

You ask me about Sir George & the mistrust wh. people have of him & I hardly know how to answer. Can anyone have a diplomatic political mind & be continually acting on its dictates & be really *true & honest*? It is a question I can never answer.<sup>39</sup>

On a lighter note was her brief description of the consecration of the Cathedral Church of St Paul (Old St Paul's) on 6 January 1866. Because the architecture was 'mixed', 'Early English, Middle Pointed & Perpendicular, Charles selected the music mixed also'.<sup>40</sup> The service was more of a ceremonial than the local people were used to and, to their surprise, they were impressed. As she grew older Caroline was no more at ease with colonial manners. When the seat of government shifted to Wellington she wrote to Sophia,

One perceives a marked difference in the appearance & demeanour of the people in the streets already. We hear that the rough swaggers with bandit sort of hat & air are Australians . . . The sole benefit wh. the change has conferred on us is in bringing Mrs Sewell here. She is so good & kind & helpful in the Parish . . . While Mrs Sewell remains we are sure of one person besides ourselves at any Weekly Service.<sup>41</sup>

Charlie was a boarder at the Church Grammar School at Kaiwharawhara in the charge of the Reverend H. W. St Hill, but when he reached ten years it was unthinkable to his parents that he should continue anywhere but at Eton. In April 1867 Caroline and Charlie left Wellington and (temporarily) Charles. That first English winter with its dull gloomy sky she contrasted with 'my own bright land—the blue sky & sparkling water wh. come to me when I shut my eyes'.<sup>42</sup> One notes the pronoun; in spite of colonial society, politics and warfare did New Zealand finally exert a claim, if only in retrospect?

Like her husband, the Martins and Selwyn himself, Caroline was appalled at Selwyn's appointment to Lichfield though she agreed with Mary Martin that with 'his principles of unflinching obedience, GANZ [as they now called him] cd. not have done otherwise'.<sup>43</sup> In 1869 Charles Abraham was also in England. At Selwyn's plea—one thinks of him always as Selwyn's lieutenant—he resigned the see of Wellington in 1870 to become, along with Edmund Hobhouse, Selwyn's coadjutor at Lichfield. Charlie thrived at Eton but even this was a cause for worry to Caroline in case 'it will be like so many "charming little Boys" . . . who turn out differently as they grow up'.<sup>44</sup>

In 1875 Abraham was made a Canon of Lichfield. By now he and Caroline lived in the Close alongside the Selwyns. When Charlie was 17 his parents—Caroline was 65, Charles 61—gave him a Christmas dance:

. . . it was a great success. We took up the carpet & have a very nice Oak floor.