

eColenso

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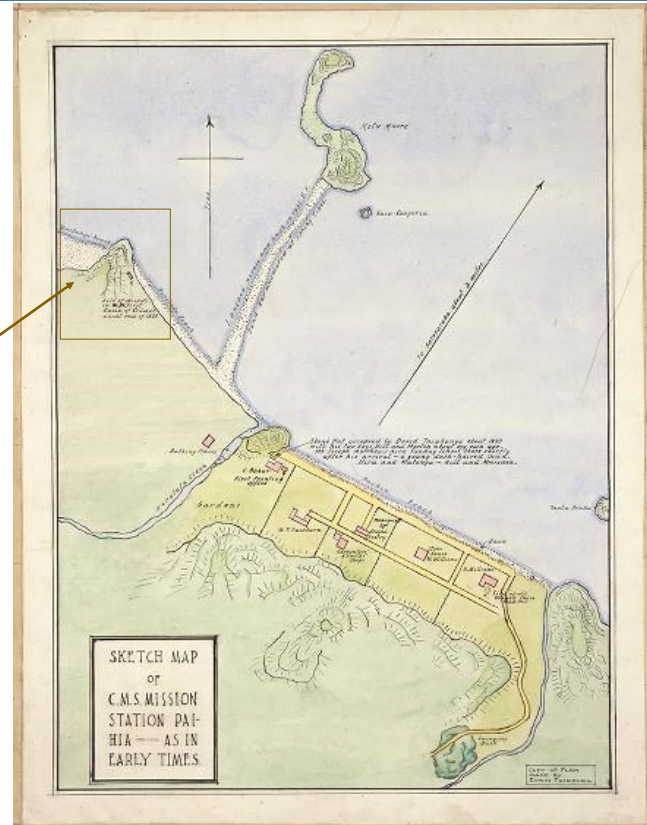
Colensos, cricket and Conwy

Elizabeth Colenso's brother Edwin Fairburn 1827–1911 wrote *Maharanga*—his reminiscences of the Bay of Islands in the 1830s and 1840s; in it he mentioned the “first game of cricket in New Zealand” at Paihia in 1833 [ATL: qMS-0710]. He would have been six years old. See next page.

The ATL also has his “Sketch map of CMS Mission Station Paihia—as in early times” [MapColl-832.11a/1833/Acc.39923], showing the site of the wicket for that match. It is undated but its title is in Arts & Crafts style so perhaps early 1900s.

A fortnight after his arrival in the Bay of Islands, the 24 year old printer William Colenso noted in his diary “Monday 12th (January 1835)—Played Cricket, with the natives, this evening!”

The *Beagle* called at Christmas in 1835 and Darwin, despite his general disapproval of New Zealand, found English gentility at Waimate, including cricket on the lawn with freed Māori slaves and a missionary's son playing.



Edwin Fairburn's account of the first cricket match to be played in New Zealand—written from memory in 1911

This was played about the end of 1833 or the beginning 1834 – previous to this the only game with bat and ball which we NZ boys knew was Round trap as it was called then: There was a hole about 18" wide by 18" deep – at which player stood facing centre of ring with hole on his right hand and the ball was delivered to him by an opponent standing 6 feet, about, in front of him – the peculiarity being that the ball for purpose of being struck was played to him instead of being first thrown up by himself.

But about the time mentioned Mr W Williams (afterwards first Bishop of Waiapu) had sent home for cricket balls and bats and there was great excitement about the new game to be played – I know I thought it had some connection with the green insects with long legs on plants which my sister had told me were "Cricket".

So one bright calm afternoon about 2 p.m. the whole settlement of Paihia men women and children also the Inhabitants from all round the bay went to the northern end of Horotutu beach, at point shewn in sketch plan (I think I could mark it out now within 10 feet of the actual). The northern end of the wicket was about a chain from the base of the steep hill and the side about 35 feet from the edge of the firm bank next the sand.

It wasn't a match of 11 each side but of 40 or 50 at least. All the CM School boys were there. The estab-

lishment at that time was at Paihia, a year or two afterwards it was removed to Waimate.

I was allowed to join in, but they drew the line in youthfulness at me and John Williams who was just 3 weeks my elder. I remember when my turn came (I had had some practice at "round trap" in hitting balls) Mr W. Williams who bowled to me saying "We mustn't be too hard on the youngsters" – or something to that effect delivered me a very nice gentle ball which I hit over the bank (about 11 yards off) on to the beach where it rolled down some distance on the hard sand – and I got a run – at which our side applauded – while the other side grumbled and called out for short work to be made of me. The ball was thrown up to the opposite end bowler, who straightway bowled me out – but I got a run in the first game of cricket played in NZ.

I may observe here that there were no "overs" in bowling at cricket in those days but the ball was generally thrown up to the bowler nearest the fielder – or to whichever end the fielder chose – also fielders pleased themselves as to the position they took in fielding – and things were generally carried out in a very independent manner all round...

It was a beautiful day. We went of course by boat from Paihia to the north side of the River Waitangi at its entrance.

William Cotton took over the mission printing while William Colenso was studying for Holy Orders at Waimate; among his papers in the Mitchell Library in Sydney is a form, filled in in longhand, giving the rules and the teams for a match on 6 May 1840. That athlete Bishop George Selwyn was not playing—nor, in this game, were any Māori. Colenso played at No. 7 for the married men. The result is not recorded. ▶▶

Colenso approved of cricket as a healthy diversion for boys. He wrote to the *Hawke's Bay Herald* on 1 October 1869,

COOK'S CENTENARY

... the time is now short; but could not something be done among us towards commemorating his landing—something in which all could unite? Say, a general holiday proclaimed by the Government,—cricket and rural games in Clive square, or on the hill, a tea or evening party, soirée, or conversazione, in the Oddfellows' Hall, with music, songs, &c, &c. Something in which all settlers could unite.

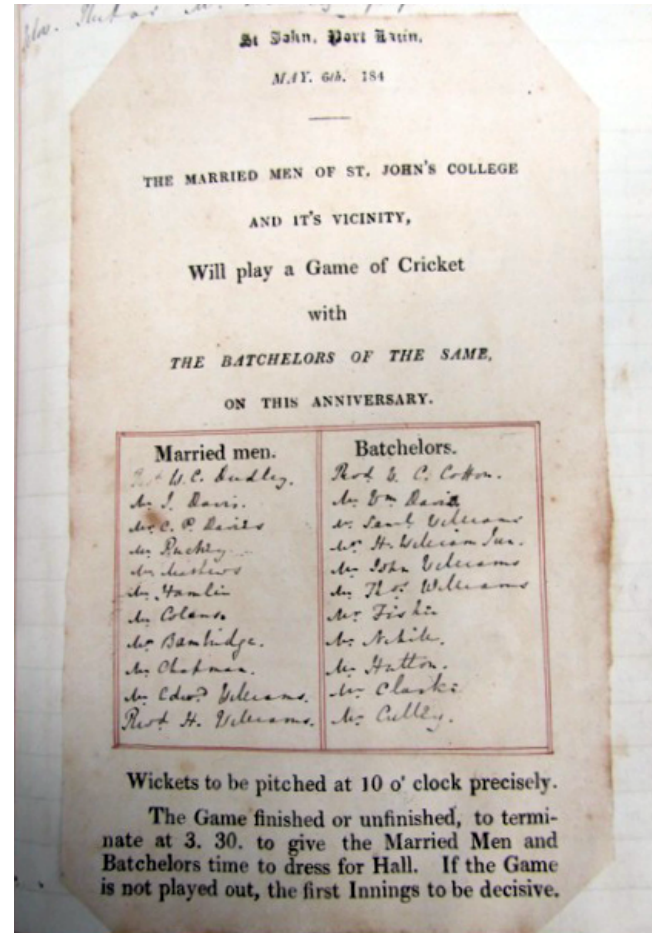
In 1883 (2 January) he wrote to the *Daily Telegraph*,

