

FEBRUARY

## COLENSO

DEVOTED TO  
THE LIFE AND WORK OF  
THE REVEREND WILLIAM COLENSO FRS FLS 1811-1899

2011

The Colenso Society Inc, 22 Orchard St, 6012  
Wellington, New Zealand:



*William Colenso*

WILLIAM COLENSO  
BICENTENARY

A CELEBRATION  
OF HIS LIFE  
AND IDEAS

HAWKE'S BAY  
9-13 NOVEMBER 2011

2011 IS THE 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE BIRTH OF  
WILLIAM COLENSO

A printer and missionary, explorer and botanist, an MP and author  
– William Colenso was an intellectual maverick.

Controversial, opinionated, insightful and passionate, he had a keen appreciation of what it was to be an inhabitant of these shores in its earliest incarnation as a world of Maori and Pakeha. It is only today that we can see William Colenso in the round: a talented polymath, at home crossing the Ruahines, providing Kew Gardens with knowledge of New Zealand plants, or writing and printing the only published eyewitness account of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi.

To celebrate the life and ideas of Colenso – one of the fathers of New Zealand – on the bicentenary of his birth, Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery is planning a programme of events from 9 to 13 November 2011 centred on an academic conference.



PLEASE CONTACT  
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HBMAG invites expressions of interest from individuals and organisations wishing to be involved in the William Colenso Bicentenary celebrations.

The aim of the Bicentenary is to explore the breadth of Colenso's life and ideas, so there are many ways to be involved whether your interest lies in botany, theology, New Zealand history, education or politics.

If you would like to put together a panel discussion, suggest a forum, lead a workshop or host a bicentenary event we'd like to hear from you!



Registrations will open and a call for conference papers will be released in early 2011.

# Penzance missionary-botanist printed New Testament in Maori tongue

BY A. G. K. LEONARD

**M**ANY an adventurous Cornishman of the last century pioneered in far-flung corners of the Empire, but none can have travelled so far or made so many different contributions to the development of his adopted country as did William Colenso.

The long and active life of this Penzance printer spanned all but twelve years of the 19th century; he spent the last 65 of them in New Zealand, in whose history he has his place not only as the country's first printer, but as missionary, botanist, explorer, politician, Maori scholar, historian, and educationist.

His story is now little known in the West-country, and it is appropriate that it should be recalled at a time when the New Zealand Province of Hawke's Bay is celebrating its centenary, for Colenso's connection with the region extended over 55 years and he was the first white man to take up permanent residence in the area, where now stands the capital, Napier.

## EARLY DAYS

No part of New Zealand has changed so much in the last 100 years as the coastal lowlands of Hawke's Bay. In configuration and appearance the area now differs greatly from what Colenso saw, when he established his lonely mission station there in 1844.

Thousands of acres of land have been reclaimed from water, rivers have had their courses changed, miles of swamps have been drained and laid out as market gardens, orchards, and pasture, while inland stretch the vast sheep-runs on which the prosperity of the province is based.

The man who witnessed the beginnings of these great developments was born on November 7, 1811, at Penzance, in a large stone house in Market Jew-street later demolished for street widening.

He was the first of eight children in the family of Samuel May Colenso, member of an ancient Cornish family long established in the town, a saddler of some substance and a town councillor, who had married Mary Veale Thomas, the daughter of a local solicitor.

Young William received a useful education at Will Purchase's private school, which left him with a thirst for further knowledge, to which was added intense religious interests.

## SHORE RAMBLES

He began studying for the medical profession, but in 1826 was apprenticed to John Thomas to learn "the art of a printer, bookbinder, and stationer"—beginning at a shilling a week, rising by the same amount annually until the end of his six-year term.

Colenso faithfully worked this out at his master's printing house in East-street, proving himself most painstaking and proficient in his trade. Thomas was also a publisher; his able apprentice is believed to have helped write the handbook of local history issued in 1831 and doubtless seized every opportunity to read the books on the shelves.

In his leisure time he delighted to ramble the shores or the hills behind the town and developed an interest in botany, which led him to his membership of the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society—before whom he read his first paper at the age of 18. In those days, he devoured every work on African travel he could obtain and aspired to research and exploration in Central Africa. A little later he solemnly resolved to dedicate his whole life to God's work.

At 21 he found a position at St. Ives, but when this came to an end and he could find nothing else in the area, he set out for London,

armed with letters of recommendation from ministers of various denominations in Penzance. Thanks to these, he quickly obtained a post with Richard Watts and Son, of Temple Bar, printers to the missionary societies.

Colenso's life in London must have been a lonely one, for he shunned the pleasures of the City he thought "a sink of iniquity." In his lodgings he spent his evenings writing articles for a religious periodical. One of these was sent to Watts for printing, and its author's handwriting was recognised. This event set the pattern for his life-work, for the chance revelation of his interest in missionary work brought an introduction to the Lay secretary of the Church Missionary Society, then seeking a printer to establish a missionary press for the benefit of the Maoris in New Zealand.

Colenso was greatly attracted at the prospect. In April, 1834, he visited Cornwall to say farewell to his family and friends and in May began the long, slow voyage to Sydney. There followed a troublesome passage to New Zealand, so that not until the end of December was the printer able to land with his equipment at the mission station at Paihia, in the Bay of Islands towards the north of New Zealand.

### **MAORI BOOK**

Ingenuously improvising to overcome the inadequacies of his equipment—in the selection of which he had unfortunately not been consulted—Colenso set to work almost immediately.

No paper had accompanied the press, but the missionaries were able to make enough available to allow him to print 2,000 copies of a Maori version of St. Paul's Epistles to the Ephesians and Philippians. The booklet had perforce to be bound in pink blotting paper, but otherwise the young Cornishman set a very high standard of production with this, the first book to be printed in New Zealand.

The Maoris displayed an insatiable demand for reading matter of all kinds. "Koroneho" — the nearest the natives could get to pronouncing his name—did his best to meet it with tracts, school books, and excerpts from the

Scriptures.

All through 1836-37 he toiled at composing and printing — 5,000 copies on a hand press taking only two pages at a time—a complete Maori New Testament, translated by the missionary, the Rev. W. Williams. Half of these Colenso bound himself, then he produced 4,000 copies of the complete Prayer Book in Maori, and made a start on a native version of the Old Testament.

### **MET DARWIN**

Of this period, he later wrote in his autobiography: "I may truly say that for years I never knew a day of rest; Sundays and week-days, day and night, it was work, work, work. For, in addition to the constant work of the printing press, &c., there was the daily Maori school for men and boys and the whole of the preparing and dispensing of medicine and the issuing of rations for the sick all roundabout.

"I had also to learn the Maori language, on which my heart was set, as best I could, and soon had a share allotted to me of conducting the English divine services on Sundays."

In 1840 Colenso did much official printing in connection with the proclamation of British sovereignty over New Zealand and the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi—of which events he was 50 years later to write the only authentic eye-witness history.

Understandably, he found his onerous duties increasingly irksome and longed to use some of the output of his press in active missionary work among the Maoris, in whose language he had made himself very proficient. Linked with the desire to spread the Gospel in new areas was Colenso's growing enthusiasm for exploration and scientific discovery.

A meeting with Darwin when the "Beagle" visited the Bay of Islands in 1835 had rekindled his botanical interests, which were further strengthened by excursions with such notable visitors, as the Exeter-born botanist J. C. Bidwell and Sir J. D. Hooker, later director of Kew Gardens, whose valued collaborator, correspondent, and supplier Colenso was to be for half a century.

## EXPLORATION

He was not granted a holiday from his printing until 1838. Then, and on every subsequent occasion when opportunity offered, he undertook lengthy and strenuous inland and coastal journeys of exploration, collecting numerous insects, ferns, shells, geological and other specimens, as well as studying at first hand Maori customs, lore, and legend.

In the early 1840s he began contributing papers on his discoveries and observations to the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science* and the *London Journal of Botany*, gradually establishing himself as an authority, whom Hooker could later justly acclaim as "in every respect the foremost New Zealand botanical explorer."

The arrival of a relief printer in 1842 made it possible for Colenso to seek ordination as a deacon. Two years later he was given the task of establishing a mission station at Ahuriri.

Colenso had married a missionary's daughter the previous year, and in this lonely spot he had first to make a home for his family, organise the erection of mission buildings, and set up his printing press, then face the challenge of converting and ministering to a Maori population scattered over some 10,000 square miles — nearly a quarter of the North Island.

## SUSPENDED

So the Cornishman laboured for eight years, zealously serving his Maori flock and trying to ease the impact on them of the rising tide of white traders and settlers.

He exercised a powerful influence and accomplished much, but personal tragedy ended this phase of his career in 1852. Domestic unhappiness placed a severe strain upon Colenso and his solitary lapse from the austere high standards he had so long maintained produced an unfortunate scandal which, with the victim boldly facing the consequences and scorning deceit, led an unsympathetic bishop to suspend him from missionary duties.

Colenso made a fresh start in the rapidly-developing township of Napier and found a new outlet for his abilities in public life and local politics. When Hawke's Bay was for-

mally established as the seventh province of New Zealand at the end of 1858, he was elected to the first Provincial Council and served on that body for most of the period until 1876.

