

eColenso

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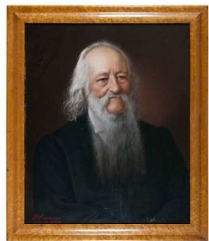
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ISLANDS IN
THE STREAM



Type
Colenso
1838
Museum of Natural History
No. 1000
Colenso 1838



KO TE TARI WARI O
TE KAWENATA HOE
O HUI KARATI TE ARIMA
TO TAPU KA WAKARA
HE HUI KARATI O WAKARA
O TE PUKAPUKA O KENEHI
KA OTI MAI TE WAKARAHI KI TE KAI O
TU TIRIHI



Colenso was right:

Dicksonia lanata subsp. *hispid*a & *lanata* are different

Bruce Hamlin wrote, “The collections of the Reverend William Colenso are possibly the most important in New Zealand systematic botany. Not only did he provide a large number of plants on which species were based, but he contributed a multiplicity of names to the flora”. [1]

One was a fern, *Dicksonia lanata*, first collected by Colenso from Wai-karemoana in 1841; another was collected at “Wananake”, between Whangarei and the Bay of Islands and sent (specimen no. 351) to William Hooker at Kew in a letter dated 20 May 1844, together with a manuscript entitled *Filices Novae* in which it was described as a new variety. In 1846 Colenso published the variety as *Dicksonia lanata* var. *hispid*a in the *Tasmanian Journal of Natural Sciences*. In the meantime Hooker had cited Colenso's specimen and his full descriptions in *Species Filicum*, not intending to pre-empt Colenso, but expecting Colenso's description to have been published before his. Because Hooker attributed the name and full description to Colenso, the variety is called *Dicksonia lanata* var. *hispid*a Colenso in Hook. [2]

Hooker concluded “... though a rather striking variety, I still think it but a variety” and Joseph Hooker was even less convinced, stating that *D. lanata* was “a very variable species in size and amount of woolly hairs ...”. Cheeseman agreed, stating (as he often did concerning Colenso's splitting), “Possibly there may be two distinct varieties with a different geographic range, but so far I have failed to find distinctive characters to separate them” [3]. Subsequent authors have largely followed this treatment in recognising only one rather variable species.

Until, that is, DNA testing became available. In re-examining *Dick-*

sonia lanata for the electronic *Flora of New Zealand* Patrick Brownsey and Leon Perrie of Te Papa took into account unpublished 2001 molecular studies of NZ ferns by Robbie Lewis of Massey University for his MSc thesis.

Brownsey and Perrie's morphological conclusions, supported by Lewis's AFLP DNA fingerprinting, were that two distinct subspecies should be recognised in New Zealand [4]. Colenso was right.

Dicksonia lanata* subsp. *lanata occurs from the Coromandel southwards through the North Island and along the northern and west coasts of the South Island. It doesn't form a trunk. The hairs on the underside of the frond are in obvious ‘woolly’ tufts (Latin *lanata* = woolly). It can dominate the ground cover under forests in colder areas (e.g., Urewera ranges).

***Dicksonia lanata* subsp. *hispid*a** occurs from North Cape to Kaipara and Great Barrier Island. It forms a short trunk, up to about 2 m tall. The hairs on the underside of the frond are not tufted but more uniformly distributed (Latin *hispid*a = somewhat bristly). It is often found in kauri forest.

His botanist colleagues regarded him as a splitter, but Colenso had the advantage of seeing plants in the wild, noting the differences between them. Cheeseman told him he could not accept many of Colenso's new species and Colenso told him, pretty plainly,

Of one thing I am pretty certain, that if you knew those plants I



Dicksonia lanata subsp. *lanata*; photo Mike Lusk

have laboured to describe, you would, I think, alter your judgment concerning, at least, some of them....

I have more than once thought that you were not fully conversant with some of our flora.... Probably you lack the opportunities of observing them in their habitats and of getting them, and of time for that purpose, (and such does require much time,) seeing your ever-growing official duties must be both heavy and constant.

However, this may be, my dear Sir,—continue to make what remarks you please on my work—it shan't break squares between us: only don't use a rusty lancet. [5]

On 27 December 1875 Colenso had written to his friend John Davies Enys,

I have recently heard from a scientific friend, that Baker, Dr. Hooker, & others, (authorities in Fern matters at home,) have lately acknowledged (at last!) the correctness of some of our N.Z. species therein described,—which they had contested & disallowed.—viz. Lindsaea viridis, Dicksonia lanata, &c.—I believe, that future working scientific Botanists, in this our adopted country, will, by-and-bye, confirm others. [6]

Indeed, they have.

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3. Cheeseman TF 1906. *Manual of the NZ flora*. Govt. Printer, Wellington.
4. Brownsey PJ, Perrie LR 2014. Taxonomic notes on the New Zealand flora: recognition of two subspecies in *Dicksonia lanata*. *New Zealand Journal of Botany*. 52 (3): 343–351.
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Monstrous injustice

“...that monstrous piece of injustice, the interest on the Wellington debt.”

(*Hawke's Bay Herald* 16 March 1861)

In April 1858, 317 disgruntled settlers of Hawke's Bay District presented a petition to Parliament calling for separation from the Wellington Province: their grounds were their means and ability to self-govern, the injustice they had suffered, and the injury and wrong they would sustain by a continuation of their association with Wellington.

That “injury and wrong” involved the perceived neglect of Hawke's Bay, which especially “does not receive the free benefit of a return of a portion of its very large contributions to the Treasury of Wellington, but these sums are derived from a Loan of no less than £125,000, borrowed by the Provincial Government of Wellington on the security in part, for payment of interest and principal, of the expected Land Proceeds from this District”.

Separation was achieved later in the year, but the question of who was liable for that loan persisted. The *Hawke's Bay Herald*, 21 July 1860...