That a spacious healthy playground with its many requirements and belongings is greatly needed for the scholars of the Napier School is absolutely certain, and must be had: good open ground for cricket and football; room for a gymnasium house to be used in wet weather....

But *real men* didn't play such games...

31 Jan 78 to Andrew Luff, "The 'Wanaka' Str. is just gone in with lots of bunting, having the Australian 11 on board: too much fuss nowadays about this Cricketing!"

12 June 78 to Luff. "I feel sick—at so much fuss being made (& precious time lost & money squandered—while 1000ds. & 10's of 1000's are in dreadful want) over such unprofitable things as this 'Australian' Cricket playing & the University Boat Racing!!—I feel sick at it."



25 March 1882 to David Balfour, “The weather here is delightfully fine, and the ‘sickness’ I hope is generally lessening. Using the word ‘sickness’ causes me to remark I am pretty well sick—with seeing so much of trash in the ‘Herald’ re those Irish folks; between them, the Everlasting ‘Races’, & Cricket, I am often tempted to stop my papers.”

14 October 1883 to Luff, “... when I go to town I cannot join in the talk of the day—Races, Cricket, Football, sheep, wool, Rabbits,—and the getting of Money anyhow, but quietly & usuriously & without working!”

2 September 1884 to Balfour, “It is delightful to read & think over the wise & good sayings and teachings of the men of those times, but as it was then, with the multitude, so now. See our Papers. Races, Theatres, Cricket, & Football—& tricycles; *our real men are, I fear, dying out.*” [my emphasis].

He wrote in his diary (Good Friday 4 April 1890 at Norsewood),

“Very fine w(eather). Read Lessons m(ornin)g. S(ervice)., & same at Evg. S., preaching from John XI. 11.— ‘Our friend Lazarus sleepeth.’ inveighed against Cricket matches from Clubs &c. on this day.

Saturday 5. Fine w—a cricket match here—Napier v. Dvk. Sermon writing.”

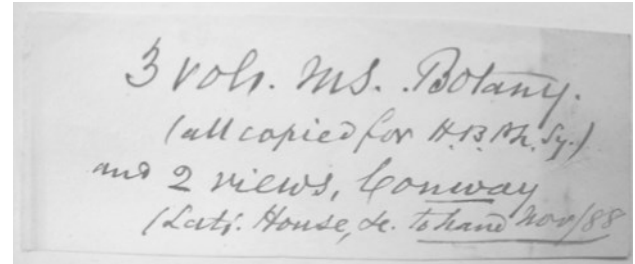
On 27 January 1897 he wrote to Harding, “Yesty. our great annual Caledonian Sports Day: a genl. Holiday! Kilts, bagpipes, & Gaelic in the ascendant: at Farndon—2 Cricket matches played,—Waipawa & Patangata v. County Club,—& 2 of our parsons prominent in them—Tuke & Clarke: *I don’t like this.*”

Meanwhile, in 1888, on the other side of the world, Ridley Latimer Colenso, aged 43, was still playing cricket. He had played for Bruce Castle School in the 1870 season (aged 25).

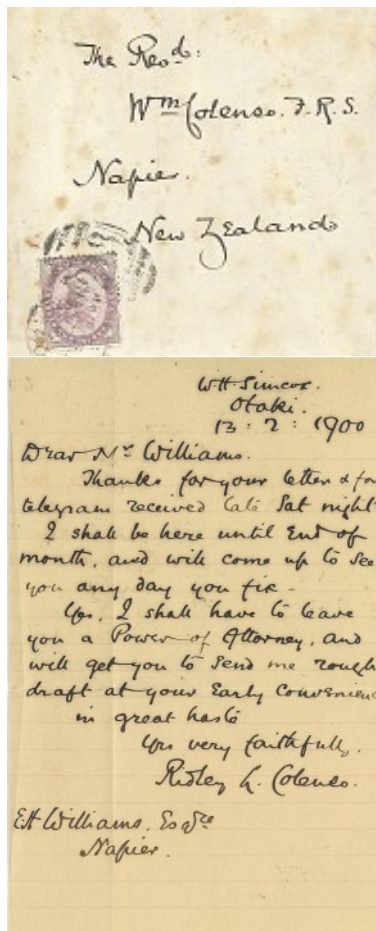
In *eColenso* June 2011 we mentioned the medallion sold at Dunbar Sloane’s auction in 1987 for \$1500: it was a James I Gold Coin Mounted as a Brooch inscribed “Colenso–Conway June 17th”. Its provenance is still a mystery

In *eColenso* November 2014 we illustrated three envelopes addressed to William Colenso in Napier and postmarked “Conway 1888”—they had been auctioned at Bethunes in 2012 and kindly photographed for us by Francis McWhannell. Colenso had used them, in his parsimonious way, as notepaper. We wondered who the Conway correspondent was, and Gillian Bell informed us that, “Fanny & Will Simcox lived in Conway 1870–74 as the Simcoxes had a holiday home there. Two children were born there, the eldest my grandmother. Will & brother Jack spoke Welsh like natives. Lattie visited them....” [*eColenso* December 2014].

Indeed, a scrap of paper in the back of one of Colenso’s botanical notebooks at Te Papa notes, “2 views, Conway (Lat’s. House, &c. to hand Nov/88)”.



Comparison of the handwriting on the envelopes with extant examples of Latty’s, shows them to be the same: so Latty wrote to his father from Conway—at least twice in 1888, once with a photograph of his lodgings there.



◀An envelope addressed to William Colenso from Conwy in 1888.

◀A letter from Ridley Latimer Colenso in 1890.

A search of the “British Newspaper Archive” (their equivalent of our “Papers Past”) revealed a cutting from *Y Genedl Gymreig* (The Welsh Nation) of 18 May 1889, reporting Latty’s appointment as treasurer of the literary society and suggesting that “Lat’s House” was Gweryl Lodge at Conwy...

CONWY.

