diary, "*She had 14 at the Governor's lunch*".

Grumblings continued at the Hospital Committee. In the Resident Magistrate's Court on 22 June,

Patrick Lynch was charged with vagrancy, but the charge was withdrawn by the police, Lynch being in a most pitiable condition, his body being a mass of burns owing to his late accident. Dr Spencer certified that the hospital was the proper place for the prisoner, who was accordingly sent there.⁶⁶

At the Hospital Management Committee's meeting in July,

Mr Margoliouth commented strongly on the admission of the man Lynch to the hospital, and remarked that he was not a fit person to be received there.—Mr Miller said he gave Lynch an order for admission, as he was shockingly burnt on the breast. On hearing how objectionable he was, he (Mr Miller) suggested that Lynch should be removed to a room in the old barracks, and that was done, but Lynch was afterwards taken back to the hospital on the order of Dr Spencer.⁶⁷

Spencer replied in a letter to the *Herald*,

PADDY LYNCH AND THE HOSPITAL.

SIR,—I was unable to be present at the meeting of the Hospital Committee on Friday last, but I see by the report in your paper that that body did me the honor to pass a vote of censure, or

something very like it, upon me for having given Paddy Lynch an order of admission after being burned almost to death. Personally the censure is of about the same value as the twitter of one of Matthew's sparrows, of which we read that two were sold for one farthing. On the other hand, it opens a question of vast importance to the public in general; and that question is, For what purpose did the public of Hawke's Bay build the hospital, and for what does the Government now support it? And what is the class of patients who are entitled to the advantages it offers? Is it intended for the accommodation of a select few who either have friends at court, or guineas in their pockets, or is it intended to be a charitable institution for the benefit of those who cannot afford to pay doctors or purchase medicines?—that is, the poor and the indigent, the class that we are told we have always with us. Had poor Lynch had a few half guineas about him, which he was prepared to dispose of in the shape of fees, we should have heard nothing about his admission, but being friendless, half-witted, and a pauper he is stigmatised as a "most unfit case."

I make no attempt to answer the questions proposed, but I think they demand the consideration of the public and of the Government. In the meantime, whilst Lynch's admission is absorbing so large an amount of attention, we hear the old tale of neglected drains, and the death ratio assumes the appalling proportion of 130 to 1000 admissions.

—I am, &c, W. I. SPENCER.⁶⁸

The hospital's resident surgeon Dr Menzies complained that Spencer's letter "reflected gravely upon his superintendency of the hospital" and a special meeting of the Committee considered the issues (Dr Spencer was unable to attend at short notice). Menzies stated,

With respect to the man Lynch, he received the greatest possible care and attention while in the hospital, notwithstanding that he conducted himself in a most outrageous fashion, and was filthy and indecent in his habits. On the day before he was to be discharged as cured he stole down town and was the next morning committed to gaol for vagrancy and theft.⁶⁹

The Hospital Management Committee decided

That... with reference to insinuations contained in Dr. Spencer's letter to the *Herald* of the 11th July, this committee is satisfied that such insinuations are groundless, and the letter mischievous and entirely unwarranted; and the committee is further of opinion that it would have been better had Dr. Spencer attended this meeting, he having received due notice.⁷⁰

Spencer addressed the issues at length in a letter to the *Herald* published on 23 July. At the Committee meeting in September,

When the accounts came to be passed Mr Knowles.... wanted to know what "medical comforts" were? The Secretary replied that the term covered 12 dozen pint bottles of ale, 8 of porter, and three dozen of wine. There were thirty patients on the average in the hospital last month. Dr Spencer, after making a calculation, said that was not an excessive consumption.⁷¹

The Hospital Committee was frankly dysfunctional.

A SQUABBLE.

Mr Sheehan moved, seconded by Mr Cohen, that applications in answer to the advertisement requiring the services of a medical man must be returnable in six weeks from date.

[At this point Mr Harker handed a letter to Mr Knowles (chairman), stating that it related to hospital business, and had been sent to Dr Matthews by a medical man, with a request that it might be laid before the committee.]

Mr Knowles: This is not addressed to the chairman nor to the committee, and we have no business with it.

Mr Harker: I can explain.

Mr Knowles: We do not want you to explain.

Mr Harker: Although I am secretary I suppose I can speak, being a life governor, and I claim my right to speak.

Mr Knowles: You must either leave your books as secretary, and speak as a life governor, or else let anything you have to communicate come through me.

[Mr Harker here handed the letter in to Mr Knowles, with a request that he would read it.

Mr Knowles: This is a letter addressed to Dr Matthews, and I don't see why we should read it.

Mr Harker: Well, if you will suppress the letter I can't help it. I have given it to you.

Mr Knowles: Sit down, sir; you will be doing much better if you will attend to your business as secretary.

Mr Tiffen: Our worthy secretary is usually right, but this time he appears to be wrong. I think he should have given the letter to the chairman.

Mr Harker: I have given it to him, but he refuses to read it.

Mr Knowles: Will you sit down? Sit down or leave the room.

Mr Harker: No, sir; I will do neither one thing nor the other.

[Mr Harker here left the table, and handed the letter round to members to read.]

Mr Knowles, to Mr Harker: I call upon you to resume your seat as secretary, or else leave the room.

[Mr Harker here sat down, and the chairman put the motion and declared it carried.

[At this stage, Mr Knowles, addressing Mr Harker, sharply ejaculated: Will you please leave off speaking to me, Mr Harker?]

Mr Harker, appealingly, to the committee: Did I speak ?

Mr Knowles: You are waving your hand in an unpleasant manner.

Mr Tiffen: I think I had better cut in between you two, as you seem like the little children spoken of by Dr Watts, and are allowing your angry passions to rise. I think I must cut in. We are all largely indebted to our present secretary, although he is sometimes very peppery, but he has given notice of his intention to resign. I therefore move that Mr H. A. Banner be appointed secretary. Mr Banner has expressed his willingness to undertake the work, and will make a good secretary. At the same time, I wish to express personally my thanks to Mr Harker for his many services.

Mr Miller, in seconding the motion, said Mr Banner had acted with the members of the committee before, and would make a good secretary. No one connected with the hospital could dispute Mr Harker's great services to the institution, and

he (Mr Miller) agreed with what Mr Tiffen had said in reference to the thanks of the — —

Mr Harker: Don't add insult to injury!

Mr Miller, in a reproachful tone of voice: Mr Harker, I have no wish to insult you; far from it. I look upon your services — —

Mr Harker, rising: I can explain this secretaryship business.

Mr Knowles: Sit down.

Mr Harker: Mayn't I speak?

Mr Koowles: No, you can't; there is a motion before the meeting, and it is out of place for you to address the committee in this way.

Mr Harker: I wish to explain that I have been honorary secretary, and hereby again offer my services.

Mr Knowles: Mr Harker, there is a motion before the meeting, and I wish to put it.

[The motion was here put, and carried on the voices, there being no dissentient.]

Mr Harker, to the chairman: Will you give me the voting, sir?

Mr Knowles: It's unanimous.

Mr Harker: But I want the names for the books.

Mr Knowles: You don't want any names at all. No one is against the motion, and it is carried unanimously.

Mr Sheehan here pointed out that the secretary had no right to ask for the names when there was no division. It was a great pity, and a great mistake into the bargain, that the altercation should have arisen. He could not help feeling that Mr Harker was in the position of a man who had married two wives. (Laughter.) He was secretary, but being a life governor, was also a member of the committee, and entitled to vote, and between the two positions he was at a loss. Mr Harker should get a divorce—(laughter)—before he came to the next meeting, and everybody would be glad to see him on the committee, taking part in the deliberations, but he could not serve two masters.

The matter then dropped.⁷²

It was, of course, not dropped but continued, ridiculously, into the next meeting,⁷³ and the next,⁷⁴ at which Knowles resigned and "Mr Tiffen would like to know whether Dr Spencer would accept the chair, as he

had the good-will of every member of the committee". In the end Tiffen himself took the chair.

Dr Spencer was well regarded elsewhere in the town,

His Worship the Mayor was the only nomination to-day for the Mayoralty. Dr. Spencer's re-election to the office without opposition marks the approval of the burgesses of his conduct of municipal affairs, and is an assurance to him that, as the representative of the borough on the Harbor Board, he has the confidence of the people of Napier.⁷⁵

The Municipal Council, at its meeting last night, acknowledged the Mayor's services during the past eighteen months by voting him an honorarium of £100. During his tenure of office Dr. Spencer has been most liberal in his donations to every cause in whose behalf an appeal has been made, and the honorarium has been more than fully earned.⁷⁶

Not one to avoid controversy Spencer wrote to the *Herald* in early February 1884,

SCIENCE AND RELIGION.

SIR,—There are, I believe, many people in Napier who think, as I do, that the teachings of science are not of necessity opposed to the teachings of religion—in other words, that a man may be assured of the facts of geology, biology, and even of evolution, without consenting, therefore, to be classified in the genus infidel, if such a genus there be.

To those who take an interest in this question I recommend the perusal of an address delivered in October last before the Church Congress in London by Professor Flower, F.R.S. of the Royal College of Surgeons, which contains a fair and concise statement of the subject from the scientific point of view.

Prof. Flower's address is reported in *Nature* for October, 1883, p. 573. I have placed this number of *Nature* in the Athenæum for a week, where it can be seen by members on application to the librarian.—I am, &c, W. I. SPENCER.⁷⁷

There was a flurry of responses and on 27 February Spencer replied,

SIR,—In the letters which you have published during the past few weeks under the heading “Science and Religion,” several attempts have been made to reply to a question which has, I think, not yet been fairly stated. I will therefore, with your permission, first state as succinctly as I can what the question is, and then ask your permission to make a few remarks upon it. The question then, as I understand it, is—Are the teachings of science and religion essentially antagonistic? In other words, to bring the question home—to put it *ad hominem*, as questions of this kind ought to be put—Is it a moral necessity for a religious man to be unscientific?—Is it a physical necessity that a scientific man should be an irreligious one? I think there are few who would not answer such a question by a negative. But in examining matters of this sort there seems to be a powerful proclivity among men generally to look at scientific discoveries from a theological standpoint, and to investigate religious questions through a scientific medium. This method is obviously unfair on both sides. The object of all honest enquiry, whether scientific or religious, is to discover the truth, but a truth—a ray of light from the Eternal—may be looked at wrongly and so be unappreciated. If we pass a ray of solar light through a prism, the image we see on the screen is not the original beam, but a distorted one; the light is decomposed into its pristine elements, and its course is deflected. For the sake of illustration we may call this the original prism, and in the spectrum we may see the effect of looking at scientific questions through a partial medium. One end, the red, from its being the focus of the thermic rays, may be supposed to represent the theological aspect; and the other, the violet, from its coolness, its tint being more suited to human vision, and its containing the more actin, actinic and chemical rays, may more fitly be termed the scientific extremity. If, however, we take a second prism, and, having reversed it, pass the distorted and disorganised ray of light through it, we see a marvellous change. The decomposed elements are recomposed, the distortion is rectified, and the ray once more shows itself upon our screen in its original and perfect aspect. This little illustration may, perhaps, exemplify what I mean when I say that we should not look at religious questions through a scientific prism, nor scientific questions

through a religious one. In investigations which involve both physical and moral questions, both prisms ought undoubtedly to be brought into requisition. But how many men are there who have made themselves sufficiently acquainted with the qualities and the working properties of the two prisms to be able to use each with equal facility, and afterwards to use them conjointly? Although, perhaps, not numerous, such men have indubitably lived and left their teachings for our instruction. Such men were—Moses, learned in all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and yet the founder of a religious system which has existed for near thirty-four centuries; the author, whoever he was, of the *Book of Job*; Solomon, who spoke of trees, from the cedar tree which is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes, and eventually stated the conclusion of the whole matter in *Eccl. c. XII. v. 13, 14*. Galileo, Bruno, Sir Isaac Newton, and in our own day, the celebrated astronomer, Father Secchi, of Rome; Buckland and Stanley, of Westminster; and last, Charles Kingsley, rector of Eversley, canon of Westminster and Chester, a huntsman, theologian, botanist, geologist, professor of history, the friend of the Queen and of the Gipsys of Aldershot Heath, one of the best shots in Hampshire, one of the most scientific fishermen in England, one of the strictest of churchmen. A man who would sit up all night at the bedside of a dying pauper, and next day write an elaborate letter on the best kind of fly wherewith to catch a salmon. A man who could write “Glaucus” and “Westward Ho!” Who could take the teachings of science in their most recent development, in biology, geology, in evolution, and place alongside them the moralities of the Sermon on the Mount, or the first great commandment, and the second which is like unto it. With such exemplars before us, can anyone deny the possibility of a union of science and religion? of a combination of the highest teachings of religion with the most recent investigation of science?—I am, &c. W. I. SPENCER.⁷⁸

He was taken to task for this nonsense of course, but was re-elected Mayor, unopposed, in November.⁷⁹ He gave out the prizes at the Napier District School’s prize-giving, and “addressed a few encouraging

words to the assembled children, urging them to live honourable, truthful, and useful lives".⁸⁰

In 1885 Spencer was Mayor and a member of a number of powerful committees: the Education, Licensing and Hospital committees, the Harbour Board, President of the Athenæum, Councillor of the Philosophical Institute and Vice-President of the Poultry and Canary Association. January 1885 saw the start of a project that he had long championed in the Harbour Board: the building of a breakwater. The Board recommended polling the citizens as to whether a loan should be raised for the purpose and opposition was vehement.⁸¹ Nonetheless the majority in favour of the construction was overwhelming,

Shortly before ten o'clock the last returns were in, when Mr. Ormond made the result known in a few words. The Garrison Band then struck up, torches were lit and an excited and enthusiastic crowd marched through the streets, every face beaming with joy and good humor. What the harbor means to Napier could be learned from the eager excited crowd, and while we congratulate the ratepayers on the result, we must accord a meed of praise to all who worked so well, and to the crowd that was so good humored and well conducted. Yesterday will ever be marked in our calendar as a red letter day.⁸²

Troubles continued at the hospital,

Dr. Spencer and Mr H. S. Tiffen have been appointed by the Hospital Committee to confer with Dr. Keyworth on the subject of the amendment of the by-laws in reference to the classes of diseases to be treated at the hospital, the surgeon-superintendent having suggested that no persons suffering from cancer, epilepsy, insanity (unless caused by fever), consumption, or contagious diseases should be admitted. If treatment of these cases is to be barred, and the hospital is to be converted into merely a sort of casual accident ward, the public will want to know what they gave their money for when they built and furnished that institution.⁸³

The *Herald* columnist "Argus" praised him, albeit rather faintly,

Bravo, Dr Spencer, Mayor of Napier. For a long time now, as colonial æons are reckoned, you have been a member of the Napier Harbor Board, *ex officio*. You have been fairly regular in your attendance, and although you have not often taken part in the discussions that have from time to time simmered and bubbled in the Council Chamber, you have probably kept silence for very good reasons. Perhaps you remembered that “A still tongue makes a wise head;” or that “Speech is silvern (and only 4 per cent, at that), silence is golden.” Or, maybe, perhaps you had nothing to say, and were wise enough to know it and say it. At all events, you have not been a “talking member,” but you have proved yourself better than that by giving notice of motion that the engineer take into consideration a plan to drain the outer swamp. Bravo, again; bravissimo! That is just the thing that needs to be done, and you will have served the district well if a practical result comes of your motion. “May your shadow never grow less” is the prayer of “Argus,” who hopes that both you and he may live long enough to see “the dark clouds that overhang, &c, roll by,” and to see also what is now a nuisance and an eyesore converted into rich pastures, grazed by the majestic cow and the all-important sheep.⁸⁴

The Mayor and Mayoress attended the fire brigades’ demonstration ball in August—he in his mayoral robes, she was a “Hindoo lady of rank”.⁸⁵ In September he wrote a long letter on the imminent solar total eclipse,⁸⁶ not to warn viewers about the dangers of direct observation, but to explain the astronomical phenomenon in scientific terms. In October,

Next mouth the ratepayers will be called upon to elect a Mayor, and we regret to say Dr Spencer has signified his intention of not standing again for office. Public opinion unmistakably points to Mr G. H. Swan, who for years has been always looked upon as our coming Mayor. He will certainly be the right man in the right place, if he will consent to preside over the Municipal Council.⁸⁷

RETIRING MAYOR.

Cr. Margoliouth said in view of the valuable services to the borough of the Mayor, he would move that the sum of £150 be

granted to him as salary for the year. He considered that Dr. Spencer during his term had earned the respect of the townspeople and the Council. He had performed his duties in such a manner that they would never have them done better though they might be equalled in the future. They had voted sums of money to each of their other Mayors, When Mr Vautier went out of office, they voted him £150, by way of a service of plate, the vote being carried unanimously by the Council. It was well deserved and well bestowed. When Dr. Spencer became Mayor he was under the impression that a salary should be voted to him annually, as it was unfair to handicap him, for no one knew, till he became Mayor, as to the calls made on one's purse, and it was unfair to ask a citizen to assume the office of Mayor without some return. It only meant £75 per annum for salary, which was as much as they could afford in the state of the borough funds, and he hoped the Council would be unanimous in the matter.

Cr. Cotton thought the matter should be considered in the Public Works Committee, as there were three councillors absent, and it was right that their opinions should be given.

Cr. Cohen seconded the proposal made by Cr. Margoliouth. He could safely say that he had never seen such a good chairman as Dr. Spencer made. He quite agreed with the proposer as to the continual applications to the Mayor's purse. If it had not been that the borough was not in the position to afford a larger amount he would have moved that a larger amount be granted. In voting the amount he felt they were only doing their duty, and would be well backed up by the ratepayers in recognising the services of a gentleman who had conducted their business for the last three years.

Cr. Cornford felt certain the ratepayers of the borough would endorse their action. That it meant only £75 per annum should be considered by every ratepayer in the place. There was not a borough in New Zealand that enjoyed the services of a more courteous, dignified, and impartial chairman, who had had the confidence of the burgesses and councillors, and he trusted his successor would emulate the virtues which Dr. Spencer had displayed. He had pleasure in supporting the motion proposed. The motion was carried unanimously.⁸⁸

The *Herald* was not so gracious,

SALARY OR GRATUITY ?

THE Borough Council voted last night £150 to the retiring Mayor. This is not the first occasion on which the Council has seen fit to be extravagantly liberal with the ratepayers' money, and it is quite time that the matter should be placed on a proper footing. If it is considered that the office of Mayor needs that a salary should be attached to it, let it be so decided and the amount of salary fixed; but this mode of suddenly voting money without notice and without regulation is highly objectionable. Indeed, we are not sure that the action of the Council last evening was strictly legal, for not only was there no notice of the motion given previously, but the standing orders were not suspended. This, however, is a minor point. The real question is whether the members of the Council are justified in voting away money merely of their own will. If it be said that the money was voted for services rendered, then comes the question—is the office of Mayor a salaried one or is it honorary? If it is the latter, then assuredly the Council have no right whatever to vote a gratuity, and if it is to be a salaried office let the amount be fixed. The course that has been pursued is highly reprehensible, and we feel bound to protest against it. If the Council desire to testify in a substantial manner their appreciation of the good qualities or services of a retiring Mayor they should put their hands in their own pockets for the wherewithal, and not have recourse to the ratepayers' money. It is a bad precedent also, as it opens the door to a loose way of dealing with public funds which cannot be too strongly condemned. It is to be hoped that the Council will see the propriety of discontinuing a course which, if not actually dishonest, approaches so closely to that designation as to be incompatible with holding an office of trust. We do not intend these remarks to apply to Dr. Spencer, or to the payment made to him, knowing that he has fulfilled the duties of his office in a highly praiseworthy manner. What we condemn is the way of doing what was done.⁸⁹

The *Telegraph* waded in,

The Municipal Council paid a fitting tribute last night to his Worship the Mayor. It was thought, whether rightly or wrongly matters nothing, that it would be a more graceful act to vote him an honorarium as though it were a spontaneous recognition of his services, than to give formal notice of such an intention, which would have challenged public discussion. The Council had agreed to this course in committee, and therefore the remarks of our morning contemporary on the subject were as ungracious as they were uncalled for. The Council had abundant precedent for its proceeding. Since 1874, when Napier was brought under the Municipal Corporations Act, only three gentlemen have occupied the mayoral chair, and each one before retiring from office has had his services recognised in the only way in which it can be done by a public body. Dr. Spencer has held office since June 1882, being re-elected without opposition every year; and had it not been his own desire to retire he most certainly would have been re-elected again. As chairman of the Municipal Council, his Worship has ever maintained a courteous but firm demeanor, and it is not too much to say that the example of the chair has had a most salutary effect on the benches. The "tone" of the Council has been immensely raised during his presidency, and no "scenes," such as occur elsewhere, have been permitted to mar the peaceful character of the public business of the Corporation. On the eve of his retirement it is well to remember how much in this respect we owe to the influence Dr Spencer has exercised; and while it is easy to recall the many public works and improvements that have been effected during his mayoralty, it should not be forgotten that the dignity of the Corporation is greatly dependent on the high character of the gentleman placed at its head. The borough has good reason to look back with some pride on Dr. Spencer's occupancy of office, and in the acknowledgement of his valuable services the action of the Council will be endorsed by every ratepayer.⁹⁰

In December 1885 Spencer wrote to the Hospital Board criticising his colleagues,

Sir, — I beg to give notice that it is my intention at the next meeting of the Hospital committee to bring forward the case of a man of the name of Milne, who is reported to have suffered amputation of the leg for disease of the heart; also that of another man who was admitted with senile cataract, and is stated to have been operated upon by a person who is not a surgeon.

Dr Moore, who had performed the amputation, sent the correspondence to the *Australasian Medical Gazette*, noting, “it comes with very bad grace from one, who, although only registered as a surgeon, has practised medicine and midwifery in Napier unmolested for many years”. The editor concluded,

We are of opinion that Mr W. I. Spencer has not in this instance studied what was due to his profession, and that he has made a sad mistake in bringing before a body of laymen cases of such character. In expressing our sympathy with Dr. Moore we may say that the entire affair seems to us, to be a petty, contemptible squabble, unworthy of serious notice by men of standing in the profession.—ED. A.M.G.⁹¹

He was elected President of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute in 1886,⁹² resigned from the Licensing Committee and was joined on the Education Committee by Ernest Alexander Haggan.⁹³ He reported to the Napier School Committee on his survey of the children’s vision, noting that only 4 percent had defective eyesight.⁹⁴ In July 1886,

Dr Spencer reported on the soap-boiling and bone-grinding works at Awatoto, in accordance with the request of the Council. After describing the position of the works, he said that the “swamp” at that point now consisted of a few isolated patches of water, with no perceptible current, though in times of heavy rainfall there would be a rapid current. The drainage from the soap works passed into the swamp, imparting a pink discoloration to the water, and this was plainly discernible two miles from the works in the direction of Napier. In connection with the soap works there did not appear to be any means of consuming the gaseous effluvia arising therefrom. Between the works and the swamp numerous stacks of bones were laid out to dry, constituting an intolerable nuisance.⁹⁵

His son Charles sat the examinations for a scholarship to his father's alma mater the University of London⁹⁶ and won it.⁹⁷ In March 1887 Spencer was involved in an inquest.

An inquest was held at the gaol yesterday afternoon on the body of Douglas John Parsonage, who died suddenly at the gaol. Mr H. T. Knight was chosen foreman of the jury.

