

it was a small step for Sarah and her friends in New Zealand to publish private letters first written to provide influential people in England with the information they needed to champion their cause.

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From the beginning of her life in the new colony Sarah Selwyn saw her role as 'to follow suit, not to choose and then see the best side of things',³⁴ but clearly she, and her two close friends, were quite prepared to express openly their own opinions on broader matters. A tribute from Archdeacon J. F. Lloyd³⁵ sums up the measure of her contribution to her husband's endeavour:

I do not think I have ever met anyone equal to Mrs Selwyn. She is an admirable woman, though you do not find out her worth until after a long and intimate acquaintance with her.³⁶

In 1868 Selwyn was appointed Bishop of Lichfield where Sarah spent the remaining years of her long life. She died on 24 March 1907; her tranquil portrait hangs in the Lady Chapel dedicated to her memory in the Cathedral. Worshippers today still speak to interested visitors of her 'gentle Christian influence'.³⁷

REFERENCES

All manuscript sources referred to are held by the Alexander Turnbull Library, with the exception of the G. A. Selwyn papers held by Selwyn College, Cambridge. Reference to the latter is by reel number of the microfilm held by the Turnbull Library.

- 1 Published in *Extracts of Letters from New Zealand*. . . , p. 21 (*vide infra*, note 3).
- 2 Dr Matthew Arnold, 1822-1888, Professor of Poetry at Oxford, 1857-1867. His reports on the state of education in Europe and its deficiencies in England attracted much attention as did his application to Scripture of the methods of literary criticism.
- 3 *Extracts of Letters from New Zealand on The War Question; with an article from the New Zealand Spectator of November 3rd, 1860; and a copy of The Native Offenders' Bill* (London: Printed for Private Circulation only, 1861).
- 4 M. A. Martin, *Our Maoris* (London, 1884), p. 1.
- 5 Sarah Selwyn, 'Reminiscences', p. 53 (qMS sequence).
- 6 From W. E. Gladstone's letter to *The Times*, 17 April 1878, at the time of Bishop Selwyn's death, in H. W. Tucker, *Memoir of the Life and Episcopate of George Augustus Selwyn, D.D.* (London, 1900), v. 1, p. 54.
- 7 *Ibid.*, p. 55.
- 8 *Ibid.*, p. 66. Selwyn accepted the post without hesitation and said that he could answer for his wife.
- 9 Sarah Selwyn to Mary Anne Palmer, 24 June-1 July 1842 (Micro MS 613, reel 9).
- 10 Sarah Selwyn, 'Reminiscences', p. 39.