

COLENZO

MAY

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THE COLLENZO SOCIETY INC
22 ORCHARD ST
WADESTOWN, WELLINGTON

CALL FOR PAPERS
(CLOSING DATE 30 APRIL 2011)



Wm Colenso.

WILLIAM COLENZO
BICENTENARY
A CELEBRATION
OF HIS LIFE
AND IDEAS

HAWKE'S BAY
9-13 NOVEMBER 2011

2011 IS THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF WILLIAM COLENZO

Printer of some of the most significant documents in New Zealand history, missionary, explorer and botanist, a free-wheeling politician and controversialist – William Colenso was a maverick.

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 – 13 November 2011 centered on an academic conference.

We are now inviting proposals for the conference, to be held from 10 – 11 November 2011.

We welcome new, established and independent researchers to submit proposals for papers and panels on all subjects associated with the life and ideas of William Colenso (1811 – 1899). Potential themes include, but are not limited to Colenso's links with Maori, botany, religion, education, politics, printing, exploration and local history.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

For all individual and panel proposals, please include the name, institutional affiliation (if any), contact address and email of the presenter, a 250 word abstract, and a brief biography that provides details such as publications and current research interests. Proposals will be subject to a peer review process.

Proposals should be submitted by email using the template provided on the website to colenso@hbmag.co.nz no later than 30 April 2011. Please ensure that the proposal includes your name, paper title and contact email address.

The conference format for individual papers will be a 20 minute presentation followed by 10 minutes for discussion and questions.

There will be an opportunity for selected papers to be included in an edited publication on William Colenso, released to coincide with an exhibition and research project to be developed by Hawke's Bay Museum & Art Gallery upon the reopening of the Museum in 2013.

A wide range of events will be taking place as part of the bicentenary and there are still opportunities for your organisation to host an event, wherever you are in the world, as part of the celebrations. Please contact Eloise Taylor at colenso@hbmag.co.nz for more information.

HAWKE'S BAY MUSEUM & ART GALLERY NAPIER



PLEASE CONTACT
ELOISE TAYLOR
PUBLIC PROGRAMMES TEAM LEADER
PHONE 06 835 9243
EMAIL COLENZO@HBMAG.CO.NZ
WWW.HBMAG.CO.NZ

Relics of the First New Zealand Press.

By R. COUPLAND HARDING.

[*Read before the Wellington Philosophical Society, 20th March, 1900, published in Trans. N.Z. Inst. 32: 400*]

It is well known that the late Rev. W. Colenso was the pioneer of the printing art in this colony. In his little book, "Fifty Years Ago in New Zealand" (1888), he has described the institution of the missionary press, the plant having arrived at the Paihia Mission Station on the 30th December, 1834, and having been larded in the early days of the New Year. He gives a vivid account of the difficulties he underwent through the want of technical knowledge on the part of the under-secretaries of the Mission-house in London, who were above taking counsel with their printer-elect, or, indeed, any other practical man. The result was that many essential articles, including even printing-paper and printers' cases, were omitted, and makeshifts had to be resorted to in the colony, at great expense to the mission. There was not even a composing-stick, "save," he says, "a private one of my own that I had bought two years before in London—a most fortunate circumstance.... Fortunately, I found a handy joiner in the Bay, who soon made me two or three pairs of type-cases for the printing-office, after a plan of my own; for, as the Maori language contained only thirteen letters (half the number in the English alphabet), I contrived my cases so as to have both roman and italic characters in the one pair of cases, not distributing the remaining thirteen letters (consonants) used in the compositing of English, such not being wanted." On page 30 he says, "On my coming to reside in Hawke's Bay in 1844 I brought hither with me a small Albion press and types, which I again found to be of great service; though, having a people scattered over a very large district to attend to, with its consequent heavy travelling on foot, there being then no roads, I could not use my little press so much as I wished."

In Mr. Colenso's will he bequeathed to me his little press and all the printing material in his possession, including "type, old and new," and, specially, "my sole composing-stick, with which I did so much work both in England and New Zealand." This material is still stored in Napier. On my visit there this New Year I went over it, and found that certain portions had formed part of the first printing plant, set. up in 1835.

For a long time the composing-stick could not be found by the executors. It was at last discovered—alas!—partly embedded in the earthen floor of a damp shed, where it had lain neglected for probably thirty years, and was so corroded by rust as to be almost unrecognisable. Most of the wooden articles had been so ravaged by the boring-beetle that they had to be burnt. An exception, however, was a large and peculiar pair of type-cases, containing the types just as they had been last composed from. These cases were of kauri, and were in good condition. They contained part of a font of small pica, which it was necessary to remove. From their unusual size and depth I took them for "font-cases"—that is, cases specially used for reserve supplies, and too heavy when full to be handled in the ordinary manner; but I had no sooner begun to remove the type than I found them to be a pair of the original cases, made in 1836, from Mr. Colenso's design and to his order, specially for Maori work, and therefore a quite unique relic of the first printing-office. I made a diagram of the cases, showing the

“lay,” which I afterwards drew to scale, and a copy of which appears on Plate XXV. The cases are 36 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. long by 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ in. wide; the depth is 1 $\frac{5}{8}$ in., the front ledge 2 in.; the bottom $\frac{1}{2}$ in. thick. The upper case weighs (empty) 10 lb. 6 oz.; the lower 9 lb. 12 oz. The cases differ in size, capacity, and slightly in proportion from standard English cases, which are 32 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. by 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ in., 1 in. deep, and weigh about 5 lb. each. Both in weight and in capacity they are more than double the English standard. English cases, when well filled, are quite heavy enough for handling, and the Paihia cases would be cumbersome and inconvenient unless always on the frame or stand, as probably they were. The scheme could, however, be reduced to the familiar standard without difficulty.

