

erroneously, that Colenso had used a *Columbian* from 1834 to print the Maori New Testament and his other early work, and consequently both he and T. M. Hocken believed his 1841 press to be too late to be Colenso's.⁷ However, the fact remains that in July 1842, the Paihia printing house received a new press, described in the inventory drawn up when Colenso handed over control of the press to John Telford, as a 'Columbia', of 'double Crown broadside' size.⁸ In 1891, Colenso recalled having ordered and received a *Columbian*, and having used both it and his original *Stanhope*, but his use of the new press was restricted by a lack of skilled assistance. The *Columbian* had arrived at about the same time as did Bishop Selwyn who brought out a 'little press of his own'. Colenso wrote that this press was of 'scarcely folio press size', and did not think that there was ever much printed on it.⁹ This little press was kept separate from those belonging to the C.M.S. and it has been suggested that in 1845 it was sent to the Rev. Puckey at Kaitaia and to have been burnt in a fire there.¹⁰

Colenso severed his connection with the Paihia printing house on 1 January 1843, and Telford who had arrived towards the end of 1842 remained in charge until August 1847, when the C.M.S. relinquished control of the press to the Bishop of New Zealand.

In 1845, the printing equipment had been moved from Paihia to 'Bishop's Auckland', and both presses were brought down.¹¹ The old *Stanhope* was merely stored, as it had been since 1843 and by 1847 had been disposed of, but the *Columbian* was used at St John's College, Tamaki, until 1856, and at St Stephen's, Parnell, until its sale at auction in 1875.¹²

Williams believed that the sale marked the end of the history of the old mission *Columbian*.¹³ Fifteen years later, however, we have our first surviving record of Harding's possession of 'a *Columbian* dated 1841, formerly belonging to the Church Mission',¹⁴

This is the press which was sent on loan to Otaki. Just where and when Harding acquired the press remains a mystery, as does his reason for believing it to be a mission press. Harding's correspondence with Colenso was voluminous, and it is strange that no reference to the history of the *Columbian* could be located. One assumes, though, that they must have talked about it at some time. No specific reference to the purchase of *Columbian* No 973 by the Church Missionary Society or of its shipment to Paihia could be found among material available in New Zealand, and the records of Clymer and Dixon in London appear to have been destroyed.¹⁵ Some doubt as to whether the press acquired by Harding is in fact the old mission press may be raised over the discrepancies in the description given by early printers of the platen size of the *Columbian* at Paihia and Auckland. Telford's inventory refers to a 'Double Crown Broadside', E. J. von Dadelszen, who worked at St Stephen's in 1863,