



Colenso

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William Colenso and Henry Hill

By Kay Morris Matthews

At first glance William Colenso and Henry Hill were unlikely companions. For a start there was a forty year difference in their ages when they first met in 1878 (Colenso was 67 and Hill 27). There was also the fact that earlier that year Hill had been appointed over Colenso to the position of Inspector of Schools for the Hawke's Bay Education Board. This was a position that William Colenso had wanted because he had already served four years as Inspector of Schools for the provincial government and thought he had done a very good job. Further, he had carried on the role while the education board was being established. It was true Colenso had fallen out with the Board over his salary in 1877 and then over teacher appointments in March 1878 leading to his resignation. However, he subsequently changed his mind.

The new Board no doubt realised that the monumental task of having to implement the 1877 Education Act required fresh expertise. His resignation was convenient as it paved the way for his job to be advertised. But Colenso did not go quietly. There was a long and protracted episode involving letters to the editor of the Hawke's Bay Herald and between Colenso and the Board. Even after the Hawke's Bay Education Board had advertised for a new Inspector of Schools in April, William Colenso refused to let go writing that: 'I am willing to continue to hold the office of Inspector, if such is the wish of the Board' (Report of the Hawke's Bay Education Board, May 3 1878). The Board decided that Colenso's letter should be considered together with the applications for the inspectorship but in the short-listing process was, along with others, rejected. [1]

Given this background, Colenso could well have avoided his young professional successor Henry Hill. That he did not was because Colenso had been aware of Hill for some years. In 1869, Henry Hill had written from Cheltenham, where he was training to be a teacher, asking Colenso for information about the land wars and in particular about the Hawke's Bay Battle of Omaranui.[2] Hill's writings on Omaranui fill pages of his journals indicating that Colenso answered his query in full. Meanwhile, back in England Hill was busy organising a group of new schools in Nottingham (1870 – 1873) and it was from here he was recruited by the Canterbury Provincial Government to come to set up its new schooling system.

On the *Mereope*, the ship bringing Henry and his wife Emily to Christchurch New Zealand in 1873, the Hill's were intrigued to meet a young Māori sailor by the name of William Colenso. The connection was made and once disembarked, Henry Hill wrote to William Colenso in Napier about his son, reporting on the young William's (Wiremu's) health and wellbeing. According to Colenso writing to Luff on 12 June 1878, Hill reported that 'I saw at once he (Willie) was a su-

perior lad to either the Capt. or the Chief Officer, and I took a great fancy to him'.[3] Thus Hill had got off to a great start with Colenso and as Hill noted later, 'Colenso seemed well pleased' with his efforts.[4] This personal context then set the scene for regular correspondence between the two men for the purposes of exchanging botanical and geological data at the time when Henry Hill was studying both subjects at Canterbury University College.

Henry Hill's testimonials for the Hawke's Bay Inspector of Schools position attest to his being an outstanding teacher and organizer with boundless energy and a personality that exuded goodwill. His career trajectory from teacher trainee to Inspector of Schools in eight years points to his also being ambitious and strategic. Having set up schools in Canterbury he became in 1875, the head master of the Christchurch East School, one of the largest primary schools in New Zealand at the time. While this was a demanding job in itself, in addition Hill embarked on a university degree, studying part-time through attending evening classes. He not only graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1878, but was also the inaugural winner of the Bowen Prize in English Literature. All the while, his wife Emily remained in charge of the Infant Department of the Christchurch East School and the couple had by this time at least two young children.[5]

It is not known if Hill wrote to Colenso ahead of his arrival in the small town of Napier but given their earlier corresponding relationship it is likely Hill did this and/or that Colenso was fully aware of his appointment. In 1878 there were few locals who were interested or qualified in science and Colenso welcomed Hill who quickly became a regular visitor to his home. This was easily achieved because the first Hill family home in Napier was situated within short walking distance of Colenso's on Napier's Bluff Hill. The basis of their relationships was natural science. Hill no doubt sought to replicate the level of scientific debate he had enjoyed as part of his university studies and clearly respected Colenso's extensive knowledge on a range of topics. Hill had no immediate family other than Emily and their children, his having been orphaned at a young age and raised by the Anglican Church. He had made his own way in the world and done very well. For his part, Colenso who had no family or few close friends, warmed to this enthusiastic newcomer with whom he could share ideas and introduce to a small group of members at the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute. In short, Colenso had a disciple and Hill a mentor and this became the basis of a father/son type friendship that lasted until Colenso's death.

All the while Hill's first months as Inspector of Schools presented him with formidable professional and personal challenges including being away from Napier for weeks on end in order to help establish and then inspect the increasing numbers of schools from East Cape in the north to Woodville in the south. As novice inspector this included riding out to schools along unknown bush tracks. He was obviously keen to call upon Colenso's extensive knowledge of the region but was sensitive enough to realize that Colenso might not wish to broach educational matters.

The canny Hill found a way forward. His diaries indicate that while it was their mutual love of science that bonded them Hill convinced Colenso to accompany him on school inspection visits to central and southern Hawke's Bay for several years.