The problem being given: To design a pattern of case for the alphabetic characters and signs of any given language—no two people would solve it in the same way. And, the plan being fixed, no two people would independently arrange the characters in the same order. It is interesting to see in what a systematic and orderly style our first printer adapted his case to his alphabet. Beginning with the upper case, he adopted the plan in vogue in his youth of placing the capitals to the left. In most modern offices they are now placed, more conveniently, on the right hand. Formerly they were absurdly arranged at the top of the case; he has brought them down, starting with “A” where the modern printer starts, fourth row from the bottom. The Maori alphabetic order is followed: First the vowels; then the consonants, as in English. “G” is at the end, as “G” is properly no part of the alphabet, used only in the digraph “ng,” which, in all phonetic systems, is indicated by a single character. In the lower case the italic letters are arranged in a border to the left and along the top, leaving the handier and larger boxes for the roman. All the cells for italic are uniform in size except for “p” and “w,” which are half as large as the rest. A compositor will recognise that the roman letters, spaces, &c., follow the familiar arrangement of the English case as far as the variation in the alphabet will allow. One or two divisions unmarked in the drawing may have been occupied by minor sorts—there must, for instance, have been a place allotted for the ¶ sign, used freely in the Maori New Testament. Such omissions, however, do not affect the general scheme.

The box above the “H” was marked “Bad letters,” and still contained a few damaged types. A French case always has such a box, which is known as the *diable*. In English it is the “hell-box,” but is always a separate receptacle. The box over the italic “A” was marked “h, old,” and contained two italic “b’s” with the bottom curve cut off—a makeshift when the supply of “h” ran out. These cut “b’s” used as a substitute for “h” may be seen in some of the early mission printing.

It is not likely that it would be found worth while to bring Mr. Colenso’s pattern of Maori cases into use, so the originals, which I intend to place, with other relics, in the Colonial Museum, are likely to remain unique. In modern Maori printing little use is made of italic; in the work on which Mr. Colenso was engaged, though the quantity of italic used was not great, words in that character occurred (as in the English Bible) in every few lines. Printers, however, who do much work in the native language would find it advantageous to have a special lower case. The standard upper case, seven boxes by seven each side, would be more convenient than one of six-by-six, as the whole alphabet would come in two rows. To compose any foreign language, and

Maori especially, from an English case is inconvenient. The English proportion of “a” is far too small; so with “k,” the most frequently occurring consonant, which in English is allotted to one of the smallest boxes. Then, the compositor is cumbered by large quantities of useless sorts, such as “d” and “s,” the boxes devoted to which are full and possibly overflowing when the rest of the case is worked out.

Mr. Colenso had sometimes to do English work, and, having no English cases, was put to no little inconvenience. “I may observe,” he says, “that such an arrangement proved to be a very good one while my compositing was confined to the Maori language only; but when I had any English copy to compose it was altogether the reverse—then I had to pick out the discarded English consonants as required from their lots put up in paper parcels. Fortunately this occurred but rarely; except at the time of the Treaty of Waitangi (1840), when I had necessarily much printing-work to do for the Government of the colony, and, having no extra cases, was obliged to place the letters required in little lots on tables and on the floor.”

At the auction of Mr. Colenso's sundries large quantities of his old memoranda passed into private hands. Mr. H. Hill, one of our members, is in possession of a mass of these papers, and from him I have a copy of two interesting entries from the old office diary, bearing upon the subject of this paper. They are as follow:—

- 1836. July 19.—Gave R. Brown, carpenter, Kororareka, an order for six pair cases, one imposing-frame and drawers.
- 1837. March 8.—Brown's bill for cases, imposing frame, &c., £8 16s.

So far as I can judge, Mr. Brown's charge was reasonable.

Though it does not bear directly upon the first printing-office, I may mention that Mr. Colenso did a great deal of work on his little foolscap-folio Albion press at Waitangi, Hawke's Bay. One book, in Maori, unfinished, was on the lives and deaths of witnesses for the truth in the early Church, written by himself. It was never completed; but he had done about two hundred pages, printed two pages at a time. The amount of labour this represents, in the intervals of an exceptionally busy life, can only be realised by a practical printer. I have the form of the last two completed pages, just as it stood when he left it—either ready for press or printed off. This, I think, is a relic that will be of interest to visitors to the Museum in years to come, as it is set in the old small pica of the first mission press.

The type is of the early “modern” face, probably by Caslon, and is, of course, hand-cast. It must have been cut in the very early years of the century, soon after the abandonment of the “old-face,” and before the beauties of the modern style had been developed. It is a heavy, legible, and inelegant style, deficient in “character,” and now quite out of vogue. A box of types, small pica and minion, ordered for the office at Waitangi, had never been opened since leaving the foundry until I opened it at Napier, some fifty years after it had been packed. There were indications that Mr. Colenso intended it for an edition of the “Pilgrim's Progress” in Maori—the minion for the notes. He had a manuscript translation which he highly valued. I do not know by whom it was made, and I fear it has been lost. He had also provided himself with stereotype copies of engravings of the fight with Apollyon, &c., to illustrate the book.

