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# COLENZO

A Monthly Newsletter and Historical Review

DEVOTED TO

THE ADVANCEMENT OF KNOWLEDGE OF WILLIAM COLENZO  
AND TO THE PRINTING, EXPLORING, TEACHING, POLITICKING, BOTANICAL,  
PHILOSOPHISING AND RELATED TRADES.

JUNE



Wellington, New Zealand:

THE COLENZO SOCIETY, PROPRIETOR AND PUBLISHER

2011

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Colenso:

## on how Trees Can Save us and Keep us Sane...

By Peter Wells

The first thing William Colenso did after his arrival at Waitangi, Hawke's Bay in late December 1844 was to take his plant stocks and grafts and speedily bed them in. This was partly so they would survive. Trees - fruiting trees especially - were important to the survival of the early missionaries and every mission station of any age had a full orchard which provided a wide range of fruit.

But trees, to Colenso, had a greater importance than pure survival. On 30th October 1858 he wrote one of his characteristic letters to the local newspaper - part lecture, part sermon and part folk wisdom. When he later said 'if I did not thus make it known, (the information) would in all probability die with me', he was not exaggerating. As a first generation migrant his experiences of encountering an ancient Maori culture and then living alongside it through rapid changes granted him special insights. But some of these key insights related to migration itself.

He understood how profoundly disruptive migration from a parent culture to an entirely different landscape could be. One of the ways to root yourself to new landscape was to literally put down roots.

So 'cultivating the trees of our Father-land' as he called it, had three 'noble benefits'. '1st on themselves and their visitors, physically, in their fruits; ((he means food to eat)) - 2nd on the same morally, in the reminiscences of the past, which such trees and flowers and fruits must inevitably convey; - and 3rd in transmitting the same - trees and ideas and kindly feelings - to the rising generation.'

In other words he thought trees - both fruit and decorative - were important because they would provide an ongoing practical benefit - fruit - food. But these trees were also important because they provided a kind of mental connection to a culture left behind. Most migrants realistically would never get back to their homeland. They would die on what was essentially foreign soil. So it helped mend the wound of migration if you could surround yourself with trees which echoed a world you knew, a landscape you had come from. The third benefit of these trees is that these very same benefits - practical and one might almost call them psychological would be passed on to a younger generation. They could eat the fruit, sit under the shade, enjoy the blossom and identify with a world that their ancestors had come from.

Colenso in this sense was very modern. He was one of the very earliest lovers of the New Zealand forest and bush and he is probably the foremost chronicler of New Zealand plants in the nineteenth century. He connected New Zealand botany and its wonders back to Kew Gardens and through this, he connected to Darwin himself, the great reinventor of how humanity came to be: (Colenso had also met Darwin in 1834 and spent Xmas Day walking off the pork - really the only meat the missionaries had - on Paihia Beach.)

But if Colenso believed in the beauties and richness and mystery of the New

Zealand forest he did not believe in a kind of monocultural Department of Conservation approach by which only natives could be planted, appreciated and encourage to flourish.

He would have seen this as a denial of the rich complexity of the past. His own house both out at Waitangi and on Napier Hill was a seductive combination of *both* cultural inheritances: it had a magnificent 5 foot tall kaka beak plant forming an arch over the front door at his house on Napier Hill, but he also had figs, peaches, fruit trees and decorative English flowers and plants too. He had nikau palms which were not native to HB at all, as well as foreign invaders from the north like cabbage trees, which he tended out at Waitangi like they were sick individuals which needed careful looking after. He kept a kind of botanical-zoological garden out at Waitangi where he looked after New Zealand plants he was growing for specimens to send back to Kew, so they could be tabulated and internationally recognised. But the mission garden was complex. It was a mixture of indigenous *and* exotics. For example when he sent a bottle of gooseberry wine to Donald McLean when he first arrived in Hawke's Bay (McLean having spent the first three days living with the Colensos) the fruit came from Colenso's own garden. Like most missionaries he grew grapes for eating but also with the idea of making wine. (Colenso was enthusiastic for Australian reds and called Busby 'the man who introduced the vine to NZ').

He said he lost over 200 trees when the Mission house burnt down in mysterious circumstances in 1853. He also said he could not leave the spot until he spent a winter there so he could shift what trees were left.

Trees *were* important to him. He was a tree lover, he actually spoke to the trees. This is not as unusual as it might seem. He had observed in old Maori culture that nearly everything was to a degree animate and full of spirits. Many things were greeted and spoken to. So when he as an old man doffed his hat in greeting to the trees of the forest out by Waipukerau which he went to visit as others would visit a concert hall, a circus or a zoo, he also raised his hat on leaving the forest. To him there was nothing more beautiful on earth - more connected to a great principle of becoming - of energy than the complexity of the New Zealand forest. It was where this migrant from distant Cornwall ended up, ironically, feeling most at home.

Round his homestead on Napier Hill he created what he said was a *Res in Urbe*, that is, a feeling of the countryside in town. Vegetation up to 10 feet tall and 'very close and always in flower so I am well screened and sheltered' surrounded his dwelling so that he boasted to people in the denuded countryside that 'I live in the *bush*.... Of course I tell them so by way to taunt or banter for though they live in the wood (or what *was* wood) they are always chopping down and destroying their trees and shrubs so that in nearly every one of their homesteads, there is a *want* of trees and shrubs, and an ugly barrenness instead! or worse, standing black burnt trunks and prostrate logs'. I fear I may tire you with my long 'yarn' about *Trees*,' he wrote to his nephew in an undated letter' but I love them, and to be *alone* among them. Yet not *alone*, never alone, for God and nature is *there* and everywhere.' Colenso had a three acre garden on Napier Hill, north facing and sloping right down to Milton Road. In season he had so many figs and peaches he used to gather them into baskets and offer them to children wandering home from school at the bottom of Milton Road. He also had a

man who lived in and gardened for him. Colenso was practical but aesthetic in his appreciation. His idea was that you had a cloaked landscape, a soft landscape which took in the best of both cultures, the indigenous and migrant in an intricate personal forest which yielded practical benefits.

By 1858 in Napier there was the beginnings of a small settlement. By that time he had lived in Hawke's Bay for an extremely long 14 years, longer than anyone else as a settled migrant. Thus he could offer real insights to incoming migrants or newbies who were finding the lay of the land difficult. In April 17th 1858 the HBH had carried an ad for Apple Trees. 'A few choice young trees for sale, of superior qualities - among which are some new highly-approved long-keeping sorts; also a few large trees in full bearing. An early application is necessary. Apply to W Colenso Waitangi.'

In August of the same year he wrote a long article on 'the best sorts or varieties of Apples Trees suitable for cultivation among us.' He excused himself for launching into what he described as 'a broad and little known sea' by saying he would speak from experience and not from what was available in Ak, Wgt, Nelson or Canterbury. He recommended a Horticultural Society of London's list of apples based on *colour, form, size, use, quality and season*. This list had 1396 named varieties of apples and 677 named varieties of pears (which I think is an interesting reflection on our reduced world...)

