

A QUICK RUN HOME:

Correspondence while James Hector was overseas in 1875-1876

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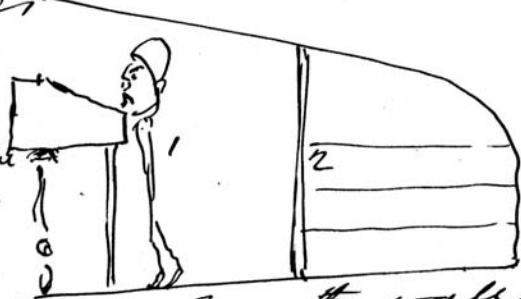
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A QUICK RUN HOME: Correspondence while James Hector was overseas in 1875-76

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Luckily the divided table cases will
not go on the top of the gallery rail - because
 that rail is just about as high as the bear
 summits of those cases
 and a person of ordinary
 height w^d be puzzled to
 do anything but beat
 his nose on them - (The rail
 figure (1) in the illustration
 represents a Patagonian.



(2) represents about the plan when the wall
 cases will come to, with a depth behind as
 unfathomable as the native wind - A small
 boy to creep in to the back settlements
 will be indispensable - The gallery height
 does not correspond with that shown in
 the sections - I have told you agreed
 to this alteration - Sorry for it.

Skyr has returned from his holiday
 he is now analysing autumns from light rain.
 Buchanan wholly absorbed in the bear-
 actions - Bothwaley ditto -

Yours of 1st. Jan.

An example of Walter Mantell's handwriting including a little sketch.
 Letter from Mantell to Hector, 9 April 1875, Hocken MS-0443-3/11/4

A QUICK RUN HOME: Transcriptions of correspondence while James Hector was overseas in 1875-1876

Introduction

James Hector (1834-1907) left Britain in early 1862 for Otago, assuming that he would return at the end of his three-year contract with the Otago Provincial Council. In 1864 he was offered a permanent position to set up a Geological Survey of New Zealand, and within a few years he was in charge of other scientific organisations including the Colonial Museum and the New Zealand Institute. Hector quickly established firm roots in New Zealand, cemented by his marriage to Georgiana Monro, daughter of a prominent Nelson landowner and politician.

Although he had become an adopted New Zealander, Hector was keen to return to Britain for a visit. Georgiana was descended from a prominent Edinburgh family¹, and he wanted show her where her ancestors came from as well as visiting his own family and catching up with scientific colleagues. In his correspondence he often talked of taking “a quick run home”, so it was with some satisfaction that he was able to write to his mentor, Sir Joseph Hooker (Director of Kew Gardens and President of the Royal Society) in late 1874:

“I have just got a vote of £4,000 to enlarge the museum & I am thinking while the building is in progress to get a years leave & run home to see you all & to get the latest ideas & as many Type specimens as I can If my plan meets approval at head quarters I will bring home a complete set of our Fossils for comparison & publication & will be able to do more real service to the Colony than if I were out here all the time.”²

The planned alterations to the Colonial Museum would have meant that the building was closed for many months, and that existing collections had to be packed up and moved. It was a good time for Hector to be away, and he was fortunate to be able to leave the museum in the care of his good friend and neighbour, Walter Mantell, who had a long-standing interest in scientific matters and museums, and was an experienced administrator. Mantell was a member of the Legislative Council³ which left him plenty of spare time, and he was happy to be appointed Acting Director while Hector was away.

This collection of letters provides a record of the Hectors’ trip in 1875-76 as well as an account of the issues involved in rebuilding and running the Museum. The letters are presented in two groups, each arranged in chronological order. Part 1 consists of letters about the trip, written largely by James Hector, while Part 2 is a sequence of letters written from New Zealand, many by Walter Mantell but including a variety of authors. Because they include some details not available elsewhere, they provide a unique insight into the organisation of New Zealand science in the 1870s

¹ Her grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great grandfather had all been Professors of Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh between 1720 and 1846. The Monro collection of medical books is now held at the University of Otago – see <http://www.library.otago.ac.nz/medical/medspeccoll.html#monro>

² Hector to Hooker, 28 August 1874. ATL Micro-MS-Coll-10-17

³ The upper House of Parliament, whose members were appointed for life.

Planning for the trip

A trip back to Britain was something that most colonists could only dream of because it was so time-consuming and expensive. Although James Hector was given leave, and was thus paid his regular salary, he had to earn at least part of the travel costs by working as the ship's doctor on the voyage to England.

By the beginning of 1875, the Hectors had four children: Barclay (b. 1869), Charles (b. 1871), Connie (b. 1873) and baby David (b. 1874). The children were left in the care of Georgiana's parents in Nelson. Because David was still being breastfed, he was handed over to a family with a nursing mother.

It was likely that this would be the only time that James and Georgiana would travel back to Britain - still widely regarded by New Zealand colonists as 'home' - so they tried to fit in as much as possible to the trip. Of course they wanted to visit their families and take a grand tour on the continent, but James also wanted to renew and build up scientific contacts, attend meetings of scientific societies, and collect new material for the Colonial Museum. One of his most pressing tasks was to get expert identification of New Zealand fossils that had been collected over the previous decade, and thus hope to solve some of the debates about the age of sedimentary rocks in different parts of New Zealand. In order to do this, he dispatched a number of heavy cases of fossils to London, where they were eventually examined by Robert Etheridge, a young palaeontologist from the Royal School of Mines who had previously worked in Victoria, Australia.

Although Hector was originally given leave for a year, the trip was extended when he was asked to travel to the USA and take charge of the New Zealand government exhibits at the 1876 centennial exhibitions in Philadelphia. It was a challenging task as Hector had to assemble material for the exhibition from a variety of sources, arrange for it to be transported to Philadelphia, and then supervise the building of the New Zealand display. He was assisted for part of the time by Arthur Bothamley, a parliamentary clerk who stopped in Philadelphia during a trip back to England.

The Cast of Characters

There are many references in the letters to Hector's staff and people he knew in Wellington, so some notes are provided as background. The following staff were employed in what was called the Geological Department in 1875⁴:

R.B. Gore: Clerk and Meteorological Observer⁵

John Buchanan: Draftsman and Botanist

S.H. Cox: Assistant Geologist

William Skey: Analyst

Alexander McKay: Collector

T.W. Kirk: Museum Assistant

J. Smith: Messenger

⁴ Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives 1875, section H11

⁵ In today's terms, Gore would have been regarded as Office Manager

Several other people were working for Hector during this period:

- Archdeacon Stock had a part-time position as Astronomical Observer, and supervised the operation of the Time Ball.
- Arthur Bothamley was employed as a clerk in the office of the Legislative Council, but when it was not in session he assisted Hector in the Museum, and was responsible for the preparation of the *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*.
- R.B. Denniston and W. Cooper undertook a detailed survey of the Buller Coalfield near Westport, working in conjunction with S.H. Cox.

Walter Mantell (who used the nickname Matarā, a Maori version of his surname) was acting Director of the Geological Department during the whole of the period that Hector was overseas. There are also letters from Walter Buller, a Wellington lawyer and keen ornithologist, who had recently returned from England.

On the political front, Julius Vogel was Premier in the first part of 1875. Hector met him in England and was consulted about issues relating to the underwater cables. Vogel spent many months in Germany because of health problems, and he was succeeded in July 1875 by Daniel Pollen.

Controversies

Several controversial issues that arose while Hector was overseas are referred to in the letters. Appendix 1 includes a small group of letters dealing with accusations by members of the Otago Institute that Hector had wrongly calculated the longitude of New Zealand. Appendix 2 includes letters dealing with a controversy about the siting a new underwater telegraph cable.

The over-riding controversy that was to dog Hector during this period was an argument with Haast over what has become known as the Sumner Cave affair. This is covered in *GSNZ Miscellaneous Publication 133D* (Correspondence between Julius Haast and James Hector), and will not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that relations between Hector and Haast were at a low point in 1875-76, and this did not improve until Hector returned to New Zealand. The issue was referred to Sir Joseph Hooker (then President of the Royal Society), and it was a topic that Hector discussed a number of times with colleagues in England. But one of the points that becomes clear from reading the correspondence is that this was not just a clash between individuals, but a divide between scientific communities in Wellington (representing central government) and Christchurch and Dunedin (representing the provinces)⁶. Hector is generally restrained in his comments about Haast, but Mantell often refers to him as ‘Jack’ or ‘the von’, with snide comments about what he called ‘the Cave of Balaam’.

⁶ The Auckland Institute supported Hector, but did its best to keep out of the arguments

Y, AUGUST 19, 1875.

DR. HECTOR'S ASSAILANTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW ZEALAND TIMES.

SIR,—During the present year there has been a remarkable outbreak of ill-feeling on the part of some of the scientific men of the colony, and this has found expression in a way neither dignified nor calculated to make a favorable impression upon the public.

Some time ago Dr. Haast made use of very strong expressions against Dr. Hector, on the occasion of that gentleman happening to read a paper before the Wellington Philosophical Society, by Mr. Mackay, on the subject of the exploration of the Sumner caves. Probably most people will agree with me in thinking that Dr. Hector's and Mr. Mackay's explanations are perfectly satisfactory. With regard to the former, he is so much in the habit of encouraging those persons who are employed in his department to express their views on scientific subjects that fall under their notice, that it is probable that the paltry idea of precluding a person who had been employed by him from forming and enunciating his ideas, would never cross his mind; while the latter, after an interval of two years from the examination of the caves, can hardly be found fault with for taking the liberty of discussing an ethnological question opened up by the results of the exploration. Dr. Haast surely has no pre-emptive right to the end of time to all questions involved in the contents of the Sumner caves. What was there found was placed in the Christchurch Museum, and is open to all the world, to found what theories they like upon their observation. Why should Mr. Mackay be precluded from stating his views because he was employed in the exploration? True science seeks for argument so as to elicit the truth and correct erroneous views, and does not proceed to lay down dogmas on imperfect data.

I next find by a telegram published in the newspapers a few days ago that Messrs. Hutton and Thomson, in Dunedin, have both used strongly abusive expressions towards Dr. Hector, about what, of all things? Why, because Dr. Hector had made some memorandum or another concerning the longitude of Wellington. Surely the question of this longitude can be settled in a civil and discreet manner, without men who ought to know better disgracing themselves by the use of intemperate language. It is difficult to suppose that the telegram can have stated correctly what was said. I should fain hope that there is some mistake in the matter. If such be the case, no doubt both Messrs. Hutton and Thomson will take the earliest opportunity of repudiating the expressions which are attributed to them.

I would strongly recommend to the above-named gentlemen the suavity of manner of the late Mr. Ebdon, of Melbourne. I remember many years ago that gentleman describing to me a conversation with a person who had grossly insulted him. He said to me, "I told him, sir, I told him, sir." There was a pause, and we expected some very strong language to follow, but the sequel was merely, "I beg to differ from you."

Now, if Messrs. Hutton and Thomson have a difference of opinion with Dr. Hector as to the longitude of Wellington, it appears to us that it would reflect more credit upon them both if they confined their several remarks to "I beg to differ from you," rather than to use worse and violent expressions, which not only recoil upon themselves, but tend more or less to throw discredit and disgrace upon the scientific men of the colony. It is to be hoped that we shall have no more of this sort of thing. What makes this latter attack worse is that it has been made during Dr. Hector's absence from the colony, but as we have above indicated, the mischief done is not that it hurts Dr. Hector, for that it is not likely to do, but that it introduces such a pernicious and damaging tone to the scientific discussions of the colony.

Scientific discussion is one thing, Billingsgate abuse is another thing. It is to be hoped that in future we may stick to the former, and eschew the latter.—I am, &c.,

SCIENCE.

An anonymous letter writer to the *New Zealand Times* discusses two of the controversies that arose while Hector was overseas in 1875. The writer takes Hector's side and is well-informed, so is probably one of his Wellington supporters—possibilities include Mantell, Buller or Travers.

Source and organisation of the Hector letters

The letters in this collection were assembled from three main sources:

- (a) The Hector Collection in the Hocken Collections, University of Otago, which contains material obtained from the Hector family in the 1930s;
- (b) Te Papa Archives, which contains official correspondence sent to the Colonial Museum;
- (c) The Mantell Family Collection in the Alexander Turnbull Library which contains letters sent to Walter Mantell from James and Georgiana Hector.

We have also included one letter written by Walter Mantell to Joseph Hooker that is held in the archives of the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, England.

In practice we found that the classification of the letters was more complex than implied by the list above. For example, Walter Mantell wrote regularly to James Hector, and the letters have been split between the Hocken Library and the Te Papa archives. Considerable detective work was required to reassemble the sequence of letters.

Some of these letters were not easy to transcribe. James Hector's handwriting is always difficult to read. Walter Mantell was a great gossip, and his letters are often amusing – but they can be a nightmare to transcribe as he usually wrote at great speed. We battled through his flowery prose, peppered with abbreviations, unusual metaphors, literary allusions, and foreign phrases. Rowan Burns is responsible for the primary transcriptions, but we both checked and discussed every letter. Those words that we were not able to decipher are shown by dashes (-----), and words that we are not certain about are shown by [?]. We have generally retained the original spelling and punctuation unless an error is obvious, such as a repeated word or a stop missed out. In a few places we have added paragraph breaks rather than have a huge chunk of unbroken text.

Acknowledgements

We are most grateful to David Colquhoun (Alexander Turnbull Library), Anna Blackman (Hocken Collections), Jennifer Twist (Te Papa Archives) and Kiri Ross-Jones (Kew Archives) for their assistance locating and copying documents, and for permission to publish the transcripts.

Chris Hector and Judith Nathan reviewed the manuscript, and we appreciate their helpful comments.

Part 1: Letters written while James and Georgiana Hector were overseas in 1875-76

This part of the collection opens with a letter from Walter Mantell to Sir Joseph Hooker, advising him that Hectors had left New Zealand

H1: Mantell to Hooker, 16-2-1875

Kew DC 174 ff.1001

Wellington
16th February 1875

My dear Hooker,

Hector begged me to write a word to you by this mail to tell you that he sailed (with Mrs Hector) in *Howrah* at 4.30 p.m. on the 13th inst. He has with him an overwhelming amount of material, specimens & MSS – enough I estimate to make his life a burthen for double the time of his probable stay in England, and he has left behind an unhappy Museum suffering under builders & architects who seem to delight in starting their creations from the most orthodox chaos.

I sit in his office not very comfortably but as I have fired a broadside of carbolic powder at the fleas I hope for better times.

By this time the first acute ferocity[?] of your sorrow will I hope be over⁷ – believe me I felt deeply for & with you.

Greet my friend Willie for me & Wallie⁸ – who treasures his pipes carefully in his cabinet to the present day.

Yours very truly
Walter Mantell.

H2: Hector to Mantell, 16-5-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Ship *Howrah*
16th May 1875

My dear Mantell,

After three months at sea we are still 1300 miles from England and are at present in the vicinity of the Azores fighting with a strong Nor' Easter. We have had a slow passage especially since rounding the "Horn" but have had no severe weather so that it has been pleasant on the whole. We reached the Horn in 22 days with moderate Westerly winds and two "Southerly busters" sighting the Bounty Islands and an Ice-berg. A Nor' Wester carried us round the Horn in one day but tho' we passed within 30 miles of the land it was so thick that we saw nothing of it.

⁷ Hooker's wife Frances had died in late 1874

⁸ Mantell's son, Walter Godfrey Mantell (b 1864). Mantell's wife, Mary, had died in 1873.

From the Horn to the line we had light variable winds, and as the S.E. Trades almost entirely failed us for some reason, we did not cross the Equator till the 17th April or 66 days out. Next day we sighted St Paul's rock and then got the N.E. Trades which were pretty good and served us up to 25° N. Since then we have had calms and Northerly winds and two days ago got a glimpse of Coroo[?] Island. I hope we will get to London in time for the 1st June mail and this we can easily do if the wind would shift. I am longing to get news of you and all that has been going on in Wellington. I am rather tired of the voyage now. Until the great heat we had during the calms South of the Line I used to do a lot of work, but I got out of the habit then and took to reading and have not got back again into my old ways – the prospect of reaching England and thinking of our plans having an unsettling effect. The Cabin & all our fittings proved most comfortable and especially the Cot and Hammock have been invaluable and have quite neutralized the extra motion of the Stern Cabin so that we always get a quiet night even when the others do not. Your Bureau has been very handy. I don't see how I could have got on without it at all, as it enabled me to stop and resume work whenever I liked and has been so handy for keeping instruments and all my other knick-knacks in order. I have taken very complete Meteorological observations during the voyage every six hours, to find out the effect of the Aqueous Vapour on the Barometer and Solar Radiation in different Latitudes. I have the results all worked up to date and I think they will prove interesting. The pressure of the air, less that of the Elastic force of the contained Vapour is absolutely less in the Tropics than North and South! The heat in the sun also with proper precautions, which have hitherto been neglected, is quite as great as in N.Z. as one day it reached 184°! I think if I can establish these two facts it will clear the way for a sound Theory of Trade Winds and Storms.

The *Howrah* is a fine ship though rather light in the water – but she is dry and very steady, hardly ever rolling and then with an easy motion. The Capt. and officers are exceedingly kind and obliging and take a deal of trouble to make us all comfortable and happy. The Ship is well found in stores and the Table good and there is still a fortnight's supply of live stock on board. We have had no serious sickness on board and only a few small accidents so my medical duties have been light. As soon as we got out to sea Mrs Sewell had a very bad attack, worse than any since the first, this gave me the chance of dictating a course of treatment and since then she has been steadily getting well. Not very strong as the poor food and confinement in the hot cabin keeps her back, but the Paralysis is certainly better and she has had no fit for 2 ½ months. Mrs Richmond has become quite frisky – at first one had to be dragged about but now she walks about alone. The Judge is also better but still “blows” whenever the moisture is above 85 or below 70 p.c. in the air. Heat or cold per se do not seem to affect him. I see clearly that with him Asthma is only one form of getting rid of unhealthy secretions, the other outlets being skin and kidneys. The primary defect is in the Lymphatic system. The R. family are rather a noisy lot, quarrelsome and selfish among themselves and stuffed with nonsense. Except a little teaching of the younger children the girls do nothing – at least they never stick to anything. The Elwyns and old Sewell are very nice, always kind and considerate. Old S. trots about with books under his arm ready to read aloud to whoever will sit still and listen. We have service twice every Sunday and Quoir practice on Saturday nights. But the Piano has been a nuisance just as you anticipated. The girls wont play to please others but only to keep one another from the instrument. It has long been banished from our cabin to Cuddy care[?] and during the heat of the tropics got sadly out of tune – but I contrived to make a key and have put it in fair tune again. We started a paper called the *Albatross* and I have brought it out every week since we

started, but only got help for the first two numbers from the others, tho' it was the Richmonds' suggestion.

Mrs Hector has extracted the narrative of the voyage which I will send to you and ask you to send it on to Nelson when you have done with it.

The Birds have done well on the whole tho' I have lost 1 Kiwi and 2 Wekas thro' the mistake of not having a separate box for each. The Cassowary is in splendid order and very fat and saucy at times tho' quite tame. Tell Bramley⁹ this and also that the Cranes are well but have become quite fierce and dangerous. The male nearly put out the steward's eye the other day when he was incautiously standing within his reach. I hope I will get them all safely to London now as they have given a deal of trouble.

I have skinned no birds, partly because the arsenical soap etc was forgotten to be put in the case as intended and also because the Capt. was superstitious on the subject. However we did not use[?] many birds. I have some fine things with the Tow net however which I will send out to the Museum. I will write a notice of the birds I have seen and identified to Buller. More Anon.