I have made repeated inquiries about the final destination of the original missionary plant. The first press is hopelessly lost. One early Columbian press answering to the description was ultimately sold to a foundry in Auckland and melted down; another was shipped to an Australian port, and thence to the Pacific coast of North America—either of these may or may not have been the historic press on which the first Maori New Testament was printed, a relic which would have been highly valued in years to come. I know of yet another old press, which once belonged to the Church Mission, but as it bears date 1841 it is certainly not the first. The large font of small pica, or the bulk of it, after passing through several hands, found its way to Palmerston North, and was used for some years by Mr. Alexander McMinn in printing the *Mana-watu Standard*.

Transactions New Zealand Institute, Vol. XXXII. Pl. XXV.

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<i>a</i>				<i>Middle Space</i>			

RELICS OF THE OLD MISSION PRESS
 THE PAIR OF MAORI TYPE CASES
 (Harding)

Colenso & the lady flower painters: Sarah Ann Featon and Georgina Burne Hetley

In his 1889 “A Description of some Newly-discovered Phænogamic Plants, being a Further Contribution towards the making-known the Botany of New Zealand” read before the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute on 13 May and 7 October 1889 and published in *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* 22: 459-493, William Colenso described a shrub he called *Dracophyllum featonianum*, sent to him that year “per Mrs. E. H. Featon” from “Whangaparaoa (Cape Runaway), a little north of the East Cape”. He wrote,

I have named this species in honour of Mrs. E. H. Featon, of Gisborne, New Zealand—who has wrought so long and so diligently at our New Zealand botany—the accomplished authoress of “The Art Album of New Zealand Flora” (now in course of publication), who very kindly sent me the specimen I have described. In her letter which accompanied it she says, “The flowers are white and the buds pink, the leaves are a pale-green on top and glaucous below, having a purplish tinge as it approaches a buff-coloured sheath.”

On 25 April 1898 he had written to his friend Coupland Harding,

I think I told you in my last of a long letter I had received from Mrs. S. Featon of Gisborne, re her “Album N.Z. Flora”, & of my answer thereto—equally long! (& that I had sent her some Botanical plates (Lond.) for inspection—well, not having them returned, & more than a month, I have just written to her about them:—but (that is prefatory!) I wished to see a vol. of her work: Hill having got one (or more), and so lent me “Part I”,—and to my surprise (& pleasure for your sake) I found therein a coloured drawing of Lepidium incisum, p.22: and, in list of subscribers, “Gen. Assembly Library”—so you may find it—and feast!—Kirk’s name is also in that List, therefore he must have known of this plant: I notice also, that Featon gives correctly my Carmichaelias—but there are errors in the work, and I do not like the high colours, &c.—and then the big heavy vol. is shamefully bound—in leather, gilded, with thick covers & nothing to hold them! Hill’s book has covers broken off.

Harding must have remonstrated with him in his reply, for Colenso wrote back on 12 May,

I take exception however to yr. remark on “Amateur Botanists”—or, rather, “my (harsh) dealing w. them”! Now I have always supposed—I went far very far the other way: and I have lots of letters, from such (40 yrs. & more) to bear me out. (Would you be surprised to know that Kirk, himself, was one?) You shall have the whole of the Featon correspdc., &, so far, judge for yourself.

He must have brooded on Harding’s rebuke, for he wrote again on 8 June,

In yours of “May 2” you have these words:—

“I have sometimes thought you were a little hard on her” [Mrs Featon] and similar amateurs who do their best.”—

That sentence of yours (one of the most unjust you ever wrote re me) has burnt—

rankled—in my bosom ever since I read it! being the very opposite of what I have been doing largely & increasingly & regardless of expense & loss of time—for many years: insomuch that I have been found fault with, by friends & acquaintances (visiting me, early & late, and seeing me so engaged)—in aswering numerous letters, & in naming many parcels of spns. sent to me for that purpose—among whom, the Dean, Welsh, Fannin, Hill, Burnett, Eccles, Florance, Knowles, & others.—And you must have pretty well known all this!—(your friend Kirk took good care to be paid for all he did!) I received that letter of yours in the country, & I determined to put you up the Featon correspondence (with others “similar” & late, handy.) on my return to Napier, & forward; that you might have a little ocular proof of things as they really are. Mrs. F., poor lady! was vastly too assuming, too ambitious: her work (of which since I wrote my long letter to her I have seen vol. I., brought by Hill) shows it (do see it): & her own letter to me proves it. And no doubt, my truthful dealing with her in reply (together w. plates sent) drove her—wild or worse! It is the old story of the frog & the ox!—Hence she could not write me an answer; even after a month I was obliged to ask to have plates returned, (I had enclosed w them 4d. p. stamps to pay return postage) and then a bare note from her husband, who had never written to me before! and the little parcel made up slovenly (i.e. loosely) & I think addressed by her.—I consider myself ill-served in that matter.—

And I (am sorry to have to say) I am just served out in the same style by Miss G.H. [1] (or her people), I dont know any of them:—and I send you this correspce.

also: only the booklets I gave her are not to be seen w. letters:—nothing of late years has pleased me more than to seek to be of some assistance to this Botani. (N. Histy.) direction: Teste: Pres;. Address. Hill told me at Dannevirke, before Soundy and others—what he had that day done in closing examin. school, pointing out to youth, what they should severally do, correspond w. me, &c, &c. (I wish you could see him.) Then, in addition;

Miss Buchanan & her sisters—

Miss (name forgotten—of the family who painted the Marshalls in Athm.)

—Howlett (very many packets)

Athenius Olsen (son of A. Olsen)

Axel Mortensen

Andrews, Coll. Sch. Whanganui

Leydell (an entire stranger! 2 days work naming spns.)