On these trips Hill would leave Colenso comfortably ensconced at the local

hostelry while Hill rode out to his schools. In the evenings, Hill recalled years later, he joined Colenso and "the room was closed against intrusion, unless the visitor was an old friend and common to us both". Hill's diary entries suggest that on these occasions topics of scientific interest, not educational, were discussed. At Woodville in 1880 he noted "Colenso told me tonight how he met with Darwin in the Bay of Islands in 1835!" [6]

In Hill, Colenso had a young educated colleague, ready to absorb any matter of mutual scientific knowledge. Having the knowledgeable locally-based Colenso as a scientific mentor would no doubt have suited Hill who ensured that wherever appropriate, he drew upon and cited Colenso's earlier published work.

It was Colenso's early encouragement of Hill's research on volcanoes and his recognition of the importance of that research that led to Hill presenting and publishing his findings.

Colenso's mentoring of Henry Hill as scientist was pivotal to Hill gaining access to Māori tribal lands of Tuwharetoa on the volcanic plateau. Colenso, who had lived among Māori as one of the earliest church missionaries to New Zealand in the 1840s, knew and respected Māori protocols and was a fluent Māori language speaker. He made sure that his energetic young friend had sufficient knowledge of both and most importantly, that before any lands or mountains were explored in the name of science, he did so with the permission of the local iwi (tribal group). This meant that Henry Hill needed to share with them, the nature, scope and protocols for his work so that they could be assured of his respect for their cultural stewardship over the land. In turn, he might be trusted with tribal knowledge about the lands he wished to explore. This was a very different scientific world to the one Hill had known to this point.[7]

Hill went on to publish at least 39 scientific papers over fifty years. In 1887 he was made a Fellow of the Geological Society, London, only one year after Colenso's election as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Henry Hill spent years traversing the Kaiangaroa Plateau and was a regular commentator on volcanic activity and earthquakes.

While Colenso and Hill could discuss a range of scientific matters, there were some subjects over which they had fundamental differences. Both Henry and Emily Hill were strict temperance observers and held liberal views on a range of issues including women's suffrage. Colenso had no time for either cause. Colenso wrote fiercely to Emily Hill in 1898 abhorring her women's temperance politics [8] having earlier written to his friend Harding in 1893 condemning her involvement in the Hawke's Bay suffrage campaign which she led as regional President.[9] In so doing, Colenso would have been well aware from local newspaper reports that Henry Hill was among a number of local male supporters for women's franchise. He not only attended the public meetings but on occasions, chaired those meetings. As Hill would later write, Colenso hated "the new ways of the world, in whatever direction, were to him an abomination....new thoughts and new ways were not to his liking".[10]

However, on more personal matters Colenso wrote sympathetically to the Hills such as in 1892 when Emily delivered a still-born baby.[11] For their part, the Hills delivered a large plum pudding and card to Colenso each Christmas and Colenso's diary entries record his appreciation.

Henry Hill continued to be guided and mentored by Colenso as evident in Hill's papers and on the occasion when Colenso presented the Lindauer portrait to the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute on 12 November 1894. Here it was reported that: "He (Mr. Hill) had looked upon Mr. Colenso as a teacher; and he had never been in his presence without feeling that his life was an example, a sermon, and everything that was good and noble". [12]

As Colenso pondered the future of his botanical collections, scientific books and equipment after his death he knew that Henry Hill was one of his few friends who appreciated their value and would assist in their preservation. Hence, Colenso named Henry Hill as one of three co-executors in his will. For his part, Hill's own papers record the work he undertook with both Thomas Hocken and the Auckland Museum to carry out Colenso's wishes and have significant material placed in national repositories for safekeeping.[13]

Henry Hill grieved for Colenso upon his death in February 1899 and was well placed to write a heart-felt obituary which included the prediction that: "When the history of Early New Zealand comes to be written the name of William Colenso, F.R.S., F.L.S., printer, missionary, scientist, philologist, and best of all, humanitarian, will be found among the list of the honourable roll of men who spent their talents in laying a strong foundation for the future of this land". [14]

Notes

1. Morris Matthews, K. (2012). William Colenso: Intersections of provincial politics and education 1859-1878. In E.Taylor (Ed.), *William Colenso Bicentennial Conference Proceedings*. Napier: Hawke's Bay Museum and Art Gallery. (in press)
2. Hill, H.T. Papers, 1867-1933. MS papers 172, Alexander Turnbull Library.
3. As reported in *EColenso* (2011). Vol.II (viii), p.14.
4. Hill, H.T. Papers, 1867-1933. MS 0146-11, Alexander Turnbull Library.
5. Morris Matthews, K. Hill, Henry, from the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 26-Sep-11 URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/2h36> . See also Upton,V. 'Hill, Emily', from the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 4-Oct-10 URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3h26>
6. Matthews, K. (1988). Behind Every School: The History of the Hawke's Bay Education Board. Napier: Hawke's Bay Education Board, p.17.
7. Morris Matthews, K. (2010). To the Furtherance and Promotion of Science: Intersections of research and the primary school curriculum in colonial New Zealand. *ACCESS*, 29 (2) 11-22.
8. As reported in *eColenso* (2011). Vol.II (viii), p.16.
9. *Ibid*. p.14.
10. Tribute to the Veteran. *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 February 1899.
11. *Ibid*, p.13.
12. Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, 12 November 1894. . *Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New Zealand 1868-1961*. Vol. 27. p.689.
13. *Autobiographical Notes, Henry Thomas Hill*, MS 177.72. Alexander Turnbull Library; Webster, S. (2011) Extract from *Sainsbury Logan and Williams: A Firm History* published in the *Colenso Newsletter Supplement* (2011) Vol.II, No.4.
14. Tribute to the Veteran. *Hawke's Bay Herald* 13 February 1899.