Robert Smith, licensee of the Masonic Hotel, deposed he recognised the body, the subject of the inquest, as being that of D. J. Parsonage. He was in his employ for nearly nine months, in the capacity of "boots" to the hotel. About a fortnight ago he observed that the deceased did not do his duty as he ought to have done. On Sunday last he noticed that the deceased was in bed. Deceased complained of pain, in his back, and he was treated by the doctors. Two doctors attended him and prescribed for him, and put a plaster on his back, and told him (witness) to put a mustard plaster on his heart. The doctor's instructions were carried out. On Tuesday deceased had a fit, and he had another fit on the following day. During that fit he was very violent and it was difficult to restrain him. After that fit he recovered consciousness again, but from a conversation he had with the deceased shortly afterwards he did not think him in his right mind. About 4 a.m. on Wednesday deceased rushed out into the street, and after that he thought he was quite insane. Deceased had another fit the same day. Never saw him drunk, but cautioned him as to taking liquor. That was last Thursday, and deceased had not touched liquor to his knowledge since then. Deceased became so violent that they had to call in the police, and deceased was conveyed to the gaol.

James Reid employed at the Masonic Hotel, deposed he had known deceased for about five months. During the time he had known him never heard him complain of anything being the matter with him, until last Sunday, when he complained of a pain in his back. Deceased had a fit on Tuesday afternoon, when he was very violent, and also had a fit on Wednesday morning. About five or six hours after deceased had the first fit he observed that he was strange in his mind. Deceased drank a good deal, but never saw him drunk. Deceased was on

Wednesday taken to the police station and appeared quite out of his mind.

William Miller, gaoler, deposed that shortly after 4 o'clock on Wednesday deceased was brought to the gaol. He was brought in on a charge of lunacy. Deceased looked healthy enough when he was brought to the gaol. He was put into a small yard by himself, and about half-an-hour afterwards he was put into a cell, and there given his tea. Saw him again shortly after 9 o'clock on Wednesday night, and asked him if he wanted anything. Deceased replied "No, thank you," and was talking a whole rigmarole about something; he was also mumbling something about Tongariro. That was the last time he saw him alive. Went to his cell the following morning about six o'clock, when he found him dead. Dr Hitchings was immediately sent for. Found deceased lying on his left side with his left arm supporting his head on the floor of the cell. There was a little blood lying on the floor by his head.

The foreman asked that the deceased, being subject to fits, would it not have been advisable to have placed an attendant upon him?

The witness replied that he was not aware that the deceased had been subject to fits, and he only heard that morning about the deceased having had fits.

The foreman asked, if the deceased had called out before his death, would anyone have heard him? The witness replied that an official was about thirty feet from where the deceased had been confined, but he (the official) had heard nothing unusual.

John Stevens, warder at the gaol, deposed he was on duty at nine o'clock last night. Visited the cell in which the deceased had been confined. The deceased then appeared all right. Did not go to the cell again that night. Had heard that the deceased was dead that morning. During the night had heard nothing unusual.

A prisoner, who occupied a cell opposite to that which had been occupied by the deceased, said he heard a noise during the night which sounded as if the deceased was knocking his head against the wall, and with such force that he heard him fall to the ground. The noise continued till about twelve o'clock that

night. He (witness) could not go to sleep as the noise was so great. Afterwards heard the deceased running about in his cell, and bump himself against the wall, and he then heard him fall. The noise then ceased, and he (witness) called out and told Mr Stevens, the warder, about the occurrence. All the men in the cells must have heard the noise, as also must the warder.

To the Foreman: Would be sure that the loud bump was the last noise he heard the deceased make. It was a heavy fall, and thought deceased fell on his back. After deceased had fallen, heard three bumps, as if caused by his head falling on the floor.

Another prisoner testified to having heard the noises made by the deceased in his cell. The noise occurred at intervals, and he heard a loud bump and then all was quiet. The last bump shook the whole of the cells. The warder could not have helped hearing the noise. Another prisoner also gave evidence as to hearing the noise during the night. The sounds were as if the whole weight of deceased's body was being thrown against the wall. Called out to the warder on duty, as did the other prisoner, that the man was knocking his head against the wall. The warder replied, "Let him belt away; he's only drunk," or something to that effect. The noise still continued. Mr Miller and the warder went in shortly afterwards, and asked the deceased if he would like a drink. Deceased never replied. The gaoler and warder stopped several minutes, and he heard them go away and close the door. Deceased was quiet for about a quarter of an hour afterwards, but began plunging again, which shook the whole place. That continued again for about ten minutes. The deceased would strike the wall, and then fall down from the force of it.

Dr Spencer deposed he made a post mortem examination on the body. There was a discoloration on the face, arms, chest, back, and abdomen. There were marks where the skin had been knocked off the face, right shoulder and elbow. On the back there was also a mark of a half-healed blister. Blood was oozing from the nostrils. His attention had been drawn to some blood marks on the wall of the cell. There was a small amount of fluid in the pericardium, near the apex of the heart. The heart was of the natural size, and the valves were healthy with the

exception of a small fibrous deposit. There were signs of inflammation of the pleura. The lungs, kidneys, liver, and stomach were healthy. Cutting through the scalp he found a large amount of fluid blood between the scalp and the skull; the skull, however, was not fractured. The membranes of the brain were much congested, and on the brain there were signs of two bruises. He thought that deceased had died from congestion of the membranes of the brain, death being accelerated by the injuries to the skull and brain. The softening of the brain might have been going on for some time, and was sufficient to produce fits of a convulsive nature, or mania. Deceased would have succumbed to the congestion in any case, the injuries received simply hastened death.

Inspector Bullen stated that when the sergeant and the constable took charge of the deceased they were not aware that he was subjected to fits.

The jury then considered their verdict, and were about half-an-hour arriving at a decision. They returned a verdict that the deceased had for some time past been suffering from softening of the brain, and the deceased had died from natural causes, through softening of the brain. The following rider was added:— We must strongly point out that the warder should make more frequent calls in cases of this nature, and we further consider that a proper padded room should be provided for similar cases.

The inquest lasted about four hours and a half, having commenced at two o'clock, and terminating at half-past six.⁹⁸

Spencer continued to chair the Athenæum Committee, his membership of the Napier School Board, Education Board, Health Board, Poultry and Canary Association,—and the Philosophical Institute where, in September, he spoke on “The sense of smell”, “received with great interest by all present”.⁹⁹ At the Education Board meeting in October he was made a member of a new committee,¹⁰⁰ but a week later,

Mr Wm. Harker reports the sale on behalf of Dr. Spencer, of his residence “Tiromoana,” Marine-parade, Napier, to Dr. Preston, at a satisfactory price.¹⁰¹

We congratulate Mr W. Harker on his first transaction of note, the sale of Dr. Spencer's residence to Dr. Preston, as reported in our commercial column. The transaction appears to be a satisfactory one all round, Dr. Spencer getting a fair price and Dr. Preston just the residence to suit a good practice. Dr. Spencer, we believe, will take a trip Home shortly. Dr. Preston has just returned from a visit to the Old Country, having summered there. Before that he was in first-class practice near Christchurch, , but the severity of the climate precluding his return to that district, he has decided to take up his residence in Napier, a decision he is not likely to regret.¹⁰²

AUCTION NOTICE.

MR. WM. HARKER

(In conjunction with MR H. P. COHEN),

Will sell on the premises, "Tiromoana,"
Marine-parade. Napier. the whole of the

VALUABLE FURNITURE

AND EFFECTS of Dr. SPENCER, who
is going Home.

The Furniture was specially made to order,
and imported, recently, is of the choicest
description, and will be sold

WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST RESERVE;

Indeed, it is so well known, that the Auc-
tioneers feel that it would be superfluous to
say anything in its praise.

Catalogues will be issued with this paper
on Wednesday, 2nd November, and the sale
will be held on

THURSDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER,

AND

FRIDAY, 4th NOVEMBER,

Commencing each day at 12 o'clock.

Luncheon will be provided.

WM. HARKER.

Auctioneer.¹⁰³

Dr Spencer's library will be sold to-day, and the list of books will be commenced at noon. Readers and book collectors will probably make a note.¹⁰⁴

Mr W. Harker reports the sale by auction of the whole of Dr. Spencer's furniture and effects at most satisfactory prices.¹⁰⁵

Dr. Preston has removed to the house on the Marine-parade lately occupied by Dr. Spencer.¹⁰⁶

It is not clear what prompted the Spencers to contemplate a return to England and sell up with such precipitate finality, but their son Charles had won his scholarship and would presumably have started his studies in 1888: perhaps they planned to go with him. Possibly Spencer also contemplated receiving his Linnean Society Fellowship in person in London. In the meantime Dr Preston advertised and Dr Spencer kept working. After this the Spencers lived in Napier Terrace.

DR. PRESTON

HAS REMOVED to the House lately occupied by Dr. SPENCER on the Marine Parade.

HOURS OF CONSULTATION.

Attendance: From 9 till 10 a.m., 2 till 3, and from 7 to 8 p.m.
At Mr ECCLES', Chemist, Hastings-street: From 12 till 1 p.m.
[TELEPHONE No. 61.]¹⁰⁷

DR. SPENCER will be at MR WELSMANS, Hastings-street, from 11 to 12 and at 2 p.m. daily.¹⁰⁸

But Anna Spencer sailed for Sydney on the *Waihora* from Wellington on 11 November¹⁰⁹—perhaps on her way to Britain, perhaps to see her father and stepmother, perhaps to get her son settled in London—without her husband, who continued working. There is no mention of Mrs Spencer in the Hawke's Bay newspapers until 7 September 1891 when she advertised: "WANTED—A General Servant. Apply to Mrs Spencer, Napier Terrace".

NAPIER HOSPITAL BOARD. Dr. Menzies wrote applying for holiday leave for a month, to commence on the 5th of December, and stating that Dr. Spencer would act as *locum tenens*. Leave was granted on the understanding that all Dr. Menzies' duties should be performed by his *locum tenens*.¹¹⁰

By January 1888 it seemed he was staying,

The Napier school committee met last evening.... Correspondence from the Board was read re the retirement by rotation of three members, Messrs J. W. Carlile, F. Sutton, and Dr. Spencer, and requesting the nomination of two candidates. On the motion of Mr Parker, seconded by Mr Glen, Dr. Spencer and Mr J. W. Carlile were nominated as candidates for election, the committee unanimously expressing an opinion that for active and useful members of the Board none better could be found than the three gentlemen who are retiring.¹¹¹

But, "Dr. Spencer, owing to his approaching visit to England, is not a candidate".¹¹² Yet Spencer continued all year in his usual roles, accepting membership of the Licensing Committee early in 1889. For some reason he didn't go "Home".

Spencer wrote a long letter to the *Hawke's Bay Herald* on 25 February 1889 about sewage and drainage in Napier. It had been and was to continue an abiding interest for him and a subject of widely differing opinions among the Napier cognoscenti. "An Ex-Councillor" replied passionately (and the arguments went on),

SIR,— I was greatly amused at the smug assurance displayed by Dr. Spencer in his letter in your issue of the 25th inst. The cool manner in which he arrogates to himself the credit of having originated the various sanitary improvements in this town is intensely amusing, I can recollect no sanitary improvement which has been either originated or supported by him, but I know of several that have been carried out in spite of his most virulent opposition. Let me mention two out of many facts that might be quoted in support of this assertion. 1. When it was proposed to connect the hospital with the drainage scheme, Dr. Spencer used all his influence to prevent the proposal being carried out. 2. It was through his vote and influence when

Mayor that the pan system was not made compulsory over the whole borough, and that cesspits were not abolished seven years sooner than they were.— I am, &c., AN EX-COUNCILLOR.¹¹³

1890s

Spencer had attended Renata Kawepo during the latter's last illness and had offered to write a will for him; Renata's will was challenged and the case eventually went to the Privy Council.¹¹⁴ In March 1889 Dr Spencer was re-elected President of the Philosophical Institute,¹¹⁵ and in June 1890 farewelled RC Harding and A Hamilton, stalwarts of the Institute. Also in June,

Dr. Spencer delivered at the drill shed last night his lecture on "Wounds, bleeding and bandaging," held over from the preceding Monday evening on account of other engagements. There was a good attendance, including volunteers, con stables, and firemen. Dr. Spencer treated his subject in a very lucid manner, referring to the positions of the arteries and veins, and describing the treatment to be adopted in order to stop bleeding pending the arrival of a doctor. He thoroughly illustrated the use of the tourniquet, and also how to deal with an injured man so as to secure his comfort as well as his safety. Several of those present experimentally carried out the instructions given by Dr. Spencer, the lecture being a most useful one.¹¹⁶

There was a good attendance at Dr. Spencer's ambulance class held in the Garrison Hall last evening, when the lecturer dealt with "Scalds and Burns," also "Poisons", as his subjects. The medical gentleman explained the best method of providing temporary relief to a patient suffering from one or the other of these ailments, including bites from snakes, mad dogs, spiders, &c., being of a poisonous nature. He also explained the treatment of a patient prostrated from strangulation and suffocation, and the signs showing what a patient, in a state of insensibility may be suffering from. Stretcher drill and the treatment of apparently fatal cases from drowning will occupy the attention of the class on Monday next.¹¹⁷

He handed out fines from the bench of the Magistrate's Court,

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday before Dr. Spencer and Mr F Sutton, J.P.'s, Eugene Sullivan, who has been before the Court on several occasions lately, was fined £1 and costs for a third offence of drunkenness, the alternative being seven days' hard labor. Thomas Heeney and James Murphy were each lined 10s and costs for drunkenness at the railway station. Charles Butler was fined 5s and costs for drunkenness, and Mary Jones, for a similar offence, was fined 10s and costs. Edward Curran was charged with drunkenness, with resisting a constable in the execution of his duty, and with making use of obscene language. For the first offence he was fined 5s and costs, and on the two other charges he was sentenced to two mouths' hard labor, sentences to run concurrently.¹¹⁸

In December the Mayor George Swan gave his annual supper at the Criterion Hotel and Spencer sat at his right. Mr AJ Cotteril proposed a toast to "Ex-Mayors of Napier" and

had great pleasure in coupling the toast with the name of Dr. Spencer, who at very considerable inconvenience to himself, took the office of Mayor, and he was glad to see that gentleman was still amongst them pursuing the profession in which he had obtained such distinction.... Dr. Spencer replied. Looking at the condition of Napier of these days and Napier of the past, they must acknowledge that considerable progress had been made. Since the old provincial days many improvements had been made, the swamp filled in, streets made, a system of water supply had been established, while a harbor had been initiated. All these indicated progress, and although the times looked bad, things were very fair. Napier had progressed, and he trusted it would do so again.¹¹⁹

Swamp reclamation agitation HBH18910305.2.15 et seq

The local branch of the St. John Ambulance Association have just held a very successful examination in first aid under conduct of Dr. Spencer.¹²⁰

The 1896 examination paper has survived:

St John Ambulance Association (Napier Branch) First Aid examination for Men October 1896. Time: one hour.

1. Describe the Elbow joint. How would you distinguish a fracture of the joint from a dislocation? What treatment would you use in either accident?
2. What are the signs of fracture of the femur? How would you prepare the patient for removal to his home? How would you place him on the stretcher? And how would you have the stretcher carried?
3. What means would you use to restore a person apparently drowned? How long would you continue your exertions before giving up such a case as hopeless?
4. In case of a deep wound of the calf of the leg what means would you adopt to stop bleeding?
5. A man is squeezed between the buffers of two carriages—how would you decide whether any ribs are broken? If so, how would you treat him?
6. What are the symptoms of fracture of the lower jaw? How would you treat such a case?

Examiner. W.I. Spencer M.R.C.S. Eng.

The doctor, by 1894 living in Napier Terrace, had a phone connected in that year: “The latest addition to the telephone exchange is Dr Spencer, Napier terrace, No. 215.”¹²¹ He continued as a Justice of the Peace, sitting on the Magistrates Court bench and presided at the ninth annual meeting of the New Zealand Medical Association at the Napier Athenaeum in March 1894.¹²² He acted as locum when hospital medical staff were away.

He was re-elected to the Napier Licensing committee when, in the early 1890s, women’s suffrage had been won and temperance was a major issue. In the face of vocal objection, the committee granted a liquor licence to a new hotel on the Marine Parade and Spencer was characterised as a traitor by temperance supporters. Feelings ran high,

Mr Carnell confessed that he was surprised at Mr Sutton, especially seeing that ladies were present.

Mr Sutton: Oh.

Mr Turnbull: The motion is rescinded.

Mrs Hill: I am very sorry at your remarks, Mr Sutton. I don't think them at all gentlemanly.

Mr Sutton: I am sorry Mrs Hill's remarks are so unladylike.

Mr Carnell: They are more fitted for a tap-room.

The Bench then adjourned.¹²³

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- 1 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 20 May 1870. Thomas Hitchings 1816–1894, MRCS LSA 1838; at Ahuriri from 1856; native medical attendant in 1857; coroner for Napier 1858–1885; Surgeon Napier Militia 1863–1867; Provincial Surgeon 1864.
 - 2 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 August 1870.
 - 3 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 August 1870.
 - 4 Alcock L 1992. *Mother Mary Joseph Aubert—For Love of God*. National Library.
 - 5 Munro, Jessie 2009. *Letters on the Go: The Correspondence of Suzanne Aubert*. Bridget Williams Books, Wellington. p577.
 - 6 *Lancet* 1882 (1): 730.
 - 7 *Hawke's Bay Times* 14 August 1871.
 - 8 *Hawke's Bay Times* 16 August 1871.
 - 9 *Hawke's Bay Times* 7 July 1874.
 - 10 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 July to 20 August 1869.
 - 11 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 January 1888.
 - 12 Colenso W 1889. A few brief historical notes and remarks concerning the early Christian Church at Ahuriri (Napier): in a letter to the editor of the "Daily Telegraph". *Daily Telegraph Office, Napier*. 14 p
 - 13 Taylor E 2011. Edward Lyndon: painting for pleasure and profit on the colonial frontier. *The Napier Athenaeum*, 1 (4). <https://athenaeumjournal.wordpress.com/2011/08/02/vol-1-no-4/>
 - 14 Wright-St Clair RE 2003. *Historia nunc vivat: medical practitioners in New Zealand 1840 to 1930*. (Cotter Medical History Trust 2013).
 - 15 Colenso to Luff 23 August 1876. ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.
 - 16 Colenso to Luff 19 September 1876. ATL MS-Copy-Micro-0485-4.
 - 17 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 March 1877.
 - 18 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 July 1877.
 - 19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 June 1877.
 - 20 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 August 1877.
 - 21 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 30 July 1878.
 - 22 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 29 June 1877.
 - 23 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 27 March 1878.
 - 24 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 June 1878.
 - 25 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 June 1878.
 - 26 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 June 1878.
 - 27 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 August, 1878.
 - 28 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17, 18, 19 October 1878.
 - 29 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 21 October 1878.
 - 30 Jacob Selig Caro was Polish, with a German MD.
 - 31 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 October 1878.
 - 32 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 October 1878.
 - 33 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 October 1878.
 - 34 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 18 December 1878.
 - 35 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 January 1879.
 - 36 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 January 1879.
 - 37 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 October 1879.
 - 38 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 October 1879.
 - 39 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 May 1879.

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- 40 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 January 1880.
 - 41 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 January 1880.
 - 42 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 31 January 1880.
 - 43 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 March 1881.
 - 44 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 March 1881.
 - 45 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 May 1881.
 - 46 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 January 1882.
 - 47 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 May 1882.
 - 48 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 May 1882.
 - 49 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 29 May 1882.
 - 50 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 June 1882.
 - 51 *Daily Telegraph* 16 September 1882.
 - 52 *Daily Telegraph* of 15 November 1882.
 - 53 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 September 1884.
 - 54 *Daily Telegraph* 6 September 1884.
 - 55 *Daily Telegraph* 27 September 1884.
 - 56 *Daily Telegraph* 8 October 1884.
 - 57 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 October 1884.
 - 58 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 January 1882.
 - 59 Ormond, Hannah diaries
 - 60 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 April 1890.
 - 61 *Daily Telegraph* 7 October 1882.
 - 62 *Daily Telegraph* 13 October 1882.
 - 63 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 November 1882.
 - 64 *Daily Telegraph* 2 January 1883.
 - 65 *Daily Telegraph* 29 May 1883.
 - 66 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 June 1883.
 - 67 *Daily Telegraph* 7 July 1883.
 - 68 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 July 1883.
 - 69 *Daily Telegraph* 17 July 1883.
 - 70 *Daily Telegraph* 17 July 1883.
 - 71 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 September 1883.
 - 72 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 August 1884.
 - 73 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 September 1884.
 - 74 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17 September 1884
 - 75 *Daily Telegraph* 21 November 1883.
 - 76 *Daily Telegraph* 22 November 1883.
 - 77 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 February 1884.
 - 78 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 27 February 1884.
 - 79 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 20 November 1884.
 - 80 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 December 1884.
 - 81 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 12 January 1885.
 - 82 *Daily Telegraph* 21 January 1885.
 - 83 *Daily Telegraph* 11 March 1885. Dr John White Keyworth had been appointed surgeon superintendent of the Napier Hospital on 17 January 1885.
 - 84 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 March 1885.
 - 85 *Daily Telegraph* 27 August 1885.
 - 86 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 September 1885.
 - 87 *Daily Telegraph* 5 October 1885.
 - 88 *Daily Telegraph* 19 November 1885.
 - 89 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 November 1885.
 - 90 *Daily Telegraph* 19 November 1885.
 - 91 *Australasian Medical Gazette* March 1886, p156..
 - 92 *Daily Telegraph* 2 February 1886.
 - 93 *Daily Telegraph* 20 July 1886.
 - 94 *Daily Telegraph* 24 November 1886.

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- 95 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 July 1886
96 *Daily Telegraph* 5 February 1887.
97 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 July 1887.
98 *Daily Telegraph* 25 March 1887.
99 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 September 1887.
100 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 October 1887.
101 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 October 1887.
102 *ibid.*
103 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 November 1887.
104 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 November 1887.
105 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 November 1887.
106 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 November 1887.
107 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 November 1887.
108 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 November 1887.
109 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 12 November 1887.
110 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 November 1887.
111 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 January 1888.
112 *Daily Telegraph* 17 January 1888.
113 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 27 February 1889.
114 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 October 1891.
115 *Daily Telegraph* 29 March 1889.
116 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17 June 1890.
117 *Daily Telegraph* 1 July 1890.
118 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 18 December 1890.
119 *Daily Telegraph* 24 December 1890.
120 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 September 1893.
121 *Daily Telegraph* 20 March 1894.
122 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 20 March 1894.
123 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 December 1896.
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CHAPTER 6: DR SPENCER'S CASE BOOK

1860s

DREADFUL ACCIDENT

On Saturday afternoon at about 3 o'clock, an accident happened to a boy named Robert Willis, the dreadful nature of which is calculated to make one's blood run cold. It appears that the soda water machine in the establishment Messrs Torr & Co, Shakespeare Road is driven by horse power. The lad in question was sitting on one of the shafts, driving the horse, when the end of his whip got entangled in the wheels. He got down in order to extricate it, but in doing so the sleeve of his coat was

caught in the machinery, and, shocking to relate his arm was literally wrenched from the socket and literally hanging by one muscle. Sometime elapsed before medical aid was procured, but eventually Dr Spencer military surgeon was in attendance, and he at once ordered the sufferer to be conveyed to the hospital where the arteries were secured and the limb separated. The little fellow who is only ten years of age is we believe progressing favourably but of course, even with the most favoured result, he is maimed for life.¹

ACCIDENT

On Saturday last a man named Warrington, in the employment of T Tanner Esqu., and one of the ploughmen at the recent match, had his leg broken under the following circumstances—He was driving a horse team out of town; and, when near Mr Caldwell's house, West Clive, he had occasion to get down. On springing from the dray, however, the reins caught his foot and he was thrown on the ground—the wheels at the same time passing over both his legs, and breaking one. The sufferer was attended by Dr. Spencer, and was brought into town yesterday. He is, we believe, doing well.²

1870s

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Morrison v. Butcher.—On this case, adjourned from the previous day, being called on, the defendant did not appear. Dr. Spencer, who was in attendance, gave a certificate that the defendant was insane. The Magistrate said he had seen Dr. Russell, who also stated the man was insane, and, on a certificate to that effect being obtained, he would be committed as a lunatic; in the meantime the further hearing of the case would be adjourned for a month.³

ACCIDENTS

Yesterday afternoon a child of Mrs. Shepherd, about four years old, met with a severe accident. While playing on the beach she fell amongst some broken bottles and got severely cut, there

being two great gashes in the calf of her leg. She was kindly carried by Mr. Knowles to Dr. Spencer's, who immediately attended to her wounds. Attention ought certainly to be called to the way in which rubbish and broken bottles are strewn about the beach. If this practice is not put a stop to, accidents of this nature may be frequently looked for.⁴

ATTEMPTED SUICIDE.

