

eColenso

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The Colenso Dole

The Colenso Dole was the interest on sums donated by William Colenso to the Borough of Penzance, to be given to the deserving poor each New Year.

The first newspaper report of it is from a columnist in the *Cornishman* of 7 March 1895,

WE shall all be delighted that Penzance poor are to receive the annual interest on £1000, which Mr. Colenso will send from New Zealand to be invested by the Town-council. This is the kind of Socialism which (the Mayor will agree with me) is Individualism at its best.

On 2 May 1895 the *Cornishman* could report,

"THE COLENZO DOLE."

The Rev. W. Colenso, of Napier, New Zealand, has forwarded to the mayor of Penzance £1000, to be invested, and the interest to be given annually to deserving poor of the borough. Here, however, is his interesting, indeed touching, letter:—

Napier, New Zealand, March 15th, 1895.—To his Worship the Mayor and to the Corporation of the Borough of Penzance.—Sir, and gentlemen and fellow-townsmen: I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your cablegram on the 5th instant, informing me of your acceptance of the terms of my letter to you of the 8th January last, and I thank you for it.

I was absent from home at the time of its arrival, and now that our *two* mails are about to leave for England

(both closing on the same day) I lose no time in carrying out to conclusion my share in this matter, without waiting for your official letter in reply; and, therefore, I enclose a draft for £1000, payable to the Mayor and treasurer of the borough of Penzance, which I shall also send in duplicate, hoping my letters may duly and safely reach you and the money be by you expeditiously used in the manner and for the purpose stated in my former letter.

I should like for my contribution to be called "THE COLENZO DOLE," ever open to the poor of all creeds alike, only preferring Cornishmen, especially those who are, and shall be, *bona fide* townsmen or descendants of townsmen of the borough of Penzance.

And may God, the Giver (I am only His steward) ever bless you (and your successors') faithful ministrations of the same.

I thank Him heartily that I enabled, and privileged, to do this; and, if it should be fairly possible for me to add thereto in days to come, I will gladly do so.—I am, sir and gentlemen, yours faithfully, W. COLENZO.

The *Cornish Telegraph* of 2 May 1895 published his letter too.

The *Cornishman* of 1 April 1897,

REV. WILLIAM COLENZO NEVER FORGETS PENZANCE.—Some time since we noted the handsome offer of a Penzance man, long settled in New Zealand, the Rev. W. Colenso, to give £1500 and a free site if Hawke's Bay would found a museum. Now an institution of that kind is popular enough as a place of resort, whether it be the British or the Penzance, but the labour, the taste, the cost have to come from the few. This is not to be wondered when communities are found unwilling to pay 1d. in the £ on rateable property for reading-rooms accessible to all and libraries available for every home. Our own local collections of minerals, fossils, birds, fishes, and curios are seen by the many but are supported by the, comparatively, few. So we

not surprised that in a busy, bustling, commercial colony like New Zealand Mr. Colenso's kindness has not met with reciprocal warmth. Only £163 met his £1500 and free piece of land, and this came from 20 persons, not one of whom was wealthy or an old settler. Mr. R. M'Lean struck the one responsive chord with an offer get a grant of £700 and to make that amount £1000. On Monday, Feb. 15th, our aged and honoured fellow-townsmen attended a meeting of the Hawke's Bay philosophical society and spoke with regret not untouched with deep feeling of this indifference. He took the £163 as proof that the society itself does not really care twopence for science: therefore he would cease to be one them and would not attend another meeting, the more as the museum had been changed into a large hall for general purposes of assembly and amusement, while their garden had been turned into an ordinary tea-place. Some Maori curios are lost, which fact made him anxious about his own valuable deposits, especially as there are small jealousies among the members. At present it is his intention to devote part of his library and of the £1700 to a place where science, botany, and rare things are more appreciated—his native town of Penzance. Mr H. Hill moved thanks to the Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., the retiring president, for the interest he had shewn in the institution for a year and for his generous offer, as well as expressions of regret at the lack of public spirit. This had caused the society and its rooms to drift into their present condition. People ought to have been stirred by the sight of man between 80 and 90 who came to the meetings every month in the winter and gave the members the benefit of his ripened scholarship and experience in scientific matters. Dr. Moore seconded. Mr. Colenso spoke warmly the neglect of science but heartily thanked all for kindness and wished them well. The Rev. W. Colenso is firm when he has made up his mind, and it is not at all unlikely that Penzance may have the chance to appreciate that to which Napier and Hawke's Bay showed indifference.

In January 1898 52 half-sovereigns and 16 crown pieces were distributed and the Mayor, Mr Julyan, asked "all to remember at their first Sunday dinner in the New Year the name and kindness of William Colenso with grateful affection" (*Cornubian & Redruth Times* 7 January 1898).

The *Cornish Telegraph* 4 August 1898,

A Gift from the Antipodes.

NEW ZEALAND'S loss is Penzance's gain. The Rev. W. Colenso made a handsome offer to the people of the land of his adoption, which offer they did not see their way to accept, and the consequence is that the poor of his own native town will reap the benefit. Really, I cannot bring myself to say that I regret the lack of public spirit in Hawke's Bay (I think that is the name) for I think the poor of Penzance will be benefitted by the interest on that thousand pounds more than the New Zealand town would be enlightened the museum. It is very gratifying to find that Mr Colenso, in spite of his long sojourn in the land of the Maori and the Apteryx, has not forgotten Penzance. Would that more of our very many emigrants, who leave us for their own good, would remember us in the days of their prosperity.

The *Cornish Telegraph* 8 December 1898,

THE COLENDO DOLE.—At the special meeting of Penzance Town Council on Monday Alderman Julyan announced that the £1000 promised by the Rev. W. Colenso, New Zealand, as an addition to the sum already available for the Colenso Dole had come to hand. It was now deposited in the Consolidated Bank in the name of Mr Colenso and himself. He simply made an announcement that day proposing to read the letters and deal with the matter more formally at the next meeting.

The *Cornish Telegraph* 22 December 1898,

THE COLENZO DOLE—FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH
FOR THE DONOR.

