

M. C. G.'s Parents

M. C. Nation was born in Sydney on Feb. 18, 1840. His father & mother came out to New Zealand in 1838 with the Trood family. Mr Trood was a printer, and on arrival opened up a business in King St, near Pitt St. The father & mother of his memoir were William Nation, of Laneset, England, and Mary Jenkin Howe, of the same shire. Soon after arrival in Sydney - they both came out with the Troods - they were married at St James Church, Sydney. Mary Howe was a domestic for Mrs Trood until her marriage, and Mr Nation came out as an apprentice to the printing business. These were the days when convicts were sent to Australia, and free emigrants had to be very careful, for there was much lawlessness and the convicts were treated with great cruelty by those in authority. M. C. G. was the eldest son of a family of nine.

W. C. Nation, the subject of this memoir, was, as stated, born at Sydney. He remembers as a small lad that his father went into business for himself as printer and commenced business in Harrington street in part of a store owned by Buyers and Learmont, merchants. W. C. N. went to a day school in York street, the room being under the Wesleyan Church. In those days the soldiers' barracks was located between George and Sussex streets, east & west, and James and Weyford streets, north & south, and the boy used to go through the barracks every day to get to school. In Harrington street his father printed the "Layman's Prompter", and the "Press" edited by Dr. Lang, ~~and other papers~~

The printing office was removed to Gloucester street, three doors behind St Patrick's Cathedral. Here "The Voice in the Wilderness" was printed for the Presbyterian body, and "The Nation" started in January, 1856, "The Australian Band of Hope Review and Children's Friend." It was published every alternate Saturday, price 3/-, 16 pages demy octavo. This journal interested our boy and he not only learned the type boxes and set type.

for the journal, but gradually worked into the business of
printer. It shaped his life course, and in after years,
when he entered business for himself as a newspaper proprietor,
he worked through the press for temperance, "gospel
truth," and Spiritualism.

As a boy he remembers buying tops & marbles
of ^{at} Henry Parkes' stationery & toy shop in Hunter Street, near
George St. Henry Parkes ten years after was Sir Henry, &
a notable Sydney politician. The boy was ~~also~~ present
at the turning of the first sod of the Sydney Parramatta
railway. He knew Sydney & suburbs well for he was
runner for "The Voice in the Wilderness." He was put
to Dr. Kincaid's high school in Lygon's Terrace, Hyde
Park south, and overstudy told upon his health, when he
was sent to Manly Beach to spend three months with
Mr & Mrs Stiles. Manly was then in the back woods. No
trains ran there, and the walk was from Garra Shore
through much scrub country, where crabs & kangaroos
and opossums had the field to themselves. All the
way from Garra Shore to Manly few houses were to be
seen.

The boy spent three months at Manly, which he says were the happiest days of his life. The bush, the lagoon, the hills, the beach, the sea, the rocks - all worked wonders with the lad. He fished from a dingy day after day, & caught trout; he loved to ~~be~~ ^{help} be settled open ~~ing~~ the lagoon when it was high, & letting the water out to the sea; he took great interest in a Sunday School held in Mr Miles' cottage; and when he returned to Sydney he left his heart behind him.

When about 16 years of age he took a warm interest in Board of Hope work, and attended the Baptist Chapel Sunday school, in Bathurst St. Here he came in contact with several good leads & this led him to go to the Baptist Chapel, which his mother attended, and under the preaching of the Rev J. Voller he was baptised and made a member of the church.

He Comes to New Zealand

In 1857 Mr W. Lightbourn of Nelson, N. Z., interested Mr Nation at Sydney and urged him to go to New Zealand and start a paper in opposition to the "Nelson Examiner". It resulted in Mr Nation, with his family, his plant, and several hands, leaving Sydney in September, 1857, in the brig "Dart", and after a fine passage of ~~four~~^{nine} days, arriving at Nelson port. The paper was named "The Nelson Colonist", and the office was away down on the beach road, not far from the Fife-shire Rock. It was away from the town and militated against business, but after a while an office was built up town in Wairua street, and upon that spot the "Colonist" of to-day is published. The office, though, being on the beach gave Mr Nation, when a vessel was signalled of going out in a boat and boarding the vessels that came from beyond. In those days there was no cable, no telegraph with other parts of N. Zealand, and vessels were stowed for the latest papers from which to clip news.