[Letter continues below]

H3: Hector to Mantell, 30-5-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
30th May 1875

Here we are at last. The Nor'East which we had off the Azores carried us 3 ½ degrees West while we made our Northing and then we got a N.W. gale that soon took us into Soundings where we experienced a terrific swell and then got a hard N.E'r again so that the first land we made was Ushant on the South entrance to the channel on Wednesday last. We then bore up for the Scilly Isles and on Friday afternoon were off the Lizard. Here Mrs H. was slung over the side in a chair into a Pilot boat and she and I got to Falmouth in a cold drizzle at 2 a.m. yesterday morning and came up here by train the same day. We had a beautiful day and saw the country to perfection in the rich green and wild flower bloom of spring. My wife is intensely interested in all she sees and shows no fatigue. We have put up at the Paddington Ry. Hotel for the present and are very comfortable. I expect the *Howrah* will get to dock about Tuesday and if possible we will go and meet her at Gravesend. Today I went to Featherston's office¹⁰ but being Sunday could not get my letters. I fear some may be lost in the *Schiller*¹¹ as most of the N.Z. letters received the house keeper told me were quite illegible and some parcels missing. Tomorrow I will find out and let you know by this mail, which leaves on Tuesday. Today we have seen a great deal – driving and walking about and in the morning we went to service at W'minster Abbey and in the afternoon to St Paul's. Here there was special service at which we saw all the Judges and the Lord Mayor etc. and heard the most glorious music. We came back from the City by the Underground Ry. which in half an hour took us all round by Kensington and brought us right to the door of the Hotel. It is a

⁹ Head gardener at the Colonial Botanical Gardens

¹⁰ W.I. Featherston was New Zealand Agent-General in London

¹¹ SS *Schiller* was shipwrecked on the Scilly Isles in May 1875, and most of the mail was lost.

splendid invention. I called on Palliser and find he is in Town but did not see him. London is enormously improved and has so many little gardens and groves of trees scattered about and is so tidy and clean with fine ranges of buildings replacing the old nondescripts that the place is more like Paris than London of yore. In today's paper we have the gazette of Sir Julius Vogel¹². He is still here so I will no doubt see him. I can hardly say what my plans will be till I see some of the N.Z. great Folks and get all my collections and baggage. The *Adamant* with the bulk of the collections on board has arrived before us. All well on board the *Howrah*. Mr Sewell remarkably strong and well. If I get a letter from you or news of any letter or other matters I will write again tomorrow afternoon, but I will write again by Brindisi on the 9th.

Ever your sincere friend
James Hector

Love to Wally.

H4: Hector to Mantell, 10-6-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
10th June 1875

My dear Mantell,

Since I last wrote I have received the following welcome letters from you with their enclosures – 13 March, 2 of 16th March and 9th and 13th April. I am glad to find you are getting on so well Gore's journals being very satisfactory when supplemented by the full details you give of all that is going on. Some of the letters, tho' none of yours, are rather illegible owing to the soaking they got thro' the wreck of the *Schiller*. This time I can only write you shortly by Brindisi as I have just returned from Oxford in time to catch the mail. I called on Mr Williams and got the money. He was very kind and very interested to hear all about you. I have not yet seen Cook.

The *Howrah* only arrived in dock on Saturday or eight days after we left her at Falmouth. I have now got the birds in the Zoo. The Cassowary being very interesting so Dr Sclater says. The Plants seem to have suffered during the latter part of the voyage and look so bad that I have sent all to Kew as Hooker will have those for Lady Normanby and Col. Fielding made respectable.

The *Adamant* with all the fossils tho' she sailed 5 weeks before us has not yet been reported! I hope it is not going to be a second case like the *Matoaka*¹³.

I have been very busy as you may suppose. For the first few days we stayed at the Gt. Western Hotel till I got the lodgings in Pimlico where we now are. We have been to the Opera and Theatre, Concerts, Kew and lots of other places, and I have been at the R.S., Z.S., R. Col. Institute and seen most of the scientific nobs. Yesterday we went to the great day at

¹² Julius Vogel, Premier of New Zealand, was visiting the UK in 1875 when he was awarded a KCMG

¹³ The *Matoaka* disappeared in 1869 on a trip from Lyttelton to London. Among the cargo was a collection of vertebrate fossils from Waipara.

Oxford and saw Sir G. Bowen¹⁴ dubbed D.C.L. My table is covered with invitations to Scientific Club dinners and the only folks of whom I have seen little are the Geologists. The Science seems rather down since the loss of Lyell and all the other good men. I have seen Owen once. His paper about *Cnemiornis* is a most tricky affair and next week he is reading a make up paper on Haast's *Harpagornis*. The Col. Of Surgeons Museum is greatly improved and that at Oxford is splendid but small. The British Museum looks crowded and shabby. I have done no business yet for the Museum as the A.G. has not received instructions about the money that is to my credit. Vogel is to telegraph about it. They offer me a room at the British Museum to work my collections in. Hooker and Flower say don't take it – but where else can I go? Palmer has just come in to get me to introduce him to Vogel. I close this lest I should miss the mail. Palmer sends his kind regards to you and to Bowen and will write by next mail to latter.

Ever Sincerely Yours
James Hector.

H5: Hector to Mantell, 20-6-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
20th June 1875

My dear Mantell,

I wrote you shortly on the 11th by Brindisi after our return from Oxford, but had to close my letter hurriedly as Palmer called to get me to introduce him to Vogel. We did not see him but afterwards I found that he would not say anything about the Surveyor-Generalship and I almost fancy he is not intending to have much more to do with N.Z. affairs. He is off to German spas to get rid of his gout from which he has suffered ever since he arrived in Europe. He has given me three months extension of leave if I require it and as I find that most scientifics are just leaving London and all the Society meetings are over I will not be able to do much business till October. The *Adamant* is in at last, and Dr Günther who has succeeded Gray at the British Museum has given me room in the Crypts at the Brit. Museum to unpack and display all my treasures and proposes that the B.M. should take the lot and give either exchanges or money value with which I can get the collections I want if they cannot give me what I want in that way. I have made it clearly understood that no one is to have access to them and especially Owen, who has done a very shabby thing about *Cnemiornis* and *Harpagornis*. His paper – in which he only mentions me when he can find fault, and by a juggle of words makes it appear as if he had discovered all about it without aid from my paper, saying indeed that I accord with the conclusions he arrived at!! – is printed in Q.to. reproducing all our drawings without acknowledgement. However I paid him out at the Zool. Soc. The other night when he read a long paper on *Harpagornis* with profuse illustrations enlarged to full size from the figures in the *Trans.* (Haast's paper). I was called on to speak and praised Owen for the fine memoirs he had produced from time to time on the *Dinornis* and its allies and said that he must have encountered great difficulties from the imperfect data he received – but that on this occasion he had excelled himself for his memoir described in detail the anatomy of an extinct bird of which he had never seen a single bone. I asked him publicly if this was true and he had to confess. I then laid the Pelvis on the table

¹⁴ Former Governor of New Zealand.

and said I would lend it so as to give some little additional value to his paper by having one bone of the bird figured from the original. He seemed to take it in good part after a while but I don't trust him not to pay me out. He said in public that he agreed with the view of the modern extinction of the Moas by the Maoris and that the evidence of a high antiquity which had been urged by Haast was quite unsatisfactory and confuted by overwhelming evidence on the other side. I don't know what the Council of the Zoo. will do, but I told some of them that working naturalists trust to the Plates in the *Transactions* as they would to specimens and that if it once gets abroad that they were ever allowed to be mere enlarged reproductions of other drawings without acknowledgement even, the *Trans.* would be looked on with suspicion. Some of them are very strong on the subject but I fear a majority are under Owen's thumb, who is feared but almost hated. Günther is very kind and is really a good fellow – so also is Flower of the Coll. of Surgeons and I will be guided by them and by Hooker. Hooker has agreed to work up the fossil flora conjointly with myself. Günther has already put the material I brought home for the Catalogue of the recent Crustacea in the hands of a smart young assistant Meyers who undertakes to finish it about Xmas.

Ramsay¹⁵ promises help with the fossils – putting the different formations in hands best suited for each so that I expect a deal of very valuable work will result from my trip.

After another search the letter authorizing the thousand Pounds for the Museum fittings was found, but only the other day so that I have done nothing as yet, nor will I till I see more of the latest and best plans in the Museum here. Jermyn Street¹⁶ is much improved but is much too crowded. I like Rolleston's Museum at Oxford the best of them I have yet seen, except the College of Surgeons which is however only in one special department. The British Museum is just the same as it used to be in the galleries, but I understand that they have very fine working collections arranged in the Crypts, which I can say nothing about not having seen them as yet. I have been dining out and attending the Societies in the evenings so that my time has been fully occupied. At a grand gathering the other evening at Kensington Museum, being a *Conversazione* of the Colonial Institute, there was quite a strong muster of New Zealanders and there I met your friend Cook and his wife, having failed to meet them in the City. They asked very lovingly for you and want you to come home. Cook says he never made such a mistake as when he did not return with you to N.Z. He looks grizzly but hale and Mrs Hector votes him the pleasantest man she has met here. We have seen the Pallisers, Vaux and all that old Rocky Mountain connection and are all to assemble at Greenwich next week to eat whitebait. I have seen the Bowens but not the Fergussons as Sir Jas. Is out of town¹⁷.

The Cassowary and other birds are all safe in the Zoo. Gardens and I saw them this afternoon. Jack the Cassowary is the finest bird of the kind which they have. By good luck yesterday I met Capt. Moresby and got his exact history. It is presented as from Sir Jas. Fergusson, the Society repaying me what I was out of pocket. The two Cranes I presented on behalf of the Acclimatization Soc. And they will give exchanges for them. Ask Travers what will be most acceptable. I will write him if I have time but you may as well speak to him. Hooker is delighted with the Plants, these being about the only cases they have received in anything like good order. The only serious loss is the *Senecio hectori* all the plants of which are dead. I will send out a list of desiderata for Kew. Their N.Z. collection requires much going over. I only

¹⁵ Professor at the Royal School of Mines

¹⁶ The Museum of Practical Geology, attached to the British Geological Survey.

¹⁷ Sir James Ferguson was a former Governor of New Zealand

wish Buchanan was here to do it for them. Hooker is much better now after two months run on the Continent, but he is sadly overworked. I was formally introduced at the Royal the other night, Huxley being my sponsor. They are all delighted to see me again and say I look younger if anything!! I said nothing about the Haast row to anyone (tho' I could perceive that communications had been made on the subject from N.Z.) till Ramsay said that he had had all the papers referred to him, but he thought it so stupid a row that he had not even acknowledged them. He can't see what Haast has to complain of against McKay, but I mean to make him go thoroughly into the matter or reject its consideration altogether. I have said nothing about the Buller-Haast business of course, but will keep that if it is necessary to illustrate Haast's conception of honourable conduct. Buller you will see has not been elected at the R.S. I will write Bothamley about the *Transactions* and not bother you with what must bore you enough already.

I hope to be able to get down to Scotland about the first week of July and will be at the Brit. Association at Bristol on 25 August. Beyond that my plans are not fixed, but we will likely go abroad till I return to work in October. I will only take advantage of the extension of leave if it is necessary for the sake of the work I have in hand as I don't care about being here in early spring with Mrs H. as she seems to take cold and cough very easily in this climate even in summer – but except the first week we have had wretched raw wet and even cold weather, in which going out at night is very trying. Yesterday we had a splendid day at the Crystal Palace – really it is like Fairyland. It was a special day for the bamboozlement of that poor savage the Sultan of Zanzibar whom they have brought home to glamour and get him to surrender to us his trade and finally I suppose his dominion. However we got splendid music. 3 bands and 800 of a chorus, and a magnificent show of fireworks. These are quite different things from the old times as they produce splendid effects by balloons with magnesium balls suspended and throwing strong coloured lights on the jets of water from the fountains. It is really done magnificently and as far removed from the old squibs and crackers as man is from the Ascidian. After seeing the Crystal Palace, Kew, Kensington Museum and other splendid things of recent years, there is no difficulty in understanding the extraordinary improvement in taste and decoration and in cleanliness and order which has come over London. You can hardly conceive the exquisite order in which all the gardens are kept, even the dusty squares in the City like Lincoln's Inn Fields have been improved. Leicester Square is perfect picture of a flower garden with statues, vases and flights of steps and broad walks with seats crowded with people in the evenings. I believe it is only fair after all to trace this wonderful aesthetic development back to Prince Albert's exhibition in 1851. The activity of the Londoners now is also something extraordinary – they say over 2/3rd of a million are daily taken in and out of town to and from their business by the cobweb of railways and the omnibuses. The Railways are quite bewildering – at Clapham the other day I counted 5 railways all crossing the same spot at different levels, having at the same time trains shooting under over and almost through one another. Working the switches now needs almost the same skill as playing a large organ.

They have made me an honorary member of the Athenaeum which is a very great honour I am told and the other day Count Münster at the German Embassy decorated me with the order of the Crown of Prussia but for what I don't know, nor care. It is a pretty trinket and I have no doubt Mrs Hector will watch her chance of bagging it for a locket. Now dear old fellow good night for the present as it is 1.30 a.m.

Your affectionately
J. Hector.

H6. Hector to Mantell 20-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/6

20th June 1875
London

My dear Mantell,

I have just recd. yours of 13th April in which you state a "Petroleum business" that has cropped up to give trouble. As far as I can understand the matter, the confusion arises from mixing two very distinct localities, viz. the oil wells at Poverty Bay & those at Waiapu. A reference was made to me thru the Col. Secty. & also direct for some advice about the proposed borings that were to be made at the former place by a Company. I explained all I know about it to the Companys agent or manager on the ground which is my usual practice in such cases. They then got a new manager for ----- & they wrote to ask for information for his guidance which was sent.

The Waiapu question is quite different. The oil there such as it is has been frequently reported on but Sir Donald McLean asked me to visit the place with Capt. Porter & see if some plan could be arranged for securing a share of the profit – if any arose – for the natives in the district. This I did, tho Capt. Porter could not make it convenient to see the natives at the same time as myself, but a few days later. Immediately on my return I saw Sir Donald on the subject & told him the result which he approved, viz. that no attempt should be made to define a Petroleum Reserve, as such a course would be impracticable, but that fair terms should be made with prospectors & the natives should be paid by Royalties. There is a memo: of mine on this subject. Major Porter quite understood that I could not indicate boundaries for reserves within which there would be a better chance of finding Petroleum than out side. I forget the nature[?] of the references you found on my table but I fancy they were prior to & superseded by the other arrangement.

The notes made by McKay on the geology of the district are all in print[?] & the Lithograph map & section relate partly to that but more to a report which like all other parts of our Secondary Geology must wait till I have the fossils examined in this country. Otherwise I would only get into useless controversy with Hutton who in my opinion has messed the subject of our Mesozoic & Lr. Tertiary formations. A partial report[?] would do no good, while it would only give H. hints & as he has chosen to go it alone & work against the Dept. in his Geology of Otago, he should be left to his own resources. As soon as I get the fossils looked over & compared with those of other countries by a competent Palaeontologist I will be able to take a proper stand. By the end of next month I will send out the general synopsis of the Geol. which I mean to read at the Brit: Association. By this mail I send copies of the new Geol: Map.

I will attend to all your commissions & report progress. I have already written with all London news. Ever your affectionate friend,

James Hector.

H7: Hector to Mantell, 28-6-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
28th June 1875

My dear Mantell,

The mail goes today and I have just received your letter of 10th May in time to acknowledge it. You seem to be getting on very well in all branches, and I cant help feeling that it is a cool trick to let you in for such a lot of hard work while I am here enjoying myself. I have been busy in the B. Mus. and elsewhere but manage to get a day now and then for pleasure and have twice been at the Opera. It was only on Saturday (26th) that I got the first case up from the docks and yesterday some more came but not all. Had I known I would have gone off at once to Scotland and returned. Now I must go North on Saturday and leave most of the cases unpacked till I come back, which I will do very soon so as to get the fossils looked over before the British Association on 25th August.

I have settled with Stanford for you and enclose the a/c. They had a pile of books of yours which I have directed to be sent to Cook. They declared they had none but that the whole of a large bundle that had been lying for years was mine. Doubting this I undid it and found lots of yours and of other people's in it!! And the real number of mine was only 3 little Pamphlets. At the Geograph. I found my Vols. since 1867 lying unclaimed! I have found some splendid boats but the rigging does not go up and down. However this is to be arranged.

The Cremation papers are ordered – particulars by this mail if possible.

Whisky must stand over. I have let the B.Mus. have the two Blackfish skeletons M & F for £60, or £80 worth of exchanges. This is my first trade with them and I think I will do well.

In haste as I must go to Agent General's Office. With kind regards from Mrs Hector.
Ever affectionately yours

James Hector.

H8: Hector to Mantell, 8-7-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Selkirk¹⁸
8th July 1875

My dear Mantell,

We left London on Saturday last (3rd) and got here the same night. I waited a month in London and only got the boxes with the collections after three weeks so had to leave most of them unpacked till I can return as I wished to be in Edinbr. before the summer session was over and the people I wished to see dispersed for the holidays. Before leaving however I settled with the B.M. authorities about the Birds. They have had first pick of about 60 out of the 230 skins and are to give me exchanges or money to value of £70 for them. The rest I will dispose of elsewhere. I mean to get a full series of Types referred to in some manual.

I had a long conference with Ramsay about the Geology and he seems much pleased and interested. He has put the large Geol. Map in Jordan's hands to be remounted for me to expound from at Bristol¹⁹, and advises me to take most of the fossils there to exhibit. I mean the original of the Vienna Map which I have brought up to date by putting in the East Cape Auckland and West Coast work of last year. Jordan has offered to help me to make a Geol. Model of New Zealand and says it will not be very difficult. They have some splendid models of that kind now and I think of purchasing a set for the Museum. I have left all my things locked up securely in one of the Crypts. All the cases opened are in capital order and I have had no difficulty in unpacking them and putting them out straight thanks to McKay, Kirk, and above all to Bothamley's capital catalogue.

I am in treaty for some fine Saurians from Lyme Regis but they ask too much and I will rather get casts of specimens that have been described.

Since I came here I have been up at St. Mary's Lock and Dob's Linn in Moffat Dale and got a fine lot of Graptolites in the Silurian slates. The country here is very beautiful at present and the weather delightful. Yesterday I spent in Edinbr. And took my wife to the University and thro' the Anatomical rooms and Museum that were for so many generations presided over by her ancestors. We also visited Dr Barclay's Museum and marble bust in the R.C.S. and did Holyrood Castle, Botanic Gardens and drove out to the foot of the Pentland Hills to see the old Monro estate of Craig lockart. As we returned here at night we had a long day's work from 7 a.m. till 10.30 p.m. We saw a Flower show in Edinbr. which was thought greatly of, but I don't think it was much superior to ours. The centre piece stuck in the most prominent place was a miserable plant of the striped flax (*Phormium*) from N.Z. under the name *P. vetchii*. It is quite the rage now and is sold for £10 per plant!! I saw Balfour who is much the same as ever. I am going with his excursion on Saturday to Fifeshire staying with him on Friday night. He also wants me to go to Ben Lawers with him next week and as we shall be then staying near Doune with old Horne of Argaty who has adopted the little Monro boys, I will very likely do so. We then propose to take a run up to Skye and the Brora coal field in Sutherland to both of which there are Railways. I will try to be in London again by

¹⁸ The home of Hector's sister Martha and her husband Dr Farquarson who was a Presbyterian minister in the parish of Selkirk.

¹⁹ Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science

the first week of August so as to have several weeks work at the collections before Bristol Meeting.

I have managed to get a galvano-plastic cast taken of the engraved plates of the large Topographical Map, before the hills are engraved, and am to get this cut into 12 sheets for printing in Geological Colours as an atlas. I have got authority from Featherston. I will also get the Fossils printed at the same time. Buchanan's drawings are very much admired and the palaeontologists especially like his rendering of the Fossils which they say is almost superior to anything they get done in London. Hooker is excited about the Fossil plants and is so taken with the book of impressions of Recent leaves for reference that he is going to get a large general one done from the leaves in the Gardens.

