



The Colenso Society
32 Hawkestone Street
Thorndon Wellington 6011

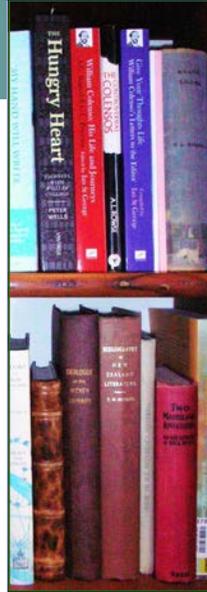
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eColenso

Was Colenso “kissing babies”?

In his obituary for his old friend, Coupland Harding wrote an account of his first meeting with William Colenso:

Nearly eight and thirty years ago—it was in the month of March or April, 1861—the writer, a boy of eleven years of age, and a recent arrival in Napier, was in company with his father in a house in which the furniture and effects, including the library, were being sold by auction. Always a book-lover, he with another lad of about his own age, looked longingly at some of the volumes. Many were quite new, for the local bookseller had availed himself of the opportunity to work off a quantity of stock. Popular editions of “Cook’s Voyage” and “Bruce’s Travels” were put up, but they went beyond his limit. Interesting as the books were, they did not prevent his noticing a gentleman of striking appearance, to whom also the books seemed to be the attraction of the sale. Of medium height, with handsome features, keen and penetrating eyes and broad intellectual brow, he would in any company have attracted notice even if it had not been for his dark and abundant hair, which at that time flowed in heavy curls upon his shoulders, completely framing his countenance and giving him a singularly venerable appearance. As the sale progressed, quite a little pile of books fell to his share; and just as the final lots were passing under the hammer, he bought a par-



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eColenso is a free email publication which should be forwarded to interested people. Contributions on William Colenso should be emailed to the editor, Ian St George, istge@yahoo.co.nz.

cel of what are known in the trade as “juveniles”. One of these he handed to each of the surprised lads. “I have seen enough to know that you are fond of books” he said; “here is one for each of you. You,” to the writer, “were disappointed, I know. I hope this will please you.” It was a classic in its way—St. Pierre’s “Paul and Virginia” and “Indian Cottage”, with over a hundred wood-cuts by French artists. It has long since gone the way of all picture books in a large family. A few months later the two lads met again—apprentice and “devil” respectively in a printing office, and compared notes, when the writer learned that the unknown gentleman was “Mr. Colenso. I thought everybody knew him.”

His account suggests a kind and generous man—but did Colenso have less admirable motives? The auction sale was at the house of Henry Powning Stark. Harding continued,

... he had just unsuccessfully contested the Napier seat in the first General Assembly. The auction sale was in the house of his successful opponent, who, to the disgust of his constituency, and his supporters in particular, after travelling to Auckland at the public expense as M.H.R. resigned immediately on arrival, never even taking his seat, and sent instructions to his agent to realize his property. Small as this incident was, it had large results, including a change of Ministry. Mr. Colenso at once offered himself for the vacant seat, and was championed by the newly-started paper “The Times”. He was opposed by the late H.B. Sealy, of the Provincial Lands Department and in later years Resident Magistrate, but this time was elected by a substantial majority. Meantime, Parliament had met and Napier was unrepresented. Steamers did not run to Auckland every week. Telegraphs as yet were not dreamed of. Those were troublous times when Browne (also passed away) was Governor. Hostilities were still smouldering at Taranaki, and bands of disaffected natives were stirring up strife on the West Coast to the very gates of Wellington, while in Central Auckland the powerful “King Movement” was being steadily organized. Worst of all, there was no unity of counsel or purpose in the Colony. House and country alike were almost evenly divided

on the ever-lasting Native Question. All unknown to the Napier folk, a direct motion of want of confidence in the Stafford Ministry had been tabled by the late Sir William Fox. What they did know was this—that questions of far-reaching import were under discussion, and that, thanks to the prank of Mr. H.P. Stark, they were without a vote in the matter. By the first opportunity the new member left, and after a leisurely passage his steamer entered the Waitemata, and was signalled at Port Albert. A longwinded orator was eloquently denouncing the Stafford Ministry and all its work when a slip of paper was passed to him, and, to the surprise of the House, he at once collapsed. So did the debate, and the vote was taken. That slip contained the significant words, “Cut it short—Colenso’s coming!” Directly afterward, the member for Napier arrived and took the oath and his seat—but all too late. The Stafford ministry had just been defeated by a majority of one! But for Stark’s resignation, the whole course of New Zealand history might have been changed. Hawke’s Bay was Staffordite almost to a man. Stafford had drafted and carried the New Provinces Act, which had given Hawke’s Bay its constitution; “the three F’s”—Fox, Featherston, Fitzherbert—had been its uncompromising opponents. The change of administration was one of the most revolutionary and far-reaching in its effects that New Zealand has known. For with the Fox Ministry came in the “new institutions” which were to settle for ever the native difficulty; and the failure of which, well-intentioned as they were, was demonstrated by ten successive years of strife and bloodshed.