W. C. Nation's Reminiscence.

As a child remember going with my mother to the Methodist Chapel in Princes Street, Sydney. We then lived close to the building. Then my parents lived at Miller's Point, and I used to go to the Baptist Sunday School in Bathurst Street - a long walk. It was here that I received my first Sunday School prize; ~~the prize~~ and I was coming home with it full of joy. On the way an older boy asked me to let him have a look at the book. I was pleased that he should want to see it, and handed it to him. But he ran off with the book and I went home in tears. This, I believe, was my first sorrow in this life.

My father shifted to Harrington Street, where he was in business on his own account in part of a store owned by Bryers and Leamont, Scotch Presbyterians. We lived in front of the office and I was sent to the day school in York Street, held under the Methodist Chapel. Mr McPhail was the teacher. I remember playing truant for a fortnight, and spent the days mostly

on the Circular Quay, where I delighted in seeing the
slinging of merchandise both off and on the vessels, the
slinging of horses from the hold into the water; and I learned
the difference between brigs & brigantines and ships. I sat on
the end of the wharfs and watched the fishes and many
a crustacean of my lunch went amongst them. Although
I played truant for a fortnight I learned much of the
ships and how the great business of the sea was
carried on. But my enjoyment ended in discovery
and I was punished at school by being stood on a
form with a tall dunce's cap on my head.

While living in Harrington street my father printed
a monthly journal for the Presbyterians called "The
Voice in the Wilderness". He also printed "The
Press (weekly)" for Dr John Farrow Lang, and another
paper for other proprietors, "The Layman's Prompter".

I used to do some work in the office, and I well
remember how my arms used to ache as I used the
"ball" to put ink on the forms, instead of the roller.

In going to the day school I had to pass

through the soldiers' barracks, which was then situated between George & Sussex streets. Here I saw something of a soldier's life in his home and on the parade ground. (But some of my boyhood experiences are related on a former page of this book.)

In 1857 our family came to New Zealand. I joined the Baptist Church in Bridge street, and became a teacher in the Sunday School. I also sat in the choir, Miss Donnell being organist. I joined the Y.M.C.A. and worked for it; also the ~~Rehabilitated~~ and Temperance Society, and then I took hold of a Band of Hope and worked it up to a proud position. I interviewed influential gentlemen and got them to lecture on attractive subjects. And I spent much labour in preparing programmes of entertainments by the young people.

How did I forget to work for the Baptist Church in the midst of it all. I used to help fill the baptistry for the baptisms, was a power in preparing for the tea meetings, and when there was a young people's

prince I was looked to as a capable manager.
My father became preacher at the Presbyterian Church,
and I used to attend their singing practices. And at
the Wesleyan Church at the anniversary tea meetings
I was generally in the choir to help with the anthems.

I was very fond of foot racing and cricket.
And I joined the volunteers under Capt. Travers,
and the company was prepared by pretty hard drill
to go to New Plymouth to take part in the war with
the Maoris. As a youth I had a good constitution
and I could hold my own in the sports and
pastimes I engaged in.

In going to the various churches at the
anniversaries and singing practices I came across
several desirable young women acquaintances,
but though we were on the best of terms, I did not
find a magnet. I talked about much with a Miss
L. Hooper, but she was not my choice, and I went
on until I was 23 years of age before I found my
affinity, and this was in the Baptist Sunday School

in Miss Annie Wesley, eldest daughter of Mr J
Wesley, cloth manufacturer, of Brook St Valley.
We were both teachers in the Sunday School, and
in ~~1864~~ 1864 we were married by Mr. Biss at
the home of her parents.

I must not forget to say that about this
time the Waiakamarias diggings broke out, near
Havensick, and nearly every business man in
Nelson took on the gold fever and went off
over the Mokotapu hills to search for the precious
metal. Joshua Johns urged me to join him &
Samuel Fittall and go too. I, after some thought,
consented and we three went. But Fittall
was taken ill and though we went to the Pelorus
river one afternoon and tried with our dogs, we
did not get a "colour". As Fittall was away from
medical help we considered it best to return the
following day and we sold our belongings and
tramped away home again. This ended our
search for gold.