Alderman Julyan said he had to lay before the council the communication from the Rev. W. Colenso, of New Zealand, to which he referred the special meeting. It would be within the remembrance of the council that Mr Colenso had sent an intimation to the effect that he was about to contribute another £1000 to the Colenso dole, and had referred to some observations addressed to him by some one in Penzance with regard to the investment of the funds in the Penzance borough stock. In a private communication addressed to Mr Julyan, Mr Colenso remarked that the safety of the investments must always be the greatest consideration. From the remarks reported in the *Cornish Telegraph*, as well as the drift of Mr Julyan's letter, it seemed that he (Mr Julyan) had rather misunderstood the remarks he had made as to the former investment. He had found no fault with that. He did not know the writer of the letter to which Mr Julyan referred, and he himself was not versed in home money matters, while Mr Julyan must be. The letter the Town Council was as follows:—

Sir, and borough councillors and fellow townsmen:—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram on 28th July last informing me of your having heard from his worship, the Mayor, of my intended offer of another and second sum of £1000 to be invested by you for the benefit of the poor of Penzance. I thank you for your very prompt response. I should have sent you the sum I had mentioned forthwith, but it was placed in our banks as a fixed deposit for twelve months, I waited until the year had expired which was yesterday. I enclose three drafts on London banks, respectively for £500, £300 and £200—£1000—payable to the Mayor and to my eldest nephew, William Colenso, being also one your corporate

body, who will represent me in this matter. And as I said before to you in my letter of March 15th, 1895, so I say now, largely using the same words:— “I should like for my present contribution to be joined to my former one, as to title (“The Colenso Dole”) and to time of annually distributing the interest arising therefrom ever open to the poor of all creeds alike, only preferring Cornishmen, especially those who are or shall be *bona fide* townsmen or descendants of townsmen of the Borough of Penzance—moreover always preferring the unfortunate struggling, prudent working man to the unthrifty, the lazy, and the man of drinking habits. And may God the Giver (I only His steward) ever bless you and your successors in offices faithful ministration of the same; I thank Him heartily that I am enabled and privileged to do this. I may also mention that I did not intend to send you this money myself (having provided by will for my executors do so), but finding recently that money so left by will has had to pay very heavy probate duty here, deducted from the legacy I determined to save that, although I may feel the loss of the interest arising from the same, my income being but moderate, and yearly becoming less through ever increasing rates and taxes.”

Alderman Julyan added that he did not know whether there was anything they could do to mark their sense of Mr Colenso's generosity to the poor of the town in giving £2,000 to be used for their benefit. It did occur him to submit to the Council with all respect, whether they might not offer to Mr Colenso the honorary freedom of the borough as recognition of his generosity in contributing to the comfort of the poor of Penzance, and thus setting a most excellent example. (Hear, hear.) There were many persons who had gone away from the town and had prospered, but had apparently forgotten their native town, and he hoped they would be stimulated to follow in the footsteps of Mr Colenso. (Hear, hear.) He had much pleasure in moving that steps be taken to elect the Rev. William Colenso to

the honorary freedom of the borough in consideration of his services to the poor of his native place. He presumed that the Town Clerk would write a formal acknowledgment of the receipt of the money.—Alderman CARNE seconded. He thought it was very right and proper that the Council should show their appreciation of such generosity and love of his native town as Mr Colenso had shown.—Alderman JULYAN mentioned that the money stood at the bank at present in the names of Mr Colenso and himself. It should be handed over to the Council whenever they wished it.—Councillor COLENSO, in supporting, remarked that he had been in correspondence with his uncle for many years, though had never seen him, as he left Penzance 64 years ago. Although he had been absent so long, Mr Colenso found that his memory was still so good that he could remember many features of the town as it was when he left it, and often asked him whether such and such tree or shrub was still in existence. He mentioned that his uncle was, he believed, the only living native of Penzance who had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.—Councillor TREMBATH also supported the motion, and the MAYOR, in putting it to the meeting, observed that he regarded as very proper recognition of a very worthy act. He was sure the name of Colenso would be revered and respected in the town for all time.—The motion was carried unanimously, amid applause, and the TOWN CLERK intimated that he would take the proper steps.

The *Cornishman* of 22 December 1898 carried the same story: “The Munificence of Rev. W. Colenso, of New Zealand. To be Made a Freeman of the Borough.”

On 12 January 1899 the *Cornish Telegraph* would happily report,

THE COLENSO DOLE.—The Colenso Dole, the charity which Penzance owes to one of its oldest natives and its youngest freeman, was distributed at the Guildhall on Saturday by the Mayor (Councillor R. Pearce Couch) and Alderman W. H. Julyan. Forty-nine poor people received 10s each and thirty-five 5s each. There were also present Alderman Carne, Councillor W. Colenso and Mr R. Colenso, representing the donor and Superintendant Nicholas.

A month later William Colenso was dead. The *Cornish Telegraph* of 16 February 1899 reported,

DEATH OF THE REV. W. COLENSO

A FRIEND OF THE PENZANCE POOR.

News reached Penzance on Saturday of the death of the Rev. William Colenso, F.R.S. F.G.S., of Hawke's Bay, New Zealand, the youngest freeman of Penzance and one of its oldest natives. He was not the least remarkable representative of a family several of whose members have risen to eminence—most of them, be it noted, in the Greater Britain over the seas. He was a cousin of the famous Bishop Colenso of Natal, and the son of the late Samuel May Colenso, who carried on business in Alverton Street as a saddler. Born in 1811, he served his time to the trade of a printer with Mr Thomas of Penzance and at the conclusion of his apprenticeship went to London and was employed on the works of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Brought thus early into association with foreign mission work young Colenso came under an influence which affected his whole future career. The Church Missionary Society decided in 1833 to send a printer to New Zealand, which was then more of a *terra incognita* than Central Africa is to-day. Mr Colenso undertook to go on this mis-

sion, and in 1835 reached the colony with the first printing press and plant that had ever been taken out to Maori land. In spite of the fact that he had not been supplied with a complete outfit—even paper was wanting—he got his press to work within six weeks of his arrival, and printed the first book published in the island colony—the epistles to the Ephesians and Phillipians—in the language of the aborigines. By the close of the year which saw the Queen's accession Mr Colenso had printed the New Testament complete in the same tongue. Six thousand copies were issued, and of these only one is now known to exist. It was in the library of the printer, and no doubt not the least treasured volume contained therein. Seven years later the colony had developed to such an extent that a newspaper press was started. Mr Colenso now devoted his time entirely to ordinary mission work, in which he displayed untiring energy and zeal and was rewarded with great success. The North Island was the scene of his labours, and he traversed the whole of its area on foot. He took holy orders in 1844, in which year he took up his residence at Hawke's Bay. Mr Colenso's activities were not confined to his clerical duties. As a negotiator between the white colonists and the Maoris he took a very prominent part, and was the last survivor of the English signatories to the Treaty of Waitangi. He was an able scientist and archæologist, and was universally recognised as the highest authority on Maori antiquities and folk lore, as well as on the natural history of the Archipelago. His botanical researches earned for him the distinction of a fellowship the Royal Society, and he was also Fellow of the Linnæan Society. After his retirement from the active work of the ministry he took an interest in politics, and was member for Napier in the first general assembly of 1861. He also held important offices in connection with provincial administration. To the last Mr Colenso retained a deep interest in the place his birth, and of this he has given very practical proof. Four years ago he presented

