

*eColenso* Volume 4 Number 7 July 2013 ISSN 1179-8351

# COLENZO

The e-organ of the Colenso Society Inc.—dedicated to making known the life and work of the Reverend William Colenso—  
“one of the first and greatest of those who hold before us an image of this amalgam of land and living things we call New Zealand” (Leicester Kyle).

## CRANBY & SIDEY,

HASTINGS STREET, NAPIER



**SEEDS 1897-98 SEEDS**

Turnips  
Rape  
Red and White  
Clover

Alsike  
Mustard  
Cowgrass  
Crested Dogtail

Meadow Foxtail  
Fescues  
&c., &c.

From the Best English Growers.

# Aggro

## at Waiomio

### —and an ejaculatory prayer answered

Colenso at Hinukuku, 8 April 1840: Buckling on my travelling belt and shaking hands with the Chiefs, I was going on, (my lads having started,) when one demanded payment for the Fern on which I slept the preceding night!! I felt very much grieved at such an unparalleled request, (coming too from a Native of this place, where I had particularly labored, Sabbath after Sabbath, for more than 2 years, the inhabitants of which, in all their Sickness, had ever been attended to by myself with medicine and little articles of food, supplied with Books, etc, though, I am sorry to say, without the least indication of good resulting therefrom,) and replied, "I shan't give you anything whatever; if you wish a reward you must come and take it, that is, if you are strong enough to do so". On which he advanced, seized the travelling pole which I held in my hand, and wrested it from me; while he was doing so I coolly took from him a pipe, which he had in his mouth, and hid it in my Vest. He brandished the pole to throw at me, which I parried with my hand. He demanded his pipe, which I refused, alleging his bad conduct. On which he seized the straps of my belt, and rent off 2 loops, tearing, also, the sleeve of my shirt, and taking me up (as a child) by the legs, lifted me in the air, to the amusement of those present. Hitherto I had acted wholly on the defensive, but this last was rather more than I was inclined to submit to; so, lifting my heart in ejaculatory prayer to the Strong for strength, I turned to my assailant, and, seizing him by the right elbow, desired him to look out the place

on which he would be laid. He, looking somewhat afraid, wished me to let go my grasp; "No," I replied, "it is my turn now; say, where will you lie?" so saying I tripped up his heels, and threw him, "easy," a "fair fall". He arose, and made at me; I said, "Enough" but, finding he would not be still, seized him again by the elbow, and down he came in a trice; taking good care to throw him "*hard*", this time. On which he got up, and, shewing the New Zealander, seized a knotty branch of a tree, and made at me. I called on the lookers-on to lay hold of him; but they moved not.—I was, however, not intimidated, (having proved my arm to be rather longer than his,) so, seizing him by the throat I ran him backwards against the end of a house hardby where I pinned him fast; the stick having dropped, and his short arms hanging powerless by his sides. There I kept him, until Pohe, a young Chief, came up and laid hold of him. Having refitted, I upbraided the Natives for their ingratitude, and conduct towards me; on which they remarked, that were I not a Missionary and known to them I should be stripped, etc. I took his pipe and broke it up, for the tearing of my belt and shirt. To shew however that I had no malice against him I offered to shake hands with him, which he disdainfully refused. So I went on my way, giving God thanks for His delivering me from this "bear".

*Hinukuku was "one of the nearest villages" of the Waiomio valley, Bay of Islands but is not now traceable. Colenso made twenty identified visits between September 1836 and February 1840.*

# Getting the old man back on his feet

31. 5. 97  
 Rev. W. Colenso.  
 R<sup>y</sup>. Syr. Ferr. Hypophos.  
 (Yellowes). f. 3iv  
 Sig. A teaspoonful  
 3 times daily in a  
 little water before  
 meals.  
 R<sup>y</sup>. Lin. Saponis 3iv  
 Sig. As before.

One of the Colenso ephemeræ auctioned at Webb's last year was this prescription dated 31 May 1897, for Syr. Ferri Hypophos. and Lin. Saponis.

