

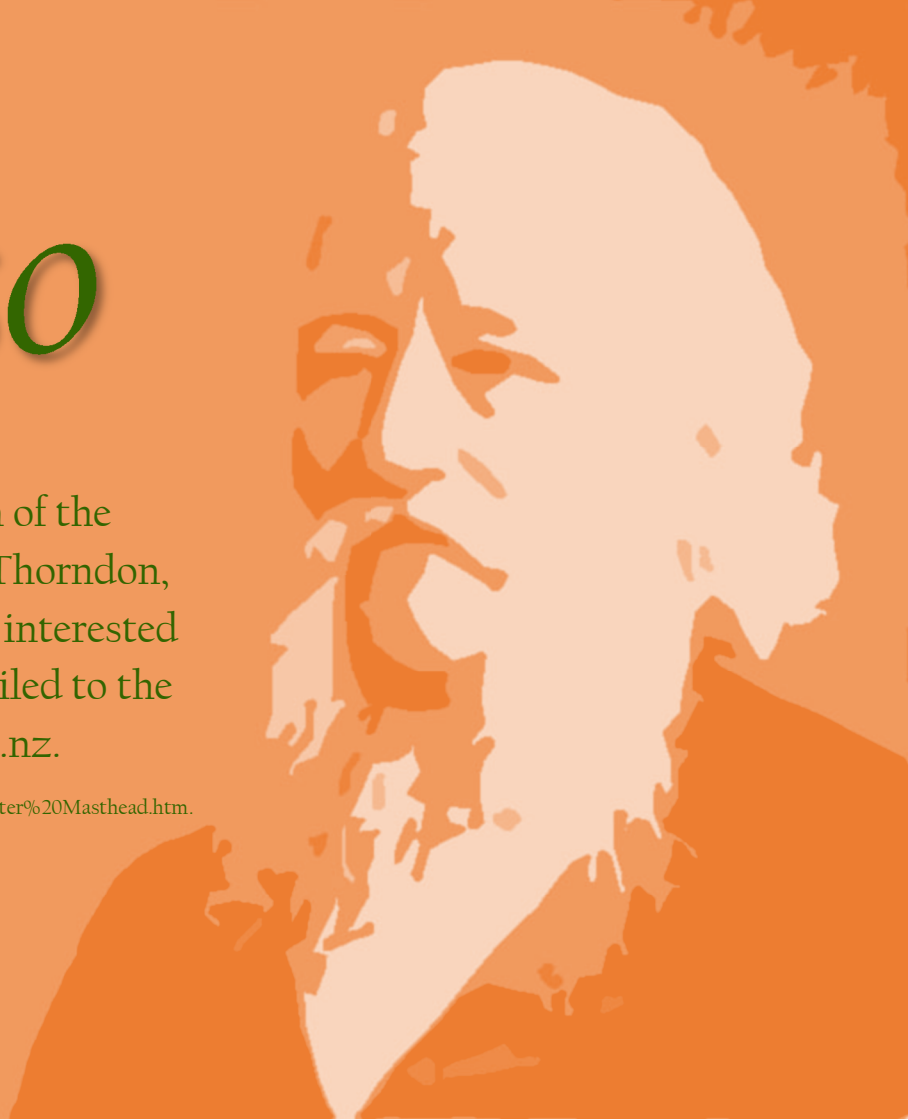
eColenso

eColenso is the free email publication of the Colenso Society, 32 Hawkestone St, Thorndon, Wellington 6011: please forward it to interested others. Contributions should be emailed to the editor, Ian St George, istge@yahoo.co.nz.

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The NZ polymath: Colenso and his contemporaries

Conference, Wellington, 17–19 November 2016

Call for papers

The nineteenth century was full of scholars who turned their intellectual interest to a dazzling array of subjects: botany, languages, geology, conchology, ethnology, religion. William Colenso was one of them, as were Sir George Grey, Lady Jane Franklin, James Hector, Julius von Haast and Augustus Hamilton. What were the worlds of knowledge these men and women explored? *The New Zealand Polymath* aims to deepen our understanding of nineteenth century knowledge, especially matauranga Māori, and knowledge networks. How was knowledge acquired and recorded? How did disciplinary fields intersect and inform each other? What interested nineteenth century polymaths? What were the networks? Colenso's regular papers to the Philosophical Society covered a huge array of topics from Māori vocabulary and social life to botanical description. How accurate were they? What do we know now about matauranga Māori in the early years of colonization? Who were the women scholars?

Papers are invited which address any area of nineteenth century knowledge making and collecting for a conference to be held at Victoria University from

17–19 November. We would particularly welcome proposals of panels, such as 'collectors' or 'flower artists'.

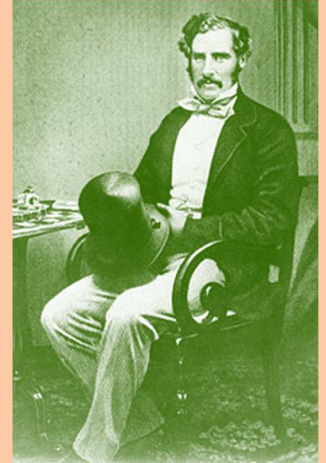
Possible topics might include:

- Māori knowledge
- Botanical drawing
- Astronomy
- Social and cultural practices
- Object making
- Fishing
- Cultivation practices
- Collecting
- Networks
- Women in science
- Women collectors
- Relationships between European scholars and their Māori collaborators
- Any other relevant field

Abstracts of not more than 200 words should be sent to Deborah.Levy@vuw.ac.nz by 30 April 2016.

The Colensos & the Governor

Mr Colenso 4
Mrs Colenso 27



Timelines

1811 Colenso born.

1812 Grey born.

1840 Grey Governor of South Australia.

1844 William Colenso arrived at Waitangi (near Clive) with his wife Elizabeth and child Frances (Fanny); he was the first resident European in Hawke's Bay.

1845 Grey became Governor of New Zealand and, through McLean, began to purchase land and onsell to settlers. Colenso's son Latty born.

1848 Grey knighted. Lieut.-Governor Eyre and Colenso met several times during Colenso's visits to Wellington 1848–1850.

1850 Colenso's affair with Ripeka Meretene culminated in the birth of the child Wiremu.

1851 Colenso asked Grey (through McLean) to prevent the establishment of a Roman Catholic mission in Hawke's Bay. Hector would later say that Colenso "was the founder, with the late Sir George Grey, of the New Zealand Society."

1852 Elizabeth's brother John Fairburn took Fanny and Latty to Auckland, Colenso's connection with the church and CMS was dissolved.

1853 Colenso's house burned and Elizabeth left him. He acted as a trader, te reo interpreter, began to buy land, and moved to Napier. Grey visited Hawke's Bay with Bishop Selwyn but he and Colenso did not meet. Late in the year Grey left NZ to become Governor of Cape Colony.

1859 Colenso was elected Provincial Councillor and in 1861 was elected Member of the House of Representatives.

1861–1864 Colenso Provincial Inspector of Schools.

1860 war broke out in Taranaki; Grey criticised Gore Browne's handling.

1861 Grey returned for a second term as Governor. Colenso MHR would see him often.

1862 Colenso appealed to Grey against the decision that he should leave Te Awapuni. He was supported by eminent Hawke's Bay settlers.

1863 McLean dropped Colenso from the position of Provincial Treasurer. Grey's government troops invaded Waikato.

1864 Colenso began writing his Exhibition essays. Grey confiscated Maori land.

1866 Colenso lost the election for MHR for Napier electorate. Militia battled Hauhau near Napier; Colenso was working on a Māori-English lexicon.

1868 Colenso's two Exhibition essays published. Grey sacked for keeping British soldiers in NZ against instructions from London.

1869–70 Colenso working on a Māori-English dictionary. Grey retired on Kawau island, indulging his interests in books, botany and Maori language and culture.

1871 Colenso re-elected to Provincial Council; Colenso's masterpiece on forgiveness, *Fiat Justitia*, published by *Hawke's Bay Herald*.

1872 Colenso reappointed Inspector of Schools.

1872-8 Colenso still working on a Māori-English dictionary. *Willie's first English book* published.

1874 Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute founded, Colenso secretary.

1875 Colenso wrote to Cheeseman expressing a renewed interest in botany. Grey elected to Parliament to defend provincialism.

1877 Colenso contested the recently deceased McLean's seat and was soundly defeated. Grey became Premier.

1878 Colenso retired as School Inspector.

1879 Grey resigned as Premier, continuing in Parliament.

1894 Grey returned to Britain.

1898 Grey died.

1899 Colenso died.

1851 December 13 Colenso to McLean
(McLean letters, #1019517, ATL)

Waitangi,
Decr 13/51

My dear Mr. McLean

Enclosed is a paper which I will thank you to lay before the Governor at yr. earliest convenience—

It is written in a hurry.