£1,000 to the borough, the income from the investment of which is utilised for annual gifts to the deserving poor. This is known as the "Colenso dole." In 1896 Mr Colenso offered £1,500 and a free site for purposes of a museum at Hawke's Bay. The reception accorded to this generous offer was very disappointing to Mr Colenso, and it was withdrawn in the following year, Mr Colenso announcing at a meeting of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society that his books and money would to his native town of Penzance. Hawke's Bay's loss was thus Penzance's gain, and at the end of last year Mr Colenso made a second donation of £1,000 as an addition to the funds available for the "Colenso Dole." The Town Council marked its appreciation of Mr Colenso's generosity by conferring the freedom of the borough upon him, an honour which unfortunately he has not lived to acknowledge. Mr Colenso was an occasional contributor of papers to the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society, and has presented a number of volumes to the Penzance Library. He also showed his interest in the latter institution by sending a donation to the Endowment Fund. In the "Colenso Dole" he has left behind him a monument which will keep his memory green in Penzance for many generations.

The *Cornishman* 2 March 1899,

PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL.

A fortnightly meeting on Wednesday was presided over by the mayor (Councillor R. Pearce Couch.) There were also present Aldermen W. H. Julyan, W. J. Bazeley, Carne, J. Caldwell, and W. T. L. Perry; Councillors H. Trembath, W. Colenso, G. Poole, A. K. Barnett, J. V. Thomas, J. R. Trenwith, C. Hill, N. J. Hall, J. Bond, B. C. Matthews, J. A. Fox, J. Banfield, W. Daniel, and J. H. Tonking; with the clerk (Mr. T. H. Cornish) assistant-clerks (Messrs. E. C. Scobey and H. C. Tonkin) medical officer-of

--health (Mr. R. Boase) sanitary inspector (Mr. N. C. Whear) and the surveyor's assistant (Mr. C. White.)

THE LATE REV. WILLIAM COLENZO.

The MAYOR, at the commencement of the meeting, remarked that it must be with feelings of deepest regret that they all heard, since the last meeting, of the death of the Rev. William Colenso, at an advanced age in his home in New Zealand. From memoirs he had read of Mr. Colenso he appeared to have been a man of great talent, and to have possessed a very close and intimate knowledge of a very unusual range of subjects, and such was his thoroughness that he appeared to have been an authority on every one of those subjects. But though Mr Colenso made his home many thousands of miles from here, they knew he never forgot his native town, and the deserving poor of Penzance would have cause ever to bless and revere his name and memory as founder of the Colenso dole. (Hear, hear.) It was only a few weeks ago that this council unanimously resolved invite him to accept the honorary freedom of this borough, and it was a matter of great regret to him the mayor) that Mr. Colenso had not lived to inscribe his name on the roll of honorary freemen. It had occurred to him (the mayor) that they might have some other memorial to keep his name actually before them, but he would leave that to be dealt with on some future occasion. He now proposed that letter be sent to Mr. Colenso's relatives, expressing the council's great regret at his decease, and expressing their sympathy with them in their bereavement.

Ald JULYAN said it was with pain he rose to second the vote. He could only say that he entirely agreed with all the mayor had said with regard to the merits of their old friend, and to all it was a matter of great regret that he did not live to receive that mark of public recognition of his charity and goodwill towards the poor his native town that it was proposed to confer upon him.

The motion was unanimously passed.

The *Cornish Telegraph* 4 May 1899,

FURTHER GENEROSITY OF THE REV. W. COLENZO.

Intimation was received from the solicitor of the late Rev. W. Colenso, Napier, New Zealand, to the effect that the Corporation were entitled to a share of the residue of his estate for the benefit of the poor of Penzance, and that as soon as possible details of the amount the town was entitled to would be forwarded. (Hear, hear.) Councillor HILL considered that something should be done to perpetuate the memory of Mr Colenso.—The MAYOR: We have the matter in hand.

The *Cornishman* 5 October 1899,

GENERAL PURPOSES.

The Mayor-elect.

Alderman JULYAN read the report of this committee, which stated that the mayor had presented a design and estimate of the cost, amounting to £33 10s., of the brass tablet to perpetuate the memory of the late Rev. William Colenso, and his benefactions to the poor of the town. The committee submit the same herewith, and recommend that Messrs. Pascoe and Son be given the order for the work, the frame to be of oak, and the name of the town-clerk to be suitably inscribed thereon. The committee also recommend that the Free-library committee be asked to allow the tablet to be placed on the walls of the library, and that the terms be asked for a copy of the tablet on vellum to be placed in the council chamber.—The committee also recommended that Mr. Councillor Couch be invited to accept the mayoralty for the year 1899 1900.

Moving its adoption. Alderman JULYAN said at the present stage of the proceedings he did not think there was anything which called for any particular remark.

Alderman CALDWELL, seconding, said he felt sure from the design for the plate which had been selected, that it would be a very great acquisition to the library, and would perpetuate the name of an old inhabitant of Penzance, who, although he went into a foreign country, never forgot his native home, the home revered by all Cornish people from their youth. It afforded him very great pleasure to support the second portion of the report.—The report was then carried by acclamation.

The *Cornishman* 19 October 1899,

Messrs. Pascoe and Son, jewellers, Penzance, wrote that a reproduction of the tablet to be erected to the memory of the Rev. W. Colenso, in vellum, and covered with plate glass, would cost £9 15s.

The *Cornishman* 18 January 1900,

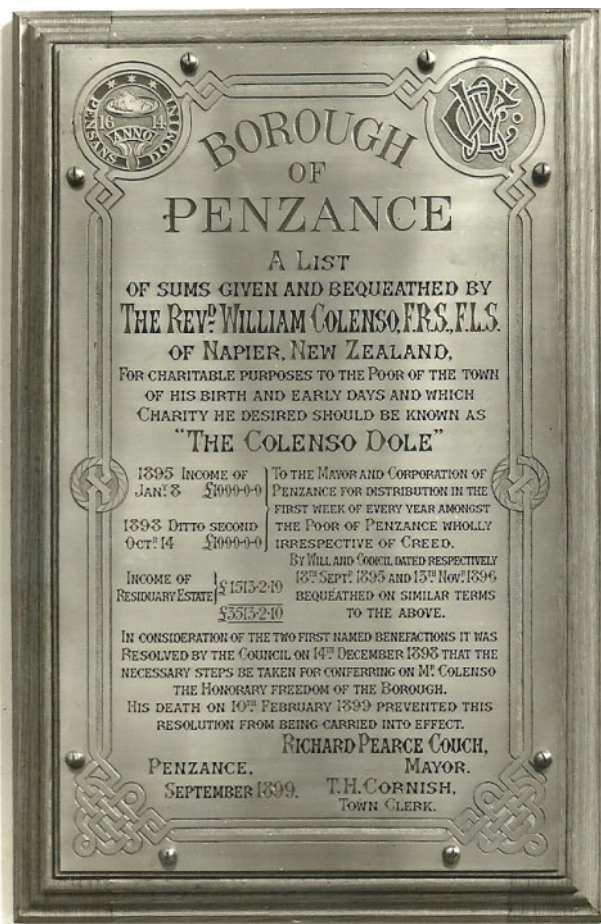
THE COLENZO MEMORIAL

Messrs Pascoe & Son, jewellers and engravers, Penzance, wrote informing the Council that the brass tablet to perpetuate the beneficence of the late Rev. W. Colenso, of New Zealand, is now completed, and they now await instructions as to where it is to be placed.—The matter was referred to the general purposes committee.