We have repeatedly drawn the attention of our readers to the personal interest they have in the approaching session of the Assembly. The extent of their representation in the chief council of the colony—the degree of their liability for the Wellington debt—the regulations under which their waste lands will in future be sold, let, and disposed of, all depend upon the votes of the legislature during the ensuing three months. Their interests are at stake—even, if report may be relied on, their very existence as a province; for we hear of some mysterious compact under which, on consideration of the Wellington members supporting the ministry,

Hawke's Bay is again to be bound hand and foot to the Empire state. This may prove an idle rumour, yet the system of "log rolling" is one of which all our readers have heard, and its practice in New Zealand is not beyond the range of probability.

Apart however, from this, there is surely much to concern the settlers of Hawke's Bay; and their apathy at so critical a juncture in their affairs is to us wholly unaccountable. They act as if they cared not a rush whether or not they are to be saddled with a large proportion of the Wellington incubus—whether they will have a larger share in the representation—whether, in short, they are to continue a province of New Zealand or be reduced to their former position of a dependency upon Wellington. But should this be? We feel well assured that the Hawke's Bay settlers value their political privileges; then why so backward in asserting them? There is at present a feeling of disappointment at the working out of our new institutions, but this feeling will assuredly prove a transient one; and should not be allowed to stand between the province and its just claims upon the central government.

We should gladly see a disposition to meet in public for the consideration of these important matters—more especially to discuss the question of our liability for the Wellington loan. The state of public opinion, as elicited by such discussion, should be placed before the General Assembly in the form of a memorial, and our claims at the same time firmly but temperately urged upon the consideration of both houses. Our own indifference is our worst foe—more to be dreaded than the eloquent representations of the Wellington members, or the unscrupulous combinations of party. Let us then be up and doing.

The Rev. William Colenso's life had begun to improve after 1853: his licence had been revoked by the Bishop in 1852, in 1853 his house burned, his family left him, he was fined for common assault and his land flooded. But in 1854 he was acting as a court interpreter, in 1855 he began buying land, and in 1857 stood for election as coroner (losing to Dr Hitchings). In 1859 he was elected a Provincial Councillor for the new Province of Hawke's Bay, and in 1860 appointed Provincial Treasurer.

There is, in the Mitchell Library in Sydney, an incomplete manuscript in Colenso's hand of notes for a political essay or speech on the Wellington loan, apparently written in 1860, perhaps in response to the *Herald's* call to arms. As far as I can ascertain, it was not published, though the *Herald's* 16 February 1861 account of the Provincial Council meeting reported Mr. Colenso as saying "They had over and over again repudiated this debt *in toto*; and now they were called upon to stultify themselves, by pledging the Government to a debt of £20,000. The matter wanted farther sifting, which would be facilitated by the production of papers which had never yet been brought forward. Such an examination would in the hands of impartial judges, shew that Wellington had no right to look to this place for any share of the loans or one farthing of interest."

The Napier voters elected Colenso to the national House of Representatives in 1861.

Wellington v. Hawke's-Bay.

The Case truly stated: or, an impartial enquiry, whether, and, if so, How far, Hawke's Bay should be called on to pay a portion of the Wellington Loan.—

"Do unto others as ye would they should do to you."

I. Preliminary.

Having at various times heard several opinions concerning the Wellington Loan and the *right* of that Province to demand payment of a share of the same from the Province of Hawke's Bay; and having recently heard some of our new settlers say, they should wish to be more fully informed as to the said Loan, I have taken on myself to relate what is known of its history in connexion with the Province;

and this I both hope and intend to do in a plain honest unsophisticated manner. The importance of this subject cannot be denied,—as affecting either Province, but particularly Hawke’s Bay,—hence arises the need of calm dispassionate inquiry. To carry out such an inquiry fully; to bring forward every plea that either has been or might be urged, & to answer the same; and to note particularly the many official documents which are known to exist touching the said loan—would undoubtedly require much more room than could possibly be afforded in the Columns of a newspaper, besides making the continuous weekly publication both long & tedious. Notwithstanding, the kernels may be served without the husks & shells. At all events such must now be attempted, for the time has certainly come when something should be quickly done towards making known to the Public in general & the settlers of Hawke’s Bay Province in particular the true state of the case respecting the Wellington Loan.

But before I begin it will be needful to draw attention to certain words & phrases, & by way of explanation of these. And this is done for the better understanding of the subject. For there are many words which are commonly used which are supposed, or assumed, to carry in themselves correct meanings as to the subject in debate; and yet nothing can be further from the truth. And this mostly arises from want of thought or want of discrimination. Hence it is, that folks go on arguing to great lengths, because that one or both sides have assumed that at the very beginning which was to be proved. Among those words alluded to, are the words Law, Equity, & Rights; particularly the last in its jurisprudential & equitable sense.—

II. *On Rights.*

This term deserves close attention. For Rights give powers, and powers are ample means of procuring the services of men & goods and money, and therefore command influence. All nations, whether civilized or savage, have ever had in a greater or lesser degree some notion of their rights. Indeed, without some such belief no community could exist. To preserve their rights whether national or Individual is

the origin of Government; which is instituted mainly for the purpose of protecting them. Good Government, in modern times, is only another name for social union. The first object, therefore, of all good government is to uphold and defend the rights of the people. Now every man wishes to have as many good things as possible, and as there is not enough of each (of what is called good) for all, it is clear that the powerful and cunning would take from the weak and trusting, if there was not some regulating some controlling power; and this is found in the determining and fixing certain rules and orders or legalized powers, which we call rights. This is the common origin of rights. Hence it necessarily follows, that we have rights both artificial and expedient, as well as natural and true. Rights which vary and even decay, as well as rights which are unalterable and eternal. Therefore it also follows, that there are rights which are, and rights which ought to be, yet which (at present) are not. Now we may see many curious illustrations of those varying legalized powers or rights in the common events of the day.—A publican dare not refuse liquor to the traveller, even if a negro; because it is his right to be supplied; but he dare not give it to a thirsty New Zealander (although a Chief and travelling) because he is a British subject and therefore has no right to be supplied! Any man (not an aborigine) can not with impunity so far break the law as to strike another; because being a British subject he has no right to do so: but any single New Zealander (or any tribe of them) may not only strike but go to war and kill each other day after day without the law interfering, though they are British subjects, because (it seems) they have a right to do so!—If you should place £5000. in gold in the U. Bank, and keep it there it may be for 12 months, the Banker will not allow you any interest for it, because you have no right to have it: but if you were to borrow from him £5. in paper notes for a single week you would have to pay him interest for the same, because he has a right to get it!—If you are residing in your small freehold or Leasehold property & striving to improve the same, & should suffer a few thistles to seed thereon, you would very likely be fined, because you had no right to allow such a nuisance: but if your rich neighbor—the Crown or Licensed occupier—should allow a myriad of thistles to seed, so as even to cover