I hope you will not do any thing towards causing the Priests to remain where they are, until my paper has been laid before the Governor.—

I enclose some Letters which reached me yesterday *against* the proposed transfer of some more land: I recommend them to your consideration.—

I also enclose your little a/c—as requested; I believe it to be correct. Mrs Colenso has some vague remembrance of some silver being paid to you on your former visit, and of some arrangement about it; (either in the cheque for £14. or otherwise) but does not know exactly.

Don't forget your Code of Laws—and a note from inland. If you could so arrange that some one of the Natives who may accompany you should return with your note to me, & *conduct me* upon your track—it would be so much the better.—

You know I have a long walk today before me—which will excuse this.

Believe me
Ever yours
W. Colenso

Waitangi
13 December 1851.

Certain reasons against the granting of the request of the French Roman Catholic Priests to be located here at Heretaunga in the immediate vicinity of the Church of England Mission Station.

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Chief.

That the Church of England Mission Station at Waitangi was commenced by myself in the year 1844.

(I had, also, the year before laboured among these tribes; and during the year previous—1842 Archdn. W. Williams and the Revd. W. C. Dunkley had also visited them; and the Bishop had also passed through and, at the pressing desire of the Chiefs had promised to send them a Minister).

That the only piece of ground which could then be obtained with their unanimous consent has subsequently proved to be utterly unfit for the purpose.

That notwithstanding upwards of £250 has been (necessarily) expended upon the same.

That in the winter of the Year 1846, the floors of our house although raised nearly 3 feet from the ground (and the house itself on the highest elevation) were 9 inches under water.

That every winter we have been more or less inundated. That from that period (1846) I have diligently sought a suitable place to remove to having been greatly urged thereto by the Committee of Missionaries as well as by the Archdeacon of the district.

That all places which from time to time I had chosen, I have not been allowed to occupy partly owing to the jealousy of the Chiefs, partly to the exorbitant sum (£100 and upwards) demanded for a site for a house and partly to my consideration for the proclamation of His Excellency and the (then) expected coming of Mr. McLean and also to my not knowing where the natives would concentrate themselves when they should have transferred a portion of their Lands to the Government.

That some time before Mr. McLean's first arrival here (in Decr./50) the Native chiefs had (partly at my suggestion) quite arranged among themselves the boundaries of the blocks of land which they intended to offer to him for the

Government and had also selected a spot (about 2 miles from Waitangi) upon which to commence a township for themselves.

That an offer had been repeatedly made to me by the Chief proprietors for a piece of ground for a Mission Station close to their proposed township.

That in the end of November of last year (1850) while I was absent visiting the Natives on the coast a French Priest suddenly arrived here (he having been recently expelled from Te Wairoa) and proceeded immediately to purchase a piece of land situated very near to the proposed township from the Heathen Chief Puhara.

That Puhara is the only Chief on this side of the Ahuriri and his little party the only natives (with the addition of 2 old persons at Waimarama and 1 at Manawarakau) amounting scarcely to 30 in all including infants who profess to uphold the Roman Catholic mode of worship.

That there is no prospect of the French Priests increasing the number of their proselytes in these parts unless some of the natives in connection with the Church of England mission should go over to them which however has never yet happened in this District.

That according to the Returns laid before the last Committee of Missionaries of this district our Congregations averaged 2205 the number of Baptisms performed during my residence amounted to 1314 of whom 751 are communicants we have also 27 chapels some of which are fine Native buildings.

That according to a return of the Native Population of this district which I sent to the Native Secretary at Auckland in June 1849 the number was 2700 of which however more than an eighth have since died.

That Puhara is not a Principal Proprietor of this ground the titles thereto of the Chiefs running thus.

1st. Karaitiana

2nd Tariha

3rd Te Hira te Oha

4th Te Waka te Kawatini

5th Puhara

That the majority of the Chiefs proprietors are wholly against the selling of any portion of their land to the French Priests and refuse to cooperate with Puhara in the matter.

That the Chief Te Hapuku has no claim to the land in question neither in fact has he even asserted that he has.

That if the French priests should become located on the spot in question it would be a highly injudicious step for me (on the part of the Church Missionary Society) to accept of the offered site near the proposed Native township as in the event of my going to the Western side of the same the French Priests premises would immediately adjoin mine.

That while I am very willing to remove further inland if I could but prevail upon these natives or the majority of them to accompany me, there is not another place equally suitable for a Mission Station and Native township upon the whole of this low ground.

That in the event of my not removing to the offered site adjoining the proposed Native township it is highly probable that the said township will not flourish.

I might also mention the state in which we found these tribes as contrasted with their present altered condition—the ill-usage which both Mrs. Colenso and myself have repeatedly received from them during the long period in which they were slowly advancing to what they are now—the many censurable attempts of the French Priests to disturb the peace and confidence of our people and ourselves not only here but also at Te Wairoa and at Turanga (plain demonstrations of the antagonistic principle) their constantly urging the Natives to come and take up the price for the piece of ground in defiance of both, the Colonial laws and of Mr. McLean's intimation to them and the long looking on of the Native Chiefs to see whether the word of the Governor (as repeated by Mr. McLean & hitherto looked up to by themselves and inculcated by myself) shall stand or whether it must fall before the word of those French Priests.

This *last* remark was only *yesterday* uttered afresh to me in a powerful speech, by the principal proprietor Karaitiana. I might reasonably enough urge all these and many other such matters against their request being granted but I am conscious of having already I fear trespassed upon His Excellency's valuable time.

William Colenso
Church of England Missionary

1862 July 17 Colenso to Grey

(Archives Ref. No. IA1 242; Record 63/2384 in Colonial Secretary Record Book 244).

Wellington
July 17, 1862.

His Excellency
Sir George Grey, K.C.B.
Governor of New Zealand
&c &c &c

Sir,

I do myself the honor of briefly addressing you with reference to a petition from myself to Your Excellency which accompanies this letter.—

I should not venture, Sir, to trespass upon your valuable time at this particularly important and busy period, were I not necessitated to do so in consequence of the very extraordinary decision of the Civil Commissioner of the Hawke's Bay District, lately given in his Court there against myself.

Should you not, Sir, be already fully acquainted with that Case, you will find it faithfully reported (*copied from the Court record made by the Magistrate's Clerk*.) in the Hawke's Bay "Herald" of June 28th.

My principal reasons, Sir, for losing no time, in both writing to you and forwarding my Petition, are:—

1. That you may early have a faithful outline of the whole matter:—
2. That you may certainly and quickly know, that I neither had, have, or can have any intention or desire at all approaching towards anything of a factious or embarrassing nature;—but, on the contrary, a

most hearty disposition to aid Your Excellency in your zealous endeavours after the good of the Natives. (Hence, also, Sir, I early seek to acquaint you of my wishes lest I should be again misrepresented.)

3. That, as a sworn and loyal subject of Her Majesty the Queen, I should lose no time in informing you, Sir, that I have very good reasons for believing, that the desire of the "King" Natives of Hawke's Bay, to have back the small piece of Land at Te Awapuni, is only a beginning (as it were) of a trial of strength on their part, as to how far a sanctioned and written Deed in which Her Majesty the Queen is the Grantee can be broken; and, if so, to follow it up by seeking to have other Deeds broken in which Her Majesty is also the Grantee, the matter of a consideration (as in the case of other Deeds) being to them of small moment.—

You, Sir, who have known so much of this people, must be aware, that, with them, a "*tapu*" (in the name of a powerful chief) can never be broken. If, however, such should be done and permitted, then the "*mana*" of his name would necessarily be greatly lowered, or gone for ever. Now Her Majesty's name, in this said Deed, (taken in connexion with the utter irreversibility of the gift— "*mo ake ake ake*,") is, *to them*, very similar:—at all events is quite a cognate idea. I may add, that Mr. Commissioner MacLean, always took this (my) view of the case (with reference to the 10 acres at Te Awapuni); believing with me, that to set aside the Deed of Gift would prove a dangerous precedent (and this was our opinion long before any of the late troubles or demands arose).

Moreover, according to *their own* customs, the Natives would never have once thought of seeking to remove me, or to regain possession of the Land, had they not been (in 1853–4,) incited and encouraged to do so. The very facts of their having called my "*waka*" to shore—publicly selected my abode—stepping out the boundaries, fencing it in, and building my dwelling-house (*the principal Chiefs with their*

own hands) and my clearing it, and raising food—having children born, and my own blood shed thereon—each of these, much less all—would have constituted a legitimate claim in their eyes—and according to their established customs and usages.

Should Your Excellency, however, be pleased to determine the said Land to revert to them;—I would beg to suggest, (to save, if possible, any future trouble from them,) that such should be done under your own Deed and Seal, and not upon the mere word of one of your Officers.—

In making those remarks I trust Your Excellency will clearly perceive, that I am not actuated by any desire to retain Waitangi: (to me it is, and must ever be, a place of many associations pleasant & unpleasant,—and time was, when I could scarcely have borne the loss of it:) believe me, Sir, I only seek that which I conscientiously believe to be for the common good of the Colony.