Y GYMDEITHAS LENYDDOL.—Yn y Guild Hall, nos Fawrth, cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cymtat y gymdeithas hon i’r dyben o ddewis swyddogion am y tymhor presenol. Cymeryd y gadair gan yr is-lywydd, Mr C. Cynwal Jones. Wedi ychydig o rydd-ymddiddan aed yn mlaen gyda’r gwaith hwn. Y llywydd am y tymhor ydyw Mr Tom Hughes, B.A., Tanybryn. Yr is-lywydd, Mr C. Cynwal Jones; y trysorydd, Mr R. L. Colenso, Gweryl Lodge; yr ysgrifenyddion, Mri Wilkinson, y Station; a W. Grant, Bodlondeb. Y mae chwech eraill wedi eu dewis ar y pwyllgor. Gwelir fod y gymdeithas wedi dechreu ar ei gwaith mewn pryd, a hydeir y bydd hyn yn ernes o’r un bywyd ag oedd yn nodwedd y gymdeithas y tymhor diweddar.

The *North Wales Chronicle* of 29 September 1888 reported briefly on the touring Australian cricket team, then went on to the more important matter of the Plasnewydd vs. Conwy match, in which R.L. Colenso took a catch to dismiss their No. 3 and, batting himself at 3, was bowled for one run in what appears to have been a drawn match.

Cricket.

The great match between the Australian team and Surrey resulted on Saturday in a victory for the Colonials by 34 runs.

CONWAY v. PLASNEWYDD.—The above match was played at Plasnewydd, and after a very pleasant game resulted in a win for the visitors by forty-seven runs on the first innings. The visitors won the toss, and sent the home team to the wicket; but owing to the good bowling of Mr R. Jones and Mr C. Ellis, the small total of 26 was only reached. For Plasnewydd D. T. Davies batted best, making eight not out. After lunch Conwy went to the wickets, and a good stand was made by Mr Wood and Mr Eastwood, making 14 and 16 respectively. G. Ellis also batted well, making 13, of which score he hit five twos. Appended is the score:—

PLASNEWYDD.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
T Roberts b C Ellis	2 b C Ellis.....13
T Cotterell c Eastwood b Jones 1	b C Ellis
S Willman b Jones	4 c Colenso b Wood 0
J Roland b C Ellis	3 b Eastwood
A Haslam b Jones.....	0 c Eastwood b Wood 6
W A Hugh a b C Ellis.....	3 b L Wood
T Crewdson b Jones	0 at C Ellis b Eastwood 0
D T Davies not out	8 b Eastwood..... 0
R Jolliffe b Jones.....	0 b Eastwood..... 0
T Barnett b C Ellis.....	0 not out..... 0
R Harvey b Jones.....	0 b Eastwood..... 0
Extras.....	5 Extras..... 6
Total	26 Total17

CONWAY.

A Eastwood b Jolliffe	16
L Wood run out	14
R L Colenso b Roberts.....	1
R Jones b Willman	8
C M Lees b Hughes	5
H D Williams b Willman.....	0
C C Ellis run out	5
G Ellis c Crewdson b Hughes	13
P Ellis b Hughes	0
D Jones not out.....	0
Extras	8

Total73

In the second innings of Plasnewydd Mr Eastwood took five wickets for no runs, of which four were in a maiden over.

The next year, in the same match, Latty was down the order, batting at No.5, and scored 3 after an undistinguished day in the field. Conway lost (*North Wales Chronicle* 13 July 1889).

PLASNEWYDD V. CONWAY.—This match was played at Conway on the 29th ult. Result:—									
CONWAY.					PLASNEWYDD.				
L Savage b Terry	0	J Roberts b Wood	25		Clarke b J W Jones	5			
L W Jones b Terry	13	Hornby c Colenso b J W Jones	15		Crowdon b J W Jones	6			
J W Jones c Crowdon b Terry	17	Terry lbw b J & Jones	2		D T Davies b Wood	8			
J R Humphreys c Haslam b Clarke	1	D T Davies c & b Wood	4		J Haslam c & b Wood	7			
R L Colenso c Hornby b Clarke	3	D Dickens run out	0		J Haslam c Whalley b Savage	0			
L Wood b Clarke	0	Soule b Savage	0		W Whalley b Terry	4			
J H Evans b Clarke	6	Kearley	2		W J Roberts c Hornby b Terry	2			
W Whalley b Terry	4	Extras	11		W Jones not out	1			
W J Roberts c Hornby b Terry	2				C Farrington run out	0			
W Jones not out	1				Extras	6			
C Farrington run out	0								
Extras	6								
Total	53	Total	85						
BOWLING					ANALYSIS.				
CONWAY.					PLASNEWYDD.				
Clarke	16	4	27	4	J W Jones	15	4	21	4
Terry	16	6	19	5	Savage	11	3	1	25
					L Jones	3	0	11	0
					L Wood	10	1	15	3

A week later it was a different story: Latty opened for Conway, at home against Llandudno and top scored—a plucky 14, caught by Lewis off the bowling of F. Jones—in a total of 35 after Llandudno's impressive 64. The run chase was too difficult, however, Llandudno's total too high, and the bowling of F. Jones (5 wickets) just too accurate.

CRICKET.

LLANDUDNO V. CONWAY.

This match was played as follows on the ground of the latter, and resulted in an easy victory for Llandudno, on Saturday, 13th inst.

LLANDUDNO.

1st Innings.	2nd Innings.
J. J. Marks, c Evans, b Murray	21—b Jones... 4
A. T. Marks, b Jones	0—b Savage 7
F. W. Jones, b Hughes	5—c Savage 6
Capt. Richmond, b Hughes	0
G. Toyahen, b Murray	0—not out 8
C. G. Wilkinson, b Hughes	4—c Savage, b Jones 14
W. L. Scott, b Savage	8
F. Foulkes, c Evans, b Savage	5
J. Jones, b Savage	3
J. R. Humphreys (not out)	3
D. R. Derris, b Evans	4
Extras	13—Extras ... 2
Total ...	65—Total... 41

CONWAY (1st Innings).

R. L. Colenso, c Lewis b F. Jones	14
J. Jones, b Foulds	1
Rev. J. E. Evans, l b w, b F. Jones	4
J. M. Murray, c J. J. Marks b Foulds	5
L. W. Jones, c J. J. Marks b Foulds	0
Llewelyn Savage b Foulds	1
J. W. Wilkinson, b F. Jones	0
Llewelyn Wood (not out)	4
J. H. Evans, b F. Jones	0
W. Hughes, b F. Jones	0
F. Ross, b Wilkinson	2
Extras ...	4
Total ...	35

The *North Wales Chronicle* of 16 November 1889 found Latty among 150 others at the opening of the new headquarters of the Workmen's Conservative Club in Conway, where he hobnobbed with

Mr E. Swatenham, Q.C., M.P., Colonel Henry Platt, Colonel the Hon. W. E. Sackville West, Mr H. Kneeshaw, Rev. H. Rees, Rev. T. R. Ellis, Mr G. Robbins, Mr J. E. Fincham, Mr P. McIntyre, Mr Humphrey Lewis, Mr George Owen (Carnarvon), Rev E. Tudor Owen (Llandudno), the Count of Santa Flora, Messrs R. Latimer Colenso, T. Dutton (Trefriw), R. E. Turner (Trefriw), R. Dougall, G. A. Humphreys (the architect), Ignatius Williams, — Fairclough, P. J. Webster, etc.

