

By December 1888 when the Agent General in London, Dillon Bell, received instructions that the Government was taking 1,000 copies with consequential distribution plans, the work seems to have been fairly far advanced. Bell in a letter written on Christmas Eve<sup>5</sup> noted that the Minister had agreed to take the copies of a handbook in the French language 'if the work should be satisfactory'. He would be happy to report as soon as he received a copy 'but from the interest which Count D'Abbans has always taken in the Colony, I can hardly doubt that his work will be of service in making our resources known in France ...' An enthusiastic prospectus was issued:

The Paris International Exhibition, 1889/ [rule]/ 'New Zealand in 1889.'/ 'After fifty years.'/ by/ Count Louis de Jouffroy D'Abbans/ and Edward Wakefield./

It was claimed that this important work was designed to furnish 'a complete geographical, historical, political, social and commercial description of the Colony' and would be illustrated by a large number of original plates, portraits and drawings reproduced by new processes by 'Goupil and Cie'. A total of 70,000 copies of the book in English, French, German and Italian would be ready for the opening of the Exhibition on 5th May, 1889. The first edition was guaranteed to consist of 30,000 in English, 20,000 in French, and 10,000 each in German and Italian. There was an advertising section at the end of the volume in which space could be obtained at £20 per page.

Two months later, in February 1889, G. F. Richardson as Minister of Lands authorised Bell to take in addition to the thousand copies in French at eighteen pence each a further thousand in English at half-a-crown a copy 'if in your opinion the work is found to be satisfactory.'

One imagines in the interim much feverish activity and collaboration between the Count and Wakefield in preparing the manuscript with its multiple translations for publication and distribution. The Count at this period appears to have been in Paris waiting hopefully for Wakefield to appear. There was no doubt about Wakefield's energy but it was to be expended on an effort of his own and not on a product of collaboration. In September, four months after the opening of the Exhibition, Wakefield wrote somewhat belatedly from New York to Bell to present him more or less with the fait accompli of his own work.

'... I was advised on many grounds to endeavour to get a publisher commanding the American field as well as the English, and with that object I came to New York in June last, intending to go speedily to London and Paris. A considerable delay, however, occurred ... Messrs Harper & Brother, who are considered the first publishers here, after keeping the M.S. for three weeks, offered to publish the book on fair terms, but declined to go to the expense of the illustrations, which I