Colenso had his major gig smash in early April 1897, and was being cared for by Dr Macalan (presumably the prescription writer) and the son of Colenso's old friend Fannin, now the chemist in Dannevirke (his stamp appears on the prescription as its dispenser).

Dr Fellow's patented Syrup of Ferri. Hyphosphate was a tonic (see next page) —as were many iron salts.

Linimentum Saponis (Lin. Sapon.), was Soap Liniment: Soap (6%), camphor (4.5%) in oil of rosemary, alcohol and water. Absolute alcohol content about 65 per cent. It was used as a mild rubefacient and vehicle for more active liniments.

From the January 1887

## Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases

### Publishers' Announcements.

#### SYR. HYPOPHOS: FELLOWS.

(Dispensed in Bottles containing 20 oz. by weight, or about 15 oz. by measure)

Mr. Fellows takes this opportunity to thank the Profession for their increased recognition of his invention.

To the medical gentlemen who have kindly permitted the publication of their testimony in favor of his Hypophosphites, and who, by letter or otherwise, have expressed their disapproval of the fraudulent imitations, he is especially grateful.

With its increasing favor there has been a corresponding increase of imitations, and though this is a compliment in the sense that "only the best things are worth counterfeiting," yet Mr. Fellows would respectfully request the profession to guard against the misleading advertisements and fictitious compounds of notorious imitators

#### SAFEGUARDS AGAINST SUBSTITUTION.

Fellows' Hypophosphites is dispensed in bottles containing 15 oz. by measure—the address, Fellows & Co., St. John, N. B., blown on—the name, J. I. Fellows, St. John, N. B., in watermark upon the yellow wrapper; it is hermetically corked, and sealed with crimson capping; is heavy, slightly alkaline, has a pleasantly bitter taste, and deposits a flocculent brown precipitate of Hypophosphite of Manganese when left undisturbed for forty-eight hours.

NOTE—Though this precipitate mars the appearance, its presence has been found imperative to its full remedial effect.

JAMES I. FELLOWS, Chemist, 48 Vesey Street, New York.

## Tsunami on the Cornish coast

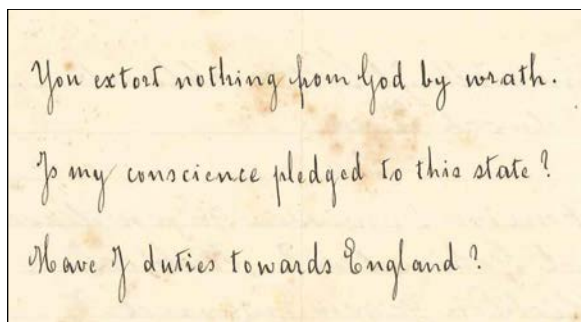
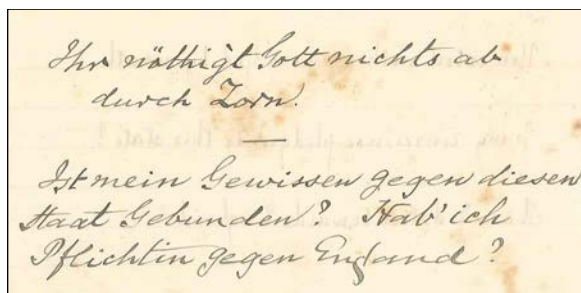
On the first of November, 1775, (being the day of the great earthquake at Lisbon) about two o'clock in the afternoon, a most extraordinary phenomenon was observed at St. Michael's Mount, during a dead calm. After the sea had ebbed about half an hour, it rose suddenly six feet in height, retired again in ten minutes, and this periodical flux and reflux continued every ten minutes for two hours and a half, which caused the vessels and boats, that lay at the pier-head, to whirl about in a strange manner.