About two o'clock this morning, Mrs Drummond, who keeps a boarding house on the Spit, was observed by the night-watchman to run into the surf. He at once ran to the house and called the lodgers, all of whom at once got up and came to render such assistance as they could. By the time they reached the surf she had drifted about a hundred yards along the beach, and was a considerable distance from the shore. One of the lodgers who could swim went into the surf, and with some difficulty brought her to land. When brought to shore life was apparently extinct, but by the use of the proper means, animation was at length restored. Dr Spencer, who was sent for, was soon in attendance and administered the usual remedies. She was taken to the hospital, where we hear she is doing as well as can be expected. She could not have been in the water less than a quarter of an hour, and when found her face was beneath the surface. She had been seen walking backwards and forwards on the beach for some time previous, and is supposed to have been suffering from some hallucination.⁵

ACCIDENT.

A painful accident occurred to-day to one of the seamen of the barque Santiago, named Douglas, who was engaged stowing wool. He was holding a bale at the main hatchway with a wool-hook, when a lurch of the vessel threw the bale into the hold, and he fell with it. In his descent his left knee came in contact with the combings of the hatch, and received a severe wound. He was brought ashore, and was attended by Dr. Spencer, who sewed up the wound and applied the usual remedies. Though the blow received was a severe one, the patient's limb was not broken.⁶

Rather a painful accident took place on the Spit at a late hour last night to a seaman belonging to the schooner Pioneer. It appears that he, along with several others, had spent most of the evening at the Commercial Hotel, and at 12 o'clock, when the house was closed, went out together. Wishing, however, shortly afterwards, to enter the house again, the seaman of the Pioneer, named George Parker, chose as a means of effecting his object the climbing of one of the balcony posts, in which was affixed a bridle hook for the purpose of fastening horses to. He accordingly set to work and had nearly got to the top when he began to come down again, and in his descent was caught in the groin by the hook referred to, receiving a severe flesh-wound. Dr. Spencer, who was sent for, was promptly in attendance, and sewed up the wound. The sufferer was removed to the Provincial Hospital this morning. From inquiry this afternoon, we learn that the wound, though severe, is not considered dangerous.⁷

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Russell v. Anderson.—A claim of £12 5s for professional services.—Mr Lee appeared for the plaintiff. Mrs Anderson appeared on behalf of the defendant who was unwell, and unable to attend. Dr Russell deposed that a son of the defendant came to him one Sunday, and asked him to accompany and assist Dr Spencer, who was going to amputate his father's leg, which had been fractured. He accompanied Dr Spencer to Meanee, and assisted in the operation, after which Dr Spencer informed him, that, having to attend to the troops, he could not give the case the attention it required, and accordingly left it in his hands. Subsequently to this he paid defendant seven visits, as the case was a serious one, being really a matter of life and death. He charged £5 5s for assisting in the operation, and £1 for each visit, which was a moderate charge. He had received £1 on account, with which the defendant had been credited. Mrs Anderson deposed that she sent her son for Dr Spencer, and not for Dr Russell. Dr Russell accompanied Dr Spencer, and assisted him. Dr Spencer charged £15. for the

operation, which she paid some weeks after, at intervals. She paid £12 in money, and sent 12 cwt. of hay, and afterwards the balance, £1, to Mr Gowing. This had been paid to Dr Russell, but she did not intend it for him. She considered that Dr Spencer would pay him.—Dr Spencer deposed that when defendant's son requested him to perform the operation he said he should require an assistant, and asked him to speak to either Dr Hitchings or Dr Russell. He went to Dr Russell, who assisted. Witness, not having time to attend to the case after the operation, left it in Dr Russell's hands, explaining to the defendants that they would have to settle with Dr Russell for the services he had rendered. His own charge was £10 for the operation, and £1 1s each for five visits. The subsequent attention, which Dr Russell had given, was quite necessary.—Judgment for amount claimed, and £1 4s costs.⁸

CORONER'S INQUEST

Dr. Spencer deposed that he had been attending the deceased for three weeks. When he first came to witness, he was suffering from bronchitis, from which he speedily recovered. He noticed that the deceased had almost always a constant wheezing breathing, which he attributed to a complaint termed *bronchocela*, which was a swelling of the glands. Yesterday morning the deceased called on him at his house, and complained that during the night he had been unable to sleep, in consequence of having a difficulty to breathe. He gave him a remedy which afforded the deceased relief, and told him not to go out in the evening air, and that he would call and see him. He considered him to be so bad that he informed the deceased, that should he have such another attack, he would have to have recourse to an operation. He never saw deceased afterwards alive. He had that day held a post mortem examination on the body, and had come to the conclusion that death had resulted by compression of the windpipe by the enlargement of the glands.⁹

THE LATE ASSAULT

Dr. W. J. Spencer deposed: I am a surgeon, practising in Napier. On Sunday, the 8th inst., I was called to attend Joseph Cowley at Mrs Morton's boarding-house, where I was told he had been lying insensible for two days. I found him perfectly insensible; on the right side of his head were three or four small scratches, and on the left side a large puffy swelling, extending from the eye to the ear. There were other bruises about the body. I ordered the usual remedies, and communicated with the police. I consider the swelling on the head to have been caused by a severe blow, producing concussion of the brain, which would cause insensibility. I could not tell whether the skull was fractured, on account of the large swelling. I attended him till the Tuesday following, when I had him sent to the hospital, and I have not seen him since. Mr Stedman here examined the witness as to whether the principal injury could have been caused by a blow from a fist, a kick, or a fall upon the ground, to all which questions Dr. Spencer replied in the negative.¹⁰

IN THE RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Plaintiff claimed £5 owing to him, and £50 each for two separate assaults committed upon him when he went to have the summons served. One of the bones of his left shoulder was broken, an injury which would, according to the evidence of Dr Spencer, disable him for a month or six weeks, and this, the plaintiff distinctly stated, was caused by the defendant's conduct.¹¹

SUPREME COURT

William Isaac Spencer, sworn, deposed: I am a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a qualified medical practitioner. I saw the prosecutor on the 3rd of July, in a consultation with Dr. Gibbes. He had suffered severe injury in the left eye—cornea, white of eye, and iris all cut through. A cataract has since formed in the eye, most likely the direct result of the wound, and considering the other injuries, I think irremediable. He was also much cut about the nose, and other parts of the face.... The

wound having been inflicted with a sharp-edged instrument, would not have necessarily required a very heavy blow to cause the injuries I have described.... I think the broken edge of a glass tumbler might do it. I think if glasses were crashed together in the way described, it is very possible that the broken edge would inflict the injury.¹²

...VERY PAINFUL ACCIDENT....

On Tuesday last, as Mr Archibald Dunbar—son of Mr Jas. Dunbar, Brogden & Sons' agent in Hawke's Bay—was working at one of the Ngaruroro railway bridges, a portion of the pile-driving tackle gave way, and a heavy iron ring fell upon Mr Brogden's head, causing fracture of the skull in several places, and laceration of the face. The sufferer, who is under treatment by Dr Spencer, is progressing as well as the serious character of his injuries will permit.¹³

One of the seamen on board the Rangatira, while engaged yesterday in filling baskets with coal for removal from the after hold to the steamer's bunkers, received a severe wound on the head from the fall of a large block of coal. By the advice of Dr. Spencer, he was taken to the hospital.¹⁴

A son of Mr Delahay was descending, opposite his home in the White-road, from Hambling's trap, when just at the moment a butcher's cart, the horse in which was being driven furiously, knocked the boy down, and broke one of his legs. He was carried home, and Dr Spencer being sent for, set the limb. The boy, we learn, is progressing favorably. The driver of the cart states that he was driving at a moderate pace, but this is denied by persons who witnessed the accident. We are informed by the police authorities that it is a common practice to drive at great speed in the White-road, the drivers only slackening the speed when they get into those parts of the town where they are likely to come under the notice of the police. This is a matter that should be looked to.¹⁵

The Walton Troupe made their last appearance at the Theatre Royal last night, there being an excellent attendance. Before proceeding with the performance, Mr Keogh, the stage manager, came forward and stated that, owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr G. H. Swan, who was to appear in the play of the "Corsican Brothers," the management were reluctantly compelled to change the piece. He read a certificate from Dr Spencer, to the effect that Mr Swan was under his care, and was unable to take part in the performance.¹⁶

On Saturday afternoon a man named Denis Donovan died at Meanee, this side of the Mission, from the effect of an accident that occurred to him on Friday afternoon. On that day he was out with a cartload of potatoes, and he was standing between the cart and a gate-post endeavoring to adjust something that had got disarranged when he got jammed by the cart against the gate-post, receiving very severe injury in the region of the abdomen. The poor fellow became unconscious, but after a while he recovered a little, and was removed to his home in one of Mr Rymer's coaches. He was attended first by Dr Caro and afterwards both by Dr Spencer and Dr Caro, but medical skill was unavailing. His death was caused by the internal injuries he sustained.¹⁷

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

William Isaac Spencer deposed: I am a duly qualified medical practitioner residing in Napier. I made an examination of Mr Tom Richardson on Friday, the 4th instant. He showed me a wound he had in front of the abdomen. It was about an inch long, but not a deep wound. It was only cut through the skin. There was a cut in his waistcoat which corresponded exactly with the wound in his skin. If the wound had been deeper and had penetrated the abdomen, it would probably have been fatal. It was a clean cut, and had evidently been made by a sharp instrument. The knife (produced) might inflict such a wound.¹⁸

CORONER'S INQUEST

Dr de Lisle deposed: I was called about noon to-day to see Mr Barry at Mr Bowes' shop in the Shakespeare-road. I found him lying on a couch in a room behind the shop, partly conscious, blood flowing from the right ear, pulse slow. There was a depressed fracture at the back of the head, and the blood issuing from the ear was indicative of a fracture of the base of the skull. Symptoms of compression of the skull were increasing, and Dr. Spencer and myself, after consulting, agreed to return in an hour, and, if we deemed it advisable, to trephine. On returning at the time appointed I found the man had just died. I consider that death resulted from compression of the brain, caused by the effusion of blood from an artery lacerated by the fracture at the base of the skull. The injuries were such as might be caused by a fall from a horse.¹⁹

Yesterday afternoon a little girl named Smith, about seven years old, was knocked down by the railway engine in the vicinity of the Government cottages off Carlyle-street. The poor little thing was brought to Dr. Spencer quite unconscious, when it was found she had an ugly wound on the top of her head, but that no bones were broken. She was at once attended to by Dr. Spencer, and before leaving had somewhat recovered consciousness.²⁰

John Farrell was charged on remand with lunacy, but was acquitted, as Dr. Spencer, to whom his case was referred, did not consider him to be insane, though of weak intellect.²¹

A hearing of the charge of wife murder against Rodrick Harry McLennan began on 17 December before a Grand Jury (JG Kinross, foreman, with Samuel Carnell, Philip Dolbel, George Swan and other notable citizens) and Justice Richmond. Mrs McLennan's body had been exhumed.

SUPREME COURT
ALLEGED WIFE MURDER

William Isaac Spencer deposed that he was a duly qualified medical practitioner residing in Napier. During his practice he had had extensive experience in making *post mortem* examinations. On March 24th he was summoned to the Masonic Hotel, Napier, where he was told there was a woman very ill; she had fallen down in a fainting fit. He was shown to a bedroom, and there he saw prisoner and his wife. Mrs M'Lennan was in bed. Prisoner said that while going along the passage his wife had fallen down. Witness examined her, and noticed she was very weak. He prescribed some stimulant medicine for her. Dr. Caro's third prescription was like witness's, to a certain extent. He called on the evening of the same day, when she had recovered from the weakness, and complained of sickness—vomiting. Prisoner ascribed the vomiting to pregnancy and she assented to the opinion. Prisoner also said she had heart disease. Witness tried the heart with a stethoscope, and it was his opinion that she had not heart disease. The heart sounds were all clear and distinct, though the action was rather weak and quick. He detected no signs of disease. Witness was not certain that pregnancy was spoken of at this visit—perhaps it took place the next morning. He gave her a second prescription.... In acute poisoning by arsenic the smallest dose would be two grains of that poison. Witness saw Mrs M'Lennan again on the morning of the 25th, when prisoner said she was so much better that witness need not call any more. He did not see her again alive. He recollected making a *post mortem* examination on April 29 by order of the Coroner, at the Napier Cemetery, upon an adult female. The examination was made in a building used as a tool-house. Dr. de Lisle assisted, and Dr Caro and some of the police were present, and, he believed, the sexton was there too. The body was considerably advanced in decomposition and was beyond recognition. It was a well-developed, muscular body, and had a good deal of fat. Decomposition was so far advanced that the fat was becoming what was termed adipocere.²² On removing the skull they noticed that the different bones of the skull were not firmly united. The brain itself was practically decomposed,

and reduced to a mere mass, beyond recognition of the different parts. It was in a semi-fluid state. On opening the chest the lungs were shrunken against the back of the chest, very soft under pressure. They contained no tubercles and there was no sign of pneumonia (inflammation of the lungs), nor any signs of pleurisy. The heart was in a fair state of preservation, considering the state the other parts of the body were in. It was contracted, and all the cavities were empty. The valves and membranes were all healthy. The muscular tissues of the heart were in fair condition, and showed no signs of fatty degeneration. The abdomen also appeared healthy. It contained a large amount of fat, which was in the same state as that in the chest. The stomach was empty, and the external coats were healthy. On putting the blade of the knife inside, he found a layer of grumous matter. The term grumous was applied to blood when not in a liquid state. The intestines contained only air, and were healthy in appearance. The liver appeared to be about the ordinary size—was rather softened, the result of recent decomposition. Under the capsule of the liver were a considerable number of minute, whitish, chalky-looking masses, angular in shape, and about the size of a pea. The capsule of the liver healthy. The gall bladder was empty, and apparently healthy. The spleen was too decomposed for him to offer any opinion on it. The kidneys were too decomposed, to say what state they were in. The deceased had never been pregnant. He removed the stomach, liver, and spleen, and placed them in three separate jars, which he closed, sealed, marked 1, 2, and 3, on the spot, and handed over, to Constable Byrne. He wrote a statement of the contents of the jars for the constable to take to the Government analyst. The letter produced was the one he gave the constable to take with the jars. From the examination of the body he was not able to offer any opinion as to the cause of death. No cause was discovered to enable him to say whether the person had died from natural causes or not. When he saw Mrs M'Lennan he did not know she had any fatal complaint on her, but was under the impression that she was pregnant. Had she been pregnant it would have been sufficient to account for the vomiting, fainting, and functional disturbance of the heart. Various poisons if

administered by degrees till the bodily health was affected might produce some of the signs of pregnancy. The examination of the body was as thorough as its state would permit. The most common cause of sudden death was apoplexy. The heart was in a sufficient state of preservation to enable him to examine it thoroughly, and he ascertained that there was no fatty degeneration. There was no sign of any other disease in the heart, and he could see no trace of apoplexy having been the cause of death. He had seen a case of acute arsenical poisoning many years ago. From his own experience he could state that the most frequent symptoms of chronic arsenical poisoning were redness of the white of the eye, a mild inflammation of the stomach, occasioning pain and vomiting, and a loss of appetite. There was usually a quantity of mucus in the vomit, when the stomach had no food. The symptoms of arsenical poisoning were various. Arsenic acted on the stomach, and in cases of chronic arsenical poison death would be caused by inflammation of the stomach and weakening of the heart. It was even stated that it would produce fatty degeneration of the heart. If arsenic were found in the stomach, none in the liver and a trace in the spleen, he would take it to indicate that more than one dose had been administered. He thought, that if only one dose had been taken a trace would have been found in the liver, as well as in the stomach. The arsenic went first into the stomach and then went into general circulation. He believed it possible for a person to be poisoned by arsenic and yet no trace to be found in the body.

Mr Lascelles was commencing to cross-examine Dr. Spencer, when he was taken suddenly ill, and the cross-examination had to be postponed.

The Court adjourned at 12.55, and returned at 1.45.

As Mr Lascelles was still ill the cross examination of Dr. Spencer was not proceed with.²³

CORONER'S INQUEST

William Elias Bullied, a boy 13 years of age, son of the deceased, deposed that he accompanied his father last Saturday. They were returning home in the cart, when, on nearing the railway

crossing, this side of the Shamrock, the horse shied and bolted away at full gallop, the reins got under the horse's tail, and the animal commenced kicking. Witness was pitched out, but was not hurt and ran after the cart. When witness next saw his father he was lying on his back, breathing very hard, and appearing to be quite insensible. There was a blue mark across his chest and it appeared that the cart-wheel had gone over it. Witness left Mr. Smith with his father and went to look after the horse....

John Pearse Smith, landlord of the Shamrock Hotel, deposed that he lifted deceased up twice. He was breathing very hard, and was unable to speak or move. One of his legs was broken. There was a wheel mark over his chest. There was a town cab passing at the time, in which a lady and gentleman were seated, who kindly got out. Deceased was put into the cab, and witness accompanied him to Napier and took him to Dr. Spencer, who advised his being taken immediately to the hospital, Dr Spencer saying that he would follow. Deceased. died on reaching the hospital. He was a very temperate man.²⁴

1880s

An accident of a rather serious nature occurred yesterday morning to Mr John Holt, eldest son of Mr Robert Holt. He was engaged with some of his father's workmen in getting a log on to the breaking-down machine, when by some means one of his feet got into the machinery, and was severely crushed. He was at once placed in a cab and taken home, where he was attended by Dr. Spencer. It was at first thought that amputation of the injured limb would be necessary, but we are glad to say that recourse to that measure will not be required and it is hoped that in a few weeks Mr Holt will be able to resume his employment.²⁵

RESIDENT MAGISTRATE'S COURT

Sarah Elizabeth Wilson was charged on the information of Sergeant O'Malley with having no lawful visible means of support. Sergeant O'Malley stated that he had known the

prisoner for the last two years, and during that time she had been receiving charitable aid. The prisoner was of extremely dirty habits, and kept herself and children in a filthy state. She would not work. He had received a letter from Dr Spencer, the Chairman of the Charitable Aid Committee, complaining of the prisoner's habits, characterising them as dangerous to the health of the neighborhood, and asking to have her removed from the barracks. The money allowed her by the Committee had been stopped. Inspector Scully stated that the prisoner had only been in the barracks a week, but in that time she had made the place in a filthy state. His Worship considered the charge fully proved, and sentenced the prisoner to three months' imprisonment with hard labor. James Wilson, William Wilson, John Wilson, Catherine Wilson and Thomas Wilson, the prisoner's children, were charged with being neglected children, and having no means of support. Sergeant O'Malley proved the charge. The accused were ordered to be sent to the Burnham Industrial School, Canterbury—James Wilson for four years; William Wilson, five years; and John Wilson, Catherine Wilson, and Thomas Wilson for seven years; all to be brought up in the Church of England faith.²⁶

Mary Harvey, a girl 16 years of age, met with a curious accident at Taradale recently. She was kneeling on some matting in which a darning, needle happened to be embedded, and the needle entered at the knee-joint. She was removed to the hospital, where Dr Menzies, assisted by Dr Spencer, removed the needle.²⁷

An accident of a rather severe nature occurred to the Rev. Father Reignier on Saturday morning. He was proceeding in his buggy towards St. Mary's Church and when reaching the corner of the hill near the Catholic school some portion of the harness gave way, causing the horse to swerve against the wall that encloses the school ground. The buggy was upset and Father Reignier was thrown violently to the ground, sustaining some injury to his head, though not of a serious nature, and also some

severe scratches about the face. He was quickly removed to the presbytery and the attendance of Dr Spencer procured. We learned on inquiry yesterday that the Reverend Father was progressing very favorably.²⁸

Yesterday morning a man named Arthur Anderson, in the employ of Mr Simpson, of Havelock, was very severely kicked in the chest by a horse whose hind legs he was washing. He was speedily attended by Dr Spencer, who found on examination that there were no bones broken, and the patient will probably be able to resume his work in a few days.²⁹

On Wednesday afternoon, at the Napier railway station, Mr Robert Smith, while engaged at coupling, got his left arm between the buffers, and the fleshy part of the arm above the elbow was burst open for two-thirds of the size of the arm. Fortunately the bone escaped; had the arm been but a little lower the bone must have been smashed. Dr. Spencer was early in attendance, and now Mr Smith is progressing favorably.³⁰

A gun accident occurred at the Spit yesterday, presenting another instance of the folly of leaving firearms loaded. Two boys named John and Frank Cross being left at home alone were playing with an old gun which, unaware to them, was loaded. Frank put a cap on the gun, pointed the weapon at his brother, and fired, a ramrod that was in the barrel penetrating between John Cross's shoulder blades. Frank at once went to the neighbors and reported the circumstance, and on several of them entering the house they found the wounded boy lying on his face. Dr Caro and Dr Spencer were soon in attendance, and a portion of the ramrod was taken out, but there was some left which could not at the time be removed. The unfortunate lad was then removed to the hospital. We learn that there are hopes of his recovery if the lungs are not penetrated.³¹

Mr Boggs, licensee of the Waverley Hotel, died very suddenly yesterday evening. He was in town on Monday, apparently in the best of health, but he had two fits yesterday. Dr Spencer was sent for, but before he arrived Mr Boggs was dead.³²

INQUEST AT THE HOSPITAL.