The *Cornishman* 8 March 1900,

FREE LIBRARY

Councillor BANFIELD submitted the following report:—The free-library committee reported that they had received a letter from the town-clerk asking permission for the council to place a tablet recognising the munificent gifts of the late Rev. W. Colenso, New Zealand, in the free-library, and it was decided to co-operate with



the council in the matter, and they had elected Messrs. Wildman, Polson, Holman, and Mabbott to meet a committee appointed by the council to decide on the position.

The brass tablet was mounted on the library wall; presumably the velum copy was mounted in the Council chambers, and the Dole was ceremoniously distributed every year, as the local papers faithfully reported, usually with fulsome acknowledgement of the donor. Here, for instance, is the report, in the (by now amalgamated) *Cornishman and Cornish Telegraph* of 8 January 1931,

THE COLENZO DOLE.

ANNUAL DISTRIBUTION AT PENZANCE.

The first day of the new year is the date fixed for the distribution of the Colenso Dole, and consequently, the distribution took place this (Thursday) afternoon, in the Guildhall. The Mayor (Colin. R. Hall) made the distribution, and was supported by Ald. W. J. Bazeley, Ald. W. G. Goodfellow, and Mr. William Colenso.

The Mayor wished the large assembly a Happy New Year, and said they should proud that they lived in a town like Penzance. There was no town in the county where they could find so many charitable institutions as in Penzance. "We are very grateful to them," said the Mayor, "and more especially in this case to one—Rev. W. Colenso. The name of Colenso is very well-known in Penzance. To-day we meet to distribute some of the funds that this gentleman has left as a little donation to the poor of the town. Year by year we distribute the interest to you. You are extremely fortunate people.

"The Rev. William Colenso was a native of Penzance,

and when he went to New Zealand he thought would like to do something for the deserving poor of this town. In 1895 he sent £1,000 to be invested for the benefit of the poor. In 1898 he sent another £1,000 and in 1899 he died. In his will he left a further sum £1,000, which was sent to Penzance by his solicitors. The sum has increased little by little until nearly £3,600 has been invested.

"The Rev. William Colenso specially mentioned that this charity was to be given to the poor people of Penzance, irrespective of creed; but he also mentioned that the struggling thrifty, prudent, hard-working men should be preferred to the unthrifty, lazy, or men of drunken habits. I think you will agree with me when I say that the poor of Penzance have been exceedingly fortunate in having the Rev. W. Colenso as one of the forefathers of this town."

Mr. William Colenso, nephew of the Rev. W. Colenso, said he was glad to see a goodly number to receive the benefit from his uncle. He was a Penzance man and although he left his native town in 1833, nearly 100 years ago, and never came back home, his mind was always with his native town.

In 1945 the *Cornishman* of 4 January reported that the Deputy Mayor distributed 48 £1 notes and 134 10s. notes, the recipients including three nonagenarians and thirty-two octogenarians.

Perhaps that was the last distribution, for when Colenso descendant Gillian Bell's brother visited Penzance in 1947 the dole was worth about half a crown. The *Cornishman* of 24 June 1848 mentioned that the Colenso Dole was "in abeyance now as it is in the hands of the Charity Commissioners".

Postwar bureaucracy—or commonsense—or was it simply a 20th century egalitarian distaste for the inherent condescension of private largesse?—saw the absorption of the Colenso Dole and similar bequests into a "Scheme for the regulation of the Charities". ►

The *Cornishman* 5 May 1949,

BOROUGH OF PENZANCE.

Charity Commission.

IN the Matter of the following Charities in the Borough of Penzance:—

1. The Charity called the **COLENZO DOLE.**
2. The charity of **DAVID DENNIS.**
3. The Charity of the **MISSES STONE** for the Poor.

The Charity Commissioners for England and Wales **HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that they propose, after the expiration of one calendar month, to establish a Scheme for the regulation of the Charities.

The Scheme can be seen between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays (Saturdays 9 a.m. to mid-day) at the Town Clerk's Office, Municipal Buildings, Penzance, and copies can be purchased at the Office of the Commissioners at the price of 3s. 3d. each.

Objections or suggestions may, within 21 days, be sent to the Secretary, Charity Commission, Ryder Street, St. James's London, S.W.1.

D. J. BEATTIE,
Town Clerk.
Municipal Buildings, Penzance.
27th April, 1949.

The last we read of the Colenso Dole is an objection by William Colenso, in the *Cornishman* of 26 May 1949; (this is not Rev. William Colenso's nephew, William Colenso, who died aged 97 in 1942, but William Colenso 1878–1958, the nephew William Colenso senior's son, who was called William Colenso junior. They were the last Colenso family to live in Wiremu's house. Ann Collins described his travels in 2010 in "William and Doris Colenso Travels").

Not Original Intent.

IN 1895 William Colenso, a Penzance man and one of the pioneer figures in New Zealand, left his native town a legacy worth £3,906 on the strict understanding that interest from it should be given to the poor and deserving each New Year's Day. The Colenso Dole, as it is called, was accordingly distributed on the first day of each year for over half-a-century—until Mr. W. Colenso, of Penzance, Rev. William Colenso's nephew heard that in future it would be controlled by the Charity Commissioners and used with other local charities as a form of Poor Law relief whenever it was needed throughout the year. This apparently is still the intention of the Commissioners, although Mr. Colenso has protested that it would not fulfil the object which his uncle had in mind—the brightening of the New Year for the downcast.

Apparently it was not a successful objection, as a search for "Colenso Dole" in the "British Newspaper Archive" after 1949 yields no results, suggesting it has disappeared irrevocably into the insatiable maw of the Charity Commission.

The bronze plaque survives: at Ann Collins' prompting it will be mounted in the entry of St John's Hall, Penzance—over the road from 10 Alverton Tce, the site of Rev. William Colenso's childhood home.