He then named his own apples - saying they were divided into 5 old, 1 improved and two new varieties. The old were Devonshire, March Aromatic, Nonesuch, Hawthornden, and one, a yellow apple, 'name unknown'. The improved apple was grafted off a Nonesuch 'by which the apple is greatly improved'. The two new varieties seemed to be his own invention because he described them as 'a small sweet very early apple and a great bearer' which 'I have named 'New-Year'; and the other was 'a very elegant and juicy apple having a transparent centre' as yet unnamed.

He recommended the Hawthornden and Nonesuch as a cooking apple, 'forming in cooking one uniform mass of rich pulp.' The others are table apples.

Colenso had 15 varieties of what he described as winter apples, meaning apples which 'ripen late, keep well and improve by keeping.' The 8 old ones were

Ribstone Pippin, Royal or autumn Pearmain?, Court of Wick, Margil, Dutch Mognonne?, Codlia, Yellow Pippin: the new varieties are Waitangi, Napier, Settler, Keepsake, Phoenix and Bonum. These are not so good for dessert but are excellent for the kitchen 'remaining firm and sound until October.' Keepsake lasts till November 'one of the very best of all my new kinds'.

The London list may be available, he said, in either New Zealand 'or in the neighbouring colony of Tasmania.' (And here he cautioned 'the new settler' not to rely too much on the mere name of an apple tree: for example there were 4 Hawthornden trees - 8 Nonesuch's - while other fruits which, as he says, 'whose fruit we have formerly eaten, and whose names we recollect with a sigh' might not be what they say they are; through the carelessness or ignorance or knavery of the cultivator... and when the amount and height of impudent adulterations of the last 20 years are considered... (it wld not be a surprise) if a settler sending abroad for some good old pear or apple by name and believing that it is sure to bear the like delicious fruits as those he knew

once in her fatherland bearing the same name may be after all disappointed.’ In other words, you couldn’t really just rely on the name of a fruit tree.

Incidentally it is worth pointing out that Colenso bought some of his fruit trees from Edgerley’s in Auckland. Edgerley was a pioneer nurseryman who actually arrived in the Hokianga about the time Colenso did, in 1835. He stayed in Hokianga till 1841 with what was described as ‘an English-style garden’, sending botanical specimens back to Kew. He eventually set up a ten acre garden in Newmarket in Auckland (still called Edgerley Avenue) where he specialised in fruit trees.

With this in mind Colenso then moved on to advice about the practicalities of planting a fruit tree. This he wrote about at length in the letters column of the HBH 5 June 58, noting ‘that every bona fide Settler who has Fruit-Trees should be determined to do it himself, and not trust to servants.’

His advice runs to several pages and includes such advice as: don’t go about the job in a hurry - ‘good work requires time’. Have a good *sharp* knife. Choose dry winter weather... if your planting ground is very much exposed to a strong wind, like the Westerly, set your trees a little inclining that way; if your orchard is very much exposed to high winds, a few screens dead or living, will amply repay the trouble; ‘tutu and other native shrubs or even fern might be advantageously be left for this purpose.’ If your trees show any sign of unhealthiness, quietly endeavour to find out the cause. Beware however of nostrums (ie false advice), look to Nature.’ ‘Should a sheep or what is worse a goat get in and gnaw the branches of your trees, cut off as soon as possible the bitten part quite down to the sound bark. *Have good fences.*

And being WC he closes with a bit of poetic folderol... which does not bear repeating here. Basically he was practical and full of good advice. We even find him writing nearly forty years later on an epidemic of fungus among apple trees. He noticed this first in the garden of Lindauer the portrait painter who by this time no longer lived in Cathedral Lane in Napier but out of Woodville, where Colenso saw several ‘large and hitherto flourishing apple trees (10-12 feet high) were killed by the fungus which struck the roots. Colenso recommended he burn the trees completely and even burn the holes from which the trees had been dug. Later he added advice from a Mr Olsen of Norsewood, a painter, who recommended exposing the tree roots and covering them with lime, leaving the roots bare. The trees, he said, recovered.

It is probably apt to finish on such a practical note, of information shared settler to settler, as Colenso was a curious mixture of a man, a deep thinker who also saw things practically, a man who saw in depth and across the span of time and cultures - he was one of HB’s first Pakeha settlers, he kept notes on just about everything and as such I think we could regard him as a kind of wonderful tree which has delivered to us in the present some wonderful and nutritious fruits.

*From a talk by Peter Wells to the Treecrops Association in Hawke’s Bay recently. See <http://www.peterwellsblog.com/2011/05/bad-boy-willcolenso-on-how-trees-can.html>.*

*The Napier Mail, easily persuaded by historical tittle-tattle about Colenso’s “bad side”, reported this under the headline **Good side remembered.***

*As Darwin said of the creationists, “Great is the power of steady misrepresentation.”*

# Intimations of mortality from a Sunday in Waipuk.

## Colenso's poem?

There is a poem of three stanzas in the Colenso papers in the Alexander Turnbull Library. It was written by William Colenso in Waipukurau, on Sunday afternoon, 18 January 1880 (he would have been 69 years old), and addressed to his son Willie (Wiremu). Here it is:

Lay me low, my work is done,  
I am weary, lay me low,  
Where the wild flowers woo the sun,  
Where the forest breezes blow,  
Where the butterfly takes wing,  
Where the creepers drooping grow,  
Where the wild birds chirp and sing  
I am weary, let me go.

I have striven hard and long  
In the world's unequal light.  
Always to resist the wrong,  
Always to maintain the right,  
Always with a fearless heart;  
Taking, giving blow for blow,  
Willie, I have played my part,  
And am weary—let me go.

Stern the world and bitter cold.  
Irrksome, painful to endure,  
Everywhere a love of gold.  
Nowhere pity for the poor,  
Everywhere mistrust, disguise,  
Pride, hypocrisy, and show,  
Draw the curtain, close mine eyes,  
I am weary—let me go.



The Tavistock Hotel, Waipukurau,  
where Colenso wrote the verses.

Somnolent stuff, you will agree, but then it was a Sunday afternoon in Waipukurau, and Colenso was sick: he wrote to John Drummond on 22 January 1880, “I only last night returned, having been taken unwell at Waipukurau & so detained.”

After Colenso's death Henry Hill's “A TRIBUTE TO THE VETERAN” (*Hawke's Bay Herald*, 13 February 1899, Page 3) ended with the same three stanzas, explained by Hill: “Such were the sentiments and wishes addressed 19 years ago to his son.”