your grounds, you have no redress because you have no right against it!—The celebrated Maine liquor law (which the people of Wanganui once petitioned for! and) which denies the right of a man to drink liquors—like the Swiss law (in Calvin’s days) which denied the right of a man or a woman to dance—was obliged to be repealed owing to its being unnatural!—and modern history tells us how our British Kings were often obliged (through pressure from without) to yield their *right* to veto the wishes and acts of their Councillors, (as, for instance, in the American War, the Roman Catholic Emancipation, and the Reform Bill,)—while here in N. Zealand a mere Superintendent has dared to stand out on his *right* to veto, not only against the wishes and acts of his Councillors but the general welfare of the Province!

Now, as we have seen how greatly *rights* vary with reference to persons & things, just so it is with *rights* to land. Yet the English laws respecting land are the most stable and firm of any in her Code. The great successional law of England in that of primogeniture—strictly confining the *right* to the first-born: yet, strangely enough, we have there also the rights of borough-english and of gavel-kind!—And numerous particular rights (or customs) of many manors, all which are contrary to the general law of the Land! Further: there are yet many other rights to Land, arising from estates in fee-simple, estates in fee tail, estates at will, estates at sufferance, estates in common, and many others as classified by Blackstone. Now all these, each and every one, confer different rights to the holder, or possessor. Moreover: in considering the nature and definition of *rights*, particularly of rights to land,—there are many other qualifying matters, both in Law and Equity, to be duly noticed:—such as, the extent of the right, the fact which caused it, the manner of its ending, and so on. Questions indeed of fact, embracing evidence to be adduced, as well as questions of law. Morally speaking, it is no very difficult matter to know the standard in conformity with which all rights *ought* to be fixed; that is, the standard which perfect Justice and Equity would set up. But it is no part of my present essay to enquire what rights *ought* to be declared fixed and unalterable.—

III. On Law.

Not a few persons have both thought & spoken as if Law was altogether the same with Justice & Equity; or, at all events, as if it necessarily comprehended them. Such a belief is not only wrong but is also a fruitful source of error. Many laws are interested and capricious; some are very far from being just; while others there are which are pernicious & opposed to the welfare & advancement of the people.—It has been pretty stoutly contested that to break any law involved moral guilt; this argument however is not often advanced in our days. Laws were made by our forefathers making it punishable for any one to have partridges in August—for a farmer to kill a hare which lived by stealing his corn—for erecting cottages without annexing 4 ac. of land to ea.—for not burying the dead in woollen, and so on. Now while we here in N.Z. can very well afford to smile at the wisdom of such laws, some among us think that our more modern laws are necessarily better. No doubt there are eternal immutable laws or rules of good; among which are these principles:—That we should live honestly, should hurt nobody, & should render to every one his due; to which 3 general precepts Justinian long ago reduced the whole doctrine of law.—Further:—Laws are not seldom of doubtful meaning; at least, as to some clauses. Now the fairest and most rational method to interpret the will of the legislator, is by finding out his intentions at the time when the law was made by signs the most natural & probable. And these signs are, either the words, context, subject matter, effects & consequence, or the spirit & reason of the law. Of those the most universal & effectual way of discovering the true meaning of a law when the words are dubious, is by considering the reason & spirit of it. And it should be also now commonly known,—that, where two statutes differ, the old one gives place to the new one: that, Acts of Parliament which are impossible to be performed are of no validity; and if there arise out of them collaterally any absurd or unreasonable consequences they are with regard to such void.—

IV. On Equity.

From this method of interpreting laws by the reason of them arises

what is called *Equity*: which has been defined by an eminent lawyer, as “the correction of that, wherein the law (by reason of its universality) is deficient”. For since in laws all cases cannot be foreseen or expressed, it is necessary on account of particular cases there should be somewhere a power vested of defining those circumstances. And such are the cases which, according to Grotius,—“lex no exacte definit, sed arbitrio boni viri permittit.” So that Equity is of two kinds: the one abridges and takes from the letter of the law: the other enlarges & adds to it. Equity, therefore, seems to be the interposing law of reason, and is frequently called in to assist moderate and explain the laws. Now inasmuch as Equity depends essentially upon the particular circumstances of each individual case, there can be no established rules & fixed precepts of Equity laid down, without destroying its very essence and reducing it to a positive law.