The Library

The Penzance Public Library was at the time an apt place for the brass tablet. William Colenso's name often appeared in the Penzance newspapers' lists of donors of books,

PENZANCE PUBLIC LIBRARY. —At the committee meeting, on Monday, Messrs. Freel and Tate were elected annual members. The following works were received "Memories of Old Friends, being extracts from the Journals and Letters of Caroline Fox from 1835 to 1871." The first volume of "Science Gossip;" "Willie's First English Book," in two parts, by the Author, W. Colenso, of New Zealand.

PUBLIC LIBRARY. —Among the books received during the past month are... "Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute," 10 vols., royal 8vo. The ten volumes of the "Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute" were presented by Mr. William Colenso, eldest son of the late Mr. Samuel Colenso, of this town, who has been forty years in the colony.

THE LIBRARIAN reported.... From their old and ever-appreciated donor, Rev. W. Colenso, a volume of the "Reports and Transactions of the New Zealand Institute."

The *Cornishman* of 11 June 1885,

THE PROPOSED NEW LIBRARY FOR PENZANCE.

At a meeting on Monday of the committee specially elected to consider site and means for a detached and fireproof building in which to store, with a large amount of certain safety, the books of the present library—many of them invaluable and irreplaceable....

... an unexpected but much-appreciated offer comes from a far-off colony and a Penzance man resident there

for many years, who has shewn for a long time past and in various kindly ways his interest in the literary and scientific institutions of his native town. We refer to the Rev. W. Colenso, of Napier, New Zealand, who has offered the handsome sum of £50 to the building-fund and to become a life-member (payment of £10 10s.) of the Library, so that he really gives £60 10s. towards a stronghold for the 20,000 volumes which will then comprise our collection, many of them precious to bibliophiles, local and general.

Colenso wrote to Prebendary Hedgeland, the librarian (the following text is cobbled together from parts of his letter reported in the *Cornishman* of 11 June and the *Cornish Telegraph* of 18 June 1885),

I note what you say re the erection of a separate building for the Penzance Public Library and I am very glad you have been moving so strongly in this matter which I have some time considered to be absolutely necessary. Had I earlier heard from you I should written to you upon this subject, having some time back seen in the Cornish Telegraph what had been last year said about it. And now by this mail that brought me your letter, I have, in a later number of that paper, a full account of your annual meeting, your report, your letter to the President, of June, 1884. &c., &c.

And I do certainly hope that, the matter being so very serious and urgent, Penzance will forthwith come, 'one and all,' to the fore, to do what is required. As a townsman—ever wishing well to the place of my birth and early days—I heartily thank you for your most generous promised donations, and, in the hope of securing both (though I am not rich) I will also subscribe £50 (fifty pounds) towards the early erection of a suitable building for that purpose. I also feel thankful to Mr. C. C. Ross, M.P., for his liberal and prompt offer of £300

towards the same object, moreover repeating his words on that occasion, 'That he would like to see the noble example of Mr. Hedgeland followed possible on the spot.' And when I consider who were present on that occasion, I can only marvel at such not having been promptly done.

I have proved what a blessing it is to possess an extensive and useful library—I suppose mine is the largest private one here on this east coast, containing over 2000 volumes, some being valuable, scarce, and expensive works; and I have known, too, what it is to be burnt-out. In 1853 I lost everything in my large dwelling-house, and only saved my library through my early precaution of having it in my study, in a detached building in the garden.

Colenso than asked to be proposed a life-member,

... just to show my attachment and desire for its welfare, although I have scarcely a remote chance of seeing it again.

... All going on well this letter should reach you early in May—that gloriously fine month with you in the west of England. May it find you well and your work of speedily securing a new library building pretty far advanced.

But alas! As the *Cornishman* (*ibid.*) concluded,

England moves more slowly than her colonial children, and the library scheme has not progressed beyond the realm of careful thought and steady preparation. It may be that Penzance needs some of the heart and vigour of one of her sons—a zeal and a trust in the future quickened, rather than clogged, by the years Mr. Colenso yet bears bravely. If anything is needed to stimulate or encourage it is well found in such kindly words and deeds as those of the Rev. W. Colenso.

The Penzance Natural History & Antiquarian Society

Many biographical essays on Rev William Colenso repeat an assertion that, before he left for New Zealand in 1834 he had been a member of the Penzance Natural History & Antiquarian Society (PNHAS). That is impossible as it was founded in 1839.

Its aim was “the cultivation of the science of Natural History and the investigation of the Antiquities referring to the early inhabitants.” It held meetings, where lectures were delivered and discussed, held an annual excursion to visit the antiquities of the area, and maintained a museum.

Reports and Transactions vol. I (1845–51) was published in 1851, II in 1864 (1851–55) and III in 1865 (1862–65). The Society lapsed into torpor but was revived in 1880 and a new series of *Reports and Transactions* was published annually until 1890 and intermittently until 1899. The PNHAS ceased to exist in 1961.

In 1839 the Society's museum was housed in the dome of the Market House, (now Lloyds Bank) and in 1867 moved to St. John's Hall, where it joined the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall and the Penzance Library (later to become the Morrab Library). In 1961 the collection was moved to Penlee House.

William Colenso was a member of what he called the “Penzance Institution” in 1833 as his letter overleaf shows.

Penzance
April 23rd. 1834,

Respected Sir,

When in October last I left my native town for London, next to the regret of leaving family and friends, I think, was that of leaving the Institution of which I was a member.

Having accepted the situation of Missionary Printer to the C.M.S. in N.Z. the Institution immediately occurred to my recollection, and my spare time I said should be devoted to furthering the interests of it. Specimens of the Botany, Geology, Ornithology, Entomology, Conchology and Ichthyology of that interesting portion of the Globe it was my intention to transmit at every opportunity to the Institution.

Judge than, Sir, of my surprise at being last night refused admittance, although I stated that I had been a member—that 'twas only in consequence of my leaving for London, that I had not continued as such.

I gave my name, but 'twould not avail, because I, who was only home for a fortnight, had no Ticket. Had I known that such a strict rule prevailed I could have provided one. Whether the doorkeeper over-stretched his official authority or not, I cannot tell.

Still, Sir, my leisure time, when in that distant land, should God spare me health and strength, shall be partly devoted to the enrichment (if possible) of the "Penzance Institution."

*I am, Sir,
Yours most obediently,
W.C.*

[ATL MS-Papers-9131, faded manuscript;
and ATL 80-038, typescript in the Petersen papers].

In the same file is a similar letter addressed to "Mr Flamank", faded almost to complete illegibility, but clearly a draft of a slightly different version. (Possibly Rev. W Flamank DD, of St Austell 1803 and Boscarne 1817. He entertained John Wesley at his house when he visited Cornwall).