Let’s go back a little. Henry Powning Stark b.1827 was an insurance agent in Napier, a Freemason and a founder of the Napier Club in 1860. He sought election as the first representative of Napier after Hawke’s Bay had separated from Wellington. The other candidates were George Worgan, JB Ferguson and William Colenso.

The *Herald* reported that the Napier election was causing considerable excitement. Worgan, rather than splitting the conservative vote and letting Colenso in, withdrew in favour of



Stark, then complained to the paper that it had ignored him. Editor Wood's reply was a fine example of the acid courtesy of the journalism of the times,

[We did not ignore the electioneering proceedings. We did not, it is true, report the speeches; we could not undertake the heavy labour of so doing; and we doubt much whether we would if we could.—ED.]

—*HB Herald* 23 February 1861.

In the event Stark pipped Colenso,

THE Napier election terminated on Tuesday with the following result—not fully known, of course, till a day or two after:—

	Stark.	Colenso.	Ferguson.
Napier	37	36	26
Puketapu	5	3	1
Petane	5	6	0
Mohaka	4	1	0
	<hr/> 51	<hr/> 46	<hr/> 27

The polling day was one of unusual bustle and excitement—such, indeed, as Napier has not hitherto witnessed.

—*HB Herald* 16 February 1861.

The big issue of the day was what the Hawke's Bay papers called "The Wellington Debt".

Stark explained his position in the *Herald* of 20 April 1861

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'HAWKE'S BAY HERALD.'

SIR,—In reply to a question put to me on the hustings on the nomination day of the late election, respecting the Wellington Debt, I stated that I was not, then, well informed on all the points bearing on that subject, but I promised that I would enquire into the particulars of it and report my opinion to my supporters previous to the meeting of the General Assembly. Having, then, since the election, given the subject a great deal of consideration, I am most decidedly of opinion that the Province of Hawke is LEGALLY liable to pay a fair proportion of the loans contracted by the Wellington Province previous to separation, and that when this Province took advantage of the 1st Clause of the New Provinces Act to claim separation, it also undertook the responsibilities of the 15th Clause.

In the same issue the *Herald* ran an editorial, concluding,

... surely we might be spared the spectacle of one of our representatives being art and part with the perpetrators, instead of being in his place to denounce the flagrant iniquity about to be committed.

We make these remarks with pain but we could say no less under the critical circumstances in which the province finds itself placed. We commend the subject to the immediate consideration of the electors.

Those nineteenth century bloggers of the newspaper correspondence columns set about their business. "A Town Elector" wrote to the Editor of the *Herald*.

Sir,—It is commonly reported that Mr. Stark, who was returned to represent Napier in the General Assembly, has expressed his intention to cut the Gordian knot of the Wellington debt, by supporting the demands of Wellington! No doubt this will save him a great deal of trouble, and probably none of his friends ever supposed that he would be equal to the task of arguing the merits of the case, in the House of Representatives, against the Wellington men. Still, few I think were prepared to hear that on this most important question, he would strike his colours before a shot was fired. Though he can hardly now be looked upon as a Hawke's Bay Settler, yet, as he undertook to represent us, he certainly ought to do his best, or resign his trust if he feels himself unequal to the task. The small body of Electors who returned him, fought to have an explicit declaration of his intentions, before he leaves, as if it be true that he means to go over to the enemy, they could disavow him, by requesting him to resign....

By 27 April the fourth estate was tut tutting at Mr Stark,

WE regret to find that the gentleman lately elected to represent the Napier District, in the General Assembly, has given repeated expression to views on the question of the Wellington Debt—the question of all others vitally affecting the interests of the Province, and requiring the firm and united advocacy of its members,—widely differing from those held by the electors generally and expressed by the Provincial Council; and which, had they been promulgated, or even hinted at, on the hustings, would, we hesitate not to say, have proved an effectual bar to his election.



And a public meeting resulted in this notice
(27 April),

H. P. STARK, Esq., M.H.R.

SIR,—With reference to your letter published in the *Herald* of this morning, (April 20) expressing your views upon the question of the Wellington Debt, we the undersigned, electors of the district, and a majority of those who voted for you, regret to have to say that these views do not coincide with those held by us, and are reluctantly compelled to ask you, in terms of the pledge given by you, to resign your seat as member for the Napier District.

T. K. NEWTON *

Samuel Winsor

J. Rose

John Christie

G. Faulknor

D. Carswell

Samuel Taylor

J. H. Vautier

George Herbert

Thomas Sharley, junr.

W. W. Yates

John Garry

Thomas Taylor

WM. MILLER *

Simon Aaronson

John Begg

James Symonds

Wm. Smith

Chas. McIntyre

W. Denholm

Robert France

Thomas Sharley

Oliver Vye

G. A. Bryan

John Wood

Edward Rabone

*Your Proposer and Seconder.