Let the attentive reader consider well these marks & outlines of *Rights* and of *Law*, and the principles of *Equity*; and endeavor to follow them to their legitimate and proper conclusion. As, in so doing, he will be the better enabled to form a correct judgment of the value of such sayings, as “Vested Rights”—“Rights of Wellington”—“Infringement of Law,”—and so on; as well as to enter into the subject brought before him.—

VI. *On the Public Money.*

May a person (or party), morally, accept for himself *any* amount of money which a government chooses to give him? No. Then, when the Public Money is offered to any man he is bound in conscience to consider whether he is in equity entitled to it or not. If, not being entitled, he accepts it, he is not an upright man. For who gives it to him? The Government: that is, the trustee of the Public. A Government is in a situation not dissimilar to that of a trustee for a minor. It has no right to dispose of the Public property according to its own will. Whatever it expends, except with a view to the public advantage, is to be regarded as so much fraud; and it is quite manifest that if the government has no right to give, the private person (or party) can have no right to receive.—

Now the great just & fundamental principle, on which not only our Colony of N.Z. but the Australian ones also are based, is, that the Revenue of each Province or District shall be spent within that particular Province or District in which it was raised for the purposes of Colonization—such as, Immigration, Roads & other Public works. Whenever this principle is upheld in its integrity, that Province or District is well governed, & is on the sure road of advancement. The Public Money so spent is both legitimately and properly used. On the contrary, whenever the Public money is drawn aside from its proper objects, & particularly when it is sent out of the Prov. or Dist. in which it was raised, a great & ***** injustice is inflicted on that Province, & on its settlers.—So highly necessary or just did the framers of the Constitution Act (Her Majesty’s Ministers) consider it needful to guard against any infringement of this great principle, as even to insert a clause therein directing “the *surplus* of all Revenue” collected by the genl. Govt. (after all its own proper payments had been made,) to “be divided among the several provinces for the time being established in N.Z. in the like proportion as the gross proceeds of the said revenue shall have arisen therein respectively, and shall be paid over to the respective Treasuries of such provinces for the public use thereof.” (S66.) Very beautiful & strictly just is this mode of acting,—the Genl. Govt. equitably refunding its surplus Revenue to the Provinces—and the Provinces (not absolutely refunding but equitably considering the Districts.—Admirable in theory, most useful in practice, & highly conducive of the public good.—

On the Rights of Wellington to Hawke’s Bay.

Marvellous it is to trace the progress of the huge oak from the acorn. But there never was a time when the living germ of the oak was not to be found within the acorn. Naturally it evolved, & grew, & became a tree. It developed; & it could not possibly help itself. There was however a time when Wellington had *no rights* to or in Hawke’s Bay: then she did not dream of any such, (meaning thereby what she has often since advanced.) For as she knew she did not possess any such *in esse*—she also knew she could not hope for any such *in _____*. And even at this very present time (1860) had no Lands been trans-

ferred by the N. Chiefs to the Genl. Govt., not only would Hawke's Bay not now be a Province, but Wellington would not have any *rights* to any portion of it, whence to satisfy the Public Creditor. It is curious & at the same time instructive to endeavor to ascertain how those so called rights began. Premising my belief that it is the duty of every Govern't. duly to consider & to protect to the utmost vested interests. At first there was merely the Colony of N. Zealand: then, by the Royl. Instructions of 1846, the Islands of N.Z. were divided into two Provinces New Ulster & New Munster: again, in 1848 an alteration was made, by which the Prov. of New Munster was greatly enlarged; for instead of comprising the whole middle Island and "parts *adjacent* to Cook's Straits" (on this the N. Island),—"the whole of the N. Island south of the mouth of Patea River on the W. Coast & running thence due East to the Eastern Coast" (about H. Bay) was added—and which was considered geographically as the N. boundary of Wellgn. Province:—and again, in 1853, those boundaries were further altered by Sir Geo. Grey by Proclamation. In that document, when defining electorally & politically the Prov. of Wellington, he states, "the boundaries of the Districts as being particularly set forth and described in the Schedule annexed." And in the Schedule, describing the Hawke's Bay District, Sir G. Grey proclaims it to be "that portion which has been acquired by the Crown by purchase from the Natives."—The District of H Bay was then much too insignificant to be alone called a Dist., and so it was politically united with Wairarapa, although many leagues of wild uninhabited country and of heavy difficult travelling lay between. Even two years after (in 1855,) what rights Wellington really had in H Bay were deemed to be of so little importance as not even to be touched on by the Suptdt. of that Province in his (long? financial? see) speech on opening the 3rd. Session. Yet the 1st. loan of £50,000 was passed by him & his Council nearly two (?) years before, viz. in Jan'y. 1854. In fact when he speaks of Revenue, & particularly of that to arise from Land, he says,— "in event of sale of Township in the Wairarapa we may calculate upon £4000. from the Territorial Revenue"! while further on, in the same speech, he says:—"our chief ought undoubtedly to connect the Capital of the Province with its two extremities within the shortest possible

period; for it is only by the practical lessening of distances,—by opening up markets to distant places,—by cheapening the transit of produce, that we can hope to maintain our connexion with such remote Districts as Hawke's Bay." Now things are often best detected by their contraries; and a straw thrown up shows which way the wind blows. Here then is the full & elaborate speech of the Suptdt. of the Province; a written speech carefully prepared for the occasion; made too, long after the period of the first Loan; and yet there is evidently little or no Revenue expected from Hawke's Bay, and only a faint hope expressed of even maintaining connexion with such a remote district, save by the quick performance of impossibilities! Here we have true and disinterested speaking: but what an announcement! How pregnant with meaning! How very much may be gathered from it as to the *rights* of Wellington in Hawke's Bay at that time, and what he really expected from H. Bay towards her Loan! A financier & Contractee of a heavy Loan also Superintendent of a Province thus shutting his eyes to his rights to the chief source whence the Revenue was to be derived by which the Loan was to be met? Imagine such if you can.

On the Wellington Loans.

Wellington first elected her Superintendent of Provl. Council in 1853. And in the very first Session held in Decr. in that year, she passed an Act enabling her to borrow £50,000—this was her *first* Loan. At that time she was not in debt; she had in the Treasury; and an estimated Rev. (for the follg. year) of £ . This Loan was to be obtained on the "Public Revenue of the Province." On referring to her own recorded estimates for that year, we find, as follows:—

ordinary Customs Revenue	
extraordy. Territorial d—	_____

clearly shewing both the main item of the "Public Revenue of the Province" at the time of seeking the Loan, and what must have been believed to be the main source of repayment. Now the Schedule annexed to the said Act further shews, that this Loan when obtained was to be expended for Wellington.

