A bibliography of the literature relating to New Zealand

Hocken Thomas Morland
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A BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF THE LITERATURE RELATING TO
NEW ZEALAND.

BY
T. M. HOCKEN,
AUTHOR OF "CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE EARLY HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND," ETC.

"HE MAHI NUI RAWA ATU."
—Maori saying.

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INTRODUCTION.

The literature relating to New Zealand is not only unusually interesting but is unusually extensive. Fifty years ago, in the preface to his fascinating "Story of New Zealand," Dr. Thomson stated that at that time, and when the colony was but twenty years old, there had been printed concerning it no less than ninety volumes, two hundred pamphlets, and a hundredweight of parliamentary papers. The subjoined sketch will further indicate how numerous have been the stirring incidents and important events making the history of this young country; and these have, fortunately, never lacked the service of competent chroniclers.

From the time when Tasman first placed on the map of the globe that streak, so like a note of interrogation, which announced his discovery of New Zealand there has attached to it an unabated and curious interest. To him it was the Ultima Thule of the world, and it represented a part of that geographical Will-o’-the-wisp, the Terra Australis Incognita, which so long engaged the quarrelsome controversies of the learned in their attempts to provide for the due balance of the globe itself.

When the genius of Cook—"Oceani Investigator Acerrimus"—so accurately unfolded its coasts, and so graphically told its first story, a halo of romance gathered round it which was never wholly dispersed until the advent of steam and electricity.

Bold sailors approached its shores with dread, for within them were enacted terrible scenes of ferocity, massacre, and cannibalism. Yet in strong contrast were the peaceful labours of the Protestant mission, almost the earliest in Pacific seas, and founded by the apostolic Marsden. By them, as is usual with such labours, was the way prepared for future trade and settlement. Moved by the spirit of adventure and of scientific research, voyagers, chiefly of English and French nationality, were from the first attracted to the little-known shores. The records of these visits, together with the letters and journals of
the missionaries, form a special chapter of this literature, though it is greatly to be deplored that much of this material has been destroyed, either purposely or by accident.

The time at length arrived when permanent settlement was accomplished by the New Zealand Company under the scheme devised by Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and since known by his name. The circumstances attending this important movement were dramatic enough — refused assistance, as it was, by a hostile Colonial Office, bitterly opposed and thwarted by the powerful Church Missionary Society, and endangered by the designs of the French. Whilst these events no doubt contribute largely to the number of those documents whose weight is computed by Dr. Thomson in avoirdupois, they form another important historic chapter.

So raised to the status of a British colony, the successive events in its history never lacked the old qualities of stirring incident and interest. Amongst these may be noted the mode of its early development by means of various semi-isolated special settlements; the fierce and repeated struggles of the colonists with a native race intelligent though savage; and the important concession of self-government, which was amongst the earliest conferred upon the colonies. This latter boon was speedily followed by an exceedingly active political life. Add to all this the unusual good fortune of having amongst the pioneers and founders of the colony men of distinction and culture, and the materials for an extensive literature are again evident.

Untramelled by old traditions, New Zealand has of late years imposed upon herself the task of grappling anew with many of those social problems which the Mother-country has in vain endeavoured to solve. What the result may be lies in the future, but the present strenuous efforts of the daughter colony are watched with absorbing interest by many outside her borders, and have already added another weighty chapter to recent history.

Although the bright skies, exhilarating climate, and glorious scenery of New Zealand, apart from events in its history, abundantly provide material from which the poet, painter, novelist, and he who treads the more arduous paths of literature draw life and inspiration, still the genius to worthily unfold and interpret such treasures has not yet descended.

The birth of the poet is still awaited. Perhaps his advent is not far distant, and may, indeed, be heralded by that yearly increasing burden of song, which here and there is lightened by undoubted talent, rhythm, and beauty. Perhaps incessant struggle with the hardships of colonial life has hitherto stifled that emotional quality which,
deeply stirring the mind and heart, is indeed the veritable touchstone of true poetry.

