

perhaps because—Hector was soon tapped to assume a national role, the relationship between the two men never fully overcame the diffidence bred of the competition between them for the limited prizes at home and abroad. It was a competition which friends on both sides recognized and sought to minimise.⁶⁰

Their differences were in a sense complementary in the development of a natural science in New Zealand. Hector was, as I have noted, part of the British scientific establishment. One might say that he had been sent out to New Zealand as its representative.⁶¹ In a still small professional community he was known personally and his work respected. In contrast, however, not until Haast was in London for the Colonial Exhibition in 1886, the year before he died, did he meet any of his heroes with whom he had been corresponding for twenty-five years. Moreover, British though he became, his orientation was European as his extensive correspondence indicates. He maintained his close relationship with Hochstetter who translated his works for a Viennese public and became the principal conduit through which his New Zealand data reached continental Europe.⁶² Transplanted though he was, he felt himself a New Zealander and, more particularly a man of Canterbury Province. Beyond his commitment to the ideal of a universal science, it was their interests, as well as his own, of course, which he sought to advance. His debt was to science and to New Zealand rather than to England and its scientists.

A few months after Hochstetter's departure, Haast began his correspondence with Owen. Noting that he was about to begin an extensive survey for the provincial government of Canterbury, he offered to make whatever observations Owen might require specially with reference to the Moa. 'I should not have taken the liberty to write to you,' he concluded, 'if I were not sure, that in the interest of Science and also on a Subject on which you have by your eminent investigations thrown so much light, you would be ready to assist me in my researches on the spot.'⁶³

For Owen, the promise of further specimens—most of Mantell's last collection lay still undescribed—was not too exciting a prospect. Other concerns and interests had become more pressing: the Darwinian controversy in which he was involved both directly and indirectly; organisational problems at the British Museum where, still, four years after his appointment, his newly created position as Superintendent of the Natural History Collections had still to be defined; his attempt to establish a physically and administratively separate national museum of natural history; and his continued efforts to complete the fossil history of Britain and that of Australia and South Africa. Moreover, having just completed his term as President of the British Association for the Advancement