

sense than his countrymen are credited with: and he talks of the colonies & of his future life there in an enthusiastic way which I hope he may find realized. He has been a good deal abroad & looks as if he had a sad history. His present troubles are connected with 2 pens of fowls & 1 of ~~Roman~~ ducks, with which he intends to regenerate the native birds he may find about Auckland. I know I am very glad a puppy is not so grave a responsibility, as my friend the butcher is very glad to take all that off my shoulders as regards the Drygrange pup. My first interview with the Captain was just before dinner on Friday. I found him at the Caddy table placing the Passengers names in their plates in the order

in which they are to sit. So I thought social self-preservation demanded an effort on my part; & with that intention approached the Skipper to find out my allotted fate. I found the slip of paper bearing my name placed between 2 with the names of Miss Parsons & Miss Weston. By great luck Logan had told me they were milliners hailing from 'Meanington & Glenview', when we were together on board at the docks, and though I had not seen them or made them out yet, I thought with horror on the notion of having to waste the inevitable petits soirs of the dinner-table on such, however beautiful & charming they might be personally. So I struck for a change. Of course the Skipper was agreeable to anything I might prefer,