



Figure 1: Frontispiece to A. W. N. Pugin, *The true principles of pointed or Christian architecture* (London: 1841).

In designing buildings such as the St John's College Chapel, Auckland, Thatcher drew on his own knowledge of medieval churches, on Puginian principles, on Selwyn's practical ideas about securing buildings against wind and earthquakes, and on the ideas of the Ecclesiological Society. The plan of the chapel, with apsidal (semicircular) terminations at both the east and west ends of the nave, came from another published source, the Rev. J. L. Petit's *Remarks on church architecture* (1841), a fact confirmed by Mrs Selwyn's memoirs. She records that the plan was 'partly of [the Bishop's] own design and partly gathered from drawings by Mr Petit of Lichfield'.¹⁵ Not surprisingly, a copy of Petit's book is still to be found in the St John's College library.¹⁶

From the start of Selwyn's episcopacy the Cambridge Camden Society took great interest in the New Zealand church and the Society's journal, the *Ecclesiologist*, contains regular accounts of New Zealand church building during the early 1840s, commencing with the first issue in 1841.¹⁷ The Ecclesiological Society was scarcely