He held office as Provincial Treasurer and Auditor and also represented Napier in the colonial Parliament during the 1860's. In the following decade Colenso did valuable work as the local inspector of schools, and when he retired from official duties in 1878 at the age of 66 he still had before him 22 more years to devote to scientific and literary pursuits.

He resumed his botanical excursions and worked for years on a Maori dictionary, a vast project which, unfortunately, was never completed.

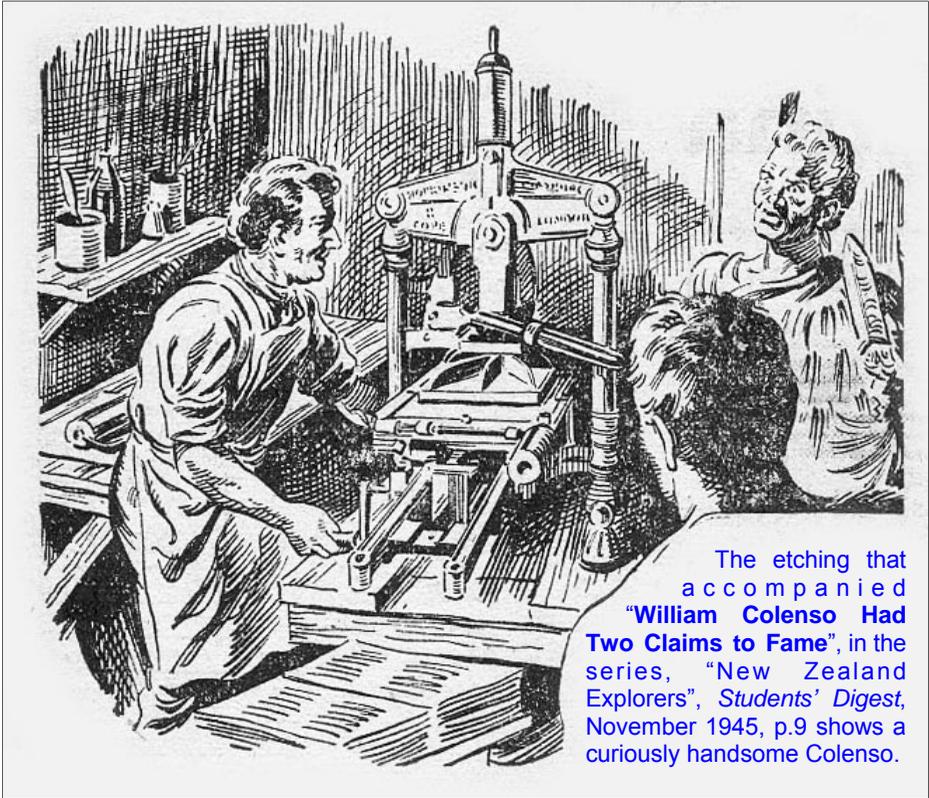
## MADE F.R.S.

In London the Royal Society paid tribute to his life's work by electing him a Fellow in 1886. Colenso maintained an immense correspondence with men who shared his scientific and other interests, and also kept in close touch with friends and relatives in his native county, where his two sons had made their homes.

One of them, Latimer Colenso, visited New Zealand in 1895 to see his ageing but still active father who was then busily engaged as a relieving clergyman to Napier churches, his closing years having been gladdened by reinstatement in the service he had left 40 years previously.

Colenso longed to revisit Cornwall, to which his thoughts often returned. He had cases of Cornish pilchards sent out to him, he sent papers and specimens to the Penzance Natural History Society, and remembered his native town with generous gifts for the benefit of the poor. He is even said to have introduced the primrose and blackberry into New Zealand from seeds sent to him from Penzance.

It is appropriate that his last work, published in 1899, the year of his death, should have been "Remarks respecting some of the tin mines of Cornwall." It was 65 years since he had last seen them.



The etching that accompanied "William Colenso Had Two Claims to Fame", in the series, "New Zealand Explorers", *Students' Digest*, November, 1945, p.9 shows a curiously handsome Colenso.

I enquired of the Courtney Library, Royal Institution of Cornwall, Truro as to whether they held any Colenso documents or specimens. They had one short letter from Colenso to Enys, but also noted, "The only (other) references to him are three donations: 2 horseshoe bats donated 1829 and 1830 (circa) and the egg of a green parrot donated in circa 1847. There are no History files with any additional information. N.B. These donations are listed in the RIC journals – there is no guarantee that they still exist as much of the Natural History collection remains to be catalogued." That wasn't actually the last North Island kakapo. They became extinct here about 100 years later—Ed.

“To give you something to browse on from the 'old country' we have just launched the Cornwall Artists Index, and we hope you will put it on your favourites list and visit often. We have already (one week live!) had further information on artists from Australia, USA, India and around the UK, which we are busy incorporating into our master list. We will appreciate your correction and help with development. Please visit: [www.wcaa.org.uk](http://www.wcaa.org.uk) or simply put Cornwall Artists Index into your search engine.

Happy holidays.... All at the Hypatia Trust and the West Cornwall Art Archive, Penzance, Cornwall.”

# The botanist in Sikkim

(Reprinted from the NZ Botanical Society's Newsletter with permission)

In the course of researching the Rev. William Colenso's correspondence to Sir Joseph Hooker, I found a passage (written by Colenso in January 1893 from Napier after returning from Woodville) describing a painting of Hooker, painted by William Tayler, and lent to Colenso by his friend Andrew Luff.

... a letter (dated Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>. 1892) came from an old friend at Wellington, containing these words: —

*"I have decided to forward you the picture of which I formerly wrote, viz. Sir J. Hooker on the hills in India gathering specimens of the Rhododendron: it is a pretty picture & true. I think it will afford you some pleasure, therefore I send it to you – to hang up in one of your rooms. I lend it to you – it is not for sale and I do not wish it copied. It was painted by an Indian acquaintance of Sir J. Hooker, from whom I purchased it."* -

... I will describe it...

Size – frame, 3.0 x 2.6, glazed.

Size – drawing, 2.2 x 1.5.

*Fine woodland scenery & creeper, high range snowy mts. in background. You (very large!) seated under a high tree, in a smart coloured robe or gown, with coloured trousers and big shoes, points turned up & a round tartar's cap, with specs. and very fair face looking as sedate as a judge (side face only).*

*A woman behind standing with a long vert. spear, or rod, and a large quantity of big showy bouquets of flowers on the ground by her feet – all colours! –*

*A woman before you kneeling presenting flowers – well clothed, a black dog sitting upright by her side (nearly as sedate as yourself!) and with Gold-leaf eyes!!! looking so funny.*

*Two smartly dressed yg. men (in uniform – Indian?) at your right.*

*Two women in further foreground (or front of you) one w. a branch of flowers & one topping another & all w. big knives. [1]*

Colenso wrote again later to Hooker

*I have received another letter from my old Wellington friend the kind lender of the big picture I mentioned in my last, I extract from it for your information or amusement, – the following: –*

*"Glad you were pleased w. the picture. The Painter of it, (a Mr Taylor, I think, was the name,) a Commissioner in Govt. Serv. for years in India, explained to me, he had suggested if not lent the dress (a Chinese gown) to Sir J. Hooker: that those natives were his attendants, and of the small hill tribe: the Dog, I did not question him about: the Natives carry very long knives. It was a picture that most pleased me of his collection which was not so complete when I saw it, as some of his paintings had been previously purchased for some Institution in London. I have some further notes of these paintings, but have not them now handy". [2]*

Hooker's replies to Colenso's letters have not survived, and nor have the owner's notes on the picture.

## Hooker in the Himalayas

Hooker was in the Himalayas in 1847-50.

Huxley (1918) reproduced the sketch, “begun in February and finished during April (1849) on Tayler’s later visit to Darjeeling”, and quoted JD Hooker’s letter home to his father at some length [3]

*...what I might call an Angel’s visit from Mr. William Tayler, the Postmaster-General for India, brother to Frederick Tayler the artist... a highly accomplished man and a splendid sketcher; and we became friends in a very few hours....*

*He is pleased to desire my sitting in the foreground surrounded by my Lepchas and the romantic-looking Ghorka guard, inspecting the contents of a vasculum full of plants, which I have collected during the supposed day’s march. My Lepcha Sirdar (which means Great man’s Head man) is kneeling before me on the ground, taking the plants out of the box, that in his hand being a splendid bunch of Dendrobium nobile. He is picturesquely attired in costume, with a large pigtail. Another is behind me; the Ghorka Havildar and Lepchas, in their picturesque uniforms, are looking on, and my big Bhotea dog lies at my feet. On one side two Lepchas are making my blanket tent house, cutting Bamboos &c. I am in a forest, sitting on the stump of a tree, with the Snowy mountains in the background; and a great mass of Ferns and Rhododendrons, brought in by another man, are on the ground close to me.*