The new Edinbr. Museum is a huge place but to my eye only a poor imitation of Kensington and the rearrangement of the old Nat. History collections in Barnum fashion has quite spoilt their value. Still the fittings are admirable and they have done some bold colouring with good effect.

I think you will get a letter I posted in London by the same mail that takes this via Brindisi.

Please tell Gore that I have not effected any purchases of Books yet, but have some good bargains in my eye. I have also found a lot of my own books which I will bring out. Hooker also has made a splendid donation of Pamphlets to us and will also give us books. I find everywhere that our work in the Colony is known and appreciated.

Sincerely yours
James Hector.

H9: Hector to Mantell, 26-7-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Argaty House, Doune
26th July 1875

My dear Mantell,

I have just arrived from the North and see that the Frisco mail leaves this today, so must send you a few lines. I think I wrote you last from Selkirk soon after we left London (on the 3rd inst.). We have been very fortunate in the weather and have escaped all the heavy rains that have been devastating the country. I think except the wet Sundays which I count in Scotland, we have only had one wet day during the whole of our tour. We spent a week with Selkirk Manse as head quarters, but our excursions ranged as far as Edinbr. and of course we saw Melrose and Dryburgh Abbeys. We then spent a night with the Lytters cousins of Stafford's and Monro's at Woodhouselee under the Pentland Hills, and then by Bridge of Allan, Tyndrum to Oban, thence to Glencoe Caledonian Canal to Inverness thence to the West Coast of Ross-shire where we staid a few days at an old Inn at Kinlockewe while we (wife and I) explored Loch Maree and Loch Torridon. This was the most enjoyable part of the trip as it was just like New Zealand again and clear of Railways and tourists. I then went

north to Sutherland shire to see the Duke's Brown coal Mines at Brora, which are just like the Clutha coal only worse 200 p.c. but of undoubted oolite age. The fossils are plentiful and the same as in the lower section of the Amuri Bluff.

Thence to Aberdeen and Perth and to this place, where we find the two little Monro boys established and adopted by their Great Uncle and Aunt. We leave this tomorrow and to London on Friday night. Wife then goes to visit relatives while I descend to the Crypts till the 25th August, when I go to Bristol. I have recd. no letters yet tho the mail is overdue, but they shd. meet us tomorrow at Selkirk and I will answer them by Suez.

I had a long day in the New Edinbr. Museum and find many good hints there. I wish we could get Tiles for the floor. I have the address of the maker and will get prices. The cases are all like our fossil cases, black edgings and the interior neutral grey. The walls are Egyptian red and the ceilings light blue. The effect is very good. I find the part I found in such a mess and which I criticized in my last note to you, was only a temporary arrangement. The final arrangement of the Zoological series is splendid, except the birds are rather "spotty" in the cases i.e. not nicely grouped. I will write you fully about all the hints I got there when I get my note back which I left in Selkirk.

Will you tell Benj. Smith to try and let my house for six months longer as I suppose the three months extension of leave will be all right and even if we return before the time is up Mrs H will be going to Nelson and I can easily manage for a time. I am longing to hear news. I see by telegram that Pollen is Chief but that Vogel is still with them as P.M.G. I wonder if that will last thro' the session. Every one here is full of N.Z. affairs In travelling the Colony is a constant theme of conversation, there are great numbers of highlanders thinking of going out as there have been several of their friends home lately with lots of money blowing about the Country.

I hope everything is going smoothly with you in the Dept. and that you are not bothering yourself too much. With love to Wally

Yours affectionately
James Hector.

H10: Hector to Mantell, 3-8-1875

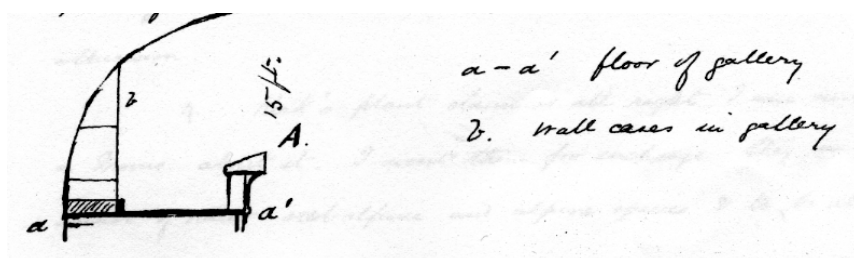
ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

British Museum, W.C.
3rd August 1875

My dear Mantell,

I have just received yours of 4th June via Brindisi and of 7th and 8th via Frisco, with enclosures, and good news of the Dept. all very welcome.

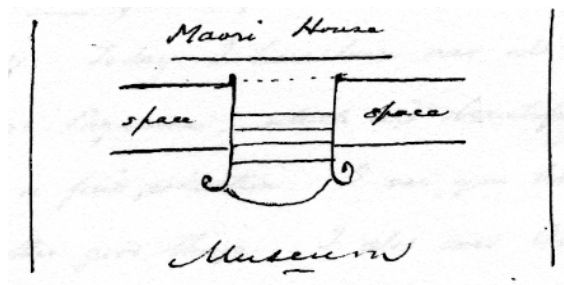
1. I will note the change in the arrangement of the Cases in the Museum on the plan. As yet I have only made enquiries and have ordered nothing. I am going to try to get metal mouldings for framing the glass in the cases, in lengths with angle pieces so that we can get them put up as we want them. I will get no backs or plain timbers for the cases but only the mouldings and those parts that are liable to warp. Cabinet drawers I will of course get made here. I wish all cases to be painted black and french grey inside. The tall wall cases that you have placed in the N. end, should have their moulding lightened and be painted as above. I see in the Brit. Mus. they have the Saurians mounted just as we have ours but placed vertically against the wall under glass & not horizontally, but I prefer the look of ours. I hope you will get the floor cases divided and put round the gallery as planned, but keep their legs short and make them take the place of an ornamental rail by projecting a little, as A. in section.



2. Estimates. The only changes I contemplated were those made for Kirk Jr. & Messenger and I mentioned them to Pollen who was prepared to grant. Gore's I know nothing about & I wonder at its fate for many reasons. Poor fellow he seems to have hard times of it with as much sickness and so many doctor's bills. I wish he could get something in which he could get advanced as he would like, but I fear he is as high as they will stand it for Clerk to the Dept. when the salaries for similar billets in other offices is taken into account. I warned him when he was always urging the Meteorological work as an extra that his clerical pay might be considered as too high unless on account of his Meteorological duties.

3. The excavation under the Maori House, for a sufficient distance at least to ensure drainage, was part of the plan and the ascent was to be by a few steps projecting if necessary into the Museum, thus:

[diagram on next page]



It will never do to cut into the Maori House floor and the other plan would look rather well with a nice balustrade. But see that they cut trenches right under the Maori House floor.

The entrance to the Cesspool was provided for very much in the way you propose, but I forget the details. I remember giving up one window in order to get the communication – the Clerk of Works understood it. Do the best you can as no doubt you will but the muck must not be taken through the Museum.

4. Kirk's plant claim²⁰ is all right I am sure I left a memo. about it. I want them for exchange they were to consist of rarer subalpine & alpine species & to be at the rate of 6d each all round. I should have noted the conditions fully but he was just starting on a trip and that was the only way I could promise him assistance. I don't understand what he is doing in the Herbarium – long before I left I told him we could spare no more plants & told Buchanan to keep what was left out of reach of every one. I remember he told me (i.e. B.) that he had already brought them all up to his room. The original leave to Kirk was only to look over the plants & he was to take any that could be spared of common things that were at that time out of flower, to enable him to make up a set for the use of his Botanical Class. I return the voucher signed – let Buchanan look over the collections and take out what will be of use to our herbarium & send the rest to me by post. He may also send me a memo. of what plants would be most useful for us to get in exchange. [I wrote you from Selkirk that I had sent a box of *Picea* plants from Mr P. Neil Fraser, of Edinbr.]

5. Today I have been over all your old gathering of fossils at Paramoa, which are beautifully arranged and are really a fine collection. I see you had the coloured Limes & lots of other good things. I also saw Owen's *Cnemiornis* bones. You were right. He had had the skull beside him for years (15 they say) but never associated with the leg bones till he saw my paper. Besides, his skull has no lower jaw, he has prigged his figure of that – of the sternum & some other parts entirely from my paper without acknowledgement. Woodward tells me that they are constantly getting into rows by people coming and asking to see the originals of bones that have been figured by Owen, but which are only constructions from fragments which are all they have to show. Since the meeting at the Zoo. where I got him to admit he had not seen a single bone of *Harpagornis* the Council of the Society have decided not to print the illustrations to his paper! So I have done some good.

Old Waterhouse and Woodward are very kind and I will get a lot of fine things from them. Only fancy, I have unpacked all the Saurian fossils now & find no difficulty in making them straight with McKay's clear headed packing lists & careful labels. Woodward is charmed with Buchanan's drawings of the Fossil Shells & says that nothing could be better.

²⁰ This refers to Thomas Kirk (1828-98) who was teaching natural science at Wellington College.

Altogether every piece of work of the Dept. that I have shown at home gets great praise and they say contrasts favourably with the way things are done here. I have received the whole file of Vol. VII to the middle of Purnell's paper. It looks well this year. I had not seen the Miscellaneous as that was lost in the *Schiller*. There is one very queer passage in Hood's paper on the Hot Winds. I have lent the file to Günther & cant quote it. I see there is still a good deal to do – especially the Proceedings which are always a tiresome job, but I must close this & write again tomorrow. I don't know how I can sufficiently thank you for all the trouble you are taking on my account. I hope you wont make yourself ill with work. I am glad your last account of Wally is all good. I have not forgotten his boat tell him.

Yours Ever
James Hector.

H11: Hector to Mantell, 17-8-1875
ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
17th August 1875

Dear Matara,

The good schooner *Matara* was launched today²¹ and with start on her voyage to N.Z. consigned to her owner Walter with a cargo of general light goods per enclosed invoice by the first chance. She is a regular beauty & her sister made the voyage from Dover to the French coast the other day. It was quite accidental but after they let her go under full sail they could not overtake her with a row boat! The *Matara* whose name is worked on her pennant is 43 inches long & 11.5 beam, with very tall raked masts & top masts & a launching bowsprit. All the rigging is first rate & works well. She has a Blue Peter & an ensign & Pennant. I feel sure she will give satisfaction to her new owner.

The cargo you can take or not as you like – any or all but I thought it a pity not fill up the corners of the box. The game is a kind of tennis quite newly out – in fact none had been sold as they only had come into the shop. The large spectograph I want you to give to Buchanan as I think it will be of use to him. It is a great improvement on the camera lucida. I have just settled the cable business at last. It has been a great bother as the business is divided among 3 companies & all one within the other & I think stupidly the major contract has been the last to be signed.

I am all alone here getting ready for Bristol next week.

Yrs
J. Hector.

Last culinary discovery! How to make a crumby young woman crusty. Bak(h)er.

²¹ A model boat for Mantell's son, Wallie.

H12: Hector to Mantell, 23-8-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
23rd August 1875

My dear Mantell,

The mail is just in with your note of 6th July – Gore's monthly & the sheets of Vol. VII up to date. All satisfactory. Since last mail I have been hard at work in the Crypts & have been overhauling lots of old N.Z. things. I think I told you that lots of your things are just where you & Old Davis left them.

I find the type skull of *Dinornis* has really been changed to A----- without a word of remark!!

I have no news. Mrs H. is away in Wiltshire. I have not seen her for 3 weeks. I was out a few days at Kew working at the Fossil Plants. Hooker is much shaken poor fellow.

Günther has taken from my Nat Hist things what he wants & offers cash or value to £350 for them. I hope I will do well with the rest of the specimens viz. 2/3rd of the Birds, Eggs & Native things & the whole of the Fossils.

I am just starting for Bristol where I will be for a week & then to the Continent.

I have just got the account for packing & shipping Wally's Schooner - £2.5.8

That's the way the money goes. I'll soon get hard up.

In haste to catch the mail & train.

Yrs Ever
James Hector.

H13: Hector to Mantell, 17-9-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Geneva
17th September 1875

My dear Mantell,

The mail is not yet in so I have no further news from you since I last wrote, but as the out mail leaves this tomorrow I must send you a few lines. We left England at once after the Brit. Assoc. meeting at Bristol where I held forth on various subjects, & among other things did your work re moas the justice it deserves but has never received. We also had a good ethnological discussion about the Maori race & the big noises[?] seemed to lean to the idea that they are a branch of the Chinese parallel with the Japanese!! Rolleston (of Oxford) Vaux & many other ethnologists incline to this view. There is a capital paper by Vaux on the subject for our Transactions by next mail.

I also described the Geol. Map that was sent to Vienna & raised a row about our Trias which I will tackle in Octr. before the Geol. Soc.

We are having a jolly trip. Our route hitherto has been Calais, Brussels, Cologne, & up Rhine to Heidelberg & Basle, thence Lucerne & then Switzerland to this place, & tomorrow we start at 7 a.m. for Chamonix & for Milan via Simplon Pass where we will reach about a week from now. Then to Vienna, Florence, Genoa, Turin & Paris, & home to London about 7th Octr.

I have been in all the Museums especially Bonn, Basl & Geneva. The last is by far the best & has all Pictets²² fossils & Lamarks & Dismanets[?] shells & Studer's Rocks & minerals. They give me every information but all the Professors are absent on their holidays so that I must arrange exchanges hereafter. This is only a line to let you know we are well & not idle. Just seen the telegram about the 2nd. Reading of the Prov. Govt. abolition Bill. Good!!

With kind regards to all
Yours Ever
James Hector.

I have sent out £126 worth of glass ware for the Museum, but I think I wrote you about it. Also got lots of fine fossils.

²² Probably Francois Jules Pictet de la Rive (1809-72), a Swiss paleontologist

H14: Hector to Mantell, 26-9-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Milan
26th September 1875

My dear Mantell,

I wrote you a note from Geneva by Frisco just as we were starting for Chamonix²³ on Friday week last. After several delightful days among the Glaciers having splendid weather (with the luck that we have enjoyed ever since our arrival in June) we returned to Geneva on Wednesday hoping to find our N.Z. letters there & to answer them by this (Brindisi) mail. But we found the mails (both Frisco & Suez) were overdue so I wrote to Featherstone to send them to meet us in Paris where I hope to arrive in about 8 days from now. We arrived here last night very late having crossed by the Simplon Pass to Baveno on Lago Maggiore, thence by Steamer to Arona & by Rail to this beautiful city. We had 28 hours in the Diligence²⁴ without more than 20 minutes halt anywhere & got perfectly smothered with dust on entering the Italian Valleys. We were both quite knocked up yesterday but today we have been all over Milan, at High Mass & at the top of the Cathedral. As I cant see the Museum unless I stay till Wednesday I cant spare so long we are off tomorrow afternoon to Venice.

It is very tiresome not having got any letters for so long & I feel very anxious for news. I will be back in London by the 7th Octr. and having by that time your letters I will be able to arrange my work & send you definite news of my plans & time of return by the Frisco mail of the 28th.

With kind regards to all
Yrs
J Hector.

H15: Hector to Mantell, 20-10-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299, sheets 13 & 18

70 Gr.Russell Street, London
20th October 1875

My dear Mantell,

On reaching Paris on the 7th I received your "scrap" by Suez of 30th July & your letter of 2nd Augt. with many interesting enclosures and since I returned to London I got your budget of 31st Augt. on the 16th. Since I have now set in to work and finding the crypt too unpleasant I have taken a room across the street as an office where I can have a fire & work at any hour I please & yet be within reach of the collections. The weather is horrible. Cold

²³ A small town at Mt Blanc

²⁴ A large, 4-wheeled stagecoach used for long journeys

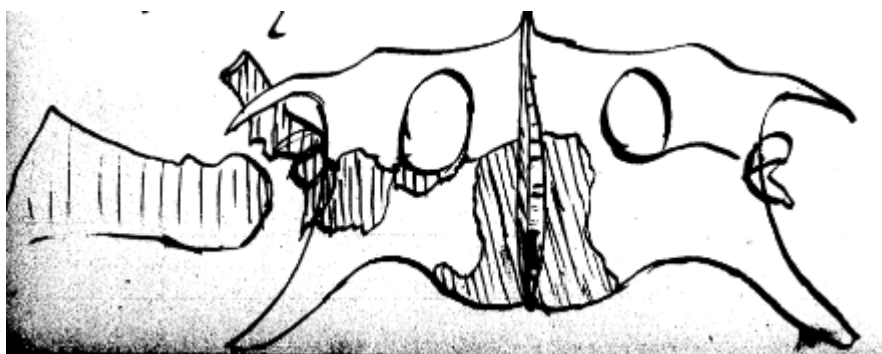
raw East Gale & rain. This has continued since our return but is really the first bad weather we have experienced since the end of May.


1. Work done – Gore's memos 6 & 7 from 6th July to 30 Aug. show that you are rapidly getting the place into order. I hope most of the Birds Burton is putting out can be named & if I had a list I could easily get those required to complete the types. The Brit. Mus. will be glad if I take some Birds among the exchanges. I thought a complete set of Sea Birds would be very useful. I am getting a set of Mammals (types) both skins & skeletons.

In stead of spending much money in cases I am getting a lot of T Iron bars made. Either to use as a---- for the racks or for supports in the Wall & other cases. The great charm of the Swiss & Italian Museums is the absence of solid shelves – or only very narrow slips either of wood or glass. Keep a sharp look out for all the slips & cuttings of plate & other glass from the new Govt. Buildings & remind Clayton that he said his order for glass would cover the estimate I gave him for the Cases & see that it is saved for us & not boned[?] by the contractor, as I am bringing none.

I will at once put the best of minerals wanted into Gregory's hands. He seems to be a good man. Cooper & Cox's reports seem to be the same thing – probably Denniston's ditto – but they are all to the point & show that I have not been overestimating the area of Coal. Cooper's survey work is remarkably cheap. I will send a Memo. about the next seasonal survey by following mail. Cox summary is satisfactory & he seems to be good at his work.

I think McKay should go again to the Amuri & get more saurians. Even if he get the same they will be the most valuable things we can have for exchange, but our collection is very deficient. For instance we have no part of the skull of a Pleisiosauroid yet! I believe I have found the Mauisaurius in a coracoid from Kimmeridge Clay lately discovered by Prof Sealy²⁵. Its outline should be



The parts we have are  thus. McKay will understand this. It is very ----- to Owen's Pliosaurus tri---ochanterius of which he had only the Femur (humerus?) Sealy's genus is Colymbosaurus see Geol. Journal of last year. Our Leodon = Mosasaurus. There is no difference in the truth. Tanawhasaurus = Mysticsaurus of Hayden. Get McKay to work out the Paddle better as though Haydens drawing shows the same. Old Davis (who greets you)

²⁵ Probably H.G. Seeley, a well known British paleontologist

insists that the humerus is turned end for end in our drawing. Of course I remember that we turned the radius. Do look at this with Buchanan & McKay after it is worked out.

Try & get Cox into the country N.W. of Ruapehu this season. McKay should be with him.

I also wish them to report on the Clent Hills in Canterbury, with the special view of making out the position of the Bone bed & its relation to the Plant beds. This is most important from what was said at Bristol about our Geology & old Haast is very foggy about it.

Skey wants a stock job he says. He still has the ultimate Analysis of the Coals. I find they wont accept proximate analysis alone here. He should also make out the nature of the Vapour (or Gas?) that is given off at 212°. I am sending him a mercurial exhaust with the other things he wanted. The same as Dr Flyht[?] is using examining the gases included in meteorites.