“Lay me low” was then picked up by *The Colonist*, (23 February 1899, p. 4) as “Lines written by the late Rev. W. Colenso, the first printer in New Zealand”. The *Mataura Ensign* of 2 March 1899 inexplicably misread it as an elegy for Willie: “The following pathetic lines were dedicated by the late Rev. W. Colenso to the memory of his son in 1880”, nonetheless replacing “Willie,” with “While I have played my part”.

## Adam Lindsay Gordon's poem?

But wait a moment: his close friend Coupland Harding wrote that he knew of no verses written by Colenso and if you google “Lay me low” you find lots of entries for

“Valedictory” by Adam Lindsay Gordon (1833–70, biography at <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A040302b.htm>, and the website of the Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee Inc. at <http://adamlindsaygordon.org/>). He was the man that inspired Banjo Paterson and other bush poets, and is celebrated as Australia’s “poet laureate” with a bronze statue in Melbourne.

Even Oscar Wilde wrote that “Gordon is one of the finest poetic singers the English race has ever known”. John Adams, Secretary of the Commemorative Committee , emailed “the sentiments expressed through the poem can be found in many of his poems. Gordon suffered from depression and he was always trying to find a reason for life” (*pers. com.*). Here is “Valedictory”:

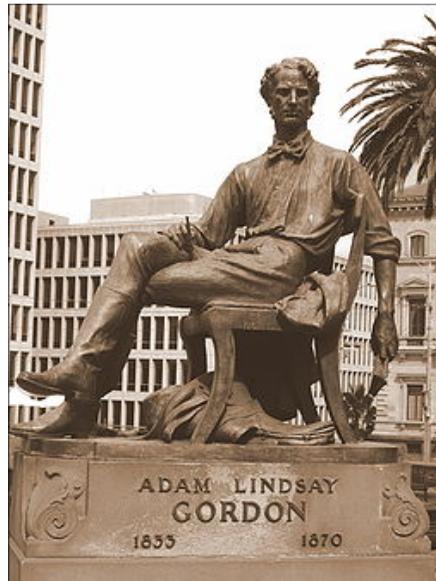
LAY me low, my work is done,  
I am weary. Lay me low,  
Where the wild flowers woo the sun,  
Where the balmy breezes blow,  
Where the butterfly takes wing,  
Where the aspens, drooping, grow,  
Where the young birds chirp and sing—  
I am weary, let me go.

I have striven hard and long  
In the world’s unequal fight,  
Always to resist the wrong,  
Always to maintain the right.  
Always with a stubborn heart,  
Taking, giving blow for blow;  
Brother, I have played my part,  
And am weary, let me go.

Stern the world and bitter cold,  
Irk some, painful to endure;  
Everywhere a love of gold,  
Nowhere pity for the poor.  
Everywhere mistrust, disguise,  
Pride, hypocrisy, and show;  
Draw the curtain, close mine eyes,  
I am weary, let me go.

Other chance when I am gone  
May restore the battle-call,  
Bravely lead the good cause on  
Fighting in the which I fall.  
God may quicken some true soul  
Here to take my place below  
In the heroes’ muster roll—  
I am weary, let me go.

Shield and buckler, hang them up,  
Drape the standards on the wall,  
I have drained the mortal cup  
To the finish, dregs and all;  
When our work is done, ’tis best,  
Brother, best that we should go—  
I am weary, let me rest,  
I am weary, lay me low.



The Gordon statue in Melbourne

### **Roderick Noble's poem?**

But wait a moment: the Aussies would have called them poplars, not aspens; and the Adam Lindsay Gordon Commemorative Committee's website tells us that "Lay me low" may have been wrongly attributed to Gordon. If you continue googling "Lay me low" you can find a South African book called *Half hours of leisure etc* in which Chapter XXIV (p.121) contains the same poem under the title "Lines written by Professor Noble of Cape Town shortly before his death". (There are minor differences—for instance the last two lines have the even more exhausted "I'm weary" in place of "I am weary").

Professor Roderick Noble (1829-1875) was Professor of Physical Science and of English at the South African College from 1859, Editor of the *Cape Monthly Magazine* which he started in 1851, deacon and member of the board of management of St Andrews Presbyterian Church in Capetown. He is mentioned often in *The letters of Jane Elizabeth Waterston, 1866-1905*, in which she writes (p.51), "Professor Noble introduced me to Mr La Touche, who has come out to take Bishop Colenso's place, if that gentleman can be persuaded to go home for a few months." (letter to James Stewart, 25 March 1874. James La Touche of Shropshire was a long time supporter of Bishop John Colenso, who did go to England in 1874 to plead the case of the Hlubi chief, Langalibalele). Roderick Noble died on 20 December 1875.

Could the poem have been sent to William Colenso from his cousin's connections in South Africa?

### **John Noble's poem?**

But wait a moment: even further googling leads you to *A Treasury of South African Poetry and Verse: Collected From Various Sources and Arranged by Edward Heath Crouch* published in 1909. It contains the same poem on p.214, undated, but attributed to John Noble. A brother of professor Roderick Noble, he arrived in Cape Town in 1857 and worked as a journalist on the newly founded Cape Argus. From 1865-97 he served as a clerk to the house of Assembly and was the editor of the *Cape Monthly Magazine* from 1875-79. His descriptive handbook of Cape Colony was published in 1875 and he was the author of numerous other works. From 1880-82 he was seconded by the government as secretary to the Bantu Laws and Customs Commission. Noble was the Cape honorary corresponding secretary to the Royal Colonial Institute.

### **Colenso's poem**

Clearly then, Colenso was not the author (and nowhere claimed to be), but modified the first three stanzas for his own purpose, omitting the warrior material in the last two.

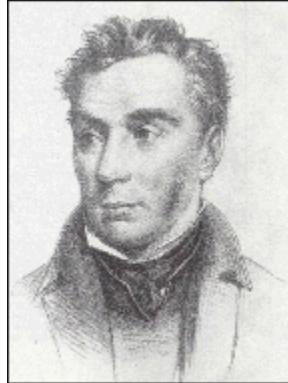
In fact it had been published in New Zealand newspapers in 1873—for instance *Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle*, 3 November 1873, Page 5—with no author, but with the mysterious words "(FROM ALL THE YEAR ROUND)". It turns out *All the year round* was Charles Dickens's weekly literary magazine, by then in the hands of his son Charles Dickens Jr. and indeed the poem appears in Vol. XI, 12 July 1873, p.251—but its author is not mentioned there either.

Colenso had probably clipped it from a NZ newspaper, as was his habit, and, woe-be-gone in Waipukurau, tailored it for Wiremu, who was to marry his cousin and settle in Penzance later that year, 1880.

### **Ebenezer Elliott's poem**

Colenso was perhaps not the first to have borrowed these verses. Ebenezer Elliott (1781–1849), English poet, known as the *Corn Law rhymers*, wrote “Let me rest” in about 1848, as he was dying, seeking to be buried at his estate at Barnesdale. The similarity is startling to say the least...

