The historian taking as a subject for investigation the Salvation Army in New Zealand has an almost virgin field in which to work, but one that presents certain peculiar difficulties. The search for primary sources of information is not always easy. The Army system at government and administration provides for nothing analogous to the general assemblies, synods and conferences, complete with recorded discussion (both lay and clerical) and minutes, of some other religious bodies. Apart from an annual statement of accounts, the Army has not adopted, especially in the modern era, any consistent practice of presenting annual published reports of its activities. There was a time in the late '90's and in the first decade of this century when annual reports, particularly of social operations, were freely made available to the public, but for some unknown reason that practice is not now followed. Through the years Salvation Anny Headquarters in this country has been singularly lax in preserving valuable historical material, and apart from "War cry" files, some statistical statements, copies of the international "Salvation Anny Year Book", a manuscript prepared by Lt. Colonel A. Kirk, and a newspaper clipping book of the '90's, there is very little of value available there. As an illustration of the failure to preserve material, none of the annual social reports published in the late '90's and early 1900's can be found at Territorial Headquarters. Those that have been used in this thesis have been found in the General Assembly' Library, the Turnbull Library and the Hocken Library. By regulation, each corps and social institution is supposed to keep written up-to-date a history book. These books could be a most valuable source of information to the historian, but unfortunately only a few of them provide authentic primary material. It is some compensation to know that today they are being much more thoroughly kept than they have been in the past. I have been informed by Commissioner J.B. Smith and Colonel R. Sandall that International Headquarters, London, possessed voluminous records and reports dealing with New Zealand, but these were almost totally destroyed during the "blitz" of May, 1941. All these facts contribute to the difficulties facing the historian in his endeavour to build his story on a sound basis of research. It will be seen that I have drawn extensively on the files of the Army's weekly publication "The War Cry" for a great deal of factual material. It must be realised that besides being the Army's newspaper, it is also the "Official Gazette" for the notification of appointments, statements of policy and other official announcements, and also presumably serves in lieu of annual reports to keep the general public informed of Army activities. No one realises more than I do, however, that to get a true picture of Army history, one must dig much deeper than the "War Cry" files. As far as I have been able to discover, only two other attempts have been made to write at any length, and with something more than mere journalistic intent, on Salvation. Army History in New Zealand. The unpublished manuscript written by Lt. Colonel A. Kirk of Auckland is to a great extent a compilation of material from "The War Cry", but it is very valuable in two respects -first, where he has drawn on his own very extensive experience as an officer from the early 1890's to the
William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army. In the spring of 1905, en route to Australia and New Zealand, General William Booth visited the Holy Land, where he visited many sites of biblical significance. On his return he was honoured by being given the Freedom of the cities of London and Nottingham. Amongst many other honours, Booth was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Civil Law from Oxford University. His legacy was a Salvation Army that numbered 15,875 officers and cadets, operating in 58 lands.

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