Gillian Bell emailed that the brothers Jack & Will Simcox were passionate about cricket. William Colenso's grandchildren Edith (1871) & Martin were born in Conway to Frances Simcox before she and Will went back to NZ in 1875. As their daughter-in-law's brother, Latty would have been welcome in Will's parents' home.

His landlady Mrs Cussons at Gweryl Lodge taught painting in the winter...

LLANDUDNO ART CLASSES.	
WINTER SESSION, 1890-91.—Llandudno Studio, No. 1, Nevill Crescent. Lessons in OIL-PAINTING by Mrs K. B. Cussons, of Liverpool and Southport, every Wednesday at Ten a.m. For terms apply to Messrs Ward and Son, 102, Mostyn Street, Llandudno, or to Mrs Cussons, Gweryl Lodge, Conway. 1621m	

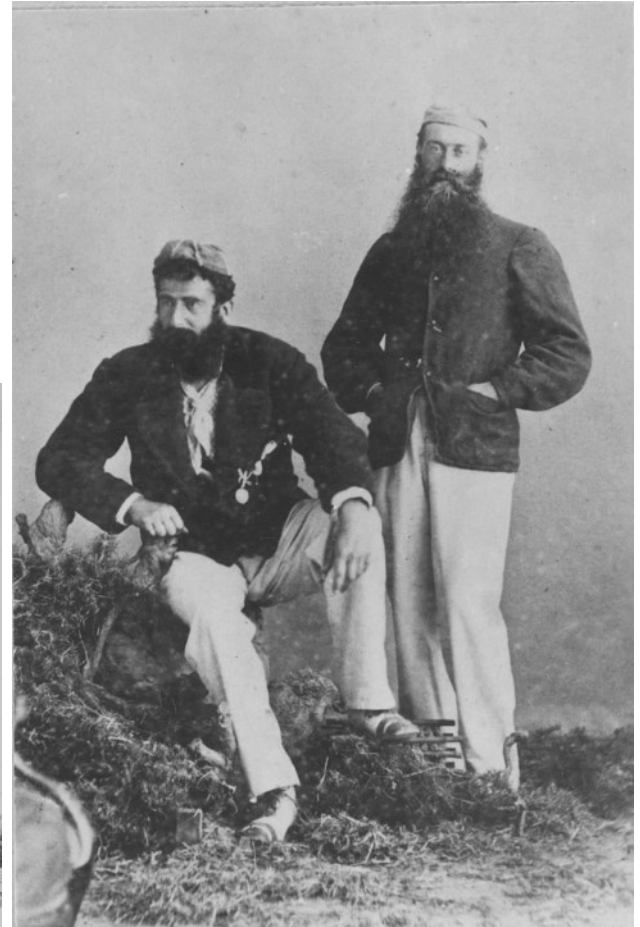
... and did good works....

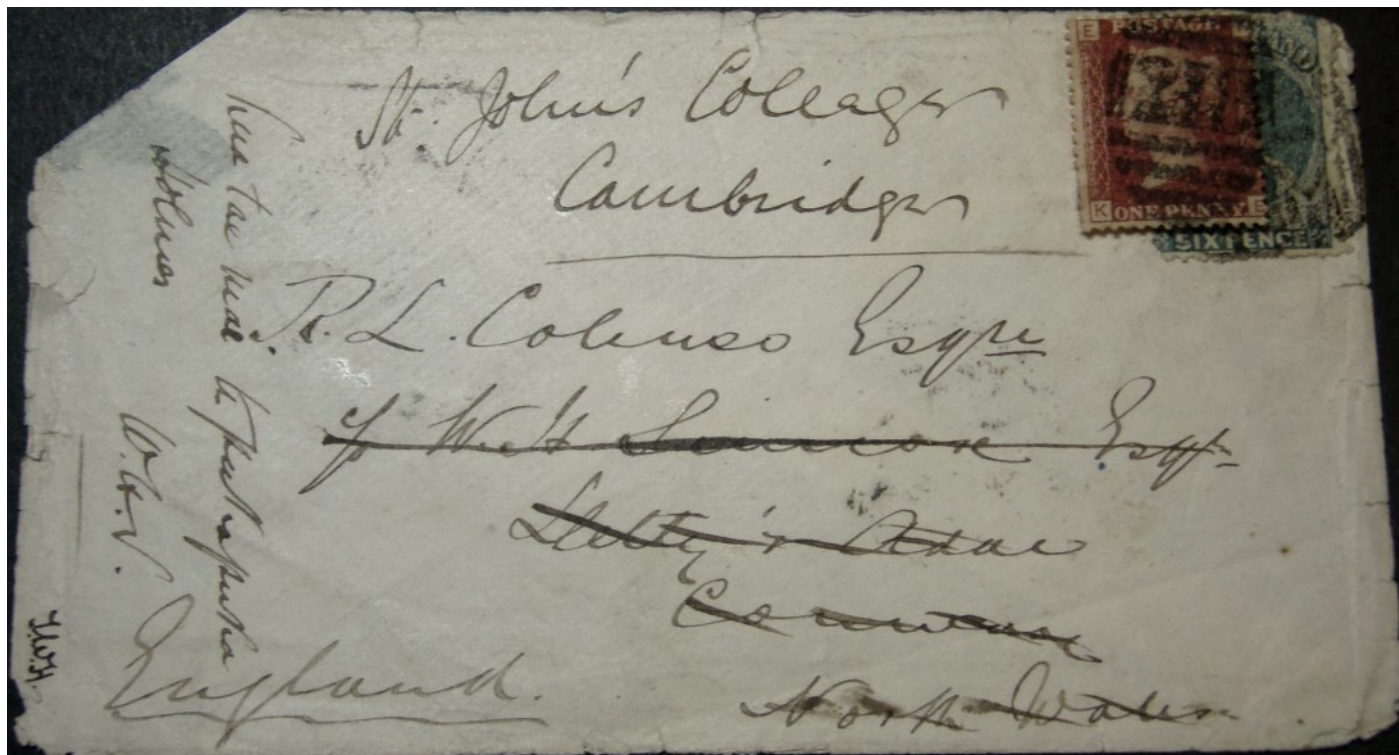
THE LADIES' SUPPLY ASSOCIATION opened an establishment at No. 133, Upper Mostyn-street, on Saturday morning last. The association receives consignments of fruit, cream, butter, eggs, flowers, table decorations, &c., from all parts of the kingdom, their goods coming mostly from private gardens. The Llandudno branch of the association is under the management of Mrs Cussons, Gweryl Lodge, Conway, (Hon. Sec.), and Miss Robinson, Conway, has charge of the shop. The window on Saturday was very prettily decorated, and certainly looked most tempting. The flower display was admirable. The table decorations in the shape of fern baskets are lovely. When the season commences the ladies are sure to do a good business with the visitors.