It was my intention, Sir, not to present my Petition until I had received an open Letter to Your Excellency, signed by the *early* Settlers and Magistrates of Hawke's Bay, bearing testimony to the truth of the same, which should accompany it. For the above-mentioned reasons, however, I desire to lose no time; and I hope you will allow me to forward on to you, Sir, the said Letter on my receiving it.

I have the honour
to be,
Your Excellency's
obedient humble Servant,
Wm. Colenso.

To His Excellency Sir George Grey, Knight Commander of the most honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, &c, &c.—

The Petition of William Colenso, Clerk, Provincial Treasurer and Inspector of Schools for the Province of Hawke's Bay, and member of its Provincial and Executive Councils, and also of the General Assembly of New Zealand.—

Humbly sheweth:—

That your Petitioner came to New Zealand in the year 1834, as a Missionary from the Church Missionary Society.

That your Petitioner, though often performing long and difficult Journeys, mainly resided in the Bay of Islands till 1844.

That during the whole of that period your Petitioner never once broke the rule of the C.M. Society—viz. not to acquire nor possess Land from the Natives.—

That in the year 1844, your Petitioner came to Ahuriri to reside, (which place he had visited in the previous Year) being sent thither by the Bishop of New Zealand.

That among other stringent conditions imposed by the Bishop of New Zealand upon your Petitioner, on his coming to Ahuriri, (having previously limited him to the use of ten acres of Land,) was this, viz., that he should not hold nor acquire any Land without his consent.—

That your petitioner was the first European Settler in the Ahuriri, among a little-known, fierce and untractable Tribe.—

That your Petitioner dwelt on a small piece of low land of ten acres at Te Awapuni in Ahuriri aforesaid; which Land was freely and publicly ceded and given by all the Chiefs, Owners, in the year 1845 to Her Majesty Queen Victoria, by regular Deed of Gift, drawn upon the

spot in the New Zealand tongue by the present Bishop of Waiapu, (as directed by the Bishop of New Zealand, and advised and sanctioned by your Excellency's predecessor Governor Fitzroy,) to be by the Crown re-granted to the C.M. Society.

That soon after, or within two Years or your Petitioner's coming to Te Awapuni to dwell, the Natives who were formerly the Owners of the said small piece of ceded Land, seeing that your Petitioner had laid out very largely upon it,—in Building, Fencing, Planting, Draining, and Sowing Grasses,—began to demand payment for the same, (as well as for many other things which lay wasting and rotting around, such as drift firewood, flax, raupo, reeds, cockle- shells, pumice-stone, etc. etc.,) and which demand they, for a considerable time, never ceased to reiterate, and that often in a very obnoxious way.

That at that very time, (and indeed throughout the whole of the period of eight years—from 1844 to 1852,—during which your Petitioner remained in connexion with the C.M. Society,) your Petitioner regularly used and spent all that he could devote of his Salary (never laying anything by) besides sundry gifts from Christian friends in England, in feeding and clothing his large Infant School, and many other children of the more distant natives, as well as the numerous sick and infirm of his large District, and also in procuring glazed windows doors and furniture for Native Chapels and School-Houses: no allowances having ever been made to him by the C.M. Society for any of those purposes.

That your Petitioner never once paid to any of the Native Grantors of the said ten acres of Land anything as payment or as rent; always firmly meeting them with the statement, that the transaction had been closed: and he fully believes, that, in due time, his constant firmness on this point had its desired and proper effect.—

That during those eight years of heavy toil and no little hardship, your Petitioner never once left his District: for which, and for the great and unexpected improvements within the same, he, in March 1852, received the thanks and congratulation of the Bishop.

That in December, 1852, your Petitioner's connexion with the C.M. Society suddenly ceased.—

That in the following month (January 1853,) the very large and strongly built Dwelling-house of your Petitioner, (which had but lately been quite finished,) was, with all its contents, and the adjacent out-houses, entirely destroyed by fire.

That by that calamitous accident your Petitioner lost everything he had, (save a portion of his Books, which were in a detached building,) among which were many valuable zoological and fossil specimens—the unwearied collecting of nearly twenty ears.—

That up to this time, (and, indeed, till 1854,) your Petitioner did not possess a foot of Land in the Colony.

That in March, 1853, the Bishop of New Zealand (accompanied by Your Excellency) visited Ahuriri: when the Bishop wished your Petitioner to leave the place on which he had so long resided, and which he had mainly at his own expense made habitable; but which your Petitioner (considering himself hardly used, after nearly twenty Years heavy Service, and being nearly destitute, without means or resources, or any other New Zealand home,) refused to do,—without, at least, compensation for his outlay and improvements: the said Land not having been granted to His Lordship the Bishop of New Zealand, nor required by him for a future Mission Station, in consequence of the then recent removal of the Natives from its neighbourhood, and, also, of a very large block of Land having been recently granted for that purpose at Te Aute.

That shortly after, two, out of five, Native Grantors, instigated (as your Petitioner believes,) by European influence, endeavored to induce your Petitioner to remove from the place.

That, subsequently, the Bishop of New Zealand applied to the then Crown Land Commissioner and Resident Magistrate (Mr Domett) to eject your Petitioner.

That your Petitioner was afterwards written to professionally from Wellington by the Bishop's Solicitor there (Mr. Brandon) to cause your Petitioner to give up both possession and also the Deed of gift.

That your Petitioner (by his Solicitor, Mr. Hart,) still demurred to do so without equitable Compensation.

That, in 1858, a Government Surveyor (Mr. Kempthorne) was sent by the Chief Native Lands Purchase Commissioner to survey the said piece of Land, in order to a Crown Grant being issued for same to the C.M. Society; to which Surveyor the Native Grantors pointed out the boundaries.

That one of the Native Grantors—and perhaps the principal one of the original five—the Chief Puhara, (who was unfortunately slain in battle by Karaitiana and Renata in 1858,) though a steady supporter of the R. Catholic Religion, not only always advocated your Petitioner's remaining, but, with his last words to your Petitioner, (in the presence of Te Hapuku,) besought him never to give up or leave the same.

That of the four remaining Native Grantors, one, Te Waaka Te Kawatini, to your Petitioner's certain knowledge, is most averse to the said piece of Land being taken from your Petitioner: and, further, that your Petitioner has very good reasons, for believing, that another of the said four Grantors (Te Hira Te Ota) is still (as he ever has been) averse to such being done.—

That your Petitioner has learned from unquestionable authority that the Natives who severally addressed both Your Excellency and the Hon Mr. Fox, (et Te Pawhakaairo and Matahiwi,) on your recent visits to Hawke's Bay, concerning the said piece of Land, were Renata and Paora Kaiwhata, Natives having no real interest in the reversion of the said Land, not being original Grantors of the same, nor belonging to the Grantors' *hapu* or family.

That your Petitioner has not himself for the last four Years been either told by the Native Grantors to quit or to pay rent for the said Land, though frequently seeing and conversing with them.

That nevertheless your Petitioner has reason to believe that two of them (Karaitiana and his brother-in-law Tareha,) do now (since their connection with the Native "King") wish to have the said Land back.

That your petitioner was summoned on the 21st. June last, to appear in Court to answer an information (laid under the Native Land Purchase Ordinance of 1846,) charging him with being in occupation of Native Lands; That you Petitioner appeared on the 23rd. of June before the Civil Commissioner, by whom your Petitioner was fined £5, (although, as your Petitioner believes, totally unsupported by evidence, and also upon illegal and unauthorized information,) and ordered forthwith to give up the said ten acres of Land at Te Awapuni to the Natives.

That your Petitioner is not now greatly desirous of retaining possession of the said piece of Land, especially if it be the wish of Your Excellency that such should revert to the Native Grantors.—

That your Petitioner however believes, from his long experience and knowledge of the Native character, and particularly from their present unsettled and unsatisfactory notions, that such a step as the destruction of any sanctioned Deed of Land, however small, formally and publicly granted to Her Majesty the Queen of England, would not be

a wise one; and one assuredly to be followed by demands for similar concessions, wholly or in part of other Deeds of Land, transferred by them to the Crown.

That your Petitioner therefore respectfully submits for Your Excellency's consideration, whether it would not be more advisable under all the circumstances of the case (now that the Trustees of the C.M. Society have expressed their determination not to apply for a Crown Grant in trust for the said piece of Land,) to direct that the aforesaid Native Grantors be paid by Your Excellency's Government for the said piece of Land.—

Lastly, that if it be the wish of Your Excellency that your Petitioner should forthwith leave the said piece of Land,—together with the houses, gardens, field, brick chimnies, fences, and other improvements thereon), that Your Excellency will be pleased to take into consideration the facts narrated in this Petition, and to direct, that your Petitioner be equitably compensated for his real improvements on the said Land, to be determined on the spot by fair and equitable arbitration:—, or, should it be Your Excellency's wish to have this (already disagreeable) matter closed as quickly as possible, you're your Petitioner (in order to save any further writing, trouble, or delay,) would be willing to yield up possession, etc. on his receiving the sum of £300 (Three Hundred Pounds) as Compensation for his Improvements and fixed Property which must necessarily be left.—

And your Petitioner will ever pray.—

William Colenso

Wellington,
July 17th, 1862.

