

and a school and a secretaryship were discussed. He spent much time with Alfred Domett: he stayed with Swainson at the Hutt, and with Weld at Flaxbourne. Here he was when he felt the severe earthquake that did such damage in Wellington.

His school in Nelson endured only a few months: he found fees difficult to collect, and books almost impossible to obtain. It was therefore with something of relief that he welcomed the invitation of Sir William Denison, Governor of Van Diemen's Land, to accept the post of Inspector of Schools. The offer was largely due to Captain Charles Stanley, brother of Dean A. P. Stanley, who had published the standard *Life and Correspondence of Dr. Arnold* (1844). Captain Stanley, then in service in Hobart Town, died before Arnold took up the position.

Here Arnold lived busily and happily till 1856. The letters, however, end in 1850, just after his marriage to Julia Sorell, daughter of the registrar of deeds. Some of his charming and devoted love-letters to her are in this series.

His letters manifest his devotion to his mother and sisters, and particularly his boundless affection for his brother Matthew. His strong religious feeling is evident here, too, and presages his later and greater concern with spiritual matters. His conversion to Roman Catholicism is said to have evoked such comment that he decided in 1856 to take leave, from which he never returned.

Thomas Arnold records much of this, but in less detail, in his *Passages in a Wandering Life* (1900), which depicts a life of singular variety and scholastic attainment.

The subjoined excerpts may give an idea of the writer's easy style and interesting comments on the early New Zealand scene.

The "John Wickliffe,"

Off the Shore.

My Dearest Mother,

Thursday evening [25th November 1847] . . . The pilot has just come in to say that he intends taking the ship thro' the Downs tonight, should the wind, as he expects, get round to the North. This pilot is a strange character . . . He is an astute reasoner, and floors most