

THE LATE MR. JAMES "SNYDER" BROWNE

Says the Wellington Evening Post of recent date:—"We regret to record the death at the age of 67 of Mr. James Browne, of Gisborne, one of the oldest and most popular journalists in the colony. Like that of all who pursue the profession in these colonies, Mr. Browne's career has been a chequered one, and there are few journalists who possess greater experience or have used it more freely for the good of their fellow-men than did the deceased gentleman. Born in London—his father being the late Viscount Montagu Browne—he came to the colonies when about 17 years of age, landing at Hobart, where he gained those experiences of courtier life in Tasmania, which his pen has so graphically described in his "Reminiscences of a Colonial Journalist." In the same sketches he has also written a touching account of the

The announcement of the death of Mr James Browne, better known by his nom de plume "Snyder," will cause a widespread feeling of regret amongst colonial journalists. The deceased gentleman was for many years a contributor to the columns of "The Daily Southern Cross," and as a humorous writer he was head and shoulders above any of his contemporaries on the New Zealand press. For some years past Mr Browne has been conducting a stationer's and bookseller's business at Gisborne. He leaves a large family of grown up sons and daughters, and the former have been connected with their father's profession. Mr Montagu Browne, one of his sons, is, perhaps, the most successful theatrical agent in Australasia, and Mr James Oakley Browne, another son, is Parliamentary reporter on the staff of the Wellington "Post." The latter has prepared for the press a collection of his father's humorous writings, which, we understand, will shortly be published.

DEATH
Browne.—On 5th November, at his residence, Gisborne, James Browne, journalist, fifth son of the late Lord Viscount Montagu Browne, and father of Mr J. Oakley Browne, of this city—1885

It will be seen by a cablegram from Adelaide, published elsewhere, that Mr "Monty" Browne, theatrical agent, who was well known throughout the colonies, died in Jamestown Hospital. He was at one time connected with West Coast journalism, and came to Auckland early in the seventies. For some time he was on the staff of the "H. J. Herald," and was subsequently both on the Southern and Australian Press. In a short time, however, he became a theatrical agent, and followed that business almost up to his death. Mr Browne leaves a wife and family, and is survived by several brothers, some of whom are also connected with colonial journalism. "H. J. Herald," Monday, Jan 15th, 1896.

A cablegram from Adelaide reports that Monty Browne, theatrical agent, well known throughout the colonies, died in Jamestown Hospital. The deceased was a journalist well known in New Zealand. He was for some time Sub-Editor of the "Guardian" in Dunedin, and was also connected with the "Southern Mercury." He also acted for a few weeks as Sub-Editor of this journal, and on leaving decided to engage in the business of a theatrical agent. He leaves a widow and family, some of whom are connected with the stage. "Stage Daily Times," January 15th, 1896.

were at one time copied into half the journals of the colony. He was a very genial character; young and old enjoyed his society; and no figure will be more missed in Gisborne than that of James "Snyder" Browne, as he was latterly called."
We would add our tribute of respect to the memory of the deceased journalist, with whom we were intimately acquainted. Mr Browne not long ago contributed a series of letters to the GUARDIAN, and his racy descriptions of Poverty Bay matters, written in a witty, humorous vein, caused the articles to be highly appreciated.
It may not be generally known that the Wairoa GUARDIAN plant was originally owned by the late Mr. Browne when he was living at Coromandel, and used by him in the publication of the Coromandel Mail, the last newspaper owned by the deceased gentleman, which flourished during the palmy days of that mining settlement, but subsequently came to grief when the production of gold failed.

Mr James Browne, better known under the nom de plume of "Snyder" has, we learn, given up the proprietorship of the Coromandel Mail to take the editorship of the Poverty Bay Standard. The proprietor of that journal, in securing the services of Mr Browne will, we feel sure, not be long in discovering that he has obtained one of the most experienced and versatile journalists in the Colony. As a humorist and descriptive writer Snyder has no equal, certainly no superior in New Zealand. As editor of the Auckland Herald, in which journal he commenced and continued to write for nearly three years a series of most humorous articles under the title of "My Sentiments," he succeeded in very largely increasing the circulation of that very old established journal. "Old Snyder," as he is generally called by all those to whom he is known, is never offensive, never personal, and never wounds or hurts the feelings of those whose acts or words it may be his business to comment on. In private life Mr Browne is very much respected, and from his genial nature and large fund of anecdote and personal recollections, extending over a life period in the several Colonies of the Southern Hemisphere, his society and companionship are always welcomed.