*From History of Mounts Bay with every civil and military transaction, Saint Michael's Mount, Marazion, Penzance, Paul, Buryan, Saint Levan, Sennen, Saint Just, &c. The third edition, revised and corrected with considerable additions (by William Colenso then aged 20—Ed). Penzance 1831; printed by and for John Thomas, and sold by T. Tegg, 73 Cheapside, London.*



# Another of Colenso's German connections

Another Colenso ephemera auctioned at Webb's last year was a slip of paper with three lines in German in Colenso's hand and, on the obverse, their translation into English in a different hand.



## Who translated?

The Swiss Henry Suter (see box overleaf) translated some material from the German for Colenso [Colenso to Harding 29 February 1892, "... Suter's *beautifully* written translation of a German paper...." and Colenso to Harding 18 November 1893, "... Suter (Xt.Ch.), who transld. for me...."].

I can find no record of when Colenso and Suter made contact, but possibly it was in the Bush region: Suter was at Hastwell's Clearing (between Eketahuna and Mauricville) January 1887 to November 1888 and Col-

enso made three visits to Dannevirke, collecting in and around the area, during that period. Suter wrote to Hector from the Bush on 13 September 1887, "P.S. Could you give me the address of Mr. Colenso? I would send him Arachnidae from here."

Colenso had written on spiders he and Drummond had found in the Bush region (On some newly-discovered New Zealand Arachnids. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 1882; 15) and Suter probably read the paper (Hutton also had papers on molluscs in the same issue, so Suter would have been interested).

After leaving the Bush district Suter worked briefly at Mt Cook and sent botanical specimens to Colenso from there (e.g. "*Corysanthes orbiculata*: 'Mount Cook, Black-birch Creek Valley,' 1890: *Mr. H. Suter*.").

The first mention of Suter in Colenso's surviving correspondence is that in 1892 (above).

## HENRY SUTER 1841–1918

Henry Suter was born on the 9th March, 1841, and was the son of a prosperous silk-manufacturer of Zurich. From his boyhood he was deeply interested in natural history.

Partly to improve his financial prospects and partly lured by the attraction of the fauna of a new country, Suter resolved to emigrate to New Zealand. It was the last day of the year 1886 when with his wife and a family of young children he landed in New Zealand.

He began his colonial career by taking up a remote selection in the Forty-mile Bush, in the Wairarapa district. It is only in a story that a middle-aged townsman can ever turn backwoodsman with success, and so after about a year Suter relinquished the hard and hopeless struggle.

At this critical time Captain Hutton, always a firm friend to zoologists, succeeded in obtaining for his protégé a post as assistant manager at the Mount Cook Hermitage. Subsequently work was available at the Canterbury Museum. After that, at one or another of the scientific institutions of New Zealand Suter spent the remainder of his life at congenial employment.

Henry Suter was an expert collector. He excelled in taking the minutest land-shells, to find which requires knowledge, patience, and the sharpest eyes. Specialists in other groups were often supplied by Suter with valuable material. In Switzerland he had formed a fine collection of European land and fresh-water shells. This was afterwards acquired by the Australian Museum.

His friends persuaded him that science would be better served if he relinquished the foreign shells and transferred his attention to the marine Mollusca of New Zealand.

Patience, perseverance, and concentration, rather than any great breadth of view, were his characteristics. His *magnum opus*, the *Manual of the New Zealand Mollusca*,<sup>\*</sup> was approached by a whole quarter-century of study and labour.

A competent critic wrote of this magnificent volume that it made an extraordinary advance in Antipodean conchology. The nomenclature of the subject was raised to a modern standard, so that by its guidance any one can now correctly name the shells of New Zealand. Suter needs no other eulogy than his *Manual*.

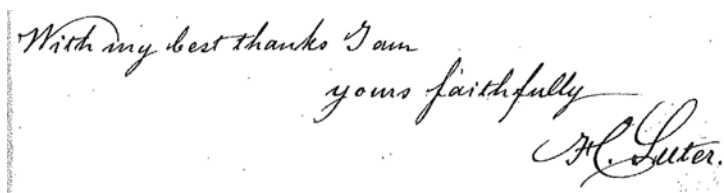
After the *Manual* was completed he was engaged by the Geological Survey to describe collections of Tertiary Mollusca gathered by the Department. On this he was busy for the remainder of his life, and the results are embodied in three *Palaeontological Bulletins* of the Geological Survey.