I think Skey should also go over the Sulphide of Gold business again & write a full paper as it has never been appreciated yet at home, but I can see that it would be thought of great importance if accepted. Let him recapitulate all he has done, report his experiments & add to them & send the lot in a paper to the Chemical Society. If he sends it to me I will get it read. It is worth his while making a paper, for he is highly thought of, but the manner of his papers hitherto & of their publication has not forced people to take him up. Cheer him up if you can.

McKay will be famous before he knows it through the kind exertions of Haast to make his ----- thing. But after all the fuss folks naturally turn in Vol. VII to the two rival papers²⁶ & as I have already heard the comparis. shows McKay to be a clean chap & Haast a verbose goose. I showed the protest of the Otago council to Gunther & he says if I think it worth while I should ask opinions on the Hon. Members of the Institute on the subject. His own is very clear that it would have be quite unjustifiable to have suppressed McKays paper & even from Haasts point of view Haast should be glad when he agrees & has no right to stifle discussion if he disagrees. He considers that the order in which the papers are placed in the volume is an ample recognition of Haasts claim to priority.

They are a ----- lot at Dunedin²⁷. I have written a letter to Gillies for I don't trust Hutton sufficiently to bring anything before the Soc. before he shows it to Thomson & perhaps helps him to cook a reply as he has done with the report of the ----- . I am sure McKerrow never made a speech[?] such as is reported for him. But the face of the thing is 1st. I never intended to rile Thomson. 2nd. I have no opinion of my own about the Long. 3rd. that Thomsons Long. is all wrong from errors of computation. Jackson has the same error. C-- ---- was burnt so we don't know. They long[?] in Scott of Sydney who made the same error & quote from the Naut[ical] Almanac of 1871 – compiled in 1865, which of course does contain the corrected longitude of Sydney. The Burnham observations of Palmer & D---- show our present long. to be mainly right & that of I. & J. all wrong. Altogether it is the most horrid

²⁶ *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* 7 (1874), pp 54-105.

²⁷ See Appendix 1 on the Longitude controversy

mess for professional men to go & stir up & will be one of the best proofs they could afford that they are quite incompetent for any duties higher than land measuring.

I have got a fine lot of Books from the Brit. Museum & expect we should get all the R.S. publications. I have bought for the Soc. the Catalogue of all Scientific publications – 6 Vols. 4 to 5 – 12/ Bound.

There will be 3 cases of Books by next ship but as I only got into this office yesterday I have not had time to make lists &c. I tried the crypts for a day or two but had to bolt with a bad sore throat & rheumatism. I have seen a telegram about the Exhibition in America but nothing definite. I will look out the things that are here but I may have to later a trip to Vienna as very few ever came back from there. I hope it will be all right as I would like to visit America again. I will close this just now to make sure but I have another day.

Yrs Ever
James Hector.

H16: Hector to Mantell, 15-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

6 Porchester Gate, Hyde Park, London
15th November 1875

My dear Mantell,

We expect the mail on Tuesday but as I may have to go down to Wales that day about some coal business I must write a few lines to be seen to catch Thursdays mail (outward). I have very little to report this last month, I have been hard at work every day at 70 Gt. Russell St. where I still have my office room & have only had one days holiday to Brighton to see the aquarium. Mrs Farmer takes all care of Mrs Hector off my hands which leaves me quite free. I have seen a good deal of Capt. Fraser & Dr Buchanan both of whom live close to this place. I dare say they both enjoyed "Hansard" after each their own fashion. You seem to have taken a very sensible view of the case I think. Vogel lent me the Hansard to read. He leaves on 20th inst. by the *Somersetshire*. I am sending a box by him containing things for the children. I will ask him to send it to the Museum. Will you get it sent on to Sir David? I have just selected the plants for 12 Ward Cases which will start in about a month from Kew. Tell Ludlam that his Abyssinian Banana is in one case (or is to be rather) & the Rhododendrons are to be sent home in a Case with a tin pan – other in thumb-pots plunged. The same is to be tried with the Piceas & some other delicate things. There is also to be a fine series of specimens of Ash, Walnuts, (Hickory), Willows, Alders, Planes, Limes & the like (also the Canadian *amelanchier*) to be sent dry in casks. Altogether it will be a splendid collection & I hope will have good luck. I will write fully about it all.

The glass ware went by the S. *Commonwealth* in 9 casks of which you will receive the B/L. The freight has to be paid at Wn. The cost is £137-19. I have found & unpacked the Vienna things²⁸ & it took me 4 days to get them straight. Rough boxes had been filled at

²⁸ Material from the New Zealand display at the Vienna Exhibition in 1873, which had been stored in London.

random with gold specimens, bricks, bars of Iron, specimens in bottles, such as petroleum, flax, grass &c. &c. with hardly any papers & the labels all adrift. It was lucky that I had the unpacking as I knew most of the specimens. I am going to exhibit & read a paper on the Gold Rocks at the Geol. Soc. but will keep the specimens till I hear about Philadelphia. The Maori mats were in a horrid mess. & I have put the Feather mats in Burton's hands to be restored if possible. I find in the crypts at the Agent Generals office loads of papers, maps, Books &c. of which all knowledge has been lost in the region alone! Heaps of things transferred from Morrisons[?] office!

I sent off a case for young Burton in which is an £11 parcel of Birds Eyes for the Museum. It is old Burtons fault that they did not go in August last.

The minerals are in hand, but I hope to get a lot of them in exchange from Maskelyne at the Brit. Museum as he has taken a great fancy to get all my rock specimens which are greatly admired. Had I known the craze there is now about rocks I would have brought more. Please send by Post in Govt. box to Agent General a small specimen of true Dunite. Also specimens of the two species of Bat. in case I have left address of the former Prof. Maskelyne, Brit. Museum & the other Dr Gunther, Brit. Museum. I am afraid I must make a fresh arrangement about show cases as they are making no progress. Nor can I discover where to get the T Iron work made that I want. Everything else is in trick. Tell Skey I have got him a very fine Spectroscope & Electric Lamp – also a Thermal Pile[?] & some other things in addition to his order. They will all go next ship. It is quite bewildering how the time slips away here & the weather is so horrid that I cant get thro' half enough work. The fossils are still as I left them in August all laid out in the crypts of the Brit. Museum in order & ready for the Palaeontologists that proffered help, but alas!! I fear I must threaten to take them all away & put them in the hands of a dealer.

Gunther has been too busy yet to look out the duplicates we are to get in exchange for the Zoological Collections – but I really believe his promise is to be relied on. Capt. Fraser gave him (Gunther) not Owen the Cnemidornis skeleton with my sanction – on condition that Casts of the bones are to be made & sent out within 6 months to Wn. & Dunedin. We had a discussion at the Geol. Soc. The last meeting about your Ototara series again. I gave them a long story about it and defended my term cretaceo-tertiary. I have promised a lecture on the Glaciers of New Zealand for January – also papers at the Ethnological Geological &c. so my hands are full. I go down to Scotland on the 7th prox. about various things – among them to set up & lecture on the Moa skeleton Farmer gave to the University of St. Andrews. Also to inspect Iron works. I am working up a system for converting our Brown Coals into fuel for Locomotives. I think it will succeed. I am also hunting for a manager & furnace men for the Parapara Iron Coy. I have put off all my society meetings for Decr. So as to be free to do all this & to see also the Cleveland[?] & Lancashire Iron mines & workings all of which are new to me.

I forgot to mention that by the Somerset I send Ward Cases of Cork Oaks Vogel undertakes to see that they are not delayed in Melbourne. They are very fine & valuable. I am also going to get a set of the seed Potatoes that took the £50 prizes the other day at the Horticultural show & also some other fine Garden comestables. Vogel will take great interest in them but see that they I slip past Bramly & get into Govt. House Garden altogether.

By this mail I send in agent generals box Vaux's paper on the Maoris. It is very good & will make a substantial portion of Vol VIII. He wants you to correct the Maori. He has let down Thomson easy, but says he is a horrid pirate. He could not understand where J.T. Thomson got all his erudition & fine style from as what was obviously his own in the papers on the "Whence of the Maori"²⁹ was evidently the writing of a partially educated man. At last he traced it to the "Jour. Of the Malay Archipelago" which was published only till about 1856 & of which there is only one copy in England in private hands – none in the Libraries at Brit. Museum or Oxford. This journal is chiefly long paper by the late Logan[?] who was a great ethnologist & from those papers Thomson has prizzed[?] the whole of his theories & page after page of ethnology which has been imported word for word into our Transactions with out the least acknowledgment. Keep this quiet please. I have just got sight of the original & want to look it up for myself.

Put Vaux's paper first in next Vol. It can be read at the Janry. meeting of the Wn. Phil. Soc. I have been trying hard to throw all my cetacean notes in foreign museums at a paper also, but it is very incomplete. I am writing while they are all at church & have not my memo. Of things to be said to refer to but I will not slow till I get to the office tomorrow morning. I have to go round by the A.G.'s office to get the Bills of Lading for you if they have not sent them direct.

I was glad to notice the ----- tone of your last letter. I hope the hard work you have accepted on my account will prove a good service to you, tho' I will not on that account feel a bit less grateful. Mrs Hector joins in sending her kindest regards to you & Wally. Packing the box for the children made her feel a little low. I hope by this time Wally has got his box & that he Schooner *Matara* is proudly launched. Remember I have still a balance of £28-5/2 to your credit in my note book. Tell me in time how to spend it for you. I am getting some splendid & cheap books for the Society & all with a report to the Secty. In time for the Janry. meeting. Two boxes are ready now for shipment. I hope if I go by America that Govt. will authorize my visiting the Nevada mines in California. It is very important that I should see them.

Ever Your Friend
James Hector.

²⁹ Transactions of the NZ Institute 4 (1871): 24-48.

H17: Hector to Mantell, 16-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
16th November 1875

My dear Matara,

I enclose the B/L for the glass ware.

Just got your letter of 26th Sept. and also one from J. D. Cooper (& here comes another from you of 29th. There is nothing definite about Philadelphia as it was only going to come before the House of R.

I hope I will get plenty of notice & that I will be able to remain here till Febry.

There is no Col. Museum in London & the things from the Vienna Ex. Are few & in a horrid mess. However I have done what I can with them.

I must off to Wales (Swansea) at 5.15 but will be back on Thursday.

I have not had time to read your letter yet, but will take them in train. I must be off to the City thence to Dr Percy & to Vogels & then to Wales.

Love to all
Yrs in haste
James Hector

Here come more letters.

H18: Georgiana Hector to Mantell, 17-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303

6 Porchester Gate
17th November 1875

Dear Mr Mantell,

I write to you instead of Dr Hector today for he was obliged to start off to Wales, rather in a hurry yesterday afternoon. He expects to return tomorrow but not in time to catch the S.F. mail.

I enclose our insurance account for a box of clothing, toys etc, which Sir Julius Vogel has very kindly taken charge of. He is to send it to you, at the Museum & I shall be very much obliged to you if you will be so good as to forward it to my Father either to Nelson or the Wairau as he may direct. Our N.Z. mail arrived yesterday giving no time to answer all our

letters. You will see in all the Home papers accounts of the terrible floods at Oxford and elsewhere. In many places the trains are unable to run on account of the depth of water. I am afraid Dr Hector will have anything but a pleasant trip.

I hope Wallies boat has arrived safely by this time & that it gives satisfaction to him & to you.

We are still staying with the Farmer's but go next month to Edinburgh for a week or a fortnight.

With kindest regards
Believe me
Yrs Sincerely
G Hector.

H19: Hector to Mantell, 18-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

[London?]
18th November 1875

My dear Mantell,

I have returned in time to add a line or two. I had a horrid trip to Swansea & drove 16 miles yesterday in the heaviest rain I ever saw thro sheets of water. All communication with Oxford has been shut up for 4 days. I went to inspect some new machinery for P---- Fuel to see if it can be applied to our Brown Coals to make them ----- for Locomotives, a thing you know I have always been hankering after. I think it can be managed. The hurry was to settle something before Vogel leaves on Saturday. He is much better now & I think the long voyage will quite set him up but he has been quite a wreck for months. I really pity him.

Haasts letter is delirious piece of Clunk[?]. If I remember aright McKay had put no talk to his paper, but I called him to my room & asked what it was to be & wrote in what he said with my own hand, but whether that was before or after it was read I don't remember or care. The fact is no one attached such importance to the thing as Haast does. What you write me about Haast having "cooked" his now famous postscript after the paper was read is a much worse "falsification". But the whole thing is rot & I am sick of it. But I doubt you will think I am again writing "in temper" as you mention in your last only I don't remember it & if I was I am sure it was not with you.

I can't make out why you should take such trouble for me & do so much real kindness. It is an out & out case of self sacrifice which parsons are always preaching for but never really see. I wish I knew how I could minister to your peace of mind half as much as you do to mine by your capital letters every mail. About my affairs in the Colony – I have not your last letter here but am going to my office & if there is time, will read them over & write about any matters that require attention.

Ever Yours
James Hector.

H20: Hector to Mantell, 25-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

[London?]
25th November 1875

My dear Mantell,

I notice in the Phil. Ex. Papers that Col. Secty. in letter to you of 31st Augt. says he had written to me on subject by out going mail for S.F.

I have never got any letter on the subject, so I wish to make you aware of this, as some action may be expected from me. I wish I knew as it keeps my Plans unsettled. If there was a good chance of nice people going out I think Mrs Hector would be glad to get back to her bairns & avoid the delay in America. It is just possible that if the Col. Secty. letter missed the S.F. mail of 31st Augt. It has been sent by Southampton on 26th Augt. & that mail will not be in till next Tuesday the Brindisi letters by it came yesterday but nothing on the subject.

[*Marginal note:* If on enquiry you find that a letter was really sent to me on 31st it might be as well to put in the enclosed official.]

I have got a fine lot of Books now packing. I picked up a splendid bound set of the Palaeontological Soc. Pub. for £25 (worth £42). I wish I had definite authority to charge it to the Gen. Ass. Library but I cant find any one who pays for you, so I will charge it in the meantime to the Geol. Surv. & if the Library wants it they can take it off our hands. I don't like to charge so big a Geol Book to the £100 I have for the W.P.S. For them I got a fine lot of books of reference & the Brit. Mus. have given us 170 vols. I have still about £60 of the W.P.S. money in hand & one way or other have packed up 430 vols for our Library. It is snowing hard & I have horrible Rheumatic pains in my shoulders & legs. I got a wetting at Cambridge the other day. Mrs H's cold is still troublesome & I fear it is a mistake to stay here in winter.

Ever Yours

James Hector.

H21: Hector to Colonial Secretary, 25-11-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

London
25th November 1875

Sir,

I observe in a printed copy of correspondence relative to the Philadelphia Exhibition that it is stated in your letter to the Chairman of 31st Augt. that I was communicated with on the subject by the S. Francisco mail of that date, & I try to take the earliest opportunity of informing you that the letter in question has not reached me but that it may do so by the Southampton mail due on the 30th Inst.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Yours obediently
James Hector.

The Hon. The Colonial Secty.

H22: Hector to Mantell, 14-12-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-299

Edinburgh
14th December 1875

My dear Mantell,

This mail has brought the first cloud accross our pleasant trip – the news of our poor baby's death³⁰. Mrs Hector is away in Perthshire so has not yet heard of it, but I fear it will greatly upset her, & I daresay she will want to be off at once to her other little ones.

There is not a word among the letters that have yet reached me, about my going to Philadelphia. I mean officially – though you & others talk as if it is all settled. I have telegraphed to Featherstone about it as perhaps all my letters have not been sent on.

We came here last week to a marriage in the Clan Monro, & a grand thing it was. I have since then been seeing all my old friends & college mates & very friendly they are.

I am sorry the R.S.E. is out of the Free list of the Institute as it seems we are on their free list and it is owing to their agents fault that we have not received all their publications for years back. This should be put right.

I think the R.S. Antiquaries would also exchange their magnificent Trans. for ours.

³⁰ Baby David Hector died of pneumonia in Nelson.

Berggren³¹ passed thro' London & I have since heard from him in Sweeden. He says the Sweedish Acad. Has sent us everything, but got neither acknowledgment nor exchange. He has got his set. Please look this up. I think a list of all we get should be published.

This is only a scrap of a letter – more tomorrow.

I am glad the Ball was a success – since there was one. I have already advised you of several boxes on their way.

Ever Yours Ever
James Hector.

H23: Hector to Mantell, 11-1-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

7 Westminster Chambers, London
11th January 1876

My dear Mantell,

Yours of 17th, 18th & 22nd Nov. just received from which I learn that you have my notes of 15th & 27th Sept. from Genoa & Milan,³² but you say two mails previously brought no letters. Now I am sure there must be some mistake as I never here missed a mail on any occasion except perhaps the Sept. mail by S. Frisco as being abroad our letters naturally went via Brindisi on 1st Octr. The previous letters to this went via. S. Frisco on 22nd Augt. just before I went to Bristol. But I was under the impression that I wrote by Brindisi on 3rd Sept. the day before we left London for the continent. I have a note in my journal to that effect. By this time all the papers about the glass & I hope the glass itself will have reached you. It was shipped by the *Commonwealth* – I sent the B/L by Brindisi on 25th Octr. & a list of the things by the following S.F. mail. You will also have got a letter from McKellar of 16th advising you of the case for Burton by the Hurunui & also a case of Plants from Kew by the Somersetshire. It is very unfortunate about the *Piceas* being all dead as they were a valuable - ---- don't for get to fill up the Box & send it back to Farmer who sent it. He wants Ferns & Buchanan has an old list, besides that which I sent out some time ago. I have just got a complete set of Brit. Ferns from him for the Col. Herbarium, so we must send him the best we can. By the Suez mail also I send out for him a tin box of Bulbs. They are in exchange for live Ferns which we packed & sent home for Sir Jas.[?] Fergusson & for which he asked Bulbs for Govt. Ho. Garden. They are therefore adressed to the gardener there but perhaps you may get a share of them for our gardens under the circumstances. I enclose a list of Ferns Buchanan sent me by Fraser also[?].

³¹ S. Berggren was a Swedish botanist who visited new Zealand in 1873.

³² Actually the 17th and 26th September, according to the dates on Hector's original letters.

By your last letters I get the first clear idea of what I am to do about Philadelphia. My wife goes out via Suez on the 8th prox. I will get all I can together in London, but there will not be much as the few things that came back from Vienna were in a horrid state. But I am glad I have not to hurry away from London as I have still the Fossils to settle about. I have a promise from Etheridge to go over them with me but it is very hard to get anything done with the Geol. Branch of the Brit. Mus. Owen seems to sit like an incubus on the whole place & they all do dog in manger. Having my things unpacked & in their crypts they fancy they have them safe from any other person – but I'll show them rather different.

Gunther is quite different & is making up a noble collection in exchange – besides having got the Cetaceans I brought out once put in hand so that if I like I can complete their description!! I have been very busy at the Societies of late & came out strong at the G.S. on Wednesday & the Geol. Assoc. on Friday where I gave a 2 hours lecture on the N.Z. Alps. Tonight I take up the Maori & Moa hunter question at the Anthropological.

I have received a splendid set of the Devonian Fishes at St. Andrews where I went & fixed up a fine Moa skeleton & then gave them a lecture.

Also a magnificent set of Lyme Regis things thro' Brogden[?]. The Brit. Mus. are to give all the minerals in the list you sent in exchange for the set of Rocks I brought home. I have only spent £273 out of the £1,000 yet but all the cases have to come in yet. They are not begun I fear & I think I must fall back on my plan of getting only Iron T bars & corner joinings & get the wood work made in the Colony. Case makers are fearfully slow. I will pick up some nice cabinets however. I have just shifted into an office room here on my return from Scotland and all my papers are in a mess & among others the tracings of the Museum have got out of sight so that I cannot answer your former enquiries about the arrangement of the Museum, but judging from your professional account it seems to be all right & I will consider it is to stand so in all my arrangements here. I am glad the Ball was such a success. It rather astonished some folks here when I told them of 600 folks dancing in the new wing of the Museum.