*My dress was the puzzle, but it was finally agreed that I should be as I was when in my best, a Thibetan in the main, with just so much of English peeping out as should proclaim me no Bhotea, and as much of the latter as should vouchsafe my being a person of rank in the character. So I have on a large, loose, worsted Bhotea cloak, with very loose sleeves; it is all stripes of blue, green, white, and red, and lined with scarlet. Enough is thrown back to show English Pantaloon, and my lower extremities cased in Bhotea boots. My shirt collar is romantically loose and open, with a blue neckerchief, which and my projecting shirt wrists, show the Englishman. My cap is also Thibetan, and only to be described thus: it is of pale grey felt, the upturned border stiff and bound with thin, black silk ribbon. On the top is a silver-mounted pebble, and a peacock’s feather floats down my back. The latter are marks of rank.[4]*

## William Tayler

Huxley’s footnote says, “William Tayler (1808-92) was an Indian civilian who about this time was Postmaster-General of Bengal. His skill in portrait painting made him many friends: his caricatures some enemies”. Tayler had written in his autobiography that he had “the uncontrollable propensity to discover in almost all events the elements of the comic”. He admitted that “this irresistible love of the comic ... in the course of my career ... frequently led to caricatures either of pen or pencil, satirical criticisms, or half-concealed ridicule, and ... at times excited the displeasure of certain ‘grave and reverend seniors,’ and brought down upon me the censure of offended officialdom” [5]

Tayler sketched (and J. Bouvier lithographed) three distinctly satirical scenes of foppish Britons being attended hand and foot by several much more upright-looking Indian servants [6]. They are called “The young civilian’s toilet” (Fig.1), “The breakfast” and “The young lady’s toilet”. They are reminiscent of Hogarth’s engravings, with their caustic ridicule of the follies of society.

I think Tayler’s “The Botanist in Sikkim” (Fig.2) makes a similarly acerbic social comment on Hooker, with his assumed rank emphasized by indigenous finery, and his retinue of servants attending to his every need. Colenso thought it “funny”, and Hooker’s account (above) seems vaguely amused or embarrassed – or perhaps just perplexed. In any case, if indeed Tayler had exploited Hooker’s vanity by taking the opportunity for a little satirical moral commentary, Hooker either took it in good part – or just didn’t realise he was being lampooned.

Walter Hood Fitch copied the sketch and Frank Stone copied the copy. Fitch’s copy, originally owned by Captain JS Hooker, is now in the collec-

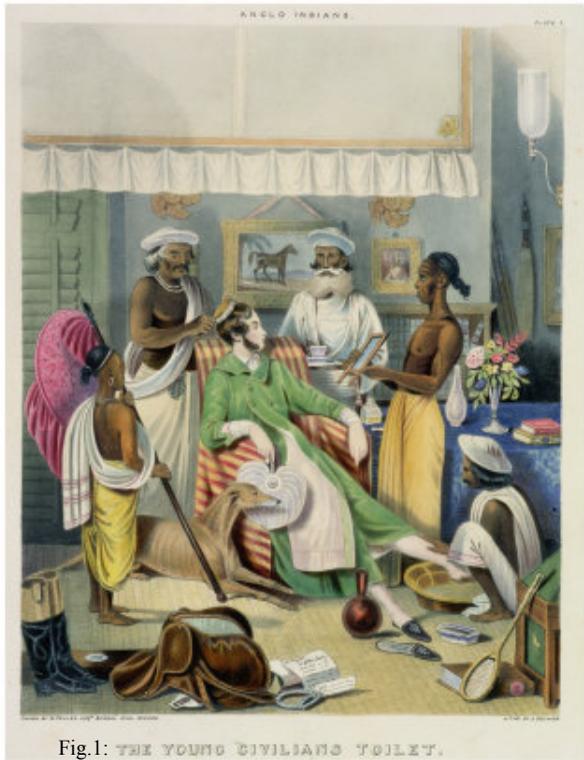


Fig.2: William Tayler’s picture of Joseph Hooker in Sikkim being offered gifts of fruit and plants. Among them are rhododendrons. The dog is Kinchin.

tion of Rachel Lambert Mellon of the Oak Spring Garden Library, Upperville, Virginia; Stone's copy belonged to Lady Hooker when Huxley was writing. Desmond (1999) reproduced the Fitch and Stone copies [7]. He referred to the original as a "canvas" suggesting it was an oil, though Huxley had called it a "sketch". Allen also reproduced a copy [8].

Enquiries at Kew about the Tayler original have turned up no trace of it. According to Huxley, "The botanist in Sikkim" belonged to Dr Charles Hooker of Cirencester. It may still be in the possession of Hooker's descendents. In any case, it is unlikely to be the one lent to Colenso in 1893, suggesting that Tayler made a copy.

### **The painting in New Zealand**

The friend who sent Colenso the painting from Wellington in 1892 was Andrew Luff, a Londoner who had worked in Napier in the 1860s in the Crown Lands Office, and later as Government Life Insurance and land agent. He returned to London in 1874, and probably bought the painting from Tayler on that visit. (25 years after it was first painted, supporting the notion that it was a copy).

Colenso wrote to Luff in letters spanning 1877-1893 [9]. The 24 September 1892 letter from Dannevirke refers to the picture. Colenso's letter to RC Harding of 22 October 1896 relates his returning the picture to Luff, who wanted it "for exhibition" – perhaps the Wellington Industrial Exhibition of 1896-1897.

Was the painting handed down to Andrew Luff's descendants? A search in the National Archives for the Luff wills revealed, quite by chance, a file headed "... Portrait of Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker – Purchase of from Mrs A. Luff." It contained a letter dated 6 May 1938 from the Alexander Turnbull Librarian CRH Taylor to JW Heenan, Under-Secretary for Internal Affairs, and Heenan's letter of 11 May 1938 to FH Bass, Secretary of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum Board of Trustees. The latter reads,

*Dear Sir*

*I have received the following memorandum from the Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library: –*

*"Portrait of Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker.*

*"Mr. Palmer of Whitcombe & Tombs recently advised me that a water colour portrait of the above-named is in the possession of a Mrs. A. Luff, of 44 Overtoun Terrace, Hataitai. It was done by W. Taylor (author of "Thirty-eight years in India", wherein he mentions the picture) and was known to Colenso at least.*

*"I suggest that it might be a desirable item for the Portrait Gallery, and is probably procurable, as the owner is agreeable to sell.*

*"If you think the matter worth pursuing, I should be glad to get in touch with Mr. Palmer again anent opening negotiations."*

*Before considering the matter further I should be glad if you would seek the advice of the special committee set up at the last meeting of the Board of Trustees with a view to ascertaining whether Dr. Sir J.D. Hooker is a figure of sufficient national importance to warrant his portrait being placed in the National Portrait Gallery.*

*Yours faithfully*

*J.W. Heenan*

*Under-Secretary.[10]*

According to the electoral roll for 1938, the occupants of 44 Over-toun Tce Hataitai were Lucy Blanche Luff (Andrew Luff's eldest son Henry Channon Luff's widow), and her son Edgar Channon Luff, then a clerk.

There seems little doubt this was the painting Andrew Luff lent Colenso – and it was a watercolour (though Colenso had called it a “drawing”). Did the intended National Portrait Gallery buy it?

Probably not. There is no trace of it at Te Papa, whose Pictorial Section inherited the paintings in the National Gallery (which in turn holds the paintings intended for the aborted National Portrait Gallery).

There is no mention of it in the minutes of meetings of the Board of Trustees of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum in 1938 and 1939. Dr Oliver, the scientist most likely of all the Board members to encourage its purchase, was abroad; the Board was preoccupied with the forthcoming Centennial Art Exhibition and most paintings acquired then were those by New Zealand artists. The minutes record in 1939 that “Articulation of the skeleton of Phar Lap (is) nearly completed” [11].

Enquiry addressed to every Luff in the Wellington phonebook in December 2008 drew no responses.

Has this important painting of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, William Tayler's c.1874, 26 x 17 inch, watercolour copy of his 1849 original “The Botanist in Sikkim”, which hung in William Colenso's parlour, survived in private hands or in a public collection somewhere in New Zealand?

## References

1. Colenso W to Hooker JD 24 January 1893. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew JDH/2/1/4 Letters to Joseph Hooker, Vol IV: p137; Alexander Turnbull Library Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 27: E485.
2. Colenso W to Hooker JD 21 February 1893. Royal Botanic Gardens Kew JDH/2/1/4 Letters to Joseph Hooker, Vol IV: p140; Alexander Turnbull Library Micro-Ms-Coll-10 Reel 27: E494.
3. Hooker JD to Hooker WJ 25 April 1849. In Huxley L. *Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker OM, GCSI*. 2 vols, London, John Murray, 1918.
4. Huxley L. *Life and Letters of Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker OM, GCSI*. 2 vols, London, John Murray, 1918.
5. Tayler W. *Thirty-eight years in India*. Vol.1. First published London 1881. Bibhash Gupta micrograph edition, Calcutta, 1987.
6. Tayler W. *Sketches illustrating the manner and customs of Indian and Anglo-Indians*, London, 1842.
7. Desmond R. *Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, traveller and plant collector*, London, Antique Collectors' Club, 1999.
8. Allen, Mea. *The Hookers of Kew*. Michael Joseph Ltd, 1967.
9. Colenso W to Luff A, letters. Alexander Turnbull Library, Ms-Copy-micro-485 Reel 4.
10. Heenan JW to Bass FH 11 May 1938. New Zealand National Archives, IA Series 124, Sub-no.13 The Mr Palmer referred to must be Melville Cedric Palmer (1908?-1987), then manager of Whitcombe & Tombs.
11. Minutes of the Board of the National Art Gallery and Dominion Museum. New Zealand National Archives. Agency IA (Internal Affairs), Series 1, 114/2/3 Parts 1-2.