CHARLES HEDLEY

*From Suter's obituary, Trans. N.Z. Inst 1919; 51: ix–x. More detail ("Hans Heinrich Suter") at <http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3s40/suter-henry>.*

Colenso wrote to Cheeseman in April 1894 seeking work for Suter—“You will have seen some able papers in late vols. of “Transactions” on N.Z. Malcology, by a foreigner named Suter, living at Xt.church. I have heard (more than once) that he is very badly off financially,—though Prof. Hutton has, at times, employed him, but the Museum authorities there are just the opposite of yours—poor! Could you give him a job? I think he is a good industrious scientific naturalist, and should not want here among us.” Colenso mentioned that letter to Harding (30 May 1894): “... Suter, the Swiss scientist (vid. his papers & dwgs. in *Malcology*, in “Trans.”) who has long been nearly starving, w. his large family, so I wrote to Chn....”. Cheeseman never received the letter, but Suter got the job anyway.

Dr Pamela Hyde, a descendent of Suter’s, possesses some of his handwritten work. She identified that “*beautiful*” handwriting as his.



With my best thanks I am  
yours faithfully  
H. Suter.

She also found a letter from Suter to Cheeseman, dated September 1898, in which he wrote, “In Napier I had the pleasure of seeing for the first time the Rev. Colenso, who was exceedingly nice to me and showed me a great many of his treasures. I spent over two hours with him, and I am very glad to have at last once met the good old man.”

### Who sent the quotes?

The lines or their translations do not appear in any of Colenso’s published or unpublished writing.

The first line is from German knight and poet, Wolfram von Eschenbach’s (c.1170–c.1220) “Parzival und Titurel”; he was regarded as one of the greatest epic poets of his time.

The second and third lines are from German poet and playwright Friedrich Schiller’s (1759–1805) “Mary Stuart” (1801), the words of Mary, Queen of Scots translated otherwise as

*Say, is my conscience bound, then, to this realm?  
What are the duties that I owe to England?*

Colenso had a number of German correspondents, but most spoke (and wrote in) English. The paper Suter translated was written by the Leipzig cryptogamist Franz Stephani (1842–1927). It was published in 1892, “A revision of Colenso’s Hepaticae, with descriptions of new species collected by him” (*Journal of the Linnaean Society*, Botany 29: 263–80). The paper was critical of Colenso’s naming of several of the N.Z. liverworts.

Sir Walter Buller (rather gleefully, Colenso grumbled) read Stephani's paper at a meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society on 7 December 1892. Colenso was hurt, and in a note to his *confidant* Coupland Harding he gave a long list of the errors Buller had made in the past, and concluded with—

His presenting “Colenso’s N.Z. Hepaticæ revised by F. Stephani”—this *is* curious!—The same being No. 201 (Vol. XXIX) “Journal Linn. Society”—June 29/92 and only then lately to hand—heu.

By *his doing* so, of course, he *spoiled* his own set of nos. & volumes—and very likely never gave a number of that Journal before: but *in this* in Stephani’s revision of mine—i.e. of those (*few*) I had described, and of the *many* in the rough I had during several years sent to Kew—and Stephani (the greatest known expert in that *one line*) has reduced and *altered mine very considerably*: (possibly a *pleasing* thing to B?)—but Stephani has written to me a soothing and kind letter about it: and the Director at Kew, Mr. Thiselton Dyer, has *since* got the Linn. Socy. to *cancel* the *first* page (263) and substituted for it an *altered one*, w. “directions to the Binder”. Several of those small minute microscopical plants I had described (in Trans. N.Z. I.) had previously been described at Home (Germany) but unknown to me, while others that I had believed to be species novæ, Stephani says are merely *vars.* &c. of already described species; at same time some choice *new ones, now described by Stephani*, and as I have got such an overhauling—it suited B. to make the most of it.—

[Colenso to Harding 11 August 1893].

