

THE
NEW ZEALAND JOURNAL
W. H. BURNAND'S COPY

USERS of the volumes of the *New Zealand Journal* and of certain sets of the British Parliamentary Papers in the Alexander Turnbull Library have been intrigued by the copious notes, drawings, maps and newspaper cuttings inserted by the original owner of these valuable records. The name of this original owner, W. H. Burnand, appears on the front covers and the initials sometimes appear in the margins. Who was he? The public records and ordinary biographical sources have no knowledge of him. An attempt is now made to gather together what may be known about him from his own manuscript notes in his books and the few letters he contributed to the *Journal*.

Whoever he was, he spent much time and presumably no small sum of money in informing himself in a most thorough way on New Zealand and the possibilities opened up by its colonization. He was probably one of a type of investor who stood behind the New Zealand Company and whose services have scarcely received recognition by the historians of this country. The absentee proprietors as a class have not commended themselves to our people, yet a perusal of these volumes gives the impression that this particular proprietor made a contribution of real value to the new enterprise.

Unfortunately there is not much in these volumes which leads to any intimate knowledge of the personality of their first owner. The earliest of these meagre notices occurs in his own handwriting : 'C. H. Kettle called on me 9th September at Sandh.' The abbreviation apparently refers to Sandhurst which suggests some military connection. This suggestion is strengthened by a letter copied in manuscript, at the end of Volume VII, from the Under-Secretary, Colonial Department, to W. H. Burnand, Esq. . . .

*N.Z.J. vol. iv, p. 218.