A POPULAR PRESSMAN.

THE Melbourne Bulletin of December 29 gives an excellent portrait of Mr Montagu Browne, brother of Messrs Browne Bros., of the TAIRANGA GUARDIAN, and eldest son of the well-known humorous writer, "Snyder," whose contributions are so much admired by the readers of the GUARDIAN. Of Mr Montagu Browne the Bulletin thus writes:—"The subject of our illustration to-day is the above gentleman. He is, however, more familiarly known in press and professional circles by the less grandiose, but more familiar title of "Monty." Mr Browne is a native of Geelong, where he was born in 1849. His own expression is that he is a Geelong goose. There is, however, little of the latter character about him. Since his ninth year he has been connected with the press, broken only by intervals in which he has been running successful shows. For sixteen years he was editor or sub-editor of one or other of the leading morning papers of New Zealand, and by pressmen there was considered the smartest all-round newspaper man. He was also sub-editor of the Melbourne Daily Telegraph, and was on the Argus reporting staff. During all that period he has always retained the esteem of his fellow pressmen. Mr Browne is, however, best known to the Melbourne public as a business manager of theatrical companies. In New Zealand he has run some of the premier companies, and, to use his own expression, he 'knows every bill board in Maori Land. He was the manager there for the Salvation Army

There has been "a great shindy entirely" in the editorial chambers of the Otago Guardian. It seems that something had been published in that journal which gave umbrage to one Captain Schwabe, of the Richardson Fusiliers. The gallant captain thereupon armed himself with a big whip, and went in search of Mr Montagu Browne, the sub-editor of the paper, whom he supposed to have been the author of the offensive paragraph. He at length found him in his office, and this, according to the narrative of our contemporary, is what followed:—"In the evening, about half-past 10 o'clock, as the editor was engaged in the sublime contemplation of sublimity things, he was aroused by the sound of high words in the ante-room, which is the sub-editor's. 'Apologise! I'll do nothing of the sort. How dare you, sir, threaten me?' were the words which fell on his ear, followed by a shuffling of feet. Opening the door and standing with his arms akimbo, he placidly surveyed the scene. His chief officer and the military gentleman were engaged in mortal combat, the assault and fence parry being exhibited with some dexterity but with great violence. Captain Schwabe was performing evolutions around the room followed by Mr Browne, who was bringing his hands with much force and rapidly into violent contact with various parts of the captain's face and head. Not being accustomed to such scenes of violence, he may not be in a position to judge, but to the editor's eye it appeared the most tremendous thrashing he had ever witnessed. He did not feel called on to interfere for several reasons, but primarily lest he might himself get hurt. At length the military gentleman lay down upon the floor in the doorway, with the literary gentleman on top of him. 'Don't strike me when I'm down,' exclaimed the soldier. 'No, you—' improper expression—I'll not strike you when you're down,' replied the literary, 'but I'll give you in charge of a constable,' and at the same time proceeded to drag the captain along the

ran the "World" and "New Babylon" successfully for Bland Holt, and afterwards piloted Majeroni, Alison, Rignold, Ada Ward, Emelie Melville, Marie de Grey, and a host of others. His widow, Mrs Fanny Browne, is now residing in Sydney, and we feel sure that when the news of her sad bereavement is known to the profession and in journalistic circles a means of testifying public appreciation of Mr. Monty Browne's worth will be found. We knew his father, "Snyder" Browne many years ago in Maori-Land.

January, 1896

The Late Mr. Monty Browne.
We regret to hear of the death of the popular entrepreneur Mr Monty Browne, who died in the Hospital, Jamestown S. A., on the 30th of last month, in his 46th year. The late Mr Browne was colonial born, hailing from Geelong, Victoria. He graduated first of all in the press, and was sub. of the "Wellington Daily Telegraph" in 1879. From the press he, like a good many others, drifted to the stage, finding matters theatrical more congenial to his taste than spacing out calls. For several years he managed the Princess Theatre, Dunedin, and the Opera House, Wellington N. Z. He

some time and was also lessee of the Rillman (now Clarendon) Hotel, Monty was also engaged on the Press for some little time. While here he married a daughter of the late Jos. Blaymires and soon after left for the West Coast. He ultimately gave up literary pursuits and became a theatrical agent in the Australian Colonies, and has for some years resided in Victoria and South Australia.
Marlborough Press, Jan 16th 96
(x 30th Dec 1896)