Colenso was upset that Buller had drawn attention to Stephani’s drawing attention to Colenso’s errors. It may therefore have been Stephani who sent these quotations when he sent the reprint of his paper to Colenso.

### What do the quotes mean?

Stephani had worked with Hooker, and from him would have been well aware that Colenso was a man who had strong opinions and who took offence easily.

Rather though, than taking the risk of bluntly saying to Colenso, “Don’t be offended”, he played it safe and resorted to the blameless authority of two of his country’s great wordsmiths—von Eschenbach and Schiller—to say it for him...

*You extort nothing from God by wrath.*

*Is my conscience pledged to this state?*

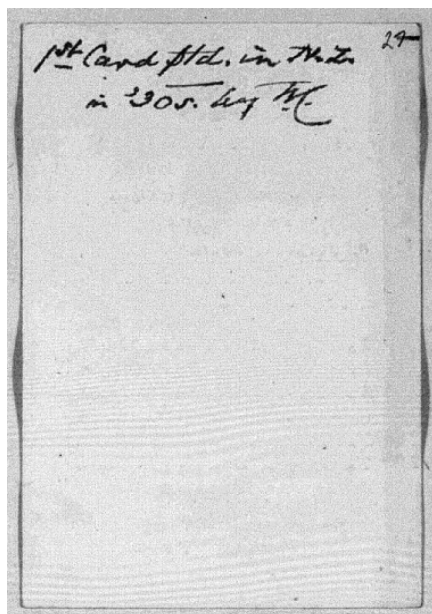
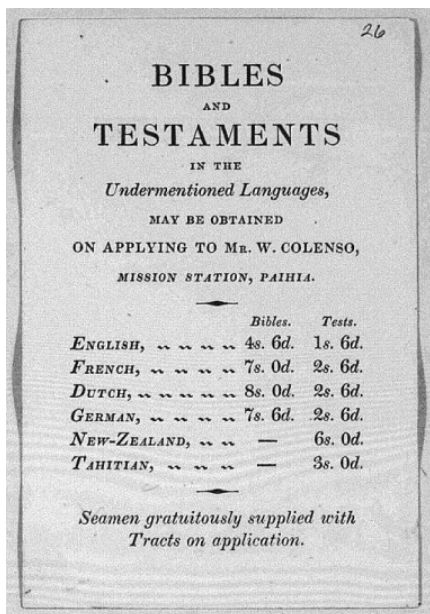
*Have I duties towards England?*

There is nothing to be gained by being angry—and anyway, I am not obliged to consider your (“England’s”) opinion.





# The first card printed in New Zealand



The Mitchell Library in Sydney has this among its impressive collections of Colenso ephemerae. Most of their material came via Coupland Harding, and this is among a number of manuscripts and examples of early printed material that Colenso sent to Harding in March 1891.

But where did Colenso get his supplies of multilingual bibles and texts in the 1830s? Did the Church Missionary Society send supplies to its missions for distribution to sailors? Or did Colenso—who had written for the mariners' mission magazine *Pilot* when he was in London—obtain his own supplies for the Kororareka matelots?

Did he sally forth to the street corners of that sin ridden gin sodden port and hopefully hand out the cards?