An adze in the possession of Henry Hill's descendant Rick Hill of Napier: photographed by Peter Wells on a visit to his home. The adze is about 8 inches long.

Rick was sure it was from William Colenso—whether a gift or from the Colenso estate.

At right is Henry Hill in an Edwardian photo by Deighton

Studios Napier. He is with his grandson Seddon and son Harry.

There was a huge old clock which was Henry Hill's and

Peter did get some pleasure from thinking that Colenso would have heard the same sonorous old tick.



The page is framed by a wide, ornate border of black and white floral and foliate patterns. The border features repeating motifs of leaves, flowers, and scrolling vines, creating a rich, textured frame around the central text.

The Napier Museum Gift

The prestigious journal *Nature* thought it important enough to carry this note on 25 June 1896 ...

THE Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, New Zealand, is fortunate in having such a generous and broad-minded friend as the Rev. William Colenso, F.R.S., as their President. At the opening of the Institute's session in May, after delivering an animated address, Mr. Colenso put before the meeting a scheme for the foundation of a museum to take the place of the present museum at Napier. He offered to give towards the realisation of his scheme the sum of £1000 and a freehold site, and to supplement this with a second donation of £500 so soon as £500 was given by some one else. The total amount required to establish the museum is about £4000. Referring to the conditions of gift, Mr. Colenso said: "The museum must be a building which will be open every day of the week and Sunday afternoons too. I find that this is the case in Auckland, where large numbers visit the museum on Sunday afternoons. And what better use can a man give to his time than in the observance of the wonderful works of his Maker? There is another proviso, and that is that the building must only be used for the purposes of a museum and library. There must be no concerts, no Liedertafels, no spouting, no mutual admiration societies, no globe-trotters, no tourists, and no parsons. I will not give a penny for persons of that kind. I have received a letter asking for assistance for a museum in my native town in England. There the money has to be raised by a certain time. So in Napier it must be raised by December 31. The deed would be vested in five trustees, who should be generous and businesslike men, with a keen interest in the project. The museum proposed would be a museum for the East Coast, not only for Hawke's Bay proper, or for the old provincial district, but for Poverty Bay and Gisborne and the country stretching up to the East Cape." There should be no difficulty in raising the money required for the consummation of the scheme which Mr. Colenso has in mind, and towards which he is willing to contribute so liberally.

Colenso announced this at the Institute's Annual Meeting in Napier on 11 May 1896. On 2 June 96 he wrote to JD Hooker:

You, no doubt, will have had your thoughts *re* my offer of £1500 and a freehold site for a Museum and Library building: and to that I should also add a *lot* of specimens – *Various*, some unique! But whether such will be followed up by our Bœotian-money loving folk, is another question. *I doubt it*, and if so – my specimens will go elsewhere to say nothing of money – which (at present) is in land. I have had lots of praise (!) pats on back, &c, &c., but mostly from poor savants (at a distance). Buller says, "My offer is sure to be felt & followed throughout the Colony, it will stir them up." My closing remarks *re* (travelling) "parsons", has, however, given offence to the cloth! (No *new* thing however, on my part.)

Perhaps Colenso had informed Hooker, or *Nature*, or both, before he made his announcement in Napier—but on the other hand this was the age of the telegraph, and they may have been informed after the event.

The expected financial support was not forthcoming, and, as Bagnall and Petersen described it,

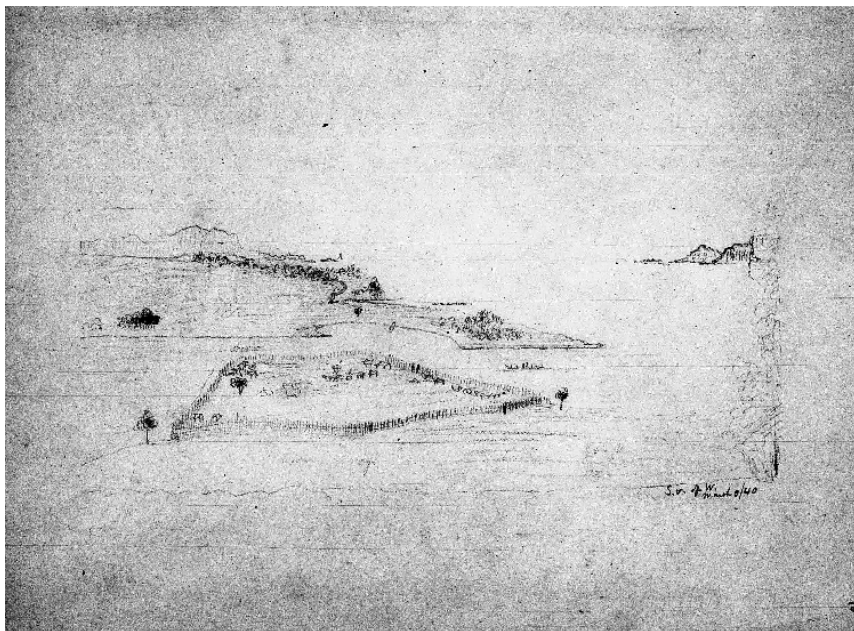
In the hard times which had not given way to the liberal plenty the support of this generous offer was not encouraging. Colenso, however, saw in this failure a lack of interest in things scientific and withdrew his offer when the required sum was not donated by the stated time.