Gillian Bell added to the story,

Will Simcox played cricket for “The Rest” against W.G. Grace’s “All England” team in the early 1870s while he and Fanny were staying at Conway—a great batsman apparently. The photograph at right shows the two Simcox sons, Jack (b. 1839) and Will (b. 1841). Their father had a bad temper so both men left home. Will was appointed a JP at 26 at Tauranga in 1867. With John Hadfield he later led the charge for Horowhenua County to be separated from Manawatu County.

The other photograph (below) is Simcox house at Knotts Lake, Halls Green, Birmingham where Lattie joined his brother-in-law’s family at Christmas 1870.





A letter to Latty

A much travelled FFQ cover (an envelope bearing a full face Queen Victoria stamp) appeared in the Trademe lists this year and it provides a surprising amount of additional information.

It had been posted to R L Colenso in Conway, North Wales; stamped with a 6d Blue NZ FFQ; cancelled with a smudgy "1" obliterator and a faint "OTAHUHU" A-Class; backstamped "OTAHUHU OCT28 1872" and "AUCKLAND OCT28 72"; it bears a receiving postmark "CONWAY DE23 1872".

It has two addresses in the sender's hand, "St John's College, Cambridge, England" and "C/- W.H. Simcox Esq., Lletty'r Adar, Conway, North Wales." The latter address has been crossed out, redirecting it (with a UK penny red side face Queen stamp and dated Conway DE26, received at Cambridge DE 27) to the former, presumably by Will Simcox ("W.H.S.") who also added a note in te reo that appears to say, "kua tae tuai te pukapuka Holmes" (= came before the book Holmes).

The initials "T.W.H." in the lower left corner are in Latty's hand and perhaps refer to the writer, Latty's cousin Theodore William Hickson (son of Elizabeth Colenso's sister Esther Fairburn). His descendant Bev Woolley told us "Theo is a thorn in our family tree as he left his wife and six children in NZ (and) disappeared overseas in 1892".

Colenso descendant Gillian Bell thought the sender might be "one of Latty's Fairburn uncles who lived in the area (Elizabeth Colenso nee Fairburn inherited the family home on the waterfront at Shelly Bay, Otahuhu). The words in Maori are initialled by William Henry Simcox and look authentic when I compare it with "WH Simcox" in a book. Fanny and Will (Simcox) were in Conway till returning to NZ in 1874."

Colenso descendant Ann Collins thought the word "Holmes"... "may be related to George Holmes who married WH Simcox's sister Georgiana in 1867. They lived in Canada for a time. But George had been farming in NZ just before 1871. The (UK) census record for 1871 shows them with William and Georgiana's mother who had been widowed in 1870:

Sarah Simcox, 69, widow & landowner, born in Northwood, Worcestershire, head

John W Simcox, 31, son, unmarried, solicitor, Sparkbrook

William H Simcox, 29, son, unmarried, farming land in NZ, b Sparkbrook

Frances M Simcox, 27, daughter in law, b NZ
Georgina B Holmes, 36 married daughter born in Edgbaston
George Holmes, 37, married son in law, farming in NZ, born in Kingsholt

John L Holmes, 2, grandson, born Canada

Mary C B Holmes, 1 granddaughter, born Canada."

Lletty'r Adar was the house belonging to the widow Sarah Simcox, where Fanny & Will lived for a time with her. It was recently on the market.

Perhaps Latty joined them there for his holidays from Cambridge (he graduated and married in 1875), returning years later to stay at Gwer-yl Lodge and play cricket for the local team.



Lletty'r Adar, the Simcox house near Conway, North Wales
(<http://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-25222595.html>)

The Napier museum

The Poverty Bay Herald of 13 May 1896 reported,

A MUNIFICENT GIFT.

REV. W. COLENZO'S PRESENTATION
TO HAWKE'S BAY.

A TOUCHING SCENE.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM A
GRAND OLD MAN.

[SPECIAL TO HERALD.]

NAPIER, to-day.

There was something very touching in a scene at the Philosophical Institute, in which the Rev. W. Colenso played the principal part. The old man's heart is thoroughly in his scientific pursuits, and a visitor to his residence on Colenso Hill will ever find him wrapt up in his studies of the glories of nature.

The want of a proper museum has perhaps not been more keenly felt by any Hawke's Bay settler than by the aged Maori missionary. Mr Colenso's sympathies with all objects having for their purpose the intellectual advancement of the community in which he has passed so many years of his life are well known, but no one was prepared for the munificent offer which he made at the Philosophical Institute's meeting.

In unfolding his scheme, he said his first donation would be £1000, and he would give a freehold site. (Great applause). This site would be town section 109, near the public school. He wanted to make up £4000. How was it to be done? Mr John

Harding had made an offer last year to give £200 towards a museum. This year, as wool had risen in price and things were well with him, perhaps Mr Harding would be inclined to double that and give £400, or perhaps £500. At any rate, when another £500 was paid up he would give a second donation of £500. (Applause). That would be £2000. Mr Douglas McLean had written to him stating that he was prepared to give £500, and if that were done he (Mr Colenso) would give a third amount of £500. Then another £1000 would be wanted. For that they must all put their shoulders to the wheel. He believed it could be got in this way. A museum here would be also 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.

He declared that the building was to be used solely for the purposes of a museum and library. There were to be no concerts, no Liedertafels, no Bohemians, no "spouting," no mutual admiration societies (laughter), no globe trotters, no tourists, and no parsons. (Laughter.) He would not give a penny for persons of that sort. (Great laughter.)

In concluding Mr Colenso said his offer would be open until December 31st, and he would like to see the matter started ere he departed, assuring his hearers that unless they showed themselves worthy of it they would not get the £2000.

Mr Colenso's inaugural address was one of the finest ever heard in the institute, and it was delivered with wonderful clearness for a man eighty seven years old. In the course of his address, he said: "Fairly considering an institution such as this, especially in a newly settled country, and with special

reference to the great number of educated youths yearly leaving school, one was tempted to ask 'Why is it that so few of them are found here with us?'—if not as enrolled members and co-workers, yet as visitors to the museum and library and hearers at their meetings, which were now thrown open to the public." Was it so, he asked, that out of these many youths and young men, several of whom were gainers of high prizes at various school examinations, and of whose future career high hopes were entertained, there were none to be found in love with nature and natural science in all its varied forms so as to continue and carry on these studies begun at school? Our youths were the hope, the strong hope, the backbone of this young and rising colony, destined in due time, under God's destiny, to become a great and mighty nation or a fair and flourishing portion of a still mightier Empire, and therefore they should be seeking to grow, to improve in knowledge and wisdom. Nothing was more sure than this, that school knowledge and attainments, allowed insensibly to wither and rust, soon became forgotten, and once forgotten were seldom if ever found again; and here he asked, not only as their elected president *pro tem*, but as a very old man of some understanding in these matters, and therefore speaking from experience, to proffer a little sound advice. The powerful and active enemies of science and of general learning, especially here in the colony, were too great love of holidays and idleness, of frivolity and of fleeting pleasures, which yielded no enduring satisfaction, which generally, if not invariably, looked for more, never being satisfied and mostly leaving "an aching void," and should there be, before the final close, a few hours or days free from pain and extreme weakness for reflection, then the sad heartrending vista presented itself of time lost, of noble, almost God-like faculties abused, of a waste of life.

