

3. *My present engagements, viz.* :—Paid public duties. I am now Inspector of Schools for this Province; this office takes up quite half of my available (or sound) time; and those duties are (generally) of such a nature as to become a necessary relaxation to me.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that I cannot possibly have any very satisfactory or practicable "proposal" to make; and I shrink from making any which I could not fulfil.

Again, it must not be forgotten that the work is still incomplete; from its very nature it is different in this respect from almost any other. Words under A (the *first* letter) cannot possibly be any farther advanced towards completion than those under Z (the *last* letter), perhaps, indeed, not so far advanced; seeing that the last letter, having fewer under it, might be the sooner filled up.

Therefore, under all the circumstances, the only feasible proposal that I can at present make, is the following, *viz.*—to proceed at once to do all that I can to get a portion of the work, though incomplete, ready for the press (say, from A onwards); the first parcel to be forwarded to you in January next, the same to be (if possible) followed by other portions throughout the summer; by so doing, a small part of the work would be ready for members by their next session. Meanwhile (and *after* the prorogation of the General Assembly) I will correspond through you with the Government Printer as to the manner, &c., of its being printed. I should be very sorry for it to be printed without my revision of the sheets; that, too, being work to which I have been accustomed.

I will thank you to let me know at your early convenience whether you agree to the above-mentioned proposal.

The Hon. the Native Minister, Wellington.

I have, &c.;
WM. COLENZO.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBUXY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1873.

[Price 3d.]