To His Excellency Sir George Grey, Knight Commander of the most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander in Chief in and over Her Majesty's Colony of New Zealand and its Dependencies, and Vice-Admiral of the same, etc. etc. etc.—

We, the undersigned, early settlers, magistrates, and land proprietors in and of the Province of Hawke's Bay, having carefully read the Petition of William Colenso of Napier to your Excellency dated Wellington July 17, 1862, do hereby certify that we have long known the said Petitioner: that we believe his statements in the said Petition to be correct: and, that we heartily recommend to your Excellency's favorable consideration the Petitioner's Prayer for equitable compensation—should it be Your Excellency's wish that he should leave the piece of land referred to by him in his Petition.—

J.C. Lambton Carter
James B. Ferguson
Alexander McLean
Thomas Lowry - settler
Alex. Alexander
T.K. Newton
H.B. Sealy
Edw. Catchpool
W. Maltby
Philip Dolbel
W.R.B. Ferguson
Jno. Chambers
Wm. Smith
Fredk. Sutton
William Couper
William Lyon
W.B. Rhodes
E.W. Stafford—in so far as the prayer for "equitable compensation"

Ed. Augustus Carlyon
James H. Northwood
J.D. Ormond—In so far as regards the prayer for equitable consideration
Robt. Hart

1862 August 23 Colenso to Grey

(Archives 1863/2317-2519).

To His Excellency
Sir George Grey, K.C.B.,
Governor, &c. &c. &c.,
of New Zealand.—

Wellington,
August 23rd. 1862

Sir

I did myself the honour of forwarding to your Excellency, on the 18th. of July, a Petition and Letter from myself.—

On the same day, your Excellency did me the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the same, and to inform me that “you had lost no time in forwarding the same for the consideration of your responsible advisers.”

In that letter, Sir, which accompanied my Petition, I stated my intention of also forwarding an open Letter from a few of the early Settlers and others of Hawke’s Bay to your Excellency in support of my Petition, and begged permission to forward the same, on receipt thereof.

Having lately received the Letter referred to, I now have the honour of forwarding it enclosed herewith to your Excellency.—

I doing so, however, I beg, Sir, to be allowed to state,—that during the 10 days the said Letter was at Hawke’s Bay, (having been sent by me per “Queen,” and having been there posted to return by her,) the weather was so very wet and rivers high that scarcely any communication could be had with the interior; and which is the sole reason why certain of the early respected residents there had not been to town, and were not communicated with.—

I may also, Sir, be further permitted to add, (having very recently heard here, that it was being industriously circulated that I had received large sums of money from the C.M. Society towards, or on account of, the present property at Waitangi,) that I never received from the C.M.S. any sum or sums whatever on account of the same, save the sum of £15. (Fifteen Pounds) towards the erection of the large wooden building there; indeed, my only main difference with the C.M.S., during the 20 years I served them, was entirely owing to their disinclination to allow my reiterated (just) demands for necessary outlay on the station: and which, Official Correspondence extending over a series of years would fully prove.—

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your Excellency’s
very humble Servant,
Wm. Colenso.

1862 September 11: N.Z. language

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ MSS 118).

A few Memoranda on Sir G. Grey's collection & remarks in the vol. "*Philology, Library of Sir G. Grey*".

- "Grammars."— **2. N.B. a Grammar was commenced, about 1835: only however about 12 pp. were printed at C.M. Press Paihia, by myself (I may find a copy.)
- "Phraseologies."— *11. Several Lessons were printed in Sydney in 1834. (I think I can find copies.)
- **11. Several Lesson-Books (Primers, &c., &c.) were printed @ Paihia, 1835–1842, not noticed in this vol. (I may find copies)
- 13a. This elementary work (written by me) was preceded by others of a similar kind.
- 16d. There were several Editions of Arithmetical Tables, of all sizes: the first was in 1835.—
- "Catechisms."— 17b. Several Catechisms preceded this.—
21. This is a *Reprint*: same had been more than once published at Paihia.
- "Hymn Books."— – N.B. When residing with Bp. of N.Z., in 1843, at Waimate, I translated the Church Easter Hymn ("J. Xt. is risen to day," same metre,) which the Bp. got printed at his Press, and sang (Easter) in the Church.
26. Composed by myself in my *lonely* wanderings, and printed at my priv. press at Waitangi, "Heretaunga," (the Maori name for the Ahuriri delta,) about 1850;— presentation copy to Mr. Maunsell.—
27. There were several Editions of this, together

with Morning & Evening Prayer, always *bound* together,—printed, 1835–1841.

- "Prayer-Boks."— 29. There were several Editions of this before 1840: *vide*, foregoing.
- "Script Extracts."— 40. There was an earlier Edition of this containing only *six* chaps. of David.
- New Testament— 44. This Edition was *wholly* printed before Jan. 1/37:—as, *on that day*, I made the N. Missionaries a New Year's present of an *entire* N. Test. In the N.Z. language: bound, also, by myself.
45. N.B. This was *not* a separate Edition: there has been but *one* Edn. of the N.Z. testament printed *in* N.Z. 5000 copies were struck off, (1000 of which were for the Wesleyan M. Socy.,)—and, in order to make them go the farther, several copies (1000?) were afterwards divided each into 4; a Gospel and a few Epistles, (or Gospel & Acts) in each Part; for which *separate titles* had to be printed.—
- "Poetical Books." 74. Scarcely "in the Rarawa dialect": it contains several Rarawa words, it was translated by Mr. Puckey, but supervised by myself, and received much correction. I have still the MSS. by me. This is a part (the Psalms) of No. 29. The Psalms were only printed *once* in N.Z.
- page 36. Memo. by Rev. R. Maunsell:—
- "4." "Luke's Gospel"—but, *before* this was the Epistle to the Ephesians & Philippians

- early in 1835: this was the *first* book printed in N.Z.
- “5. The next publication,” &c.—Not so: several others intervened.
- “Tracts.”
76. Previous to this was a Tract (of 24 pps.?) by myself, addressed to the Heathen; I believe in 1836, which was in great demand; and, I believe, of great service. I fear I shall not be able to find a copy. It had also a Hymn, on Cover, the *first* Hymn printed in N.Z.
78. a Reprint: this little work (written by me) was originally printed at my Private Press at Waitangi Ahuriri, about 1849. (I was not aware of its having been reprinted.)
79. a Reprint: (first half of a work) written by me, & originally printed in Sydney, under superintendence of Mr. Busby, about 1840, —& partly at his Expense. (Missionaries in N.Z. refusing to allow me to print it at Mission Press! I was not aware of this Reprint.) —N.B. The *second* half of the same work was printed at Hobart Town, V.D.L., at my expense in 1840–1.
- “Sermons.”—
- p.42. There were many Sermons, or heads (outlines) of Sermons, printed before these. When at the Waimate with the Bp. of N.Z. (1843–4.) his Ldp. every week wrote the heads & sub-heads of his Sermon with appropriate texts, which I had to translate, & carry through Press—and which were regularly distributed at Ch. door.
- “Books of Instruction.”—
110. The first Maori Almanack was printed about 1838, or 9, & thence regularly continued, (till Press went out of my hands,)—compiled & written by myself. (This was for some time the *only* Almanack in N.Z. & was eagerly sought after by *Pakehas*!)
- “Proclamations & Addresses.”—
115. There are several early ones *not* here:—viz:—
—Viscount Goderich to N.Z. Chiefs
—Mr. Resident Busby’s to ditto.
(both, printed in Sydney, 1833–4?)
—Declaration of Independence by N.Z. Chiefs—about A.D. 1836.
—Letter (Circular) from Mr. Busby to Chiefs.—
—Treaty of Waitangi
—Lithographed sheet of writing lessons (lithogd. at Sydney, about 1841: well done)
- “MSS.”—
- p.71. Of course, numerous & various.
- Of other Printed works in N.Z. language (not in vol.) I remember:—**
- (Printed at Paihia.)
- (Ditto)
- (Ditto)
1. a small Confirmation Tract, 1838
 2. a small tract, Consecration of Burial Ground—used for ground at Paihia,—1838.
 3. 2nd. Half of No. 79, (*vide*, p.4. this MS.) printed at Hobartown.
 4. Reception of 3 Priests of Rome by Bp. of London into the Ch. of Engld.—8vo. translated by W.C., about 1841.

(Auckland?)

5. A work by Mr. Cotton on Bees.
N.B. see, also, those, *sub* "115", p.4.—

The following printed at my Priv. Press at Waitangi, Ahuriri.