In conclusion he said: "I, as an aged minister of religion and a fervent disciple of nature, and with increasing convictions of the truth, soon by me to be realised, would say, one word more to my audience re our talents and our time here: that as you sow you will reap hereafter. Young friends don't waste time; don't abuse talents. Seek to make the best use of both."

John Harding was unimpressed. He wrote to the *Hawke's Bay Herald* and Colenso was obliged to respond on 19 May,

SIR, — I was very much surprised on Saturday last (16th instant), in seeing in your paper the following sentence contained in a letter from Mr John Harding:—"Will Mr Colenso please tell me, who informed him that I had promised £200 to the (Museum) fund?" And my first thoughts were to write to you immediately, and to refer you to Mr Harding's own letter in one of the Napier papers of last year, in which he had plainly made the said offer. But as Mr Hill, Inspector of Schools, had arranged to meet me here on Saturday night,—and as we two had talked, about that offer at the time of its publication,—I resolved to wait his arrival. Well, he came, and we soon entered on the subject, and Mr Hill assures me of the great mistake I had made; for Mr Harding's offer at that time was "£25," or "£50," and not £200. Depending on Mr Hill's accuracy, I am very sorry I made such a great mistake; and now make this public apology to Mr Harding, (having also already written to him). I cannot account for it. It was not done in a hurry—off-hand, as it were, at our meeting on Monday night, (11th)—for it had been in my memorandums and calculations and mind for two or three months past. Possibly the wish may have been father to the thought (expressed), and then there is (for certain) the "old man's" defective memory—Alas!—I am, &c.,

W. COLENZO.

Dannevirke, May 18th, 1896.

Nonetheless this was a gift of such a scale

that the prestigious *Nature* picked up the story.

Nature 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.

On 2 June Colenso had written to his old friend 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 Bæotian-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.)

For whatever reasons—the offence taken by the clergy or others who were to be denied the use of the museum, or the economic depression of the 1890s, or the animosity many felt towards Colenso, or the pedestrian tastes of the Napier people—the fundraising failed.

Colenso was furious. The *Hawke's Bay Herald* of 16 February 1897 reported, ►►

THE REV. W. COLENSO'S MUSEUM PROPOSAL.

HIS OFFER WITHDRAWN.

SOME STRONG WORDS.

At the meeting of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society last night, the Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., made some very strong remarks about the manner in which the society was conducted, and the lack of interest that the people of Napier took in matters scientific. It will be remembered that last winter the rev. gentleman offered £1500 and a free site for the purposes of a museum on certain conditions. The reception of this offer was not very favorable, and with the close of the old year, the terms not having been complied with, Mr Colenso had withdrawn his generous offer.

Speaking with great warmth and feeling Mr Colenso said that of the amount required to be made up by the public in connection with his proposal only some £163 had been promised by the public of Hawke's Bay. The Council had wished him to hold over his decision for the withdrawal of his offer. But he said no. His books and money would ~~go~~ go to his native town of Penzance, in Cornwall. Of the 20 names handed into the secretary as willing to contribute towards this project there was not one wealthy man, not one respectable, nor one old settler amongst them. In order to do something still for this museum he had seen Mr R. D. D. McLean, who had informed him there

was about £700 or £800 in the hands of the Scotch committee who held this money in trust until the establishment of some statue or memorial to Sir Donald. This money, Mr McLean assured him, could be available for the purposes of the museum, and further, Mr McLean gave him to understand that he would increase the sum to £1000. The speaker paid a high tribute to Mr McLean's generosity, but greatly deplored the lack of interest that the people of Napier took in this matter. It seemed to him that the members of the Institute in particular did not care two pence for science. He asked what had the members of the Council done for the Institute? He spoke in this way because it was the last time he would speak about it. He would never come to the society's meetings again. He would tender his resignation before leaving the chair. He felt deeply the action of the council in turning their museum into a public room, where anybody could gain admittance freely, and no restraint placed upon boys and others who came there. The officers of the Institute did not seem to care at all for the scientific purposes for which they were organised, and it was with them purely a matter of *S. S. D.* Why, he asked, had the museum room been shifted into the large hall? Their small room had been amply large enough for their meetings in the past, associated as it was with so many pleasant memories of men who had read papers there and addressed them, including the former Bishop of Waiapu, now in Persia. Their premises had been simply turned into a tea garden, and what

made it worse was that their old room had only been let for this purpose for one season. He understood from Mr Hamilton, their late curator, that some of the Maori curios deposited by Mr Hamilton in the Napier museum were missing, and he threatened to withdraw his deposits altogether. Well, he could assure them that if Mr Hamilton withdrew his curios he (Mr Colenso) would also take his own away. There seemed to him a lot of "low jealousy" displayed by members of the Institute.

Mr H. Hill moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society conveys its thanks to the Rev. W. Colenso, F.R.S., the retiring president, for the interest he has shown during the year in the well-being of the society. Further, they thank him for the generous offer he made towards the establishment of a museum, and regret that the people of Hawke's Bay have shown such a want of public spirit as to allow his offer to lapse without making some effort to establish such an institution for the benefit of Napier and district." Mr Hill said he sincerely regretted to hear the remarks that had fallen from their chairman in regard to the character of the council. It was no fault of the council that the society had drifted into its present condition, but it received no support at all. All the gentlemen forming the council might not have read papers at their meetings, but they had displayed a great interest, and had devoted much attention to the proceedings of the Institute. It was far from creditable to Hawke's Bay that the people should show such a want

public split as to allow his offer to lapse without making some effort to establish such an institution for the benefit of Napier and district." Mr Hill said he sincerely regretted to hear the remarks that had fallen from their chairman in regard to the character of the council. It was no fault of the council that the society had drifted into its present condition, but it received no support at all. All the gentlemen forming the council might not have read papers at their meetings, but they had displayed a great interest, and had devoted much attention to the proceedings of the institute. It was far from creditable to Hawke's Bay that the people should show such a want of patriotism and interest in scientific matters. Personally, he thought Mr Colenso's remarks were most ungenerous. He (the speaker) had done what he could to further Mr Colenso's project. Certainly he had not trumpeted the fact through the newspapers that he was working hard for the museum, but he had asked numbers of people for their support, and if he had failed to rouse them to a proper sense of enthusiasm in the matter then it was not his fault. He had done his best. He could not do more. The remarks of Mr Colenso were unfair, for there were a number of gentlemen who had worked very hard for the institution. He agreed, however, with the remarks of the president regarding the changing of their room. That did not meet with his approval. He was away at the time. He felt grateful to their president for the work he had done in the interests of the society. It was a credit to the town of Napier to see

a man between 80 and 90 years of age coming down to their meetings every month in the winter and giving the members the benefit of his ripened scholarship and experience in scientific matters. It was to be deeply regretted that a town like Napier had rejected Mr Colenso's offer, and all he could say in conclusion was that they had reason to feel proud that they still had amongst them a man of such character and attainments as the Rev. W. Colenso.