I have your abstract of the official letter which is to be sent about Phil. Ex. I hope it will come by Brindisi next week as I fancy the new Audit Act makes it impossible for the A.G. to do anything on his own responsibility, & of course money will be required. I wish very much to visit the Nevada mines which are so similar to the Thames only ----- to a great depth. It is important that I should do so & I presume there would be no harm in my halting there as I pass? You I say if I am to get any travelling allowance. This staying longer in London than I intended & sending wife out by Suez walks into my available funds and I have laid out a great deal here of my own purely for the Colony & which I suppose I wont get back.

I shall make up a list at once of things to be sent from here – forward it to ---- Bothamley, but not send them on till I hear from him in reply.

I will go to America about 11th April.

The arrival of the mail via Brindisi that leaves Wellington on Feb 10th or thereabouts.

The S. Frisco mail leaving Wellington on Feb 11th will have arrived on Mar. 30th.

Letters for me via S.F. mail of 10th March from Wellington to be advanced to Philadelphia. Also those of April 7th. Those of May 5th to be sent to P.O. San Francisco.

[Page cut off.]

if will get Audiences before the mail leaves.

I hope you have recovered from the bump on your head. I go bowing to sticks & stones. Mrs Hector recomd. you a ----- of watercress. I am just off to lecture & must close this with all the best wishes of the season.

[Signature cut off.]

I see *Nature* has got hold of your -----.


H24: Hector to Mantell, 13-1-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

[London?]
13th January 1876

My dear Mantell,

Günther unfortunately pitched on this mail-day to go over the collection of exchanges so I have been unable to attend to many things & I can only add a few words to say

1. Stanford has not shipped the cases of Books.
2. I will be sending some Private Cases – not to be opened – but sent to the Museum as less likely to go astray. They will only contain articles of personal clothing, so they can be passed the Customs. They will have besides the number the letter  on them.

Bothamley's brother has sent to ask if I can arrange for him (our B.) to come over soon to London as his mother is dying. I have said certainly not till all the things are set out in the Exhibition - & have written to S.F. to B. to that effect. It will be very inconvenient if he has to leave me all alone there. Who is my "practical" coadjutor?

I fancy N.Z. will not show well but I'll do the best I can & have already got a scheme out. I wish the officials had come & especially about the Expenditure as I fear Featherston cant budge & there are some put here nominally under him that are waiting to see the upset & profit by it.

Ever Yours
James Hector.

H25: Hector to Mantell, 20-1-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

Letter in A.G.'s Bag by this mail.

London
20th January 1876

My dear Mantell,

The Brindisi mail brought no further instructions about Philadelphia but I suppose they will come by next Frisco mail. Unless clear instructions come to the A.G. about money matters I fear there will be a fix as he can pay nothing without authority. I don't think the Telegram you refer to as having been sent to him ever reached this!! I have been to Wool brokers & Fibre Merchants & am getting together all I can from them.

Mrs Hector sails on the 10th Febry. & will get to Wn. about 12th April. Will you, tho' I need hardly suggest it, keep Smith or some one on the look to help her with her baggage as she will be all alone.

She is going to stay with Mrs F. Pharazin I believe.

By the way I don't know if I wrote to say that as I wont be out till July the Bishop can have another 3 months spell of my house, i.e. if he does not inconvenience you. What have you been able to do about the N.Z. Institute Trans. this year. I dread to ask not so much as I am away but as Bothamley is absent. I have just put the MS of a splendid catalogue of our Marine Crustaeca which Myers has done for us. I want Featherston to let me print it here, but doubt if he can authorize it. I am very busy but mean to break off for a week to the South Coast with my wife to brace her up a bit for the voyage. She is rather knocked up with hard shopping.

Ever Yours
James Hector.

H26: Hector to Mantell, 6-2-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

Wiltshire
6th February 1876

My dear Mantell,

I am making a round of visits with my wife before she starts on the 10th from Southampton, having left London on the 3rd the Frisco. mail not having arrived. I have told them to send the letters to meet me but they may not reach me in time for the Frisco. mail & in that case I will write by Brindisi. I wrote one to Bothamley to Frisco. & will send another letter to meet him in Philadelphia, but till I get further instructions I can do nothing. The new Audit arrangements are now in form & tho Featherston is very willing to do every thing in his power to facilitate business his hands are tied as every cheque even must be signed by the

Audit officers who wont act without explicit written instruction & who seem to keep a look out for difficulties.

Portsmouth 8th Febry. – I have just heard that the Frisco. mail will not be in till the 12th, so there is no use keeping this open. I enclose a list of the glass ware from Powells', I fear I must have omitted it from a previous letter. Also a copy of Hooker's deliverance on Jack Haast. They would bother him about it & I hope they will enjoy his report. Only they made up a most unfair case to McKay which led to Hooker rather harsh remark at the end. However it was a queer idea for one side to refer a thing for arbitration. Of course this copy is quite confidential unless they have published a garbled or imperfect statement. I told Hooker that I would send it to you. He never has had the slightest conversation on the subject with me. We are here for tonight & tomorrow go to Southampton & my wife sails next day. I have been very busy with Etheridge during the last two weeks, going over the Fossils 2/3rds of the Amuri Bluff fossils (below the Pebble bed) are identical with Lr. Greensand fossils from Folkston. Our Coal is coming out as I anticipated as on the fault & the Amuri Limestone & Ototara Group = Up. Greensand to Farcoe[?] (=Up. Chalk or Lr. Eocene).

I have looked at Hutton's book³³ & don't see anything new & also true in it. He makes the most of some very obvious blunders which I rather made or were made for me, but which are all put right & he makes some wonderful mistakes & omission himself. He never says a word about the Belemnite bed over the Green island Coal, & he muddles up the Hampden beds containing the Moeraki boulders with the Moeraki clay marls. The former being newer than the Ototara & the other older! The same with the Awamoa beds & the Ototara which he thinks = Oamaru cape beds. In fact all the way thro' his division are Geographical & not Geological. He does not appear to have done any fresh work at all. Not a fresh fossil locality.

I will be very busy now as I am working on several papers & have also some lectures to give. One e.g. at Cambridge on the 25th.

Send McKay off to the Amuri Bluff to make a fresh collection of fossils & Saurians & tell him to make a measured section if he can & to be very particular about the fossils he gets above & below the Pebble bed (grit bed rather) & particularly to see what saurians occur in the lower formation. There is such a row I cant write so must stop till Brindisi.

I hope Mrs Hector will be out only a few days after this reaches you & she will tell you all the news of our doings.

Ever Yours Affectionaly
James Hector.

³³ Hutton, F.W. 1875: Class Book of Elementary Geology. Phillip, London, 128 pages.

H27: Hector to Mantell, 14-2-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

London
14th February 1876

My dear Matara,

Both Frisco. & Brindisi mails have been dropping in during to day, all postal arrangements being overtaxed with Valentines, so that one is still in doubt if all letters are delivered.

From you I have two letters one dated Dunedin 14th Decr. & the other from ? 11.30 on 22nd Decr. & in which you mention having written to me on the same morning at 8 a.m. This I have not received so if it contains any commissions you will know why they are not executed. The Books (courier?) you ask for will be sent out next mail if they can be got here or in Paris. I enclose a list of Books &c. that has been shipped to the Museum by Stanford. Among them are some for you. Two more cases are now being packed & I still have a balance of the £100 to spend. I have also lots of your money yet to cover all your orders. The only thing getting very low is my own money. I have got a fat official written by Bothamley & signed by Levin about the Phil. Ex. But not a word of advice about how expenses are to be met. Unless Featherston has some special advice his new regulations are such that I must either telegraph out or stop all proceedings. I wonder how Bothamley is off in that respect as if he is trusting to getting a remittance from here, he will be rather sold.

I have just seen the cases from the Zool. Dept. Brit. Mus. They are huge things & contain £500 worth of Animals. I have also got all the minerals looked out & am at work on the Fossils. Mrs Hector sailed on Thursday last & will arrive by the steamer that brings this to you. I will write more meanwhile.

Ever Yrs.

James Hector.

H28: Hector to Mantell, 9-3-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

London
9th March 1876

My dear Mantell,

I was not taken quite by surprise when I got your letter the other day with the good news of your marriage³⁴, as I had observed symptoms in your letters for some months back of an acute attack that would probably eventuate in that step. I cordially endorse the approval you have granted yourself on my behalf & all joking apart I sincerely wish you & Mrs Mantell every happiness. I look forward with pleasure to making her acquaintance when I return to the Colony. For your sake & for Wally's sake I am very glad that you have found a helpmate & there can be few that have your welfare so much at heart as I have & who are better able to judge of what is best for you. Lots of people here have been asking most kindly for you. I don't mean since the announcement in the *Times* but before. Huxley in particular. He was very ill some time ago & he says he fetched himself back from the grave by halving his food & doubling his work & knocking off all stimulants even Tea. He says he can now do far more work than ever before.

I have not seen Woodhouse yet but had a note from him. Your Piano a Broadwood of the best make & unusually brilliant tone which I selected from several dozen, will leave next week by the *Sarah Bell* so that you will have it in your house within 140 days from the date of your order. It is a 100 Guinea Piano (in the Colony) but it will cost you about £68 as I got it thro' an introduction from Messrs Sinclair & Hamilton (Brown & Campbell's London House). The Bath will go by the same ship (cost £20) filled up with some culinary odds & ends which we will be glad to take if you don't care for them. The Bath is 5 ½ ft. long & is heated in 30 minutes by a portable stove filled with gas. It was the only kind I could get, as they do not make them to heat with either lamps or charcoal, but you can easily get that altered if you have not yet got gas in your home. Still better you can get an oil can made into a gas holder on Skey's principle & have it filled with gas when required.

The music I got for you has been packed with Books at Stanfords. It is a very extensive collection & contains all you asked for except the little square book which cannot be got in England. They will try to get in Germany for you however & have the adress. The music investment is £4-5-. The Field Glass I will have to get in the city. I suppose you want a good aluminium one.

The shipments this month for the Museum are

1. 2 cases of Books. Stanford containing a gift of 200 4to. vols from the Royal Soc. & the complete Encycopde. Chem. Hist. Nat. which I have had bound & lots of other books chiefly gifts. I must still have £30 of the W.P.S. money to spend.

2. Warming apparatus for the Museum & offices, arranged on Corle--- plan. They will be safe & efficient. I think his grates will in time supersede all others. This order costs £68.

³⁴ To Jane Hardwick

3. Large collection of Fossils from English Mesozoic, the foundation presented by Jas. Brogden & I got leave from the A.G. to spend £50 in completing it & it is really a fine lot of Saurians &c. The packing is not done yet but off they must go this month.

4. Two large rock cases & five smaller cases from the B.M. containing

	<u>Species</u>
90	Stuffed & set up mammals
50	Skeletons & skulls
20	Raptorial Birds
10	Reptiles
150	Fish
80	Skeletons (Birds Rept & Fish)
330	Mollusks
350	Insects
170	Type Minerals

This lot is insured for £800 on Dr Gunther's valuation. They left yesterday. There are still about 150 minerals to be sent, but the B. M. has not got them in duplicate but Prof Maskelyn is getting them for us from abroad.

4. The Cases (Show) are being made in Black Ebony & will be splendid, but they will not be ready this month I fear. Sage of Grays Inn Road has the contract. I am only sending the wood work as was agreed with Clayton who said he had ordered lots of glass. They will be all fitted & then taken to pieces for packing. I don't think we will gain much by getting Drawers & Car---- made here.

5. The descriptive Catalogue of our Crustacea is in the printers hands, it will be 10 sheets with 3 plates. Cost £70 including Author's fee. 25 new species I allowed Miers (the Author) to publish in the Am: & Maj. Nat. Hist. to secure priority. 500 copies will be sent to the Colony.

I have not yet finished the Fossils with Etheridge, but have only the Ototara series left. They have yielded some curious discoveries. Thus the large goniatite like shell from the Nuggets is a true Aturia (Nautilus zic zac type) a genus never before got below the London clay!! The results so far show 1. Middle Silurian 2. Devonian (very low) 3. Carboniferous, also --- 4. A mixed series of Carb. & Permian 5. Trisocco-lias 6. Jurassic? (Plants only) 7. Lr. Cretaceous (Huttons' Putataho & the Lr. Amuri Bluff) 8. Upper Cretaceous (our Br. Coals as for instance the Green Island is in this).

So you see my ideas are to be confirmed on the whole, probably the only error will be in having followed Hochstetter in making the Wairoa beds Trias. You may see that I am pretty hard at work with all this.

I heard by Telegraph of Bothamley's arrival at Philadelphia yesterday. I go on 5th April. The A.G. at last got advice to pay me £500. I thought there was to be a fix as the new audit regulations are quite absurdly rigid. But I hope Bothamley is armed with an independent credit or we will be high & dry over there. I will have to spend a good deal here.

The Catalogue is being printed here so that I did not need to send it over to Philadelphia. I will have it out before I leave. I got a letter to the Duke of Richmond from the Earl of Carnarvon, but did not see him as I was refd. to the Secty. to the Comms. here by the Dukes P. Sec. I think I will get on all right with my fellow workers. I have telegraphed for office room at the Ex. & to give Bothamley every help, & have sent the best instructions I can to guide him. All my Exhibits from here go on the 15th. Flax, Ropes, Gold, Minerals, Photographs, Maori Mats. The new maps of N.Z. & other places. About 20 Cases. I am getting very tired & will be glad of a rest.

With kind regards to Mrs Mantell & yourself.
I am Ever your greatly indebted friend
James Hector.

Mr & Mrs Farmer ----- congratulations & compts. to Mrs Mantell & yourself.

P.S.

Jacksons letter is very forked & untruthful³⁵. I am not aware of having ever disparaged his astronomical work. I have always taken an interest in it & troubled myself to get it printed for him. I have always been quite fair & friendly about it. The only time I differed from him was when he applied for our clocks to take up to the Hutt!! In his letter he admits exactly what I said. He should make allowance for me & bear in mind that I wrote defending myself against a most low mean attack.

I think Stock should be asked if the statement that the time ball time ever varies + & - 4 seconds, & if so why so.

I don't see that I can do any good in answering Jackson. As for the Longitude. Melbourne is now fixed & also Sydney I presume by Telegraph & they can get the difference from there any night they like by wire – I think this might be suggested to Govt. if they have not thought of it already. The Admiralty would be glad of the information. But perhaps it will be better to wait till Palmer or some reliable man is got to do it.

JH

P.P.S.

I will get the B.P. for Cox.

1. I forget to send McKay to the Amuri for more fossils as soon as he can be spared.
2. I think it would be also advisable that he should examine the Oamaru district as the fossils collected from there & especially the list quoted by Hutton in his Catalogue & repeated in his Geol. of Otago is sadly mixed, & evidently comprises several very distinct formations. Thus the Oamaru Heads, or Cape Wanbrow beds as you know will have nothing to do with the

³⁵ See Appendix 1 about the Longitude controversy.

Ototara Limestone of Fortification, while the Wairaki beds at Farmers[?] old station are again different.

The Hampden beds are also different from the Moeraki bay beds & probably also from the beds at the mouth of the Kakanui. The relation of the Waitaki sandstone with the big Cucullea (your old Crinolini[?] rocks) should also be made out to the Marawhenua (Cass) beds with which I believe they have nothing to do.

3. McKay must also again run over the sections North of the Grey to Brighton & particularly look to the contents & plan of the seal rocks.

4. Also trace round the section in the Sea Cliffs from Cape Farewell to Kaipuki Cliffs. He could do this very well in the winter before I return.

JH

H29. Hector to Mantell, 16-3-1876

Hocken MS-0443-3/15/6

7 Westminster Chambers,
Victoria Street
Westminster S.W.
16th March 1876

My dear Mantell,

I enclose a list of the Zool: Collections from the British Museum which I did not receive in time to have copied for last Frisco mail. Some of the things in the list (as per small list) were not sent, but will follow, but I think you should put off the unpacking as long as possible or till I arrive as I know how they are fixed in the cases. The eggs which I got in exchange from Buckley who is the greatest collector in the world, are in a separate box & you will get the Bill of lading in due course.

The *Sarah Bell* also takes two boxes of Books packed by Stanford but I have not yet got the list from them, nor have I got the amount so that I cannot report & close the Book business by the mail as I hoped to do.

The two cases of Minerals are to be delayed as the second case is not quite ready & it is better to keep them together. All the *desiderata*, except a few that even the B. Mus: has not got, are to be sent.

Geol: Dept. is to come down in a handsome manner & give us a very large selection of fossils & casts of all the principal Reptiles & Mammals. They will not be packed before I leave but I really think they will do it.

I take care to tell everyone how well the Zool: & Mineral Dept. has treated us & that has ----- them.

One day more will finish my work with Etheridge & then I will have about 5 days work selecting & sorting out the Fossils as I mean to give a set to the Geol. Soc. & read a paper there on the 25th & I think a set of all the new species shall be given to Etheridge – He has taken an immense deal of trouble.

On 13th inst. I had your letters of 15th Jan & 16th Janry. via Southampton & note with great approval your capture of the Blackfish. The British Museum want “a lot” of them but see that some good skeletons are kept for ourselves.

I will write again on other business about exhibit & also private orders.
In haste
Ever Your Sincere Friend
James Hector.

H30: Hector to Mantell, 17-3-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

7 Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster S.W.
17th March 1876

My dear Mantell,

I ---- a word to say that the Piano & Bath are off in the *Sarah Bell* but the invoices have not reached me yet so that I cant enclose them. The Piano without Freight stands you in £68-17/- & the Bath &c. about £30. I have not succeeded in getting the kind of glass you want but will be in the city this afternoon. I have spent about £5 in music for you. Woodhouse paid me on the £100 & has no doubt written to congratulate you. He is a very nice fellow & longs to see you home again. I dine with him today. I have not seen Hooker since your letter arrived 5 days ago, so have not given him your message.

I will write to Mrs Boswell³⁶, but I fear there is no chance now of my being able to go & see her. I have already written you such letters so goodbye old fellow – don't work too hard but keep jolly till I come back.

With kindest regards to Mrs Mantell & love to Wally for whom I have got a pair of India rubber wheel skates.

Ever Your affectionate friend
James Hector.

³⁶ See letter from Mantell, 15-1-1876

H31: Hector to Mantell, 6-4-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

London
6th April 1876

My dear Mantell,

I have sent lots of officials to you & have only time to add a few lines to say that I have done all your commissions, even to the glass which is a splendid one. I will bring it with me.

I have also shipped a small case addressed to you – the contents of which is for Mrs Mantell with my kindest regards & best wishes. I got your last letter sent out by Bothamley from Philadelphia. You're a real good soul to do so much for me.

Vaux is delighted with his paper³⁷ tho' put out at having so few, but it is to be reprinted here. Your smartness has rather astonished the folks here. Last night was the great reception at the Royal & I took leave of every one. Not the least interesting exhibit was my relief model of New Zealand which I have done for the Exhibition. It is same scale as Geol. Map & I have sent out 4 plaster copies (rough) to you & will finish them when I get out. I did it in 3 weeks working only at night generally after dinner parties.

I am off to Eglington Castle tonight, the Countess having invited me to meet Sir Jas. Fergusson, Capt. Montgomery & other N.Z. friends. On Sat. go to Selkirk & leave L'pool on Wednesday. Every thing is straight about the Exhibition. I have got the second £500. I will write by Brindisi.