Of course I forfeited my place at the "Colonist" office, where I had worked since we came to New Zealand, and I wrote to Christchurch for a fresh place. A Mrs Collins, who at one time had worked on the "Nelson Examiner" wrote and asked me to come as quickly as possible - wages £3.10 of a week a 1/6 an hour overtime. This meant the break up of old associations and leaving home. But what of our marriage? We talked it over and felt that it would be best to get through the ceremony at once - I to go on to Ch'ch, and my wife to follow in a month. I did not consider it safe to leave a good opening down South just to run home for marriage. All were agreed. So we were married on 12th August, 1864, and after the ceremony I left ~~for~~ⁱⁿ a steamer that was on the point of sailing.

My wife remained in Nelson and I was soon in Christchurch, where I entered the "Press" office jobbing room, where I spent 13 years

In a month's time my wife came from Nelson, and I met her in Lyttelton. We walked over the hill together, for there was no tunnel between Heathcote & Lyttelton then. We sat on the hill side, and had our first meal together there. I had taken a three-roomed house in Mairas Street down, about 100 yards from the Railway Station. Here we lived very happily for some time. We both attended the Congregational Church, held in Berrington's Hall, and we taught in the Sunday School. At the Press Office, in company with George Jones, (afterwards an M.L.C.) we started the "Temperance Messenger," the first Temperance paper in New Zealand. Then we started "The Southern Record," a non-sectarian religious paper, which we afterwards disposed of to Mr. J. S. Baker, a Wesleyan bookseller.

Later my wife and I fell in with the Griffen family, who kept a shop on the Paparua road. This led to us going to the Brethren meetings and John Howard and I started a ragged school, Howard

* Carried it on for seven years, from
1867 to 1875

teaching the scholars and I teaching them in the little
"Odipello's" Hall. This school year at the academy
ended. Then we and I joined the "Bre-
thren," and since we met them I started the "Mes-
sage of Life," a Gospel ministry of 8 pages.* My
parents now came from Nelson to Christchurch
and my father set the type for the "Message" at
home. We lived in Madras Street until after
Mary was born. Later Annie (my wife) took a
trip to Nelson, taking baby with her, and I carried
the letter on the hill in a basket, on my back,
Maori fashion.

It was in Christchurch that I was led to
speak in public. One Sunday night a home missionary
(Mr Binns) was speaking near the Papanui Bridge
and during his speaking two or three young men
kept interrupting chaff. I waited until Mr Binns
had finished, then stepped into his place and "let go."
It was a sudden impulse and words flowed freely.
There was a good crowd and they drew close

around me. Several shook hands with me at the close of my address and hoped that I would not keep my mouth shut in future. This led me to preach "the old, old story" in the open air and at the Brethren meetings. Meanwhile I worked in the Sunday school and at the Music Hall had about 150 or 200 children with several teachers.

In 1875 I left Christchurch, and after working a fortnight in the Govt Printing Office, ^{at Wellington} I was offered the position of overseer for the jobbing rooms at the office of the "New Zealand Times". We lived on the Terrace overlooking the harbour. Gradually I drifted away from the old orthodox teachings, though I taught in Mr Hazell's Sunday school for a time. Mr Chantrey Harris was then proprietor of the "Times," and it was not long before he added the oversight of the machine room to my duties, and finally he put the whole of the business except the printing & the book-keeping in my charge. The office was moved from where

the old "Independent" under Mrs. McKenzie had been printed for years to where the "New Zealand" was published, but came to grief. The premises were in the block near where the Midland Hotel now stands. Here I was Mr. Harris' chief man and confident, and ran the newspaper composing room, the jobbing, and ^{the} machine rooms. I had control of everything.

In 1880 I purchased "The Wairarapa Standard" published at Greyton N., and removed there. Here I had a hard fight. My brother Edward joined me in the venture, but he got tired of it and went back to Wellington. The paper was not what it was made out to be by Mr. Wakelin, and it was a great strain on me to keep going. I did a lot of riding over the country collecting news, money, and jobbing. But I was strong and knew no fatigue to speak of.