Not content with her first essay at borrowing, she soon sought to raise a second Loan. Although every year her real Revenue greatly exceeded the estimated one. In 1856, we find her with an estimated Revenue of £38,244—including a large balance in the Public Chest of £15,000, money refunded by the Genl. Govt. Yet in Feby. 1857 she again passed an Act to enable her to obtain another sum of £50,000; which money (by the same Act) was to be spent on her *Public Works*. Strange to say, in the same session, & in the following week! she passed anor. Act to enable her to borrow a 3rd. Loan of £25,000 which sum was for 4 *special purposes*, enumerated in the sd. (Act).

On the Revenue drawn by Wn. fm. H. Bay

For some time H. Bay was not thought much of by Wellington; or rather the portions of H. Bay which had early been acqd. by the Crown. Those Lands however were immy. licensed as sheepruns, at a mere nominal sum; so small (owing to the few sheep which each Run-holder had & the rent then being taken pr. head instead of per acre) as to be scarcely worth collecting. What was mainly desired (as now) was the large area of open country called the Ahuriri Plains—which is still (after 7 years) in the hands of its native Proprietors.

However, the folks at Wellington, and others, holders of the N.Z. Company's *scrip*, soon found, that it was far better to lay that paper out in the purchase of the good lands of Ahuriri than to keep it still locked up in their desks. Hence much of the best portions of those Lands were paid for in *scrip*. Which, while it greatly injured Hawke's Bay, and raised no revenue for Wellington Govt., it did most largely for Wellington people; being just like a gold diggings to them. However, as Hawke's Bay got better known, so her Revenue steadily increased; so that we find (as clearly shewn from official Documents, in her Petition to the Ho. of Representatives for Separation from Wellington,) the aggregate amount of Land & Customs Revenue, up to they end of 1857, was upwards of £50,000; about half of which was realized in that year only so rapid had been her advance.—To which there remains to be added the Revenue during 10 months of the follg. year, 1858, amounting to £ : forming a gross total of £_____

On the Conduct of Wellgn. towards H. Bay

Under this head it is not my intention to enter closely into the politics of the time in which Hawke's Bay remained a dist. of the Prov. of Wn. Sufficient for my purpose will it be to state what Wellington did for H.B.,—the Province for the District.—the mother for the daughter.—

In 1854, Hawke's Bay first received an official Resident in a Land Commissioner who was also Resident Magistrate: this boon however was not granted by Wellington—very far indeed from it—but by the then Govr. Sir G. Grey on the eve of his leaving the Colony. To the said R. Mag. & Commissr. Wellington wou. not even grant an office or Court-room! Many were the letters and not a few the remonstrances written during the first 3 years with the hopes of getting a host of real & pressing wants supplied or alleviated—but with small success. —For a long period this cold neglect was borne with, principally from the people of Hawke's Bay having too much to attend to in their own private affairs; but when they saw their revenue (now large) almost wholly taken from them, (in direct opposition to all the principles of Colonization—principles, too, which had been most strenuously fought for by Wellgn. in former years for herself,)—saw, moreover, no attention whatever shewn to her request—no likelihood of anything like Justice from Wellington—and that Wellington, not content with her large Revenue, was going headlong into debt,—H. Bay made a strong & united effort to disentangle herself ere she should be completely ruined.—Words however are not needed from me to shew the strange cold conduct of Wellington—because we have far better in her own recorded figures.—In the Appropriation Bills passed by the Wellington Provl. Council for 1856 & 1857, (to go no further back,) we have under the heads of Public Expenditure, the following items:—

For the year 1856.

	Wellington	Ahuriri
Public Buildings————	£1,500	£200
Roads, Bridges, &c————	19,605	£1,000
(This sum of £1000. though voted was never spent).		

For the year 1857.

Public Buildings————	£11,179	0
Roads*————	£45,990	£5,000.
Bridges————	3,284	0
Canals————	0	250
Addl. works————	17,000	0
(£5000. was voted for a Road from Ruataniwha to Napier, of this a very small portion was expended; £50. was to make “Shakespeare Road through Scinde Island to the port;” of the £250. for a Canal none was spent.)		

It may not be amiss here to give the whole total amount as voted by the Wn Provl Council for the year 1857.

Total amount of Expenditure voted =	£183,097.0.0
Of this, was voted for Ahuriri—	
as above, £5050, & £250.—	£5300.
Sub Treasurer Napier——	£100.
Rations, clothing & contingencies Napier—	50.
Harbour Napier not extended————	190.*
Postman to Waipukurau————	82.2.6
422.2.6	

Add to wh. Salaries of Surveyor &c not distinctly stated.

* Pilot & Ferryman	£125.)
Contingencies <i>Wellington</i> & N——	25.)
Boat————	40.)

* omitting £20,000 additional, voted for Road from Masterton thro 70 m. Bush.

[The essay notes end here—Ed].

The Bibby letter

One Sunday in March 2015 Frith Driver-Burgess, who was Research Assistant with Prof Sydney Shep, working on the Colenso papers,

“... had a chance conversation with Paul Frater after church at St Michael’s Kelburn, in which he told me that his wife, Marion, had a letter in her family from Colenso, and I should ring her to discuss it. This I did, and I arranged to see Marion on Thursday the 17th March. Marion emailed me a scan of the letter and some information about the family in the meantime, which I passed on to Sydney Shep (Colenso Project supervisor) and Melissa Bryan (Colenso Project researcher).

“I met with Marion on the 17th at her home in Kelburn, and discussed the letter and the history of her family, the Bibbys, with her.