A T A PUBLIC MEETING held on the evening of Thursday the 25th inst., in the Council Chamber,—it was moved by Mr. H. B. Sealy, seconded by Mr. John Begg, and carried without dissent:—

That this meeting is of opinion that Mr. Stark's views on the question of the Wellington Debt are not those of a majority of the electors of this Province, and that that gentleman be requested to resign his seat in the General Assembly.

T. K. NEWTON,
Chairman.

Stark responded on 4 May,

To Messrs. Newton, Miller, and others signing the Requisition.

GENTLEMEN,—In acknowledging the receipt of your letter, stating that in consequence of my views upon the question of the Wellington debt not coinciding with yours you are reluctantly compelled to ask me to resign my seat in the House of Representatives as member for the Napier District, in terms of the pledge given by me in my address,—I beg to inform you that I feel in duty bound to comply with my promise

Hoping you will find a Gentleman whose opinion on this subject will agree with your own—and endeavour to promote the general interests of this Province with the same honesty of purpose,

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant.

H. P. STARK.

But he was still there on 25 May...

To the Editor of the *Hawke's Bay Herald*.

SIR,—Can you inform me whether Mr. H. P. Stark really intends to resign the seat in the House of Representatives he obtained under false pretences, in accordance with the terms of his written reply to the requisitionists? or whether, as he is reported to have said repeatedly out of doors, he will see the electors d— first?

Yours, &c.,

ONE OF THE REQUISITIONISTS.

[OUR correspondent should address Mr. Stark himself. We can give him no information.—Ed.]

...and he was still there on 8 June...

~~~~~  
SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 1861.  
~~~~~

WE really thought, when Mr. Stark, upon the call of a majority of those who recorded their votes in his favor, expressed in the public prints his intention of resigning his seat in the House of Representatives, that we had done with this most unpleasant affair, and that nothing remained but to elect in his stead—so soon as the necessary formalities could be gone through—a person who would be prepared to advocate the views and interests of the constituency he represented, rather than those of a Province whose rapacious claims he was expected to resist by every means in his power.

No sooner, however, had that reply appeared than the writer of it, by the tenor of his remarks in common conversation, gave rise to doubts in the public mind as to its *bona fide* character. His resignation, he frequently said, would be contingent upon a *better man* coming forward—he, apparently, to be judge, as he would not, he said, make room for either Colenso or Rhodes. Other statements, in qualification of his reply to the requisitionists, were reported as having been uttered by him in Ferrers' and elsewhere; so that, much to the regret of the many who had previously regarded him a straightforward little fellow, his written pledges were so qualified by his oral communications, that, up to the moment of his departure, the electors felt themselves absolutely in the dark as to his real intentions upon arriving in Auckland, and in doubt as to whether they would be justified, under such circumstances, in looking around for another representative.

The *Storm Bird* arrived from Auckland on 15 June with news that Stark had finally resigned when he reached Auckland. The *Herald* published the notice of a by-election in its *Extra* of 17 June. The election was held and on 6 July the *Herald* could report

THE ELECTION FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.—Last Saturday evening, pursuant to advertisement, a public meeting was held in the Council Chamber—J. N. Wilson, Esq., in the chair—for the purpose of giving the candidates an opportunity of expressing their views and opinions upon public matters. Messrs. Colenso, Sealy, and Tucker addressed the meeting, which was a very numerous attended one. The speeches we need not advert to, as by this time they are out of date. The polling took place on Monday, and was a very quiet affair; the result was to put Mr. Colenso at the head of the poll. Yesterday, the official declaration was made as follows by the Returning Officer:

	Napier.	Puketapu.	Petane.	Mohaka.	Total.
Colenso	37	1	9	0	47
Sealy	16	4	1	9	30
Tucker	23	0	0	0	23
Ferguson	5	0	0	0	5

—Mr. Colenso was declared in consequence to be the elected candidate. That gentleman then addressed the electors, who were pretty numerous on the occasion, at considerable length. He was followed in very brief terms by Messrs. Sealy and Ferguson. A report of the proceedings is partially in type, and will appear in an “Extra” we purpose issuing after the arrival of the *Lord Worsley*.

Colenso’s acceptance speech was prolix to say the least: it is fully reported in the *Herald* of 13 July 1861 (see *Papers Past*) if you can bear it.

Stark had been forced to resign. Coupland Harding’s assertion that his resignation was a “prank” was rather harsh, though it must be said Stark, in his anger, delayed the inevitable unnecessarily.

The consequence was indeed the fall of the government—on 7 July 1861. The *Daily Telegraph* recounted the affair in an editorial dated 31 March 1886,

... Mr Colenso, who was a “Staffordite,” did not reach the seat of Government until a day or two after that Ministry was defeated by one vote. It is needless to say that if Mr Colenso had reached Auckland in time to vote with the Government, the history of New Zealand might have been materially altered. It was due to Mr Stafford that the New Provinces Act was passed by which Hawke’s Bay was separated from Wellington, Blenheim from Nelson, and Southland from Otago. Had he remained in office other separations would have taken place, and the road gradually paved for the decentralisation of provincialism and the formation of real local government unshadowed by the central ogre of Wellington.

