

Does this mean that Burnand had hopes of a military post in New Zealand? On the other hand he is never referred to by any military title; he is generally addressed as 'Esquire' and often as plain 'Mister'.

Whether a military man or not, he had no lack of money to invest. His methods and his hopes are revealed in a letter to the editor written from 2 Burlington Gardens and printed in Volume IV, No. 316, on 9th December, 1843. After defending the absentee owners he goes on:

'In 1839 my agent was appointed to select the land on any terms recognized as reasonable on the spot; but to be reasonable in treating with a useful tenant; one that would go to work and clear the land in earnest, should have the use of the land free for a number of years, and be rewarded for every acre got into approved cultivation at the rate of £400 for every 100 acres of the first land, and assisted to build a dwelling house for his family. The country sections are, I am informed, favourably situated in the Porirua Valley distant 8 miles from Wellington, with a good road passing each of them; with all this I have the land unoccupied. The town sections have been let three years without procuring any rent. I last year changed my agents for more active persons; they have been instructed how to proceed and all necessary papers delivered over to them more than 18 months without having a single advice on the subject! I am served much in the same way at New Plymouth and Nelson!! All my liberality has ended in disappointment, vexation and disgust at such enterprizes.'

The New Zealand Company then comes in for severe criticism for its share in the muddle. Among other references to this land there is a paragraph from a letter from Charles Heaphy to himself giving an encouraging description of the property and revealing that Heaphy was his first agent.

I have obtained your land in the Porirua Valley, one being about a mile from the harbour and the other, say, 4 miles covered with fine timber and soil of the richest description having been manured for ages by a deposit of vegetable matter.*

Elsewhere the trees are described as Tawa trees which associates the district with that now known as Tawa Flat. Among the many hand-drawn maps in the volumes there is more than one showing the position of these sections.

*Vol. 2 No. 284, 7 July, 1841.