Dr. Moore said he heartily seconded the motion. He did not suppose that the people of Napier would be ashamed of the little interest they had shown in regard to their president's offer. At the same time, he regretted the chairman's remarks in reference to their council. The members had endeavored to do their best. If they could get new blood they would be very pleased to have it, but none came forward, and that, of course, the council of the institute could certainly not help.

The motion was then put and carried unanimously.

The Rev. Mr Colenso, in reply, said there was much that Mr Hill had spoken with which he agreed. He, as president, was never informed of the intention to shift the museum room. Two or three persons interested in the Athenaeum had simply done as they liked in regard to the room, not for the benefit of the museum, but for the benefit of the Athenaeum, an institution which was in every way antagonistic to the Philosophical Institute. The secretary of the institute was also secretary of the Athenaeum, and he thought more of the latter than the institute. The secretary could not faith-

fully serve two masters. He was out of court. In a court of law the secretary would find that he could not act both for the plaintiff and the defendant. That was what he was doing now, to the detriment of the institute. Such abominations as a Liedertafel must not be tolerated in the museum room. He noticed that a number of medical gentlemen had been put on the council. That might not be a wise course, for they were invariably wanted on meeting nights. In conclusion, he said that since August last he had suffered from a severe cold, and he had had medical advice that he must not venture out at night time. "Now," said the reverend gentleman, drawing his remarks to a close, "I thank you for your kindness, and I heartily wish you well."

Newspaper editors as far away as Southland picked up the story: the *Mataura Ensign* 23 February 1897,

Judging by the course of recent events the people of Napier do not appear to be much overburdened with a spirit of patriotism or a desire to contribute toward their town's prosperity. About a year ago the Rev. W. Colenso made a most handsome offer to the public of the place generally that he would contribute £1500 and a free site for a museum on condition that they subscribed the remaining necessary amount to place the institution on a proper footing. At a meeting of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Society (the body through which the offer was made), held the other night, it was stated that the rev. gentleman's generous offer had been supplemented from outside by only £163, whereupon Mr Colenso gave vent to most righteous indignation, and, besides resigning the Society, said that his books and money would go to his native town of Penzance. Eventually oil was

poured upon the troubled waters, and Mr Colenso so far relented as to promise that he would reconsider his determination to resign.

Colenso felt he had been unfairly reported and wrote to the *Hawke's Bay Herald*, his letter appearing on 1 March 1897,

SIR,—I have recently heard of some amount of misunderstanding existing respecting one phrase, or rather, one misplaced word in your condensed report of the proceedings of the Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute, at its annual meeting held last week. And, as I have been appealed to about it (and have good reasons for knowing that it is made a handle of for perversion by a small clique among us, who ought, however, to know better), I write this by way of explanation, although my friends who were present at the meeting to whom I have spoken, assure me there is no occasion for it.

The one word found fault with, is the word "respectable;" that is, as it now stands in your report, which runs thus:—"Of the 20 names handed in to the secretary as willing to contribute towards this project there was not one wealthy man, not one respectable, not one old settler amongst them."

Now, I believe I may boldly and truly say—I did not use those words as there reported in that one condensed sentence; indeed, I could not do so. For (1.) I had in my hand the list of the kind donors to the said scheme for museum and library (which I had received a fortnight before, and was therefore well acquainted with), and in that list are the names of old and dear friends and of townsmen of high respectability, among whom are Bishop Williams, Dr. de Lisle, Dr. Moore, Messrs Hill, Banner, Craig, and Ringland; and from the country, Father Binsfield, Dr. Todd, Messrs R.N. Blakiston, J. Powderell, A. Harding, and J. Holder, and others, (2nd.) What I did say, and I think dwelt on, and that with full and painful reference to the large number of non-subscribers to this great public good (accepting your published words as a basis), was — "There was not one wealthy man, not one of the

old-established respectable settlers, owners of large estates, fathers of families, amongst them"— viz., the few names in the list. And I may observe that I was the more led to make this remark— (1) 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, &c., &c.; and (2) because I had at the large May meeting, when I launched my offer, inadvertently (yet trustingly) mentioned Mr John Harding's name as a joint contributor to the scheme (who had formerly freely proffered his subscription, but who now, I found, did not come forward!) and had also the great pleasure of publicly announcing, in contrast, the name of our respected and lately-elected member to the House of Representatives, Mr R.D.D. M'Lean, as being the only large subscriber to the museum; both of those gentlemen being alike very old residents and large sheep-farmers.

I would also remind your readers, that at the May meeting in 1896 (already referred to) it was clearly and distinctly laid down that this projected museum and library was not for Napier (solely), but for the East Coast of New Zealand. I quote from your paper of the time: "A museum here would be a museum for the East Coast, not only for Hawke's Bay proper or for the old provincial districts, but for Poverty Bay and Gisborne, and the country stretching up to the East Cape. The people of those districts could not possibly have a museum of their own. Auckland, as they knew, had a museum for the whole of Auckland province, &c." I fear the forgetting of this—a main object in the success of the proposed plan—has also been the means of it having been overlooked.

And—as I do not intend to write again on this subject, I may be allowed to briefly mention two or three errors, or omissions, in your report of the 16th inst., (I would it could be given in extenso, even if I have to pay for it). (1.) I did not say — "His books and money" (meaning, the whole) "would now go to his native town of Penzance in Cornwall":— but, part only. (2.) You omitted, (a) what I said about Mr M'Lean's generous offer; that that in part mainly depended on the standing

committee of the late Sir Donald M'Lean's Memorial Fund agreeing thereto; and (6) my promised subscription of £500 to back up and support Mr M'Lean's plan. Both, however, of these omissions you kindly allowed and supplied in your next morning's issue; and I only mention them now, in conclusion, to show to the distorters and carpers, that even in your report there were admitted omissions. To all such invidious folk I would quietly and individually say nosce te ipsum. —I am, &c.,

W. COLENZO.

Napier, February 26th, 1897.

[Mr Colenso spoke under great excitement and in a low tone, making it difficult for our reporter to follow him, and it is quite possible that he misunderstood Mr Colenso in this matter, though the report is a faithful transcript from his shorthand notes.— Ed. H.B.H.]