*Colenso's list sent to Harding on 4 March 1891 follows...*

# The list of printed work Colenso sent to Harding in 1891

Memo. of printed articles in  
this packet.—

1. Copies (sheets) of a translation  
of "the reception of 3 popish Priests  
into the Church of England, at St Pauls, London.
2. Copy of my Post Office order, used for  
wages, etc., in printing New Testament & other Books;  
Rev. Henry Williams being then our common  
Missionary Treasurer; these were also  
taken at the stores (Russell, etc, etc)  
as money for goods.
3. Copy of a small book "Agathos,"  
printed at the Bishop's press, Waimate.
4. Copy of the Jubilee (Church Missionary Society) letter  
to the converts throughout the world,  
translated by W.C.
5. Copy of the Happy Christian Death  
of an old Chief (Karepa (i.e. Caleb)  
Te Hairo) part of a little book  
of my translating & printing still unfinished—  
advanced to p. 134, or so.—That  
was printed in England—by C.M.S., & by Religious Tract  
Society, in English & is also (in part) in a life of  
Rev. S. Marsden. I hope, ere long,

Memo. of printed articles in  
this packet.—

1. Copies (sheets) of a translation  
of "the reception of 3 popish Priests  
into the Ch. of E., at St. Pauls, London".
2. Copy of my P.O. order, used for  
wages, &c., in ptg. N.T. & other Books;  
Rev. H.W. being then our common  
Misy. Treasurer. these were also  
taken at the Stores (Russell, &c, &c)  
as money for goods.
3. Copy of a small book "Agathos,"  
printed at the Bb's press, Waimate.
4. Copy of the Jubilee (C.M.S.) letter  
to the converts throughout the world,  
<sup>translated by W.C.</sup>
5. Copy of the Happy Chr. Death  
of an old Chief (Karepa (i.e. Caleb)  
Te Hairo), part of a little book  
of my transg. & ptg. still unfinished—  
advanced to p. 134, or so.—That  
was ptd. in Eng. — by C.M.S., & by R. Tract  
Sg. & is also (in part) in a life of  
Rev. S. Marsden. I hope, ere long,



to finish this little Book: it was begun (say) in '46 or '47, — & carried on at intervals (often very distant ones!) till 1858 — or thereabouts. — and those

6. A copy of a little Book that made a great noise (!) in its day — i.e. the History of the Œcumen. Council of Nice, & of its famous Creed: got out in this form for Maori Teachers, who were harassed by the Romish Priests. —

Rev. J. Hamlin was much taken w. this tract, so that I was obliged to make him some copies. I was not aware I had one left!

"Happy &c Deaths" of Converts by Missionaries were not confined to N.Z., nor to the C.M.S. Stations, — some were from the Polynesian Isles (L.M.S.), some, India, — Maoris, &c. &c.

Alas, I have another un-finished Maori book, ptd. at Wai-tangi, — a Scripture Catechism, advanced to several pps. I had wholly forgotten it! — Don't marvel, after a lapse of 35-40 yrs., and "out of sight" &c.

4/III/91.

W.C.

To finish this little Book: it was begun (say) in '46 or '47, — & carried on at intervals (often very distant ones!) till 1858 — or thereabouts. — and those . . . . .

6. A copy of a little Book that made a great noise (!) in its day — i.e. the History of the Œcumenical Council of Nice, & of its famous Creed: got out in this form for Maori Teachers, who were harassed by the Romish Priests. —

Rev. J. Hamlin was much taken with this tract, so that I was obliged to make him some copies. I was not aware I had one left!

"Happy Christian Deaths" of Converts by Missionaries were not confined to N.Z., nor to the C.M.S. Stations, — some were from the Polynesian Isles (L.M.S.), some, India, — Maoris, etc., etc.

I find, I have another un-finished Maori book, printed at Wai-tangi, — a Scripture Catechism, advanced to several pps. I had wholly forgotten it! —

Don't marvel, after a lapse of 35-40 yrs., and "out of sight" etc.  
4/III/91. W.C.



***Scutellinia colensoi***

This little cup fungus is also known as “eyelash button” for the peripheral ring of hairs around the disc, and is common in wet forests.

Photographed by Mike Lusk.



# The rebus:

## a solution

Nobody attempted the rebus, so here is the editor's solution: **FIDDLEHEADS.**

There's a nice symmetry around Scribblers, riddles and fiddleheads, and the clues are a schoolboyish combination of classical and Cornish. Very Colensoesque....