Ethel & Edgar Florance, frequent

J. Keir, Rangiora, entire stranger, letter (being my second) sent on Monday last, 9pp. 4to, an amateur re Ferns.,—answers. So much in pp. 1–4 in my defence. Do you examine my witnesses: and, please, return all within a fortnight: no need to write a letter with them, if busy, or unwell.—

On 12 June he added,

Your mention of Mrs Hetley brought vividly to recollection that I had not sent you her letter with copy of my brief reply—which I had set aside, on my return in May, to send to you—but omitted: I now enclose them. Mrs. H. especially put me out, through her scarcely concealed wish, and the (known) falsities she told me:—but “arcades ambo,” [2] one only aim was that of H. & of F.—

He wrote again on 10 September 1890, to Harding

I see, in papers, “£300.—in Suppy. Estimates for Mrs. Featon’s Botanal. Work”: this surprises me, in these times too, seeing there is nothing new in it....

Mrs Featon

“Volume I” of Mr and Mrs EH Featon’s *The Art Album of New Zealand Flora* appeared in 1889, and was the first book of coloured artwork to be published in New Zealand. It contains thirty-nine plates of seventy-one species, and the fortieth is a frontispiece, a smorgasbord of New Zealand foliage, flowers and fruits. More were planned, for they wrote in the preface, “... it is contemplated to continue this work by the issue of two further volumes (the material for which is largely in hand) so that the colony may be put in possession of a faithful and artistic epitome of the flowering plants of New Zealand, serviceable alike for the student and artist, but the ultimatum of this enterprise rests on the measure of support afforded by our readers and the public.” [3]

Why was the work not continued? Una Platts wrote, “One account has it that the material was destroyed by a flood in the Government Printer’s basement.” [4]

Bruce Sampson found the original paintings used for Volume I in the basement of the then National Museum in Wellington a few years ago. With them were a further ninety-three paintings, mounted, numbered, and bearing printed legends: clearly they were intended for two further volumes, and there was no sign of water damage. He surmised that Sarah Featon was unable to persevere with plans for publication after her husband’s death in 1909, or that the Government Printer was unwilling to undertake the work involved in making the plates (the firm of Bock and Cousins, who had done the lithographs for the first volume, was by then out of business). [5]

Edward Featon wrote the text; he arrived in New Zealand in 1860, married Sarah Ann Porter in 1870, and from 1875 they lived in Gisborne. The book was the first of three by colonial women—Sarah Ann Featon, Georgina Burne Hetley, Emily Cumming Harris. It was celebrated as a partner to Buller’s *Birds*, and formed part of New Zealand’s gift to Queen Victoria for her diamond jubilee. The paintings are decorative rather than accurate, and have been called gaudy: Edward Featon’s prose is certainly gaudy: try chanting this aloud to a descending scale...

“High in the alps of the Middle Island, amidst the clouds and snow, we find the chaste and velvety Edelweiss, the sweet-scented Notholaspi, and the little Hectorella. Upon a lower zone the beautiful *Celmisias* with their well-clad shaggy foliage and conspicuous aster-like flowers, adorn the plateaux—lower still the subalpine *Beeches* with the luxuriant flowering *Tawari*, and the handsome *Hoheria*, break the dark lines of the primeval forest, and lower again stately trees, handsome flowering shrubs, trembling ferns, springy mosses, and hoary lichens clothe the landscape, down to the plains below, where the luxuriant tropical *Nikau Palm*, and the quaint *Cordyline* strike their roots deep into the soil.” [6]

Mrs Hetley

Georgina Burne Hetley (c.1832-1898) wanted to make known the beauty of New Zealand flowers, and eventually she accepted government help with transport around the country in

search of specimens. It was a hazardous trip by coach in those days—here is her account of Arthur's Pass [7]

"Your heart is in your mouth most of the way. At one place in particular, the road is built outside the cliff, and supported on piles, which are inserted somehow in the rock. The cliff rises perpendicularly above you, and there is only just room for the coach to pass round without touching, and there is hardly an inch to spare on the outside edge which has no wall or fence. If one of the horses shied or fell, coach and all would go over into the river, which rushes along a hundred feet below, and we saw all this from a turn in the road before we came to it, which makes it worse. I kept my face turned to the cliff, but my niece, who was with me and had a stronger head, kept calling my attention to the magnificent scenery. We both drew a long breath when it was over, and were truly thankful to be safely through; yet the coach goes every day with the same driver."

And so on to Greymouth

"We crossed several rivers, sometimes bumping over the big boulders and struggling through the rushing waters, others by ferry, and at one, the Teremakau, we left the coach and entered a kind of wooden box, hung on a rope, which was wound up by a small steam engine on the other side."

The journey was to result in a book of chromolithographs, *The Native Flowers of New Zealand*, published in London in 1888, now a valuable rarity [7]. Shortly afterward she left for London with her paintings, and for a time during their publication worked at Kew on drawings of flower dissections. At Kew I saw a number of her small watercolours, seemingly cut from a notebook.

Native Flowers is a magnificent book. The chromolithographs are brightly coloured, mostly on a green-grey background, and the originals are now in the Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery, along with some unpublished paintings.

On the other hand Anne Kirker was disparaging in her *New Zealand women artists* (1986): ". . . a typical example of how the art of botanical illustration could be popularised through the crude reproduction process of chromolithography" [8].