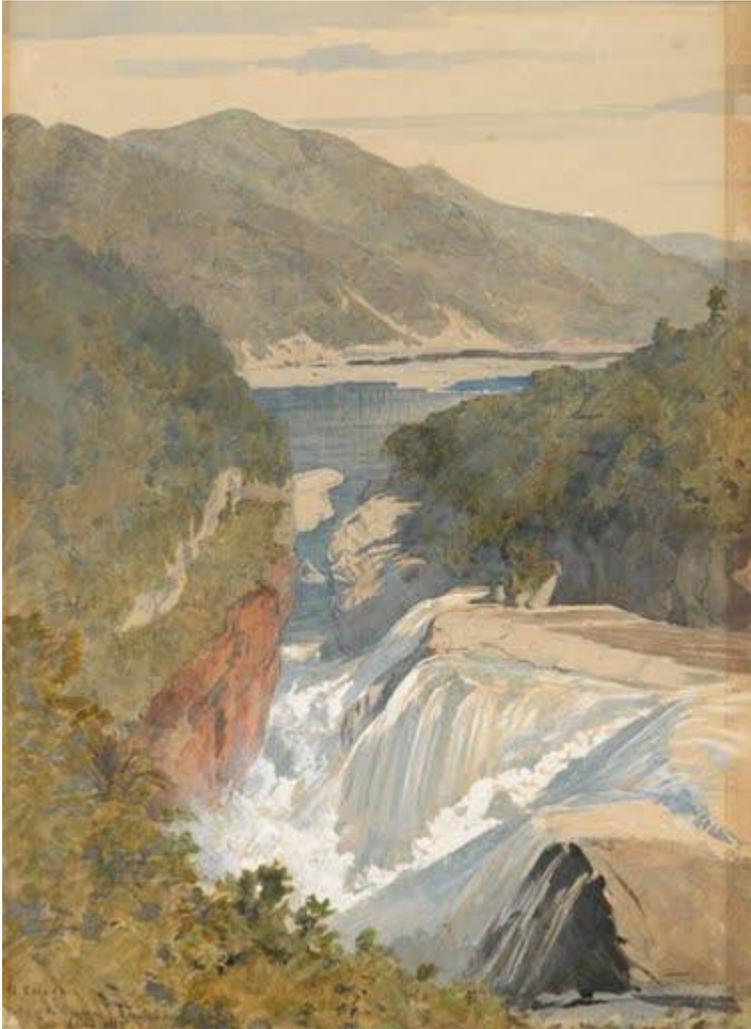
Colenso departed on the *Storm Bird*. He was present for the remainder of the second session, ending on 15 September 1862; he arrived back in Napier aboard *Queen* from Wellington (part of the 1862 session was held in Wellington, though Auckland was still the capital) on 24 September. While he was away his son Wiremu was unexpectedly returned to Hawke’s Bay—but that is another story (planned for *eColenso* July 2014).

Stark became an Auckland land agent (*NZ Herald* 13 November 1863) and a sharebroker (*Daily Southern Cross* 19 September 1863). His wife died at age 38 in 1866. In 1867 he was bankrupt (*NZ Herald* 4 December 1867). He died in July 1870 aged 43.

Was Colenso electioneering at Stark’s book auction? Was he figuratively kissing babies before the election? Harding didn’t think so...

Slight as was the incident, it illustrated features of character, which became more and more evident in the course of years—the abiding love of books; the keen observation; the insight into character; and more than all, the kindly and practical sympathy with the young in all their higher aspirations, to which many a schoolboy or schoolgirl student of nature in all parts of the country could testify. To all such his time, his paternal advice, and sometimes his books, were freely given.

Te Reinga falls, Wairoa river



Watercolour by JC Richmond, 1867.