Colenso was probably referring to the "Penzance Institution for promoting useful knowledge," founded in 1831. It hosted weekly lectures with following discussions until 1838.

He was probably likewise a member of the Penzance Mechanics Institute which also ran weekly lectures followed by discussion; it ceased to exist a year or two before the Penzance Institution. Colenso wrote to Coupland Harding (26 November 1896),

I may mention (to you), among other things of old that I found, was my first paper, written for Mechanic's Institute in Penz., when I was 18–19—on St. Michael's Mount, &c &c—and the trade of the ancient Phœnicians to West Cornwall, it was snugly ensconced in my old portable wtg. desk, where it had lain from 1834!!

He did, in New Zealand much later, join the PNHAS—he is listed as a member from 1883 to 1891. He did send specimens to the museum (a kakapo egg, a block of greenstone, moa bones, etc), communications (starting in 1884) to be read at the meetings and publications to the library (starting with the first ten volumes of the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* in 1878).

There is no mention of him in vol. I of the *Penzance Reports and Transactions*, but vol. II (1864) mentions the donation of a "Collection of Phenogenous plants, from New Zealand. By the Rev. W. Colenso, of New Zealand."

Penzance' s pounamu

Colenso also donated a slab of polished greenstone to the Royal Cornish Geological Society's Museum in Penzance. He wrote to nephew William Colenso, 6 May 1896 [ATL Ms-papers-10535-1]

And now for a bit of information that will please you:—you asked for a slab of Greenstone for the R.C.G. Museum at Penzance—well: one is now on its way! I had from the beginning set aside 2, one (as above), and one for my son Latimer; but always put off the packing & sending them until I should also have my lot of dried plants, & N.Z. made dress & floor mats, & baskets, ready to send to Kew; (These, also, promised, 2–3 years ago.) A few days back my son Latimer (whom you may remember seeing at Penz.) suddenly arrived here at Napier from England, and, after remaining a few days, left me last wk. for Wellington on his way back to England (he was to leave Wgn. this day) I gave him the slab intended for him, & we packed w. it the one for Penz. which he will forward to you. I gave him your address. You can present it, in our joint names (yours & mine), and let a good label be attached, printed or well written perhaps on parchment,—stating, that its history (modern) will be found in vol. XXVII, “Transactions N.Z. Institute,” page 598. These 2 slabs are both alike as to size, &c., & both polished on one side only—that work being dear out here: I believe they will still take a higher polish. As Latimer returns by way of Sydney, he will not get back very early to England.

Colenso wrote in that paper that he had bought at auction, five slabs of greenstone of about 25lbs each, cut from one block. These were two of them.

Pounamu would become very fashionable in Britain. The *North Eastern Daily Gazette* of 22 December 1898 (in its “Lines for the Ladies” column), told its readers,

The New Zealand greenstone is the principal novelty in jewellery this Christmas. It takes a brilliant polish, and is made up into chains, bracelets, necklets, broaches, pendants, and watchcases. The Prince of Wales has bought a number of greenstone articles, presumably for Christmas presents.

The *Buckingham Advertiser and North Bucks Free Press* of 7 January 1899 (in its “Gossip for women” column) had this,

The latest novelty is the greenstone, a New Zealand mineral that is found in the beds of rivers in the land of the Maoris. It takes a very fine polish, and the tone of green is that of a laurel leaf. It is made up into chains, necklets, bracelets, brooches, waistcoat-buttons, and also into knife-handles, boxes, and other of those useful little articles which are pretty as well.

Not just fashionable, but auspicious: one Benjamin Farjeon “attributed all his good fortune to the luck-giving New Zealand greenstone which he carries on his watch chain.”

Cornwall had its own “greenstone”, a kind of hornblends slate.

Latty delivered the slab, which was listed in the donations to the museum for 1895–6.

CURATOR'S REPORT.	
NOVEMBER, 1896.	
DURING the past year the following specimens have been added to the Society's Museum:	
NAME AND LOCALITY.	DONOR.
<i>Spirifer disjuncta</i> from Delabole . . .	J. D. Enys, Esq.
“ “ “ “ “ “ . . .	
“ “ “ “ “ “ . . .	
Slab of Greenstone, New Zealand . . .	Rev. W. Colenso.

On 14 February 1897 Colenso wrote to his nephew William in Penzance,

The slab of Greenstone: I like your proper inscription on it (as sent)—and I hope that you may have recd. a proper letter of thanks from the Secy. or President R.C.G.S. —otherwise I shall think they are not aware of the value of the slab, (what it cost—in money & expenses to take it to Penzance—besides Latimer’s trouble! As it had to be paid (by him) extra—it was not allowed as passenger’s baggage....

The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall had still not thanked him by 17 October 1897. Colenso was less than impressed, comparing its members to the outsiders, old maids and parsonettes who now peopled the PNHAS:

I have not had any letter from Secy. Museum (as you, in part, suppose) about the slab of “Greenstone”, and had made up my mind (seeing he, or they, know not its value) to offer them 10 guineas for it, & pay all expenses to have it returned to me; but recently I have received a letter from Mr Enys, President of P.A. & N.H. Society, in which he—in a friendly way as I knew him here in N.Z.)—writes respecting the slab—of its being a great acquisition—of its value, &c.—& how pleased he was to see it, & to read my paper respecting it: Mr Enys being also a Member of our N.Z. Institute. In replying to his kind letter I have plainly told him (as above) that I was about to make that offer through you as I (or we) had been badly treated. If I send a Moss, or a Fern, or a shell, or even a copy of a paper, to any Society at Home—Brit. Museum, Royal, or Linnean Society, I get a handsome letter of thanks, not merely from a Secy., but voted & recorded at their Meeting: but this treatment (as I take it) is not new to me, nor the first from this Penz. Society; hence, too, it was,

that I ceased writing any more papers for them, seeing their old maids & young parsonettes carried things their own way. I could say pretty much on this head—but I refrain: folks that were not of Penzance, nor even Cornish! had too much to say, in former years, in the said N.H. Society: and now it is dwindled down to the having picnic jaunts—visiting old churches, &c, & listening to a lot of half spurious ecclesiastical talk—from young High Ch. (Half-Romish) Curates, &c, &c, and so congratulate each other and think highly of themselves! But enough of that. —

The Royal Geological Society of Cornwall did, in time, show its gratitude. In October 1898 it elected Rev. William Colenso to the select ranks of its Honorary Fellowship.

I can find no mention of this in Colenso’s last letters and suspect he never knew he had been recognised in such a way: he died in February 1899.

