

of this Institution,' he wrote, '& they fully endorsed my views, that unless the British Museum can offer us *adequate* returns for the fine skeleton of *Dinornis maximus* I sent you, & which is worth to us at least £200, you have to consider it as a loan & will be good enough to return it to us as soon as you have described it. I shall not point out the value of such a specimen to the British Museum & I am only astonished that an Institution of such enormous means should not try to obtain such a specimen as I offered for exchange when thousands & thousands are spent on Antiquities, the more so when it is sent by a provincial Museum of a comparatively small Colony.'⁸¹ And a few months later, two years after the original arrangement he was still complaining of the unfairness. To Owen's implied criticism of his dispatch of a collection to Milne-Edwards in Paris,⁸² he complained that he had still not received anything from the British Museum while in return for a

small collection . . . the Paris Museum sent *at once*, on receipt of my letter, a considerable quantity of these desiderata & promised to procure still others, so that the Paris Museum would in this respect do more than your own great National Institution. And this was one of the reasons that our Trustees suggested that the skeleton of *Din. maximus* in your hands should be sent over to Paris, against which, of course, I rebelled. For more than two years we had been collecting the material for the articulation of that skeleton, which I trusted you would describe & I possess too much loyalty to interfere with it. . . . I once more wish to assure that any day I could get £300 for the skeleton in question so that a *poor* provincial Museum has acted very handsomely towards an Institution which has about hundred times the income of it.³³

It was, however, with respect to the analysis and interpretation of the Moa materials that Haast found himself in an even more anomalous position. With the mass of material from Glenmark, Christchurch became the centre of Moa research. Though still dependent upon Owen's authority as a comparative anatomist, Haast could assume that his Moa work supported some claim to scientific leadership in the Colony. It was a role which, for both political and personal reasons, did not go unchallenged. As Moa research shifted from the specialists and their museums in the home country to the Colony's small professionalising cadre with their own proprietary interests, it brought into sharper relief the personal and political antagonisms which accompanied the local institutionalisation of scientific activity whose practitioners were, like others of their generation, involved in the difficult search for a national identity.

When Haast, who considered his Philosophical Institute and Museum at Christchurch the real capital of science in New Zealand, sent his first report on the Glenmark Moas to be read at the July, 1868 meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society, he was