Napier was perhaps a little abashed at this uncompromising end, and at the February meeting of the Institute Colenso spoke in low hurried anger of the paltry £163 which had been raised. His books and money would now go, in part, to Penzance. In a press letter he had his last fling at the great runholders who should have supported the offer "with their princely domains, thousands of acres, and tens of thousands of sheep...."

The *Herald* reported "Mr Colenso spoke under great excitement and in a low tone."

Colenso wrote to the editor (*Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 March 1897),

There was not one wealthy man, not one of the old-established respectable settlers, owners of large estates, fathers of families, amongst ... the few names in the list... Because I had certainly expected *large* assistance from those men as early settlers—with their princely domains, thousands of acres, and many tens of thousands of sheep, &c.—to say nothing of the present good season's clip of wool...



An image from the collection of Colenso manuscripts in the Mitchell Library, Sydney. It is in Colenso's style, and is labelled "S.V. of W. March 5/40". His Journals are sketchy for 1840, but Colenso may have been in the Wairua river region during March and April (ie, in the months following the Treaty).

Is this the mouth of the Wairua? Does the inscription mean "Southern view of Wairua"? Can you assist, please?



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The editor invites contributions on any matter relating to the life and work of the Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS, emailed to Ian St George (istge@yahoo.co.nz). The cover is from a design by American art nouveau illustrator William H. Bradley. The page frames are a William Morris design.





Infant Baptism and Salvation

On 3 March 1889 William Colenso wrote to his friend David Balfour, whose newborn baby had died, presumably of some congenital anomaly,

I had seen in the Papers the Birth & the Death, and while I knew the Mother would *naturally feel* it, I cannot say that I was grieved at it, (in burying many infants in past years; although at *times*, I have even shed a tear at their graves, I have always considered them better off,) and in this particular case of the infant being diseased, *I look on it as a great mercy & one that I feel thankful for.*

He went on to commiserate because Balfour was about to be evicted as farm manager after his employer (Kinross) became bankrupt. Then at the end of the letter he felt it necessary to add a note, which he marked "PRIVATE", presumably so that Mrs Balfour would not see it,

In your letter you say:— "I sent for a Doctor and for Mr. Tuke. Mr. Tuke just arrived in time: we gave her the name of Grace Elizabeth, and 10 minutes after the Baptism the poor little thing left for the *Throne of Grace*: where we hope she now is".

I cannot tell you how greatly—how *very strangely*, these words have affected me! Day & night they have been running in my mind. It is a long long time since I have heard of such a strange medley: and bearing in mind, that you are a good Scotchman & a man of sound mind & strong reasoning powers, I cannot help thinking that you wrote them down hastily, never once considering their real meanings, and correct inferences.

I look on them as containing most erroneous, most *pernicious* doctrine! Just what your brave Countrymen with John Knox at their head once drove out of Scotland. To think for a moment, that Mr. Tuke in sprinkling a few drops of water on an infant sends straight to glory!!! And, if *without* the water, What then? This is the Papist *opus operatum* with a vengeance! But there is also much more behind it. To me, there is something awful in the thought of it and therefore *constrain* myself *unwillingly* to write.

Why so callous? Why was Colenso, that kindly old man, so unsympathetic at this terrible time for his old friend? There is a clue in a letter to RC Harding dated 31 October 1897,

I note what you say *re* Infant Baptisms, & could *tell* you a *deal* re same: *my stumbling-block* w. Bp. Selwyn! who was *not* so bad as many others--then & *now*.

John Wesley preached in Cornwall during the evangelical revival, and his teaching had a major influence on the young Colenso; he taught that God's grace extended beyond a believing parent, to an infant in their care, until the child could decide for Christ independently. Thus an unbaptised baby could still attain salvation. Wesleyans retain baptism as a sacrament, but the descendants of Methodism (Pentecostals, Salvation Army and others) have moved away from infant baptism to believers' baptism only.

The range of views on Baptism is wide as it reflects the range of views on the degree to which salvation is our decision or God's. These salvation views range from those who claim we are helpless and all the decisions and actions are God's, to those who believe God made us to call all our own shots, with the strength and will to decide for heaven or hell unaided by divine intervention. In between fall the views that God draws people toward faith, enables them to cross the line of faith and grow in maturity, but trusts the decision for Christ to each individual (Wesleyan/ Methodist and general Anglican).

Then, following on, those who only accept believers' baptism are emphasising the convert's decision and action, whereas those who focus on infant baptism emphasise God acting in our lives before we understand it.