... *Te Reinga falls, Wairoa river*

“About sunset we arrived at the banks of the River Whangaroa (one of the principal branches of the River Wairoa, which disembogues into Hawke's Bay). Here I obtained two small canoes from the Maoris residing here, and paddled down the river about two miles and a half to Te Reinga, the principal village of this district. This river winds round the enormous hill Whakapunake, at the base of which the village is situated. I had often heard from time to time from the Maoris of this place, and of the abyss-like cataract in its immediate vicinity, and had long cherished a hope of one day visiting it. Tired as I now was, I wished for morning, that I might realize my desire, and gain a few more additions to the New Zealand flora. The roar of the waters during the stillness of the night had much that was soothing as well as solemn in the sound. Morning broke, and, prayers and breakfast over, I entered into a little canoe and was paddled about two hundred yards to the great bed of rock which, crossing the river, dams up the water and causes the fall. This cataract, from its situation, is exceedingly romantic, the most so, I think, of any fall I have yet seen in New Zealand. The bed of rock, or rather deposit of indurated clay, sand, and mud of a very white colour, which here obstructs the progress of the river (and through a narrow pass in it the water rushes), is filled with marine shells in a fossil state, although at a great distance from the sea, and at a very great height above its present level. This bed of white rock is large, being not less than 200ft. in width, and, when the river is swollen by the winter's rains, surrounded as it is by high and densely-wooded hills, the fall must present a very imposing appearance. I gained several specimens of shells—uni- bi- and multi-valve—by digging them out of the rock with my hatchet. Among them were specimens of the genera *Terebratula*, *Valuta*, *Pecten*, *Lepas*, and others at present unknown to me. The waters fell from rock to rock three several times ere they were swallowed up in the dark eddying gulf below. The deep gloom of the river in the gorge beneath, the different hues of the dense masses of foliage on either side, the sunbeams peering downwards through the tops of the trees, the enormous bed of rock above—as white as snow, the Maoris who accompanied me perched here and there upon the same, and the little village in the background, combined together to cause an enchanting and indescribable scene, possessing powerful effect. In the height only of the fall was I disappointed. I attempted a hurried sketch, but could not do the scene before me justice; in fact, I had too many things to do at once, consequently I did nothing well. I wished afterwards, when it was too late, that I had remained a day at this place, instead of passing on post-haste in the manner I did...”

—*Colenso W 1894. Notes and Reminiscences of Early Crossings of the Romantically-situated Lake Waikaremoana, County of Hawke's Bay, of its Neighbouring Country, and of its Peculiar Botany; performed in the Years 1841 and 1843. Trans. N.Z. Inst. 27: 363.*

Bagnall & Petersen relate that these are the falls over which, according to tradition, the beautiful Rakahanga had generations before been swept to death. Colenso was probably the first European to see them.



Colenso's house on Colenso Hill (top centre)

Snippets...

“No one will wonder at Mr Colenso avowing himself a philo-Maori. Those who have lived in Hawke's Bay for any length of time know well that he has a leaning towards the darker race, which has, as he himself points out, been manifested on more occasions than one.”

—“Anti-quack” in a letter to the *Hawke's Bay Herald* 1 March 1883.

FROM THE DIARY OF REV. J. HAMLIN
IN THE HOCKEN LIBRARY: 1852.

Nov. 27 ...at Tangoio.

28 Sunday.

29 Monday morning early we left and proceeded on to the Station which we reached at noon. Many painful feelings rushed into my mind. Mr. — came out to meet us, but I hardly knew how to act. He seemed as familiar as ever. I was in hopes I should have heard of something that could be received in extenuation of the guilt.

30 Tuesday. I heard whole affair, and a more serious one I never recollect to have heard. Nothing can be recorded in extenuation. But this is very different to the opinion which he himself forms of it.

EXTRACT FROM *ANNALS OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW ZEALAND*,
LONDON 1847.

The route followed by William Williams on two return journeys.

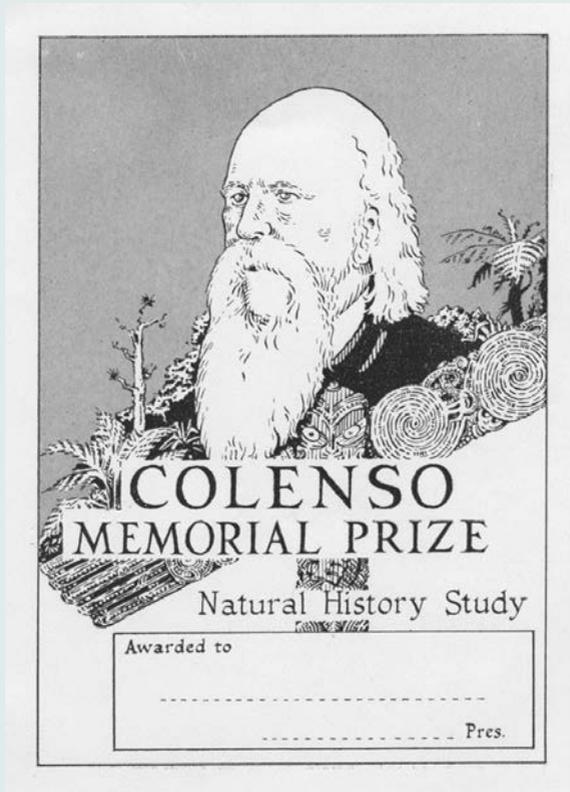
Turanga to Nuhaka	38 miles	wood
Wairoa	20	beach
Waikare	31 miles	beach, cliffs
Arapaoanui	15	steep hills
Ahuriri Mission	24	23 miles land 1 mile water

From James Hamlin's Journal

Mr Colenso in a letter addressed to the Bishop confessed he had been guilty of immoral conduct and His Lordship in consequence deposed him; I placed the Bishop's letter in Mr Colenso's hands on the 29 of November & I mentioned to the Natives that His Lordship had written to Archdeacon Hadfield that the Rev. S. Williams might be sent to Heretaunga to take Mr Colenso's place. The Natives of Heretaunga—those of them with whom I had an interview—expressed themselves very forcibly under the trying circumstances in which they are placed; but Mr Colenso having attended to all the duties of the Station up to the date of my arrival there, the reports had been disregarded and disbelieved by the better disposed of the Natives. The evil effects therefore of this sad affair are yet to be experienced. In compliance with the Bishop's request I suggested to Mr Colenso the propriety of his leaving the district....

