

during a brief visit, Mrs Ross identified the author as the Rev. Robert Carter. At the time a serious preoccupation prompted no more than a hasty pencil note in a 'home' set of the *Bibliography*.

In late April 1982 Mrs Ross wrote at length on the matter, regretting that she had not gone over the facts with me at some earlier time. Over the years she had accumulated 'ample material to write a very satisfactory little article but I'm afraid I'll never write it . . .' She asked that I write up the story as I thought best and later sent with background material the two drafts that failing strength prevented her from taking any further.

The source material as Mrs Ross discovered it is in two categories; firstly, data relating specifically to Carter's authorship and experiences which prompted the story; secondly, references to his background, character and life in New Zealand and elsewhere. The most fitting way to present it seemed to be to publish the first typed draft with an appropriate introduction and the minimal alteration necessary to keep the flavour of her successive discoveries and to give the background information as an integral but sequential narrative. Reed, for example, begins his story by describing how he bought a bundle of seventeen issues of *All the Year Round* at a Bethune's auction in mid-1949 for the sum of seventeen shillings—hence the point of Mrs Ross's note 11 on her own belated discovery of Reed's effort in 1975 when she bought the little book from a Smith's Bookshop catalogue for five dollars.

To give coherence to the two sections of the narrative and to provide a summary frame of reference it should be mentioned that Carter arrived in Auckland on the *Duke of Portland* in July 1855 with Selwyn who was returning from a visit to England. Carter, in December, was appointed to the joint parishes of Otahuhu and Panmure acting as resident clergyman until the end of June 1858. He then went to the Bay of Islands where he appears to have remained for some two years under the circumstances dealt with in Mrs Ross's draft before leaving for the United States in July 1861. He enjoyed ill health and suffered from an addiction to alcohol but his living with Maoris at Rawhiti and the boating expedition to the Poor Knights Islands and back would point both to a measure of competence and to reserves of strength.

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When the authorship of a work, published anonymously, has been the subject of such intense and, indeed, romantic speculation as A. H. Reed applied to 'From the Black Rocks, on Friday',¹ one could perhaps seem to have been a little sneaky in not making known sooner the identity of the writer. But what I know about the