*After this paper was published in the NZ Botanical Society's Newsletter, a reader emailed me remembering the painting hanging outside the library in the old Kirk building at Victoria University. That library was associated with the Royal Society, but my enquiries at the University and the Society drew no further information.*

## Pioneer women

**M**ike Stone, Woodville teacher and historian, drew my attention to a piece in a 1940 publication: *Tales of pioneer women, collected by the Women's Institutes of New Zealand* [1].

### The Huia [1]

by N.M. Burnett, President of the Woodville Women's Institute

"Fifty years ago the Huia was plentiful in the Woodville-Kumeroa district, and the Maoris would often come to shoot these birds for their feathers, which were highly prized, being worn by the chiefs in their hair.

"One Sunday morning about the year 1885, I remember my father, J. Burton, visiting a Maori camp at Kumeroa. Quantities of wild pork suspended on sticks and grilling before the fire, proved that the hunting had been good, and Hekiera, the head of the camp, showed my father with pride the number of birds, also, that had been bagged.

"Amongst them was a Huia with a curious deformity of its beak, the upper part of which curved upwards in a perfect spiral. The bird was full-grown and must have been fed by its parents and its mate, for it could not have fed itself. My father asked the Maoris if they would sell the bird to him, but Hekiera would not part with it. At last, after a great deal of persuasion, they agreed to let him have the beak, but no more, and holding the dead bird tightly, covering the head with his hands, he reluctantly allowed the beak to be cut off.

"My father sent the beak to Rev. W. Colenso, who observed that the bird had no nostrils, and wrote an article about this strange freak of nature. Years ago I was told that the beak had been added to Sir Walter Buller's collection, but where it is now I do not know.

"The Huia is now unfortunately extinct, but the design on our recently minted sixpences gives an excellent idea of the grace of its form.

"One of the sad features of the progress of settlement in our country has been the destruction of our beautiful native bush with its lovely flowers, berries, and birds. Let it be the aim of every W.I. member to preserve it wherever possible."

Colenso thanked Mrs Burnett's father in a letter dated 17 July 1886:

*Mr. John Burttton  
Kumeroa*

*Dear Sir,*

*I write to thank you for your kind note of the 12<sup>th</sup>. inst., and for a deformed Huia's bill that came with it: both very kindly brought me by your daughter Miss Burttton. The bill is (as you truly observe) a natural curiosity; and I shall have much pleasure in showing it, as from you, at an early meeting of our N.Z. Institute.—*

*As you have so kindly and spontaneously remembered me with this curiosity, perhaps you may hereafter be able to send me something more in the shape of novelty,—from among the insects, the mosses and ferns, and small plants, shrubs and trees, that are peculiar to your neighbourhood,—a small portion (as a specimen) of anything large will do: for I am a strong believer in the local Natural History of this Country, particularly of its Botany; and have often of late years, wished that age would allow me to visit and explore the outlying Inland districts,—especially those near to the mountains.*

*I note, in the "Postal Guide," that you have a mail twice a week to and from Wood-*

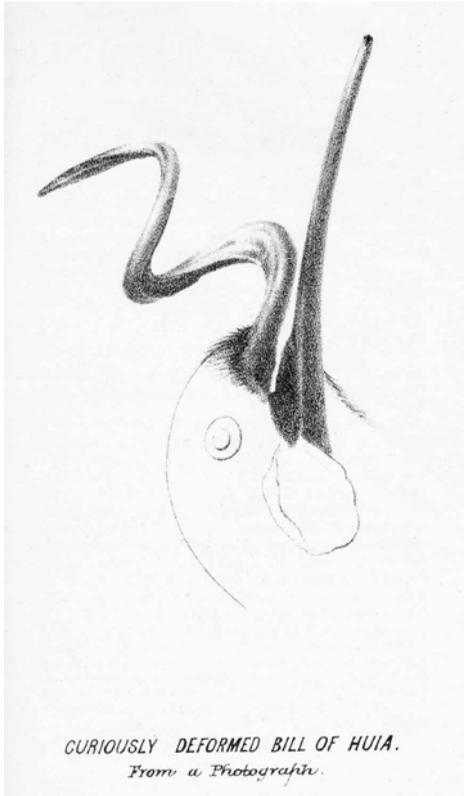
ville: and so I enclose a few p. stamps, to enable you to use the said mail to advantage, should you detect any of those novelties:—as I suppose you scarcely can have stamps for sale at Kumeroa,—and I have several kind correspondents in scattered Country localities who do so.

Once more thanking you for your kindness, I am, Yours truly,

W. Colenso.

Colenso did report this curiosity to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, and then in a paper in the *Transactions*, accompanied by his own drawing from a photograph [2]. He sent a copy of his paper to Sir George Grey, and it must have been reproduced in some English publication, for he wrote (to David Balfour 5 September 1887) "I had already received several letters, &c,—some from England, about the *Huia*. . .—(which had also been reproduced *there*)". He wrote again to Balfour later that month, "Buller in his big new Book on our N.Z. Birds, has reproduced the *Huia* beak as a vignette, and it is done well."

The *huia* became rather celebrated in England, so much so that Colenso told RC Harding in his 7 April 1892 letter that the *Glasgow Weekly Herald* of 21 November 1891 had reported, "The Earl of Onslow has had his infant son Christened *Huia*, after the sacred bird of one of the Maori tribes." (*sic*) "The name will have to degenerate into "Hughie" if the youngster desires to preserve his peace of mind at a Board School."



### **Petane pioneers** [3]

by D Nicholls, Bay View Women's Institute.

"The first white settlers came to Petane in 1850 and 1855—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. McKain with their family of small children, and McKain's two brothers with their wives and families, Mr. and Mrs. Torr, Mr. and Mrs. McCarthy, and Mr. and Mrs. Villers, all with young families. They took up sections of land, about 100 acres for each family, for which they paid 5/- an acre or thereabouts, and built huts of clay, rushes, and raupo, which they used as homes for a considerable time. The first wooden building was a small one with a gable at each end which stood somewhere near where Mr. Henderson Wilson now lives. There were no roads, and the settlers, who arrived in increasing numbers, had a very unpleasant trudge over the beach, sinking ankle deep in the soft sand and shingle, when they walked to Napier for fresh supplies of stores which they carried home on their backs. Therefore, whenever possible, transit was by row-boat through the Inner Harbour to the mouth of the Wai-o-hinganga river. As this was too

narrow for oars to be used, men walked along the bank, pulling the boat as far upstream as possible by means of a rope. Thence the journey was continued in bullock or horse sledge, generally the former, for horses were very scarce. It was not until about 1860 that a road of sorts was formed.

“Fowls were procured from Rev. W. Colenso, cattle and sheep were accumulated, and with seeds of vegetables sent from Home, the settlers soon had gardens and crops under way, though the ground was worked chiefly with no better implements than spades and forks. ‘Butter and eggs were taken to market in the little town of Napier, packed in bags thrown over a horse’s shoulders, or if no horse was available, they were carried by hand. The wheat was cut with reaping hooks and scythes, threshed with flails, and winnowed by hand through riddles or sieves, both women and children helping with this work. One of the settlers had a small hand-mill in which some of the wheat was ground, but the majority of it was sent by boat to Napier to be ground into flour.

“Some time in the seventies Mr. Torr began to trade up the river in a tiny steamboat, the landing stage being just in front of Mr. Villers’s accommodation house. The riverbed was much nearer to the hills than it is to-day, and there was deep water under the cliffs by the present hall.

“About 1860 it was found necessary to build a school; more and more settlers were arriving with their families, who had to be taught the three ‘R’s,’ which was about all that was considered necessary in those days. Mr. Loisel taught in the school for a number of years, and after he left, sometimes there was a master and sometimes there was not. The Rev. W. Colenso undertook the responsibility of putting the children through their examinations; he would cross by the ferry between Port Ahuriri and Westshore, walk five miles along the beach and three more inland to the school, examine the children’s lessons, and walk home again to Napier, very often without waiting to have any refreshment.

“The Australian blue gums which are still growing in the school grounds, were planted by Mrs. J. B. McKain, who was responsible, also, for planting the first dozen or so of blackberry roots which she had obtained from Mr. Colenso, who, as a botanist, should have known better than to supply them; at times the pest has almost taken possession of the school reserve and the surrounding country.

“Mrs. Craig, who lived a little way along the Taupo road, was the first to grow in her garden the beautiful evening primrose that now makes a golden glory of the Petane beach during early mornings and evenings in both spring and autumn.”

It appears that after his 1852 expulsion from the church and his 1853 house fire Colenso at least sold chooks and blackberries from his store. It would have been later, during his first period (1861–1864) as Inspector of Schools that he made the arduous visits to Petane school.