He does well who does his best:  
Is he weary? let him rest:  
Brothers! I have done my best,  
I am weary—let me rest.  
After toiling oft in vain,  
Baffled, yet to struggle fain;  
After toiling long, to gain  
Little good with mickle pain,—  
Let me rest—But lay me low.  
Where the hedgeside roses blow;  
Where the little daises grow,  
When the winds a-maying go;  
Where the footpath rustics plod;  
Where the breeze-bow'd poplars nod;  
Where the old woods worship God;  
Where His pencil paints the sod;  
Where the wedded throstle sings;  
Where the young bird tries his wings;  
Where the wailing plover swings  
Near the runlet's rushy springs!  
Where, at times, the tempest's roar,  
Shaking distant sea and shore,  
Still will rave old Barnesdale o'er  
To be heard by me no more!  
There, beneath the breezy west,  
Tir'd and thankful, let me rest.  
Like a child, that sleepeth best  
On its gentle mother's breast.



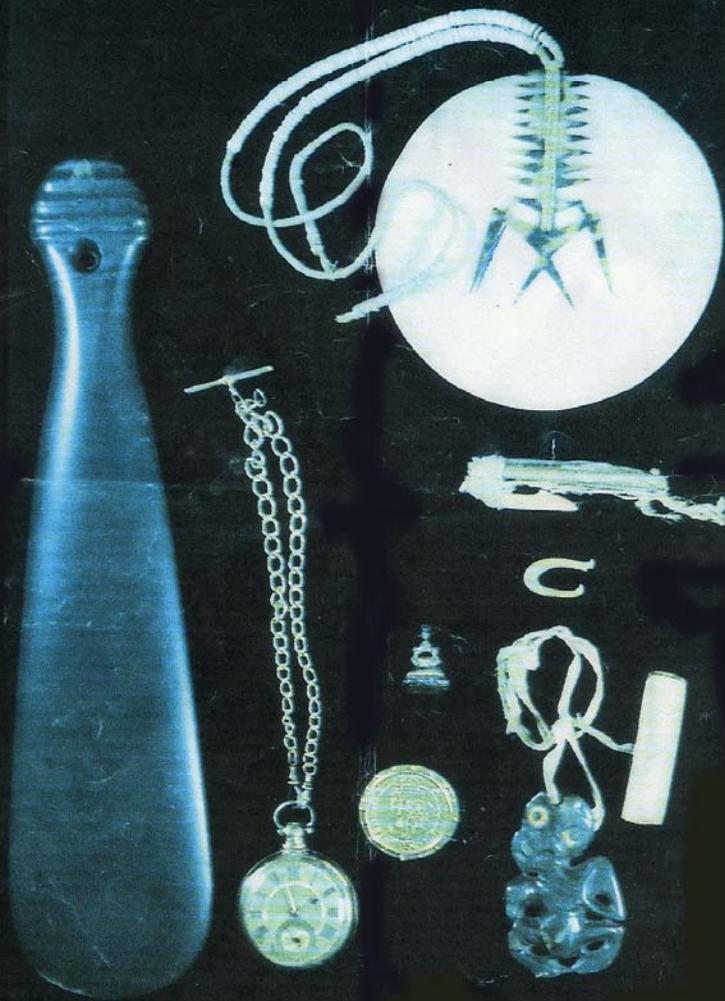
Ebenezer Elliott

### **Robert Burns' poem**

There are echoes too, of Burns' 1792 “The slave's lament”:

All on that charming coast is no bitter snow and frost,  
Like the lands of Virginia, -ginia, O:  
There streams for ever flow, and there flowers for ever blow,  
And alas! I am weary, weary O:  
There streams for ever flow, and there flowers for ever blow,  
And alas! I am weary, weary O.

# The William Colenso Collection



**Dunbar Sloane**  
**Te Hokinga Mai**

# DUNBAR SLOANE

Established 1918  
FINE ART AND ANTIQUE AUCTIONEERS

## CATALOGUE OF THE

# COINS, STAMPS, MEDALS, BOOKS, JEWELLERY, MAORI ARTEFACTS, SOUTH PACIFIC ARTEFACTS (Te Hokinga Mai)

Acting on instructions from the William Colenso Family and Mr Dunbar Sloane, Director of Dunbar Sloane Ltd, we are to sell rare and important items. Amongst them William Colenso's personal effects and Artefacts and Mr Sloane's rare wooden Maori Artefacts which left these N.Z. shores approximately 120 years ago, sold to whalers, sailors and visitors. Over the last 18 years discovered and purchased in the seaports of England and Ireland, including Artefacts from Christies of London, famous "Hooper Collection Auction" (The Greatest Artefact Sale ever held in the World). Plus items from the George Ortez Auction (Sotheby's). Also including the Medal and Coin collection from the Estate of the Late Squadron Leader L. S. Donnelley J P E D and Books from the Estate of the Late Hilda Jones.

on

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 1987 at 10.30 a.m.  
Pink Gallery, 32 Waring Taylor Street

### VIEWING

Tuesday, 24th November, 1987 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Wednesday, 25th November, 1987 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

### *Auctioneers Note:*

Approximately 130 lots an hour will be auctioned with no break for lunch.  
Please note there are no Lots 301-350.  
Approximate times: Coins 10.30 a.m., Books 11.45 a.m., Artefacts 1.15 p.m.

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## Colenso: a coin collector?

In 1987 Wellington auctioneers Dunbar Sloane offered for sale “The William Colenso Collection” among other lots, including coins, stamps, medals, books, jewellery, Maori and other South Pacific artefacts. They were auctioned on behalf of descendents of William Colenso’s daughter Frances Simcox of Otaki. Many of the Colenso lots are identified in the catalogue, and among them lots 75 to 83 are coins “from the collection of William Colenso” – including 5 lots of 5 Roman, one lot of American and three lots of assorted coins.

Indeed, at the 4th meeting of the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute on 15 August 1887, “Mr. Colenso exhibited... a couple of ancient coins, one a denarius of Julius Cæsar, found, curiously enough, on the Napier Hills”. Coupland Harding wrote of Colenso, “In his friendly assistance to students and lovers of nature he always acted as if he was receiving instead of conferring an obligation. Some years ago, botanising in the woods far inland, he chanced upon the humble abode of a foreigner. The man had quite a collection of coins and medals, gathered at various times, and was an enthusiast, displaying unusual knowledge of the subject. His visitor’s face beamed with pleasure—the pleasure of a kindly deed in anticipation. For his mind reverted to a neglected volume in his library at home—a standard authority on numismatics, with many fine copperplate illustrations. On his return to town the book was looked up and despatched, with his regards, as a gift to his friend in the bush, who would be able to do what its possessor had hitherto failed to do—make good use of it.” [1]

Herman Marius Lund was born in Lingby, Denmark, in about 1853. He migrated to NZ in about 1876, and was a clerk at Tahoraiti when he was naturalised on 19 March 1883. He married and was stationmaster at Ormondville by 1887. He left there to become stationmaster at Makotuku in May 1888, but the “friendly, kind and obliging”

Lund was called back to be presented with a locket inlaid with diamonds and rubies, and engraved: “H.M. Lund, Presented by Ormondville Friends, 1888.” *The Bush Advocate* of 21 January 1892 records that he was a keen collector of coins. →

Lund left the Bush, was stationmaster at Waitara in 1899, and by 1917 was a land agent there. He is buried in an unmarked grave in Waitara Cemetery. [2]

Colenso referred in his letters to coin collecting. On 11 October 1892 he reported to Harding on the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute’s meeting of the night before, a paper “by Lund, on Coins: L. is a great Numismatist, and has a goodly & val. colln.”