(Thomas Murphy) had just started to work when one of the boys came and informed him that his wife had committed suicide. He sent for Dr Spencer, and immediately returned home. He found his wife lying on the bed with her throat cut. He searched, but could find no cutting instrument with any blood on it. On Saturday he asked her why she committed the deed, and she replied it was because she could not go home to her people. He then asked what instrument she had used, and she answered that it was with a pair of scissors. (The scissors were produced.) Under the direction of Dr Spencer deceased was conveyed to the hospital on Saturday afternoon, and he remained with her till 7 o'clock, but did not see her again till she was dead.³³

James Smart, butcher, was dining at the London Hotel, Spit, yesterday, when a large piece of meat stuck in his throat. He was evidently choking, and a messenger was dispatched for Dr Spencer, efforts being made in the meantime to remove the obstruction. No relief could, however, be given, and before Dr Spencer arrived the man was choked to death.³⁴

We regret to have to report the occurrence last Saturday of a serious accident to Mrs Sheild, of Waikonini station. When out riding with Mr Sheild her horse suddenly reared up and threw her to the ground. She unfortunately alighted on her head, and received so severe a concussion as to be rendered insensible. Dr Spencer was at once sent for, and remained in unremitting attendance until yesterday afternoon, when he returned to town. Mrs Shields recovered consciousness on Tuesday, after having been insensible for over seventy hours. She is still in rather a critical condition, though in some measure the more serious

danger has past. Much sympathy is felt for the unfortunate lady, who is deservedly esteemed among a wide circle of friends.³⁵

A serious accident occurred on Tuesday evening to Mr Chamberlain, clerk to Messrs Banner and Liddle. He was riding home at about 6 o'clock, and when reaching the corner of the Coote-road, near the Marist Brothers' school, he was thrown from his horse, and alighting on his head he was rendered unconscious. He was removed to his home in the Coote-road and was speedily attended by Dr Caro and Dr Spencer. He regained consciousness almost at once, but bled profusely from the left ear, leading to the suspicion that the base of the skull was injured. We learned, however, last evening that the bleeding had partially stopped, and no symptom of compression of the brain had become manifest, though Mr Chamberlain was deemed to be still in a critical state.³⁶

The guard of the early train yesterday morning met with a painful accident at Paki Paki. During the process of shunting the train the cowcatcher jammed his right foot, ripping the boot entirely off. On reaching town his injury was attended to by Dr Spencer.³⁷

A very painful accident occurred yesterday morning at the Mercantile Boiling-down Works, Clive, to a man named Frederick Parsons. He had gone aloft to see to some part of the machinery that had gone wrong, and slipping from where he was standing he fell on to two rafters, from which projected several hooks used for hanging the carcasses of sheep. One of his arms was caught near the elbow on a hook, and for a second or so Parsons hung suspended. His struggles then freed him, the hook coming out at the wrist, and inflicting a wound about eight inches long. He was picked up insensible and brought to Napier, where he was attended to by Dr Spencer, who sewed up the wound. It will probably be about six weeks before Parsons will be able to resume work.³⁸

We regret to have to record a painful accident that occurred to Major Scully on Friday afternoon. It appears that, while alighting from a buggy, Mr Scully's foot slipped, and he fell heavily on the step of the vehicle, injuring his ribs, several of which it is feared are broken. The wants of the sufferer were attended to shortly afterwards by Dr Spencer, and we are pleased to learn that, although still confined to his room, Inspector Scully is now in a fair way towards recovery.³⁹

Last evening an Austrian, and a stranger to Napier, fell down in a fit in Hastings-street nearly opposite the Bank of New Zealand. Dr Spencer was sent for, and had the man removed to Mr Welsman's shop, where restoratives were administered. Soon afterwards he recovered sufficiently to give his name and address, and was conveyed home by the police.⁴⁰

Mr H. Renouf, we are sorry to learn, met with an accident while doing a neighbourly act. One of the chimneys in Mr Holt's house took fire this morning. Mr Renouf, who lives near, immediately went to the roof to cover the top of the chimney; in doing so in a hurry he fell from a ladder to the ground, and his left arm was broken above the elbow. Dr. Spencer was soon in attendance and set the broken limb.⁴¹

To-day we were shown a very rough and heavy bullet that was this morning taken from the leg of a man, formerly in the Armed Constabulary, named Joseph Hogan. It appears that Hogan was wounded in the fight at Ngutuotemanu, about eighty miles inland from Wanganui, in July, 1868. Hogan was then serving under Colonel Macdonell. Lately Hogan felt considerable pain, and when on horseback could feel a hard substance pressing against the saddle. He consulted Dr. Spencer on Saturday, when it was arranged to extract the bullet to-day at the Hospital, when the operation was successfully performed. The bullet is a heavy rough cast ball, evidently made by the Maoris.⁴²

A man of the name of Robert McLachlan, a railway engine driver, residing in Carlyle street, cut his throat this morning while in a state of deep despondency over his wife's alleged conduct. Fortunately the rash deed was not fatal. Drs. Spencer, De Lisle, and Hoadley were sent for, and were soon in attendance, and the wound was sewn up, and Sergeant Burtenshaw then had the man conveyed to the Hospital, where he now lies in a precarious condition. A paper was found in his pocket in which he commends the care of his children to the benevolent, and says that he committed the deed through his life being rendered miserable.⁴³

McLachlan died of his wound.

This morning, about a quarter to ten, a little boy named Jeremiah O'Rourke, residing in Dickens-street, found on the beach, close to high-water mark, and opposite the residence of the Hon. J. N. Wilson, the body of a fully developed newly-born female infant. The umbilical cord had not been tied, and the infant was badly bruised about the head. An inquest will be held before Captain Preece at Peddie's Clarendon Hotel, at two o'clock this afternoon, and a post mortem examination in the meantime will be made by Dr. Spencer.⁴⁴

Dr. Meuzies deposed that Turanga Karauria was admitted into the hospital on Friday night. Dr. Spencer arrived shortly afterwards. The patient was in a prostrate condition, but perfectly sensible. Examined Karauria on Friday, and it was decided that he should remain quiet for the night. One bullet was extracted, but they failed to find the other. In conjunction with Dr. Spencer on Saturday made an exhaustive examination for the bullet. The patient remained under their care until he died at eight minutes past five yesterday.⁴⁵

The body of the Chinaman, Ah Yack, was exhumed, and an examination held on it at the hospital yesterday by Dr Spencer,

there being , also present Drs Moore, Linney, Faulkner, and Menzies. From the appearance of the intestines one of the medical gentlemen considered the appearances denoted poison, and part of the stomach and the contents of the bladder were removed for analysis. There were no signs of strangulation, as alleged, by Dr Menzies.⁴⁶

1890s

The *Herald's* "Own correspondent" from Waipawa (one William Frederick Howlett) gossiped,

I noticed that Mr S. Robinson was a passenger by the express on Saturday. I was rather surprised at seeing him so soon and in such excellent health and spirits, having understood that he had undergone a very grave surgical operation at the Napier hospital on Thursday in the week previous. It appears that he had a part of the lower jaw with a tumor attached to and partially under it removed. Dr. Spencer performed the operation, assisted by Dr. Menzies, hospital surgeon, and Dr. A. Todd, of Waipawa. Dr. Todd, I believe, about a year ago, removed part of the lower lip for a similar growth, and on being consulted about its recurrence in the lower jaw advised its immediate removal, which has now been very skilfully done, and all the diseased parts removed.⁴⁷

At the Resident Magistrate's Court yesterday, before Dr. Spencer, J.P., George Cavanagh was fined 10s and costs for drunkenness. William Randall, who on the 11th of October was in such a had state from *delirium tremens* that he had to be sent to gaol to be treated by the surgeon, was yesterday certified to be in a fit state to be dealt with. He was ordered to pay £1 2s 6d, cost of his treatment and maintenance in gaol, or to be imprisoned for seven days with hard labour.⁴⁸

Mr F. Williams met with a somewhat serious accident yesterday. While engaged in carrying a large sheet of window

glass a sudden puff of wind broke it, and a large piece falling across his left wrist inflicted a severe gash, cutting several veins, and all but completely severing a large sinew. He was taken to Mr Welsman's shop, when Dr. Spencer stitched up the wound and bandaged it.⁴⁹

An inquest was held last evening by Dr. Spencer, Deputy-Coroner on the body of Mrs Chambers, the wife of a cabman who died suddenly the night before. After hearing the evidence of Dr. Hughes the inquest was adjourned to allow of the analysis of a small basin found in deceased's bedroom.⁵⁰

The inquest on the body of Mrs Chambers, who died suddenly on Thursday, was concluded last night before Dr. Spencer, J.P., deputy-coroner. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that death was caused by paralysis of the heart, as the result of the use of an Instrument and injection.⁵¹

1 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 March 1868.

2 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 June 1868.

3 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 30 September 1870.

4 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 November 1870.

5 *Hawke's Bay Times* 31 January 1871.

6 *Hawke's Bay Times* 2 March 1871.

7 *Hawke's Bay Times* 10 June 1871.

8 *Hawke's Bay Times* 20 October 1871.

9 *Hawke's Bay Times* 25 October 1871.

10 *Hawke's Bay Times* 30 October 1871.

11 *Hawke's Bay Times* 3 August 1872.

12 *Hawke's Bay Times* 9 December 1873.

13 *Hawke's Bay Times* 13 March 1874.

14 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 20 January 1877.

15 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 May 1878.

16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 May 1878. Swan would become Mayor of Napier after Spencer.

17 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 12 August 1878.

18 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 October 1878.

19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 December 1878.

20 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 April 1879.

21 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 July 1879.

22 Adipocere, also known as corpse wax or the fat of graveyards, is a product of decomposition that turns body fat into a soap-like substance.

23 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17 December 1879. The *Herald* of 19 December recorded the jury's verdict of "not guilty".

24 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 December 1879.

25 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 19 March 1880.

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- 26 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 July 1880.
 27 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 17 September 1880.
 28 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 November 1880.
 29 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 December 1880.
 30 *Daily Telegraph* 22 July 1881.
 31 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 July 1881. The boy was paralysed below the injury and died 3 days later (*Herald* 5 August).
 32 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 August 1881.
 33 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 August 1881.
 34 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 September 1881.
 35 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 October 1881.
 36 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 December 1881.
 37 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 July 1882.
 38 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 February 1883.
 39 *Daily Telegraph* 21 May 1883.
 40 *Daily Telegraph* 31 October 1883.
 41 *Daily Telegraph* 27 February 1884.
 42 *Daily Telegraph* 4 March 1889.
 43 *Daily Telegraph* 30 August 1884.
 44 *Daily Telegraph* 16 January 1885.
 45 *Daily Telegraph* 17 June 1889.
 46 *Daily Telegraph* 25 November 1889.
 47 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 June 1893.
 48 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 28 October 1893.
 49 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 22 December 1893.
 50 *Hastings Standard* 17 September 1896.
 51 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 18 September 1896.
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CHAPTER 7: THE SCIENTIST

The *Cyclopaedia* states,

Dr. Spencer was also a diligent scientist, who kept well abreast of the times in all matters of science, and who gave occasional lectures on scientific subjects.¹

Indeed, in 1878...

The programme of the Napier Mutual Improvement Society for this evening consists of readings and recitations by the members. We understand that at the meeting on Wednesday evening next Dr Spencer will deliver an interesting lecture, which will probably be illustrated with the aid of a powerful

microscope. We believe the lecture will be open to visitors, but on that point further notice will be given.²

... and in 1889,

STUDY OF THE MICROSCOPE.

SIR,— It appears desirable in the interest of scientific pursuit, so deservedly fashionable in the present age, that a class should be formed for the study of the microscope, in connection with the Athenæum. Dr. Spencer, whose researches with the microscope are so well known, has kindly consented to give a course of lectures in the Athenæum during the cooler months on the uses of the microscope, if a sufficient number of those interested can be assembled. Early communication with Mr Hamilton, the secretary of the Athenæum, who will give his advice and assistance in arranging preliminaries is advisable. — I am, &c, OMNIASCOPE.³

The General Medical Council recommended that microscopy be included in medical education only in 1869 but the use of the microscope was being taught at St Thomas's Medical School from 1847 and King's College from 1853⁴ so it seems likely Spencer learned it as a medical student at the University of London.

In 1876 he bought his own; Anna recorded the purchase in her diary,

Saturday 3 June 1876: ... Willie is all agog about a magnificent 80 guineas microscope which he has been offered at half price. He means to take it.

23 June: The microscope has arrived & Willie is happy.

The microscope was an object of social curiosity as well as of scientific investigation: Anna wrote in her 1876 diary,

29 June: After dinner Mr Robinson came & had a microscope evening with William.

4 July: The Robinsons & Mrs Herrick & Miss Marshall came to dinner. Just as soup went off the table Willie got called to an accident at the Spit & had to go at once. Man nearly drowned. Mr R. did the honours of host in his place. Willie got home some time after dinner was over. He showed us the electric light arrangements & the

microscope. We had a pleasant evening & I think our guests enjoyed it.

5 July: Mr & Mrs Tabs came down after dinner & we had an evening at the microscope which they seemed to enjoy thoroughly.

8 July: I practised after dinner & Willie worked at the books & after at his beloved microscope.

15 July: Willie had to go to the church after dinner & brought the Padre back with him to smoke a pipe & have a look at the microscope.

9 August: Mrs Duncan called. Miss I came to dinner. We had billiards after & then the microscope.

26 August: Miss Taylor came & stayed looking at the microscope. She left early.



Dr Spencer's microscope.

Photograph supplied by Royal Society of New Zealand, Hawke's Bay.

William Colenso wrote to his friend David Balfour, who had sent mud from a stream where trout hatchlings were dying,

I could make nothing worth writing about from the "Mud" you sent me—I passed on a portion of it to Dr Spencer for him to examine with his powerful Compound Microscope—and, I find, from him the result to be the same. ... Neither Dr S nor myself could find any trace of Fungi in the "mud"—such was not likely, but Diatoms, dead, &c.⁵

Spencer's microscope was of course by now a necessity in his medical and medicolegal work; he gave evidence at the Supreme Court in regard to a £25 bill that appeared to have been altered to read "£325"

William Isaac Spencer, medical practitioner, said he had had considerable experience with the microscope in examining all sorts of objects. He thought that where two inks were used he could detect it if they were of different colors—he might if they were of different shades. He had examined the £325 bill and noticed a difference in the darkness of the ink in different parts. The figures "25" appeared to be in a lighter ink than tin "3," and the word "pounds" lighter than the other words. The "ive" in "five" seemed darker than the "f" and the upstroke to the "i," and looked as if it might have been touched up or written over. The downstrokes of the "ds" appeared to be in darker ink, and the letter "s" looked as if written over at a different time and with different ink.⁶

Microscopy was his hobby and it was that solitary scientific diversion from the intensity of medical relationships that led to his best publications and his international recognition as a scientist. On 11 July 1881 he read

... a long and elaborate paper on the microscopical fresh-water Algæ of Napier and its neighbourhood... (and) accompanied his paper with a large number of colored drawings of many species with their dissections, all exceedingly well executed. Very great interest was shewn in the examination of those faithful representations of so many beautiful and really wonderful organisms, most of which are wholly invisible to the naked eye. A curious fact had also been elicited, that a very large percentage of those minute vegetations were identically the

same as those of Great Britain and Europe, described and drawn in the books of the Institute which lay on the table. The thanks of the meeting were heartily and unanimously accorded to Dr. Spencer for his able and interesting paper and drawings.⁷

He submitted his paper for publication. Colenso, secretary of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, wrote to James Hector, editor of the *Transactions*,

*I have the honour to send you herewith (enclosed) a Paper on the fresh-water Algæ of New Zealand, by Dr. Spencer, with illustrative drawings—received from him yesterday.*⁸

The paper was duly published: "On the fresh-water algæ of New Zealand". *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1881. 14: 287-299. He began,

REFERENCE to Sir J. Hooker's "Handbook of the New Zealand Flora," pp. 645-646, will show how little attention has in this country been hitherto bestowed upon one of the most beautiful orders of the vegetable kingdom. And as one reads in paragraph after paragraph, in which the various tribes of the fresh-water Algæ are enumerated, such statements as "Very numerous, not hitherto collected in New Zealand — "This beautiful fresh-water group has not hitherto been collected in New Zealand"—and again, "The species are very numerous and have never been collected or studied in New Zealand," one cannot help feeling that the reiteration suggests to the naturalists of this colony a powerful incentive to undertake the systematic study of this most remarkable and interesting order of plants.

It is with much diffidence that I lay this paper before you to-night, because I feel that I am treading upon unbroken ground, and that the subject is a vast one, involving for its complete investigation much study and much time, neither of which I have been able to devote to it, and also the consultation and comparison of many books which have not been at my command. Nevertheless, if my imperfect attempt has the result of drawing the attention of some of the many able naturalists in this country to a hitherto neglected section of its natural history, and of enlisting other and more competent workers than myself in its investigation, I shall feel that the object I proposed in drawing up this paper has been fully accomplished.⁹

Poor William Colenso, Honorary Secretary of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, sensitive soul that he was, felt obliged to write a second "private" letter to Hector, partly apologising for Spencer's introductory remarks lest they be interpreted as critical; and partly responding "warmly" to them,

*In sending you Dr. Spencer's paper (now to hand from him with Drawings), I would just observe,—that his remarks in pp. 1 & 2, (partly gathered from Dr. Hooker's Hand-Book,) gave rise to much discussion, at the reading of his paper. I, for one, showed (rather warmly) the utter impossibility in past years of any one of us in N.Z. having all the requisite means for carrying out such a work—including, of course, time, place, & quiet, (which indeed, he himself has lamented!) and that, while Dr. Hooker had made those remarks (yet not exactly in the way in which Dr. Spencer had done,) still, he himself, had wintered here in B. Islands, and had done nothing in that particular branch! Moreover, I thought that Dr. Spencer was pretty fairly supplied with many valuable works of authority in the subject,—as Ralf's *Desmids*, Hassall's *f.w. alg.* Hooker's (*f. & son*) whole *setts*, Montague's *Sylloge*, *Microg. Dicty.*, &c. &c. I see the Doctor has toned down his introduction—a wee bit, (which, he had, in part, promised to do,)—and has, also, left out something more; but I would that he had not come out quite in that style: besides, Maskell has been hard at work on the *Desmids*. I introduced Dr. Spencer to Mr. Maskell, and now, I hope, they may work well together.—Of course, all this is private.¹⁰*

W. M. Maskell did seek the doctor's help and wrote,

Several of the plants given in the following list have come to me in gatherings from Hawke's Bay, and I must express my thanks to Dr. Spencer, of Napier, who has kindly forwarded these gatherings, and in other ways materially assisted me. Indeed, strictly speaking, I have no right to include these in my paper: but Dr. Spencer informs me that he is not able this year to publish them. I understand that he proposes shortly to describe several new species in other families of *Algae*.¹¹

On 9 October 1882 Spencer presented his second paper,

Dr Spencer... read his paper on some newly discovered fresh-water *Algæ*, mostly microscopical, from the waters of Hawke's Bay District; strange to say some of them were obtained from the hot springs! flourishing in waters of 130 and 136 degrees of heat!! nearly all of them were illustrated by drawings made by Dr Spencer.¹²

The additional "Notes on fresh-water algæ" was published in *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1882. 15: 302-304.

Spencer's drawings of algae have survived in the Te Papa collections and John Buchanan made lithographs for publication (see next page).

Spencer had joined the Auckland Institute in 1872 ("Spencer, W.D., M.D., Napier"¹³) and 1873 (corrected to "Spencer, W. I., M.R.C.S., Napier") and retained membership until 1875. He joined the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute on its foundation in 1874 and was elected a Councillor;¹⁴ in 1878 he was elected its Vice-President¹⁵ and its President in 1886 and again in 1890.¹⁶ It was he who, in 1878, arranged for the Institute's collection of scientific books to be made accessible in the Athenæum library.¹⁷ He was elected President of the Athenæum in 1879.

In 1880 he spoke on diatoms,

The first ordinary meeting for the season of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute was held last evening at the Athenæum. The attendance was very limited. Dr Spencer, the Vice-President, occupied the chair.... He then proceeded to exhibit by the aid of a very powerful microscope some specimens of diatoms, a description of minute vegetable bodies which, like the mollusca among animals, have the power of clothing themselves with an outer shell. There was, however, the difference that while the oyster and others of its kind clothed themselves with chalk the shell of the diatom was silica. There was also the difference that the shell of the diatom, though excessively minute, was geometrical in form and of most beautiful construction. This was amply proved by examination through the microscope. There was also the notable circumstance that the diatom was universal all over the world, and its shells were found in the highest mountain ranges and

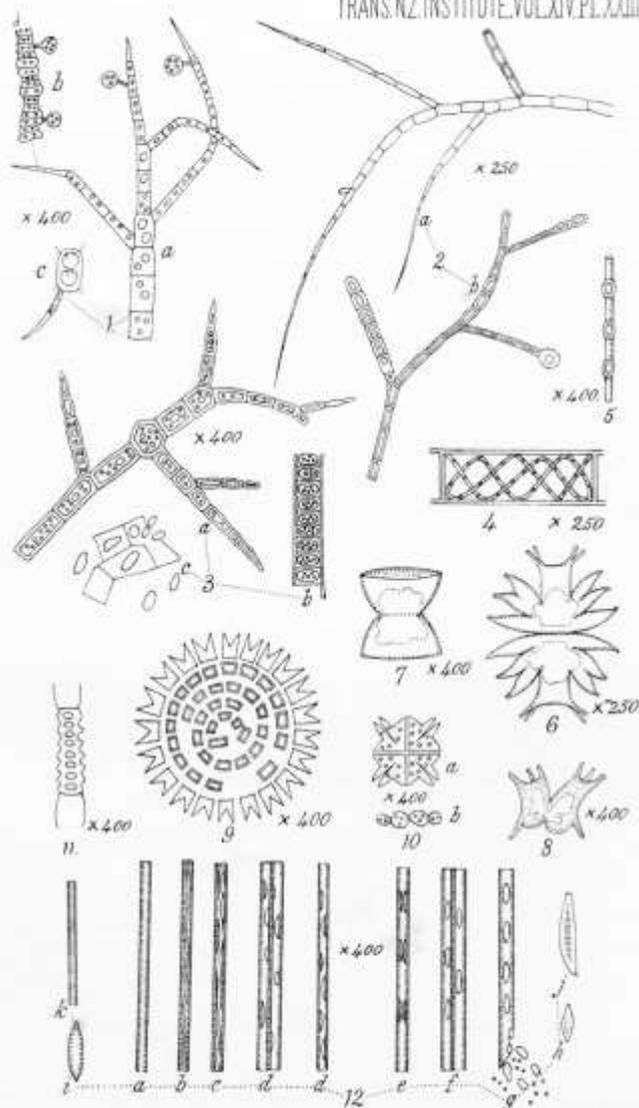
down in the bed of the ocean some two miles deep. Dr Spencer showed some specimens taken at that depth by the Challenger. He also showed some specimens taken from near Petane, chiefly remarkable because of the curious paper-like substance on which they were found. At the conclusion of Dr Spencer's highly interesting and instructive lecture, Mr Colenso exhibited a large number of specimens of goldbearing quartz, some of which were exceedingly rich in the precious metal.¹⁸

In 1883,

His Worship the Mayor, Dr Spencer, last evening delivered a lecture at the Working Men's Club on the geology of Scinde Island. In an interesting manner, and in language as free from technicalities as possible, the lecturer described the gradual geological growth of the land on which Napier stands, illustrating the successive periods of formation by exhibiting fossils of shells, &c. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was passed to Dr Spencer.¹⁹

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XXIII.

- Fig. 1. *Chatophora*, showing stipitate fructification; (a) filament,
(b) antheridial filament, (c) zoospore.
- „ 2. *Cladophora* (a) ordinary cells.
(b) sporiferous cells.
- „ 3. „ (a) portion of filament.
(b) antheridial filament.
(c) zoospores.
- „ 4. *Spirogyra*.
- „ 5. *Oscillatoria* with sporidial cells.
- „ 6. *Micrasterias ampullacea*, var. β .
- „ 7. *Cosmarium*, sp. ?
- „ 8. *Staurastrum*, sp. ?
- „ 9. *Pediastrum pertusum*.
- „ 10. „ sp. ? (a) front.
(b) end.
- „ 11. *Scenedesmus quadricauda*.
- „ 12. *Synedra ulna*—to illustrate sporidial multiplication.



K. Spencer del.

N.Z. FRESH-WATER ALGÆ.

In 1885 Colenso quoted from Dr Spencer's "interesting and copious description (of a liverwort), which, with much pleasure, I bring forward here,"

The elaters are very beautiful objects, they give one the idea of a double cord twisted into two helices; with a high power, a distinct but exceedingly fine membrane is seen surrounding the loops, not straight but following their sinuosities. The spores are circular, edges quite smooth, outline double, with cellular space between the two contours. Elaters, length $1/36''$, breadth $1/1900''$. Spores, breadth $1/950''$ to $1/1900''$. (Dr. Spencer in lit.)²⁰

The two men collaborated in their scientific pursuits. There is a letter from Spencer to Colenso in the Mitchell Library in Sydney,

Napier, 3 Sept 1888

Dear Mr. Colenso,

Many thanks for the packet of samples. I have looked over them & find

No.1 A most interesting Hepatica.

