

**NEW ZEALAND SETTLERS AND
SOLDIERS; OR, THE WAR IN
TARANAKI: BEING INCIDENTS
IN THE LIFE OF A SETTLER**

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New Zealand Settlers and Soldiers; Or, The War in Taranaki: Being Incidents in the Life of a Settler by Thomas Gilbert

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THOMAS GILBERT

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UNO DEI TEMPI DI BOMBA

24th Nov 1861

NEW ZEALAND
SETTLERS AND SOLDIERS;

OR,

The War in Taranaki:

BEING,

INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE OF A SETTLER.

BY

REV. THOMAS GILBERT,

FORMERLY PASTOR OF THE GENERAL BAPTIST CHURCH, BITCHLING,
SUSSEX.

LONDON:

A. W. BENNETT, 5, BISHOPSGATE WITHOUT;

HOULSTON AND WRIGHT, 65, PATERNOSTER ROW.

1861.



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P R E F A C E.

THE following pages have been written under the pressure of a sorrowful and heavy heart, amidst difficulties to which it is not now necessary more particularly to allude.

I trust I shall be understood when I say I have no other desire than to show (however imperfectly I have fulfilled my task) the impolicy as well as the unchristian character of all war. And this little narrative, taken in connexion with what it may now be presumed is well known of the manner in which the war in Taranaki has been carried on, will only afford another proof that as a nation we have yet to learn the true spirit of the Great Teacher, who said, "If my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight."

I have studied simplicity and accuracy more than originality in my statements of facts ; and if my reflections seem somewhat complaining, I must throw myself on the candour and kindness of my readers.

I have to acknowledge my obligations to an English gentleman, and to Miss Nicholson (a lady in the Rev. H. Brown's family), for the accompanying sketches.

That the blessing of God may attend this little book—that it may not wholly miss its object—but that it may help in some small measure to put the general mind in action, under the pressure of the present "*war spirit*," to think righteously and soberly of the real genius of Christianity ; and be influenced by its guidance "to follow peace with all men," is the sincere wish of the Author,

THOMAS GILBERT.

Nelson, New Zealand,
November 10th, 1860.

SETTLERS AND SOLDIERS,

&c., &c.

TARANAKI is the native name given to a small settlement in the colony of New Zealand. It was formerly termed New Plymouth; but the town alone now goes by that name. Its settlement took place in the early part of the year 1841, under the auspices of a branch of the New Zealand Company, which was established in New Plymouth. It is the richest and best province in the colony for all agricultural purposes, and comprises an extent of country so famed for its fertility, that it was long called the garden of New Zealand. "It contains nearly 2,200,000 acres, of which about 300,000 form a belt of the richest arable soil in the colony, extending along a coast-

line of 115 miles. The remainder, covered with dense forest, is equally fertile, and contains but a small proportion of unavailable land. The settlers occupy about 11,000 acres of open land, and 32,000 acres of forest land; there being, in addition, about 20,000 acres of forest land in the hands of the Government, which is unoccupied on account of the insecure state of the province, and the superiority of the unpurchased open district in its vicinity."

"During the first two years of its existence it received, by direct emigration from England, upwards of a thousand settlers; and though it has received continual additions during the last seventeen years, yet its population, on 31st December, 1858, inclusive of increase by birth, only amounted to 2,850 souls." There has been a slight increase since that date. "The native male population (including children) numbered, in 1857, only 1,751. They hold upwards of 2,000,000 acres, one-seventh of which is immediately available for the