1. The happy death of Ann Chandler, a pupil in Rev. Dr. Reid's School, (hence the name of "Ani Kanara" among the Maori females). This was in great demand.—
2. A large* Catechism, on a new plan; derivative questions—from each other, without (save in a few cases) answers: printed, about, 1849. This was in great demand, but the larger number is still in sheets—unstitched.
3. A curious document, drawn up by Te Hapuku (of Ahuriri), shewing how he became possessed of a certain piece of Land. I gave a copy of this to Mr. Commissr. McLean on his first visit. Printed about 1849 or 50. I was obliged (against my will) to print it—to gratify Hapuku.
4. A small Confirmation Catechism composed by me, & printed & used just previous to the Bp. of N.Z.'s visit in March 1852: when he confirmed so very large a number.
5. Cards, Notices, Circulars, &c &c during years 1847–1852.
6. "Happy Deaths of Xn. Natives"—a work commenced by me in 1849, & continued till end of 1853,—continuing short terse biog-

printed, about,
A.D. 1848.

raphies of native converts—African—N.A. Indian,—Polynesian,—& (afterwards) N.Z. from my own district—a work absolutely longed for by the Natives of Hawkes Bay & Poverty Bay—advanced to pp. 96, or so, & wanting about 2 pps. in type, (in form,) not yet struck off, from 1853!—

N.B. Sir G. Grey will please understand, I could only print 2 pages at a time.—

I should also mention the *first English* Book printed in N.Z.—viz. a Report (*first & only*) of the N.Z. Temperance Society—giving outline of a P. Meeting held at Kororareka, in 1835 or 6;—drawn up & printed by W.C.

Also, the *first English* placard (or Advertisement) folio foolscap, drawn up by Mr. Busby, in his praiseworthy endeavours to benefit the then rising half-caste generation—about 1837.

I think I may find copies of these.—

There are a few errors (Typographical & otherwise) in the vol. (Sir G. Grey's Library, "Philol.", art. N.Z.) referred to:—e.g. No. 79, p. 39, line 12. "Ko te murunga hara e te Tohunga karakia," is translated—"The wicked subjugation of religious intellect,"—*should be*,—"The rubbing-out of sins by the Priest."—

Wellington, Sepr. 11, 1862.

Wm. Colenso

To His Excellency Sir G. Grey, K.C.B., Governor, &c, &c, of N. Zealand.

* larger than any other N.Z. Cat.—

1863 August 29: to Grey (Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.2).

Napier
Augt. 29, 1863

Sir G. Grey, KCB
&c &c &c
Auckland.

Dear Sir George

At length I essay to fulfil my promise made to you at Wellington,—and send you now, by post, a few of the *earlier* & scarce publications in the N.Z. language—which I believe you had not in your Library of N.Z. literature at the Cape.—

I should have done so before, only I have been delaying in hopes of some more turning up or out of my various old packages of Books, &c. And still I think I may obtain others, and if so will also forward them.—

I enclose a memorandum of the various publications, one or two of which, may, I think, interest you. You will see that I have added a Copy of that 8vo. N.Z. New Testament printed at Paihia. I have done this (although I believe you have a Copy in your Cape Library,) because this (a picked) copy was also bound at Paihia by myself with the intention of presenting it to our *first* Governor, who, however, died before it was finished.—I have also added Copies of the first two publications in *English*, printed in N.Z.—merely because of their being *the first*.

I am,

Dear Sir George,
with every respect,
Yours faithfully
Wm. Colenso.

Memorandum of N.Z. Publications, sent to Sir George Grey, in August 1863.		
Date when Printed	No	Title & Remarks.
1832	1	Letter from Viscount Goderich to N.Z. Chiefs.
"	"	Ditto from British Resident to Ditto.
1835	2	Epistle to Ephesians & Philipians: <i>1st. Book</i> printed in N.Z. (Feb'y. 1835.)
"	3	Gospel of St. Luke—containing, also, a copy of preceding.
"	4	2 Copies N. Chiefs' Declaration of Independence.
1837	5	Tract (<i>first original</i>) in N.Z. lang. by W.C.
1839	6	Address from Bp. of Sydney.
"	7	Tract (ditto) Consecration of Burial Ground at Paihia
"	8	Small Prayer Book with Hymns.
1840	9	Part 1, of a work on errors of Ch. of Rome, by W.C., printed at Sydney.
"	10	Part 2, of ditto—printed at Hobarton.
"	11	Jonah & part of Daniel, <i>1st. Edition</i> , transld. by W.C.
"	12	Writing Copies Lithographed at Sydney for W.C.
1842	13	Tract: reception of 3 Priests of Ch. of Rome into the Ch. of England by Bp. of London: by W.C.
1844	14	Ch. of England Easter Hymn: printed at Waimate at the Bp's. Press: transld. by W.C.
1848	15	Rules for Ahuriri Schools—by W.C.
"	16	A Sermon (one of many)—Ditto.
1849	17	A Tract shewing errors of Creed of Pius IV., printed at Ahuriri by W.C.
1850	18	A Curious statement by the Chief Te Hapuku, shewing his title to certain Lands (originally given by <i>one</i> person). Printed at Ahuriri.
1852	19	A Catechetical Introduction previous to Confirmation: by W.C. also, printed at Ahuriri.
1837		New Testament, 8vo.
		<i>In English.</i>
1836		A Copy of the <i>1st. Book</i> in the <i>English</i> language printed in N. Zealand.
1839		A Copy of the <i>1st. Placard</i> in the <i>English</i> Language printed in N.Z.

1863 December 7 Colenso to JD Hooker

(Kew Directors' Correspondence CLXXIV: p125; ATL Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 15: E476.)

Ho. of Represens.
Auckland, N. Zealand.

... Sir G. Grey has had some Botanical conversation w. me. He wished me to go on w. Boty. of N.Z. I told him I needed a Macænas. He has promised his support. But I want more than that, i.e. some small certainty for the future. I offered him my literary (!!) services, (& still remain in my own ho. at Hawkes Bay,) for £100 a yr. certain. I wished to be engaged on the Maori Lexicon—taking in cognate Polynesian dialects, which have been my study for a few years. Sir George promised me everything—but my old political foes, the Fox Ministry, are now in, & they have no generosity & less real love of the dulce or beautiful in their composition. I wonder the elements out of which such souls arise: Sulphur or carbon, or something worse. But I shall see Grey again....

1864 April 9 Colenso to JD Hooker

(Kew Directors' Correspondence CLXXIV: p126; ATL Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 15: E479.)

... By the way I should like much by-and-bye to visit the Chatham Islands (where you & Ross should have spent 2 or 3 days) as I think there are several Botl. treasures there: if you or your friend correspd. with Sir G. Grey, would you just mention it. I have to conversn. but Sir G. has much to attend to just now....

1864 November 30 Colenso to JD Hooker

(Kew Directors' Correspondence CLXXIV; ATL Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 15: E486.)

... Sir G. Grey has had (I think) a letter from you; as he spoke to me about visiting the Chatham Islands (wh. I had sounded him on last year,) he mentioned your name: I pointed out the great necessity of exploring all the N.Z. islets – especially – 3 Kings – Poor Knights – Fanal Isles &c. – which he agreed to: we are to talk again on this matter.

If he would only act the Macænas he could do much – he has it in his power to do so – every way: they say he keeps his pocket buttoned!....

March 18 Colenso to Grey (Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.2.)
Napier, March 18th

Dear Sir George Grey

The letter accompanying this has been delayed here—nearly a month! For, on my going to the P. Off. in Feby., I casually heard from Mr. Henry Russell & others that you were daily expected here, & at that very time were supposed to be on your way: this is the reason.

Two steamers arriving yesterday from Auckland without you (and two others leaving *for* Auckland to day)—I now forward it.

Sincerely hoping that your delay in visiting Napier has not been caused by illness.

I am (in haste)

Yours truly

W. Colenso.

1865 May 3 Hooker to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GL H39.1.)

... I wish I could persuade the N.Z. people to send a vessel to explore the Bounty, Antipodes, Campbell Auckland & McQuarie Islands & put Colenso on board her, he is the best collector in the Islands, & I do wish he had gone on with his Botanical explorations....

1865 August 12 Colenso to Catchpool

(ATL Ms-Copy-Micro-0193.)

... Last Tuesday mg. *early*, I was surprised by a visit from Capt. Bulkely, A.D.C., to Govr., at my lodgings—to tell me Grey wished me to visit *all* the Southern outlying islets—Auckland, Campbell, Emerald,—Ballemy, & other—Islands,—as a Scientific Explorer &c!—to think over it, & to see G.—I saw him on Thursday, &, again, yesterday. Had a long talk—but could not consent to it. Then he wished me to explore, all the islets off the E. Coast N.Z.:—making Kawau head quarters—his life boat & 6 good Maori crew, &c—this is not yet *settled*. I spoke about the Lexicon, &c., and I think G. was a little put out; he took notes of what I said for ministers—but *I expect nothing* from them:—I shewed Grey some of the Offl. letters.—Yesterday I saw Richmond (now acting Nat. Minr.) about Lexn. but got little from him: he sd. it was wanted very much; but the *time*—I sd.—“3 years,”—and, “I woud. undertake, *on an order of Ho.*, without pay, until finished”;—this he is to consider. [If I would follow Faust-us, & sell myself, I cod. get that—or any thing else—in their gift.] Grey wishes much to see my essay on Maories—& Dr. Hector (who is now here) has brought proof sheets, 108 pps.—notes, yet to come....