2. Marked "something" is a bit of an alga: last year's growth. Probably a Cladophora, but now quite empty of chlorophyll, so that I cannot diagnose it with certainty.

No.3 From Glenross. Deposit from bottom of ditch or pond. It contains vegetable matter in state of debris, together with fragments of silica—also many diatoms, mostly in fragments Pinnularia, Synedra, &c all fresh water species.

No.4. Stone with green mantle. Growing diatoms, Lyemophora(?) very beautiful. I am putting a specimen up in balsam for future reference.

No.5. Brown stone. Algae. Palmellaceae.

Nos. 2, 3, & 5 I am trying to cultivate in order to make out with certainty.

At your leisure will you kindly tell me what the enclosed plant is. Is it not Ranunculus plebeius? It was sent down the country on account of its medicinal repute in cases of diarrhoea & is said to be superior to koromiko. You will be glad to hear that my son has gained honours at Univ. Coll. in Botany, Physics, & Chemistry, at the end of his first year.

*With kind regards,
Sincerely yours,
W.I. Spencer*

Colenso named the liverwort *Plagiochila spenceriana* and the cup fungus *Peziza spencerii* for him.

On 31 January 1886 Spencer donated to the museum a sperm whale foetus (no longer there) and, from Gisborne, the footprint of a moa (still there). His Presidential Address in 1886 was published in the *Herald*,

In bringing to a conclusion this, the twelfth session of our Philosophical Institute, I think I am in a position to congratulate you on the progress that has been made since the last annual meeting. The number of papers read during the session is 22, a number considerably in excess of the average of previous years. The subjects treated of also, including botany, zoology, geology, astronomy, earthquakes and volcanoes, &c. are sufficiently varied to show that the number of our scientific observers has not diminished, nor has their zeal decreased. At the opening meeting of the session I announced to you that the Council had acquiesced in a proposal to ask the aid and concurrence of the various branches of the New Zealand Institute, in bringing before the Government and in representing the advantages which would accrue to the colony by the establishment of a marine biological laboratory. To this effect a circular was drawn up, and, a copy forwarded to the presidents of the Philosophical Societies in the colony in May last. Answers have now been received from all, and with the exception of one which declines to join in making any representation to the Government; and one which whilst fully approving of the principle indicated in the circular is not prepared to further it at present, are all favorable. Copies of the circular were forwarded also to a number of gentlemen of scientific standing, with a request, that they would favor your Council with their opinion and advice, and also, if favorable to the scheme, with their interest. Out of nine letters sent answers have been received from five gentlemen, all of whom expressed their willingness to support the proposition. Several, however, suggested modifications in

the scheme as laid down. This, of course, was nothing more than was to be expected. The details of so large a plan necessarily require much consideration from various points of view before they can be amalgamated into definite and feasible order. The first great point has been, I think, established; that is, the advisability and the practicability of such an institution, and the fact that the project has secured the approval of a large proportion of the scientific men in the colony. As to the economical advantages that would accrue to the country from such an establishment, it is not difficult to show that they would be great. Of the edible fishes which are to be found on our coasts and in our rivers comparatively little is known. Their habitats, their spawning (both as to season of year and as to locality), their numbers and comparative value, the best methods of cultivating and capturing them, and, with perhaps few exceptions, their natural history, have never been systematically studied. The cultivation also of oysters and edible crustaceans would be fostered; and thus not only would the colony derive the benefit of a largely increased supply of new, cheap, and wholesome foods, but employment found for a considerable population of fishermen, and a class of hardy sea-going people founded and encouraged—a class from which in Great Britain, America, and other countries the navies are so largely recruited. I hope before any long time transpires we may see that the Government of this colony is prepared to encourage, if not entirely to maintain, a marine biological laboratory. I mentioned at the beginning of the session that the Council proposed to commence the formation of a botanical collection as a special feature in the museum. A commencement has been made, sufficient to form the nucleus of what it is hoped will eventually become a representative herbarium of the flora of this part of New Zealand. A short time ago a circular was received from Professor Liversidge, of the University of New South Wales, containing a proposal to establish an Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, somewhat on the lines of the British Association, and asking this institute to unite in the scheme. Copies of the circular are laid on the table for the information of any members who may take an interest in the proposal. As a result

of some, communications which passed between your vice-president and the Government, your Council has been encouraged to apply for a site on which to erect a building for the purposes of the institute. Nothing definite has as yet been settled, but we have reason to hope that a suitable piece of land may be obtained.²¹

He went on to read a paper “treating of the recent volcanic outbreak at Tarawera” and then read “a very interesting paper on Microbes, illustrated by specimens shown under the microscope. At the conclusion of the proceedings coffee, provided by the president, was served out to members.”

Spencer stood down as President in March 1887²² and on 17 March was proposed for Fellowship of the Linnean Society by William Colenso, James Hector, William Thomas Locke Travers and Sir Walter Lawry Buller. At the Society’s meeting in London on 21 April 1887 he was balloted for and duly elected FLS.

There is, however, a note in the Society’s Fellows’ card file that he “Never joined”. Although usually in such cases the original certificate of recommendation would have been retained, Spencer’s is not in the archive.²³

We do not know why he didn’t take up the Fellowship. There is no mention of it in the records of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute nor in the local newspapers. He is afterwards named as “WI Spencer FLS” in the list of members of the HBPI (a list no doubt sent in by Colenso) and that is all. The newspapers of 1888 mention that he was planning to travel back to England (he resigned positions, sold his house) so perhaps he wanted to have the FLS conferred while he was there. He didn’t go—again, we do not know why.

In September 1887 he...

... read a paper on “The sense of smell.” In this he ably introduced and supported the theory now finding favor, in scientific quarters, to the effect that all sensation is due to vibratory excitation of the nerves, similar to that postulated as the basis of the undulatory theory of light. In proof of the hypothesis that the perceptions of odours are due to vibrations, and not to volatile emanations from the odorous object

perceived, Dr. Spencer devoted much time to a description of the nasal organs, illustrating his remarks with a skull and diagrams of portions of the nervous system.²¹

At the June 1888 meeting he...

... showed a specimen of the butterfly fish, so rare that the capture of only another specimen of the fish has been previously recorded. The specimen exhibited was thrown by a wave on to the deck of a vessel near Cape Turnagain.²⁵

At the September meeting,

The president (Colenso) read a letter from Mr Balfour, of Glenross, in which the writer narrated his attempts at hatching out fish ova, attempts nullified by a peculiar fine silt containing sporadic germs which attacked and killed the young fish. A specimen of the silt forwarded had been examined microscopically by the president and Dr. Spencer, the latter describing the fungoid spores, and stating that nothing but subjecting them to a heat of 300 degrees Fahrenheit would destroy them. The writer forwarded a diagram showing a contrivance designed to filter the sporebearing silt from the water, but unsuccessfully, and Dr. Spencer stated that no possible mode of filtration would have overcome the evil.²⁶

He again took his turn as President of the HBPI in 1889 and at its May meeting,

The President read a paper on the nervous organisations of the drosera and mimosa, more commonly known as sensitive plants. The glands and tentacula accreting the viscid matter by which the plants catch insects, which are subsequently absorbed by a process akin to digestion, were clearly explained and illustrated by diagrams. The President, with the assistance of the Rev. Mr Tuke, who lent his lantern for the purpose, also projected images of microscopic mounts upon a sheet suspended in the room. Microscopes were also placed upon the table with objects mounted for inspection, and these proved of great interest.²⁷

He gave his Presidential address at the June meeting.²⁸ That year Spencer was running a fortnightly microscopical section of the Institute; in August,

Dr. Spencer spoke on some diatoms (minute plants) he had found on the road to Petane; although not unknown to science, these specimens were, he thought, unknown in New Zealand.²⁹

A year later, in August 1890, Father Yardin spoke on Vine Culture and,

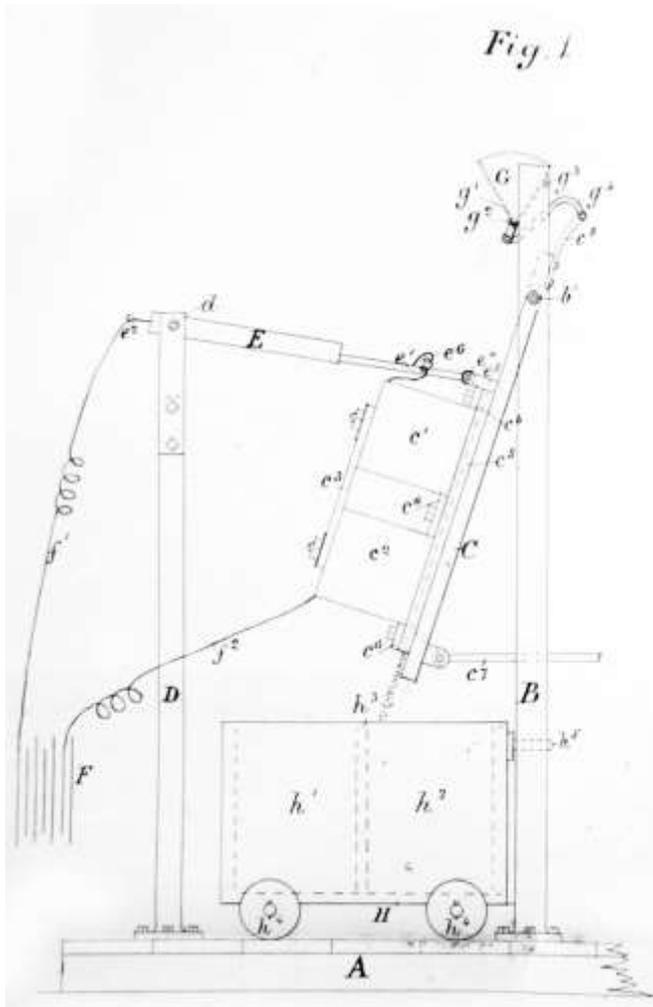
Dr. Spencer spoke in commendatory terms of the paper, Dr. Spencer bearing personal testimony to the excellent quality of the mission wines. Dr. Spencer gave an interesting account of fungi in general, and of his observations on fungi infecting a gold fish exhibited at the last meeting of the Institute.³⁰

In September he “gave a very interesting account of the geological descent of the horse”³¹ and in October he spoke on Spiders and Spiders’ Webs, illustrated with microscopic specimens³² and in September 1891 exhibited fossil shells and “gave an account of Dr. Koch’s tuberculine”,³³

Dr. Spencer gave an interesting address on Dr. Koch’s “Tuberculine,” giving an account of the various experiments made by Pasteur and afterwards by Dr. Koch in connection with the discovery and destruction of bacilli, which were the cause of various diseases such as diphtheria, tetanus, lupus, tuberculosis, and phthisis. Dr. Spencer showed several plates of various sorts of bacilli, also a small bottle of Dr. Koch’s tuberculine. He stated, however, that Dr. Virchoff and other prominent scientists held that the tuberculine when injected into the body of a person suffering from consumption did not kill the bacilli, but only destroyed the diseased portion of the lung. Dr. Spencer stated that as far as he could gather there was really no authenticated case of a complete cure of anyone suffering from consumption by the injection of the substance, now known all over the world by the name of tuberculine.

From the early days of colonisation the rich iron sands of the western North Island coasts had tempted inventors and investors alike, but no

practical or affordable smelting process had been developed. Spencer put his mind to the issue and on 12 May 1892 applied for a patent for “An invention for improvements in and apparatus for manufacturing iron from ironsand”.³⁴ He described the “nature of the invention”,



The concept makes sense, but it would have required a lot of electrical power, more perhaps than the proposed generator or batteries could have hoped to provide.

Henry Hill was also involved,

Dr. Spencer, in conjunction with Mr Hill, has for some time been experimenting with the Taranaki iron sand. He has at last succeeded in producing iron of a high class. Until the process is patented we are not at liberty to state the agent employed, but we believe it is the first time it has been applied to smelting, and the cost of production we are assured will be very low.³⁶

A syndicate was formed in Hawke's Bay and sent sand and an advocate to Britain,

Mr A. E. Potts, of Karori, near Wellington, will leave for England by the Ruahine at the end of the current month in order to place Dr. Spencer's patent of smelting the iron sand by electricity before English capitalists. It will be remembered that Mr Potts on behalf of his promoters (among whom are Captain Russell, Messrs Swan, Balfour, Cohen, and others) applied to the New Plymouth Harbor Board for a lease of two lots of the sea beach on this coast. The terms of the Board Mr Potts considered unreasonable, and he therefore has decided to abandon the idea of leasing the beach there, relying on a lease of twenty-seven acres at Patea for any future operations of a company. He takes three tons of iron sand with him to London, and intends to practically demonstrate Dr. Spencer's system to capitalists. He takes Home with him high credentials, and is very sanguine as to the result of his mission.³⁷

The speculators were to be disappointed, though,

It will be remembered that some months ago Mr A. E. Potts was sent home by a Napier syndicate to place on the market Dr. Spencer's patent process of smelting iron sand. By the mail on Saturday Mr E. M. Smith (says the *Hawera Star*) received a letter from Mr Potts stating that there does not seem much chance of his (Mr Potts') success, adding, "I am informed, however, that if your process was put properly on the market it

should go,” and offering to take it in hand. Mr Potts took Home with him some tons of sand from Patea.³⁸

The *Herald* would report, under the head EDISON AND IRON,

The modern Wizard of Invention recently patented a process for the electrical treatment of iron ores or sands, which the New Plymouth people fondly hope is intended to utilise the famous Taranaki ironsand.³⁹

To which the late Dr Spencer’s lawyer retorted,

SIR, — In your sub-leader on the above subject, you describe a method employed by Edison for separating iron from its sand by means of electro-magnets. On the principle of “*Palman qui meruit ferat*,” I would state that in 1891 I obtained a New Zealand patent for the late Dr. Spencer, for “Improvements in an apparatus for manufacturing iron from ironsands,” which apparatus consisted of an inclined sieve with horizontal bars of iron which, on being connected to an electric battery, became electro-magnets and attracted the particles of iron passing over the sieve, The sand fell through the meshes. On disconnecting the bars from the battery, the iron fell from them into a suitable receptacle. It will thus be seen that the credit of having invented the principle of electro-separation belongs to my client, and that that *principle per se* cannot now be the subject matter of a valid claim under letters patent, albeit an *improved mode* of carrying out that principle would undoubtedly be capable of protection by a properly restricted claim. — I am, &c,

H. H. MURDOCH, R.P.A.

Hastings, December 5th, 1898.⁴⁰

1 *Cyclopedia*

2 *Hawke’s Bay Herald* 14 August 1878.

3 *Hawke’s Bay Herald* 28 February 1889.

4 Palluault F 2003. Medical students in England and France 1815–1858, a comparative study. PhD thesis, University of Oxford.

<http://www.biusante.parisdescartes.fr/ressources/pdf/histmed-asclepiades-pdf-palluault2.pdf> accessed 26 October 2017.

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- 5 Colenso to Balfour 11 September 1888. Alexander Turnbull Library 88-103-1/07. Original at MTG HB 67861.
 - 6 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 April 1890.
 - 7 *Daily Telegraph* 12 July 1881.
 - 8 Colenso to Hector 29 September 1881. Museum of New Zealand—Te Papa Tongarewa MU000094/005/0287.
 - 9 *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1881. 14: 287.
 - 10 Colenso to Hector 29 September 1881. Museum of New Zealand—Te Papa Tongarewa MU000094/005/0288.
 - 11 Maskell WM 1882; On the New Zealand Desmidiæ. Additions to Catalogue and Notes on various Species. *Trans. N.Z.I.* 15:237).
 - 12 *Daily Telegraph* 10 October 1882.
 - 13 *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1872; 5: lxii.
 - 14 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 5 June 1877.
 - 15 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 4 February 1879.
 - 16 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 July 1886.
 - 17 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 November 1878.
 - 18 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 June 1880.
 - 19 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 23 August 1883.
 - 20 Colenso W 1885. A Description of some newly-discovered and rare Indigenous Plants: being a further Contribution towards the making known the Botany of New Zealand. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 18: 256-287.
 - 21 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 9 November 1886.
 - 22 *Daily Telegraph* 8 March, 1887.
 - 23 Lynda Brooks, Linnean Society Librarian and Linnaeus Link Co-ordinator, personal communication 26 October 2017.
 - 24 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 September 1887.
 - 25 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 12 June 1888.
 - 26 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 11 September 1888.
 - 27 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 May 1889.
 - 28 *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1890; 23: 630.
 - 29 *Daily Telegraph* 13 August 1889.
 - 30 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 12 August 1890.
 - 31 *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1890; 23: 631.
 - 32 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 14 October 1890.
 - 33 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 15 September 1891. Tuberculin is still used in the Mantoux and Heaf tests.
 - 34 *Appendix to the Journal of the House of Representatives* 1892.
 - 35 NZ National Archives ABPJ W3835 7396 Box 50.
 - 36 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 2 September 1895.
 - 37 *Daily Telegraph* 14 October 1896.
 - 38 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 29 April 1897.
 - 39 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 3 December 1898.
 - 40 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 6 December 1898.
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Anna Heatly, 1863, gifted by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer
Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 20638

CHAPTER 8: FAMILY

William Spencer and Anna Heatly were married in 1867 in Whanganui. Anna was the daughter of Major Charles Fade Heatly and Anna Maria (Jerome) Heatly; she was born in Karachi, India on 19 February 1845, when her father was serving with the 86th Foot which had returned to India in 1842 and seen action in Central India during the Indian Rebellion.

By the time of Anna's marriage her father had remarried and a daughter was born in Wanganui on 10 June 1867 (though the newspaper announcement was made on 28 August, the same day Anna and William's marriage was announced).¹

Anna Spencer kept a diary and that for 1876 has survived in the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust collections.² She wrote in it almost every day, fresh, intimate, frank, honest notes on her life and times.

She had grown up in an army life of privilege, with servants and governesses and as a doctor's wife in Napier she lived in spacious homes with servants. She was musical, playing the piano and singing for family, church and friends. She read widely and wrote many letters—she wrote "Indian letters" and on 18 November, "*I got an Indian letter from Mamma.*" She homeschooled the children, ran the house, helped maintain the surgery, was adept at billiards, entertained guests informally, held formal dinner parties and together they went out to concerts, balls and musical soirees.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions opened a workroom where women and girls of the township could be given an apprenticeship in needlework. Soon it became the fashion among the ladies of Napier to have fine sewing and embroidery done by the French Sisters for special occasions such as weddings and christenings.

Sister Joseph embroidered a special item for Anna Spencer.

24 Oct: So hot. Sister Mary Joseph came to see Willie and had a long chat with me - she is going to work me a handsome cover for my shamrock gypsy table. So I am in luck. She is very good.

11 Dec: Sister Mary Joseph came to see me about the table cover and the Irish harp.

16 Dec: Miss Joseph came to see Willie and brought me the top piece for shamrock table, it is so handsome beautifully worked with the 18th RI (Royal Irish) device in the centre.

The 18th RI device is a crown and harp.



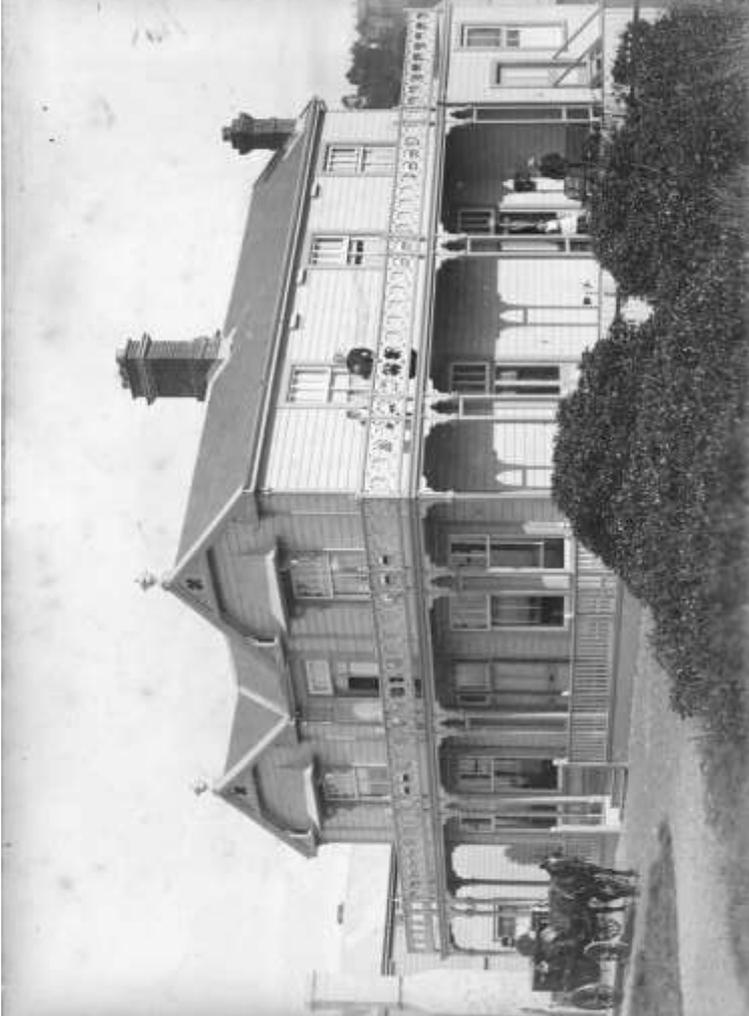
Anna's main frustrations were with finding, supervising and sometimes having to fire servants. "*Bother the servants*" she wrote and "*What hateful wretches these servants are!*" A nursemaid took care of the children, a general servant helped with the housework, and the groom, Tom, resplendent in livery bought for him by Anna, cared for the horses and vehicles.

She commented often on patients disrupting their family life,

3 January: Willie was called to the Spit after dinner. A great bother as he wanted to work at the books.

8 January: Willie called out at 10 o'clock to one of the tiresome cases. W. only got home at 2.30 a.m.

9 January: Willie had to go out after church of course because he was so tired—had no rest scarcely last night. When he was again sent for to the convent Mr T was considerate enough to send a cab. It is to be hoped W will get some rest tonight.



Tiro Moana, Spencer home on Marine Parade, gifted by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi, 66: possibly Anna with a servant on the balcony, Tom with the horse and carriage.

28 January: Willie had a poor child screaming in the surgery all morning with a broken jaw.

1 February: Willie called out at 10 o'clock to a supposed urgent case at the spit. Got back at midnight & found he might as well have stayed at home—so tiresome.

5 February: Willie called out after dinner to see Mrs Curate. (Mrs Robinson who had had a baby)

9 February: Willie away nearly all day at Moore's. Mrs Moore had a son this afternoon.

1 March: He has been busy with patients all the evening & is not home yet 10.30 p.m.

4 March: Willie called away this morning at 5 o'clock to Mrs P C Anderson at Taradale. They sent a trap for him. He was kept there all day. Of course they sent a great deal too soon. Horridly tiresome people. He did not get home till 7.30 p.m. I had dined alone & kept some hot for him.

16 March: Willie had to go to Groomes so could not spend the evening at Mr Bold's as he had promised.

19 March: The Duncans & Herricks came in after church & stayed till eleven p.m. Willie was of course called out, but not kept long.

21 March: Willie called out at midnight. Did not get home till 2.30 a.m. Started by 7.30 a.m train for Te Aute. He got home by mid-day train looking very hot dusty & tired.