The Colenso Memorial Prize

In MTG Hawke's Bay is a brass stamp with plywood backing. The top half of the stamp includes a head and shoulders portrait of William Colenso. The bottom half of the stamp includes Māori motifs, tree ferns and trees. It is part of the collection of the Hawke's Bay Museums Trust, Ruawharo Tā-ū-rangi, reference no. 66576.



In the Transactions one can read extracts from the Hawke's Bay Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand Annual Reports. That for the year ended 31 December 1958 has this,

Colenso Memorial Prize. This was the first year of this competition, and it was highly successful. There were fourteen entries, and the general quality of the papers was impressive, many being of first-rate quality. Our thanks go to Mr. N. L. Elder and Mr. P. B. Mackay for their work in judging these entries. This Me-



morial Prize is to be an annual event and present indications are that it will do much towards stimulating interest among the young scientists of the district.

That for the year ended 31 December 31 1959 has this,

Colenso Memorial Prize. In the second year of its existence, there can be no doubt from the number of entries and the very high standard of work submitted, that this form of memorial is highly successful.

It is a form that would have been very dear to the heart of the Rev William Colenso. It is an encouragement of young naturalists to carry on with the work in which Colenso himself was so interested.

Each year the Society awards prizes for work devoted to ecological and field studies. Entries are open to students of the High Schools of Hawke's Bay and members of the Naturalists Clubs of Hawke's Bay. Again this year the judges had difficulty in selecting the winning entries which were First Prize, Barbara Turner, Napier Girls' High School, "An Area of Native Bush", Second Prize, Marlene Webster, St. Joseph's Maori Girls' College, "A Swamp at Greenmeadows", Third Prize, R. D. Hall, Napier Boys' High School, "Ecological Survey, West Shore."

The *Transactions* ceased in favour of specialist journals in 1960, so no further reports are available, and my enquiry to the Hawke's Bay branch of the Royal Society about the fate of the Prize drew no response.

What happened?

***Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 March 1899**

At the meeting of the Borough Council last night a letter was read from Mr Carnell, asking the Council to accept an enlarged photograph of the late Rev. W. Colenso, and permit it to be placed in the Council Chamber, so that they who came after us may look upon the face of him who, in his large-heartedness, remembered in his last will the poor and needy of Napier, the castaway sailor, and those leaving the prison gate, regardless of country, color, or creed. The offer was accepted with thanks, the portrait to be hung in the Council Chamber.

Is it still there?

Against the metric system

I have received from you copies of your letters in Wellington paper and I thank you for them, & *go with you in them*: 2-3 yrs. ago, in reply to Hutton, I went full tilt against the metrical system, Hutton wishing *support* to make it general....

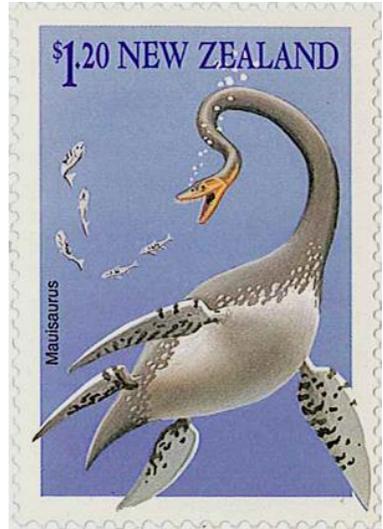
—Colenso to Harding 25 August 1896.

An old fossil and a barbarous tongue

Mauisaurus is a genus of plesiosaur that lived around 80 million years ago in what is now New Zealand. *Mauisaurus haasti* is the only known species—James Hector described it in 1874 from specimens found in Canterbury.

William Colenso read “Three Literary Papers” to the Hawke’s Bay Philosophical Institute in 1882; he said,

... many new species of late years found in New Zealand, bear the strange and barbarous specific names of—maori,—maoriana,—maoricum,—maoricus,—maoriella,—maorinus,—maorium,—maorium, &c., &c. And to these, I think, should be also added, the following,—dunedinensis,—rakaiensis,—temukensis,—hokitense,—otagensis,—manitoto, &c. The late President of the Linnæan Society very truly and discreetly remarks (on this particular portion of my subject):— “Names which express the local situations of different species are excellent.... But names derived from particular countries or districts are liable to much exception, few plants being sufficiently local to justify their use....”