1865 September 11 Colenso to JD Hooker

(Kew Directors' Correspondence CLXXIV: p139; ATL Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 15: E502.)

... Sir G. Grey has been talking with me to undertake the visiting the Southern Islets, &c. – Auckland, Campbell, MacQuarrie, Emerald, – (but you know them all) – but I have been obliged to decline: it is not that I am too old, (though I can not now stand the wear & tear I have daily endured in travelling,) but, I suffer so much from sea-sickness....

1865 December 19 Hooker to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GL H39.2.)

... Colenso tells me that you spoke to him, but he fears seasickness - I am sorry for this for he is the only sharp collector I know of in N.Z. —Hector & Buchanan do exceedingly well however, & Mr Travers, the father, seems an acute collector. Hector is a most indefatigable fellow....

1867 December 6 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.3. Grey New Zealand letters).

Napier
Decr. 6, 1867.

To

His Excellency

Sir George Grey, KCB.

&c &c &c

Kawau, N.Z.

Dear Sir George Grey

For some time past we—Napier folk—have been daily on the lookout, hoping to see *your* Steamer coming into our Bay, but on Saturday evening last a Steamer was seen steering N. also under sail, which is believed to be yours. Such being the case I fear we shall not now have the pleasure of seeing you *here*, if (as we hear) your intention is to leave for England in January via Panama. I should much like to see Your Excellency again in Napier,—and, above all, I regret deeply your having to leave at such a critical period in our history as the arrival of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh among us. I would, dear Sir George Grey, that (*at least*) you had been requested to remain to receive the coming Prince, & to accompany him to visit some of the principal Chiefs and Tribes of New Zealanders, as from such a course much good might reasonably be expected. I confess I feel some difficulty in attempting to convey to your Excellency a scanty outline of my thoughts on this subject.

I did hope to see you at Wellington in the past spring, and had I gained what I through Dr. Hector sought—permission to visit the Genl. Assembly Library *during the Session*—I should have done so. (I have since however obtained permission to use it during the *recess*.) I wished to talk with you about the Maori-Eng. Lexicon on

which I am engaged; and could I have supposed you would so very shortly and suddenly leave us, I should ere this have done so. I will not however trouble you now, and by letter too, as your time must be very precious indeed. If, however, you have any Maori Mss. lying *together*, (which you do not intend to use shortly nor to take with you,) and you would kindly grant me the loan of them during your absence, you would in so doing both confer a favour and help in a great work:—you may rely on my taking the utmost care of them.—And as I remember all your kind expressions respecting it, and believe that you would like to see it finished, I would just ask you dear Sir George Grey, (if I *may* do so—under all the circumstances,) to intimate such a desire to Mr. Stafford, or to some one of the Ministry, —as I think such would be beneficial both to the Work & to myself. For I have recently received an Official letter from Mr. Rolleston—in which I am informed, “that some doubt exists of the continuation of the Vote beyond the present financial year”. I hope, however, to be able to complete it whether I continue to have Government *pecuniary* assistance or not:—hitherto, I am sorry to say, I have had *no other*; even the privilege of franking and receiving on P.S. (which your Excellency had kindly granted to me last year) has been taken from me,—so that many of my Mss., &c., now out among several distant Natives cannot readily be returned.—

I have lately opened a box of Maori *Mss.*—vocabularies, travelling Journals, and my old *Ms.* Dictionaries of the N. dialects (Ngapuhi and Rarawa,)—which I had packed up in 1842–3! and am almost stunned with the overpowering world of thoughts—rushing & sweeping over the N.Z. history of the last 30–35 years—which these silent yet powerful witnesses evoke!

I am daily working hard at the Lexn. *con amore*, and I find it *hard* work, harder than I anticipated. I hope, however, to accomplish it; and that you, dear Sir George Grey—whether among us or in Eng-

land,—will, some 4 or 5 years hence, hear of the same.

It has just occurred to me to ask you to say a word to Mr. Williamson, Superintendent, (as I suppose you will be sure to see *him* again,) in favour of his helping me—I mean, his encouraging Paul Tuhaere, the Chief in his Executive, (to whom I am about to write,)—or any other person, to do so. I trust in mentioning this I am not exceeding.

And—as I cannot now reasonably expect to have the privilege of either writing to you again, or seeing you, ere you leave N. Zealand and us,—permit me, dear Sir George Grey, heartily to wish you a safe and prosperous voyage back to the Old Country,—and (if such be your intention) an equally safe & prosperous return to us at no very distant period:—I venture to think and say, N. Zealand ought not to lose you.—

I am,
dear Sir George Grey,
with every respect,
Yours very truly
Wm. Colenso.

P.S. As I believed you would be very sure to receive a copy of my little *brochure* on the Botany of the N. Island from Dr. Hector, I did not send you one of the very few copies lately to hand. I would that my *second*, on the *Maories*, had been printed, as I should have much liked for *you* to have seen what I have said respecting them. W.C.

1868 February 15 Grey to Colenso (ATL Ms Copy Micro 485 1)

Kawau, Feby. 15th., 1868

... I will write to Mr Stafford expressing a strong wish to have the pleasure of seeing the Maori Lexicon completed. Such a work will hereafter be of the greatest possible historical interest. I will also speak to Mr. Williamson. It would have given me very great pleasure to have seen how much of the work you have done—and the plan on which you are carrying it out. My manuscripts are all packed up—and I am still quite uncertain when I may be able to get.... But if I come across any thing which I think will be useful to you I will lay it aside for you.—

(signed)
Faithfully yours
G. Grey.

Revd. Wm. Colenso, Napier

1869 October 22 Colenso to JD Hooker

(Kew Directors' Correspondence CLXXIV: p154; ATL Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 15: E540.)

... This Dictionary is heavy – almost too heavy for any one unassisted man: Sir G. Grey gave me to understand I was to have every assistance, & time ample. – I am goaded about it, and now am ordered appy. to finish it by April 1/70 (absit omen) – after which no more pay will be forthcoming – all right!

I gave Sir G. Grey a copy of the first printed proof, of that Essay to, I think, 88 pages, on his leaving for England, of course, you saw him there....

1871 November 18 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.4.)

Napier,
November 18, 1871.

Dear Sir George Grey

Permit me to trouble you with the following:—

During the past month I received several telegrams from Wellington respecting the *Mss.* of your Vol. of Maori Poetry published there in 1853. I knew however, nothing of them, never having seen them; and, eventually I referred the enquirers to the note in your Vol. of Poetry (Index, p.18) wherein it is stated, that the said *Mss.* had been deposited by you in the Library of the Wellington Athenæum.

Yesterday Mr. Locke (who, I think you know,) returned from Wellington, and on my enquiring of him the result of their search, he informed me,—that, after much trouble & repeated personal interviews with Dr. Hector, Mr. Dillon Bell, Mr. Mantell, some of the Members of the Government, Mr. Lyon, & others, he, at last, saw a Mr. Logan, who was formerly the Secretary of the Wellington Athenæum, who stated as follows:—“That, the *Mss.* of Sir George Grey’s Maori Poems were left in his charge, and he kept them for many years, until a Mr. J.B. (or J.,) White, a Maori Interpreter, took away the Papers to Auckland, stating he had Sir G. Grey’s authority for so doing; and that he (Logan) had often endeavoured to get them back but without success.”

I told Mr. Locke, that, under all the circumstances, I thought you should be informed of it,—especially as (from what he had further heard,) there appeared to be a doubt in the minds of some of the folks at Wellington, as to whether Mr. White was really directed by you to take the said *Mss.* away; seeing, that you had in your Work stated publicly where they were deposited, &c. &c.—

Moreover, Mr. McLean, in a telegram to me about the Maori Dicty, about a fortnight ago said, that a Mr. John White had been in correspondence with him, offering him for a consideration 150 old Maori words he had collected.

—And so I have taken on myself to write this to you.

Hoping that you are enjoying sound health in your Paradise-like Island, (of which I have heard so much)

I am,
Dear Sir G. Grey
Yours truly
Wm. Colenso.

1872 February 20 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.5.)

Napier
Feby. 20, 1872

Dear Sir George Grey

I am very much obliged to you for your kind note about the missing *Mss.* of your published Book of Maori Poetry. I have communicated its contents to Mr. Locke, and we have written to Wellington, hoping to recover them. And now I have to trouble you about another lot of Maori *Mss.*

A few years ago, perhaps ’66, or ’67, (it was when you were here in Napier,—’68,) Mr. Locke came to see me in a hurry to get from me a lot of Maori *Mss.* of his collecting, which he had kindly lent to me, (but which I had only just glanced at,) these he then wanted to hand over to Mr. McLean for you to look at, and (as both he and I then understood,) to return to him (and to me) when you should have done

with them.—I have more than once spoken to Mr. Locke about them, but he has never heard any thing of them since. I now make this application to you, with his knowledge and sanction. He also says, that when he gave the Mss. to Mr. McLean for you, the understanding was, that if you wished to publish them so much the better, as the only object Mr. Locke had in view, was to have them preserved. And I, for my part, only wished to read them closely for new words and new idioms, and (possibly) new usage of words already known. If you have them still by you, could you not send them to me for my perusal? Also, any other Maori Mss. you may happen to have, whether prose or poetry,—you may depend on my taking the utmost care of them, and only using them for the purpose of enriching my Lexicon, which I am still working at;—although entirely cast off—as to any pay—by the Government from March '70! Could I have once supposed in '64, (when you, Sir George, as Governor, expressed such a deep interest in the work,) that the Government would not heartily co-operate, I would never have undertaken it.