Before Spintachin broke out in our home I preached occasionally for the Wesleyans & for two years I was superintendent of the Ch. of Eng. Sunday School

and sang in the Ch. of Eng. choir. The extraordinary spiritual phenomena which happened in 1883 are given in a book on our experiences.

I took much interest in the children of the town. I joined Mr Rush, first thing in his juvenile meetings and when he left I carried them on, I also got up children's entertainments, drilling them in singing and elocution [I wrote to the Borough Council suggesting the origination of "Arbor Day" in New Zealand, and the suggestion was favourably received. I was left to act as secretary and Major Towns and I carried out the work successfully, receiving from Mr Ritchie of the Agric. Dept. a letter of commendation for my efforts. I carried on this work for two or three years after.]

I printed a monthly journal in advocacy of Spiritualism for $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. It was an 8-page crown 4to. set in picas & l.p., price 1⁰. With two or three of my girls I went to Papawai for some time and held meetings in the meeting house there. The Maoris in a trap conveyed ~~some~~ little organs to the place and we had good meetings

I helped to form a Psychological Society in Greytown and we had as mediums Mrs Cotter, Mrs Leasby, and Mrs R Bright. The circles in our home were of unusual interest. Clergymen attacks on Spiritualism drew me out and I spoke at Morrison Bush Schoolhouse and published my remarks in the Wairarapa Standard.

For two years I acted as Superintendent of the Ch. of Eng. Sunday School, Miss Ethel Knell assisting me.

In the year 1896 I sold the Wairarapa Standard to Mr Roydhouse, and leaving matter and the press in Greytown I went to Shannon to arrange for starting a paper there. I went to Ch'ch to purchase type, purchased a machine for £50 from W. H. Smith of P. O. 2, arranged with my wife's brother Joseph to build an office, purchased 8³/₄ of an acre of ground in Ballance street, and Charlie, from this time, was associated in business with me. He, with Fred. Jones, rode on three horses round from Greytown to Shannon. The office was very slow in building and I was put to considerable expense boarding Joseph Wibley, John Vernon, myself.

and the boys at the hotel. As soon as the roof was on the office, ~~we~~ Charlie & Fred Jones slept in a back room, White Percy and I dossed in the front office. Then Eva came round from Greston ~~and~~ started dressmaking in a front room in the office, she sleeping there. It was a rough time for all of us, for we had to make a fire in the open air at the back, have our meals on a bench at the back of the office, and put up with inconveniences. We could not find a cottage for some time, until at last we got one near Mr Hensman's. Then Bertha and Jessie came round from Greston to work in the office, also Grandma & Grandpa Nation, and they lived in this cottage. By and by we secured another house from Mrs Butts not far from the office, and here Emma & George & Uncle John lived. We next got a house from Mr Cassie, over the line, and as mother and Annie had been having a very bad time in Greston we sent for them. During their enforced stay in Greston Mrs Rogers of the Greston hotel was very good to them. Annie was suffering from an ulcerated leg. Mary was still left behind. She had married Fred Barrett, and now she & her husband followed, with ~~Marion~~ ^{Margaret} and Walter as a little kiddie. Fred got work on

the river drifting logs, but was not very successful at this.

Many had a hard time of it.

We turned out a good paper called "The Manawatu Farmer," ^{Started Oct 9, 1893} John Vernon working down the line for advertisements and news. I had to do much scribbling, while Jessie & Bertha and Grandpa worked at ease. Often, when the farmer was on the machine the young fellows about would come in & turn the farmer off, making the old machine rattle with the speed they put on. When winter came round to Shannon we began to get a bit square, but we all felt the loss of our old comfortable home in Greytown, where we lived on the Kwaitiwiti road, with an orchard around us.

During our stay in Shannon I again worked up "Arbor Day." I got up juvenile entertainments in the schoolhouse and the first effort at planting was in Ballance street from the hotel up to the Reserve. A second year the Maoris took part planting along Plover Terrace, while ^(the children) ~~was~~ planted trees along by the schoolhouse in Grey street. The girls now took a hand in providing life in the town. They took part in concerts and several dances and balls in Fitchett's Hall, since removed.

