

## A GREAT CRIMINAL

(New Zealand Times.)

The news of the death of Henry Garrett will be of interest to those who remember the records of crime in Australia and New Zealand. He died on September 2nd, aged 72, of decay of the system. The career of a man who has spent 50 Christmases in gaol was necessarily a strange one; and though a great criminal, there were some points in Garrett's character which were not unamiable or altogether bad. It is believed that he was first driven to evil courses by domestic trouble, and that he began by committing petty offences. His first long sentence was passed in Birmingham, in the year 1842, when he was condemned to ten years penal servitude and sent to Norfolk Island. In 1855, he committed a most daring bank robbery in Ballarat. The robbery was done in broad daylight. Garratt posted a notice on the bank door that it would be closed for an hour, and then entering the building presented a revolver at the heads of the officials. He thus managed to take about £6000, and escaped with it to London. He was followed thither by a detective from Australia and captured. The detective saw him in the street and not being sure of his man, gave a "coo-e-e." At this Garrett, to whom the sound was familiar, turned round sharply, and the detective being certain that he was the person sought, took him into custody. On being taken out to Australia he was tried and received a sentence of 10 years. He was present when Mr Price, at one time superintendant of the convict establishments in Australia, was murdered by the prisoners.

On the outbreak of the diggings, Garrett came over to New Zealand, and distinguished himself by sticking up and tying to trees 17 men on the road between Dunedin and Gabriel's Gully. Among the victims was Father Moreau, a French priest, whose memory is held in

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LAKE COUNTY PRESS, VOLUME  
III, ISSUE 159, 10 SEPTEMBER  
1885, PAGE 3

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whose memory is held in reverence both in Otago and in this district. When he had the 17 tied up and their pockets emptied, like a gentle thief as he was, he made tea for them, and filled and lighted the pipes of such as smoked, and rode away, ordering them not to move for two hours. It is stated that there are men now in Wellington who made his acquaintance on that occasion, and among them possibly a member of Parliament. He seldom however, long enjoyed the fruits of his industry, and in May 1862 he was sentenced to eight years penal servitude. This sentence he cannot have served to the end, as in 1868 he was sentenced to one year, for being found with housebreaking tools in his possession, and not long afterward 20 years for breaking into a shop and stealing valuable goods. He was released in 1882 by special permission, and for a short while devoted himself to literature. He contributed several biographies of gentlemen in his own way of business, in weekly parts, to a society journal in Christchurch. The name he wrote under was "Clothopper," and among the lives were those of Silas Eli, Frederick Plummer, Robert Butler, and several other practitioners of eminence. They are said to have been exceedingly well done, showing great knowledge of character, and a curious and accurate acquaintance with facts. He also began a life of himself, which, unfortunately for literature, was interrupted. He was arrested in November 1882, for being found in a wholesale warehouse with about 40 or 50 skeleton keys in his possession and received a sentence of seven years from which he was released by death at 12 o'clock on the evening of the 2nd September. Garrett sometimes called himself Rouse, which the Wellington gaol authorities believe to have been his real name. Through all his career of crime it is not recorded once against him that he once shed human blood, and like the highway-

men of old, he never robbed or hurt  
a woman.