References

1. Georgina Burne Hetley
2. Both Arcadians = two persons of like occupations or tastes; two rascals.
3. Featon E.H. and Featon S.A. The art album of New Zealand flora, being a systematic and popular description of the native flowering plants of New Zealand and the adjacent islands. Vol I. Bock and Cousins. Wellington, 1889. Preface, vii.
4. Platts Una. Nineteenth century New Zealand artists, a guide and handbook. Christchurch, Avon Fine Prints, 1980. p 91.
5. Sampson F.B. Early New Zealand botanical art. Auckland, Reed Methuen, 1985. p 94.
6. Featon, preface, pp viii-iv.
7. Hetley G.B. The native flowers of New Zealand, illustrated in colours in the best style of modern chromo-litho art, from drawings coloured to nature. Sampson Low, Marston, Searle and Rivington, London. 1888. Preface.
8. Kirker A. New Zealand woman artists. Auckland, Reed Methuen, 1986. p 15.





Both TF Cheeseman and WRB Oliver regarded *Dracophyllum featonianum* Col. as a synonym of *D. strictum* Hook.f., commonly known as the "turpentine plant". Mrs Featon painted it for volume 2 or 3 of her *Art album*, as "*D. latifolium* (*D. Featonianum* Colenso)", the small plant in the left middle.

Sarah Featon: Watercolour; 310mm x257mm; Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, Purchased 1919. Registration number: 1992-0035-2277/22.

The educationalist speaks...

Colenso was Inspector of Schools for Hawke's Bay 1862-64 and 1872-78; he resigned in 1878 and was replaced by Henry Hill. Colenso's reports were published in the *Government Gazette (Hawke's Bay Province)* until the 1877 report which was published in *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives*. Here is his report for 1876....

VOL. XVI.

MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 1876.

N o 25

REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS.

To His Honor the Superintendent of Hawke's Bay

Napier, June 30th, 1876.

SIR,—I have the honour to submit the Report of the Schools of the Province, both Common and Denominational, receiving Government aid, for the year ending June 30th, 1876.

Number of Schools and Teachers.

The total number of Schools at present in active operation is 26 ; viz. 2 Boys', 2 Girls', and 22 Mixed. Of these, 6 are in the town of Napier, (viz. 2 Boys', 2 Girls', and 2 Mixed,) and 20 in the Country all Mixed.

Two new Common Schools have been opened during the year; one at Hastings, and one at Patangata.

Within the year 4 Teachers resigned their situations; one at Havelock, one at Kaikoura, one at Hampden, and one at Danneverk. Those several vacancies, however, were quickly filled, so that those Schools were only for a very short time closed

Those 26 Schools are conducted by 26 paid Teachers, who are also, in several of the larger Schools, assisted by other Teachers both male and female.

A new School-house has also been begun by the Settlers (aided by the Government,) at Ashby-Clinton S.W. Ruataniwha; and others are talked of, being wanted at Woodville, Wallingford, and other places.

The School-houses and Teachers' residences are generally in good condition; but most of the School-houses both in Town and Country, (although some have been recently erected or enlarged,) are much too small for the number of Scholars.

School attendance and state of the Scholars.

Tables,—showing the total number of Scholars on the books, their attendance at the different Schools and an abstract of their ages; together with a condensed tabular view of the branches of education taught, and the number of Scholars of both sexes learning such branches, will be given with this Report. The total number of Scholars on the books, is, Boys 826, Girls 582,

total 1408; the total average attendance is 1157, being 321 in excess of the average number of last year. In addition to the foregoing there are also several Private Schools for both sexes in Town and Country, which are well-attended.

Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic.

These primary studies are diligently minded by the Scholars in nearly all the Schools, and fair progress has been generally made; yet in a few where such is not the case, it is partly the fault of the Teacher and partly that of the parents who too often keep their children at home. There is still, however, room for improvement in Writing; at the same time it must not be forgotten that the Scholars are commonly too crowded to write well.

Other Studies.

Geography and Use of the Maps, Grammar, History, English Composition, Geometry, Book-keeping, Drawing and Mapping, and also Sewing and Needle-work Plain and Ornamental, are more or less taught; the first four in nearly all the Schools. A large number of the Scholars are now well acquainted with Geography and the Maps; and not a few have a very fair knowledge of Grammar. Geometry, Book-keeping, Drawing and Mapping, are taught in the Town Boys' Schools; and Algebra and Latin are also among the duties of the senior class in the Napier Boys' Trust School. English Composition, in short Essays on simple subjects and in Letters, is now generally attended to by the older Scholars in the larger Schools. The art of Sewing and Needlework both plain and ornamental, is also commonly taught in the afternoons to the girls.

Inspection.

During the year I have visited all the Government-aided Schools in the Province (save the small one at Petane),—many of them twice, or oftener; and should have seen still more of them but for illness (caught in visiting) in the spring,—which laid me up for six weeks. More days have been occupied this year in travelling and Inspecting Schools than in any former year.

Of School Prizes.

Under this head I would just observe, that I am sure both Scholars and Teachers are thankful to the Provincial Council for its liberal grant of a few pounds for this purpose,—which has been advantageously used. Not a small amount of diligence and improvement on the part of the Scholars is to be fairly ascribed to this. Several *Special Prizes* have also been awarded to Scholars for Essays, and for working long and complicated Sums, which will be found more particularly noted under their respective Schools.

Conclusion.

It will be seen from the Tables, that an increase to nearly all the Schools has been made during the year; notwithstanding several of the elder Scholars—both male and female,—who were at many, if not all, of the Schools at the commencement of the year, have left School to enter on active life.

In nearly all the Schools there is much greater activity and diligence exhibited among the Scholars in applying themselves to learning than there was formerly, and where such is not the case it is mainly the fault of the Parents, or Teachers, or both. Indeed, my

conviction is, (as I stated 3 years ago in my Report,)— “that the Scholars are, on the whole, far in advance of a similar number of children in the Old Country (taken promiscuously) in capacity and in desire of learning.”