He wrote again, on 3 May 1895, that on the night of 1 May, he had “...from *vii.30—till xii, spent here w. Lund, ditto ditto w. L.* on the

Mr H. M. Lund, of Makotuku, has added a number of coins to his already valuable collection. His latest additions are Roman coins in copper from the Republic, 380, B.C. The Asprave and its sub-divisions, ending with Augustus, continued with bronzes of the Empire, fairly representative from Augustus 29, B.C., to the time of the Crusaders under Emperor Manuel 1st A.D., 1880. Also silver from 1st issue of the Republic to the reign of Marcus Aurelius, 161, A.D. In English Mr Lund has specimens of coins in silver beginning with Ethelred I, 866, A.D. Cnut (or Canu't) the Great, 1017, A.D.; William the Conqueror, 1066, A.D.; Richard and Edward I, Edward III, Henry VIII, Edward VI, Mary and Elizabeth, and then through the Stuarts and Hanoverian line down to the present date.

From the *Bush Advocate*,  
21 January 1892

*Tuesday* nt. (this had been fixed, a month before). I brought w. me, Camden's "Brittania" (big. fol. from Motil. Liby., borrowing from, or *thro*, D(inwiddie). Hony. Secy.) on account of its many *tables* of Brit. & Sax. Coins, also a *bulky 4to.*—own pubd. by Socy. Antiquaries, causing *hundreds* of Brit. & Saxon Coins—well-engraved copper-plates: some (few) of these L. possesses: & also a 12 mo., *scores* of mod. coins of XVIIth. & XVIIIth. cents., *this* vol. I had brought w. *me* from Engd.!! I gave L. my 4to., which pleased him much; I spent a most enjoyable time w. L., here in my private parlour warm, draughtless, & cosy: in many respects my time w. him *here* served to remind me of hours with you."

Then on 14 July 1895 he wrote of the recent meeting: "Hon. Secy. read Lund's on 'Coins'—a good p. but unfitted for an *audience*. Coins of Charles I, then mottoes obverse & reverse, &c, &c. Scarcely understood!"

Colenso did write several letters to Lund, mostly everyday matters and requests for plants, with little mention of numismatics in the surviving copies.

1. Harding RC. William Colenso: some personal reminiscences. *The Press* 27 Feb. 1899.
2. <http://webspaces.webring.com/people/an/norsewoodnz/staffmakutmata.html>

## Te hokinga mai: the return home?

A few of the auction lots can be identified in Colenso's probate inventory (which is even less precise than the catalogue 88 years later). His elder son Latimer was left all of Colenso's personal effects, and neither he nor Wiremu had surviving children. Perhaps Lattie gave some to Frances when he visited her in Otaki later in 1899.

While the provenance of many of the lots is not mentioned, a good number were identified clearly, and many of them are of some interest. Some are from Elizabeth Colenso's collecting. The sale price has been entered beside most lots.

*Te hokinga mai?* Not so, alas: who bought them is not known, but at least one important lot went abroad—Colenso's telescope. Here are the catalogue descriptions of the lots that can be identified certainly now (*my comments in italics*).

"THE FOLLOWING BOOKS ARE FROM THE COLLECTION OF WILLIAM COLENZO"

- Lot 200. Buller W.L. "A History of the Birds of NZ." Second Ed. Vol II 1888 (Boards loose & covered with newspaper). \$475. *Colenso owned a copy & referred to it in his letters.*
201. COLENZO Wm. "Excursion in the Northern Island of NZ in the Summer of 1841-2 Printed at the Office of the Launceston Examiner 1844 (Green paper covers cellotaped & stapled). \$575.
203. Hooker J.D. "Handbook of the NZ Flora" Half bound leather—Inscribed to Colenso from Author & notated Levell (*sic*) Reeve & Co. Lon. 1864. \$320. *Colenso sent comments to JD Hooker, pointing out errors in the Handbook.*
205. HOOKER J.D. "Himalyan Journals" Minerva Lib. Ed. 1891 inscribed & notated on Fly) and "The Tales of the Genii" 1861 with wood & steel engravings (covers loose & damaged) \$65. *Colenso acknowledged receiving his copy in a letter to Hooker in 1893.*

206. MULLER Max “Anthropological Religion” (The Gifford Lectures Glasgow 1891 Longmans Lon. 1892 signed W. Colenso, notated on fly. \$105. *Colenso referred extensively to this in his 1892 Observations on Mr. T. White’s Paper, his 1893 Notes and Observations on M. A. de Quatrefages Paper and his 1898 Certain errors of the Church of Rome .*
207. Maning F.E. “Old NZ” second Ed. AK 1863 “Battered copy” with inscriptions, clippings etc. \$30. *Colenso was dismissive of Manning’s work in his letters to Harding: “(I) am wholly against his (or John White’s, or Manning’s) Maori romances of “Fairy tales” (?) being introduced into our schools! such I consider would be ultimately injurious to both races.”*
208. MCFARLAND Alfred “Mutiny in the Bounty & Story of the Pitcairn Islanders” Sydney 1884 (inscribed E. Colenso 1885). \$65.
- 209 Maori Art—part III 1898 (loose, cover torn) and Part I & III (pages missing). \$45. *Frequently referred to in his letters to Harding.*
210. RUSDEN G.W. “History of NZ” Vol. III 1883. \$25. *To Harding, “Among the books I unearthed today, is Rusden’s “Aureretanga: Groans of the Maoris”—did you ever meet with it? I have also a copy of his first work in 3 vols.”*
211. TREGEAR Edward “Maori-Polynesian Comparative Dictionary” (1897) Later dated letter pasted on fly. \$160. *Colenso was disparaging about this, claiming Tregear had plagiarised his own work.*
212. Facsimiles of the Declaration of Independence & the Treaty of Waitangi. Geo Didsbury, Govt. Printer 1877. \$40.
213. WALLACE J. Howard “Manual of NZ History” 1st Ed. 1886. \$25.
- 
216. Wm. Colenso’s magnifying glass.
352. James I Gold Coin Mounted as a Brooch inscribed Colenso-Conway June 17th. \$1500. *James I ruled 1556-1625. Ann Collins emailed, “I do not have a record of a Conway/Colenso marriage. But in those days the marriage record often did not include the surname of the wife.”*
377. Curiously deformed Beak of Huia plus Colenso’s Book from the Translations (*sic*) of the N.Z. Institute. Vol xlx 1886 see page 144. The Inference being that the Female Huia was fed by her Mate. Plus Huhu Bug. \$160. *See eColenso February 2011.*
380. Maori Fish hook Shaft—Moa Bone Barb—Human Bone East cape 1837 . Information in Colenso’s handwriting & signed. \$1400
381. Maori Fish Hook Shaft—Moa Bone Barb—Human Bone East Cape 1837. Information in Colenso’s handwriting & signed.
382. Maori hand made cord very rare and much esteemed East cape 1837. Information in Colenso’s handwriting & signed. *Colenso to Hooker 19 August 1896, “You will find one (at least) curious and unique specimen of Cord, or string, more than 60 years old! see its history, (“Trans. N.Z.*