We did very little in holding Spiritualistic circles during our stay in Shannon. While we were there Grandma Nation "passed on" and she was buried in the cemetery on the hill. We spent four years in Shannon and then removed to Levin, taking the Manawatu Farmer printing plant with us. For years I acted as Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths at Shannon and as a Justice of the Peace.

Levin

It was a very heavy task shifting from Shannon all the plant of the office and our household goods. The change from one town to another was brought about by the fact that Levin as a town was outgrowing Shannon; that "Joey ~~James~~ ^{Ivess}" had started a paper at Levin under the name of the "Levin Express", and unless we made a move, Shannon could not support us. So I went to Levin on hearing that Joey had sold out to two of his bonds there and that they did not agree. We came to terms then & I agreeing to pay them £50 goodwill they to remove all their plant away from Levin. The "Office"

was a four-roomed cottage in which a dressmaker had carried on business formerly. With our office plant we found the place too small and we had to enlarge. The windows of the office in Shannon being large we brought them to Levin. It was in 1897, I believe, that we started in this town. We secured a dwelling in Cambridge St. not far from the Anglican Church. What an expense the shifting was. Looking back I wonder how we survived the strain. In addition to the office premises we had an office close by where John Vernon lodged and this before we left Shannon. Well, we got upon our feet, and to produce the "Manawatu Farmer" as cheaply as possible we put two girls on at once: Jessie Nicholson and Louie Alloway. We had with us "Bony Merson" formerly of Greytown and my brother John. Out of the four mentioned Vernon, my brother John, Merson, and Jessie Nicholson "passed on" years ago. I must not forget to mention that we took Fred Jones into the business and he was a good hustler, but too fond of sport while Chris. & I worked. As time wore on we jibbed and told Fred we could not go on with him doing the Grand and we the work. He kicked and said he would

go out of the business for £400 as his share. We agreed, raised the money and he went. Chas. and I plodded on, but the raising of £2000 to buy him out and the uphill quill we had brought us to the conclusion that the burden was too heavy to bear and we sold out to a company. Had Jones played the game we could have built up a splendid business and been independent. He was the millstone which sank us. Chas went to Chalkin and worked with B. J. Dumas, who had the "Jones" there. Dumas was too fond of the waipers and the business was drifting back, when Chas. took it over. He strengthened it, but he had domestic trials. However, he pulled through. As for myself I remained in Levin and for a time managed the paper for the Company. Previous to the break with ^{Fred} Jones he arranged with Mr. Hope for the purchase of his residence at the corner of Cambridge and Exeter streets, and we moved in there, Fred & his wife (he had married Jessie) living with us. I still was Registrar of B. M. and Deeds, and I, also, was appointed Coroner for the district, which I held for many years.

In Levin we did not as a family take part in public entertainments as we did in Sharnon. I did take up work at the Karvohenna Vil. Settlement among the young people, and we had some good gatherings. We planted a row of poplars all along the road there, but they disappeared by degrees. By a concert in Levin I planted a "Memorial Avenue" in Exeter street, between the two churches, and the trees are growing to-day.

Once settled in Levin I started "The Message of Life" & pages, being 4 to, monthly." This paper I have published for over 18 years now, ⁽¹⁹²¹⁾ setting the type myself in a room at the back of our home, and getting the forms machined at the printing office. We started a Spiritualist Society in our first home in Levin; then we held services in the Road Board room, then C. W. Roberts (since passed on) and R. H. Taylor were the mediums - and they were good. I was chosen president, and have held the office for many years now. In time a little hall was built. When the sections belonging to the Mel-Memorial Reading Co. were put up to auction. In this little hall we had some happy meetings with Mrs. Sigler as medium for speaking

and Mrs Robinson for clairvoyance. He did a great deal of work among the spirits in the lower planes of spirit life, Mr Windlesor being much used for them to come through. He passed on after a good period spent in this work.