John Davies Enys

The other donor to the RGSC museum in November 1896 was John Davies Enys 1837–1912, who gave three fossil brachiopods from the northern Cornish village of Delabole. It was he who wrote to Colenso, acknowledging the value and interest of his slab.

A brief biography of Enys is at <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2e10/enys-john-davies>. He was in New Zealand from 1861 to 1891 as a runholder and naturalist, succeeding to the family seat in Cornwall in 1906.

Enys and Colenso exchanged letters and specimens in August 1880 (ATL Ms-Papers-0670-1) and Enys called on Colenso on his way to England in May 1883, taking a packet of seeds from Colenso to Kew.

In 1898 Colenso wrote to Coupland Harding, “a long letter (reply) to hand from Mr. Enys (for many years a large sheep farmer Canterbury) now at Home in old family mansion in Cornwall, & chairman of Societies, &c, &c, there.” (ATL qMS-0499).

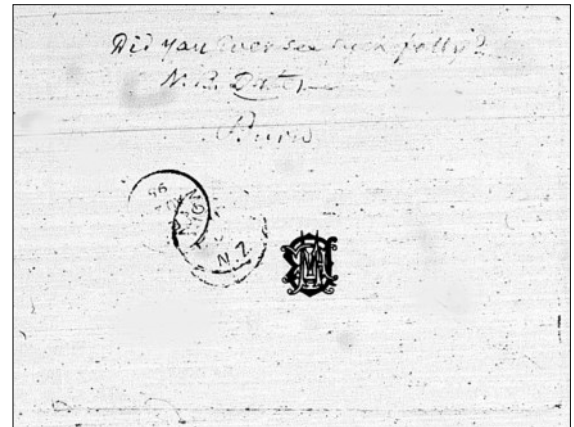


John
Davies
Enys

An invitation to Penzance

In August 1895 William E Baily FES sent an invitation to the Rev William Colenso to view the collections of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society of which he was the President before Enys. The invitation may have been a symbolic gesture recognising the donation of greenstone but Colenso thought it was just silly. He sent it to Coupland Harding, commenting in pencil on the back of the envelope, “Did you ever see such folly? N.B. Dates.— Burn”.

Harding kept it.
(ATL MS-Papers-Micro-0485-1).



Rehousing the Colenso memorial tablet

by Ann Collins

When Ian asked Gwil and me, in July 2016, if we knew anything about the whereabouts of the Colenso Memorial Tablet I went to the website for the Penzance Public Library looking for a contact address and discovered that the Library had moved on March 8, 2016, to the recently renovated St John's Hall. There was no information about the ownership or future of the building in Morrab Road, so I sent a general enquiry to the Penzance Town Council. The principal administrator, Teresa Fogarty, replied the next day that she had walked around the building and could not see the tablet, but would make further inquiries. In the meantime, Gwil had replied with a photograph of the tablet – but he could not remember where he had seen it around the library.

About ten days later Teresa reported that the Town Council did not have access to the closed building, which was now owned by the Cornwall Council or Penwith College. I then sent a query to both of them, with Gwil's photograph attached. Peter Ward, Premises/Estates

Manager with the Truro & Penwith College and Simon Adams, with COR-MAC Ltd, consulting contractor with the Cornwall Council both replied. Simon also extended the search to the Library Council and the Cornwall

Rural Community Charity. He expected delayed responses as it was now August – the summer holidays in the Northern Hemisphere.

On August 19, Simon reported success in finding the tablet in a room of one of the Council Offices marked for closure. He moved it to his own office in St John's Hall for safekeeping. He also started discussions with Adam Birchall, the Strategic Property Manager for the Cornwall County Council, who had played a significant part in the renovation of St John's Hall. On August 30, Simon informed me that the Cornwall Council was more than happy to accommodate the tablet within the main entrance lobby of St John's Hall.

The Penzance Public Buildings were opened in 1867. The large public hall in the centre of the building is actually St John's Hall. The east and west wings were owned by the Corporation of Penzance and the Royal Geological Society of Cornwall. It was built with Lamorna granite and is the largest granite building in Europe. The top step is the largest piece of granite used in a building. The following link is to a short film about its history and restoration (Cornwall Rural Community Charity film, accessible from <https://www.cornwallrcc.org.uk/restoring-st-johns-hall/>).

It is a good home for the memorial tablet because it is now the Penzance Library, still the home of the Geological Society and almost across Alverton Road from William's childhood home, which had been demolished around 1880 to build Morrab Road.



Simon moved on to another project, but after a visit to the Hall he sent me several photographs of the cleaned and polished tablet in its new position outside the entrance to the Mayor's Parlour.

All of the people I approached in Cornwall & Penzance about the Memorial Tablet were keen to find it and give it a new home. I thank them and particularly Simon Adams for ensuring that William Colenso will continue to be remembered in his home town.

Another recently found connection is that Messrs R Colenso & Sons, the decorating company started by Richard Veale Thomas Colenso, William's brother, and continued by his sons William and Richard were decorators for the 1907 renovation of the building. This clipping described the re-opening ceremony and the interior design (*The Cornish Telegraph*, June 17 1907).



THE RE-OPENING OF ST. JOHN'S HALL.

MR. H. C. TONKING'S ORGAN RECITAL.

After a much-needed renovation St. John's Hall is to be re-opened on Friday in a most fitting manner, Mr. H. C. Tonking, the celebrated Cornish organist (who enjoys the great distinction of being organist at the Royal Albert Hall and Queen's Hall concerts), will give a recital, being assisted by Miss Winifred Broad (violin), Miss Ethel Broad (violin), and Mr. Aldrovand Maynard (the African tenor). Mr. Tonking has arranged a programme which, whilst giving himself and his artistes plenty of scope to display their powers, will appeal to the general public, and as the prices of admission are within the reach of all, there should be a crowded audience.

Not before it was badly wanted have the interior of St. John's Hall and the adjoining halls, lobbies, etc., been renovated, and the really pleasing effect which has been achieved does great credit to the decorators (Messrs. R. Colenso and Son) and has justified the directors in placing the work in the hands of such a competent firm. The walls of the hall have been painted in a pale emerald tint, a shade which is peculiarly suited to such a place, being both soft and restful. This is set off in a most effective manner by a frieze of an original and pleasing design in colour which harmonises very nicely. The colour scheme of the balcony accords excellently with the general design, and the gold reliefs, whilst striking, are not too pronounced. The whole effect is certainly brightened by the colour chosen for the ceiling, a cheerful though restful grey, with white girders. The same shade of green has been used for the walls of the Lecture Hall, the frieze used here being swallows in flight. The design for this is also original, and has been well carried out. The gallery in St. John's Hall and the doors have been regrained, and the latter have been relieved with gold round the panels. Other parts of the building have also come in for renovation. Messrs. Colenso are to be congratulated on the effect achieved, which displays a high order of decorative skill. Another change which will strike frequenters has been brought about in the lighting arrangements. The old pendants have disappeared, and there have given place to artistic double-burner incandescent lamps ranged round the walls. These, which are on the Sugg system, were designed by Mr. P. Latham (borough engineer), and a very pretty and striking shell-like reflector at the back of each set of burners not only enhances the effect but increases the brilliancy of the light. St. John's Hall in its improved form is certainly a hall more in keeping with the character of the building and the nature of its requirements than has hitherto been the case.