With kind regards to Mrs Mantell & Wally, also Gore, Buch. & Skey whose capital letter I have recd.

Ever Your true friend
James Hector.

³⁷ Vaux, W.S.W 1875: One the probable origin of the Maori Races. *Transactions of the New Zealand Institute* 8: 4-58.

H32: Hector to Mantell, 10-4-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

Selkirk Manse

10th April 1876

My dear Mantell,

I came here on Saturday the 8th and am off tomorrow morning to Liverpool and sail next day. I could not with work have got away sooner even had instructions & credits arrived – as they did not till last week I may blame them for detaining me.

I have received £[?]95 --- in all from the Agent General on account of the Phil. Ex. and £100 for Californian seeds.

I have left £100 in London to cover the expenses incurred there for the Exhibition, but the Vouchers all but the £4-5/- which has already gone to the Colony, will be sent through my hands.

The cases I have left behind to be sent from the A.G.'s office are (from memory)

1. No 4. specimens, Plants & some private things (Wallys skates) &c.
2. No 5. Two cases in wood containing Note Books & documents.
3. No 6. Small parcels, miscellaneous such as Cox's Blow pipe &c.
4. In next mail Box will be sent drawings of Fossils (MS.) & the Laboratory Books (MS. also).
5. Stanford has two more cases of Books. Among which are all the Asiatics Ethnological & other transactions also the valuable Journal of the Malay Archipelago from which J.T. Thomson has been priggish so freely.
6. Also a case containing four copies of my model of New Zealand.
7. Also a case addressed to you but really for Mrs M. which open with care.
8. A case of Flint Implements & the like from Brit. Museum.
9. A case of Birds (100 species of N.W. America) from the Cambridge Museum.
10. Two cases of Minerals Brit. Museum.

You must take care to note carefully all he takes out of every box as it is unpacked as we have to send acknowledgement for many of the things.

11. The show cases are all to be marked & taken to pieces so that they can be put together again easily, but as they wont sail for 2 months I hope to be out as soon as they are.
12. A Lapidary bench is to be sent if there is enough money left.

Last week was like summer – now it is blowing & snowing very like mid winter. Fearful. I have not had time to go to Fife & see Mrs Boswell. My affairs got so jammed at the last in London that I could not get away.

With kind regards to Mrs Mantell
Ever Sincerely Yours
James Hector.

Abstract Journal: Philadelphia 1876. Dr Hector.
[*Marginal Note:* For Mr Mantell's information.]

April 24th

Arrived at noon. Met Bothamley at the Hotel & went out to Buildings. Consider the arrangement very backward. In fact nothing begun. Cases however ordered & contract made for fitting up. Find half our space has been given up.

25th

Report myself to the British Commissioners & other officials. The Office accommodation provided in St. George's House is not suitable & will be of no use. Agree to share the expense of a common office room in the Building with the other Colonies. Go through all the Papers &c. with Bothamley & take over his cash balance. Go to Academy of Natural Sciences in evening & make acquaintance of Prof Cope, Leidy &c.

26th

Engaged all day at the Building planning the Court.

27th

Order Photograph Frames, Flags, contract for the erection of a Gold Pillar model. Carpenters making very slow progress & require constant watching, having many jobs in hand for others!

28th

Exhib. all day from 8 a.m. Commence opening packages.

29th

Exhib. till noon & feeling anxious about the delayed arrival of the Cases, take the Express to New York & see the contractor & the state the cases are in. Order more.

S. 30th

Return to Philadelphia in the evening.

May 1st

Exhibit from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. great confusion & bustle but no great progress made.

2nd

Arrange Banking account & then to Exhibition.

3rd

Purchase glasses & bottles for certain of the Exhibits & secure a fine Exhibit of Kauri Gum varnishes made in Philad. Exhibition from noon till 8 p.m.

Mon 4th

Certify all our Exhibits at the Custom House & look up the map & Photograph Mounters. Exhibit. at noon & till 7 p.m. The distances are so great that several hours every day has to be spent in street cars. The shops & work people & all business places being 5 miles from the Exhibition. The first portion of the cases from Chester at last arrive, but cant be put up. Receive Bothamley's Report.

5th

Get a couple of cases up & commence putting things in position, but the painters have not yet begun nor are the front screens commenced. Work till 7 p.m.

6th

Bank & tradesmen in morning & then a long day at the Exn. till 8 p.m.

S. 7th

Exhibition from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. terribly slow progress but very hot hard work. Carpenters all behind hand. No more cases.

8th

Some more of our cases arrive. At the Ex. from 8 to 8 & begin to get the place a little in shape.

9th

To the Ex. At 7 a.m. Photographs arrive. Also Pictures of Buller's birds from New York where they had been framed. Work till 2.30 a.m. & then turn in for 3 hours at the Globe Hotel.

10th

At 6 a.m. take a carriage & drive home & dress & return at 10. Take part in the ceremony, which lasted till 3. Attend Levee of the Pres. of the N.S. in the evening.

11th

Attending a meeting of all the Colonial Coms. Propose certain resolutions. 1. To have a map of Australasia. 2. About Insurance. 3. About work[?] judges &c. Dine at ---- Banquet given[?] by the Brit. Ambassador. Pres. N.S. & Emperor of Brazil present.

12th

Occupied in the City, at Bank & Custom House. Ex. at noon. Some more things & cases arrive. Meet Prof Hayden & Baird about loan of things from Smithsonian Institute.

13th

Write letter to N.Z. & at noon start for Washington.

S. 14th

Arriving at 6.30. Evening with Baird & Hayden from whom get valuable gifts for the Museum.

15th

Wait on Govt. & Prof Henry & select all the Maori things & moa bones & get them packed. Go over the Museum & the Smithsonian Institute, Geol. Survey Office, Patents &c. Inspect the arrivals[?]. Arrange for getting a patent for Mr Lowes' gas machine. Receive N.Z. letters.

16th

Reach Philad. at noon & to Exhibition, work is lagging since the excitement for the opening is over, no more cases yet.

17th

Ex. all day. Meeting of Coms.

18th

Exhibition all day & attend a meeting of the Mining Institute in the evening.

19th

Exhib. all day. General meeting of the Coms. & the Judges. Decline to take part as I consider that the American Coms. Should be responsible.

20th

Ex. all day. The Colonial Coms. Gave a grand dinner to the Brit. Coms. In St. George's House.

S. 21st

Spend the day in driving into the country.

22nd

Ex. all day. The rest of the cases from New York arrived. Set up the moa & get the Photograph series up. I entertain officials at dinner.

23rd

Exhib. all day. Rest of the things from London arrived (all but the models).

24th

Get up the rest of the Photos & arrange the minerals & Liardet's Feather furs, the cases being at last here. Queen's Birthday dinner.

25th

Bothamley sails for London. Ex. all day till 6 p.m. & then attend meeting of the Mining Institute.

26th

Exhib. all day. Mr Chambers from Auckland arrives & assists me in putting out the Greens, & makes a valuable addition to our ferns & Photographs. Get the gold up from the Banks & Hire a safe as ugly rumours about the dishonesty of the guards.

27th

Mr W. Low arrives & assists me in putting out the wools to advantage.

S. 28th

With Selwyns aid put out the Gold, a long job occupying till afternoon.

29th

Commence getting up wool & grain in Agricultural Hall. The Wool judges examine our exhibits. Open a New Zealand Register on account of the number of enquiries that are made.

30th

Chemical & Mineral Judges inspect our Exhibits. Ex. All day 7 a.m. till 7 p.m. Commence labeling, but very slow work owing to the crowding & heat & the manner in which the things have had to be arranged without reference to the Catalogue owing to deficiency of space.

31st

Paying Bills & labeling all day. Accounts occupying me till 2 a.m.

June 1st

Ex. all day. Attending of Judges of Mineral Ores &c.

2nd

Ex. all day. Judges on Fibres go round. Last of the Photographs delivered.

3rd

Ex. 7 a.m. till 4.

S. 4th

Writing & Accounts. Police send for me on account of the Gold case having been tampered with. Remove the Gold to the safe.

H34: Hector to Mantell, 3-6-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

Philadelphia, USA
3rd June 1876

My dear Mantell,

I could only send you a very short note by last mail as the pressure of work for the opening on the 12th made me defer writing till the last day & then I had to start off to secure the Maori relics collected by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition which are in the National Museum at Washington & to do so required to consult Professor Baird's convenience. They make a very interesting addition to our Court.

I arrived here on the 22nd of April & quite soon enough as most of the things had only arrived in the building on the 18th, & some were not delivered till long after I came. In fact one case containing my relief model is not yet to hand. When I came I found the carpenters just commencing the partition enclosing our space & all the boxes & packages were piled on the floor in a heap. Bothamley had ordered show cases, some at Chester 50 miles to the West & others in New York as it was impossible to get them made here. But none of the cases were delivered till two days before the opening & then had no glass in. However with the help of Maori mats & Photographs & a huge model of our yield of Gold – a pillar 4.6x4.6x26 ft high, the place was made respectable for the opening & in fact we were quite ahead of all the Colonies except Queensland, which is represented by the Kensington Museum Collection with a few additions – so that it came ready fitted up.

Since the opening it has been very uphill work as there are all kinds of official obstructions & it is not easy to do anything with all the visitors in the way. The only time is before 9 but to get up there at 7 I have to start at 5.45! Then the heat is getting frightful. Bothamley was fretting to be off I could see so I let him go on the 25th although neither the labels nor the reports were touched & the accounts were not in his usual orderly form. However it has been hard work of a kind he is not used to & he got excited over it, & was getting out of sorts. I am pretty well buked myself & mean to take a trip to Canada for a week to get straight before I attempt to collect matter for the report you expect of me. I am also to get a lot of specimens both in New York & Canada if I go for them. It is quite astonishing how the time has gone here & yet it has been a steady grind. I get very little done in the day now, as the Judges are always bothering for information & access to the things & there is a constant round of persons enquiring about New Zealand & friends & relatives who are out there. In fact I have a regular agency business to attend to & have found it necessary to open a register of copy of which I will have sent out every mail. Our court is far the most attractive of any of the Colonies & is generally crowded. My attendant is an old German who speaks 5 languages & he jabs away & takes such an interest & speaks of every thing about N.Z. just as if he had been there. He is quite fine & reads hard at the Official Handbook so that he is able really to give folks a deal of information. I have to give occasional courses of lectures in the court. The Kauri Gum is one of the chief attractions. Of it we have a magnificent show thanks to Mr R.W. Forbes of New York. The Maori things & the Photographs also draw well & so also do Liardet's Feather things. Considering how poor the Exhibits were I have thought it right to go to some expense to make them look as well as possible & the general effect seems to give

satisfaction, though of course Colonists who have been in, say that we might & should have shown many more & better things. Still they all concede that the most is made of everything.

Our eleven exhibits of wool are really splendid beside almost anything else in the place & as far as I could judge quite took the judges by surprise. Low (of Campell & Low) who helped me to sort the wools & is as well able to judge as any man, has been round all the the [sic] wools & says that for fair market value, & excluding fancy bred wools, they cannot be beaten by anything else shown. However there will be a row about the Wool judges I fancy. It is rumoured that they are political appointments & only a report that favours protectionist policy will go down I fear. I wrote a letter to Prof Archer on the subject as there is no one that is accustomed to wool & fleece on the Jury. Our Grain & some Hops that Dodson brought with him also attract much notice & farmers from the Western States come begging for seed samples. I have had offers to purchase about everything in the Court. Maori Mats are in great demand, so also Liardet's things, & the Photos. of the Maoris. Our Court has been described in several papers & always most favourably spoken of. I enclose you one slip I happened to keep, & will try & get the rest. But I have said enough about our insignificant show & must say a little about the whole thing. I have only had a cursory glance round yet for the place is so vast & there are so many detached buildings. Although the Yanks have blown tremendously there is no doubt that it is the greatest & most practical Exhibition ever achieved, & no one who possibly can should fail to see it. It is teeming with instruction in every branch, & no one who can manage it should fail to come. It wants several weeks to go over it.

I will close this & write again. I hope all your orders from London have reached you before you get this. I have the Binocular with me. With kind regards to Mrs Mantell.

Ever Yours affectly
J Hector.

H35: Hector to Hooker, 11-6-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

Phil.
11th June 1876

My dear Mantell,

I have already posted two letters to you. One yesterday I registered as it contained duplicate vouchers. The originals I will bring with me. Also a lot of officials & copies of former ones. They are rather scanty but there is nothing to write about. I got a telegram yesterday from Frisco, saying my letters are there & that Rau Rimu³⁸ awaits my orders. I suppose he is the Maori that Bothamley was ass enough to send for. I am sure I don't know what to do with him. Col. Sanford says he cant fit him into the Barracks. You see I am quite alone here & have no one to depend on. The Brit. Commissioners are not the least help. I think of getting a Mr Webb who is Coms. for Bahamas (a Surgeon Dentist) & who is smitten in a desire to migrate to N.Z. to take charge after I leave & to see to the winding up of our affairs. Besides our own things I have a very valuable lot from the Smithsonian Institute which have to be returned. I have had several funks with the Gold, so today I spent 5 hours in cutting down the bulk of the ----- from 1 oz. to 3 dwts (66 grams) which is quite enough to show the character[?] & enable me to remove about £200 worth from risk of being stolen. I have also arranged the nuggets so that they can be locked in the safe every night. The safe I have hired for the whole time for \$60. The secret of the lock will be only known to Mr Webb & to the one German Keissler who I have engaged for \$18 per week & a free pass to his wife once a week to clean up the glass.

I hope you wont be horrified at the Expenditure, though I am well within the funds you sent me, but it looks a lot of money. However the place looks well & all the show cases are of Walnut & will pack up easily for the Museum in Wellington. Wood is so cheap & labour so dear here that temporary cases would have cost quite as much & would have been a dead loss in the end. The biggest extravagance was the Gold Pillar (£65) but it is a great success & makes N.Z. known all over the place. I have been horridly swindled by an English man (Jeffreys of Hatton Garden) who came – offered his carpenters to put up stands for cases, cover with baize, hang photographs & such work – nothing solid. They took their time over it & nearly drove me crazy with their delays – in fact we only got rid of them last Thursday & several things are unfinished. The Monster has sent in a bill for \$780! £158 & I have refused to pay it. I have reld. it to Mr Coates (Ch.Ch. who had a letter from[for?] you) & if I could find Mr Black I would get his opinion before I go to law. I cant make out what has become of Black & Mr Lows goes missing. He should have been here a ----- ago.

The heat is getting dreary – lowest at night 79°. I see the train car horses have parasols & wet sponge fixed over their heads & yet ----- say this is quite a cool month. I have still a lot of things to write labels for & to make up a delivery Inventory for Webb & also a few days work at my relief model which only came on Thursday last (2 months from London!) & in a shattered mess. By the time the letters & the Maori arrive I hope to be done & it will depend on what orders I receive whether I stay to make an inspection of the Exhibition – or start off at once by the June 30th mail. I have made friends with lots of manufacturers who promise to

³⁸ Rau Rimu is five hundred in Maori. Mantell had telegraphed to say that he had sent £500, but Hector misinterpreted the message.

show the[?] works & give me all sorts of information & I wish very much to go to Canada & N. York for the sake of the Museum Exchanges - & to see some important Geological things. But it is evident that you expected me to have already left this by you sending my letters to Frisco only. All the other Colonies are to have Coms. Resident all the time, or secretaries, but after the Judges have finished – until the close of the Ex. I don't see there is much for them to do, & I fancy my plan with Webb will cover it. I propose to leave dated cheques for the weekly expenditure say \$20 each, to instruct the Bank to pay on vouchers for the expense of winding up & to give Webb £50 for his trouble. He seems a reliable young fellow & thinks that having to do this work will be a sort of introduction to him in the Colony.

I sent some Catalogues to you but the new & correct Edition of the Official Catalogue will be out shortly. I have done the best I could to make the Judges do justice to our things, but there was much difficulty as the things are neither arranged or labeled like the Official Catalogue, & they were glad of any excuse to shirk their work. Strangely enough some glue that I brought over from among the Vienna Exhibits to help to fill up & was almost ----- show, is considered the finest in the Ex. by the Experts. That Ch.Ch. Soap (common looking stuff) Prof Odling said was the best they had seen in making the rounds. The fact is that the protection policy has quite ruined the quality of all Yankee Manufacture of the kind. The judges also thought very highly of Webby's exhibit of Nelson tweed cloth. I have had lots of applications for the cost & means of getting our Fancy timbers such as Rewa rewa, Totara, Rimu & Kauri. In fact all of this would do well in the American market where the woods are all sombre.

The finest show case in the Exhibition made & sent by Sage of London as his own Exhibit is made of Rewa rewa. Sage picked it (the timber) up in the London Docks & had no idea what it was or where it came from till I told him. I want much to get it for the Museum. Cost about £40. We had it in our court for a while at first till it was removed to its proper space & since it has our ticket on it as made of N.Z. timber. It is a lovely thing.

I am quite knocked up. The stinks here are dreadful & the Ex. itself is built right over a hollow that was for a long time used as a city depository ground. I & all of us get quite dull & headachy when we have been several hours in the place during the heat of the day & I have constant sore throat – a thing I never had before in my life. I wish I was clear of it all. Don't you think, if I get back soon you should come towards the close. Old Sillamin was enquiring for you the other day. It would be well worth your while to come when the cool weather resumes.

I hope you will like a good soul as you have proved yourself, extend your kindness a little further yet & give Mrs Hector & the bairns any help they may need owing to my prolonged absence. If Funds are required I only drew my pay up to 30th May – so you can draw on my account. This is a very expensive place. I pay \$18 a week for Rooms alone. Feeding is about \$5 per day. You can board at a Hotel although for \$5 or \$6 with a bath! But you are then bound to trim for meals & in practice you spend a deal more at Restaurants. Moving about is also a service[?] tax.

With kind regards to Mrs Mantell & Wally
Ever Your affectionate friend

James Hector.

H36: Hector to Mantell, 10-7-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-300

New York
10th July 1876

My dear Mantell,

I got since I last wrote on 10 June your letters of 3rd, 5th & 6th May on 26th June & 2nd June on 8th Inst. You seem very savage[?] at not knowing my movements, but you only seem to have got my letters up to Ap. 4th from London when I had no idea of them myself, beyond what I wrote, remember I had not then seen Bothamley & had only a hazy idea of the whole arrangements. Many thanks for the Extra £500 which I wont need however. You seem to have thought naturally that Bothamley would have written to say what money he had, but he did not do so. But by this time you will have had full news about everything.

I only finished up on Saturday at Philadelphia. Fearful work it has been for the last few weeks. Th. over 100° in shade often & up to 85° all night. I came here yesterday to make a start & to try to find a cool place to get the accounts in order – but it is all the same. (I send a paper with the days list of sunstrokes. I had to knock under one day last week & go to bed & still feel queer).

I have appointed a nice young fellow Edward Y. Webb to be our agent in charge & have taken every care in handing over the things so that they may reach their destinations all right. I have had a lot of correspondence with the U.S. Govt. authorities and they are to have the bulk of the things. I thought it better not to leave the Gold question open, so I weighed out 64 grains of each of the alluvial Golds & withdrew all the rest & also the extra nuggets & bars. I then took small samples of each for reference, thinking it a pity to lose the advantage of so fine a collection altogether. These I bring out with me. The rest I sent to the mint & coined. It produced £299-17/1 which I paid into account. There still remains all the Gold Quartz & the nuggets & Webb is to send them out to the Colony & I hope they will be allowed to go into the Museum.

I have placed £300 to Webb's credit to cover all expenses according to my estimate sent last mail & he agrees that it will be sufficient. The excess in the Bank Acct. of £200 I converted into Bills on London as being the most profitable exchange, but there is some of that due to me. I cant get the accounts to square this time, there being a balance of £49.18 I cant find out. I send them on however as I have not all the papers & it is too hot altogether to fight more at it. I worked half last night at the thing.