“The history of the letter begins when it was sent from William Colenso to Edward Bibby at his store in Waipawa, from which his wife, Mary Woodford Bibby, ran a mail-order business. Edward and Mary Woodford Bibby are Marion’s great-grandparents. The store was run after them by their son, James, until it was sold in 1923 to Bryant and Co. Marion Frater (b. 1949) recalls that the letter was part of a cache of family papers belonging to her grandfather, Edward Bibby (second son of Mary and Edward Woodford Bibby). This cache was discovered at her grandfather’s house (possibly after his decease?) when Marion was a small child, in a wicker chest. Marion believes the paper was part of a bound ledger, several of which were in the chest, and was removed by her father (Athol Bibby, b. 1918) as a keepsake (possibly by tearing it out of a binding, possibly a pin binding). The fate of

the rest of the chest's contents is unknown, though it may be in the Central Hawkes Bay Settlers Museum, founded by the Bibby family. The letter was given to Marion as an adult, and has been kept by her, recently in the care of her lawyers.

“During our discussion, Marion kindly agreed to loan the original letter to the Colenso Project....

“Misc. notes from conversation with Marion

“The Bibby store was built in 1862.... More information on Mary Ann Woodford Bibby can be found in *Petticoat Pioneers*. Local Māori called the Bibby family ‘Pipi’. Her grandfather Edward Bibby II taught Sunday School at Te Paru Pā, and as a mark of respect from local Māori had a cloak laid over his coffin at his death.... Marion had not heard of Colenso owning land in Waipawa or adjacent to her family’s store....”

The letter

Mr. E. Bibby

Waipawa

Dear Sir,

For some three weeks past I have been looking out to hear from you.—The cause is just this.—

On this day in May, I returned from my long sojourn in the bush: here I found 3 letters awaiting me, written by that Maori I had spoken to you about; 2 of them were from Waipawa, begging me to increase the amount of my little order on you. At first sight I was unwilling to do so, but as he was

Napier, June 17/84

there and waiting, I wrote to him the next day, enclosing a note to you—to let him have goods up to £2.—And, as he had told me he had left some seeds of Coast trees with you for me (which I had also, a month or more before, requested him to do), I asked you to forward the package to me at once—if (say) a pound weight by mail—if larger by train.

Not hearing from you, and fearing I might lose the said seeds,—my man went to the Station to enquire: but nothing for me was there:—I could not understand it. But last week a Maori came to me from t’other, to enquire Why had I never answered his letters? And then I found that he had gone back to the coast the day before I had posted mine! Since then he has got my letter from Waipawa: but I doubt if he may soon revisit you. Therefore, my dear Sir, I write, to ask you to send me that packet (as above) if it were left with you.

I suppose you have had your share of this present rain; it has been heavy here, and it is still falling, with no prospect of change: I fear, the low lands will be heavily flooded.

I had very fine weather while away in the bush, and excellent health there, & came away in good health and spirits: but 2 young women who got in at Waipukurau (my only companions down) must have the sash down into and through the cold dark winter’s night! the consequence to me was a fearful attack of Bronchitis, which confined me a fortnight, & very nearly sufficed for me! I am only now getting round again. I hope you all are well. Believe me,—

Yours truly, W. Colenso.

Colenso did own quite a number of sections of land at Waipawa and adjacent Abbotsford, as the maps of his holdings at the time of his death show (overleaf).

Bibby's store was on Ruataniwha Road (now Tikokino road), backing onto the river and Colenso may have bought the two blocks next to it at auction in July 1878,

ABBOTSFORD.

, Portion of Sec. No. 1 (Block 16 and 46, Patangata District) containing about 38 perches, with 135 links frontage to the Ruataniwha Road; together with shop and dwelling-house thereon. The above section adjoins Mr Bibby's store, and is one of the best business sites in Waipawa.

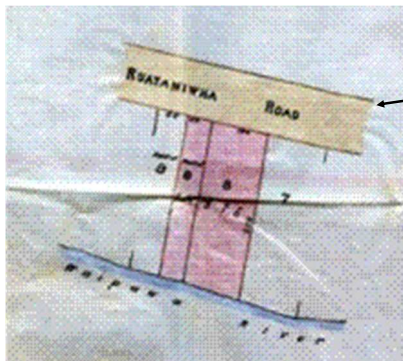
Terms at sale.

Sale at 2 p.m.

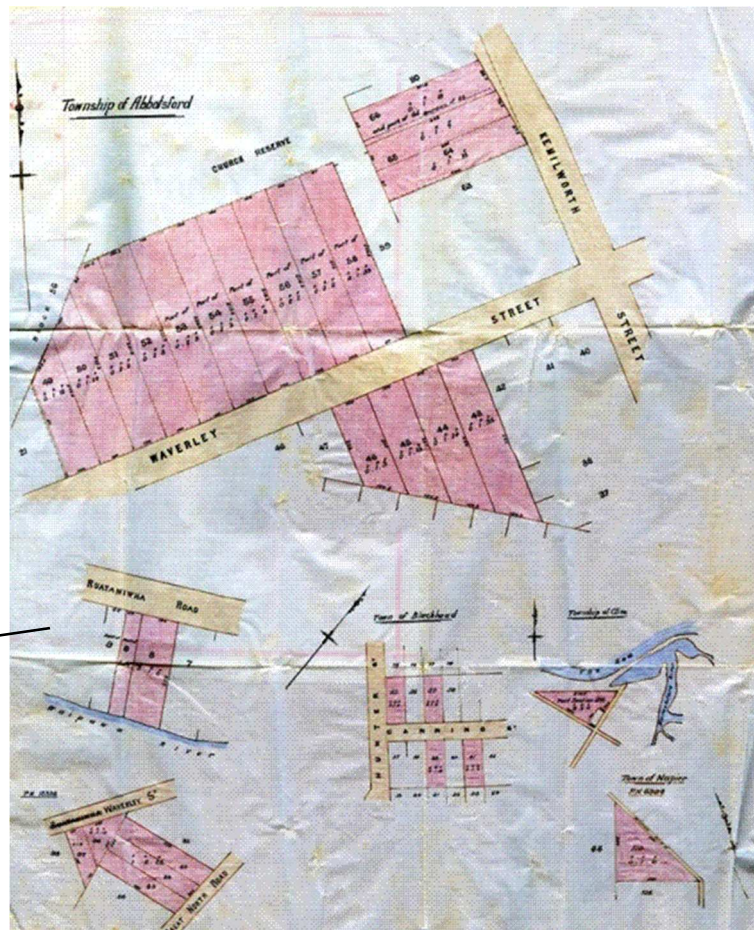
JOSEPH J. TYE,

Auctioneer.