This was a debate, in Colenso's time, within Colenso's church, the Church of England, and is an element of the high church vs. low church wrangle—did an unbaptised child die in sin or in grace? Was the ritual of the Church essential for salvation? (high church) or did God impart a covering grace even before baptism? (low church).

And what was Selwyn's position? Te Ara says of him, "Roman Catholicism and ritualism were alike repugnant to him; he regretted but tolerated Dissent".

Colenso was a Dissenter, railing against Roman Catholicism, which he feared in the move towards ritualism in the Church of England. He clearly held passionately to the belief that a baby did not need to be baptised to go to heaven—so much so that he would deny the grieving Balfour parents such a comfort—but he railed almost as passionately against Salvationists and other dissenters.

Bishop Selwyn, it seems, was high church enough, despite his repugnance for ritualism (Colenso judged him "not so bad as many others"), to be a "stumbling-block" to that belief.

I am grateful to my niece Jane St George Waugh for contributing to this: Ian St George.



phemerae

In *The hare with amber eyes* Edmund de Waal quoted his great grandfather's cousin, the art critic and collector Charles Ephrussi, who was searching out Albrecht Dürer's drawings, and who wrote,

... that all of Dürer's drawings, even the lightest of sketches, merited a special mention, that nothing... should be omitted.

It is intimacy that matters, de Waal writes. Picking up a sketch enables us to

... catch the thought of the artist in all its freshness, at the very moment of manifestation, with perhaps even more truth and sincerity than in the works that require arduous hours of labour, with the defiant patience of the genius.

An ephemera is an insect whose imago lasts only a day. Figuratively ephemeral means short-lived or transitory. Samuel Johnson used the word for documents: "Those papers of a day, the Ephemeræ of learning".

Colenso—that compulsive saver of every scrap he ever wrote on—left a lot of ephemerae. Many of the notes, jottings, aides memoire, lists of ideas and so on have perished, but many survive, and they too merit special mention. Rather as Dürer's sketches, they have a freshness, a rawness (sidestepping the usual mental defences of their writer) that may be missing from the reworked, "defiantly patient" prose of the finished essay or speech. Like personal letters to close friends, they allow us a more intimate contact.

Among the Colenso papers in the Mitchell Library in Sydney there is a series of sheets of jottings apparently made during the debate in the Legislative Council on the Native Lands Bill in 1862. There are phrases that don't appear in Colenso's speech on the first reading of the Bill (see *eColenso* May 2012), so perhaps it was as he listened to other speakers that he noted his thoughts—sarcastic, sincere, falsely humble, damning with faint praise, preoccupied as they are.

Encumbered Estates Courts

Titles of 1/2 of Ireland passed in same in 1851

Present Pos. of Nation, Distress

1. Win in Conf
2. Destroy them

2nd speaking - I won't conceal
 - having passed 11h
 - think I speak in earnest
 - as I did not esp. anyt. plainly
 - but my to Ball's statement
 of Court - with physically
 possible - through
 such this, 2ndly) expiring

sent to the

manly - noble
 then will - dog
 result of some fell - feel
 without m. h. kindness
 "length - I won't (as Hart's)
 "any more - Lambert - Distance to Court"

myself plain for a man
 & eloquent & lofty language
 can't there - gallant - fallen - random - & exclusive - baseness
 distinctive in its very beauty -
 - at home - false impression
 - here, any, & later (as death)

Boique on S.W. - } hope never to be
 men buy off pier - }
 W. Swan, so June!

Bank theory - utopian
 all agree - } - impossible - physically & morally -
 profit made - at my highest
 want of "comprehensive Statesman-like views"
 - no? I had lived among them
 or, now in with any, them }

over

workhouse

Court of J. & L. } will. sug.
 - of equity } more
 Nat. Promises } simple
 P. (promises) } suitable

Bell. gift of law in P. Britain - a benefit!!
 "if we can win in Conf. as 20 yrs ago -
 (to same way to work)
 "Nat. & Policy at bottom of all our evils"
 ("Protectorate")
 "Never yet depicted diffy. in itself w. Nat. tenure!!"
 "By faithful efforts & labours of love avert
 disaster from Nations" YES
 (letters of Gold - Gorman -) as Ham

Encumbered Estates Court—
titles of ½ of Ireland proved in same in 15 yrs

Present pos. of Natives, **Distrust.**

α. Win their confidence

β. Destroy them

**lant vote

**plen—brilliant—manly—noble—slog.!

brimful of good fellow-feeling

overflowing with the milk of human kindness

he right—I wrong (with Hastings?)

Henry VIII—Lambert “silence n. conv.”†

myself plain practical man

F(itzherbert?) eloquent & lofty theorizer

cant. theory—fallacies—golden—rainbow—I. delusive—baseless mihrage**

destructive in its very beauty—)

—at home—false impressions)

—here, among **Natives** (at least) ☀

more discontented)

hopes **never** realized)

Barque on S.W.—

men diving off pier—

White Swan, 30 June!

Beautiful theory) —utopian

all agree **if**) —impossible—physically & morally—

Possibly smile—at my dulness—

want of “comprehensive statesman-like views”—

—would F(itzherbert?) had lived among them)

or, now 12 months among them)

over

Poorhouse

Court of English Titles) village runangas

— of **Equity**) more

Native Provinces) **simple**

Provincial Councils) more **suitable**

—**Bell** **difference** of Law in Gt. Britain—a **benefit**!!