Something akin may be asserted of the painter and his art. Whilst New Zealand scenery has been depicted by two or three accomplished artists with a force and spirit worthy of comparison with the best examples, yet the superior height of genre and historical painting has been but little attempted, despite the wealth of available material. To this assertion one or two exceptions should be made, as in "The Setting-out of the Maori from Hawaiki" and "The Coming of the Maori," both in the Auckland Public Gallery. Special studies awaiting the artist's brush are incidents in the desery by Tasman, the discovery by Cook, the introduction of the Gospel by Samuel Marsden, the arrival of the first settlers, and the signing of the Treaty of Wai-tangi. The literature to assist in the interpretation of these subjects is abundant, and is set forth in the following pages.

Fiction and the lighter class of literature have mostly taken the shape of serial and descriptive story, with little attempt so far to emulate the culture and sustained effort of the best novelists. With regard to scientific, historical, and certain other literary work the case is, happily, different, and it may truly be averred that no young country has contributed so much of a high character to the general stock of such knowledge as New Zealand.

After Dr. Thomson's very full list, which is appended to the second volume of his work, and contains nearly five hundred references, the first attempt at New Zealand bibliography was made by Mr. J. D. Davis, of Auckland, whose small volume (q.v.) appeared in 1887. As the title indicates, it is incomplete, and it is, moreover, often incorrect. In 1889 appeared the bibliography by Mr. J. Collier, the former accomplished librarian of the General Assembly Library at Wellington. This gentleman possessed every qualification for his task, and the present author expresses his sincere regret that ill health and consequent departure from New Zealand prevented Mr. Collier from pursuing such further literary work as would no doubt have included a more complete second edition.

The volume now before the reader is the outcome of continuous research undertaken through a long series of years in the intervals of leisure from the demands of an exacting profession. A cursory inspection will show how frequently the author has strayed from the ordinary track of a bibliography. He has introduced many little sidelights, biographical references, dates, and other special points, and an attempt has been made to run throughout a thread of historical interest.
Another feature, decided on after much consideration, is the giving of a full list of the contents and illustrations of the rarer and least-known works, such as Thévenot, de Brosses, Callander, Dalrymple, the early French voyagers, Webber, Angas, and others. The idea was that the contents of these rare volumes being thus, as it were, focussed might prove of great assistance to the student engaged in a special line of research. Similarly are collected at some length many publications of another class, but also of rarity, such as the reports of the New Zealand Company, the Colonial Gazette, the New Zealand Journal, the Australian and New Zealand Gazette, the Karere Maori, and the Government Gazette. The last of these, in its earlier numbers at least, is not only rare, but extremely puzzling to collate.

Whilst every effort has been made to make this record complete, it is probable that many items must have escaped enumeration. Any such omissions are almost certainly of little moment, and it is not unlikely that they are chiefly confined to the long list of versifiers whose contributions, as before stated, form a yearly heavy burden. This seems the proper place to thank Mr. Bertram Stevens, of Sydney, for the long list of recent versifiers to be found in the Addenda.

Though the chronological order has been adhered to throughout this work, the index is a corrective to the difficulty that might be found by a student in searching for any particular subject of which he desires to make a special study. A feature of the index is that it provides a series of “subject heads.”

A word should here be said with regard to the enumeration of the newspapers of the colony. The number of these is so extensive that the author decided to detail those alone which were issued during the earlier days of the colony.

The recent increasing association between New Zealand and the Antarctic makes it advisable to specify Dr. Mill’s important bibliography of between eight and nine hundred references which is appended to the Royal Geographical Society’s “Antarctic Manual,” published in 1901. Dr. Cockayne has also published a bibliography relative to the outlying islands of New Zealand and elsewhere, in the “Transactions of the New Zealand Institute” for 1903, Vol. xxxvi, p. 326.

It but remains to express the author’s most grateful thanks to the Government Printing Department for unremitting care and attention during the progress of this work. The Government Printer has taken great interest in it, both before and since it was placed in his hands. The Supervisor’s remarkable knowledge of his work has
been of the most constant and inestimable value. The Reader, upon whom the compilation of the index principally devolved, has also rendered invaluable service. To his work may well be applied the Maori saying on the title-page, "He mahi nei rawa atu"—"Truly this is a very laborious deed." No pains have been spared to make the index comprehensive and copious.

The end sought will be accomplished if the student derives as much satisfaction and advantage from the use of this bibliography as the author has derived pleasure from its preparation.

T. M. HOCKEN.

Dunedin, 1st June, 1909.
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