

hierarchical relationship, of course, of patrons and clients, but seen by neither party as exploitative.

Although Gideon Mantell had considered that allowing Owen to describe his son's collection was a 'tribute of respect due for his masterly interpretation of the bones previously transmitted from New Zealand,'<sup>53</sup> it was an indication too of Owen's right by virtue of both his scientific eminence and priority. Such a right of possession, in this case verging on monopoly, could lead to difficulties, specially where, as in the Mantell case, there was real or impending conflict of interests. When Gideon Mantell complained that Owen was delaying too long his analysis and publication on the Moa egg-shells collected by his son and politely suggested that if Owen were otherwise engaged on more important matters, he Gideon would do so, Owen replied immediately but coldly with a clear statement of his professional responsibility and intention: 'Whether you describe or not the portions of egg-shell discovered by your son will in no way affect my intention to do so. I shall of course cite whatever authority has previously treated of the subject. I purpose to render my Monograph on the Extinct Birds of New Zealand as complete as the materials will permit, & to proceed with the egg-shells by the earliest opportunity.'<sup>54</sup> Walter, having received news from his father that Owen apparently was unwilling to allow others to examine his specimens wrote in full awareness of the hierarchical relations which existed and how little he could do to alter them: 'Has not Mr. Cotton a skull of large dimensions? but this perhaps you cannot answer *Owen* to circumstances. I am amused,' he writes with emphasis, 'with the Professor—perhaps 'tis distance lends etc but you cannot think how small he appears at the end of a cool perspective of fourteen thousand miles. As I am still in his debt for his good word and too short-lived good wishes I shall retaliate in my own way when in my power.'<sup>55</sup>

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In New Zealand the 1860s witnessed the beginnings of a localised professional science in response to the recognition that the disciplined knowledge of natural resources—specially gold and coal—was a necessity for economic development, whose value had been demonstrated in England for almost a century. Professionalism on the local level, when it came, brought with it a developing sense of intellectual independence and a localisation of interests and activity which ran parallel to contemporary movements on the political level. It was a part of a groping for a national identity which was to differentiate the second generation of New Zealanders from those who had preceded them and who were still very much a