

while Marsden reported that he had learnt to repeat the Lord's Prayer Kendall referred to his friendship with the convict Richard Stockwell and to his use of bad language.⁵ The contradictions reappear in the accounts of Tuai when after much travelling abroad he settled again among his tribe. In 1820 Major R. A. Cruise of the *Dromedary* described him as 'without exception the greatest savage, and one of the most worthless and profligate men in the Bay of Islands'.⁶ Dumont d'Urville, however, while sceptical of Tuai's motives, reported that during the visit of the *Coquille* in 1824, the captain, officers and men 'had nothing but praise for him; and I have often admired the tact and shrewdness which enabled this native to realise with whom he had to deal and by what means he could commend himself to all'.⁷

When Tuai boarded the *Dromedary* and *Coquille* in 'gentleman's attire' and cocked hat, Cruise wrote that he might have been a foreign officer and d'Urville took him for an Englishman. Tuai could be all things to all men. The most notable illustration of this adaptability (which was not peculiar to him) and this instinctive tendency to assimilate himself to his surroundings and to the society in which he found himself is now provided in a series of letters recently presented to the Alexander Turnbull Library by Dr G. C. Petersen. They were written by the Reverend George Mortimer of Madeley, Shropshire, with whom Tuai and Titeri stayed for some months in 1818, by Francis Hall and by the young men themselves, to the Reverend Josiah Pratt, secretary of the Church Missionary Society. In 1817, after Tuai and Titeri had spent a couple of years at his Parramatta school, Marsden sent them to London under the care of the C.M.S.⁸

The account of their stay in England, from the spring of 1818 till the end of January 1819 when their homeward bound ship finally cleared the Downs, is recorded mainly in various letters in, or from the archives of the C.M.S. Those presented by Dr Petersen are dated February to October 1818 and refer to the months spent at Madeley. Microfilms of these letters, made when they were in the possession of the late Mr K. A. Webster, were acquired by the Library in 1961, together with additional letters from Francis Hall. Some further letters from Tuai and Titeri, written from London in October 1818 and from the *Baring* in January 1819, and some drawings of Maori motifs done by Tuai, were acquired by the C.M.S. in 1965, and microfilm copies were then sent to the Turnbull Library.⁹

Unlike Moechanga who travelled to England with John Savage in 1805 and Hongi who went with Kendall in 1820, Tuai and Titeri do not seem to have been introduced into the upper ranks of English society, and no record of any public attention to them has so far been noted. They spent their time under the protection of the C.M.S. and its friends. Francis Hall, an earnest young man who had for several