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Maps showing Colenso's rural land holdings, from his probate documents at MTG Hawke's Bay, from Stewart Webster's *Sainsbury Logan & Williams*, 2011.



Actually two other letters from Colenso to Edward Bibby have, surprisingly, survived (MTG HB 57795),

Napier, July 2/87

*E. Bibby, Esq.
Waipawa.
Dear Sir*

Permit me to trouble you with the following request:—About 10 days ago I received a note from your C.C.C. Tuelly—informing me, he had to proceed against defaulters for Rates, & so he called on me for 6/3, without saying, what for, or for what period:—I replied, saying, I was not aware I owed any, & doubted it:—last year I had leased to B.B. Johnson my only remaining unlet section at Waipawa, & he was to pay all local rates, & I the Propy. Tax: so I referred him to Johnson.—

As I have not heard from him (or anyone there) since, and have seen in our papers a statement re many Voters losing their votes at the coming election, owing to their non-payment of Rates;—and not wishing to lose my vote, I have thought of asking you to ascertain how it stands with me. It may be “all right,” and I hope it is: of one thing I am quite sure—I never received any “demand for Rates” that has not been paid. If this sum (or any sum) is still debited to me for Rates—will you kindly pay it for me—and I will repay with thanks.—

I hope you are keeping well, also Mrs. Bibby: our winter is passing by: here we have had a few cold mornings. With kind regards, I am, Dear Sir

Yours truly

W. Colenso.

P.S. Do not trouble yourself to write a reply.

Napier, 11th. July, 1887.

*E. Bibby, Esq
Waipawa.*

My dear Sir,

I feel very much obliged to you for your kind note of 8th. instant, and also for all the trouble you have so readily taken in that matter of Rates. Had Mr. Tuelly, in his note, explained (however briefly) what they were for, & the time, &c.,—or had he replied to my note in which I had made enquiry, I should not have troubled you: I thank you, dear Sir, most heartily.—

I am now writing to Mr. Johnson (re rent, ½ year due on 1st. inst.) and have mentioned the Rates—“6/3.” saying,—If for 1886, & unpaid by me, then I will pay them.—

Mr. Johnson spoke to me here in town in the early summer (soon after my visit to Waipawa) I think in Octr., or Novr.—not later: and an agreement was then made; but, somehow, the lease was not drawn, or executed, for some time, and so the date of Jan. 1st./87, &c., was filled in:—but it will be all right—I suppose.—

I really regret my being no longer a voter among you! not that I ever exercised that right,—still, such might come, or be, useful:—who knows?

With kind regards,

Believe me, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

W. Colenso.

Colenso set the following problem for students at Waipawa School during his 1873 visit as School Inspector: “A B C D went into partnership. A put into the business £674/13/6 for 4 yrs, 5 mths, 19 days. B put in £2463/14/8 for 2 yrs, 3 mths, 24 days. C put in £896/17/9 for 6 yrs, 8 mths, 17 days. D put in £346/18/7 for 3 yrs 4 mths. Their

gross gain was £2487/13/2 and expenses in working the business was £596/15/9. I wish to know the nett gain and what was each partner's share." The problem was answered correctly by James Woodhouse Bibby (1862–1959) an 11 year old Form I boy. Inspector Colenso presented him with a book as a prize. (See *eCol 2*, 2010).

The Bibbys were not, of course, the only ones to mark their respect for Colenso by holding on to his letters. Are there more treasures out there yet?

Bibby's store was often in the news,

Last night between 8 and 9 o'clock as Mr Jones was coming from the Bush by the river side he heard much splashing and outcry on the upper sides of the breakwater behind Bibby's store, and proceeding to ascertain the cause he found a man who had apparently been trying to wade through the river, but quite exhausted with his struggles. Jones at once went into the water to rescue him, the place being a rather deep hole, taking him by the middle, he succeeded in dragging him up on the bank with difficulty, and then sought assistance at the Settlers' Hotel, which house was too full to accommodate the man. Finding the constable and some others, Jones left the man in their charge and returned home to change his clothes. In the meantime the all but drowned man was found to be drunk and so got quarters in the lock up, and will possibly be heard of during to-day.

—*Daily Telegraph* 18 June 1886 (winter)

Now that the Waipawa river has fallen, one can better see the damage done to the ford. There are now three streams. The one on the town side will soon be very shallow in places, while the main stream flows on the south side, where it was before the groins were erected by the railway department, the ends of which, having been undermined, have sunk down, and do not now so persistently throw the water against the town. The County Council's overseer is going to call for tenders for lengthening the breakwater behind Bibby's store, for about a chain, but as I understand, on a new and novel principle, which has been used with good effect by the Wairau Rivers Board in Marlborough for conserving the rivers there. It may almost be described as a sort of post and wire fence, and acts by interrupting the current, and so causes it to deposit the floating or travelling shingle. The late floods have carried away a good deal of native land on the east side of the bridge, and the water runs near to the pah, only a small patch of cultivated land intervening. Travellers crossing the ford have to swim their horses, unless they keep well up stream.

—*Daily Telegraph* 27 June 1887

These laudably direct, deceptively simple but concentrated paragraphs exemplify the writing of the *Telegraph's* Waipawa Correspondent, William Frederick Howlett BA, whose biography is just published (November 2018).