During the Year a few poor children of both sexes have been admitted into some of the Town and Country Schools free, on an Inspector’s Order,—but in no case without previous strict enquiry as to the ability of their parents, &c. Notwithstanding, I regret to say, there are still several children both in Town and Country who are growing up without Scholastic Education,—mainly owing to the thoughtlessness of their parents.

For my own part, now that the Provincial system of Government is abolished, I heartily wish that the Colonial Government will shortly establish a suitable liberal and comprehensive plan of general Education. One, by which Education shall be for all alike,—both guaranteed and civil, or, in other words, Compulsory and Secular; such a system once well begun,—in good and ample School-houses and with first-class trained Teachers,—would soon become established, grow more and more necessary and natural and be heartily welcomed, and yield in due season an abundant crop of fruit!

No doubt the time will arrive when every Public School in this Colony will not only have its *trained* Teacher, but when all the Teachers will act upon one improved system of teaching. But, while I say this, I must be clearly understood to mean, that a *trained* Teacher, as such, is only the more valuable to his School and to the Public, when he has also the especial *natural* qualifications of a Teacher in him,—which no *mere training* can possibly impart; otherwise the untrained though educated man, *possessing the aptness the mind and the heart* which enables him to *love* his work in its entirety, and which peculiarly fits him for the office of teaching, will prove the better qualified and most useful man; such an one will be sure to gain the hearts of his pupils, and the corresponding advantages will be great and solid, and though not so showy will be seen.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
WILLIAM COLENZO,
Inspector of Schools.

(The report goes on to detail reports for each school, and to present tables).

An editorial writer in the *Daily Southern Cross* of 2 September 1876 found stylistic fault with Colenso’s report...

Unlike his calculating cousin of Port Natal, Mr. William Colenso, the Inspector of Schools for the Province of Hawke’s Bay, is not content with measurements and calculation based on rigid rule and the strictest arithmetic, but in his educational report revels in what may be classed as “miracles,” and Arabian Nights fictions.

When discussing or narrating educational statistics, and the progress of schools and scholars, the fitness of teachers, and the hygienic condition of school-houses, it is to be expected that high-flown rhetoric and fanciful comparisons would be carefully avoided, and the strictest matter-of-fact accuracy of narrative and illustration would

guide the mind and pen of the writer of an official report of this description. Mr. Colenso, however, sublimely soars above all such sublunary restrictions, and his report, which has just been published in the Hawke's Bay Provincial Gazette, is unique in its way, both as to felicitously imaginative descriptions, and a true disregard for the customary rules that are supposed to regulate English composition. There is a fulness—a kind of gushing overflow—of sentiment which distinguishes much of Mr. Colenso's report, which, we are glad to observe, notifies an increase in the number of scholars. Last year the total number of scholars on the books was—boys, 820; girls, 582; total, 1,408. The total average daily attendance was 1,137, or 321 in excess of the average of the previous year. The attendance is given at 26 schools, conducted by 26 principal teachers, who are aided in some of the larger schools by male and female assistants. The schools, it appears, "are now much too small for the number of scholars;" and this defect is frequently, and with original emphasis, referred to throughout the report. In one of the detailed reports of the schools, Mr. Colenso, speaking on this subject, says, "Very much more room, however, is needed, as the children are packed *together like herrings in a barrel.*" We italicise the last six words. What can teachers, what can parents of children conceive of the value of accuracy of description when, in a document such as an official report on schools, the public are gravely informed that the children are packed together like herrings in a barrel? The statement reminds us of an old story which, because of its appositeness, will bear repetition, regarding a woman who was a witness before a well-known English Judge, who was engaged in trying a prisoner for burglary. In the course of her evidence, in which she was rather voluble (and it is

your too-willing and voluble witness who comes to grief), she remarked "I was so frightened I could have crept into a nut-shell." The Judge, in a mild voice, asked her to repeat what she had just said, as if he had failed to catch the statement. Glibly the creeping into the nut-shell process was repeated, whereupon the Judge sternly said, "Woman, on your oath could you have crept into a nut-shell?" So, similarly, Mr. Colenso, on your veracity, were the children packed "like herrings in a barrel," and, if not, what possible good purpose can be served by the use of such extravagant and ridiculous hyperbole in a document professing gravely and circumstantially to describe the condition of a public department which is of such great importance as is that of education?

After mentioning that "no less" (meaning no fewer) "than twelve boys had gained special prizes for essay writing" in one school, Mr. Colenso again refers to the necessity for more room, and observes, in somewhat nursery-maidish English,— "However the scholars manage to do so well as they do, seeing that they are so crammed, is a marvel." But for the context and the previous reference to the subject, it would be difficult to comprehend whether Mr. Colenso meant that the scholars were crammed physically or mentally, inside or out. If he means "crammed together," as he no doubt does, then the fault of the herring-packing is repeated; and it is not surprising that he should look on the whole thing as something approaching to a miraculous arrangement. Altogether, this is a style of loose writing which is least tolerable among men who profess such high scholastic attainments as are supposed to enable them to judge and criticise the results of the performances of those who are teachers of the new generation.