*A REBUS, by W. Colenso, a Pupil at Mr. Fennell's School at Penzance.*

**Y**E learned scribblers, wits of fame,  
If you'll my first explain,  
An animal be pleas'd to name;  
A bird you'll next obtain;  
A name of Bacchus for my next  
You will be pleas'd to tell;  
And now an animal find out,  
In England known full well;  
A number next; a tool that you  
In barbers' shops may see;  
And now, ye gents, you must define,  
A well-known English tree;  
A Spartan now find out who in  
The Theban war was slain;  
And then a King of Thessaly,  
Kind Sirs, you must explain;  
A coin, kind youths, you'll now point out;  
Lastly a fish expound:  
And then my whole will show a root,  
That's in the garden found.

Fiddlehead is an edible fern.  
Fiddlehead season is early  
May in England.



In New Zealand it is pikopiko – the fiddleheads or young leaf tips of hen and chicken ferns.

*Animal*

*Bird*

*Name for Bacchus*

*English animal*

*Number*

*Barbers shop tool*

*English tree*

*Spartan killed in Theban war*

*King of Thessaly*

*Coin*

*Fish*

**Ferret**

**Ibis**

**Dionysus**

**Deer**

**L**

**Ear trimmer**

**Hazel**

**Epameinondas**

**Alexander**

**Dinar**

**Sardine**

# Note to father found in first NZ-produced book

From *Massey University News*, June 2013...

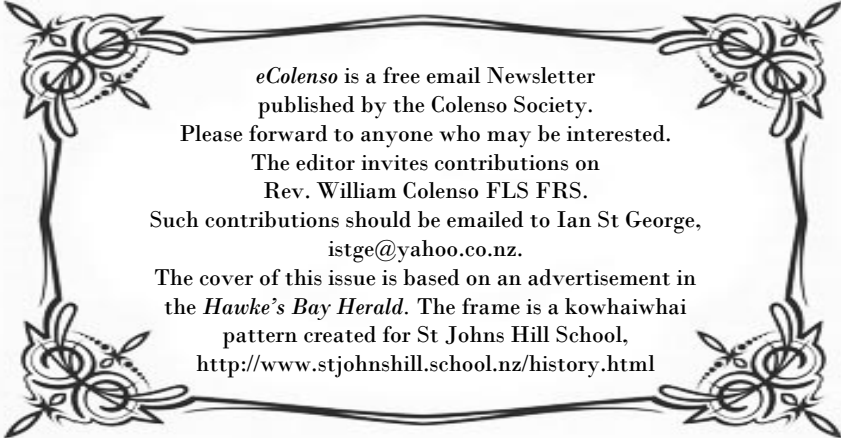
A handwritten note from printer and missionary William Colenso to his father has been uncovered in the Massey University library in the first book published in New Zealand.

The volume comprises two separate works bound together: the Maori language translations of the Gospel of St Luke, and the Epistles to the Ephesians and Philippians. The latter, printed on 17 February 1835, was the first book printed in New Zealand.

Inside the book an inscription from Mr Colenso to his father reads: "To my dear Father is this little Book, (containing the Gospel of Luke and the Epistles to the Ephesians and Philippians,) in the language of New Zealand, being the labor of his Son, and The first fruits of the Mission Press in New Zealand, respectfully presented by W. Colenso, Paihia, Bay of Islands, Augt. 28. 1837."

The Massey librarian says finding the personal note in such a rare book was special. He says the volume presumably made the voyage to England in 1837, where Mr Colenso's father lived, and then returned at some unknown date to New Zealand.

The University acquired the book in 1986 as part of the library of the late Graham Bagnall, who was an eminent bibliographer, historian and librarian. He noted in the volume that he received it as a gift in 1977 from George Conrad Petersen, with whom he co-authored a major biography of Mr Colenso – but it is not known how Mr Petersen, who received an honorary Doctor of Literature from Massey University in 1964, came to have the book.



