

ment, a position specially created for him, returned to the Moa problem and was 'down among the British Museum crypts half buried in old moabones in a kind of rapture from morn to dewy eve.'⁴⁸ He met Walter at the British Museum at the beginning of April⁴⁹ and a month later wrote to say that he would be at the Museum to 'recommence work. . . . As soon as I receive the official intimation of my appointment, the noble collection you have brought home will receive my first and, as little interrupted, attention as I can command.'⁵⁰ It was from these bones that Owen was able to reconstruct, with the help of 'Mr. Flower, the experienced articulator,' the largest Moa so far recovered, *Dinornis elephantopus*.⁵¹ The brief communications, although continuing the Moa series which he had begun almost fifteen years earlier, added little to the knowledge of the group. In New Zealand, other, more practical, interests prevailed, while attempts to establish some kind of scientific base met with little support.⁵² The reconstruction of a giant Moa and its exhibition in the British Museum seemed to have completed the story and thus to have filled out this small niche in the world of natural history.

The ambivalence of the relationship between the Mantells serves as a metaphor for that between England and its newest colony. There is always the grudging support of the dependent child whose imminent failure is a threat to parental hopes and plans. More particularly, the dependence was not only economic and political, but intellectual as well. Not only was the Colony, reluctantly established by a disillusioned Colonial Office, seen as incapable of providing for its own security or defining and exploiting independently its own economic potential, but its few and scattered naturalists, devoid of training or facilities were assigned only the role of collectors whose function it was to supply the raw materials for the home institutions and collections to be processed by the 'savans' who were already emerging as a professionalised class. Owen, for example, circulated copies of his first memoir on the Moa not so much to inform but more to stimulate the search for additional specimens from which he could extend his own synthesis. The Hookers whose own field experiences made them more sympathetic to the local collectors served their professional interests in much the same manner. It was, as I have suggested above, an extension to the new colony of the pattern of professional-amateur relationships which was already well established in England and which evoked only an occasional protest against the lack of adequate acknowledgment. More often the collector felt honored that his specimens were worthy of the attention of the 'Professor'; and the brief published acknowledgement of his contribution was usually a sufficient reward for his efforts. It was a structurally