*Instit.*” vol. xxiv, p.460): *this has ever excited great interest, my little reel of it has been shown at all our Southern Exhibitions.*”

383. Huia feathers (two). \$40.
384. William Colenso’s Telescope. \$300.
385. William Colenso’s Meerschaum Cigar Holder. \$200. *And see lot #397: Colenso did not smoke, and according to Harding, “To the end of his days he held spirits and tobacco in utter detestation.”*
386. Greenstone Adze Colenso collection. \$450.
387. Land Snail Shells collected by William Colenso East Coast 1836. \$80.
388. Mako Bone Ornament carved into shape of tooth Colenso collection. \$80.
389. Green coloured Rock Sinker Colenso collection. \$40.
396. Two Land Snail Shells Colenso collection East Coast 1836.
397. Meerschaum pipe Colenso collection.
403. Maori Fish Hook Shaft—Moa Bone Barb—Human Bone East Coast 1837 information in Colenso’s handwriting & signed.
405. Chieftan’s Breastplate made from shell from the island of Santa Cruz Colenso collection. \$2700. *Elizabeth Colenso worked in the Santa Cruz islands, and this is probably from her collecting.*
408. Huia tail feather Colenso collection. \$70.

## The Swabey collection

In 1961, the Dominion Museum (Te Papa’s predecessor) acquired from Mrs Barbara Vernon Swabey of Otaki a collection of Pacific objects, which had been collected by Elizabeth Colenso in the 19th century. Elizabeth was a missionary, teacher and translator who worked for the Church Missionary Society mission. From 1876 to 1898, Elizabeth taught at the Anglican Melanesian Mission based at Norfolk Island. Established by bishop George Augustus Selwyn in 1849, the Melanesian Mission sought to convert the Western South Pacific Islands which included the Santa Cruz Islands, Solomon Islands, and Northern Vanuatu.

Elizabeth retired to Otaki where she lived with her daughter Frances Mary Simcox. The objects in Te Papa’s Pacific collection acquired by Elizabeth include fine loom woven cloths from the Santa Cruz Islands in the Solomon Islands.

<http://collections.tepapa.govt.nz/theme.aspx?irn=2068>

# Following the footsteps of William Colenso:

Norman Elder, tramper, botanist, teacher, photographer, writer, map maker.

By Tony Gates

Norman Elder was born 1896 in Wellington, and died in 1974. He spent much of his life tramping and botanising throughout “Colenso Country” and “Howlett Country”, and teaching others to enjoy it. He was a good scholar, studying Engineering and Botany, then joining the army in England. Despite two bullet wounds in one leg in 1915, he continued to tramp for most of his life, often, as the Heretaunga Tramping Club photographs show, with a considerable entourage. The photographs also often show his usual tramping uniform- walk shorts, bush shirt, head scarf, large sheath knife, and smoking a pipe.

After the war, Elder returned to New Zealand with his wife Kathleen, then joined the newly formed Tararua Tramping Club. This was at a time when recreational tramping was flourishing, and large areas of interest, particularly in the Tararua mountains were unexplored and unmapped. At the instigation of Dr L Cockayne, and with V D Zotov and A D Beddie, Elder made good use of his interests to undertake a systematic botanical survey of the Tararuas. “*An outline of the vegetation and flora of the Tararua Mountains*” was published in 1938, and was the first of fifteen botanical/ ecological booklets and papers written/ published by Norman Elder. He also produced the “Route guide to the ranges west of Hawkes Bay” (1959), many maps, unpublished NZ Forest Service reports, and botanical, historical, and tramping reports.



Norman Elder by Dick Endt  
1957 Kaweka



1957 Kaweka cairn Heretaunga TC and Norman Elder

The Elder family shifted to Havelock North in 1931, with Norman now as a school teacher. He helped form the Heretaunga Tramping Club, and subsequently introduced several generations to tramping and botanising. He became a fellow of the Royal Geographic Society 1938, President of Federated Mountain

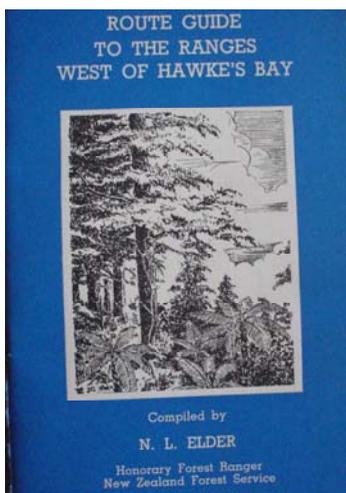
Clubs during the 1940's, and won the prestigious Loder Cup in 1954 for his work on indigenous plants. Indeed, in 1960, the Loder Cup Committee wrote;

*“He [Mr Elder] has made himself an authority on the native plants of the Tararua, Ruahine, Kaimanawa, and Kaweka ranges. In regular visits to all parts of this region, he has not only recorded the habitats and geographical distribution of species of plants, but he has also collected for growing those forms that are particularly attractive or puzzling and in need of further study. He thus has unique knowledge of the most difficult high country in the North Is.*

*The private native garden and school garden is extensive and horticulturally attractive, and its collection of plants of Hawkes Bay makes it unique. A number of species hitherto considered rare, and some originally collected by the Rev W Colenso, have been brought into cultivation by him and made generally available."*

Norman Elder had extensively explored the Tararuas, Ruahines, Kawekas, Kaimanawas, and Ureweras. Interestingly, at a time when many trampers explored the mountains of the South Island, Elder apparently never did. He was dedicated to his own back yard, and particularly interested in historical effects on the ranges, and changes wrought by introduced animals. The NZ Forest Service was concerned with continued dramatic changes occurring to the vegetation and terrain during the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. Erosion debris from the mountains, particularly the Kawekas and Ruahines, was having a significant impact on river control schemes in the Hawkes Bay and the Manawatu. More than just animal control was required, rather a better understanding of the ecological, geological, hydrological, and meteorological processes occurring in the mountains, hence a better use of resources. NZ Forest Service Scientists and technicians, ably advised by the likes of Les Pracey, Norman Elder and Mavis Davidson, lived and worked in the mountains. Elder's sharp eye and ability to record complex ecological patterns and processes in easy to read text produced work still regarded as some of the finest examples of field ecological observation. As a photographer, he was skilled at extrapolating topographic detail from photographs, compass bearings, and considerable local knowledge, then producing hand drawn maps. His publications therefore offer vital scientific information, and comparisons and contrasts to those of William Colenso, and to what you would find today.

