

GARRETT, THE BUSHRANGER.

(*Evening Post.*)

The curtain fell at midnight on Wednesday on one of "the most strange eventful histories" which have to be recorded of any Australasian malefactors who "left their country for their country's good." Henry Garrett, who was also known to the prison authorities by the name of Rouse (which there is reason to believe was the correct appellation) expired in the hospital of the Terrace gaol last night at 12 o'clock from senile decay, at the age of 72 years. Garrett was transported to Norfolk Island in 1842, on a sentence of 10 years' penal servitude, for an offence committed at Birmingham. He was liberated shortly after the gold discoveries in Victoria, and was next heard of at Ballarat, where, in 1885, without a confederate, he in broad daylight entered the Bank of Victoria in Sturt-street, within 50 yards of the Commissioner's camp, and presenting a revolver at Mr Laing, the manager, "bailed up" that gentleman and robbed the bank of £6000. Before entering the bank he astutely put a notice outside, intimating that business would be suspended for an hour. Telegraphs and telegraph cables were unknown in the colonies in those days, and although Garrett was suspected he managed to get clear away from Victoria and reached London, where he was seen by an Australian detective, who, to make sure of his man, adopted the ruse of giving a "cooey." The old familiar sound caused Garrett to look round, and this expedient led to his being captured. Taken back to Melbourne, he received a sentence of ten years, part of which he served in the prison quarries of Williamstown, in which he was working when Mr Price, the then Inspector-General of Penal Establishments, was murdered. The Otago rush had just broken out when Garrett was a second time released from penal servitude, and thither he soon hied, his first exploit being the sticking-up of 17 teamsters and swagsmen behind Maungatua, near the Post Office Creek. Having tied up the men he good-naturedly gave them each a pannikin of tea, and having filled their pipes and cautioned them not to stir for two hours he rode off. He was arrested for this last named offence in Australia, and was brought back to New Zealand. In

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Garrett was lodged in the Wellington lock-up, where he was searched by order of Inspector Atchison, and in the lining of his hat, notwithstanding his having been searched in Australia, was found a manuscript history of his career up to that time, which was subsequently published in the *Wellington Independent* and the *Otago Daily Times*. Garrett, who was at that time a most powerful man, was tried in Dunedin, and on being taken into the Court-house he deliberately and with one effort snapped his manacles as easily apparently as if they had been thread. For the Post-office Creek affair, Garrett, in 1862, received a sentence of eight years' penal servitude. It would be tedious to follow the chequered career of this man, suffice it to say that no sooner was he released than he again got into "trouble," and it is asserted that he spent nearly fifty Christmas Days in prison. Although a "queer customer" while in imprisonment down South, he proved to be a most tractable man while under the charge of Mr Garvey at Mount Cook prison, from whence, on account of failing health, he was removed in July last. In his last moments Garrett, whose boast it was that he never shed human blood, and never injured or robbed a woman, was attended by Archdeacon Stock, from whose ministrations it is to be hoped he derived consolation in his latter days.