

I don't know that I don't envy Ern his first year in London—I should like to keep on having first years for about five years, discovering fresh things every time—after a while, though you keep on discovering fresh things . . . you just take them for granted, unless they bowl you over completely, like the Turkish pottery at the V & A. Let alone the Chinese. . . .

Work on the thesis progressed steadily. He began writing at the beginning of 1928 and made steady progress as the months passed. In May he was expecting to finish by November, and at the beginning of December reported, 'I have finished my thesis.' There was nearly two months of revising and checking and typing before it was handed in. 'I managed to mention Jane Austen & quote Burke & Carlyle & Dr Johnson & Blake, so what more do you want in a thesis on colonial history.' The oral examination took place two months later and

was like most oral exams—more or less of a formality & more or less of an anti-climax. . . . They said absolutely nothing about it as a whole either by way of praise or blame—I except Miss Penson, who did say she thought it didn't have enough dates in it, to which the others chivalrously agreed. . . . [They] informed me after a suitable period for mutual consultation that they had decided to recommend me to the Senate for the degree. . . .

Beaglehole had arrived in London in October 1926 and his scholarship had been £200 a year for two years. Now in his third year, money was running very short. Inspired perhaps by Laski's stories, he enquired from Bumpus's what they would pay him for a first edition of de la Mare's *Songs of Childhood* which he had bought for ninepence in McKay's on Lambton Quay in 1919. Bumpus's offered 30 guineas for it. 'I said I'd think about it. . . . If I could only find ½ doz things like this, I could finance myself for another year. Daddy will no doubt point out that £31.9.3. is unearned increment & is therefore morally the perquisite of the state; I reply on the contrary it is the natural reward of the capitalist, & of his foresight, wisdom, & hard-earned knowledge. . . .' He decided to auction the book at Hodgson's and it fetched £40 10s. of which he got about £35. This helped, and so did £50 sent over by his father, but the question of a job moved on from the realm of conjecture to that of urgent necessity.

At the beginning of 1928 he had turned down the offer of a lectureship at Grahamstown, South Africa. There would not have been time to finish his thesis before starting, and there were other reasons too. No more offers came. He applied for a Rockefeller grant to have another year of research; for a research studentship at Trinity College, Cambridge; for a job in Canada. There seemed a possibility at Manchester, 'But who wants to go to Manchester?' Newton went out to India to give advice to the government of the Punjab; perhaps he would come back knowing of something there.