“If we can win your confidence as 20 years ago”—

(go same way to work)

“National Land Policy at bottom of all our evils”

(? Protectorate)

“Never the slightest difficulty in dealing with Native tenure”!!

“By **faithful** efforts & **labour of love** avert

disaster from natives”

yes

(letters of gold—forum—) **no sham**

2nd. speaking—F(itzherbert?) won’t concede to me
nevertheless—having passed 1 & 2
—which, I fear, he misunderstood
—or I, did **not** explain myself plainly
but, owing to **Bell’s** statement
of Laws—not **physically**
possible—therefore
But this, (3rd. reading) injurious

† Perhaps a reference to John Lambert, English martyr, who disputed publicly with Henry VIII until he was reduced to silence. Then burned on a slow fire for his audacity.



n the barque “Prince Regent”

Twenty-two year old William Colenso wrote in his Diary,

Wednesday, June 18th. 1834. This morning at 9 left my lodgings for the C.M.H.--met there Mr. and Mrs. Wade and Jno. Flatt--left for St. H. Docks in Hackney Coach--got on board the Rose steamer and arrived at Gravesend at 1--dined at Gravesend and about 3 went on board the Prince Regent, had tea--met for prayers in Mr. W.'s Cabin--and slept on board for the first time, had a most refreshing night's rest. Lord unite us together in Love--give us faith towards thee and zeal for thy cause for Xts. sake.

Well might he pray, for it was to be a long five months to Sydney for the seasick youth.

Thursday 19. At 11 in the morning weighed anchor and left Gravesend arrived at the Nore at ½ past 2—one of the passengers has this day expressed wish to meet with us (our Missy. of exile) for prayers morning and evening. Blessed the Lord for this! Enlarge thy Zion.—stretch out her Cords. This afternoon a passenger's cap fell overboard and was lost--not yet sick--agreed to meet in Mr. Flatt's Cabin every day for a half hour's religious intercourse. Bless God for all his mercies.

*My throbbing head--my aching brow
Must soon be laid beneath the sod.
And all my heart loves here below
Be left, for God.*

July 1st. In ye. Bay of Biscay--great many porpoises.

July 3rd/34 At sea--Recovering from sea sickness off Oporto.

July 4. Lat 46-16 Long 15-6-W.

Copies of various texts and verse are included here— “Tale of a voyageur”, “Farewell!”, stanzas by Swain, Grant, Grinfield, Walton, ‘Missionaries’ farewell to England”, HB White on “solitude”, “Resource of those who are separated” by Moses Brown, “On visiting a scene of childhood” by Elton, lines by Miss CA Bowles (“In my opinion, exquisite”), poetry by Mr Wade, “A summers day in the Atlantic”, and others.

7. *In Lat. 36½ Long. 15½, saw a bird flying, at a great distance from Land--a great many Dolphins playing around our Ship this evening, attempted to take one but failed--wind, N.N.E. Therm. 71.*
8. *The beautiful hue the sea now assumes is beyond description--a soft, mellow, gentle, radiant, heavenly blue--saw a bird flying to-day, believe it a species of tern.*

(9 July to 2 October, between Bay of Biscay & south of Australia, missing).

October 2. Saw some whales and a shark. Fine day.

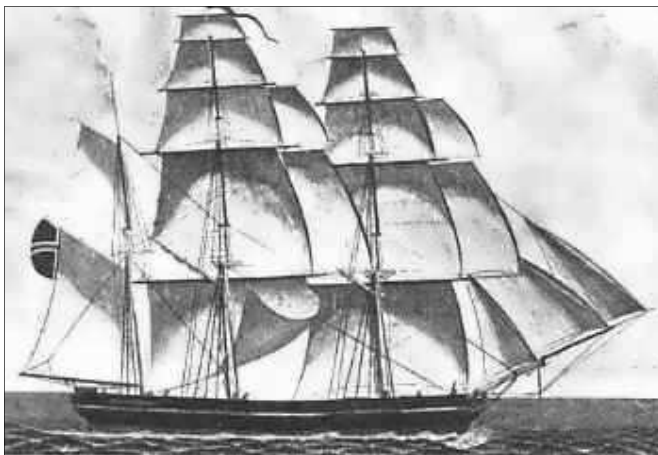
6 *Land in sight.*

One wonders if Colenso's famous seasickness prevented any more detailed observations of the voyage, for the best he could do in his letter to Dandeson Coates of the CMS (1 November 1834) from Sydney was,

"...I need not enter into a detail of Incidents which occurred on the Voyage, as, I believe, that my dear Brother Wade, will send you a full account of whatsoever he deems worthy your attention.—I would merely say, that we were blessed with *more* comforts than I expected, thanks to the Almighty, the Society, and Capt. Aitken, who is, I firmly believe, as a Captain, a worthy man."

Prince Regent was a popular name for a vessel; there have, for instance, been four navy vessels "HMS Prince Regent"—one of which (a schooner) visited New Zealand with the *Dromedary* in 1820. There are many others.