He did claim to have introduced the blackberry. He wrote a paper read before the Penzance Natural History and Antiquarian Society in 1885 [4], “Among the numerous British and Foreign plants that I have introduced here in years long past, I think, in writing to Penzance on this subject, I should mention two,—the Primrose and the Blackberry,—as the seeds of both of them came from Penzance in a letter, from my brother, to whom I had written for them. Those of the Blackberry in particular having been collected for me, at my request, from those very prized bushes on the steep hills on the S. side of the Newlyn river, above the high road and nearly opposite to “Zimmerman’s Cot,”—which spot I had so often visited when a boy! The Blackberry is now acclimatized, and spreads largely and is much prized; the plant here grows to an enormous size, certainly, in some spots, as big as a Cornish Cow-house! and bears plenty of fruit.

## References

1. Woodhouse AE (Ed.) 1940. *Tales of pioneer women, collected by the Women's Institutes of New Zealand*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Wellington, Whitcombe & Tombs, Ch.36 "The Huia", p.137.
2. Colenso W 1886 A Description of the curiously-deformed Bill of a Huia, (*Heteralocha acutirostris*, Gould), an endemic New Zealand Bird. *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* 19:140-145.
3. Woodhouse AE. *Ibid*. Ch.15 "The history of Petane", p.60.].
4. Colenso W 1884. A few stray thoughts on W. Cornwall (Mount's Bay) and our Cornish Botany. A manuscript is preserved in the Morrab Library, Penzance (ER234). It was read by the secretary Mr E.D. Marquand on 19 March 1885. The *Cornish Telegraph* report of the meeting in the Society's minute book reads, "The paper was listened to with close attention, and at its close a vote of thanks was cordially awarded to the author, who is a member of the society and actively interested in its proceedings."



The Colenso plaque at Mokai Station

## Ahuriri pioneers and others

The photographs on the next page were purchased recently via Trademe. There are inscriptions on the backs:

1. Top left appears to have been cut from a proof sheet of a formal portrait; it has “Alexander Alexander” and a duplicate of it has

“ALEX. ALEXANDER—HARATA (WHIUWHIU-HUIA-HINE HE)

∨

MRS. BURNETT”.

2. Top right also appears to have been cut from a proof sheet; it has “Thos. Kam-sing Newton 1852 joined Alexander as first Storekeeper”.
3. The whare runanga photograph has no label.
4. The lowermost has “William Colenso of Penzance—great nephew, visited us in Napier 1950. We visited him in Cornwall. OCT.”

1. The first Ahuriri record of Alexander Alexander (b. 20 May 1820 Dundee – d. 25 Jul 1873 NZ) is 20 May 1840. He was the first storekeeper in Hawke’s Bay, and Colenso regarded him as a friend. You can see the store at

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/hawkes-bay-region/5/3>, which also tells us, “Scotsman Alexander Alexander opened a trading post at Ahuriri (Napier) in 1846. It was the first European building in the future town. He went on to open a number of stores in the district and married Hārata, a Ngāti Te Ūpokoiri woman of *mana*. Unlike most traders he stayed in Hawke’s Bay, dying at his farm near Napier in 1873.” They had a daughter, Raiha Eliza Keo Keo Alexander b. 1848. The Reports of the Native Affairs Committee, 1908 include No. 41—“Petition of Eliza Keokeo Burnett (otherwise called Raiha Keokeo), of Dunedin: ‘Petitioner prays for inquiry into her claims in connection with the Omahu and other blocks in the Hawke’s Bay District.’ I am directed to report that the Committee has no recommendation to make on this petition. 10th September, 1908.” This is not, then, the Mrs Burnett (p.12 this issue) who wrote about the huia bill.

2. Thomas K Newton became wealthy as a wool buyer, and for a time farmed Tutira. He was a member and office-bearer of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute during Colenso’s time.

3. The whare runanga is at Te Puia Māori Cultural Centre, Rotorua. It is on similar paper and format as No. 4 below, and may have been taken by Willie Colenso during his tour in 1950.

4. Colenso’s great nephew Willie Colenso is photographed beside the plaque marking Colenso’s visit 103 years earlier to Mokai Patea (see p.15 and <http://www.mokaicottage.com/html/colenso.html>). Willie’s 1950 visit to New Zealand was discussed by Ann Collins in *eColenso*, December 2010. Willie visited somebody in Napier and they in turn visited him in Cornwall: who was that?

1



2



3



4



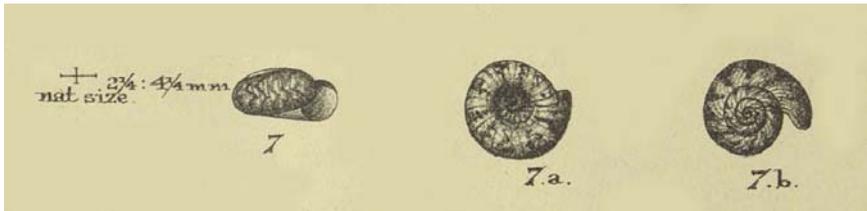
▲ detail from 3 above.  
◀ tekoteko on a whare runanga at the Māori Cultural Centre, Rotorua: cf. 3 above.

## Cavellia colensoi (Suter, 1890)

Henry Suter described a new land snail *Patula colensoi* in 1890 from a specimen he found at Hastwell, near Mauriceville, north of Masterton: “Under rotten wood and dead leaves in the bush. Rather scarce. North Island: Forty-mile Bush; Hastwell. (H.S.)” [1]. He named it “in honour of the Rev. William Colenso, F.R.S., the discoverer of the *Unio waikarense*.”

He was thus marking the first record of a nonmarine mollusc in New Zealand. Colenso wrote in his 1842 report of his journey from East Cape back home to Paihia via Waikaremoana, “I obtained from the lake some fine specimens of *Unio*, the only living thing (according to the natives) which inhabited its waters” [2]. In the same paper Colenso recorded *Unio* from Lake Rotorua: “The lake contains an abundance of small cray-fish, which are very good eating. Here are also two small kinds of fish, called by the natives *Kokopu* and *Inanga*, and a black bivalve a species of *Unio*; the whole of which are common in most of the fresh-water streams in New Zealand.”

The drawings are from Suter’s paper. The genus has been renamed *Cavellia*.



1. Suter H 1890. Descriptions of New Species of New Zealand Land and Fresh-water Shells. Trans. N.Z. Inst. 22: 225.
2. Colenso W 1844. Journal of a naturalist in some little known parts of New Zealand, by William Colenso, Esq., in a letter to Sir W. J. Hooker. London Journal of Botany; III: 1-62 . He described *Unio waikarense* Colenso in a footnote to the version of this paper published in the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science* in 1845.



Colenso Hut, Ruahine

## A FEW REMARKS ON THE HACKNEYED QUOTATION OF “MACAULAY’S NEW ZEALANDER,”<sup>1</sup>

[Read before the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute, 12th June, 1882.]

For some considerable time I have been desirous of bringing this subject before you,—New Zealand being now our Country and our home; and should have certainly done so during past Winter Sessions of our Institute, but for two reasons :—(1) that I had already written pretty fully about it, some 15 years ago in the “*New Zealander*,” Auckland paper;<sup>2</sup> and (2) that I had hoped the quoting of it would die out, or that, at all events, some modern authors and writers and public speakers (especially here in New Zealand) would just give themselves the trouble to enquire whether Macaulay was really the author of that saying,—whether the simile originated with him.

I should however, honestly confess, that I am again reminded (as it were) to bring this subject before you, through my having lately read Professor Hutton’s opening *Address* for 1882, given at the Canterbury College, University of New Zealand, in which Professor Hutton says,—“As individuals have a limited period of existence, so also must it be with nations. This is the leading idea in Lord Macaulay’s celebrated *New Zealander* sitting on the ruins of London Bridge.”—

My task on this occasion will be a comparatively easy one, through my having several years ago thoroughly worked the subject out; (and, as I have said, published it in one of our first-class Colonial Newspapers;) I purpose showing, 1.—that the “idea” (to use Professor Hutton’s term) is of (at least) twofold origin,—1. general; 2. particular; and 2.—that both were used by authors who preceded Macaulay; whose works, without doubt, Macaulay must have seen and even read; and that from one or more of them Macaulay gathered the striking and famed similes, more than once used by him in his Works.

The radical idea seems to have been rather a favourite one with Macaulay, [37] as I find he has used it on several occasions; three of them I will quote from his Works written at different periods of his life,—viz., in 1824, in 1829, and in 1845,—a period extending over 16 years.<sup>3</sup> His predilection for it may, however, (in part, at least,) be owing to the great noise which it made in the daily literary world at the time of its first appearing in his writings (in 1824), for we read in the preface to his *Miscellaneous Writings*, that “the passage in question was at one time the subject of allusion, two or three times a week, in speeches and leading articles.” And yet it does not appear that any one at that time, or, as far as I know, since, has brought forward the originator.