Norman Elder retired in 1954, then assumed the role of "Part time casual" teacher to IAD/ NZ Forest Service deer cullers and other staff. He called himself a Forester, Cartographer, Botanist, and Historian. He was extremely proud of this work, educating and assisting government deer cullers, some of whom still recall Norman Elder as an excellent teacher who knew the North Island mountains better than anyone.



His name was given to a peak in the Tararuas near Mt Hector (on the "Tararua Southern Crossing") and to the cosy NZ Forest Service bivvy located nearby, built during 1964. This bivvy was replaced by DoC during 2006 to now be a tidy and modern Tararua residence. In recognition of his fine botanic work, a stream in the northern Ruahines was named Kaumatua Stream - a Maori translation for "Elderly person". Another nearby stream, in the Makaroro Valley and south of Colenso Spur, has long been known as Elder Stream.

#### References

Dictionary NZ Biography.

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/>

NZ J Botany, 1976, vol 14:Obituary, Norman Lascelles Elder.

Heretaunga Tramping Club archives.

## Poem for Mavis Davidson

Mavis Davidson was a close friend and admirer of the botanist and explorer Norman Elder. After the 1963 death of Norman's wife Kath, Mavis and Norman, accompanied by Sheila Cunningham, made a trip to the top of the Kaweka Range to scatter Kath's ashes near the memorial cairn erected to the memory of fallen soldiers.

A few months before her own death in 1988, Sheila made a solo pilgrimage to the spot, in deteriorating weather, and on her return wrote this poem dedicated to Mavis:

### FOR MAVIS

FOR YOU

I said hallo to the forest,  
To the tuis and the bellbirds,  
Fantails, cuckoos and chaffinches  
And warblers softly trilling.

FOR YOU

I said hallo to the snowberries  
Sheltering beneath the saddle trees,  
Hung with tight little bunches  
Of "lily of the valley" bells.

FOR YOU

I said hallo to the daisies,  
New leaves thrusting upwards,  
Tight centres pregnant  
With a promise of summer flowers.

FOR YOU

I said hallo to the buttercups,  
Glossy petals newly born,  
Gently curved as though to catch  
A shallow pool of golden sunlight.

FOR YOU

I said hallo to the hills,  
To Kohinga and Castle Rock,  
MacIntosh and Tutaekuri,  
Shadowed by the western sun.

FOR BOTH OF US

I said hallo to the cairn,  
To those who gave their lives  
In a war so long since past.  
And Kath, who sleeps amid  
The lichened rocks, and plants  
That creep and shelter in between  
From winter snows and summer storms  
That sweep the open tops.

FOR ME

I said goodbye to trig and view;  
Grey clouds fast riding from the south  
Swept all the serried hills away.  
Rocks and flowers alone remained.  
Darkened tarns marked the way  
And a lonely pipit ran ahead.  
Fast edging down the ridge,  
In the misty void that swirled around,  
Pinnacles, screes and beech tree tops  
Loomed and faded, came and went.  
Boulder Stream a truly welcome sound  
To bring me safely back again.

Sheila Cunningham  
*Makahu Saddle, 7th November 1987*

*Polyphelebium colensoi* (Hook.f. in Hook.) Ebihara & K.Iwats.



D'1901b William Jackson Hooker - Icones Plantarum - Londres, 1854 - Planché 979

*Trichomanes*  
*colensoi* Hook.f.  
(Bristle fern)

North, South, Stewart and Chatham Islands  
An uncommon fern that most commonly grows on wet rock faces, usually within overhangs or beside streams in dark, wet, lowland to montane forest. It may also be found as a low epiphyte in cloud forest, or within holes amongst exposed roots, or on trees rooted over boulderfalls. Often associated with *Trichomanes strictum* Menzies ex Hook. et Grev. and *Hymenophyllum atrovirens* Colenso.

Not threatened. A naturally uncommon, biologically sparse species which may be abundant in suitable habitats and then absent from other apparently suitable sites nearby.

[Abbreviated from a fact sheet prepared for the NZ Plant Conservation Network by PJ de Lange (July 2007). Description adapted from Brownsey & Smith-Dodsworth (2000)].

# Willie's skills... (from *Papers Past*)

Hawke's Bay Herald 10 Oct 1867

HBH 24 Dec 1867.

ON Wednesday the Napier Grammar School Eleven played a match against five gentlemen. The five were defeated on the first game by 24 runs, but on a second one-innings match, turned the tables on the boys, and beat them by five runs. The boys' fielding was remarkably good. The following are the scores of the two matches:—

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

FIRST INNINGS.	SECOND INNINGS.
Colenso, c Cuff, b Sladen ... 3	b Sladen ... 0
A. Withers, run out... 1	b Sladen ... 13
Mr. Marshall, c Lord, b Sladen ... 4	c Lord, b Sladen ... 5
Pelichet, b Caulton ... 0	st Lord, b Sladen ... 4
Bowern, run out ... 4	c Cuff, b Lord ... 0
Rhodes, b Caulton ... 3	not out ... 5
Ellingham, c and b Sladen ... 3	b Sladen ... 0
Begg, not out ... 0	b Sladen ... 5
Oliver, run out ... 0	b Lord ... 3
Knox, b Caulton ... 0	b Lord ... 0
Ellison, c and b Sladen 0	b Lord ... 1
Byes ... 1	... 8
No ball ... 0	... 1
	19
	45

## THE FIVE.

FIRST INNINGS.	SECOND INNINGS.
Neil, c A. Withers, b Marshall ... 2	c Bowern, b Withers 1
Cuff, b Colenso ... 4	c Colenso, b Withers 4
Sladen, not out ... 7	b Colenso ... 8
Lord, b Colenso ... 0	not out ... 3
Caulton, b Colenso ... 0	b Marshall ... 6
Byes ... 3	... 4
	18
	26

## RETURN MATCH.

### THE FIVE.

E. Withers, b A. Withers ... .. 2	
Lord, c and b Marshall... .. 7	
Sladen, c Pelichet, b Withers ... .. 26	
Cuff, not out ... .. 16	
Neil, c Bowern, b Withers ... .. 0	
Byes ... .. 6	
Wide ... .. 1	
	58

## GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

A. Withers, b Sladen ... .. 0
Colenso, b Lord ... .. 4
Marshall, c Withers, b Lord ... .. 15
Pelichet, b Lord ... .. 14
Bowern, b Lord ... .. 0
Rhodes, c Cuff, b Sladen ... .. 1
Ellingham, b Lord ... .. 4
Begg, st. Lord, b Sladen ... .. 1
Oliver, not out ... .. 7
Ellison, b Neil ... .. 2
Knox, c E. Withers, b Lord ... .. 1
Byes ... .. 4

RR

THE half-yearly examination of the boys attending the Napier Grammar School, took place on Wednesday, the 18th instant, in presence of the parents and friends of the boys. Great satisfaction was expressed at the manner in which the boys answered the questions put to them in the different branches in which they were examined. Mr. Marshall, in giving the prizes, remarked that he was pleased to notice the interest that the boys had taken in their different branches of learning, as was evidenced by the large number of good marks obtained, and also by the fact that several of the boys were only two or three behind their more successful companions, showing that the contest had been a spirited one. The following is a list of the successful competitors:—

## FOR THE UPPER SCHOOL.

### First Class.

Latin ... ..	L. de Pelichet
French ... ..	L. de Pelichet
English ... ..	L. de Pelichet
Mathematics ... ..	Joseph Rhodes
Arithmetic ... ..	L. de Pelichet
Writing ... ..	William Parker
Drawing ... ..	Samuel Begg

### Second Class.

Latin ... ..	W. Colenso
French ... ..	Russell Duncan
English ... ..	Russell Duncan
Arithmetic ... ..	W. Ellingham
Writing ... ..	W. Colenso
Drawing ... ..	Henry Bowern

### Third Class.

Latin ... ..	Frank Tuke
French ... ..	W. Ellison
English ... ..	R. Rhodes
Arithmetic ... ..	R. Ross
Writing ... ..	J. Grant
Good Conduct ... ..	W. Ellison

## LOWER SCHOOL.

### First Class.

English ... ..	James Ross
Arithmetic ... ..	Frank Parker
Writing ... ..	George Oliver

### Second Class.

English ... ..	Frank Davis
Arithmetic ... ..	Wm. Yates
Writing ... ..	Frank Davis

### Third Class.

English ... ..	Ernest Tanner
Arithmetic ... ..	Ernest Tanner
Writing ... ..	Ernest Tanner
Reading ... ..	Frank Kennedy
Good Conduct	{ G. Oliver J. Holder

It seems young Wiremu had greater success with the ball than with the bat, but despite his early dismissal in the first innings retained his position in the batting order, opening also in the second. Later in the year he won his father's prize for "best essay on New Zealand"—I wonder how much help he got at home.

Four additional prizes were given by Mr. Colenso.—One for best essay on New Zealand; one for fast and best cyphering; one for general improvement; and one for good conduct, combined with application, which were awarded respectively to W. Colenso, W. Nicol, Robt. Rhodes, and L. de Pelichet.

After the prizes were given, the Bishop spoke a few words of encouragement to the boys, commending them for their general application, and recommending them to continue to make a diligent use of the present opportunity, which cannot fail to exercise an important bearing on their future prospects in life. The boys were then dismissed, and after giving three hearty cheers for their masters, proceeded to amuse themselves with cricket, croquet, &c.

Colenso was still School Inspector in 1875, making long rounds of scrutiny on horseback (letter to Andrew Luff, 5 May 1875):

*"I rode in one day from Porangahau to Waipukurau—and in another day rode back: & was not tired!!"*

He suffered a fall during his rounds:

*"In riding to Ongaonga (Herrick's & beyond to a new school) I was thrown—or rather horse fell a plunging fall, as if shot, on Bridge's run,—I over its head, a complete somerset! flat on my back, & not so much hurt from the fall, but the beast, in rising, trod on me twice (stomach I think): Rev. Mr. Eccles was w. me: we both thought all was over—the agony was so great, I suffered much from pain—but no serious injury! I rode however in pure misery that day, over 30 miles (obliged to do it), up to Herbison's—then back to Newman's, then to Hampden—late cold & weary—to bed there.—I got back here to rest a while on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup>. I am thinking seriously of resigning my office—have spoken to Ormond about it...."*

He went on to tell how he raised money for school prizes:

*"During that week I gave a Lecture (while lame after my fall), to buy the Scholarship prizes—an attentive audience.—"*



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

Please forward it to anybody who may be interested.

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@rnzcgp.org.nz](mailto:ian.stgeorge@rnzcgp.org.nz).

The cover of this issue is based on a copy of Robert Coupland Harding's "Typo".



# Have you seen this book?

On 9 March 1876 William Colenso wrote to his friend Andrew Luff in London: “Mr Tylee is got round again, & just at office. He shewed me a Book of *photographs* bound at Dinwiddie’s,—of fearfully lowering pen & ink scratches of many of us, (much like *those* of Tiffen—but it is *doubtful* if T. is the author,)—there is myself (often), Justice Johnston, McLean, Lee, Lambert, & several others. Tylee expressed surprise at my not having before seen it, —and other *photos. also.*”

There is no such published book in Bagnall, and I presume Dinwiddie & Co. simply bound a private compilation of photographs and drawings of Napier identities.

I wrote to Tessa Tylee, JT Tylee’s great great grand-daughter in Napier: as far as she and her father are aware, the book is not among the Tylee family treasures.

## Has it survived?

**John Thomas Tylee** b.1827 (Bath, Somerset), d.1884 (Napier) was head of the Commissariat for the British Troops which garrisoned the York and Rutland Stockades in Wanganui; “Tylee cottage” was built for him there in 1853. In 1865 Tylee left Wanganui for Napier as paymaster to the militia; he must have been Provincial Treasurer in the 1870s and at one time was Commissioner for Crown Lands. He and his wife Mary had nine children.

Interestingly, Tylee seems to have suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome: Colenso wrote 5 April 1876: “Tylee is still *very unwell*—... I fear, past work.”

2 May: “Tylee is still holding out, but his legs are paralysed!”

3 May: “Tylee was got out, & to town, today, in a trap; he may get round: I did not see him.”

31 May: “Tylee *is* able to come to office.”

28 June: “Tylee wanted *all* Teachers’ (& other school) accounts in with him by yesterday—as he may have to send in an account of payments to Head Quarters by 30<sup>th</sup>.!!”

*This was during a diphtheria epidemic: GBS is an “autoimmune” condition causing a temporary paralysis of both legs, classically following a systemic infection, the antibodies formed in response to that infection attacking the spinal nerves. It was first described in 1859 by Landry, and further researched during WWI by the French physicians Guillain and Barré—Ed.*