Colenso made light of the whole affair in his 1 February 1897 letter to Hooker, but his hurt is obvious,

My very dear old friend –

(I write) To tell you of the Hawke's Bay grand failure re my offer made to them in May last towards a Museum. But I must cut this short. We met in Committee on 15th Jany. (up to date I had heard nothing) when I found the great sum of £168. – had been promised by about a score individuals: a few old personal friends giving £10. ea, and (to his honour be it recorded) Father Binsfield of the R. Cath. Mission, £3.3.0! none of our Ch. clerics subscribing save

the Bishop, £2.2.0 – but he is not rich & has a family. But Mr McLean (only son of my old & quondam friend, the late Sir Donald McLean) who had recently been elected by us as our M.P., in his conversation w. me in Decr. had told me, he was willing to give the subscriptions received several years ago for a statue to his father (amounting to, say, £600) for museum and Library – provided his Sc. Comee would consent, who have always been strong for statue – I, too, being one of that Comee., having both subscribed & collected, – and that he would add thereto so as to make £1000. Well, I told the Comee., that since such was the case – I now wholly withdrew my offer, but that since Mr McLean – able, young, educated, travelled on continent &c &c., rich; married with a rising family, a large stake in the District, and a hearty desire to carry out the original plan of a Museum, &c., had promised £1,000, I would support him and subscribe £500, – leaving it to him to carry it out. Many words followed: some too high to be written: and finally we broke up in disorder!! I have not since been into the town, and our Annual Meeting is on the 8th inst. – which, I suppose, I must attend as President, but it may be my last appearance there. I fear much of

the failure is to be attributed to low jealousy. Not one of the wealthy settled folk around thought of subscribing, though all have been visited w. a Circular, their tastes mainly go in other and opposite directions – Racing (w. its betting), theatres every night, Hunting (imported hares!) Polo, Caledonian Sports, Football, & other outdoor games – a legion! and the newest Craze of bicycles! Mr McLean (almost the only rich sheep-farmer who does not patronise Racing) said – “Why the money put through the totalisator at one day’s racing would suffice for a Museum!” (sometimes, £6, 7, 8000!)



Napier Town Section 109, the land Colenso offered to donate for a museum ▲...

...now occupied by 6–10 Milton Rd ▼



Te Raa Maumahara

From the Ōtorohanga College Newsletter

In 2014, our college was awakened to our local history of the NZ Wars. Following our school excursion to Rangiaowhia and Ōrākau, Whaea Mariana Papa announced that we would take a petition to parliament seeking a statutory holiday and nationwide NZ Wars education. Ultimately, the petition would seek commemoration of those who had fallen on our soil in defence of their Whenua, and those who had fought against them in the imperial and colonial armies.

On October 28th, the day of He Whakaputanga o Niu Tireni, we achieved that dream of the petition signed by 13,000 people; in attending the book launch of *Moetū* and the first national commemoration day at Mangatoatoa Pa. Auspiciously Kīngi Tu Heitia, who was the first to sign the petition, and Hon. Nanaia Mahuta who sponsored it, were there among many dignitaries. The whaikōrero marked the memories and the purpose of this inaugural commemoration day.

The significance of the day was embodied in the launch of *Moetū* by Witi Ihimaera and Hēmi Kelly. The first bilingual novella to be written in Te Reo and English; it tells the story of Moetū, a 16 year old boy who fought at Ōrākau.

Our students were privileged to be invited to Mangatoatoa. Waimarama Anderson and Leah Bell (the two signatories to the petition), with Zak Henry and Rhiannon Magee attended the event also as the original four from 2014.

Across Aotearoa, stories about how whānau and groups have commemorated this day are notable. Our Deputy Principal Amy Hacker took Charles and Tori to St. John's in Te Awamutu where they laid a wreath in remembrance alongside Cambridge and Te Awamutu students. A tour of the battle sites was booked out that day. One of our teachers told a story wherein she drove to Ōrākau with her daughter who was full of questions, wanting to know her history. They encountered "another couple, dressed in mustard khaki and gold brocade who were so solemn, deeply sad". The four of them commemorated, in their own way, on site. All forms of media have launched stories about the NZ Wars history. Go to the facebook page that Zak runs to follow the interesting links: <https://www.facebook.com/NZLandWars/>.

Leah Bell is William Colenso's g-g-g-granddaughter—Ed.



Leah Bell, Hemi Kelly, Witi Ihimaera, Waimarama Anderson



Waimarama Anderson, Hon. Nanaia Mahuta, Leah Bell



On 1 February at 5.30pm the Mayor of Wellington
will officially open

William Colenso Square,

beside the National Library

(this was cancelled in 2017 because of the earthquake).

After that at 6pm Fraser Books will launch
Ian St George's new book

Mr Colenso's Wairarapa.

in the National Library

On 22 and 23 February 2019 MTG Hawke's Bay
and the Colenso Society will host

**Colenso 3:
The Third Colenso
Conference**

in Napier at MTG Hawke's Bay.

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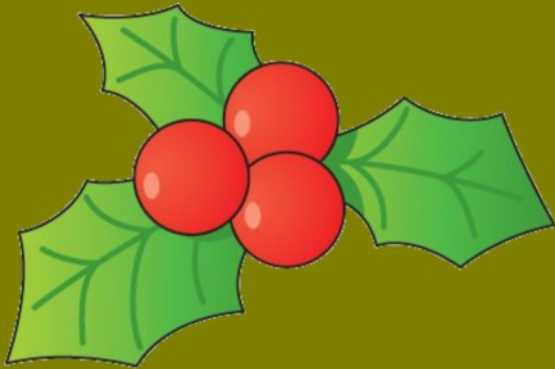
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Merry Christmas!



And heartily
wishing you every
blessing — for
mind, soul, &
body — both you &
yours.—



STOP PRESS!!

Art+Object, the Auckland auction house, has a number of Colenso items in its 5 December sale, the catalogue for which can be found here: <https://www.artandobject.co.nz/auction/123/rare-books>.

Most of the objects appear to be related to Andrew Luff, the Napier real estate agent who, when he left for England in March 1875 to educate his sons at Dulwich College, appointed his friend William Colenso to look after his affairs in New Zealand.

Colenso wrote many letters to Luff, which the latter kept. They are as important as Colenso's letters to Coupland Harding—perhaps less self-revealing, but equally full of news and local gossip.

Luff's son George Andrew Middlemass Luff returned to New Zealand and was the surveyor-engineer who completed the rail connection between Napier and Wellington, north through the Forty Mile Bush to Woodville.

Error

Gwil Colenso writes, “In my letter to the editor on the Colenso Memorial Tablet in November's *eColenso* there are two mistakes. 1) I referred to articles by Ian and Ann on the Tablet as appearing in the November issue of *eColenso*. I had meant to say that the articles I referred to were in the October issue. 2) In the second paragraph, in the second sentence beginning “But where ...”, “after being removed from this location” should read, “before being moved to the council offices”. My apologies for these mistakes and for any confusion caused. Gwil Colenso.”