If you have also a *spare* copy of your Book in Maori, entitled, “Nga mahinga a nga tupuna Maori, &c.”, (published in '54, by Willis, Charing Cross,) and you could give it to me, you would confer a very great favor:—as I have tried in England & elsewhere but in vain to get a copy.

I have recently received another lot of old Hawaiian Books, which have gratified me much. Our language (that is the ancient Polynesian) must have been originally a grand yet simple one; like many other things, beautiful and majestic in its simplicity and purity *i.e.* without any foreign admixture; as it is, the various streams of descent, or Dialects, are (or were,) magnificent in their ruins. What would I not give thoroughly to know them *all*! So as to have them at my fingers' ends.—

I trust you, with all your many advantages, are continuing to do all

you can to conserve what little remains to be gathered here in N.Z. I feel assured that a future generation will marvel at our *past* apathy in this matter.

I see, by late Papers, that an ancient Ynca Drama, translated from the Quichua, or Aztec, language, of the time of the Peruvian Incas, has just been published: also a Grammar and Dictionary of that language by the same Scholar.

Hoping you are quite well, I am,

Dear Sir G. Grey,
Yours truly
W. Colenso.

1876 February 24 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.6.)

Napier,
Feby. 24. 1876.

Dear Sir George Grey,

Last week I received a few copies of the enclosed letter (a kind of *résumé* re Maori Lexicon) which I had written in July last for the better information of the House of Representatives & the Government,—*but* which has only *just been* printed! and it has occurred to me (as I have mentioned your name in it, and as you formerly took such a great interest in the Work) to send you a copy, just to call your attention to its contents. Although I fear in so doing I am intruding on your valuable time and many duties.—

I do not know if you were in the House on the 19th. October, *at the time* when (after some opposition and unpleasant remarks, *vide*, “Hansard,” pp. 590, 591,) £100. was voted for me on my giving up *all* my Mss. to the Government. But, as neither my explanatory letter

nor specimen pages were printed and in Members' hands, I have demurred to assent thereto: and so I have just officially informed the Government.

I believe the "Specimen pages" are not yet printed! and perhaps never will be.—

Hoping you are quite well. I am
Dear Sir G. Grey,
Yours faithfully
Wm. Colenso.

1884 August 2 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.7.)

Napier,
August 2/84

My dear Sir G. Grey

I came down to town this morning half expecting to have the pleasure of seeing you, and have heard you are not coming on shore.—

I wish to hand you a copy of a little "Ruahine" book, to which you so liberally and promptly subscribed. I had corrected for press the *last* page on Thursday night, and I begged of the Printer, as a favour, to let me have one copy early this morning *for you*—should you arrive. I now send it, & hope you may also approve of this one.—

The remaining 5 copies for you I retain until I hear from you, or of your return to your quiet retreat at Kawau.—

I write this in haste *here* under much disadvantage, and hoping you are enjoying good health, I am—

with every respect,
Yours faithfully,
Wm. Colenso.

1884 August 13 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.8.)

Napier, August 13th. 1884

My dear Sir George Grey,

Your kind and valued note of the 6th. inst. I duly received, and I thank you for it. As you have truly observed, I had thought that your perusal of this last little book would recall to mind old times in N.Z. —of which you, in particular, have seen so much!—

Agreeably with your request I send you, with this, your 4 remaining copies, and have also written my name in one (which is marked). I have detained them a while to go by Steamer hence on Saturday, as parcels get knocked about and damp in overland coach transit.—

You kindly enquire the price: 4/. each, as stipulated in advertisement. There are a few copies left, which will be at the same figure to original subscribers, but 5/. to non-subscribers,—to meet the expense of extra printing: as I had only originally intended the little book to consist of 60 pp. There are also a few copies of the former book still on hand at 3/. ea.

Knowing your busy and arduous political situation there at Wellington, I forebear saying anything more.—

Believe me, Dear Sir G. Grey,
Yours very truly

Wm. Colenso.

1885 March 2 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.9.)

Napier, March 2nd. 1885.

My dear Sir George Grey

I had much pleasure on Saturday last in receiving your kind note of 24th. ulto., containing £1.10.0—for the 6 copies of my last little pamphlet printed here and sent to you: I could not, however, reply by the mail of that day going to Auckland. And now that I thank you for the same, I must also add,—that you have sent me too much! as 6 x 4/. = 24/. I scarcely know which to choose, to send you the overplus in stamps,—or 2 additional copies of the work. I think I will send you (with this) one each of those 2 little books published here, as you have so generously approved of them.—

I think the last little work has generally pleased,—judging from many kind notes received from various quarters, including Australia & Europe. The question too, has been repeatedly asked, “Why those papers were not published in the usual way in the Trans. N.Z. Institute?” And I have been also asked, to get out more and larger ones: but this I think I shall not do,—unless I should republish with considerable additions that early “Essay on the Maori Races”, written in 1865 under your kind auspices, and published in vol. I. of “Trans. N.Z. Inst.”—

Thanks, my dear Sir George Grey for your kind wish of “an old age of health,” &c.,—which perhaps, you will permit me heartily to reciprocate—as there cannot be a very great difference in our respective ages—and you, too, have undergone a full share of fatigue and toil!

I am happy to say that I enjoy good health with the full use of all my faculties and don’t need specs. My hands are full of work (mostly Botanical) and I daily labour hard at it, with a good share of writing: 3–4 times in the year I visit the forests & glens & solitudes of the lower Ruahine (E.), each time bringing away not a few spoils—novelties, now, however, mostly confined to the smaller crypts: I send a large share of them to my old friend at Kew, Sir J.D. Hooker.

Again thanking you, I am,
Yours very truly, Wm. Colenso.

1887 August 8 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.10.)

Napier
Monday, noon.

Dear Sir George Grey

In returning from seeing you this morning I recollected having a copy left of my paper in “Trans. N.Z. Inst.” vol. XIX (this year’s) containing the huia beak, &c., which we spoke of, and I have thought of sending this copy to you,—which please accept. You may find time to look into it “between the watches”!

Yours faithfully
Wm. Colenso.

1888 February 23 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.11.)

Dannevirke,
(70 Mile Bush,)
Feb’y. 23rd. 1888.

Dear Sir George Grey

I came hither early in this month on my usual autumnal Botanical ramble in these sequestered woods and glens,—and since I have received a long and interesting (though painful) letter from our mutual friend Sir J.D. Hooker—which I have this day answered.

In it he has given me a message for you, which I copy:

— “Give Sir George Grey my warmest salutations when you see or write to him: and tell him, I keep the nuggets he gave me as a cherished keepsake.”—

I had sent to Sir Joseph a copy of the Napier “Herald” containing the report of your speech there and Public Meeting,—besides my fre-

quently writing to him.

Hooker and his Lady had been having a *sad* Xmas:—

1st. the death of her Father

2nd. the death of her last surviving brother, Frank Symonds, at Tonga.

I believe you knew him well: also, his brother Capt. Symonds,—as both had lived long near you.—

I was much grieved, the other day, to see in the Papers, of your being severely ill at Kawau: I trust, dear Sir George Grey, that you are now quite recovered.—

I am keeping well,—with the use of all my faculties, & don't need glasses: only I find my knees to be *not* so strong nor so ready as of yore in our tangled forests.—

With kindest regards,

Believe me,

Dear Sir George Grey,

Yours truly,

Wm. Colenso

1888 July 28 Colenso to Grey

(Auckland Council Libraries GLNZ C28.12.)

Napier, July 28th.
1888.

Dear Sir George Grey

I fear you are much too busy at present with political matters for me to trespass on you with a short note: nevertheless I will attempt it.—

My object is to bring to your notice the enclosed Circular (written for our members), and remembering your kind and valued approval of my Ruahine (“In Memoriam”) tract, a few years ago, to ask you, to

become a Subscriber: the Ms. is now in the printer's hands.

And as my “Presidential Address” has this day been printed here (by request), I send you a copy with this, which please, do me the honour of accepting. I hope you may find time to look into it,—particularly at pages 27, 28, & 29.

I may also mention, that while in the woods (at Dannevirke) in February last, I wrote a short note to you, (mainly to give you a kind message from our mutual friend Sir. J.D. Hooker,)—but I never heard of its having reached you,—perhaps it was missed.—

I hope you are keeping well and strong: and with very kind regards, I am,

Dear Sir George Grey,

Yours faithfully,

W. Colenso.

1890 August 12 Colenso to Harding

(ATL qMS-0495.)