28 March: Mrs Robinson came over about 9 p.m. in a great state of mind about her baby but there was nothing the matter & she was needlessly alarmed.

1 April: W. was away at the Spit till 2.30 a.m. this morning so he ought to be pretty tired when he gets home tonight.

11 April: Just as we were thinking of going to bed Mr Carley came for Willie—such a nuisance. I expect he will be kept up ever so long.

12 April: Poor William too did not get home till 4 a.m. & looks very done up & seedy.

20 April: After dinner Willie had to go to Mrs W Parker's. Her son is very ill with diptheria.

21 April: After dinner Mr Robinson came in but did not stay, as W. had to go to Parkers.

22 April: Tabs came down after dinner. Willie had to go to Parker's but Tabs & I had two games of Billiards—he won. Willie joined us when he came back.

28 April: Willie was called up last night to Mrs Brandon's, & did not get home till 5.30 a.m. She has another son.

29 April: Just as we had finished playing about 11.30 Robert Stuart came down for Willie, so he had to go there, & did not get home till nearly 2 o'clock—my guests only left at 1/2 past twelve.

7 May: Mr Robinson came home with us & after chatting awhile, walked up the hill with W who had to go again to Parker's. Poor Mrs P has another son down with diptheria.

9 May: W & I were going to lunch at Lascelles, but heard they would be in town so went to Clive just after lunch driving, & W. had to go to two patients.

10 May: Willie got a message to go to Clive. He roused the man & they started soon after one a.m. Such a bitter cold night to drive out but moonlight. Luckily we had not gone to bed. I waited up till he went.

11 May: Willie did not get home till 5 a.m. so he has been pretty tired all day.

22 May: Willie had such a host of people to see him, we did not get breakfast till 10 o'clock.

25 & 26 May: Willie called out before eleven to one of those tiresome cases, don't know when he will be back.

2 July: Willie intended to go but just as he was starting, he got a message preventing him.

4 July: The Robinsons & Mrs Herrick & Miss Marshall came to dinner. Just as soup went off the table Willie got called to an accident at the Spit & had to go at once. Man nearly drowned. Mr R. did the honours of host in his place.

30 August: Tabs came after dinner to smoke a pipe & have a chat with Willie. He went away early as Willie was fetched to a case at the Spit.

On the last day of the year Anna Spencer wrote,

Sunday 31 December 1876 A lovely day. Very hot. Willie was sent for after breakfast to see Sir Donald McLean, who is said to be dying. I went to church & took Chas. I little thought when I entered my pew, that I should leave it with such sad feelings. The service was partly choral, the church very full, as it always is when Mr Robinson preaches. We had the beautiful Adeste Fidelis hymn which vividly brought to my memory Sunday evening 31st Dec 1866 11 long years ago, when I sang that hymn in the old church at Wanganui; how many & great changes since then. Great have been past mercies vouchsafed to me through all the past years and exceeding great and numerous are the present blessings I enjoy. How much how very much have I to be thankful for all—for the dear good husband & children & my happy comfortable home & indeed I do feel truly thankful for all God's blessings so richly bestowed. Mr Robinson gave us a most beautiful sermon, on the two last verses of the 95th [Psalm]. He spoke so earnestly of our individual influence for good & evil & chose such an appropriate subject for the closing year, it impressed us deeply but when towards the end he touched with sadness on the late unhappy events in connection with the church on the intimacies broken, the friendships severed, and.... (page cut out).

Psalm 95, verses 10-11: *"Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways: Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest."* An apt choice by Mr Robinson.

In the afternoons Dr Spencer would make house calls as far afield as Taradale, when Anna and one of the children would usually travel with him. Many of his night visits were to women giving birth.

Anna and the housemaid cleaned the surgery daily and Anna would help in the surgery by rolling bandages, arranging flowers and making bags for Willie's surgical instruments.

Dr Spencer treated his own family of course—there is a photograph of him taking his son' Willie's pulse.



Dr Spencer and Willie, gifted by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 10

Anna wrote,

10 April: Willie had to lance [Buzzy's] gums. She was so cross, & seemed in pain with them.

28 April: Willie 2 has a slight sore throat, his father mopped it to which he objected strongly.

16 July: I had such a headache, & felt so unwell. Before going to bed, Willie gave me some chloral.

In the collections of the Hawke's Bay Museums trust is an exquisite small cedar medicine chest, only about 200mm tall, the medicine bottles and scales intact. A note in Dr Spencer's handwriting carries instructions for using the medicines and suggests he gave the chest to Anna or to one of the children,



Medicine Chest, Gifted by Mrs F Hutchinson,
Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 58/48

Sal Volatile. Take a small tea spoonful of this & the same quantity of Nitre in a wine glassful of water going to bed all night for a bad cold. Take great care not to get chilled in the morning.

Sweet spirits of Nitre, mentioned above.

Ipecacuanha. Take 3 grains of this & a little moist sugar, mix them together in a [glass] of wine with a little water: —taken for a cold.

Rhubarb. As much as will lay on a sixpence, add to this a tea spoonful of Magnesia, & a little ginger, mix them with water. For diarrhoea.

Caphorated Spirits of Wine. For toothache, soak a bit of wool in this & put it into the tooth, or put a few drops of it into water & hold it in the mouth, or rub the part that is painful with it pure.

Essence of Peppermint. Take 30 drops of this in a little water when uncomfortable in the stomach.

Carbonate of Soda. Put a little with the tea.

Ginger

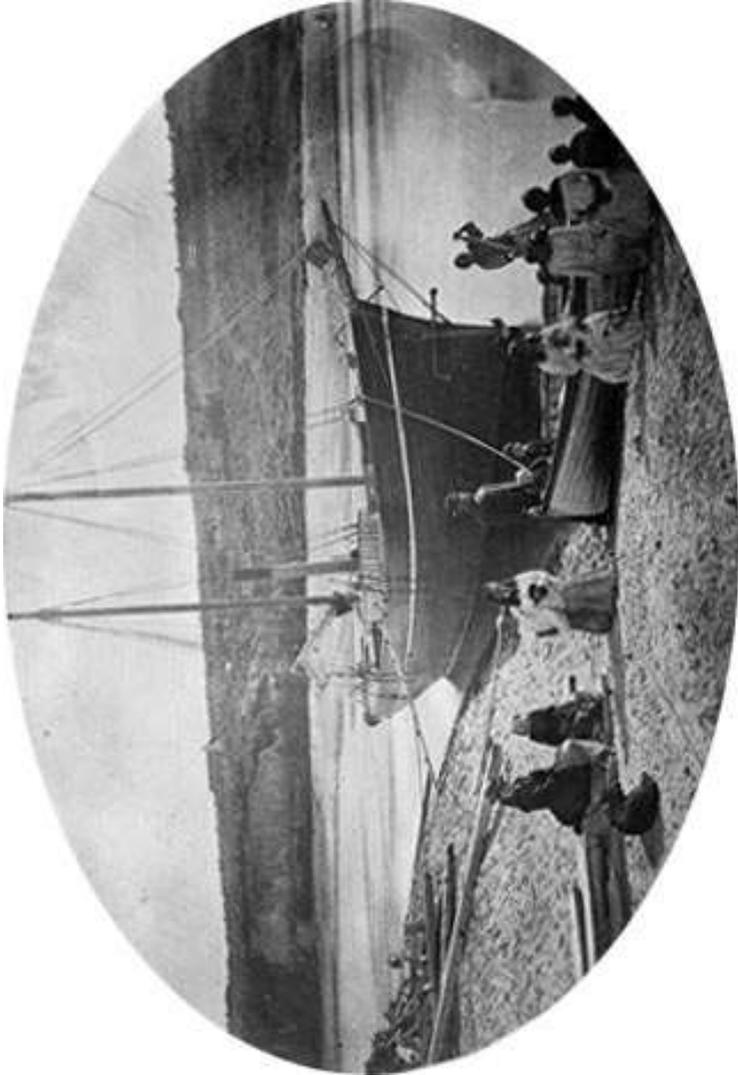
Oil for bruises.

William Colenso sent her wild orchids. His friend David Balfour had collected a *Pterostylis* (greenhood) and a *Corybas* (spider orchid) from Glenross and had sent them to Colenso, who wrote to him (16 November 1885),

... before I go to bed I will write to you, to thank you for your welcome letter (w packet of Orchids) of the 8th inst.—A good letter, and flowers in first rate condition—and have been admired by several, indeed I sent over 2 of each (of the Corysanthes & the green Pterostylis) to the Mayors lady Mrs Spencer.

The children lived well. Schooled at home in their early years, taught music, taken out socially and on holidays, dressed well, showered with toys, given a puppy and attended by a nursemaid. They would go on picnics, to birthday parties and magic lantern shows.

Anna Spencer sailed for Sydney on the *Waihora* from Wellington on 11 November 1887 — perhaps on her way to Britain, perhaps to see her father, perhaps to get her son settled in London. There is no further mention of Mrs Spencer in the Hawke's Bay newspapers until 7 September 1891 when she advertised: "WANTED—A General Servant. Apply to Mrs Spencer, Napier Terrace". Was she away all that time? It seems unlikely, as her daughters were aged 15 and 13 when she left.



Group riverside scene, William Spencer (b.1831, d.1897), from the Spencer Collection, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, 5597 – 27.

A river, a boat, a dog, men, women and children.

The *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* told its readers, “Two of his sons are following their father’s profession, and a daughter is the Lady Principal of the Napier Girls’ High School”. In fact William and Anna had five children in their home in Lincoln St, born between 1869 and 1880. All, apart from the invalid Willie, would be military and medical. Only John would marry.

Charles George Spencer 1869–1932 won a scholarship to his father’s alma mater the University of London. “Dr Charles Spencer, eldest son of Dr Spencer, of this town, has passed his final examination qualifying him at the College of Physicians and the Royal College of Surgeons at London. Educated at the Napier High School, and Christ’s College, Canterbury, Mr Charles Spencer went to England in 1887, and entered the University College, London, and since then he has taken the following honors:— 1887, matriculated University of London, Gilchrist scholarship; 1888, preliminary scientific examination, honors first class; 1890, first examination for M.B., in anatomy honors, physiology bracketed first in honors; University College, London, 1888, entrance Scholarship; 1889, anatomy silver medal, physiology silver medal; 1890, anatomy gold medal, physiology honors; 1890, summer session, histology silver medal; 1891, clinical medicine, silver medal; 1892, clinical surgery, silver medal. Dr Spencer is certainly to be congratulated on his son’s steady application to work, and on the final reward of his merits.”³ Charles Spencer became a major in the Royal Army Medical Corps in 1911.

William Heatly Spencer 1871–1904 lived with his parents in Napier. His death certificate states that he died from “tuberculous caries” and asthma. Hannah Ormond wrote in her diary on 10 February 1891: “*Willy Spencer’s ankle has abscess on both sides now.*” He had broken his leg and presumably it became infected with tuberculosis. He was described as an invalid.

Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer BA 1872–1955 was known as Bessie and she was educated at Napier Girls’ High School where her lifelong friend Amy Large was also a pupil. Bessie studied extramurally at Canterbury College and gained her BA in 1895. In 1898 she became first assistant at Napier Girls’ High School and in 1901 its principal; Amy was matron. She was a popular and innovative teacher but she yearned for rural life.



Photographs on page 168

Above left: Charles George Spencer, gifted by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 74.

Above right: Anna Elizabeth Jerome ("Bessie") Spencer, July 1919, Florence Cary, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 18313. In Women's International Street Patrol uniform.

Below left: Emily Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 18314: in uniform, Salonika, World War 1.

Below right: Colonel John Heatly-Spencer, Lafayette Studios (estab. 1880, closed 1962), gifted by Anna Elizabeth Jerome Spencer, Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhoro Tā-ū-rangi, 55.

Early in 1908 she began to plant an orchard in Rissington, and at the end of 1909 she retired from teaching to run the orchard and apiary.

In 1914 Spencer organised sewing meetings and offered her services for war work. Eventually, in 1916, she went to London where she nursed shell-shocked victims in Lonsdale House and in 1918 joined the Women's International Street Patrol.

Her interest in a handcraft exhibition in London had introduced her to the Women's Institute of England, and on returning to New Zealand, in January 1921 she and Ms Large founded the Rissington Women's Institute. By 1925 there were six institutes in Hawke's Bay and they formed the first provincial federation. The Townswomen's Guild, which Bessie Spencer started in Napier in 1932, aimed to provide similar opportunities for urban women.

Between the wars she energetically toured the country establishing institutes and demonstrating handcrafts. In 1933 she attended the National Federation of Women's Institutes meeting in London and the inaugural meeting of the Associated Country Women of the World in Stockholm.

In 1923 she attended the jubilee celebrations of Canterbury College and met Kate Sheppard and Jessie Mackay, who persuaded her to revive the National Council of Women of New Zealand in Hawke's Bay. She was the first president of the Napier-Hastings branch in 1924. She was also president of the Hawke's Bay Women's Club, on the advisory board of *Woman To-day* magazine, and in 1934 was the only

woman on the Napier High School Board of Governors. She was made an OBE in 1937.⁴

Emily Josephine Spencer 1874–1960 was known as Buzzie; she died in England.

John Heatly-Spencer 1880–1946 CBE (1937) MB BS Durh (1906) MD Lond (1921) DTM&H Cantab (1923) MRCS LRCP (1906) MRCP (1921) FRCP (1935).

Col. John Heatly-Spencer changed his name from John Heatly Spencer by deed poll in 1926. From schooling in New Zealand he came to Charing Cross Hospital as a Livingstone scholar in 1900, and immediately on qualification was granted a lieutenancy in the R.A.M.C., but allowed to complete a house post at his parent hospital before being attached for training to the Royal Army Medical College. Until 1908 he served at home stations and in Gibraltar, and in 1910 brought an exchange which allowed him to go to India where he became interested in tropical diseases.

He resigned his commission while on leave in 1913, but rejoined in the rank of temporary captain in 1915 and saw service in France and in the hospitals in Salonika and Constantinople; this was recognised in the Greek Medal for Military Merit. In 1920 he was again granted a regular commission in the rank of temporary major, and on his posting as medical specialist to the Queen Alexandra Military Hospital, Millbank, devoted much energy to the establishment of medical practice on the standards of civilian consultants.

These standards he applied with marked success between 1923 and 1928 while acting as consultant to the widespread hospitals in the Western Command, India. On his return home he was appointed professor of tropical medicine at Millbank, and soon established himself as an able teacher who could illustrate his lectures from a wealth of personal experience.

From 1934 till his retirement in 1937 he was consultant physician to the Army in the rank of colonel. He was then re-employed as president of Medical Boards at Derby until his recall to the active list in 1939, when he served as president of Command Standing Medical Boards in 106 Military Convalescent Depot. As he had reached the age limit of

sixty-five in 1944 he was retired; thereafter, until his death in 1946, he worked on Appeals Tribunals of the Ministry of Pensions.

To Heatly-Spencer work was his main hobby; his only relaxations were dry-fly fishing and an occasional game of golf. In 1915 he married Margaret, daughter of Archibald McInnes, a Manchester engraver. They had two daughters.⁵

1 *Daily Southern Cross* 28 August 1867.

2 Anna Spencer diary

3 *Daily Telegraph* 22 September 1892.

4 Condensed from Susan Upton. "Spencer, Anna Elizabeth Jerome", Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1998. Te Ara—the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/4s38/spencer-anna-elizabeth-jerome> (accessed 21 February 2018)

5 Munk's Roll, Volume V, page 183. Richard R Trail 1947. *Brit.med.J.*, 1, 164.

CHAPTER 9: ENDINGS

In 1893 William Isaac Spencer was 61 years old and winding down,

Dr Spencer has resigned his commissions as surgeon in the New Zealand Militia, Surgeon-Major on the General Medical List New Zealand Volunteers, and Honorary Surgeon Napier Rifle Volunteers.¹

The Hospital Board yesterday re-elected Mr H. P. Cohen chairman, and Mr H. Williams treasurer. In connection with Dr. Menzies' proposal that the Board should appoint an assistant to aid him in the work of the hospital, a further proposal was received from him to the effect that Dr. Spencer should be appointed. The proposal was not approved, and Messrs Carnell and H. Williams were appointed a subcommittee to report.²

He needed some help with the heavier work,³

WANTED—A Boy to take charge of a horse, and be generally useful.—
Dr. Spencer, Napier Terrace.

Dr Spencer attended the Napier Licensing Bench on 7 June 1897,⁴ but gave his apologies for missing a meeting held at the Masonic Hotel on 9 June in connection with forming a New Zealand Veterans' Association for recipients of the New Zealand War Medal. Those attending nevertheless appointed him to the committee.⁵

His daughter Bessie recorded his last illness,

14 June 1897: Father has been very bad with asthma all day & especially tonight.

16 June: Father had bad bronchitis in lung.

18 June: Father worse in morning but better in evening. Sat up with Father till 12.30. Slept upstairs.

19 June: Mother called me at 6.30. Sat with Father who wandered very much. Dr Bernau ordered oxygen. Father a little better. Dr Bernau & Dr Ronald came to see him & consulted. Owen made the oxygen. I went to bed at 12.30 or 1.00. Mother rang up Dr Bernau at 2.00. He came at 3.00 gave oxygen. Feared Father would die. Mother went to rest at 6 & Dr Bernau told me his opinion.

20 June: I gave Father oxygen frequently & he greatly improved. We watched anxiously all day. Dr Bernau came at 11 a.m. at 4 p.m. & at 10 p.m. & stayed till 5.30 next day. He rested a little in rest room. He gave emetics in evening to prevent suffocation. Father got a little better. Mother & I sat up all night. Dr Bernau warned us of dropsy.

Father very weak & wandered a good deal but breathing no worse. Dr Bernau came about 10.30 and again at 5 with Dr Menzies. I had an hour in after (4-5). Mother had about an hour also, then ... hours in evening. Dr Bernau came at 10 & stayed till 5.30. I rested then warned us against unconsciousness.

22 June: Father was very drowsy from 5 a.m. Roused and had a good breakfast but bad choking fit at 9. At 11 gave him soup but he could not swallow. Rang up Dr Bernau who came at once, & gave him very strong medicine & injected strychnine but he sank into unconscious & never roused again. Died 6.15

*p.m. on the evening of a lovely day & the Queen's Record
Reign Jubilee, aged 64 & 7 months.*

*23 June: Mother slept fairly well. Dr Bernau & others so very
kind. Cannot believe he is dead. He looks so lifelike &
peaceful & free from care & trouble. Death is beautiful.
Funeral took place at 3.15.*

The *Daily Telegraph* on 23 June 1897,

A very old and highly esteemed resident of Napier, Dr Spencer, died at his residence yesterday, aged 65 years. He came to the colony with the 18th Royal Irish, of which regiment he was surgeon, at the time of the Maori war, having previously seen service in the Crimea. He settled down in Napier when his regiment returned to England and has ever since been a most useful and respected citizen. On the 14th June, 1882, he was elected Mayor, an office he held until the 25th November, 1885, when he resigned. During that period he did valuable service to the town, and it will be remembered that on one occasion his prompt action probably prevented a smallpox epidemic in Napier. He was also a member of the Licensing Committee for a considerable number of years. He leaves a widow and grown up family, and his death will also be mourned by a large circle of friends. The funeral took place this afternoon and was largely attended, among those present being the Mayor and Council and a number of veterans of the Maori war.⁶

Spencer was a tobacco smoker and had been a lifelong sufferer from asthma. His death was caused by respiratory complications and was widely reported around the country, though in Napier the *Herald* paid him scant attention,

The funeral of the late Dr. Spencer took place yesterday, when a large number of citizens joined in the cortege to the cemetery, including the Mayor and councillors, deceased having been Mayor of Napier from 1882 to 1885.⁷

William Isaac Spencer lies in the Old Napier Cemetery, with his wife Anna (Heatly) Spencer who left Napier Terrace in 1898 and died of a

stroke in 1908, and their invalid son Willie who died in 1904, their headstone all but hidden by rampant wild lavender.

They have no New Zealand descendents.

In the collections of the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust is a manuscript of "Reminiscences of JA Miller, son of Matthew Robertson Miller, written c. 1938". He wrote,

Dr Spencer was a dapper gentleman with moustache and fairly long side whiskers going grey. He was our Dr and treated our ailments with a kindly and courteous way and we youngsters had full confidence in him.



The headstone in Old Napier Cemetery

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- 1 *Daily Telegraph* 28 February 1893.
 - 2 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 7 December 1893.
 - 3 *Daily Telegraph* 29 February 1896.
 - 4 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 8 June 1897
 - 5 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 10 June 1897.
 - 6 *Daily Telegraph* 23 June 1897.
 - 7 *Hawke's Bay Herald* 24 June 1897.
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Gail Pope transcribed Anna and William Spencer's diaries and kindly made those transcriptions and her great knowledge of the Spencers available to me: I thank her sincerely. I am grateful for genealogical help from Ann Collins and information on medical services in the Crimea from Dr Derek Dow.

The Collection of Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawhāro Tā-ū-rangi at MTG Hawke's Bay in Napier holds Spencer's photographs and much else besides: I thank Cathy Dunn especially, Susan Hope of the Wellington Medical & Health Sciences Library and staff at the Alexander Turnbull Library and the National Archives in Wellington.

Papers Past has again proved an extraordinary research tool. Sources are cited in the footnotes.

APPENDIX A

18TH ROYAL IRISH.