A sentimental pilchard or two...

Rev. William Colenso wrote to his nephew William Colenso in Penzance on 8 March 1876,

If you can manage it: without great trouble, I should like for you to send me a case (100 tin boxes, perhaps in a case) of the New Sardines,—or Pilchards put up Sardine fashion: I see there is a store at Mevagissey, and I believe one also at Newlyn near you. The cost I will immediately remit with thanks, indeed I would send the amount now if I knew how much. If you send any—they should be “halve” (the larger size boxes or tins), and of the Best quality.

The Cornish papers of the late nineteenth century are full of proud pieces on the great work of Cornwall’s sons in the antipodes, almost to the point that everything they did became newsworthy.

They are also full of news of the seasonal migrations of fish and the fishing catch.

The *Cornish Telegraph* of 30 December 1882,

“It is a far cry from Mousehole to New Zealand, but thither Mr Bernard Victor has despatched to his friend, Mr W. Colenso, who takes such an interest in Dolly Pentreath’s memory, 200 of the finest pickled herrings caught off our coast this season.

The *Cornishman* of 6 April 1899,

While on the subject of these demands let us at once quote a letter which shows that marinated delicacies have reached New Zealand, and been thoroughly appreciated, as this note well shows:—

“J. Causewayhead, Penzance, March 25, 1899.—Dear sirs,—I have much pleasure in stating that the marinated pilchards, &c., in glass caskets which I ordered for the late Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., F.L.S., Napier, New Zealand, arrived safely and in perfect condition; and, in a letter received since his decease but written before his illness, he says they were much enjoyed and appreciated by himself and many friends to whom he had distributed them.—I remain, yours truly, RICHARD COLENSO.—Messrs. Kember, Harvey, and White.”

We may feel assured that while Mr. Colenso enjoyed once more a pilchard from Mount’s Bay, carefully prepared and delicately seasoned near the base of the platform that formerly led out to the submarine Wherry mine, he thought again and again of the pleasant days of his boyhood and of the work and aspirations of the young printer, and of laudable ambitions nurtured by a talented man, resolved to be usefully occupied and to rise in life.

But we must be back to the practical. Since the weather is more settled and the fish have come Mr. Harvey has been increasingly busy not only in arranging each

Dorothy Pentreath 1692–1777 known as Dolly, was a speaker of the Cornish language and a fisherwoman of Mousehole.



Dolly Pentreath in a 1781 engraving (with pilchards) ►

CORNISHMEN'S PART IN BUILDING COLONY

Fame Won In New Zealand

RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL, AND SOCIAL SERVICE WORK

Cornishmen, pioneers and Empire builders all over the world, have left their mark in the work they have done in laying the foundations of New Zealand, which is this year celebrating the centenary of its foundation as a British Colony.

With every glimpse in the mining they have emigrated, and when the industrial revolution came to New Zealand, and did much to develop it.

ONE of the first and best known of the Cornish pioneers was Rev. William Colenso, the son of humble parents, at St. Austell. On arrival in New Zealand, one of Colenso's first jobs was to translate the Scriptures into Maori for the natives. He established a printing press at Pahiia, from which there poured a continuous stream of religious literature, including the first completed edition of the New Testament in Maori. The Scriptures revealed a new side to the Maori character, an intense desire to acquire the sister arts of reading and writing, and a love of the poetry of the Bible, which seemed to them to be like their orally-transmitted chants and songs.

Colenso was a many-sided man. He was a botanist, and an explorer, and covered hundreds of miles into the unknown interior at great risk, and learnt much of the flora of the country. He was a man of pronounced views, as a Calvinist, often ere, and in later years, when he became Bishop of Natal, having done much useful pioneer work in New Zealand, he startled the religious world by going through the Pentateuch in the algebraic spirit of a mathematician, and showed that Moses's mother must have been 256 years old when the infant child was found in the bullrushes.

Alongside the work of the Anglican Church, the Nonconformist missionaries.

John Williams, a Wesleyan Minister, General, educated at Helston Grammar School, qualified for the ministry at Bristol Theological Institution, and became the chairman of the South Australian Congregational Union.

Fifty years old when he came to this country as delegate to the International Council in London, he was minister of the Tyburn Church at Wellington.

POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

It is well worth a life in New Zealand. Cornishmen were to be found. One of the most important names that found the Colony was Sir Robert Stout's appreciation of James FitzGerald, the first Premier of New Zealand, with Colenso was "a united base of philosophical Radicalism-Liberalism, placed on the true foundations of science and philosophy, and not on a system of cheating the passing generation of the populace."

One of those who were given a prominent position in official circles in New Zealand was Capt. Hugh Bowen, who was born in the Cornish, pre-eminently the best of the FitzGerald, nephew of the Earl of Falkland, and cousin of Gen. Buller. Early in life he had an adventurous career, being at Assam during the Jamaica rising, and, taking part in the Ashanti war, was present at the taking of Kumbasi. Capt. Bowen was the private secretary to the Governor of New Zealand (Lord Chelmsford), and afterwards to another (Lord Bathurst). He also did much useful work on the Colony's Land Department.

Though not strictly a Cornishman, Mr. W. G. Stair could claim Cornish descent. His mother having been a Miss Elizabeth Purker, whose parents lived in Cornwall. When the natives threatened the successful development of the Colony in the early years of the Stair, when the Auckland delegate, Cavendish, in several ways, and in later years, the Colony as a resident magistrate. Government native agent, and judge of the Native Land Court and Appellate Court for 30 years.

BORN AT PENZANCE Held Important Posts In Several Governments

No towns in Cornwall made a greater contribution to New Zealand than Penzance. The Hon. Richard Oliver, who was born at Penzance in 1831, married a Penzance lady, Miss Ellen Purchase, and after her death Miss Louise d'Enn Courtney, sister of Lord Courtney of Penwith, whose parents lived at Aber-

Local boys make good...

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Er, no, not St Austell but Penzance.

Er, no, it was William Williams who did the translating: Colenso did the printing.

Ah, goodness me, no: he didn't become Bishop of Natal: that was his cousin John William Colenso (who actually was born at St Austell).