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

Please forward to anyone who may be interested.

The editor invites contributions on

Rev. William Colenso FLS FRS.

Such contributions should be emailed to Ian St George,  
[istge@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:istge@yahoo.co.nz).

The cover of this issue is based on an advertisement in  
the *Hawke's Bay Herald*. The frame is a kowhaiwhai  
pattern created for St Johns Hill School,

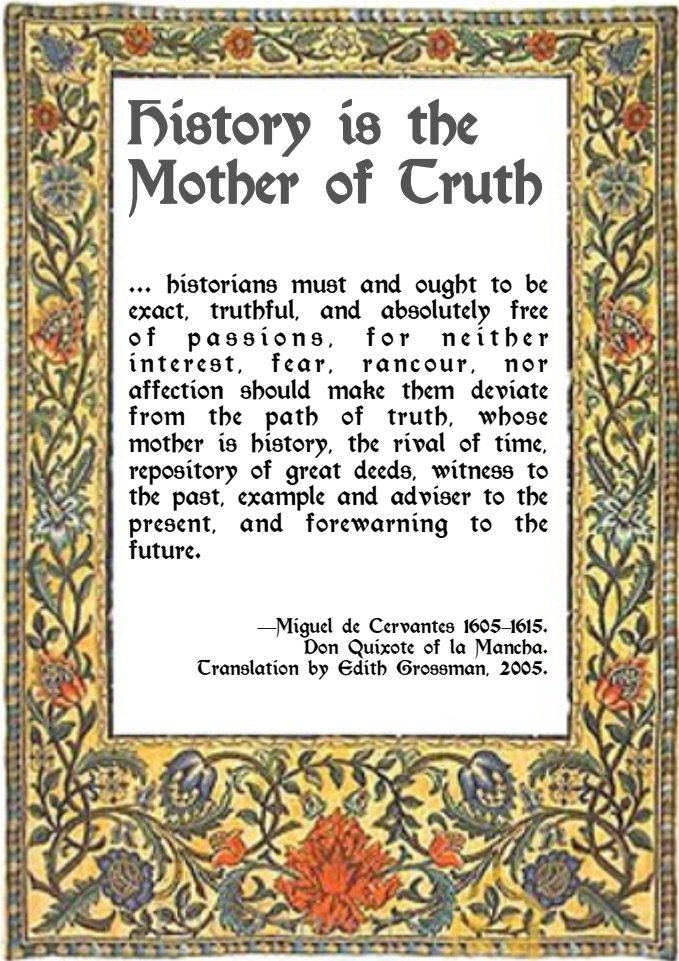
<http://www.stjohnshill.school.nz/history.html>





William Williams and William Colenso. Drawing by Norman Maclean,  
from Gillies I & J. *East Coast pioneers: a Williams family portrait*. Gisborne Herald.  
Reproduced with permission.

"The wind blowing strongly in our favour carried us quickly over the long sandy  
beach...." (Journeys, 1 December 1845)



# History is the Mother of Truth

... historians must and ought to be exact, truthful, and absolutely free of passions, for neither interest, fear, rancour, nor affection should make them deviate from the path of truth, whose mother is history, the rival of time, repository of great deeds, witness to the past, example and adviser to the present, and forewarning to the future.

—Miguel de Cervantes 1605–1615.  
Don Quixote of la Mancha.  
Translation by Edith Grossman, 2005.



This view of Napier from Colenso Hill is from a card posted on 11 September 1905 and would be the developed view Colenso saw in the last few years of his life. The inscription reads, “Leaving here for home to-morrow morning—all well—splendid motor ride to-day. Love, Mother.” It is addressed to Robert Stout at Guy’s Hospital in London. He was the son of Robert Stout (13th Prime Minister of New Zealand 1884–7), trained at Guy’s and practised as a surgeon in Wellington until 1936. In 1905, when Lady Stout visited Napier, Sir Robert was Chief Justice and Chancellor of the University of New Zealand.