ITS SERVICES IN NEW ZEALAND.¹

THE departure of the 2nd Battalion 18th Royal Irish Regiment, which will take place, we believe, to-morrow, is an event which demands more than a merely passing notice from us. The distinguished services in the field and uniform good conduct of the battalion wherever it has been stationed in this colony have earned for it the universal esteem of the colonists, and we are sure that the headquarters will leave this city amidst universal expressions of regret, not so much on account of the departure of the last Imperial soldier as at the loss of many esteemed friends. In view of the departure of the head-quarters of the battalion to-morrow, we have deemed it a fitting time to give a brief record of the services of the regiment in this colony, and which we will preface with a few remarks respecting the 1st Battalion. This was formed in 1684 in Ireland, and its first colonel was Arthur Earl of Granard. The regiment was engaged in suppressing the rebellion of the Duke of Monmouth, served at the siege of Carrickfergus, at the battle of the Boyne, the assault upon Limerick, in 1690; in the sieges of Ballymore and Athlone, the battle of Aghrim, and the capture of Limerick in 1691. In 1692, the regiment took part in the naval action off La Hogue, capture of Furnes and Dix Muide in France. In 1694 the regiment was engaged in the siege of Huy, and in the same year it was ranked as the 18th in the British army. In 1695 the battalion served in the siege of Namur, and in the same year King William conferred on it the title of "Royal Regiment of Foot" of Ireland, with the harp in the field and the Crown over it, and the privilege of bearing his own arms, the Lion of Nassau on its colours, with the motto, "Virtutis Namurcensis premium." The title of the regiment was afterwards changed to the Royal Irish Regiment of Foot. In 1695 it served at the surrender of Namur. In 1702 it was engaged at the siege of Kayserswerth in Holland in the skirmish at Nimuguen, the siege of Venloo, attack on Fort St. Michael, capture of Ruremonde and Liege. In 1703 the regiment was engaged at the sieges and capture of Huy and Limberg, and in 1704 it took part in the

battle of Schellenberg, siege of Rayn, battle of Blenheim. In 1705 the battalion served in the capture of Huy; in 1706 at the battle of Ramillies, siege of Ostend, attack on Menin, capture of Aeth; and in 1708 at the capture of Ghent and Bruges, battle of Oudenarde, and sieges of Lisle and Tournay. In 1709 the regiment served at the battle of Malplaquet, and siege of Mons; and it was in the same year that an extraordinary collision occurred between two regiments called the "Royal Regiments of Ireland," the one in the French, the other in the English service, both bearing the Irish Harp. In 1710 the 18th were engaged in the sieges of Douay, Bethune, and Aire; in 1711 in the passage of the French lines at Orleans, and capture of Bouchain. In 1713 the rank of the 18th Royal Irish was directed to date from 1688. The 18th Royal Irish was engaged in America in 1775, at the village of Lexington, and the battle of Bunker's Hill. In 1801 the regiment took part in the battle of Alexandria, capture of Fort St. Julien; and in 1814 the 2nd Battalion was disbanded, the regiment having been augmented to two battalions in 1803. In 1840, the 1st battalion was engaged in the capture of the Island of Chusan, and it continued to serve in China until 1843. The regiment subsequently served in Burmah² and the Crimea, where it frequently distinguished itself. We come now to the 2nd Battalion, and the following brief record has been compiled from authentic documents:—

Agreeably to orders received from the Horse Guards, dated the 25th March, 1858, the 2nd Battalion 18th Royal Irish was formed from a nucleus of 100 men, transferred from the depot of the 1st Battalion, then stationed at Chatham. This detachment of 100 men arrived at Enniskillen, Ireland, on the 27th April, 1858. Here a number of recruits were received, and the embryo battalion was placed under the command of Major A. W. S. F. Armstrong, who had joined from the 1st Battalion. On the 1st August, however, the command was assumed by Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, promoted from the 1st Battalion. The number of the battalion continued to increase until 10th June, when it was inspected by Major-General Gascoigne at Enniskillen. On the 30th of August following, the battalion was removed to Londonderry, where it remained until the 29th March, 1859. By this time the young regiment had begun to assume that disciplined state for which it has since been so distinguished. We find that, while at Londonderry, the battalion was again inspected by Major-General Gascoigne on the 20th October, 1858, who expressed the gratification

he felt at the progress that had been made by the battalion since its formation. On the 29th March, 1859, the regiment was removed to the Curragh Camp, Kildare, Ireland, at which place Ensign J. O. Reilly died on April 28th, The regiment was again inspected on the 25th May, 1859, by Major-General Shirley, C.B., who found that during the short period it had been in existence the battalion had acquired an amount of efficiency which spoke volumes for the skill and perseverance of its officers and the aptitude of the rank and file. It was not until the 24th August, 1859, that the regiment received its colours, which were on that day presented to it at the Curragh, by the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, the Earl of Carlisle. During the time the battalion was stationed at Curragh Camp, the depôt was formed, and ordered to Templemore on the 1st October, 1859, and on that day the regiment was inspected by Major-General A. F. Cunningham, C.B. On the 17th October, 1859, the battalion removed from the Curragh, en route to Aldershot, where it arrived on the 21st of the same month; and on the 31st October, Lieutenant-Colonel A. A. Chapman, 48th Regiment, having exchanged with Lieutenant-Colonel Campbell, assumed command of the regiment. The battalion was inspected at Aldershot by Brigadier-General Brooke Taylor on the 16th May, 1860, and who complimented the regiment on its soldier-like appearance, as well as its efficiency in field manoeuvres.

Thus early the young soldiers of the regiment had an opportunity of experiencing the vicissitudes of camp life, for on the 31st August, 1860, the battalion was put under canvas near Aldershot, and remained so until its removal to Shorncliffe. Whilst here it was twice inspected by Brigadier-General Garrock, who, like his predecessors, found reason to compliment the young battalion on its remarkable progress. While at Shorncliffe, the regiment lost Major Armstrong, who died on the 13th December, 1860. On the 21st August, 1861, the battalion proceeded from Shorncliffe to Portsmouth where it was inspected on the 21st October, 1861, by Major-General Lord William Paulett, C.B., who highly commended the regiment for its soldierlike appearance and efficiency, and it was again inspected by him with a similar result on the 20th May, on Southsea Common. The headquarters and six companies embarked on board H.M.S. 'Megæra' on the 28th May, 1861, for Jersey, and on the 2nd June four other companies of the regiment, under the junior Major, were removed to Alderney. His Excellency Major-General Sir Percy Douglas inspected the battalion

on the 14th October, and highly complimented it. Towards the end of October, 1862, there was a disastrous conflagration at Alderney, which was evidently the work of an incendiary; on that occasion the detachment of the 18th rendered signal service by their coolness and intrepidity in preventing the spread of the fire. For this they were thanked in a highly complimentary letter by the Lieutenant-Judge—P. B. Le Bin.

We now come to the foreign services of the battalion. From the time of its formation it had rapidly improved in its general discipline and organisation, and nothing was required but some experience on foreign service to convert this young regiment into one of the most efficient in the British army. At this time it was in contemplation to relieve one of the regiments then stationed in this colony, and the 2nd battalion of the 18th Royal Irish was selected for that duty. Early in February the battalion was removed from Jersey and Alderney to Parkhurst, having received orders to hold itself in readiness to proceed to New Zealand. Prior to embarkation the regiment was inspected by Major-General Lord Paulett, C.B., who again complimented the corps on its general efficiency, and expressed his surprise at the increase in the stature of the men generally. The fact was, that the recruits who had joined the regiment as mere lads had, by this time, matured into fine manly soldiers. Paymaster and Major J. Comes died at Parkhurst. On the 1st April, 1863, the head-quarters and eight companies proceeded to Portsmouth Dockyard, and embarked on board the sailing transport 'Elizabeth Anne Bright' (Black Ball Line), and, on the morning of the 2nd, this gallant corps bade a temporary adieu to the shores of England, and set out on its voyage to New Zealand. The remainder of the battalion, under the command of Major and Brevet Colonel Carey, embarked on board the ship 'T. S. Norwood,' at Portsmouth, on the 12th April, 1863, and sailed the same day for New Zealand. The 'Elizabeth Anne Bright,' after a pleasant and prosperous voyage of 91 days, anchored in the Waitemata harbour, Auckland, on the 2nd July, 1863. The arrival of this spirited young regiment was most opportune. The war, which had slumbered for a brief space after the termination of hostilities at Taranaki, broke out with renewed fury in the Waikato. The Waikatos had, during the Taranaki war, by overt acts rendered all the assistance in their power to the forces arrayed against us, and they now resorted to a more decided avowal of their hostility, Threats and warnings of an intended attack upon the European settlements in the

neighbourhood of Lower Waikato were numerous; and at length it was known that a large body of Waikato and Ngatimaniapoto natives were assembled near Koheroa, on the south bank of the Whangamarino river. Sir George Grey had foreseen from the insolence and overbearing of the Waikatos that a crisis was imminent, and had prudently pushed on the Great South Road, which, when hostilities actually broke out, was of incalculable value as a means of transport to the then frontier.

The head-quarters of the regiment disembarked from the 'Elizabeth Anne Bright' on the 4th July, and at once marched from Auckland to Otahuhu camp, and were quartered in huts. It was on the night of July 8th, 1863, that the whole of the troops encamped at Otahuhu received orders to march en route to Queen's Redoubt, which place they reached on the 11th. The whole force was at this time under the command of Lieutenant-General Cameron, C.B. A detachment of the 18th. R.I., under the command of Captain King, had been left on board the 'Elizabeth Anne Bright' as a baggage guard, and this party joined head-quarters at the Queen's Redoubt on the 16th. The regiment was not long until it had its "first brush," and never did any body of British soldiers come out with more credit. On the 17th July, a detachment of the 18th R.I., under the command of Captain J. T. Ring, with Ensign H. D. Bickwell, and numbering two sergeants and 47 rank and file, was ordered from Queen's Redoubt to Drury, escorting a number of Commissariat Transport carts to the latter post. The road between Queen's Redoubt and Drury at that time led through a dense bush, which approached close to the road on either side. The escort had accomplished about half of its journey, when suddenly it was attacked from both sides of the road by a body of rebels numerically superior, who, after a sharp skirmish, were repulsed, with a comparatively small loss on our side.

The following are copies of the despatches on the subject:—

"Head-quarters, Queen's Redoubt,
"31st July, 1863.

"My Lord,—I have the honour to forward a copy of a report (17th July, 1860), from Captain Ring, 2nd Battalion 18th Regiment, of an attack on a convoy under his charge by an ambuscade of natives on the 17th instant, on the road between Queen's Redoubt and Drury. I have since ascertained that the ambuscade consisted of not less than 140 natives, and, considering the very superior numbers by which Captain

Ring's small detachment was attacked, I feel sure that your Lordship will concur with, me that no troops could have acquitted themselves better under such trying circumstances.—I have, &c,

“(Signed) “D. A. CAMERON,
“Lieutenant-General.

“The Hon. the Secretary of State for War, War Office, Pall Mall.”

“Camp, Drury, July 17, 1863.

“Sir,—I have the honour to report, for your information, that, on my march from Queen's Redoubt to Drury this day, my escort (as per margin) were fired upon by the natives, at the Stone Depot, near Bairds farm. The fire was opened on my advanced guards from both flanks, and my right flank and rear were immediately fired upon. The fire took effect upon the centre of the convoy. One driver and two of his horses fell whilst dividing the convoy, which was taken advantage of by the natives, who, rushing in force across the road, opened fire on the left flank, thus exposing my rear-guard, consisting of prisoners and escort, to a severe fire from the bush on each flank and right rear. I immediately retired with as many men as I could concentrate, and, by firing, kept the enemy from surrounding my very small party, though in skirmishing order. During the contest the fire of the enemy was well returned, and I personally saw five or six natives fall. They came out into the open, but a charge quickly drove them back into the bush. finally, their attempting to surround my party obliged me to retire to Mr. Martin's farm, which I occupied until reinforced.—I have, &c,

“(Signed) JAMES T. RING, Captain,
“2nd Battalion 18th R.I. Regiment.

“P.S.—I beg to add the conduct of my subaltern Ensign Bickwell and the men was admirable, and particularly that of Ensign Bickwell.”

On the 8th July, 1863, a detachment of the battalion, under the command of Captain J. T. Ring, was ordered to take up a position at Kerikeri, near Papakura, where they again came into contact with the enemy. The following are the copies of despatches respecting the matter:—

“Head-quarters,
“Queen's Redoubt, July 31, 1863.

“My Lord,—I have the honour to forward copies of reports (July 23rd), from Captain Ring, 2nd Battalion 18th Regiment, and Colonel Wyatt, 65th Regiment, of a skirmish which took place between

detachments under their command and a body of rebels in the bush near Drury. Brevet-Colonel Wyatt and Captain Ring appear to have acted with great judgment on the occasion, and the officers and men under their command deserve great credit for their conduct—those under Captain Ring, for the firmness with which they held their ground a long time against superior numbers; and those of Colonel Wyatt's detachment (including a small detachment of volunteers, who were for the first time under fire) for their prompt support of the former, and the gallantry with which they attacked and beat off the enemy.— I have, &c,

“D. A. CAMERON.

“Lieutenant-General.

“The Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War, War Office.”

“DESPATCH from Captain Ring, Camp, near Kerikeri, Wairoa Road, July 23, 1863.

“Sir, — I have the honour to state for your information that at noon, on the 22nd instant, I received information that two settlers had been fired upon by a body of natives, and that one of the settlers was killed; and hearing firing in the vicinity of Pukewereke, about two miles from my camp, I immediately proceeded with one hundred men of the detachment under my command, and close to the above-named place I fell in with the natives, who were engaged with 16 volunteers. I opened fire, and the natives retreated to my former entrenchment above the whare at Kerikeri. The firing of the skirmishers drove them down the side of the hill into the brushwood. The leading skirmishers on the right, under the charge of Lieutenant T. C. Wing, took possession of the hill and kept fire upon them, and with another body of skirmishers proceeded to take that on the right flank, but found that the natives, who mustered in strong force, nearly surrounded me. Here I lost one man killed, whose rifle and bayonet were taken possession of by the natives, though not without serious loss to them. I then concentrated my men in the entrenchment, and, having heard from an artillery officer who rode up to my position that the 65th Regiment was in my vicinity, I requested that he would inform the officer commanding the 65th Regiment that there was a track on the enemy's rear, and that if an attack were made in that direction it would be of great service, as it was quite impossible for me to follow so strong a force of the enemy into the bush with my small force. I remained in the entrenched

position until close on sunset, keeping a steady fire on the enemy, who were endeavouring to obtain the body and ammunition of the private who was killed, and whom I would not leave. I repeatedly tried to obtain possession of the body by sending out volunteers from the main company, but desisted, finding it would entail greater loss. I was about retiring, having a rear guard in the entrenchment, when the Mounted Artillery arrived. Immediately I saw the 65th appear. The natives then drew off their right, flanking movement, and retreated into the bush, enabling me to obtain the body of the men of my detachment. Immediately on this being accomplished, the whole force withdrew. The officers engaged on this occasion were Lieutenant Wing, Ensign J. B. Jackson, and Ensign Butts, whose assistance, coupled with the steadiness of my men, merits unqualified approbation,—I have, &c,

(Signed) “James T. RING,

“Commanding detachment 18th

“Royal Irish.

“To the officer commanding troops, Drury.”

On the 2nd September, 1863, the headquarters of the battalion were ordered back from Queen’s Redoubt to Drury, whence, on the 14th September, 1863, in consequence of a report made by the settlers, several detachments of different regiments, among which were 20 men of the 18th R.I., the whole commanded by Captain Inman, 2nd 18th R.I., were sent at once to Pukekohe, where they came in contact with a considerable force of the enemy, and, after one hour’s hard fighting, beat them off, and then returned to Drury. Captain Inman for this service received the brevet of Major. The following are copies of the despatches relating to this engagement:—

“Head-quarters, Queen’s Redoubt,

“15th September, 1863.

“Sir,—I have the honour to forward, for your Excellency’s information, copies of reports from the officers named in the margin, relative to the attack made by the natives yesterday on the Pukekohe Stockade. The conduct of all the detachments who went to the relief of that post was most praiseworthy, particularly that of Captain Inman, 2nd Battalion 18th Regiment, and the officers and men under his command, for the gallant manner in which they charged the enemy, driving them back into the bush with severe loss from the position the enemy had taken up near the stockade. The enclosed return I regret

to say shows several casualties; among whom is Captain Saltmarshe, 70th Regiment, who was severely wounded when leading on his men to the attack.—I have, &c,

“(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,

“Lieut. General.

“His Excellency Sir George Grey.”

“Camp, Drury, September 14, 1863.

“Sir,—In accordance with the instructions received from you this day, I proceeded to Pukekohe with the detail as per margin, to assist and relieve Captain Moir, Volunteer Militia. On arriving, about 1 p.m., within about a quarter of a mile from the Pukekohe Stockade, I found Captain Moir embarrassed with carts which were fixed in the mud. Having rendered him assistance, and hearing firing in my front, I inferred that the stockade was attacked. I hastened thither, leaving instructions with Captain Moir to follow us as soon as possible. On arriving within about one hundred yards of the stockade, I found that the enemy were in position on two sides of it, at about forty yards distance. I also found that in addition to the usual garrison a detachment of the 70th Regiment under Lieutenant Gresson, and 25 men, had arrived from Shepherd’s Bush in the early part of the day. Throwing the men into skirmishing order I advanced in the direction of the enemy, who were strongly posted in an enclosure in cleared bush near to the stockade, and, after exchanging fire, I advanced, driving them from their position, I did not consider it advisable to pursue them into the bush, from which they kept up a drooping fire. The engagement lasted about an hour, and the enemy leaving their killed and wounded on the field, finally withdrew, firing and shouting. Captain Moir, having safely housed the ammunition and stores under his charge, joined the force towards the end of the affair. A reinforcement, under Lieutenant Rait, R.A., consisting of two officers and 30 men, arrived from Drury after the engagement. I have the honour to annex a list of casualties. There being no means for the conveyance of the wounded, I left them in the stockade, and added to it a garrison of one officer and 30 men, having previously sent to Drury for ambulances and medical aid. After this I marched back to Drury about 5 p.m. I cannot correctly state the loss sustained by the enemy, not having time to search for their killed and wounded. I do not doubt, however, but that they suffered severely, as I saw the bodies of several lying on the ground previous to my leaving. I have the honour to bring

to the notice of the Lieutenant-General Commanding the gallant conduct of the troops under my command, and particularly that of Captain Saltmarsh, 70th Regiment, who was severely wounded while leading on his men; also that of Lieutenant Gresson, 70th Regiment, and Lieutenant Tabuteau 65th Regiment. My thanks are due to Captain Moir and Ensign Hay, Volunteer Militia, for their assistance on this occasion.—I have, &c,

“(Signed) J. INMAN, Captain,

“2-18th Royal Irish Regiment.

“Lieutenant-Colonel Chapman, Commanding Troops, Drury.”

About November, 1863, the head-quarters were again removed from Drury to the Front; and, after a short stay at Queen’s Redoubt, marched to Pukerimu, one of the frontier posts in the Waikato. Shortly after this, a force of natives took up a position at Orakau, a native village about three miles from Kihikihi and about twenty-five from Pukerimu. Brigadier-General Carey, however, determined to attack the enemy’s position, which was situated on a small rising ground surrounded by peach and acacia groves, with a dense tea-tree scrub in rear. General Carey took with him a force from Te Awamutu numbering about twelve hundred, in three divisions, and succeeded in entirely surrounding the enemy’s position in the morning. After several unsuccessful attempts to drive the enemy from his position, a flying sap was commenced in front of it, and pushed forward under a heavy fire into the enemy’s outer trench. Several acts of gallantry were performed whilst the sap was being pushed forward, and no sooner had it broken into the enemy’s entrenchments than a number of the 18th Regiment, who had acted as a covering party for the engineers engaged in placing the gabines in position, made a rush into the enemy’s outworks, and took possession of them. The fire at this time was incessant and heavy, and great numbers of the troops were either killed or wounded. The garrison, under Rewi, the leading Ngatimaniapoto chief, had held out for three days, while the sap was being pushed forward, and during which their only food was raw potatoes, and not a drop of water to quench their thirst. General Carey, respecting the gallantry of the enemy sent an interpreter into the head of the sap, and requested him to inform the natives that, if they would surrender, their lives would be spared. The reply of Rewi was, “Ka whawhai matou ake, ake, ake,” (We will fight for ever, for ever, for ever.) Fire was again opened, and for hours the fight raged with redoubled fury. Hand grenades were

thrown into the pa from the lodgment effected in the outer trench; a twelve-pounder Armstrong gun was brought up within a few yards of the pa, and belched forth canister; and volley after volley from the rifles was poured in from all sides. At one time the lamented Major Von Tempsky, who was guarding the rear of the pa with his intrepid Forest Rangers, endeavoured to storm, but was met by a fire so determined and fierce that the men who accompanied him were obliged to throw themselves down in the fern, and several of the party were shot dead, amongst others Major Von Tempsky's sergeant. A rush was at length made upon the pa, from a circumstance which is well worth mentioning. A soldier of the 18th Regiment, a gallant fellow, who had been fighting all day in the trench under the fire of the enemy, threw over his cap right amongst the enemy, and then, calling upon his comrades to follow him, made a rush over the low breastwork, behind which the enemy was sheltered. He was followed by many of those near him, and the enemy at the same moment crept out at the rear, and with a determined rush leaped down a steep cutting, broke through the sentries of the 40th Regiment stationed below it, and ere the main body of that regiment, which was engaged making gabions in the tea-tree scrub a short distance away, could seize their piled arms and bar the retreat of the enemy, the latter had got into the tea-tree, and were in full retreat. In an instant, a shout was set up from all sides that the enemy were retreating, and a scene ensued which almost baffles description. The whole force rushed madly forward, and in the rage, excited at the prospect of being disappointed of their prey, lined the top of the hill in hundreds, and poured tremendous volleys into the dense tea-tree, which was alive with the fleeing enemy. At this time the mounted artillery dashed off to head the enemy, and succeeded in overtaking them and sabreing many. Ultimately, however, the foe rushed into the Puniu river, which is fordable at this point, and so desperate were they from thirst that many of them actually stopped, and under a heavy fire lapped up the water with their hands. Many were shot in the river, and some few on the opposite bank of it. When the pursuit had terminated the battle-field was searched, and in and about the pa of Orakau, and amongst the tea-tree, the enemy's dead were found, to the number altogether of about 137. In the trenches of the pa itself the enemy had interred some of their dead. The loss on the side of the troops and colonial forces amounted to 85 killed and wounded. General Cameron was present during the latter part of the

siege, and in his despatches spoke in terms of high praise of the gallantry of the troops, particularly mentioning the 2-18th Royal Irish. Brigadier-General Carey also in his despatch, commended the intrepidity and endurance of the troops, and spoke in terms of the highest admiration of the great courage displayed by Captain Ring, who was mortally wounded early in the siege by a volley poured into an advanced party of the 18th Regiment from a body of the natives concealed under cover of an almost impenetrable acacia grove. After this success the enemy abandoned their pa at Maungatautari, a strong post which General Cameron had been preparing to attack. The war in Waikato was now virtually over. Repeated defeats and repulses, and the loss of an extensive area of territory, had dispirited the Waikatos, who retired into the Ngatimaniapoto country, while the troops wintered at Te Awamutu. Shortly after the Orakau siege, the head-quarters of the 18th returned towards Ngaruawahia, staying about a month at Kirikiriroa. After remaining about three months at Ngaruawahia, the head-quarters returned to Otahuhu. The battalion remained concentrated at this camp from October to the end of December, 1864, when it was again ordered upon service in the Whanganui district, the restless chief Titokowaru having succeeded in establishing an absolute reign of terror there. A detachment of seven companies, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Roche, embarked on board H.M.S. 'Falcon' and 'Eclipse,' on the 2nd of January, 1865, and were conveyed to Whanganui. The enemy, under Titokowaru, had taken up a position at Nukumaru, and here the 18th were engaged on the 24th and 25th of January, 1865, under the command of Lieutenant-General Sir D. A. Cameron, K.C.B. Upon those occasions the Royal Irish lost six men killed and 13 wounded. The name of Major Roche was favourably mentioned in the despatches of Brigadier-General Waddy, C.B., and of Sir D. A. Cameron. Captain Hugh Shaw obtained the decoration of the Victoria Cross for his gallantry at Nukumaru, and the following privates were awarded the silver medal for bravery in rescuing wounded soldiers under a heavy fire on the 24th January:—Private James Kearnes, George Clamfit, and John Brandon. On the 10th February, 1865, Colonel Chapman, with the head-quarters, consisting of the three remaining companies, joined this detachment. The battalion was now called upon to furnish numerous outposts along the West Coast line, between Taranaki and Whanganui, the head-quarters being stationed at Patea. In the month of June following,

Colonel Chapman left the battalion upon sick leave, and the command devolved upon Major Rocke. On the 6th January, 1860, a portion of the battalion, consisting of three companies, under Major Rocke, was present with the expeditionary force operating through the enemy's country along the West Coast from Whanganui to New Plymouth, under the command of Major-General Trevor Chute, who had assumed command of the forces in New Zealand. This march was considered a great achievement, from the difficulties which had to be overcome. The 18th Regiment also served at the capture of the enemy's stronghold at Putahi. The following is a copy of the general order published on that occasion:—

GENERAL ORDER.

“The Major-General is at a loss to find words sufficiently to express his thanks to the field force engaged against the formidable pa of Putahi this morning, after a heavy march of four miles through dense bush and forest, and up and down ravines with almost perpendicular sides. The Major-General was proud to see the force first advance against the pa, nearly inaccessible to troops, with as much precision and coolness as if on their private parades, and afterwards charge it in the most gallant and spirited manner when within about eighty yards of it. Such conduct proved that no troops can cope with those of Great Britain. The Major-General begs most earnestly to thank Lieutenant Carrie, R.A.; Lieutenant-Colonel Trevor, 2-14th Regiment; Major Rocke, 2-18th Regiment; Captain Johnson, 50th Regiment; and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Imperial and colonial forces engaged, for their brave and soldier-like conduct,

“By command,
(Signed)

“E, LEACH, Captain,
“D.A.A.G.”