The first of those three passages (and the one I have just particularly alluded to,) occurs in Macaulay’s Review of *Mitford’s History of Greece*, (written in 1824,) where, writing of “the gift of Athens to man,” (he goes on to say,)—“although her freedom and her power have for more than twenty centuries been annihilated, her intellectual Empire is imperishable. And

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1. *Colenso W 1883 Three literary papers read before the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute during the session of 1882:—I and II, On Nomenclature; III, On “Macaulay’s New Zealander.” Daily Telegraph Office, Napier. 41p.*

2. *The 26 March 1864 New Zealander letter was reprinted in the Hawke’s Bay Times of 13 May 1864; it will be reprinted in “Colenso: his life in newspapers” published by Otago University Press in 2011.*

3. Lord Macaulay was born in 1800, died in 1859.



The French engraver Gustave Doré portrayed Macaulay's New Zealander in the 1870s. His romantically foppish Europeanised sketcher bears little resemblance to the real thing.

when those who have rivalled her greatness shall have shared her fate; when civilization and knowledge shall have fixed their abode in distant continents; when the sceptre shall have passed away from England; when, perhaps, travellers from distant regions shall in vain labour to decipher on some mouldering pedestal the name of our proudest chief; shall hear savage hymns chaunted to some misshapen idol over the ruined dome of our proudest temple; and shall see a single naked fisherman wash his nets in the river of the ten thousand masts; her influence and her glory will still survive—fresh in eternal youth,—immortal.”

Here we have the idea in its inchoate, more general and less defined state; (but of this, too, anon).

The second occurs in his *Review of Mill's Essay on Government*, (written in 1829,) here Macaulay says:—“The civilised part of the world has now nothing to fear from the hostility of savage nations. — — — But is it possible that in the bosom of civilization itself may be engendered the malady which shall destroy it? — — — Is it possible that, in two or three hundred years, a few lean half-naked fishermen may divide with owls and foxes the ruins of the greatest European cities,—may wash their nets amidst the relics of her gigantic docks, and build their huts out of the capitals of her stately cathedrals.”—

Here, also, we have the same idea, but still inceptive, still in the rough.

The third is the more particular, the worked-up and finished simile of the artistic New Zealander, of which the literary world has heard so much. This occurs in his *Review of Ranke's History of the Popes*, (written in 1840.)—where Macaulay, writing of the Roman-Catholic Church, says,—“She (the Roman-Catholic Church) may still exist in undiminished vigour, when some traveller from New Zealand shall, in the midst of a vast solitude, take his [38] stand on a broken arch of London Bridge to sketch the ruins of St. Pauls.”

I have found this simile, or idea,—both in its rough and in its more finished state,—in no less than five authors of note who preceded Macaulay; four of whom are English, and one French.

The first is Horace Walpole, the eminent *virtuoso* of “Strawberry Hill” notoriety, and the author of the celebrated “Letters.” In a published letter of Walpole’s to Mason, written in 1744, he says,—“At last some curious traveller from Lima, will visit England, and give a description of the ruins of St. Paul’s, like the Editions of Baalbec and Palmyra.” [Here it may be noticed, that Macaulay wrote a slashingly trenchant *Review of Walpole's Letters*, in 1833.]

The second is by the equally celebrated Frenchman Volney,—who travelled in the East (Egypt and Syria) in 1784, and wrote his able work, called the *Ruins, or a Survey of the Revolutions of Empires*; therein he gives us his “Meditations,” written at the time, while musing among the ruins of those famed and great ancient cities. And he goes on to say:—

—“What are become of so many productions of the hand of man? Where are those ramparts of Nineveh, those walls of Babylon, those palaces of Persepolis, those temples of Balbec and of Jerusalem? Where are those fleets of Tyre, those dock-yards of Arad, those workshops of Sidon, and that multitude of mariners, pilots, merchants, and soldiers? Where those husbandmen, those harvests, that picture of animated nature, of which the Earth seemed proud? Alas! I have traversed this desolate country, I have visited the places that were the theatre of so much splendour, and I have beheld nothing but solitude and desertion! — — — Thus reflecting, that if the places before me had once exhibited this animated picture; who, said I to myself, can assure me that the present desolation will not one day be the lot of our own country? Who

knows but that hereafter some traveller like myself will sit down upon the banks of the Seine, the Thames, or the Zuyder Zee, where now, in the tumult of enjoyment, the heart and the eyes are too slow to take in the multitude of sensations; who knows but he will sit down solitary amid silent ruins, and weep a people inurned, and their greatness changed into an empty name?"—

The third is by one of our British poets, Henry Kirke White;<sup>4</sup> who, in his poem entitled Time, says:—

“Where now is Britain? where her laurell’d names,  
Her palaces and halls? Dash’d in the dust.  
—Oe’r her marts,  
Her crowded ports, brood Silence; and the cry  
Of the lone curlew, and the pensive dash  
Of distant billows, breaks alone the void. [39]  
Even as the savage sits upon the stone  
That marks where stood her capitols, and hears  
The bittern booming in the weeds, he shrinks  
From the dismaying solitude.”—

The fourth is by another of our celebrated British poets, Shelley,<sup>5</sup> (though not written this time in rhyme but in good English prose,) —in his Dedication to Peter Bell, Shelley says:—

—“In the firm expectation, that when London shall be an habitation of bitterns, when St. Paul’s and Westminster Abbey shall stand, shapeless and nameless ruins in the midst of an unpeopled marsh; and when the piers of Waterloo Bridge shall become the nuclei of islets of reeds and osiers, and cast the jagged shadows of their broken arches on the solitary stream, some Transatlantic commentator will be weighing in the scales of some new and now unimagined system of criticism the respective merits of the Bells and the Fudges, and their historians.

The fifth, and last, and strongest of all, (though doubtlessly written much earlier in time than those two last quoted,)—the one in particular wherein the very term of New Zealander is used;—is to be found in the able preface to the English 4to edition of *La Billardiere’s* celebrated *Voyage* to these seas in search of the unfortunate La Perouse; undertaken in 1791–1794; and a translation of the Work published in London in 1800.<sup>6</sup> And as this work (the large 4to edition, containing the Translator’s preface,) is scarce and little known, and probably but few if any copies here among us, I shall take the liberty of quoting the more largely from it; especially as some of the words used therein, and that more than 80 years ago, seem to be already (in part) on the way to their fulfilment, and, therefore, will prove to us, Colonists, very interesting. The writer says:—

“Having mentioned Providence, a word not very common in some of our modern Voyages, we are tempted to add a consideration which has often occurred to our minds, in contemplating

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4. H.K. White, born 1785; died, 1806.

5. Shelley, born, 1792; died (drowned), 1823.

6. More properly, this French Expedition of two frigates (*Recherche* and *Esperance*), was commanded by General D’Entrecasteaux; M. J.J Labillardiere being the Naturalist on board, who wrote the account of the Voyage.

the probable issue of that zeal for discovering and corresponding with distant regions, which has long animated the maritime powers of Europe. Without obtruding our own sentiments on the reader, we may be permitted to ask, whether appearances do not justify a conjecture, that the Great Arbiter of the destinies of nations may render that zeal subservient to the moral and intellectual, not to say the religious, improvement, and the consequent happiness, of our whole species? or, whether, as has hitherto generally happened, the advantages of civilisation may not, in the progress of events, be transferred from the [40] Europeans, who have but too little prized them, to those remote countries which they have been so diligently exploring? If so, the period may arrive, when New Zealand may produce her Lockes, her Newtons, and her Montesquieus; and when great nations in the immediate region of New Holland, may send their navigators, philosophers, and antiquaries, to contemplate the ruins of ancient London and Paris, and to trace the languid remains of the arts and sciences in this quarter of the globe. Who can tell, whether the rudiments of some great future empire may not already exist at Botany Bay?"—

A few more observations and I close.

First, then, I would remind you, that the writings of all those Authors from whom I have just quoted, must certainly have been well-known to Lord Macaulay, for they were among the chiefest and most notable Books of his early days; and that he was an extensive reader his works clearly show.

Second, that this last work I have quoted from, the French Voyage in search of the unfortunate La Perouse, was one that made a great noise throughout Europe. Not merely on account of the mysterious loss of La Perouse and his ships, and the great amount of interest it had excited; (following, too, so closely as it did, the death of the French navigator Marion and 28 of his crew at the Bay of Islands, and the killing of a whole boat's crew of 10 men belonging to Capt. Furneaux's ship,—which was Capt. Cook's consort-vessel on his second voyage to New Zealand;) but also owing to this very voyage of La Billardiere being the next great Expedition fitted out by the French Government to these seas after Capt. Cook's latest discoveries.