The good wife

In late February 1852 Colenso and his companions were crossing the Ruahine on the way home to the mission station at Waitangi (where Wiremu was 10 months old). Anticipating their hunger and exhaustion Elizabeth (who “knew all about it very soon after the child’s birth”) wrote caringly to her husband on 25 February (Mitchell Library, Sydney collections),

*Waitangi, Wednesday Eveng
25th. Feb. 1852*

Ki a Neho,

Thinking you may be in want of provisions I send Matiaha¹ with a loaf or 2 – 2 or 3 little apple tarts – an apple or two, a peach (Maori ones) or 2 and a few eggs. There are a few letters in the box from Dixon,² B & Hunter³ – & Mr McLean. An enclosed one from Archdn. W. Williams. heoi ano⁴ letters—. The English goods have arrived & the Wellington ones safely as per Bill of lading 18 packages (8 English).

I send no meat on account of the weather and I have none but salt prov. we having lived upon eels principally since you left.

Saml. & Reb.⁵ I hear are gone to Tuingara⁶ to take goods upon trust.

1. Colenso referred to Matiaha as “my household lad” in his journal.

2. Dixon & Co., London agents.

3. Bethune & Hunter, Wellington agents.

4. Heoi ano = that’s all.

5. Samuel & Rebecca, Hamuera & Ripeka, Colenso’s mistress and her husband.

6. Tuingara Point is near Pouterere.

Colenso’s journal, February 1852

- 12 Left [Waitangi] this morning.... travelled on till dusk, when we halted in a forsaken potatoe plantation....
- 13 ... travelled steadily all day until an hour after sunset.... Our course was chiefly in the bed of the river [Tutaekuri] On leaving the river, we ascended its steep banks, and journeyed on over some high table land ...
- 14 ... we reached a very romantic spot called O’wakau, where the rocky cliffs had been rent into ragged chasms... in about 2 hours we hit upon... Paul’s [i.e. Paul Kaiwata, a chief] track....
- 15 [at the same place].
- 16 ... in less than 3 hours we had surmounted Te Kohurau... a high hill seen from the Mission Station... up and down steep hills, some very high and difficult... until iii p.m., when I saw far beneath me Te Ngaururoro River and the... ford Kuripapango... crossed to the opposite shore, and... resumed our march.... the summit.... reached the spot where I had intended to pass the night.
- 17 ... [over] the dreaded trackless upland moors of Taruarau.... By iii. p.m., we had quite entered on the great plains...
- 18 ... At the little stream of Mangohane... we halted to breakfast... pushing steadily on reached the Rangitikei river by ii. p.m... crossed... proceeded, keeping on till near Sunset, when... we agreed to halt....
- 20 Less than 3 hours travelling this morning took us to Matuku... 20-22 [at Matuku].
- 23 left Matuku at ii. p.m... to Te Awarua... We reached it by Sunset....
- 24 ... left Te Awarua... by my old path over the Ruahine mountain-range. At sunset we halted on Puke Taramea....
- 25 ... halted at Te Wareohinekiri, a sleeping-place a little below the top of the E. side of the range.
- 26 ... descend... through the forests to the river... travelled on till sunset, ... in the bed of the river Makororo
- 27 ... full 4 hours before I got [to Motuowai]... travelled on, over many a weary a mile of hill and plain, till ... we reached Te Aute village....
- 28 ... By sunset... we had reached Okokoro; and keeping steadily on... we gained the Station [Waitangi] by 3 o’Clock on Sunday morning the 29th. —

Suffering

The Book of Job 7, 6th century BCE

4 When I lie down, I say, When shall I arise, and the night be gone? and I am full of tossings to and fro unto the dawning of the day.

5 My flesh is clothed with worms and clods of dust; my skin is broken, and become loathsome.

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.

Colenso to Balfour, 20 August 1885

Just now, and from Sat 8th I am very so so. I fear I have a boil (or something worse) coming slowly under my seat, close in to crease of thigh, & I cannot *sit*, save a few min at a time, & then in *great pain*. I fear too, it is of the kind called *Carbuncle* (of which I have had several in former years, the last about 35 years ago). I assure you my life has been miserable of late; so much to be done, and cannot get about it!! I potter about on my legs to fill up the day, & then at night, no sleep, or but little or broken.—just too months since I was attacked with Lumbago, & scarcely a sound *whole day* since.—I am pretty free from Rheumatism—& in other respects well—but this last visitant—upsets me—

Science & religion

—'Every increase in science —
that is, in positive & ascertained
knowledge — brings with it an elevation
of religion. x x x The immense serv-
ices which science has thus rendered
to the cause of religion and humanity
has not yet received the recognition
which it deserves. Science is still
regarded by many excellent but
narrow-minded ~~and~~ persons, as
hostile to religious truth, while
in fact she is only opposed to
religious error. The time is ap-
proaching when it will be generally
perceived that, so far from science
being opposed to religion, true re-
ligion without science is impos-
sible.' — (Sir John Lubbock, *Origin of Civil-
ization*, p. 292.)



The gilt christening mug and cutlery set given by Queen Victoria to her godson Albert Victor Pomare when Elizabeth Colenso took them to Windsor Palace. The party had been presented to Queen Victoria at Osborne House, on the Isle of Wight, in July 1863. The Queen noticed that Hariata Pomare was pregnant and expressed a wish to be the child's godmother. Hariata and Hare Pomare then went to stay with Elizabeth Colenso in Tottenham, at the Queen's expense. Albert Victor was born on 26 October 1863. He was the first Maori known to have been born in England. Victoria sent the child a green morocco leather case containing a gilt cup, knife, spoon and fork. Albert Victor was baptised at St Paul's, Tottenham, on 3 December 1863. The next day the couple and their son were presented to the Queen and her daughters at Windsor Castle by Elizabeth Colenso. The Queen admired the baby and questioned Elizabeth Colenso about Hariata's health. The mug and cutlery are kept at the Waitangi Treaty grounds and we are grateful to Caitlin Timmer-Arends for supplying the images.

See <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1p21/pomare-hare> for more.

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