He had submitted the papers for publication in the *Transactions* but Hector, editor, namer of *Maurisaurus*, rejected them, so an equally offended Colenso had them printed privately in Napier. Years later Colenso wrote to Coupland Harding (19 August 1891) who must have referred to Hector’s plesiosaur,

... I fully agree with you in your remark on *Mauisaurus*! horrid, abominable, all such are directly opposed to the good old Linnaean canons—which, till now (of late) & here in N.Z. were always rigorously upheld!—

“Generic names derived from barbarous languages ought on no account to be admitted” (canon VII.)

“No generic names can be admitted, except such as are derived from the Gk. & Lat. languages” (canon XVI) [See “3 Literary Papers,” p.30.]

I believe it was my coming out so strong on this & kindred matters, that caused Dr. Hector to reject my paper—

Harding must have replied, and on 27 August Colenso wrote back to him,

... I... utterly dislike many specific (names) of this new school; e.g. maorium, maoricum, maoriella, dunstanensis, otagoicum –cus, nelsonicum –cus, pakawauica, & malvernium, &c, &c.—all that arises from ignorance or carelessness (laziness),—

Like it or not the use of te reo in generic and specific botanical names is well established now. The NZ orchids Winika cunninghamii, Waireia stenopetala and Nematoceras papa attest to that—Ed.



Actually, Hector had tried earlier that year to extend the hand of friendship to Colenso, as Colenso wrote to Harding on 26 January 1891,

N.B. Last week Sir Jas. H., himself, sent me a copy of "Lyttleton Times" of 16th. containing his address—& high eulogy of me!!! I could scarcely believe my own eyes: it was also pub. in "Canty. Press"—

Hector, the President-elect of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, had invited the members to meet in Christchurch, and (as the *Press* reported), "Professor Hutton, the energetic local secretary, had worked with such zeal that all the arrangements were exceedingly perfect".

Baron von Mueller was in the chair, and in the evening "a large and fashionable audience was at the Provincial Chamber" to hear him "beg with pleasure to induct Sir James Hector into the Presidential chair, and I trust, sir, that your term will be, as I feel sure it will be, a glorious success." (Loud applause.)

The Governor and others spoke, and when Hector rose (and "was warmly applauded"), he first paid tribute to the late Julius von Haast, then to George Grey, suggesting that each should have been President if they had been available, and then (*Press* 16 January 1891), this....

There is another name I feel must be mentioned as one who should have been in this position had his health permitted. I refer to the Rev. William Colenso, who is not only the greatest authority on the folk-lore of the Maoris, on whom he was among the first to confer a printed literature in their own language. His long-continued work as a field naturalist, and especially as a botanist, is exceedingly interesting, seeing that it forms a connecting link that has continued the early spirit of natural history research in New Zealand, that commenced with Banks and Solander, and was continued by Menzies, Lesson, the two Cunninghams, and Sir Joseph Hooker, prior to the arrival of colonists. Thus we still have in my esteemed friend, Mr Colenso, an active veteran naturalist of what we may call the old school of explorers. It is wonderful to reflect that little more than fifty years ago this European colony was represented by a few fishing hamlets on the seaboard of a country occupied by a considerable native population. To the early explorers, and even down to a much later date, the obstacles that beset their path were very different from those of the present time; often obstructive Natives, no roads, no steamers, no railways. Had an Association then existed and desired to promote science by giving our visitors an opportunity of visiting the remote parts of the islands, the same excursions which have on this occasion been planned to occupy a few days, would have occupied as many months, and then be accomplished only with great hardship and difficulty. I must ask the young and rising generation of colonial naturalists to bear this in mind when they have to criticise and add to the work of their predecessors.

Letters to the editor

John Isles emailed (of the April *eColenso*),

On page 11 Peterson refers to a Miss Alice Woodhouse, in his letter to Bagnall. I met Alice—she was the doyen of local historians. Also a superb general historian and she gave some coaching to us quiz kids from Sacred Heart and Napier Boys.

Garry Tee emailed,

I am very interested to learn that Bishop Colenso's daughter-in-law Sophie Jeanette Colenso was a daughter of the eminent chemist Sir Edward Frankland (1825–1899) F.R.S. As a student at Marburg University, Frankland was one of the first chemists to study organic compounds of metals, which are now very important in theoretical chemistry and in many industrial applications. He greatly advanced the understanding of energy by experiments which showed that the work done in climbing a mountain matched the energy of the food digested by the climber, he INVENTED the important concept of valency in chemistry, and he was one of the first scientists to study impurities in water supplies.

His son Frederick William Frankland (1854–1916) ran away in 1875 to New Zealand, where he gained an international reputation for his scientific and philosophical work. I enclose my abstract of a lecture about him and his election poster for 1908 (in which he gained a respectable number of votes). Also I attach (in pdf) my paper about Statistics in NZ, featuring Frederick William Frankland.

[References below—Ed.]