... On my way hither from Napier I fell in with Mr. Smith (the Member) at Waipuk. platform, who gave me Sir G. Grey's kind remembrances, and, also, how very much Sir G. was *pleased* w. the “Ty. of Waitgi.” pamphlet;—speaking to him (S.) very highly of it: I have it *in mind*, to write to Sir G.—to ask if he will subscribe & *support* the printing of its 2 appendices: but I fear he is much *too busy* to be intruded on....

1894 March 29 Colenso to Harding
(ATL qMS-0495.)

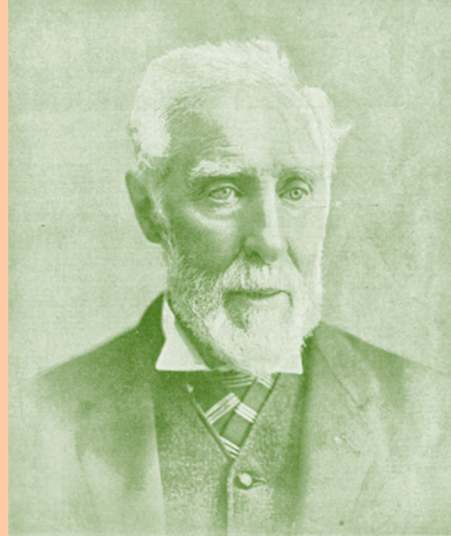
... Carnell told me Sir. G. Grey had enqd. after me,
& was coming hither to see me, but was told of my
absence. I scarcely think he will return again....

1897 February 1 Colenso to JD Hooker
(Kew JDH/2/1/4 Letters to Joseph Hooker, Vol IV: p162; ATL
Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 27: E538.)

... Am glad to know that Lady Hooker & you visited
poor dear Sir G. Grey but saddened in reading your
account of him – so low! I, too, who had seen so
much of him in the hey-day of life – in my 5 years
Parly. vocation (1861–5,) and received so many
kindnesses from him....

1898 September 24 Colenso to JD Hooker
(Kew JDH/2/1/4 Letters to Joseph Hooker, Vol IV: p181; ATL
Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 27: E574.)

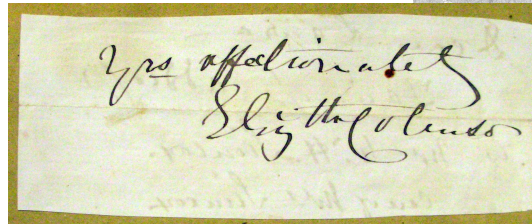
... Yours, also, contained your sad account of Sir
George Grey, so long gradually dying; and rather
curiously yours reached me at ix p.m. – mail arriving
here, – and the next morning, in our early paper was
the account of his death: it has rightly made a little
stir among us in N.Z., & causes me to think much of
him....



Mrs Colenso & the Governor

Among the treasures in the Sir George Grey Collections at Auckland City Library is Edwin Fairburn's scrapbook (NZMS 1142) which contains a previously unpublished photograph of his sister Elizabeth Colenso, her daughter Frances and son Latimer (at left), labelled 1874, but (as Colenso descendent Gillian Bell pointed out) almost certainly taken in 1864, when all three were together in Europe.

Elizabeth's dress seems to be the same as that she wore in the photograph of her holding Edwin's son in Stuttgart in 1864 (right).



There is also an autograph of Elizabeth's.

Also in the Grey papers is a letter (NZMS 942) from Elizabeth Colenso to George Grey in 1883...

Norfolk Island
March 4th/83.

Dear Sir George

I am very sorry indeed not to be able to do what you wish with regard to a copy of my translation of Wilberforce's allegory of "The little Wanderers." I have not a copy myself nor have I any idea of where one would be likely to be procured. You will I suppose have searched in the Library at Bishop's Court? And at St. John's College? All my little treasures in the book way & of that sort were scattered to the winds—during the Waikato war. I went to England in 1861 & returned in 1867 to find that a box I had left in Mr. Ashwell's house till I should return—containing my books English & Native &c, &c, was lost. The English books I heard had been distributed amongst the soldiers—& I only got back the 2nd. Vol. of Hannah More's Miscellaneous works & the 1st Vol. of Leighton's works—and not one Maori book or pamphlet.—It is possible that Mrs Selwyn (The Close Lichfield) or Lady Martin, or Mrs Abraham—might have, or know where, a copy could be found—

I will send you, in case you have not seen it—a copy of the translation of a tract "The man who killed his neighbours" and "The teaching of a bed-quilt"—I translated it in 1870 as far as I remember & Sir Wm Martin a year or two later seeing it had it printed in the Press at St Stephen's—Taurarua. I also enclose a copy of a translation of a portion of the Revnd. Chas. Bridges' "Scriptural Studies" translated by me at the Waikato & which were carefully & considerably revised & improved by Dr Maunsell & published in 1860, but probably you have them already. Perhaps Mrs Puckey late of Kaitaia North, or Revnd. Jos. Matthews may have a copy of The Little Wan-

derers as they were at St John's College when it was published—and the late Revnd. W. Puckey translated some of them.

Sincerely yours

E. Colenso

Samuel Wilberforce 1805

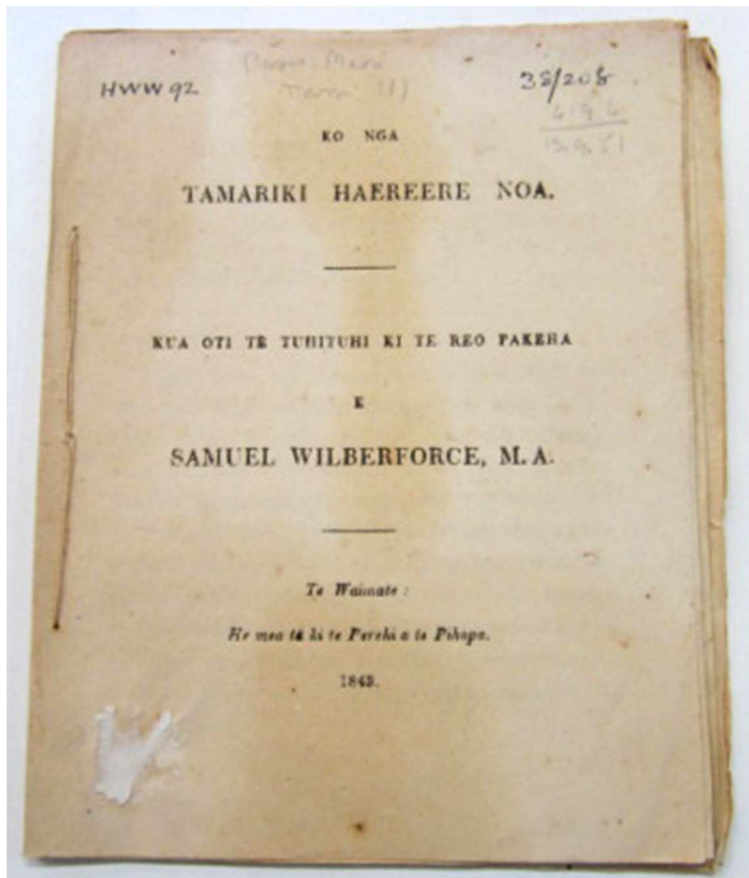
—1873, Bishop of Oxford, was the most powerful English bishop, third son of anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce. He was one of the greatest public speakers of his day but was known as "Soapy Sam" after a comment by Benjamin Disraeli that the bishop's manner was "unctuous, oleagenous, saponaceous". He opposed Darwin's theory of

evolution—famously at a debate in 1860 during which he is said to have asked TH Huxley whether it was through his grandfather or his grandmother that he claimed his descent from a monkey.

Why did **Elizabeth Colenso** decide to translate Wilberforce's *Little wanderers* into te reo? Did she see something of herself in the poor widow woman living in a hovel with her two children, whose poor and dirty playmates taught them bad words and naughty tricks? ►

THE LITTLE WANDERERS

IN a miserable little hovel, built on the edge of a wide and desolate common, lived a poor widow woman, who had two sons. The eldest of them was quite young, and the least was scarcely more than an infant. They were dressed in torn and dirty rags, for the widow had no better clothes to put upon them; and often they were very hungry and very cold, for she had not food or fire with which to feed and warm them. No one taught the biggest boy anything; and as for the poor mother, she did not know a letter. She had no friends; and the only play-fellows the little ones ever knew were other children as poor, and as dirty, and as untaught, as they were themselves, from whom they learnt nothing but to say bad words and do naughty tricks. Poor children! it was a sad life, you would say, which lay before them.



Elizabeth Colenso's translation of Samuel Wilberforce's *The little wanderers*.
Hawke's Bay Museum Trust copy.

STARTLED BY THE UNFAMILIAR
ATTENTION, COLENZO DECIDES...

HMM. I THINK I'LL GO
TO THE NOVEMBER 2016
COLENZO CONFERENCE
& SEE FOR MYSELF!!

