

but there is nothing in them of which we need to be ashamed, and we would far rather openly declare the facts, than stories should be whispered about which are so totally devoid of truth. This transaction between the Company and ourselves has never directly or indirectly influenced the tone of our paper. The gentlemen known as the avowed editors for the greater part of the time it has existed, were far too independent and highminded to prostitute their pens in any service, and, supported as they were by the settlement, we did not hesitate to leave the paper wholly in their hands. The Company never sought by any means to control the expressions of our opinions, and whatever support it has received in the columns of the *Nelson Examiner*, has flowed from the free and unfettered judgment of the writers.

Another matter in which public report is wrong, is that regarding the present editorship of this paper. Mr Dillon says, 'It is generally understood that your leading articles are written by persons in the Company's employment, or by those who have been, or hope to be again in it.' We here once and for all declare that the proprietor is, unfortunately, reduced to the necessity of becoming his own editor, as the paper barely defrays the expense of printing, and cannot afford to remunerate the services of a writer of ability. Since the end of last September, when Mr C. Elliott returned from Auckland, the leading articles of the *Nelson Examiner* have, with the exception of three, which were on subjects totally unconnected with the questions between the Company and their landpurchasers, been written solely by him, who alone is answerable for their demerits; nor has there appeared during that time a single notice of an editorial character written by any other person.¹⁰

Elliott was by his public admission indebted to the New Zealand Company. The *Nelson Examiner* was therefore established in commercial circumstances that had political undertones.

Printing was introduced to Otago in 1848 for a different reason. W. B. Graham, 'The proprietor of the *Otago News* came to that settlement entirely as a matter of private speculation'.¹¹ But the introduction of printing into Canterbury, founded as an offshoot of the New Zealand Company, followed the pattern in the Nelson settlement;¹² a printing press formed part of the impedimenta of the pioneering settlers. In New Plymouth, local pressure from the early settlers led to the acquisition of a second-hand Albion press from Auckland by Garland William Woon and William Collins.¹³

The establishment of printing either as part of the colonial settlement equipment or as a commercial enterprise or as a felt local need was far from peculiar to the colonial experience in New Zealand. There are striking resemblances between these settlements and the West Indian islands under British rule as well as the Australian colonies. In Jamaica, Robert Baldwin started printing in 1718 at the invitation of the House of Assembly and the Governor, while in Barbados David Harry set up office as a printer in 1731 as a normal commercial venture. But in Belize, local pressure from some of the magistrates led to the establishment of a printing press in 1825.¹⁴

The Australian colonies with which New Zealand remained close in most aspects of printing and bookselling throughout the nineteenth century present similar parallels, if somewhat different sentiments.¹⁵ The First Fleet which arrived in Port Jackson in New