Finding I had so much money I got a few things that are not strictly within the Ex. proper & have called them advances to Library & Museum. They are 1st. Photo Lantern slides of the Exhibition. 2nd. 2 copies of a magnificent Statistical Atlas of North America. 3rd. A fine Illustrated work on the U.S.A. 4th. Share of printing the Bill of Fair[?], which is really a little handbook to the Colonies & has taken well. 5th. A lot of magnificent Casts of type Saurian & other Fossils. The whole lot only comes to £75.10/-

A few more accounts came in that I expected but on the other hand thank our stars the Maori did not come – so that balance keeps straight as I estimated it.

The judges have all been round & I think in nearly every case I was with them. I set Black & Chew to work but I fancy the heat will beat them. You will see Black was 7 weeks in the country before he called & then he has not brought Lowes machine.

I had a jolly but hurried trip to Canada only 6 days absent – just time to run down the St. Lawrence to Montreal. I took Engs[?] with me my chief object was to see the Museum at Montreal & to see the Type Lawrentian Formation. I visited a lot of Iron Mines & got information & specimens. I next went all over the Anthracite Coal Fields & then over the Greensand Marls that they work for Ma---- in New Jersey & which yield the same Fossils as our Waipara beds. I have some very interesting collections. But still most of my time has been in the Ex. from early till late & yet so many things to be done in the office that I have not half seen it.

By this mail I have sent you Pamphlets & Photos. of Narrow Gauge Cars. They are most comfortable & have great advantages. I think it would be well if the minister of P.W. were to order a set out all ready made. All the makers require is the width & height of the Tunnels & the inside width of the rail track & if double line, the width between the tracks. You might send on the Photos. so that they may be prepared to ask questions when I come. I have asked Chew & Black to report on them & go & see the Factory. A job quite in their line.

I start tomorrow for Pittsburg to see the oil wells. Thence to Chicago & on to Denver. I will be a week there as they have a lot of 3ft. Railroads to the various Gold & Silver Mines. (among the rest the Telluride of Gold ore of which I must get a lot for Skey. Then on to South of Salt Lake where I have been directed to a complete section from Lawrentian up to Jurassic!! & which I must see). Then to Frisco & start the business about the Seeds &c. & back to Washoe to collect at the great Comstock Lode which is so like our Thames, except in quantity. I then leave Frisco by the August 17th mail & get to Wn. about Sept. 17th. I hope this will be satisfactory to everyone. I would rather have got away by this mail but found it quite impossible without leaving things in a mess & now if I tried to catch it I would just have to rush through day & night & loose [sic] all the chance of acquiring useful information. Cope³⁹ was very anxious for me to go over the Cretaceo-tertiary ground with him on the Upper Mesozoic, but I have not time & besides ones hair would not be safe there now. I have also lots of letters & pressing invitations to delay over a steamer at the Sandwich Islands & they will take me to all the Volcanoes &c. I wish I could but fear to stay too long away. I have a huge box of things from Phil. including your Yale Locks & am sending six large boxes of Books as a first instalment. The Smithsonian is sending us no end of things & the only quarrel I am having is with everyone for going away so soon.

Now I think I have told you all my plans. As for news I could go on for hours – only I know you would not read it.

Ever Your affectionate friend
James Hector.

5 a.m. Th. 83°

³⁹ American palaeontologist and fossil hunter based in Philadelphia.

The letter on the preceding page is the final letter in the series, and no personal record of Hector's return trip to New Zealand has survived. He travelled across the USA by train to San Francisco, visited mining centres in Nevada and California, before returning to New Zealand by sea⁴⁰. He was back in Wellington by 14 September, and he gave the following account of his travels to a meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society on 16 September 1876.⁴¹

H37: Account of Travels in Europe and America

By Dr. Hector

At the invitation of the President, Dr. Hector then gave a short account of his travels in Europe and America since he left New Zealand.

Dr. Hector thanked the President for the kind terms in which he had welcomed him back to the Society, and said he was not prepared on such short notice to say much. He would first express his deep obligation to the Hon. Mr. Mantell, who, during his protracted absence from the colony, had voluntarily carried on the work of his department, accepting the whole of the responsibility, and performing duties of a multifarious and very laborious kind. He next called attention to the numerous exhibits on the table, for the bulk of which he was indebted to the liberality of Captain Dow, F.Z.S., of the "*City of Sydney*;" also, to a magnificent Orchid (*Dendrobium tokai*), standing two feet high, and in full flower, which was also the gift of Captain Dow. This plant was particularly interesting, from the circumstance that the New Zealand flora contains a very diminutive representative of the genus. He pointed also to skins of several remarkable birds from the Farallone Islands, together with a fine series of the eggs of one species, which exhibited a marvellous variety of character, some being creamy white, others green or blue, and others brown. He mentioned that 18,000 dozen of these eggs are annually taken to the San Francisco market, where they are sold for 18d. a dozen. It is computed that 100,000 of these birds breed every season on the islands. He exhibited also a specimen of the Tropical Booby (*Sula fusca*), which was captured one day on the yard-arm of the ship, and forthwith sacrificed to science; also, the head of a Leather Turtle (*Spharcis coriacea*), the carcass of which must have weighed not less than one-third of a ton.

After a passing reference to a beautiful white land shell (a species of *Bulimus*) from the Solomon Islands, and a remarkable Water-Snake (*Pelamys*), which exhibited the peculiar characteristic of a vertically flattened tail for the purpose of aiding its progression through the water; he pointed to a collection of Birds from Vancouver's Island and North California, which he had been fortunate to obtain for the Museum. There were also some other American Birds. He intended to hand all these over to Dr. Buller for examination and identification, and would therefore only refer now to one of them—a very beautifully-coloured Woodpecker (*Colaptes mexicanus*), which possessed a spiny-shafted tail expressly adapted to the climbing habits of the bird. In fact, it held on by its legs and tail while hammering at the tree with its powerful beak in search of its food. In addition to these things, he had brought a fine collection of shells from California, which would be valuable for comparison with our own molluscous fauna.

⁴⁰ Reports of the Special Commissioner to the Chairman of the Philadelphia Exhibition Commission. AJHR (1877, H-23, pp 26-29.

⁴¹ *Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute* 9: 615-617

Dr. Hector then proceeded to give an account of his recent trip to England, and of its results from a scientific point of view. He had succeeded in making some valuable exchanges with the British Museum. Only part of the collections so obtained had reached the Colony, but there were twelve or fourteen large cases now on their way out. The Fossils taken home by him had been cursorily studied and classified by Professor Etheridge, who was permitted by Professor Ramsay, of the School of Mines, to devote a considerable amount of time to this work. The results would be very valuable, as placing the researches of the Geological Survey, in this respect, on a thoroughly sound and reliable basis. In the next place, he had visited all the Museums where he could obtain material for ethnological investigation, as he considered that this would be very interesting as bearing on the question of the origin of the Maori race. He had endeavoured to interest ethnologists at home in this question, and the first practical outcome had been the valuable treatise by Mr. Vaux, which appeared in last year's volume of "Transactions of the New Zealand Institute."

Among a number of things lent to him by the authorities of the British Museum for examination, he had opened a closed glass case, supposed to contain articles brought home by Captain Cook after one of his voyages to New Zealand, and subsequently handed over to the Museum by the Admiralty. This case contained Native weapons and carvings; but the most interesting of these was a *Taiaha*, with a bunch of feathers at the top, which he detected to be Moa feathers. This specimen was afterwards submitted to Mr. Sharpe, Professor Newton, and other ornithologists, all of whom pronounced it the feather of a struthious bird, more allied in character to the Ostrich than the Emu. There was also a common *pawa* shell fish-hook, with an iron barb, to which were attached some feathers with a distinct afterplume—a character not possessed by any New Zealand struthious bird now existing. The evidence thus obtained he considered very valuable, as showing that the Moa existed down to the period when these modern implements were in use by the Maoris.

In addition to ransacking Museums for everything of New Zealand interest, he had attended the various meetings of learned Societies, and the annual gathering of the British Association, where he had done all in his power to promote a feeling of interest in the Colony, and to make known its great natural resources. Just as he was preparing to leave England, he received instructions from the Government to visit America, for the purpose of representing the Colony at the Philadelphia Exhibition. He characterized this as the most wonderful industrial collection that the world had ever seen, occupying in space an area about equal to Hyde Park, and embracing exhibits in such number and variety that it would take months even to get a cursory glance at them. The Agricultural Hall alone was a sight which would attract visitors from all parts of the globe, and was a perfect marvel of what could be accomplished in the way of National Exhibitions. The lecturer concluded with a somewhat detailed account of the New Zealand Court, which occupied a space about equal to the lecture-hall in which the meeting was being held, although somewhat narrower, and held a very creditable position in the group of Colonies represented at the Exhibition. He mentioned the objects which appeared to attract most attention, and referred particularly to the exhibition of Feather Furs by Mr. Liardet, a magnificent series of Photographs by Mr. Deveril, Messrs. Burton Bros., and others, and a fine collection of Maori exhibits forwarded by Mr. Richard Woon, R.M., of Wanganui.

On the motion of the President, a cordial vote of thanks was then passed to Dr. Hector for his address.

Part 2: Letters written from New Zealand

This part of the collection opens with a Memorandum that Hector left behind for Mantell specifying how he wanted the Geological Department to be run in his absence.

M1: Hector to Mantell: 6-2-1875

Te Papa MU000147/004/0182

6th February 1875

Memorandum for the Hon. W.B.D. Mantell F.G.S. for his guidance in the management of the Colonial Museum & the Geological Department.

A. Museum

1. No exchanges. The present condition of the collections during the alterations that are in progress renders it advisable that no specimens shd. be withdrawn for exchange or donation during my absence. All applications for exchanges or gifts shd. therefore be reserved for consideration after the rearrangement of the Museum.
2. Articles recd. to be entered. All articles received will be duly entered by Mr Gore and the entry books together with the office Journal will be submitted to you at least once a week as convenient to you, --- the schedule and analysis of the additions to the Museum during the year will be provided to you by Mr Gore for the annual report.
3. Mr Gore will have an advance of Ten pounds to meet petty disbursements the vouchers for which subject to your approval will be sent in from time to time and a further advance obtained.
4. Respecting buildings. All questions respecting the progress of the buildings will be referred to Mr Evans the clerk of the works who has been instructed by Mr Clayton⁴² to carry out any suggestions that are made by you subject to his opinion if necessary.
5. Mr Evans is also instructed to find the skilled labour necessary for the removal and refitting of the cases.
6. The work that has to be done with the collections in consequence of the alterations is as follows subject to modification as occasion requires.
7. When the new iron pillars have been put in their places the contents of the Museum may be temporarily rearranged for public exhibition, as several months will elapse before any further change will be required.
8. When the wing and front are finished and the contractor is ready to lower the floors of the present building the wall cases will have to be emptied and their contents placed carefully in packing cases. The contents of each shelf particularly fossils being distinguished by a number which must also be placed on the shelf so as to insure the restoration of the exact formation they previously occupied.

⁴² Government architect

9. The large pyramid cases will also require to be emptied and their contents packed. An arrangement has been made with the storekeeper for the loan of the necessary cases for this purpose.
10. All office furniture and such articles may be moved into the front building and as many of the collections as necessary into the wing, but it will not be advisable to attempt any further temporary arrangement of the Museum for exhibition until the whole building is completed including the galleries.
11. The accompanying plans indicate in a general way the arrangement that should probably be adopted.
12. The present polished rimu screens will be used for panelling the East wall of the central hall to match the height of the galley opposite.
13. The pyramid cases will be cut down through the centre longitudinally and converted into wall cases to occupy the places indicated on the plan.
14. The present long[?] range of wall cases should I think be placed in the gallery above where they now stand for which they may require fitting.
15. The floor cases which have the wide central space I suggest should be cut down the centre so as to form narrow cases running round the front of the galleries.
16. The long range of fossil cases will be placed under the gallery along the North wall.
17. It is not however advisable to suggest details further than is shown on the plan or to do more than state that as much as possible the present furniture of the Museum should be placed in the gallery & at the less conspicuous points of the wing so that the new furniture from England may occupy the most prominent positions.
18. In all changes of the fossils and collections of smaller objects it would be advisable that Mr Cox should be employed under the superintendence of Mr Gore as he has been thoroughly instructed by me respecting their value and relative arrangement. A catalogue of the Museum is [in] an advanced state giving a minimal return of the contents and whenever not otherwise employed Mr Kirk's attention should be devoted to continuing this work. This catalogue cannot however be prepared for press until the collections have been finally arranged and till information is sent out by me from England respecting many of them.
19. Mr Burton will proceed with the mounting of the birds and should in the first place mount the New Zealand birds not belonging to the type collection, and afterwards the collection of foreign birds leaving the type collection of NZ birds to the last, as he will then have acquired more experience.
20. The type collection must be kept carefully separate from all others and those belonging to the Buller collection carefully distinguished by the original number as at present.
21. The wall cases on the West side of the main building can be emptied as required and used for storing the mounted birds until they are ready for placing in the final cases.

22. He should also go over the stuffed fishes & remount & varnish them as soon as possible.

23. Mr Buchanan will complete the illustrations for Vol. VII of the *TNZI* according to the schedule and will also devote any spare time to the rearrangement of the herbarium which is in progress, so as to have it ready for its appointed place in the new Museum. Otherwise his time will be available for drawing such objects of Nat. Hist. & in the preparation of geological maps as may be required.

B. Laboratory.

24. References for analysis will be made to Mr Skey who will report to you in the usual form with a communication of the results if requisite to the parties concerned & for incorporation with the annual report in the usual form. The Draft of this report should be kept up to date so as to be sent in for your information.

25. It may be necessary to replace certain of the Laboratory fittings which will have to be ordered from England, and all orders for chemicals & the like should receive your approval.

C. Meteorological

26. The different observers are fully instructed on their duties by a circular and Mr Gore will bring before your notice any comments that require to be made on their work from time to time, and also submit their salary vouchers for your signature.

27. The following returns have to be prepared with due regularity by Mr Gore and should be signed by you.

(1) A monthly return for the Reg. Gen. compiled from telegraphic reports for incorporation with the vital statistics. This shd. be sent to the Reg. Genl. on 3rd of every month.

(2) A monthly abstract of met. observations for the Gazette. This return is frequently in arrears for several months, as some of the stations have hitherto been out of reach & the observer being dilatory their returns have not been received & the whole has been kept back. In the course of a month however all the observatories will be connected by telegraph with the central office & there will be no excuse for delay.

(3) The met. statistics for the year shd. be furnished to the Reg. Gen. in the month of March.

(4) A monthly return to the local press is made & signed by Mr Gore as local observer.

28. Photolithograph diagrams of the Wellington returns & a rearranged issue of the abstracts that appear in the Gazettes and other observations not elsewhere published shd. be published in the form of a pamphlet. To save cost of printing this is only issued every second year, the pamphlet for 1873-4 should be issued by June next.

29. Mr Gore will submit application for fresh instruments from time to time and a sufficient supply for the services of the department should be procured from time to time.

30. It is part of Mr Gore's duty to see that the time ball clock is connected every day for the --- of the astronomical clock as shown by Archdeacon Stock's observations which he enters in the Museum log book.

D. Geological Survey

31. Programme of the work is as follows, subject to modification as required by circumstances.

32. Mr Cox will as much as possible be accompanied by Mr McKay as collector and field assistant. Both will keep full journals of field work entered from day to day in a manner already prescribed. From their journals Mr Cox will draw up a report of the work done.

33. All the collections are to be forwarded from time to time and stored until the season for field work is over, then commencement of winter when Mr Cox assisted by Mr McKay will effect their arrangement & labelling in the usual manner.

34. During the remainder of the season the following districts shd. be covd. until McKay returns from the E. Coast work on which he is at present engaged which will be on about the end of February. Mr Cox shd. examine the serpentine series developed between D'Urville Island Croiselles harbour & the Dun Mt with a special eye to the metalliferous developments, referring to Hochstetter's work & Davis reports for preliminary information. Cox & McKay should then be instructed to proceed to Raglan Aotea and if possible Kawhia with a view to determine the relations of the coal-bearing beds to the Jurassic strata there and specially to investigate the source of the specimens of the bituminous coal and ironstone which have been forwarded from that district. Reference may be made to Capt. Hutton's geological map of the Waikato coal fields which includes a sketch of the Raglan district and to Hochstetter's map of Aotea and Kawhia. Their sections shd. be extended into the Waikato basin at the Kupakupa mine and towards the Miranda redoubt where a report has been called for. This will occupy about 2 months after which Mr Cox will proceed to Westport and inspect the work which is being carried on by Mr Denniston at Mt Rochfort in mapping the coal areas and fixing the best sites for mines. He will incorporate Mr Denniston's results in a general report on the subject.

During the same period McKay will proceed to Wangaroa and endeavour to trace the outcrop of the coal in the Kaiau vally and discover its relations to the Jurassic strata wh. occur there and connect it with the coal field wh. is worked at Kawakawa Bay of Islands. He will then proceed to Mahurangi and noting the unconformity between the nummulite limestones and underlying brown and green sandstones endeavour to find some evidence of the age of the latter and to discover their relation to the sandstones at Helensville on the North shore of Auckland harbour and the relation of the latter to the Waitemata beds of Hochstetter as developed in the South shore of Auckland harbour. This will exhaust the season for field operations.

In directing the winter work in the Museum which will be chiefly occupied with the rearrangement of the collections it will be advisable to place the recent and tertiary in Mr

Kirk's hands, the older fossils in Mr McKay's and the minerals and rocks in Mr Cox's as those are the sections with which they are respectively best acquainted.

The reports on the field work for this year for presentation to Parl. shd. consist of a brief resume of the work done including abstracts prepared by Mr Cox. (2) reports on coal fields to the minister PW showing the progress made in developing the coal mines under special vote of the PW Act including a schedule of the analysis of samples of coal made during the year in continuation of previous schedules.

In the season of 1875-6 in the first part of the season I wish Mr Cox & McKay to examine the Westland district commencing at Reefton and southwards along the Western flanks of the Alps making sections at intervals at right angles to the coast. At Hokitika, Okarita, & Bruce Bay, and especially determining the Western flanking ranges of Mt Cook. Also to examine and specially report on the coal area between Arnott Point and Bruce Bay. After Christmas they should examine the Hikurangi district, taking up the work where I left off with McKay last year.

E. New Zealand Institute

Volume VII is now prepared for press and the arrangements for its issue are fully understood by Mr Bothamley.

Meetings of the Board will have to be called at the usual intervals and the past minutes will show the nature of the business to be transacted at each. The minutes are kept by Mr Gore.

A report has to be prepared for presentation to Parliament at the proper time & in the usual form.

The first volume 2nd edition will require a short preface a draft of which is attached for your guidance.

All expenditure for the Institute is placed on vouchers to be signed by you as acting manager, and sent out with blank cheques to Mr Ludlam, the treasurer. The same applies to the Botanic Gardens account.

Besides assisting you in the publication of Volumes I & VII of the Trans Mr Bothamley will prepare any other duties in the office for which you need him.

A book by Baron v. Mueller has to be seen through the press & will require rearrangement. It is arranged to be printed at the Govt. office as soon as the first Volume of Trans is finished. The order of the plates for Volume VII has been arranged, but may require modification by you when the time arrives for getting them on the stone.

Correspondence

Mr Gore will enter all letters received for you, in the record book and submit the book with the letters from day to day for your minutes, but it might be advisable to give him general instructions to acknowledge receipt of all books and the like which are received, making

them also records and should be also entered in the presentation book in order that they may appear in the annual report.