1. Tee GJ 1990. On discrete manifolds, and on Foxton Borough Council. A paper given at the 1989 NZ Mathematics Colloquium held at Massey University, Palmerston North, 15–17 May. *Mathematical Chronicle* 19: 108–109.
2. Tee GJ 2002. Nineteenth and early twentieth century statistics: some New Zealand connections. Invited address at the Jubilee Meeting of the New Zealand Statistical Association, 5–7 July 1999. *Aust. N.Z. J. Stat.* 44 (1): 3–12.

Gwil Colenso emailed,

Thanks for the latest *eColenso* with (amongst many other interesting items) the letter from Sophie Colenso about Wiremu and the letter about that letter from Petersen. Very interesting that Sophie was so interested in Wiremu and had been in touch with Wm's nephew (my great grandfather) about it. I agree it is a mystery as to who is the Mrs Colenso referred to.

I went to the bicentenary exhibition on Bp Colenso in Cambridge (on Ann's prompting!). It was a fairly small exhibition with a brief mention of Wm Colenso but quite interesting in that it also included Thomas Whytehead, also from St

John's, who had been a chaplain to Bp Selwyn in NZ. It is running until 17th April. Just to give an example of the displays, I attach (I'm afraid a very dim) photo of one display board referring to the consecration of the chapel at St John's in 1869 showing that the Master of the college and Bp Selwyn were at odds about Bp Colenso....

William Bateson, Master of St John's, reluctantly asked Colenso not to attend the consecration of the College's New Chapel in 1869, despite the fact that Colenso had subscribed to its building. The preacher, George Augustus Selwyn, by this time Bishop of Lichfield, excluded Colenso from his blessing of absent Johnians, saying *He went out from us, but he is not of us. One thing still remains: we can pray for him.* Bateson was able to redress this at his speech at the following dinner, referring to those Johnians present in spirit *not least the illustrious prelate whom the preacher specially commended to our prayers,* amidst loud cheers and vigorous beating of spoons upon plates from supporters in the audience.



I have been meaning to write for some time to say what fantastic new material you and others are producing in eColenso. In particular, in the March issue, I was amazed by the letter of 1851 to Lt Gov Eyre about William's plan to go to Australia to live with the aborigines and 'eat only their food, and roam around continually with them'. It's amazing that after nearly 20 years as a missionary in NZ he was contemplating 'going native' in a new and alien culture (while his wife agreed to 'keep up the station and schools' for two years while he was away!). I think that this is an incredible discovery. Though I of course take the point you make about it conveniently coinciding with the late stage of Ripeka's pregnancy!

I immediately thought how this related back to the Jan 2013 eColenso and the article about the formation of the New Zealand Society in which you quote the extracts from Wm's journal from May 1848 and March/April 1849 referring to his visits to the Governor/Lt Governor at Government House in Wellington. You refer to these meetings being with Grey but I wonder if the 'copy of his Travels' which, in the May 1848 diary entry, he says he was presented with by the Governor could be the same as the 'copy of your Journey in central Australia' which, in the 2nd para of his letter of 1851 to Eyre, he says was presented to him by the Lt Gov in 1848.

Also, both the diary and the letter refer to a Mr Cole – could he be the Governor's/ Lt Governor's assistant/secretary? Also, while the diary entries of May 1848 refer to 'the Governor', the entries of March/April 1849 refer to 'the Lieut. Governor'. But it sounds as if it's the same person referred to in all these diary entries.

My history of the government of NZ is very shaky but could it be that the incumbent at Government House in Wellington in 1848/9 was Lt Gov Eyre while Gov Grey was based elsewhere – Auckland?

Thank you Gwil: it is reassuring that we have such careful readers! Grey was Governor (and briefly Governor-in-Chief) of New Zealand 18 November 1845 to 3 January 1854.

Eyre was his Lieut Governor of New Munster (southern North Island and South Island, including Wairarapa and part of Hawke's Bay) 28 January 1848 to 7 March 1853.

Eyre was based in Wellington. Grey, though he travelled widely, was based in the capital city, Auckland.

Therefore you are quite right: it must have been Eyre whom Rev. Robert Cole and Colenso visited in Wellington, and (of course!) it must have been Eyre who gave Colenso a copy of his two volumes of Australian travels.

The Rev. Robert Cole had joined Selwyn's mission party to NZ and was stationed at Wellington where his duties were with Europeans rather than with Māori. Colenso would stay with him in Wellington. Cole would ride around from Wellington to the southern Wairarapa to administer Holy Communion at Te Kopi (Colenso as a mere deacon could only assist). Horse and rider famously fell into a deep rock pool that became known thereafter as "Cole's Hole"—sadly no longer in existence, as it was filled by a landslide caused by the 1855 earthquake.

We will examine Colenso's relationship with Grey in some detail in a future eColenso—Ed.

Edward John Eyre 1815–1901, with his aboriginal friend Wylie, was the first man to cross southern Australia from east to west, travelling in great hardship across the Nullarbor Plain from Adelaide to Albany.

(http://www.davidreilly.com/australian_explorers/eyre/edward.htm).