Hence, like those other Voyages to the South Seas and to New Zealand in particular of our celebrated English navigator Cook, the great French Voyage (including that of La Perouse as far as it was known) was a new and fresh work of surpassing interest to all Europe,<sup>7</sup> especially to Englishmen and the young of Macaulay's juvenile years;—much what some of us (elders) may remember as to how thoroughly we enjoyed the Voyages of Capt. Cook;—and therefore must also have been seen and read by Macaulay; and such being the case, it was impossible for him to overlook or forget the very striking simile of the New Zealander. [41]

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7. The narrative of the Voyage is excellently well written, it gives a pleasing account of their interview with the New Zealanders at North Cape; and of their sojourn among the hospitable Tasmanians, (indeed, it contains the best account that I know, of an early visit to that unfortunate race!)—it contains many plates of new and interesting objects; and it abounds in discoveries in many branches of Natural Science, particularly in Botany. Several of our New Zealand plants bear the honoured name of this early intrepid Naturalist. He discovered and described the Blue Gum tree (*Eucalyptus globulus*), with other species of that genus. His name is also perpetuated in his large work on the Botany of New Holland, or Australia, then an unknown Country to Europe and the civilized world (*Novæ Hollandiæ Plantarum Specimen*, 2 vols. 4to.)—

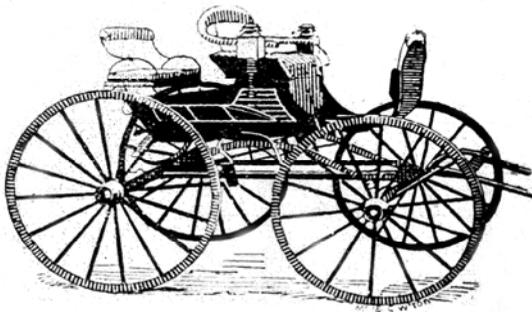
In conclusion, I may say, that in the letter I wrote to the Auckland Paper, above alluded to, I had also mentioned my belief in the many plagiarisms of Lord Macaulay, as shown in not a few instances in his Works,—patent to the close and large reader; and of which I firmly believe this idea culminating in the travelling New Zealander, to be one. But, after all, it is difficult to say of a learned and comprehensive reader, having also a capacious memory,—what really constitutes a plagiarism. Be this as it may, one thing I think I have pretty clearly shown in this my paper, that that simile of the New Zealander visiting London, and sketching and meditating among her ruins, did not originate with Lord Macaulay; and, therefore, should not be continually quoted as his.<sup>8</sup>

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8. *The Alexander Turnbull Library copy of this paper has a handwritten endnote by Colenso, and two pages of a letter dated 5 February 1885 from a Napier correspondent. Colenso's note reads, "Since writing the above, I have also noticed in Pope's 'Windsor Forest' the following lines:—*

*'The time shall come, when free as seas or wind,  
Unbounded Thames shall flow for all mankind,  
Whole nations enter with each swelling tide,  
And seas but join the regions they divide;  
Earth's distant ends our glory shall behold,  
And the new world launch forth to seek the old.  
Then ships of uncouth form shall stem the tide,  
And feather'd people crowd my wealthy side;  
And naked youths and painted chiefs admire,  
Our speech, our colour, and our strange attire. l.397.*

*The letter refers to Anna Lætitia Barbauld's poem 'Eighteen hundred and eleven' (1811) in which an ingenuous youth visits the ruins of London: "Mrs Barbauld's lines ... could not have escaped Macaulay, who never forgot what he had read," Colenso's correspondent wrote.*



Colenso is a free email Newsletter published irregularly by the Colenso Society.

Please feel free to forward it to whom you wish.

The editor invites contributions on any matter relating to the life and work of  
the Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS.

Such contributions should be emailed to [ian.stgeorge@rnzcp.org.nz](mailto:ian.stgeorge@rnzcp.org.nz).



*Colenso, Junr, —  
with his Father's (the author's) Love*

FIFTY YEARS AGO  
IN NEW ZEALAND.

A COMMEMORATION: A JUBILEE PAPER:  
A RETROSPECT:  
A PLAIN AND TRUE STORY.

READ BEFORE THE HAWKE'S BAY PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTE,  
OCTOBER 17TH, 1887.

BY

WILLIAM COLENZO,

F.R.S., F.L.S., ETC.,

HONORARY MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE.

*(Published under the auspices of the Board of Governors N.Z.I., and with  
the approval of the Council H.B.P.I.)*

“Build me straight, O worthy Master!  
Staunch and strong, a goodly vessel,  
That shall laugh at all disaster,  
And with wave and whirlwind wrestle.”

LONGFELLOW: “*The Building of the Ship.*”

“Quæque ipsi vidi, et quorum fui.”—VIRG.

—“We cannot express any truth without involving ourselves in some degree of error  
or occasionally conveying an impression to others wholly erroneous.”

—PROF. JOWETT.

Papier :

PRINTED BY R. C. HARDING, HASTINGS-STREET.

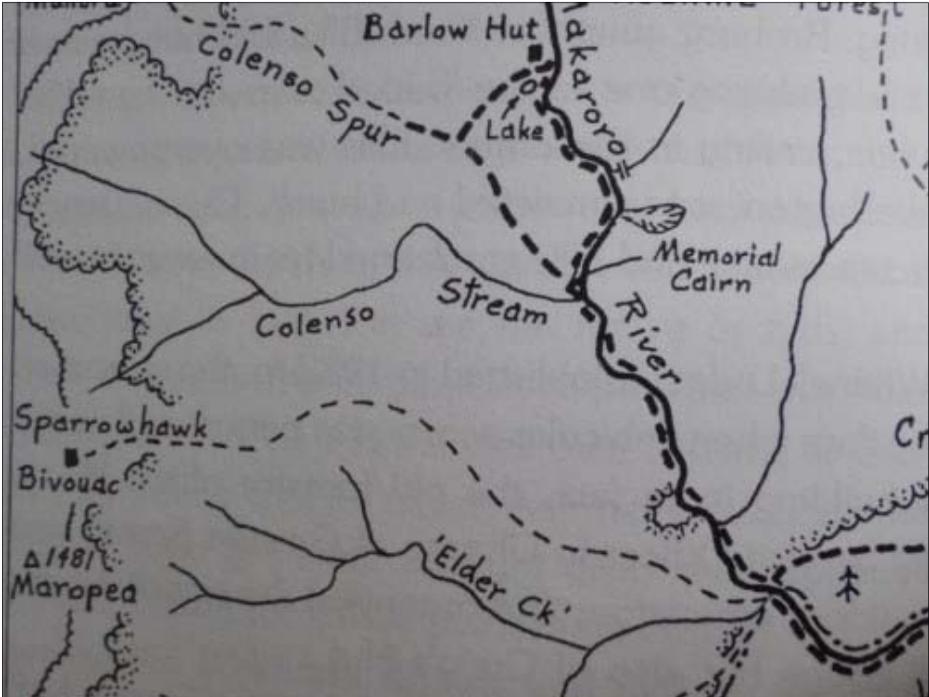
1888.

Auctioned recently; this copy of Colenso's *Fifty years ago in New Zealand*, its binding obscures the initial "W."  
This was the copy he presented to his son Willie, by now in Penzance

# A trappers guide to Colenso country-- Part Two : The Makarora Valley, Barlow Hut, Colenso Spur, Te Atu Mahuru Peak, Ruahine Forest Park.

by Tony Gates

Refer NZ Topo BK36



## **The Makarora Valley**

The Makarora Valley, in the north eastern Ruahines, has alpine tops, a good forest cover, and wide open shingle river beds. A century and a half of man made changes are obvious after William Colenso so carefully documented the botany of the area. Changes were made particularly obvious with forest clearance, introduced animals, and a series of major cyclonic events from the 1970's and 1980's. Gravel screes enlarged and new ones formed, (many so large that they are visible from the main road), and massive erosion pushed millions of tonnes of shingle into the creek and river beds. The Makarora Valley is a good spot for tramping, hunting, and fishing.

The Department of Conservation maintains good huts, tracks, signs, and now, a new information shelter at the end of Whakarara Road (on the banks of the Makarora River). It's all

river bed tramping up to the popular Barlow Hut, which is about an hour through farm edge country to Gold Creek, and hour to the base of Colenso Spur, then a further half hour upriver to Barlow Hut. Remember, the river can present difficulties, and you will always get your feet wet. Off road vehicle access is OK up the river bed as far as Gold Creek, then becomes a little more difficult. I recall my first tramp there in 1975, after one of the massive cyclones, when a 4 X 4 could have driven a long way upriver from Barlow Hut. The hut itself is a pleasantly appointed ten bunker from NZ Forest Service days. There is good camping there. At Gold Creek is a stone memorial and plaque to a young hunter who loved the Makarora Valley.

There are forestry roads leading over the river from the Whakarara Road end, and past locked gates. Walking and mountain biking access is OK here, and one of these roads can be followed west on the high terrace on the northern bank (past the Craigs Hut site), to the DoC track to the Makarora/ Gold Creek confluence. DoC signposts near Craigs hut site will direct you north to the track to the (recently renewed) Parkes Peak hut (five hours), overlooking the Makarora Valley headwaters, and along Yeomans track to the historic Ellis (Murderers) Hut (about one hour).

River travel above Barlow Hut should not be difficult in normal river conditions. About an hour upriver, the sizeable Tupari Stream enters from the western side, then there is a short and not difficult section once known as Tupari Gorge. During the 1990's, a new slip dammed the river here, making an impassable lake. As of 2010, this is once again flat easy gravel. There was a gorge bypass route to the east, marked by orange DoC triangles. From the easy river bed, I thought that this looked like difficult country. The pleasant ex NZFS Upper Makarora Hut is a further hour or so up the easy river bed, passing numerous slips and river flats. Ridge tracks connect Parkes Peak Hut with both Upper Makarora and Barlow Huts, and one climbs Totara Spur from Upper Makarora Hut to the Ruahine Range. Kylie Biv is a tiny and seldom visited ex NZFS bivvy located near the summit of Tupari Peak. Ridge travel is straight forward, conditions permitting, along the entire Ruahine Range here. Good tarns are found at the top of Totara Spur, and near Ina Rock, as marked on the map.