On the somewhat vexed question of school prizes we observe that Mr. Colenso thinks prizes produce advantageous effects, and

he affirms that “no small amount of diligence and improvement on the part of scholars is to be fairly ascribed” to such prizes. It is pleasing to find that in nearly all the Hawke’s Bay schools there is “much greater activity and diligence exhibited among the scholars in applying themselves to learning than there was formerly.” He points out, too, that when this is not the case the fault is mainly that of “the parents or teachers, or both.” There can be no doubt that if a pupil is permitted at school to escape while only half doing his work, or succeeds in just escaping censure, when, by a little diligence, he could from his capacity gain much praise, the teacher is to blame; and if parents fail to back up the earnest efforts of an earnest teacher in enforcing study, duty, obedience, and respect, then the parents fall very far short of their duty at once to the teacher and to their own children. And we fear there are too many cases where this, perhaps, unthinking, inattention is to be found. It cannot too soon be remedied.

The Inspector concludes his report by the two following paragraphs.—

“For my own part, now that the Provincial system of Government is abolished, I heartily wish that the Colonial Government will shortly establish a suitable, liberal, and comprehensive plan of general education. One, by which education shall be for all alike,—both guaranteed and civil, or, in other words, compulsory and secular; such a system once well begun,—in good and ample school-houses and with first-class trained teachers,—would soon become

established, grow more and more necessary and national and be heartily welcomed, and yield in due season an abundant crop of fruit.

“No doubt the time will arrive when every public school in this colony will not only have its *trained* teachers, but when all the teachers will act upon one improved system of teaching. But, while I say this, I must be clearly understood to mean, that a *trained* teacher, as such, is only the more valuable to his school and to the public, when he has also the especial *natural* qualifications of a teacher in him,—which no *mere training* can possibly impart; otherwise the untrained though educated man, *possessing the aptness, the mind and the heart*, which enables him to *love* his work in its entirety, and which peculiarly fits him for the office of teaching, will prove the better qualified and most useful man; such an one will be sure to gain the hearts of his pupils, and the corresponding advantages will be great and solid, and though not so showy will be seen.”

He is a trifle metaphysical in the last sentence, and, while the pulsation and regular pumping work of the heart is necessary for the physical and mental health of the human subject, we must say that, as in the ordinary business of every day life, we should (to use a common and, at least, as sensible a metaphor), as a rule, prefer a trained teacher with the “stomach” for his work, to an educated untrained man, however much of pure love and affection he may cherish for the world at large.



Colenso's comet

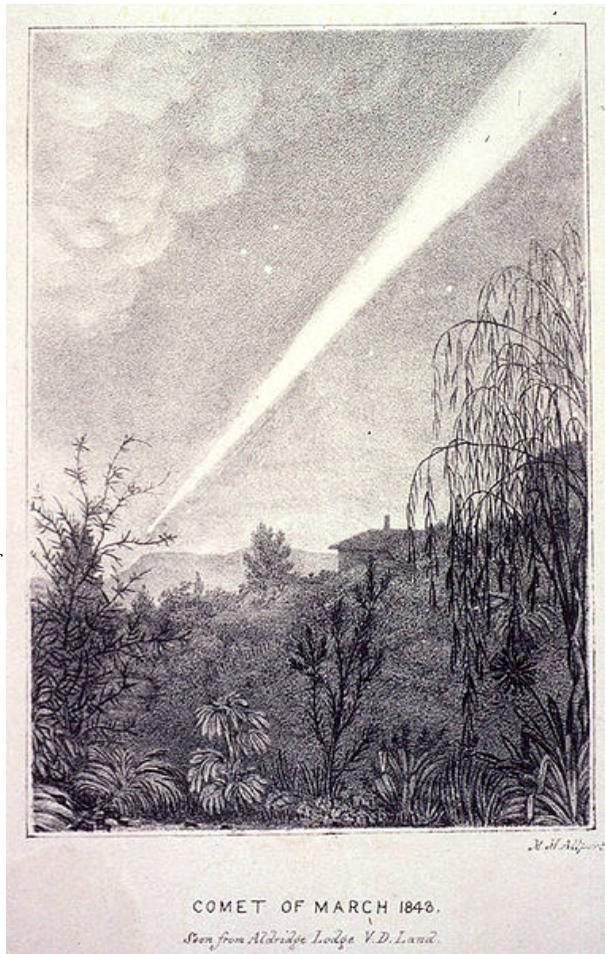
On 30 March 1843 Colenso wrote to JP Gell, editor of the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science, Agriculture, Statistics, etc.*, “We have had a most brilliant Comet visible here for a fortnight past; its tail, immensely long, apparently occupying an arc of approximately $\frac{1}{7}$ th of the heavens. I hope it is visible at Hobart, and that I shall have the pleasure of seeing it noted in our Journal.” [*“our” Journal was the Tasmanian journal—Ed.*]

The March Comet of 1843 was a long-period comet which rapidly brightened to become a great comet. It was first observed in early February 1843 and by 27th was observed in broad daylight roughly a degree away from the Sun. It passed closest to Earth on 6 March and was best visible from the Southern Hemisphere. It developed an extremely long tail during and after its perihelion passage. At over 2 Astronomical Units in length, it was the longest known cometary tail until measurements in 1996 showed that Comet Hyakutake's tail was almost twice as long. [1]

Mary Morton Allport (1806–95) arrived in Tasmania in 1831. She is regarded as Australia's first professional woman artist. Her natural history studies and landscapes are notable for her affinity with the native environment. She was the first colonial woman lithographer, etcher and engraver. *Comet of March 1843 Seen from Aldridge Lodge, V.D. Land* was published in the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Science, &* reproduced in the *Illustrated London News* of 3 Feb. 1844. [2]

References

1. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Comet_of_1843
2. http://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/A/Mary%20Morton%20Allport.htm



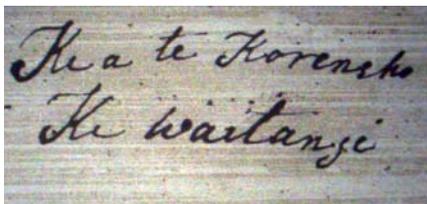
How do you say Colenso in Māori?