Before F Jones left the office he entered into an agreement with Mr Hope for the purchase of the residence on the hill where he lived. Mr H. came to me and offered the place at 15/- a week. When Jones left Leomin I took over the place from Hope and here in 1921 (at the time of writing) we are living, mother and I and Annie & Harold, and Mr Averill, who has worked in the garden and made it a place of beauty. I may here say that Annie bought the place from us, paying £900. Mother and I out of this gave each of the girls & Chas. £100 each, retaining the balance to live on. It was while living here that my brother John passed on, and we buried him in Sharnon, next to mother's grave. At the news of our property lived Mr & Mrs Liggletson, and she attended our meetings and by my aid was developed in our front room. She became as one of us, and her psychic gifts were excellent. She was brought into our lives by spirit people, and in time ^{was} married to Chas. and lived happily with him.

Our Family

Mary had the misfortune to lose her husband, Fred, during our residence in Levin. He was employed with Chas & I at the office as reporter and lived in Werron street. He had his home lighted by electricity, and in seeing to the acetyle tank one evening it exploded, struck him in the forehead, and rendered him senseless. After nursing him some weeks a consciousness not returning he was removed to the Wel-Hospital, where he lay for 20 weeks, only getting a glimmer of consciousness now and then. He was buried in Karori cemetery. In 1914 the Great War broke out and Mary's two sons Eric and Walter volunteered. Eric was engaged in repairing the disabled motor cars. Walter went into the trenches. Both came back free of wounds, though Walter was in hospital both in France and England. Norman went into camp but the war closing he came home. He was already married. Hilda married John Hesson. Eric remained single.

Lena married Alf. Oldfield. They came across each other when we lived at Shannon. They settled at Kimbolton, New at Cheltenham and Falding where they prospered and had a comfortable home. The family comprised Bertha, Alfred, Molly and Percy.

Bertha married John Devine at Levin. His work was at Bartholomew's Sawmill as manager. Bertha's psychic gifts are reported in the book "The Moeen World." Their children were Reginald who passed away in childhood at Levin; Clareel and Hazel. The family migrated to Waingara, north of Auckland, where Jack managed a big sawmill and did well. But before going north Jack & his wife were some time in N.Z. where Jack & Harold Plimmer were in business in the tin line.

Jessie married Fred J. Jones, whom Chas & I took into business. He spent too much time in pleasure & left Chas & I to do the work, so we parted. He went to America on a visit, taking Jessie with him. Mater & I took charge of their first baby, Raymond, while they were absent. On their return they removed to Auckland, where Fred took up newspaper work in one of the offices. He often

went to Hamilton & Rotorua. He went to Raetihi and started the "Wairarapa Call". Left Raetihi for Rotorua, got into trouble there and left for Sydney, leaving his wife & family behind him - a family of four: Raymond, Mural, Audrey, and Keith. Charlie's wife had a property next to us on the hill in Levin and she & Chas generously gave Jessie & family the privilege of living in the four-roomed house for years. Jessie suffered much from an internal complaint and had to go to Palmerston Hospital again and again. Fred did not return from Australia except once on a visit in 1921, and then he was with his family only a few days. It is not saying too much to say that he did not send the monetary support to his wife and family that his good billet in Queensland gave him the privilege to do. Being next door to us in Levin we did what we could for the deserted wife and children. Having the house rent free from Sarah & Charlie was a great help to them.

Charlie and I went into business together when we settled in Shannon. We started "The Manawatu Farmer" there, and worked together very closely to establish it. We shifted the plant & paper to Levin after four years spent in Levin. Then we took Fred Jones into partnership. Business prospered through our hard work, but Jones shirked and we gave him £400 to get rid of him. This crippled us and the burden became so heavy that we sold the paper and printing plant to a company. Chas. left his shares in the new company which, being mismanaged, he lost all. My share helped me to purchase the house on the hill from Mr Hope after Jones left. Chas went to Oshakine & worked with Mr R. J. Dunne on the "Times" managing the paper for him. Chas. had married, but his career in matrimony was spoiled by his ^{first} wife getting mixed up with a lodger. A divorce followed & Chas., though free, was much shattered by the blow. But the sun shone again. Mrs Liggletow had lost her husband. She had been living next door ^{to us in Levin} and had been sitting for development with Mater & I in our front room with excellent results. She was a young woman, worthy of a good man's care and love, and Chas. made her an offer of marriage, which she accepted. They were married at our house, and