Colenso was a cabin passenger (ie, not steerage) on the *Prince Regent*, built at Portsmouth in 1814—barque rigged (square sails except on the mizzen [aft] mast), 3 masts, 2 decks, length 98ft 8in, breadth 23ft 1in, depth in hold 16ft 5in.—which brought convicts and free men to Australia on a long series of voyages. On her 1849 voyage (for instance) she was 528 tons, Captain William Jago, from London & Plymouth on 8 April, arrived at Port Adelaide, South Australia on 20 July. Under full sail she would have looked somewhat similar to the *Augusta*, below...



The *Augusta*, a barque of similar age and tonnage to the *Prince Regent*

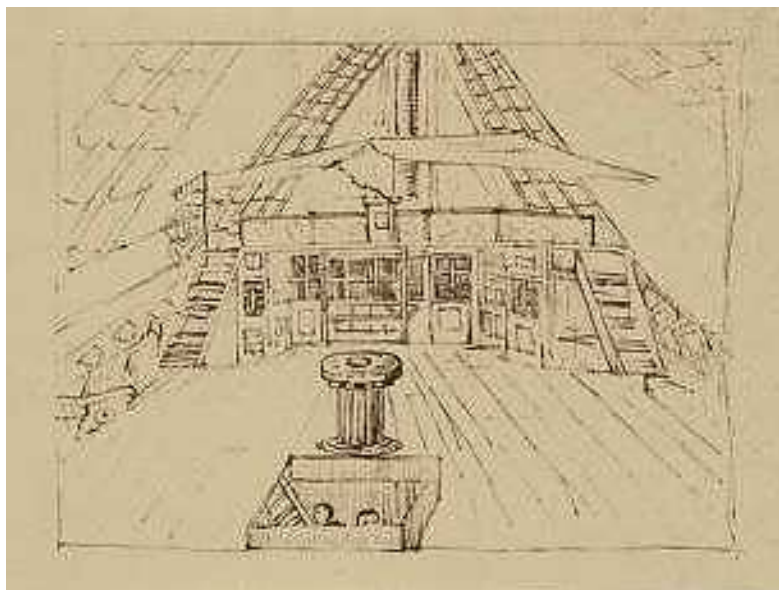
There are no drawings of the vessel in Colenso's log, but on 18 February 1836 Rev. Richard Taylor sailed for Australia in the *Prince Regent* on what must have been her next-but-one voyage, arriving at Sydney on 12 June.

(Taylor came on to Paihia on 10 March 1839 and on the 19th set out with William Williams to select a site for a new mission in the East Coast. He was present at the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. He worked most of his life at Whanganui).

Taylor made two drawings, one showing what appears to be a dining area in the great cabin aft (the mizzen mast piercing it), another looking aft from the main mast...

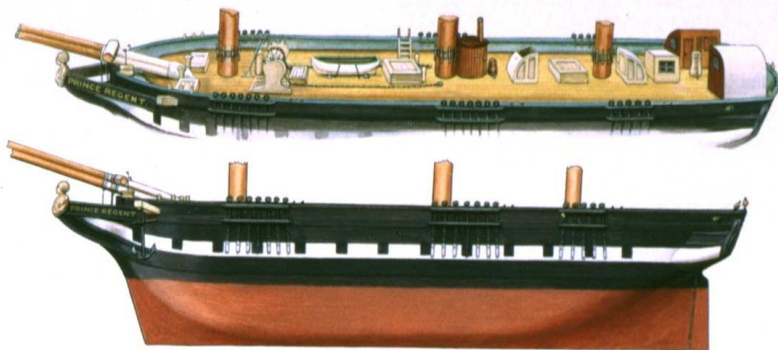


"The cuddy & company of ye Prince Regent".
 (The swinging wine table to the right of the mast seems like a good idea—Ed.)



Prince Regent, looking aft toward the mizzen mast and great cabin

In the State Library of Tasmania is a drawing of the barque *Prince Regent*, from a contemporary model, the fittings of which are largely in whale-bone, "made by the ship's carpenter, circa 1860". Drawings are labelled "The Hull" and "The Stern". Gilt-framed. The deck fittings have been altered since Taylor's voyage.



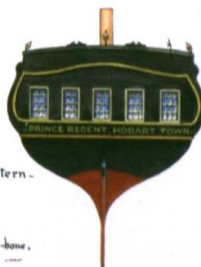
The Hull.



Barque *Prince Regent*. Owner - Phillis Seal. Registered in Hobart Aug 24 1854.
 Official Number 33041.
 Built at Portsmouth, Hampshire, England in 1814.

Barque rigged.
 3 masts.
 2 decks.
 Length 98 ft.
 Breadth 23 ft.
 Depth in hold 10 ft.

The Stern.



This drawing is from a contemporary model, the fittings of which are largely in whale-bone, made by the ship's carpenter, circa 1860.

D. J. Taylor

Sailing on the *Prince Regent* was not always smooth. The *Sydney Shipping Gazette* of 18 September 1854 reported her arrival in Adelaide...