In October of the same year his Excellency the Governor arrived at Patea, and summoned Major Rocke, at that time commanding the Whanganui district, to raise a field force for the purpose of terminating the rebellion, which still smouldered throughout that portion of the West Coast. Three hundred of the 18th Royal Irish took the field, with a similar number composed of the native and colonial forces, the entire force being under the command of Major Rocke. The Governor remained with the field force during the operations, which extended over a period of three weeks. The enemy were driven from their

positions in dense forest previously supposed to be inaccessible to Europeans. The field force performed much arduous service, crossing many rivers and penetrating through dense forest. The operations were entirely successful, and elicited the warmest approbation of his Excellency the Governor. The name of Ensign F. Pringle was favourably mentioned by Major Rocke in his despatches to the Major-General commanding in the Australian colonies for gallant conduct whilst storming a position of the enemy's situate in deep bush, as also the names of Privates James Acton and John Hennigan, for gallantry on the same occasion. To these two privates the silver medal for gallant conduct was awarded by his Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding in Chief. The native disturbances at the West Coast being now at an end, and peace being established, the various outposts occupied by the detachments of the battalion were abandoned during April, 1867, and the troops concentrated at Whanganui. On the 29th April, 1867, the battalion marched from Camp Patea, en route to Whanganui, halting at Waitotara on the 29th, and reaching Whanganui on the 30th April. Upon the 1st and 2nd July an inspection of the battalion was made by Major-General Sir Trevor Chute, K.C.B., who was pleased to signify his approval of the general efficiency and good conduct of the regiment. In the month of November following, the head-quarters 18th R.I., with 6 companies, were ordered to proceed to Auckland, two companies to New Plymouth, province of Taranaki, and two companies to Napier. The headquarters embarked at Whanganui on the 21st November, and arrived at Auckland on the 28th. On the arrival of the head-quarters of the Battalion at Auckland the command was assumed by Lieutenant Colonel G. A. Elliot who had arrived from England, on his promotion from the 1st Battalion 18th Royal Irish, vice Colonel A. Chapman, retired on half-pay, November 9, 1866.

We need add little more to this brief record of duties faithfully, earnestly, and bravely performed. The detachments of the regiment have remained in the places above mentioned until very recently, and have everywhere earned the universal esteem of the inhabitants. At Taranaki the detachment was not permitted to leave without a testimonial of respect from the inhabitants, who presented an address, and "accompanied" the men down to the beach and bade them a most cordial farewell. At Napier the officers of the regiment were entertained prior to the departure of the detachment stationed there, and speeches

were made by the most influential settlers of the place expressive of admiration at the soldierly qualities and uniform good conduct of the regiment. The head-quarters, stationed for some time past in Auckland, has also earned the cordial respect and esteem of all, from the highest to the lowest. In the cause of charity and in every good work the regiment has taken a prominent share. Its fine band has never grudged its services where a benevolent purpose was to be secured, and the weekly performances of the band were a treat regularly looked for, and heartily enjoyed, by the lovers of harmony in our midst. Even this of itself will be one cause of regret at the departure of the regiment. We are sure that wherever the 2nd Battalion may be stationed in the future it will continue to uphold that bright reputation which it has so well and so nobly earned in this colony, where the regiment has seen its first services in the field, and has earned its first laurels. It will certainly leave this colony in a far different condition from that in which it was when it landed. The comparatively young soldiers have been seasoned by camp life, and have matured into the flower of that army which has won so many triumphs in every quarter of the globe. Though the last of this fine regiment departs from our shores to-morrow, we are sure that the colonists of New Zealand, and especially the people of Auckland, will long cherish a kindly recollection of those whom we had almost come to regard in the light of fellow-citizens, and that they will long remember with gratitude the gallant and ungrudged services of this fine corps which leaves amongst us as a precious legacy in the honoured remains of those who gave their lives in our cause. That the 18th Royal Irish have not of late been foremost where duty was to be done is no fault of theirs, for, had the inclination of the battalion been consulted, there is not a man, we are sure, from the Colonel to the humblest drummer-boy, that would not have freely risked his life in defence of his fellow-countrymen, and in punishing such miscreants as Te Kooti. We wish our gallant friends a safe and prosperous passage to their new station, and a successful future in whatever quarter of the world they may be quartered.

We subjoin the following letter by his Excellency the Governor:—

“Government House, Wellington,

“February 13, 1869.

“Sir—I have the honour to transmit to you herewith, an extract of a letter which I addressed to Major-General Sir T. Chute, K.C.B., on the 28th ult.

“I write to take this opportunity of expressing my sense of the important service rendered by the 2nd 18th Regiment, in holding the towns in which they have been stationed during the present rebellion, and also of the admirable conduct of the officers and men, who have invariably maintained the most cordial relations with their fellow subjects in this colony. Their approaching departure is viewed with deep and general regret, both on public and on personal grounds.—I have, &c,

“G. BOWEN.

“Lieutenant-Colonel Elliot, 18th Royal Irish. Regiment,
Commandant, Auckland.”



1 *Daily Southern Cross* 18 February 1870. See also Gretton G leM 1911. *The campaigns and history of the Royal Irish Regiment from 1684 to 1902*. William Blackwood & Sons, London.
2 Where Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem about them.

APPENDIX B

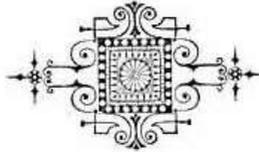
NAPIER

(N.Z.)

AS A HEALTH RESORT FOR PULMONARY INVALIDS.

BY W. I. SPENCER, M.R.C.S. LOND.

FORMERLY ARMY MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AND SURGEON N.Z. MILITIA. HON.
SURGEON NAPIER RIFLE VOLUNTEERS.
LATE VICE-PRESIDENT HAWKE'S BAY PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTE.
AUTHOR OF PAPERS ON THE FRESH WATER ALGÆ OF NEW ZEALAND.



Napier :

PRINTED BY R. C. HARDING, HASTINGS-STREET.
1885.

NAPIER AS A HEALTH RESORT FOR PULMONARY INVALIDS.

BY W. I. SPENCER, M.R.C.S., LOND.

IN 1875 I wrote a short paper for Dr. Dobell on “Napier as a Health Resort,” which was published in the volume of his “Reports on Diseases of the Chest” for 1876. Since that time, New Zealand has become a favorite resort for pulmonary invalids in England. Ten years’ further experience and observation have still more confirmed me in the statements I then advanced, and have added conviction to my opinion as to the pre-eminent suitability of the climate of Napier for those cases of incipient lung disease in which residence in a warm, dry, and tolerably equable climate, together with moderate elevation above the sea-level, is indicated—such for instance as chronic bronchitis and the earlier stages of phthisis. And I have not arrived at this conclusion hastily, but after a residence of twenty-one years in the colony, seventeen of which have been passed in Napier, and during which period I have had extensive opportunities of seeing and studying cases of phthisis which have arrived here in search of that health which is forbidden them by the cold sunless climate of the British Isles.

And here I would once more direct the attention both of patients and their medical advisers to a point of much importance—and that is the want of knowledge that appears to exist as to the geography and the conditions of this country. The usual advice to patients in England is “Go to New Zealand,” without particularising the special locality. Hence many invalids come out, and by-and-by return home, having derived no benefit from their sojourn here, and disgusted with the climate in general. The writer of the article on Climate in Quain’s Dictionary of Medicine, p. 267,

recommends Wellington as the place to seek. A more unfortunate selection could scarcely have been made. Situated in Cook's Strait, one of the stormiest parts of the Southern Hemisphere, the climate of Wellington is notoriously one of the most disagreeable, windy, and rainy in the country, and certainly the most so in the North Island. Indeed, the climate in different parts of New Zealand varies as much as it does in Great Britain—and this might be anticipated from the fact that the distance between the North Cape in New Zealand and Stewart's Island is nearly 2° greater than that between Unst, one of the Shetland Islands, and the Lizard point in Cornwall: the respective latitudes being, Unst, $60^{\circ} 45'$, the Lizard $49^{\circ} 57'$ N.; and Stewart's Island 47° , North Cape, $34^{\circ} 25'$ S. Therefore, to send a patient to New Zealand indiscriminately for the benefit of its climate, is equivalent to sending him to Great Britain for the same purpose. In each he will find extremes of heat and cold, wet and dryness, sunshine and cloud, wind and calm, land elevation and depression, barometrical range, geological formation of soil, water supply, hygienic arrangements, and in fact all those conditions which are comprehended under the general term "climate," within pretty much the same range of latitude.

In a very brief attempt to discuss the merits of Napier as a health resort, there are a few points which it may be well to lay before those who, having believed in New Zealand as a whole, have been disappointed in their experience of the country; or, having decided to give the climate a trial, are uncertain which locality to select as the best adapted to their case. I propose to say a few words, therefore, with respect to its Geography, Climatology, Local Products, Means of Communication, and some other questions which, although apparently of minor importance, go far in the aggregate to determine whether any particular place is desirable or otherwise as a residence for invalids.

Scinde Island, on which the town of Napier is situated, is on the East Coast of the North Island of New Zealand, near the southern extremity of Hawke's Bay.

Hawke's Bay, so named by Captain Cook, is a large inlet of the South Pacific Ocean, in length, from N. to S., about 50

miles, and with a depth, from E. to W., of about 30. On the north and south the bay is bordered by ranges of hills of no great elevation; on the west, however, these ranges extend inland to a distance of about 50 miles, and attain an elevation of 2000 or 3000 feet. These ranges have undoubtedly much influence in modifying the climate of Napier. The cold damp ocean breezes which prevail on the West Coast are, in their passage through and over the hills, deprived of the greater part of their moisture, and raised to a considerably higher temperature, and thus reach us as warm, dry, and at times somewhat enervating winds. At the same time their violence is greatly diminished.

Scinde Island or Napier is situated about 14 miles from Cape Kidnappers, the southernmost extremity of Hawke's Bay. The Cape received its name from Captain Cook, from an incident which occurred there during his visit to this country, the son of his interpreter having been kidnapped by the natives and only recovered after some bloodshed.

Scinde Island is an outlyer from the coast of New Zealand. It is about 2 miles in length by an average of $\frac{3}{4}$ in width, in height it varies from 350 to 200 feet, its borders are on all sides precipitous, but easy access is gained to all parts through the many ravines by which it is intersected, and which have been utilised by the Engineer for the formation of well-paved roads, mostly of gentle gradient. The geographical position of Napier is peculiar. Situated in the southern bight of the bay, it evidently at one period was joined to the mainland, from which it has been separated by the action of the sea, and possibly might ere this have been completely swept away but for the action of a mountain stream which, flowing through a gravel-bearing district, has brought down shingle in such quantities as to form a spit 4 miles in length and 200 yards or so in breadth, thereby connecting the island with the mainland on the south side and by cutting off the wave-flow and tidal influence forming a barrier of protection for the island. By the continual drift of the shingle round the eastern side of the island, another spit 5 miles in length and about $\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth, extends in a westerly direction, and also joining the mainland. These two long arms enclose a tidal lagoon of considerable area,

through which a small mountain stream finds its way to the sea.

Situated in S. latitude 39° it might be expected that the climate of Napier would bear some resemblance to that of Madeira—and so I believe it does although it is probably not quite so hot, nor is it obnoxious to any winds, having the characteristics of the “Leste” which at times prevails in the latter island—nor, as I learn from patients who have had experience of both places, is the climate so enervating.

Down to the year 1879 meteorological statistics were collected and published annually under the auspices of the Government. Since that date their publication has been discontinued, so that recent official records of climatic events are not available. From the last official table published in 1880 I am able to quote the following as an average of the preceding 10 years:—

Bar.	Ther.	Rain.	
Mean.	Mean in shade.	Average per ann. (inches)	Days on which it fell
29.93	58.3°	36.195	108

During the last two months—middle of March to middle of May—from notes kept by myself, I obtain the following results:—

Highest.	Lowest.	Mean.	Extreme range.
Ther. 71°	45°	58.83	26
Bar. 30.92	29.96	30.29	0.96

The records were made at 9 a.m. daily, and therefore do not shew the diurnal variations of temperature. In the same period—65 days—there have been 15 marked cloudless, 46 sunshine, 9 on which rain fell at some time, and 1 on which it fell almost the whole day. And it is to be remembered that the 65 days during which these observations were made include the period of the autumnal equinox, which is usually the stormiest part of the year in New Zealand. Comparing Napier with two other fashionable health resorts, I have made the following table:—

Mean annual temperature.	Days of rain.	Annual amount of rainfall.
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Napier 58.3°	108	36"
Funchal 66.	88	30"
Torquay 50.3°	155	27"

From which it is apparent that Napier holds an intermediate position, and that although a greater depth of rain descends during the year than at Torquay, yet it falls on fewer days in the proportion of nearly 2 to 8.

As to the force, prevalence, and nature of winds I have not been able to find any reliable basis for comparative statistics. In summer and autumn the prevailing winds are easterly sea breezes during the day and off the land at night. N.W. winds not unfrequently occur, they are often hot and enervating, and blow with considerable force. Severe storms which are of unfrequent occurrence commence with N.E. gale, after a few hours heavy rain comes on and the wind veers to S. or S.E.; this lasts usually two days, the wind then changes to S.W., is cold and showery, and so the storm terminates.

Thunder-storms, although common enough amongst the mountain ranges inland, rarely visit Napier.

The geological formation of the island consists of a series of limestone, clay, and sandy beds, covered by a thin layer of loam, the beds varying in proportion from pure clay, limestone, or sand, to various proportional mixtures. The fossiliferous deposits, which are all tertiary, Captain Hutton, Professor of Geology at Canterbury College, refers to the miocene period. The soil is porous, and dries quickly after rain. Systematic drainage of the town has been carried out by the Municipal Council, and although not yet extended to every part of the island, is believed to be as perfect as is possible at present.

The water supply is from artesian wells; it is excellent in quality and practicably inexhaustable in quantity.

Almost all plants that flourish in the South of England grow here, besides many that find that climate too cold. The Poplar and Weeping Willow are almost evergreen, the latter being rarely out of leaf more than 4 to 6 weeks in the year. The geranium and fuchsia are in flower all winter. The *Eucalyptus globulus* and the Norfolk Island Pine form

conspicuous objects. Lemons, oranges, and grapes come to perfection in sheltered situations. The camelia and mangolia thrive well. The banana grows out of doors, but does not fruit.

Houses to let are scarce, and rent is high. Otherwise living is cheap. Best joints of beef and steaks are 6d. per lb; mutton, a large quantity of which is now being frozen and exported, 4½d. to 6d. per lb; it is of first-rate quality, quite equal to Welsh mutton. Poultry of all kinds and fish are abundant and cheap. Garden and Orchard products, asparagus, seakale, spinach, and all the ordinary vegetables; fruits of many kinds, apples, pears, plums, grapes, mulberries, figs, strawberries, medlars, almonds, peaches, nectarines, quinces, tomatoes, apricots, and many others, all of local growth, are cheap and abundant. Tropical fruits, such as pine-apples, bananas, &c., are imported from the Pacific Islands, and in the season are plentiful.

Communication with other parts of the world is frequent and easy. With England by four routes. (1) Through San Francisco monthly. (2) By direct steamer monthly at alternate fortnights with the American route, through Australia weekly by steamers which meet either (3) the P. & O. or (4) the Orient steamers. The time occupied in the voyage between England and New Zealand is now so short that the journey is almost reduced to a holiday trip. In Quain's Diet. Med. p. 266, the voyage to Australia is stated to average 90 days—the fact is that the double journey does not take quite so long, the advertised time being, by direct steamer, Plymouth to New Zealand 45 days and, the return, calling at Rio de Janeiro, 42 (has been done in 37). The San Francisco route, although somewhat shorter, is not to be recommended for invalids, in consequence of the long railway journey across the continent of America.

In endeavoring to form an estimate of the value of a place as a residence for an invalid, two questions of the first importance are What amount of time can he spend in the open air? and What attractions and facilities does the locality offer to induce him to be out of doors? In this climate there are not many days in the year of which the greater part may not be passed out of doors, and still fewer when some

portion may not be so spent, as, from whatever point of the compass the wind blows, shelter can be found in some of the roads which are formed in the various ravines by which the island is intersected in all directions. For the purpose of driving, riding, or cycling, level and well-paved roads lead in different directions to the mainland. No hunting is to be had, but in the season a fair amount of shooting, chiefly wild ducks and pheasants, is available. There are no fish here that take the fly, but boating, yachting, and sea fishing may be indulged in in fine weather.

In the hottest part of the year, when the weather in Napier is relaxing and enervating, facilities offer for visiting numerous places of interest, the virgin forest, which still covers a large area of the central portion of the north Island of New Zealand, with its magnificent pine trees, palms, and ferns; the Manawatu Gorge, with its wild and beautiful scenery, distant 8 hours,—5 by railway, and about 3 by coach. Taupo, with the only active volcano in the Colony, it's wonderful system of hot springs, fumaroles and geysers—90 miles distant—can be reached in two days by coach, and one day's journey further takes the traveller to the hot lakes Rotorua and Rotomahana with their indescribable white and pink terraces, boiling cauldrons, and weird scenery,—the “Wonderland of the Antipodes.”

In addition to these trips, the Union Steamship Company every summer organise excursions in one of their large steamers to the bays and sounds of the middle island, many of which are unapproachable except by sea, and to the islands of the South Pacific, Fiji, Norfolk Island, Tahiti, Tonga, Samoa, &c.

Unfortunately official statistics as to the causes of death in the Colony are highly untrustworthy, the local registrar of deaths being authorised to receive certificates from any *soi disant* doctor, irrespective of the fact of his possessing any or no medical or surgical qualification. A counterbalance to this regulation, however, exists in a law that every case of highly infectious or contagious disease must be reported by the medical attendant to the local board of health under a severe penalty, and speaking from personal knowledge, as chairman of the local board of health, I can say that no

reports are received except from duly qualified practitioners. This fact therefore affords some reliable basis upon which to form an estimate of the general healthiness of the town. Of that class of diseases which are now usually attributed to the presence of microzoids in the air or food we see very little. It is two years since a case of diphtheria was reported. It was fatal.

Typhoid fever was ten years ago not uncommon, especially in the hot months of the year—Christmas to the end of March—but since the system of drainage and water supply has been carried out, and a large stagnant swamp that existed nearly in the centre of the town has been obliterated, this affection has almost disappeared. During the last five months—commencement of January to end of May—only two cases amongst the adult population have been reported. A case of cholera, so far as I am aware, has never occurred in Napier. Malarial affections are extremely rare. Occasionally an old shaker will have a modified attack, or a case of neuralgia will assume a periodic phase; but even these are almost phenomenal. On the other hand, I have seen imported cases of violent malarial fever recover permanently and with great celerity. Sunstroke is almost unknown; still it is very necessary not to expose the unprotected head to solar heat.

On the health charts of the world, such as that in Aitken's Science and Practice of Medicine, Australia and New Zealand appear to be generally included in the rheumatism zone. Speaking for New Zealand I believe this bit of medical geography will have to be altered. Without going into statistics, which I have not at hand, I should say that acute articular rheumatism is by no means a frequent affection in New Zealand. The so termed *muscular rheumatism*—a very different affection, in etiology, treatment, and prognosis—was at one time common enough; and this was nothing more than might have been predicated from the habits and mode of living of the pioneers of settlement. When people take up their abode in an uncultivated country, live in slightly thatched huts, are exposed to weather by day and night whatever it may be, have no comforts, not even a lighted fire on their return home after 12 or more hours in the saddle,

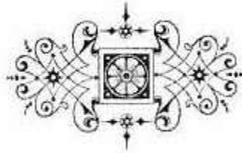
sleep in fern because they cannot obtain dry straw to make a bed; it is scarcely fair to attribute their rheumatic pains to the climate. And certainly since ordinary home comforts have been more obtainable, one hears very much less of rheumatic affections.

Doubtless the climate of Napier is at certain seasons of the year depressing and enervating, and induces a considerable amount of atonic dyspepsia amongst the residents. This, however, is in summer, a time which the invalid should utilise to visit the many places of interest in not only the country, but also the other South Pacific Colonies in the adjacent islands.

Pulmonary affections, bronchitis, pneumonia pleuritis, are rare. Phthisis is not so uncommon as might have been expected, the proportion of deaths from consumption being, so nearly as I can ascertain, to deaths from all causes, about 6½ per cent., but it must not be forgotten that many of these cases occur in people who have acquired the disease elsewhere, or whose parents have come here suffering from tubercular affections, and who are therefore congenitally predisposed. Of the actual benefit derived by some of those who have arrived in Napier in various stages of the disease, I can speak from observation. One young gentleman, a medical student, had been obliged to discontinue his studies. On his arrival here he was somewhat emaciated, had cough with copious expectoration, night sweats, the physical signs pointed to vomicae in the upper lobe of one lung and some solidification on the opposite side. He remained here two years, spending his life out of doors, and when he left for home, had lost the cough and perspiration and gained nearly two stone in weight. There were no signs of any advance of the pulmonary lesion. I have since heard from him that the improvement in his condition continues. He subsequently paid a visit to Madeira, not on his own account, but with his father, who was ill, and he writes to me from there that he prefers the climate of Napier to that of the Atlantic Island, and that a comparison of the two places would be highly in favor of the South Pacific. Another case which came under my notice 8 years ago, on arrival from England, in the last stage, apparently, of emaciation and debility, and with

extensive mischief in both lungs, is still here in fair health, in regular and daily employment as clerk in a lawyer's office, and walks up the steep hills with ease and comparative comfort. It is not expected that every case should derive the same benefit from residence here as those mentioned, for various reasons. In some people the constitutional tendency to consumption would appear to be so pronounced, that no sooner does the local affection manifest itself, than the whole system gives way; there appears to be neither power nor inclination to resist the disease, and medicines and all remedial measures are alike inefficient to arrest its progress. Another class of cases defer all thought of climatic assistance until too late; their state is beyond hope, and they arrive at the end of their journey merely to die. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon that it is the earlier stage of phthisis in which the remedial effects of change of climate are to be sought if sought at all. Perhaps to no other disease is the advice of Ovid more applicable than to this:

Principiis obsta: sero medicina paratur,
Quum mala per longas convaluere moras.¹



HARDING, PRINTER, NAPIER, N.Z.

¹ Stop it at the beginning; a cure is attempted too late when, through long delay, the illness has gained strength (Ovid)

APPENDIX C

Works by WI Spencer

Published papers

1875. New Zealand. *In* Dobell, Horace. *Dr. Dobell's Annual reports on Diseases of the Chest*. Vol II, 1 June 1875 to 1 June 1876, pp13-17. London, Smith Elder & Co.
1880. On life. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 13: 109-119.
1881. On the fresh-water algæ of New Zealand. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 14: 287-299.
1882. Notes on fresh-water algæ. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 15: 302-304.
1885. *Napier as a health resort for pulmonary invalids*. Napier, RC Harding.

Other addresses to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute

- 1880 (June) Diatoms.
- 1886 (8 November) Presidential address; Microbes; The recent volcanic outbreak at Tarawera.
- 1887 (12 September) On olfactory physics.
- 1889 (13 May) Presidential address: Movement and sensation in plants.
- 1889 (12 August) On the Diatomaceæ.
- 1890 (June) Presidential address.
- 1890 (September) The geological descent of the horse.
- 1890 (October) Spiders and Spiders' Webs.
- 1891 (September) Tuberculine.
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