### **Colenso Spur →**

Of the many routes from the Ruahine valleys to the tussock tops it was remarkable that our friend William Colenso found one of the easiest and most direct routes- and continued to find the same route during the course of his several journeys. Colenso Spur is aptly named. Its south eastern (bottom) end is at the confluence of the Makarora River and the stream known as Colenso Stream. The Makarora River knocked out the bottom of the DoC track up Colenso Spur a





←Makarora river at the base of Colenso Spur



At Colenso Spur →

few years ago, so there are a few metres of goat track from the wide open gravel river bed, up a rock bank, and so into the bush. DoC have marked this. There is another side track up river to avoid this goat track, but it is not well marked, and also is a bit of a goat track. Both goat tracks meet a few metres in the bush at the Colenso plaque and cairn (a photo of this appeared in the June 2010 edition of this newsletter).

*“At 3 pm, we arrived at what appeared to be the immediate base of the upper mountain which rose steep before us. Here, two rivers met, each nearly of the same size, and coming from opposite directions. We tried both for a short distance, but found their beds so narrow and steep, and partly choked with dead trees and shrubs, and masses of stone, that we gave up all thoughts of going any further in that way, and so prepared with a good heart to climb the face of the narrow tongue of land which lay between the two streams.”*

WC 11 Feb 1845

The ascent begins. William Colenso's descriptions could be apt for some sections of the track, as the forest gets hammered by windfall and snow fall. DoC however do keep good tabs of their popular tracks, and someone with a chainsaw will periodically check them. After about 300 metres of steep forest ascent, Colenso Spur eases, and you arrive at the DoC track junction sign indicating the track down to Barlow Hut and up onto Lake Colenso. I thought that the suggested tramping times on this sign were for extremely fit people who knew the area well, and were travelling light in good conditions. The country can be big and rugged, and the conditions difficult, if not impossible.

From the junction sign, it is a steep ridge track down to **Barlow Hut.** →

Interestingly, there is a wee lake set in big podocarp forest beside the track just up from Barlow Hut. There is a pleasant, flat section along Colenso Spur from the sign, often surrounded by dense fern and windfall. There is water not far from the track - it might be closest on the northern side, but before you go tramping off track, you could first check someone else's comments.



*“At this time, we were very much entangled among the sides of the deep and thick scrub in the low Fagus forests, on the precipitous western mountain, sinking deep at almost every step among what seemed to be layers (stratum super stratum) of ancient fallen trees, which were all more or less rotten and lying across each other, and hidden under the long Astelia and “cutting grass” foliage, so that, sometimes, my natives as well as myself should sink down so far- crashing through the fallen, rotten timber, and yet, without touching the earth!- that we could not extricate ourselves without assistance. Language fails me properly to depict the toilsomeness and entanglement of this day, especially that towards night, in that never- to- be- forgotten Fagus forest.”*

WC 1845

Some things don't change.

The DoC track continues a second steep 300 metre ascent to the tussock tops, sometimes appearing tantalisingly close. It's a real grunt. There are a couple of obvious scree close to the track just below the tussock, and one of these is likely to be the one mentioned by Colenso as a fearful place for the native guides. It still looks fearful. At the top of these two scree, the ubiquitous sub alpine scrub species Tupari, or *Olearia colensoi* (otherwise known as leatherwood) is found in abundance. (refer November 2010 newsletter). The terrain from here eases off, leading to the sweeping tussock basins and ridges that are so characteristic of Colenso Country.

*“But when at last we emerged from the forest, and the tangled shrubbery on its outskirts, on to the open, dell like land just before we gained the summit, the lovely appearance of so many and varied beautiful and novel wild plants and flowers richly repaid me the toil of the journey and the ascent- for never before did I behold at one time in NZ such a profusion of Flora’s stores. In one word, I was overwhelmed with astonishment, and stood looking with all my eyes, greedily devouring and drinking in the enchanting scene before me.”*

WC 1845

At 1534 m, Te Atu Mahuru is neither a high nor obvious peak. Its geographic importance is more that it lies on the Ruahine Range at the top of Colenso Spur, and is surrounded by easy going open country. Maroparea (1511 m) is another insignificant bump in the ridge a short distance to the south west from Te Atu Mahuru

There is water too, with several tarns scattered in tussock hollows along the ridge. Colenso named his camp somewhere near here Te Wai o kongenge “The waters of weariness, and he apparently used it on subsequent travels. Deer culler Trevor Crabtree, whose fine poem featured in the December 2010 newsletter, was another who obviously appreciated the value of good water on a high alpine ridge.

*“This is the highest point  
How bleak and bare it is.  
Nothing but mosses  
Grow on these rocks  
yet they are not forgotten  
Beneficent nature sends mists to feed them.”*

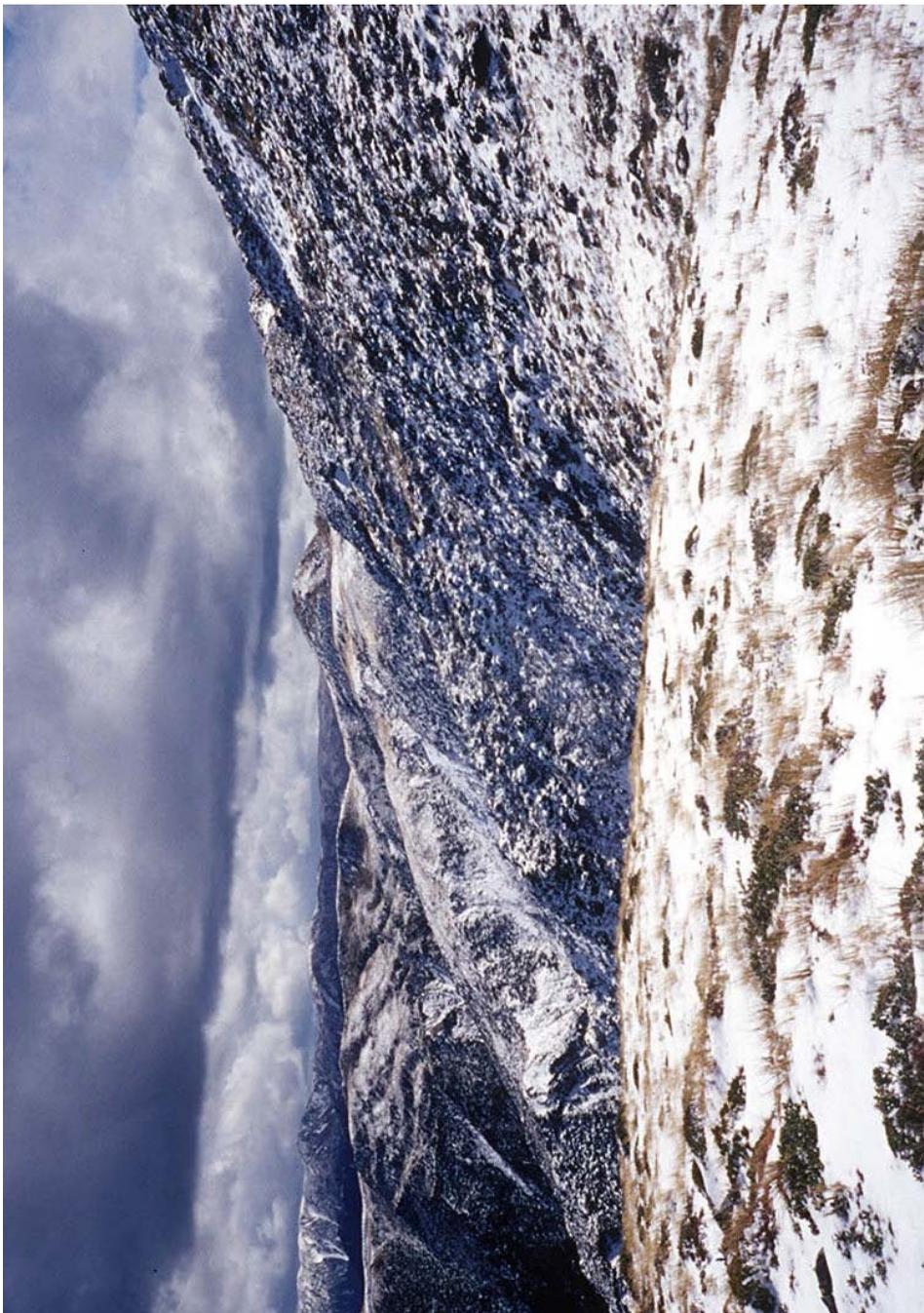
WC 1845

The trail that William Colenso repeatedly followed departs the main Ruahine Range at Maroparea, and descends west to Ngaroto (point 1450), Puketaramea, then the Maropea River (refer December 2010 Newsletter).

### **Sparrowhawk Bivvy →**

Another tidy ex NZFS bivvy (with recently added front porch) is found about an hour’s easy tramp south from Maroparea, located past Orupu peak, in a sheltered hollow just off the Ruahine Range. This is signposted. There is a good track of similar profile to Colenso Spur between Sparrowhawk Bivvy and the Makarora/ Gold Creek confluence.





Colenso Spur snowtop