The Barque *Prince Regent*.—The *Prince Regent* at Port Adelaide on the 29th August last, after a trying and seriously protracted voyage of 179 days from London, and ??? from Gravesend. The length of the voyage is attributable to the fact of her being improperly supplied with water and provisions, through the culpable negligence or parsimony of the agents.

During the last three weeks the passengers and crew have been obliged to drink bottled porter (part of the cargo), the water being all gone. In consequence of the privations and short supply of provisions to which they had been subjected, six of the crew had died of scurvy, and thirteen more are either quite disabled or in a very sickly condition; so that the efficient seamen are only five in number, and Captain Jago himself is quite an invalid, suffering from rheumatism and exhaustion of strength, the results of privation, anxiety, insufficient nourishment, and the want of a surgeon on board.



Simon Nathan emailed, "Every time I go to a meeting or conference there are unexpected surprises. My surprise at the Colenso symposium last year was meeting up with Jim Colenso, who has worked an alluvial gold claim near Westport. About five years earlier I was working on an article on the West Coast for Te Ara, the online encyclopedia of New Zealand. I travelled around, talking to people and taking photographs. One hot day I came across two miners operating a little petrol-driven suction dredge in the Waimangaroa River. It was a wonderful example of non-destructive small scale mining, so I asked if I could take a photograph which they readily agreed to. A few months later the photograph went online, and people often ask me about it. But it took five years until I realised that Jim Colenso (on the left) was part of the Colenso family."

We apologise to Jim for referring to him in *eColenso* July 2012 as "one of Colenso's great grand-children". That, of course, he is not.

Tony Gates emailed, "Peter Van Essen has a theory that *Aciphylla* (carrot) is eaten by and destroyed by deer. Hence the Ruahine peak of Puketaramaea 'peak of many Spaniards' has very few of these plants these days. I recall in the 1970s seeing large numbers of these plants kicked up by deer, midwinter, to access the tender carrot underground."

Imagine a living circle of five feet diameter (the size of the full grown plant) with all its many harsh spiny ray-like leaves radiating alike outward from its carrot shaped root, forming almost a plane of living elastic spears, composed of sharp and stiff points, or flat spikes, each several inches long. These make up the leaf, and many of them are set on each long leaf stalk of nearly two feet in length. From the centre rises the strong flowering stem, an erect orange coloured spike or stalk 5-6 feet high, containing many hundreds of small flowers, gummy (or having a varnished appearance) and strong scented.

Bareth Winter (Masterton) emailed (with reference to eColenso 2012. 8: 18), "I'm not so sure the kakapo survived in the North Island until the late 1940s though. More like the late 1890s, surely?" Our apologies: he is quite right: one of the last birds was taken in the Kaimanawas in 1895, and an authoritative source says, "by the 1920s, the Kakapo were extinct on the North Island" (Williams GR 1956. The Kakapo [Strigops habroptilus, Gray]: a review and reappraisal of a near-extinct species. *Notornis* 7 [2]: 29-56. http://www.notornis.org.nz/contents.php?volume_issue=n7_2).

Colenso on the death of his cousin...

—"If Jasar can hide the sun from us with a blanket, or put the moon in his pocket, we will pay him tribute for light."—

SHAKSP. *Cymbeline*.

SIR,—As the nearest living collateral relative of Dr Colenso, whose recent death has been announced by you in your paper this morning, (which, I may be allowed to observe, has taken me by surprise, not having heard from my family of his having been ailing,—and his also being so remarkably hale and healthy,)—perhaps you will permit me to add a few lines to what you kindly gave us this morning from *Men of the Time*, concerning the late Bishop's works, labors, and persecutions.

The compiler of that brief biographical memoir, while stating, that,—“During the Bishop's stay in England (in 1874.) he was prohibited from preaching in their respective dioceses by the Bishops of Oxford, Lincoln, and London;” has omitted to remark, that, notwithstanding those “prohibitions,” Dr Colenso did preach in all those dioceses, as well as in others.

He preached in London, at Westminster Abbey; in Oxford, at the Church of Balliol College; and, notably, at Claybrook in Leicestershire (adjoining to Wickliffe's famed Rectory of Lutterworth,) where—having been invited by the vicar to preach in his church, and subsequently indecently (though ecclesiastically) personally opposed on the Sunday morning in that Church by the Bishop of Peterborough,—Dr. Colenso preached standing on a table on the village green, the school-room whence they had adjourned not being large enough, to a large and most attentive audience; in this respect following the noble example of John Wesley, a century before, in the neighboring county of Yorkshire.

And now, for this man, too, life's toil is over;

His words are all said out, his deeds are done;

For this man, too, there comes a rest, however

Unquiet passed his time beneath the sun.

—Think you, that God loves our tame levelled acres

More than the proud head of some Heaven-kissed hill?

Man's straight-dug ditch more than His own free river.

Think warriors, Ho regarding, where it will? Enough! High words abate no jot or tittle

Of what, while man still lasts, shall still be true; Heaven's great ones must be slandered by

Earth's little, And GOD makes no ado.

—Yours, &c.,

W. COLENZO.

Napier, June 22, 1883.



Prasophyllum colensoi

One of our more common orchids but like many others in NZ small and easy to overlook. Grows well in sunny grasslands in spring and summer.

Photograph by Mike Lusk.