

New Zealand-- The Queen at Christchurch-

26/1/54.

Queen
 Their twenty-three day tour of the North Island over, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Nelson, ~~at the head of Tasman Bay~~ in New Zealand's South Island. Here, a tremendous welcome came from the 21,000 inhabitants.

Presentations were made on the steps of the Cathedral, ~~where~~ ^{X AND} a black and white sheep-dog was determined to gate-crash its way into Royal favour.

~~and~~ Thousands of school-children ~~were not slow in~~ ^{acclaimed} ~~acclaiming~~ their Queen- in person- for the first time.

Queen
 Making for Christchurch now- the Royal route lay through superb mountain scenery- ~~stopping~~ ^{with a stop} at Darfield- the only scheduled halt, ~~a~~ renewed outburst of affectionate cheering greeted the Royal travellers, ~~and the last glimpse of their majesty, as she waved good-bye, will long remain a vivid memory for these simple folk by the seaside.~~

So they came to Christchurch- on the River Avon- claimed to be the most English city in New Zealand.

Amid a round of engagements, the Queen and the Duke toured hospitals, where their friendly words brought comfort to many an aged patient.

MIGHT OTHERWISE
 And the Queen, herself a mother, did not forget little ones, who ~~may~~ have been prevented from seeing her.

After lunch, the Queen and the Duke visited a Training Centre for disabled ex-servicemen. Here they praised the efforts of war-sufferers, who, by their courage, are winning the uphill ~~fight~~ battle for independence, as useful members of the community.