

migration, a Maori pharmacopoeia and the text of the Treaty of Waitangi (in English). There were additional illustrations one depicting the two men on Te Heuheu with the caption, 'Summit of the Ice Crown "Point Victoria"' and the other of the Whangaehu ice caves.

The months went by. Three days before his talk to the Royal Geographical Society on 23 February, 1885, he wrote to Bell again reminding New Zealand of the promises made by the 'Whitaker Ministry'. 'I am about bringing out in a few weeks a Fourth edition, and I am anxious therefore to know the number of copies the New Zealand Government would be likely to take.' A suggestion from Bell to Wellington that the reply be cabled would be appreciated. In his covering letter Bell said that 'some 3000 copies have already been sold'<sup>33</sup> presumably a thousand in each printing. Bell did not himself cable but sent the letter by sea. It is unlikely that the fourth edition was anything other than a talking point to goad New Zealand into a reply. A minor post-mortem in Wellington disclosed that the Minister of Lands had already authorised the Agent-General to spend £50 on copies for distribution in the U.K.<sup>34</sup>

Kerry-Nicholls, meanwhile, gave Bell 20 copies of his Geographical Society address to send out for library distribution<sup>35</sup> but there was nothing more about a fourth edition or local support for it. Sales were slowing up and in February 1886 it became clear that if Sampson, Low had got rid of 3,000 copies, some of their agents had not. The publishers, in a letter to the Agent-General, confessed that they had sent a considerable number of copies to New Zealand booksellers but had recently learned that owing to the high price of 21s. 'the sale has been limited to a few'. Would the Government take them off their hands at 7s. 6d. each? They could supply up to at least 150. A most interesting table appended to the letter, prepared for the author's information, listed the copies 'unaccounted for', that is unsold and the booksellers concerned. A total of 223 unsold copies was made up as follows: Wilkie (Dunedin) 49, Wise & Caffin (Dunedin) 26, Lyon & Blair (Wellington) 48, Champtaloup & Cooper (Auckland) 13, Lennox (Auckland) 74—a rash investment here—and Jackson (Nelson) 13.<sup>36</sup>

The first response to the Agent-General's letter was a small sum on the cover-sheet of the file proving the obvious, namely that 150 copies would cost the Crown £56.5s.—and it had kept faith by the Lands Department's authority to spend £50 on copies for overseas. Mr Buckley was still adamant that he had to see the book. Five days later when one was procured, doubtless from the General Assembly Library, he noted: 'I do not recommend purchase.' And that was it.<sup>37</sup>