They both settled at Okahune. It proved a happy union, and Sarah, as we always called her, proved her worth in the years that followed. Mator and I missed her, for she had sat with us and been the channel for messages & exhortations from friends over the border, ~~but~~ she is as dear to us as any of our own. Sarah helped Chas in business where she was able, and her son Lawrence went into the office with Chas. & learned his trade. Chas prospered in business by close application, and when the war broke out, the proprietor of the "Call" at Raetihi was called to the front, and he asked Chas to take over his paper. Chas raised the deposit money and made his home in Raetihi. Here he worked with a will, business prospered, he added to the printing plant, & then put in a linotype machine. With a loving partner in his wife, thoroughly domesticated and a home bird, all was well. But no family came to them, ~~or~~ ~~has~~ until a little girl came into their lives, ^{in Jan 1920} they named her Violet Pearl, and she is the charm of the household. With a prosperous business, a comfortable home, and their home their own property, all is well. At the time of writing Chas runs the "Okahune Times," which he purchased from Dunne, and also the "Call." Lawrence has been with Chas for

years, and while Chas. resides in Raetihi & sees to the "Call", Lawrence is in Shannon on the "Times".

Annie married Harold Plimmer, a grandson of John Plimmer, "the father of Wellington". At first Harold ran a store in Shannon. Then he went to Wellington and with Jack Devine opened up a business for the sale of teas. He was also clever at photography. Harold & Annie, with others went on a tour to the North, also to the Islands and Australia, and they had a good time all round. Harold & Annie, however, were unfortunate in respect to children. They lost one after the other in early days, and it seemed as if there would be no issue left. But a boy came, and they named him Harold. Unfortunately the father ~~was~~ lost his life before the child was born. The father was in a motor cycle race near Palmerston N. when something went wrong with the cycle which dashed against a post killing the rider on the spot. It was a terrible blow to Annie & she feared for the birth of the child, but all was well. After the child was born she came to Levin

and lived with mother and I. In the course of years Annie made an offer for the property where Mother & I were living. We sold it to her for £900, and donated £200 to each of the children. Annie has spent money on the place, for she was well provided for when her husband died.

Percy was the youngest. He was quick of intellect, but excitable. At school he got on well, and could use his fists when set upon. When we came to Shannon from Brayton he came with us & took out the papers. When I got up entertainments in Brayton Percy was very good as a performer, and in Shannon he was the same. When the Boer war broke out he caught the war spirit and begged us to let him go. He feared he would not pass as a soldier, so he practised with dumb-bells; and so intent was he on going that he went to a blacksmith (Anstice) and learned how to shoe horses; for, said he, "if I can't get away in the ranks I will try to get as assistant shoer of horses."

Then he bought a saxhorn and learned all the bugle calls,
so that he could go as bugler if other means failed. He
went into camp at Newton Park, Duncan Anderson, his drum,
going with him. They went all thro' the war together and both
fell together at Bothasberg.

“The Message Of Life”

OUR FAREWELL

To Subscribers and Readers:

Dear Friends—

It is with sincere regret that we have to advise you that the “Message of Life” publication has now ceased as from the August issue. For some time past we have been on the threshold of closing down owing to adverse circumstances; to-day we find that we can no further shoulder the material and financial burden entailed in the production of the “Message of Life” journal. As many may realise, the existence of a paper of this nature is largely dependent upon the able support given to it in every direction.

We are, indeed, very sorry that after 31 years of service to Spiritualism in this country we are now unable in this direction to carry on that service for the Cause. For that service all due credit is given to that noble gentleman, the late Mr W. C. Nation, the founder of “The Message of Life,” and who, for close on 27 years gave his heart and soul to that journal in the endeavour to spread the truth of Spiritualism. We trust that in our passing, someone will see fit to issue a new Spiritualist journal to fulfil the needs of New Zealand Spiritualists.

To those who have supported us with literary and financial contributions which have enabled us to carry on in the past we express our sincere thanks for such practical encouragement.

With these few words of farewell we lay down our pen somewhat reluctantly, but with the hope that in the future we may wield it again in the Cause of Spiritualism.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. WARING, Editor.

September, 1934.