Bagnall and Petersen wrote of Colenso’s arrival at Paihia, “Colenso, accustomed to the humble obscurity of a London printing house, was greatly elated at the un-restrained welcome.

‘The natives surrounded us crying ‘ka pai Mihanere’ (very good missionary) uttering exclamations of joy and tendering us their hands on every side—and when the Rev. W. Williams gave them to understand that I was a printer and come out to print books for them they were quite elated—no hero of “olden time” was ever received by his army with greater eclat, they appeared as if they would deify me!’

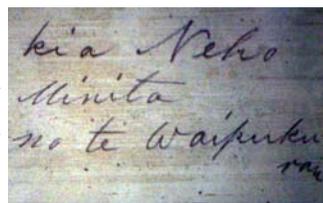
“Such was the introduction of Koroneho (for that was as nearly as the Maori tongue could pronounce his name) to the people amongst whom he was to spend many eventful years.” [B&P p.39]

Bagnall and Petersen consistently used the spelling Koroneho thereafter. Yet Koroneho (rather than Koroneho) would actually be more “nearly as the Maori tongue could pronounce his name”, and indeed most Māori letters to Colenso spelt it that way.



To Colenso at Waitangi

Why then Koroneho? Even Colenso may have called himself that. For the Māori translation of the Epistle of Paul to the Philippians and the Ephesians, “Colenso ... proudly concluded the (title) page with the inscription, ‘He mea ta e Te Koroneho’ (a thing printed by Colenso), and rounded off the text with the words, ‘Kua oti te ta e Te Koroneho’ (the printing is finished by Colenso).” [B&P. p.43]

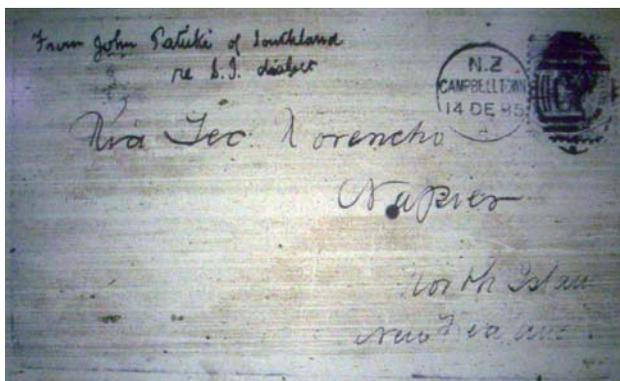


To Noho, minister of Waipukurau

Koroneho was quickly shortened to “Noho”. (For instance, from a writer at Ngunguru in 1844: “E hoa: e Noho tena koe e hoa” (Friend Noho, hello mate).

In fact Koro (noun) = elderly man, grandfather, grandad, grandpa—an informal term of address to an older man.

Perhaps then, those (even he himself) who saw the printer-preacher as a father figure and who wished to raise his status used “Koroneho” implying “Noho our wise old man”. The rest used “Koreneho” or “Neho”.



Envelope dated 1885: all images from Alexander Turnbull Library



Two further photographs from the series probably taken in 1887 (aged 76)
(see *eColenso* July 2010, p.9).

Colenso mentioned in a letter to RC Harding,
“... a small photo... *yours* (for *Inland Printer*, Chigo.)”
suggesting the photographs were taken specially for Harding’s article,
“New Zealand’s first printer” in *Inland Printer* No. 7 (1889-1890) p.504.

Left: from Harding’s article.

Right: from the National Library of Australia’s collection.



eColenso is a free email Newsletter published by the Colenso Society Inc.
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.

The cover of this issue is based on a *fin-de-siècle* copy of *The Inland Printer*, Chicago

Please forward *eColenso* to anyone who may be interested.



From Typo Vol. 3, p.98; 31 August 1889: the year before Harding left Hawke's Bay to live in Wellington. Even Harding could miss the odd typo....

WORKS BY REV. W. COLENZO

ON SALE BY R. C. HARDING.

Fifty Years Ago in New Zealand, by W. Colenso (the first printer in N.Z.) Contains a history of the establishment of the Press in this country and the first works printed; also many interesting anecdotes of life among the Maoris in the pioneer days. With three litho plates, from drawings by the author, showing the old mission station at Paihia, Bay of Islands, the house where the New Testament was printed, &c. 4s; postage, 2d.

Ancient Tide-Lore and Tales of the Sea, by the Rev. W. COLENZO, F.R.S., F.L.S. This book contains many interesting Maori traditional stories and fables concerning the Ocean and the cause of its Tides, with striking parallels from ancient mythology and modern superstitions. Price 2s 6d; postage, inland, 2d; beyond the colony, 4d.

In Memoriam: being an account of visits to and crossings over the Ruahine Mountain Range. A narrative of remarkable interest, relating to a region where no other European has penetrated. Price 5s.

Three Literary Papers, (read before the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute in 1882.) I. and II.—ON NOMENCLATURE.—Dealing with common errors in ordinary and scientific names, and the absurd misspelling and misinterpretation of many native names. III.—ON «MACAULAY'S NEW ZEALANDER.»

On the Sabbath and its Due Observance. A Series of Letters published in 1878. 46 pages. 1s.