Confidential: Memorandum regarding officers

Mr Kirk has made an application for an increase of pay, as he was offered a cadet position in the Customs, which would give him more emolument and a prospect of increase, but he prefers the work in this department and is willing to stay, provided he is treated as a cadet on the same terms as if he were in the Customs department. Dr Pollen has agreed to consider this favourably. It was not settled at the time, as the conditions could not be ascertained.

Smith also applied for an increase to £10 per month (see papers) and Dr Pollen has agreed to place it on the next estimates. In the meantime as he does a great deal of work for the Institute in picking and distributing the volumes & otherwise I intended to propose at the next meeting of the Board that the difference for the current 6 months should be made up to him out of the Institute funds.

[Follows a one-page list of plants – not transcribed.]

M2: Buller to Hector, 13-3-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/1

Wellington
March 11 1875

My dear Hector,

I have been down here a few days making final arrangements and I hope to be settled here with my family in the course [of] a week or two. Fortunately I have secured Barraud's house on the Terrace for two years.

Everything here is much the same as when you left. The Museum building makes very rapid progress. Mantell sits closely in your office from 9.30 to 4.30 and gets through any amount of work. You could not have made a better arrangement than you did. The *Transactions* are well forward and I have just finished the last of my proof sheets.

Haast passed through Wellington a day or two after I left en route for Melbourne. He telegraphed telling me that he had bad news of Mrs Haast.

The Hon. Rob. Campbell arrived today on his way home via San Francisco. He will give you the latest news. Dr Featherstone writes me (under date Decr. 17) "The German Govt. intend conferring an honour upon Dr Hector."

Accept my best congratulations by anticipation. And with kind regards to Mrs Hector.

Truly Yours
W. L. Buller.

M3: Mantell to Hector, 13-3-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/2

Your Office
13.3.1875

My dear Hector,

Gore tells me you prefer the Californian route & therefore that it will be well to defer sending you his report till Tuesday. I suggested that if that mail left today & this Suez mail on Tuesday, you would of course prefer to use the Western line. We are settling gradually into shape – when we have quite arrived on better form I trust we shall use both mails. At any rate you shall, D.J. have some word of us by this. I am sitting in your office having banished the fleas & some of the dirt & disorder therefrom. The former were disconsolate at your departure & after a day ----- abstinence actually tried me! The result is sad for them.

First, your building. They are getting on pretty fast with the skeleton of the front & wing but not without many disagreeable surprises to us on the inside – in the form of seeing unexpected holes suddenly opened in various places. At one time when they had just opened their batteries on the Southern end & effected secondary[?] breaches there. I seriously thought of sending Gore with a flag of truce to arrange terms of capitulation - ---- to be allowed to march out with our hammers & crucibles & all the ----- of red tape. For the last five days the southern gable has been open save the lining – so that if a wet southeaster came on the rain would have drifted along the ceiling & saturated the main building. I have fired remonstrances & memoranda & hope that at least the gable has been temporarily covered. I will go and see. – No it is not.

Skey begins a months' leave of absence tomorrow. He has been analysing & so forth & attempting at my request to get the standard W. & M. into some order. I fancied that only three of the boxes possessed keys & of those two were not of those used in comparing standards. The rest were keyless & no keys to be found – all were unlocked except the case containing the measures of capacity. I have had that opened & ordered keys & that the boxes be all repainted for the credit of the Department.

Burton goes on stuffing but if a wet S.E. comes on before Sunday which seems likely, I fear the birds he has set up in the side cases will be in for it. Buller's birds certainly will & my collection. Buchanan is drawing away as usual – he is gone this afternoon to chain the fence at the gardens the men having he says worked out the stuff[?]. We this morning recaptured the whale's head which they had rolled up out of the water at Evan's bay. Mr Knight the sailmaker had kindly brought it over to adorn his garden so I sent Smith with an express for it this morning. Kirk has applied for a set of Travers' Chatham Island plants which he says you ordered to be given to him to name for Hutton; but no one knows anything of any such order, so I have put him off. He also applies on behalf of M-----hagan for some chert flakes & a brace of Huias.

Bramley has been very ill & first his family & then his wife down with measles. The - --- progress of the path clearing has been given to Rager[?] as lowest tenderer but not to commence just yet. That old cottage will cost a good amount before it is done. About £15 worth of new timber was required. We shall I believe get rather better ---- trails at an increased rate. Wesley Road is not quite got over yet though we wasted some time over it at the Board meeting on Thursday.

The *Transactions* are progressing well. The Buller CMG has come from Wanganui to cancel the press so far as his papers are concerned. Bothamley continues to exert assistance from me in reading proofs: so compelling me to listen to an amount of bosh which I should otherwise have escaped. Dr Filhol⁴³ turned up yesterday & vanished again. He stays here three or four days. Fulton was here the other day in the eas--- indignant with me for not having got very rich. Col. Feilding left by the same steamer. Kemp goes I believe in the *Avalanche* having engaged or nearly engaged a Mr Garland to kill us in his absence – Barraud & family along by *Avalanche*.

Fresh sardines in today. I don't think much of them in that state – too mucky the boones. Buchanan brought me a dish of them, but I made him put all but two in spirit, as I hear some Museums are without them, & they are a good Museum fish. The Board met on Thursday. We gave Smith the £3 extra & passed sundry votes on a liberal scale for the garden, including £100 for new paths.

I enclose the Regist. Genls. last sanitary report & an article on the last surprising addition to the array of those unfortunate Saints Michael & George (4.13.pm. Both. reports a severe shock. Skey & I were standing talking in Skey's room but heard & felt nothing. The flasks in the Laby. were swinging slightly. We had one about the same at 5.17am) The article is very spiteful but not invercarious[?]. Preserve it, and if they offer to inflict a like honour upon you, pray accept it & help to redeem the unlucky order.

The Churchwarden sent in a bill for your sittings. I told them you wd. not require them & advised them to offer the privilege to the "gentleman occupying" your house. I believe they haven't.

This is not a letter but only a screed to let you know you are borne in mind. I will write again via S.F. if I have time – but my sinecure leaves me very little which, you will agree is all the better for me. I hope you are enjoying the Atlantic by this

- Gillies J. has just left me sending his best love to you he charged me to tell you that they are going to have a Museum at Auckland at last – cost £2500; concrete - £1500 already subscribed. Grey is really going to take the Superintendency this seat!

Well I must end Wallie has just come in with a damaged hand which I must go & clean.

Goodbye & a good time to you. Remember me kindly to Mrs Hector & Jack[?] & George[?]. You will have separated from the Sewells & Richmonds ere you receive this so I say nowt of them. Greet Hooker, Healey & all the faithful. The department greets you - & will be very glad to see you back in my stead.

Your -----
Matara

Pollen is back but I have not seen him.

⁴³ French naturalist on the 1874 French expedition to view the Transit of Venus on Campbell Island

M4: Mantell to Hector, 16-3-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/3

Your office
16th March 1875
10am

My dear Hector,

Precious little you will get from me by this mail. Gore will send you such an account as the materials in his hands enable him to compile of the acts of the department. If this be meagre the fault is mine (or perhaps yours) not his – For I have perceived the wisdom, in my attempts to drill your rather irregular department, of “going slow”; and of introducing by degrees only the various reforms indicated in your memorandum. The first of these to meet & extinguish is the natural feeling of resentment at my promotion over the heads of so many worthy officers – that I hope is almost accomplished, I think I have almost shewn my *raison d’etre*. Next we will see if we cannot by slow & steady perseverance get things a little squarer. But really in the present state of your Museum it is rather like drilling in face of the enemy if not in action.

Dr Filhol was here again yesterday he is going in a few days to drag at Kapiti then at Auckland then Samoa & Fiji.

Knight surrendered the whales head at once. Skey has gone on his leave. Bothamley hard at *Trans I VII*, having been relieved of D.Sc Buller⁴⁴ yesterday. He wants to send you uncorrected proof of your fishes in part thereof & though from fear that your corrections & ours may not agree, I object, I think he will do it. Ludlam was here yesty. & although I had been all over the garden on the previous day, dragged me up there again; by Wednesday the new fencing will begin to come in – far better than we dared to hope – We are opening a gate behind Mr Powles’ to connect you with the Observatory but do not propose to make another path there until that or the other side of the valley is cut.

Bothamley begs me to tell you there are three packets of *Trans.* gone to you by this mail.

I forgot to tell you when I wrote last week (via Suez) that I had been honoured with a visit from Jack⁴⁵. Lancelot Walker sent up his name one day from the Museum & came in followed by our hereditary noble. However all my hopes of fun were dashed by the announcement that he was on his way to Melbourne to see his weif who was dangerously ill there. So I left all dogs sleeping, dug up no tomahawks, and simply went on as if the cave of Balaam had never been excavated for the use of palaeolithic moa hunters of prehistoric persuasion. He made a little onslaught on the Maori house which he assured Wallie was not a genuine ---- – but just one made for the whaite[?] man.

I say, we must get rid of those Wts. & Measures. You have no time for them and dear old Skey has not the gift of keeping them in respectful wise. I should be very sorry if any

⁴⁴ Buller had recently been awarded a doctorate by the University of Tübingen

⁴⁵ Mantell’s nickname for Julius Haast

hostile folk knew of the state in which I found them. I now have keys to all the boxes & have had the marks of maltreatment painted out & each box marked (for it took two days of fruitless searching to look for a nonexistent box in which Skey believed but whose supposed contents were in one which we couldn't open). I shall have them placed *pro tem* in Bothamley's room where the pigeon holes were – these I have been compelled to accommodate in this den.

I meditate preparing a list of seeds for Hooker's favourable consideration, to save his folk the trouble of sending us Soy, elder, white thorn & so forth. I am placing the seeds as well as I can. Gillies took a parcel yesterday & this morning McNab & J.Caudree[?] have had some. Bramley still suffers from his rheumatism – yesterday I noticed that his hands were swollen as large as boxing gloves. He has had no new allusions at the garden. On Sunday I found a couple under the Museum & afterwards on my ground, but could not spare time to persecute. This sinecure amuses me for a large proportion of every day & already -----.

Wallie at school - not very well – although he has had measles, I fear another bout of them. Izard returned from Nelson, better. Kemp off by *Avalanche*. ---- for 5 years with Garland. No room for more. Kind remembrances to Mrs Hector.

Ever yours
Matara.

M4a: Mantell to Hector

Hocken MS-443-3/10/1

Note at top: By Albion's Supplementary Mail

16-3-75

My dear Hector

I have just received a note from Cox. He & Mackay reached Auckland on the 8th & were to start for Raglan on the 10th. It seems probable that they will be able to do Kawhia. Gillies thinks so, & they were told so at Taranaki. But I have specially urged Cox not to risk any costs to the Dept. Personally of course he may join the Plutonies but we can't spare any assistant geologists so he is to take care of them.

Should anything interesting be reported you shall hear it right away. The only reports recd. are Cox in Serpentine line from D'Urville's Id to Dun mountain – nothing new – Mackay on East Coast which should be hereafter episodized for you, & one from Cooper on the West Coast to Min. Public Works on the progress of Survey.

Berggren is expected here ere long.

You will be pleased to hear that on a certain day last week the barom. was higher than it had ever been before & that now it is blowing a positive zephyr from the NW with occasional rain & a prospect of a good downpour when the wind changes.

I have given my dear old friend Cooke a note of introduction to you, but when you are in the city you might could would should or ought to look him up at 27 Austin [?]Terrace.

There lies before me for our Treasurer a real £1 note damages for a horse which has much trespassed in the gardens! What do you say to that?

I have suggested to B--- that a large part of our balance should be placed on deposit – even at a month's call we should get 5% pr. ann.

I have not seen Pollen yet nor have I yet formally seen Richardson about the Wangaroa request for more money – but will do both when I have time. This precious sinecure wastes so much.

Wishing you a pleasant time of it.

Ever yours

Matara

M5: Bothamley to Hector, 9-4-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/4

Wellington, N.Z.

9th April 1875

Friday

My dear Doctor,

My last letter was written in a great scramble, owing to pressure from the printers, who however didn't keep it up. Their promises are unceasing, and as frequently broken. Didsbury equals Hughes in dilatoriness, but now that Major Palmer is going I hope they really will get on with Vol I. This report has taken up the time of all hands lately. The consequence is that only 208 pp of Vol I are printed off.

Of Vol VII 336 pp are done, so you see the rate is not fast, not even faster than before the celebrated new machine arrived at Hughes'. But we are now through Zoology which is something to be glad of, for some of the papers exercised me not a little – and Mr Mantell too – who always in a difficulty says 'stick to the copy'. In Botany the only paper that promises much trouble is Dr Knight's on Lichen – and it will I fear be fruitful in errata. It seems so far as I have looked over it to be innocent of stops, except in the wrong places, and is very carelessly written. He had it to look over when he was here last, but said it was all right and made no alterations. Now however he is getting alarmed for some reason, as he has telegraphed me to send it to Greymouth for revision. There is no time for this now, as the type would have to be kept standing a fortnight, and it will have to be printed off in a week. So he must take it with all faults.

It is a pity those stupid Education articles by Martin[?] and Adams[?] appear in Pt I, but my orders were to print, and Mr Mantell would not hold them back. The Board met too late to have them referred back and so they are in.

I think I told you last month that I had some bother with Buller. Had he not been here his papers wd. have been no trouble, but he made no end of corrections. 2 hrs to each half sheet – and wanted to bounce the Institute into giving him extra copies because he had corrected the proof sheets. I then found him stopping Hughes printing off till he had seen a revise - so Hughes got a rousing for taking orders from him; and the Dr of Sc had to cave. I must say he is not a pleasant man to deal with, unless his fur is stroked very much in the right direction. He has leased Barraud's house for 2 years, and seems quite determined to live the rest of his days here. At his request a proof of his papers was sent to Finsch (by the mail) as well as one of Finsch's own. Plates 8 & 9 also go to Finsch. Haast only makes a small show of 2 pp.

With regard to your papers. – 1 Ichthyologic. The table had to be moved up to the beginning of the paper, otherwise it wd. have been cut in half. The letter press has been altered to correspond. The rest of the press has I hope come out right, after all the correcting & rewriting it had before you left. I see part of it in A--- & Mag[?] but have not compared it with the *Transactions*.

2 Whaleological. This will also I hope be satisfactory to you, though I am very much afraid you may find some errors in it. What you will notice most in that is the Description of Plates – under Pl xvii nos 4 & 5 are omitted. This was unavoidable in your absence and that of the bones. You may remember telling me when I asked you about the vertebrae that Buchanan wd. know their places. He referred me to Kirk & Burton. Kirk was the only one who would venture to give them a place – and on cross questioning I found he really knew nothing about it – so left them out altogether. Mr Mantell thought it better to omit the actual nos and make it appear due to error rather than ignorance. Hence the hiatus – wh: may be corrected by a note in Vol. VIII.

on p. 253 P.S. to ---- ----- you give length of skeleton making proper allowance sb. is 14ft 6”.

Further on in the same article – on p. 255 after end of 1st par. ending “integument”, you had put “The total length of skeln. as artictd. with due allowance for intervestl. substance is 15 feet 8 inches.” This I struck out after measuring the photograph which has a scale attached, as it came much nearer the 14’6” than 15’8”. I hope this was right. It is plain both cannot be.

On p. 262 1st pagh. – you said “Two skulls etc. are figured on Pl-”. It appears that Buchanan drew both figures of Glob. ----- from one specimen – and apparently the younger, so I altered it accordingly.

On p. 261 line 1. “Zool. Soc. 1870 p. 76” you had in ‘copy’ “as descd. by Dr G. in P.Z.S. who distinguish it from *Orca capensis* by the” & told me to fill up from P.Z.S. 1872. We had no 1872 or at all events the reference given is the only one I cd: find & as the distinction did not appear either to Mr Mantell or me, to be very clearly given, the words were left out & only the reference given.

I will next duplicate copies of your papers that you may send to correspondents without mutilating your volume, also duplicate plate if I can.

(Hughes intervened)

One of your plates is not yet done – that containing *Neob. marginata* & skulls Pl xvi.

While on the subject, I find that I omitted from list of Cetacean --- articles a ---- & may ult. one in no. for July 1874 – LXXIX p 24 – on sea bears --- of Auckland Islands.

A paper on a new sp. of *Isoëtes* by Kirk was sent him for revision & after repeated attempts to get it back which failed, an official was written for it, and it is now promised by next Thursday. It won't matter a straw except that we are waiting for it to make up a plate – and that he has not behaved well about other papers which he has been allowed to see. Firth on Forest culture was lent him to look at in the office – and directly Gore left the room he bolted with it and I had great difficulty in recovering it. He knew he was not allowed to take it away as only a short time before when he wanted a paper, he was told so.

A table of measurements of Moa bones by Hutton was too large to print even with Hughes' smallest type so I got it photolithographed (to face p. 276).

We wrote for better drawings of Hutton's *Aplysias* (p. 279) & he sent the shells which the P.O. officials made mincemeat of.

Knight's and Coughtre's plates (with papers) have turned out well though the printing is rather dark. Your whale plates are pretty awful, but Buchanan thinks them perfection.

Next year if I am here I shall copy the A-- & Mag[?] as much as possible in arrangement putting all synonyms in brevier & indenting latin descriptions. Their arrangement is certainly better than ours is – no leads except where specially wanted – but then they use a larger type. Where the want of leading would be observable is in articles without a break.

Hughes' men are not so good as formerly and his obstructiveness or thick headedness and want of proper scientific signs wh: he cd: purchase for a couple of pounds – and wh: he has not got even after printing 6 volumes – have exasperated Mantell, who threatens to put the next volume up to tender. Lyon & Blair attacked him on the subject. The worst of it is that I don't think anyone but Hughes cd: turn out a decent volume. It might perhaps, in spite of that, be a good thing to put it to tender for one year just – to show him that he has no monopoly of Institute work, which he seems at present to think he has.

Having given him till now to finish the volume and having delayed going to live at the Hutt in order to advance it, I have at last gone there to live with Beatson about ½ mile from Stn. up the line. Train starts at 8.45 wh: just brings me to office by 9.30, and leaves town at 5.20. It used to start at 9.15 and 5.10, but we agitated for a reform and got it. The very first mg. I came in the train ran off the line – fortunately just approaching Wn. Stn. at slow speed. It is a miserable train, running at the frightful rate of 7 ¾ miles in 35 minutes! for fear of wearing out the line. In fine weather it is very pleasant, but when the cold & wet come – here I shiver at the thought.

Eight weeks today (Saty) since the *Howrah* sailed. I hope the time has gone as quickly with you as it seems to have done with us. Every Saturday Mr Mantell & I remark the time

passed since you went and look forward to the time when we shall get news of your arrival in London. You will have the advantage of us there in getting letters immediately you arrive. I hope you have let my brother at 13[?] Queen St know your whereabouts that my mother may call on Mrs Hector. She has settled at Streatham, though I cant say where as they all omitted to send me their address.

I hope to be able to get home after the session but that is a long way off. Stevenson – 2nd clerk assist. H of R – died suddenly a short time back. Davis of the Audit also died very suddenly. They were 1st secretary & treasury. of Civil Service Club, which has ceased to exist.

The Kemps & Geoffrey start for Lyttelton to join *Avalanche* on Thursday. C. Barraud goes too.

I send a memorandum of Cooper's which was lying on your table.

Buchanan has been up the landslip ranges opposite, in order to s---- old Kirk, who intended to go first. Said Kirk & his son are laid up with influenza, which may develop into measles.

I saw *Trans.* up to p. 336. I could have sent another half sheet but it is so badly done that it is no good. They left out a large piece at beginning & a whole footnote & other things.

Kind regards to Mrs Hector
Yours sincerely

A. Bothamley.

M6: Mantell to Hector, 9-4-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/4

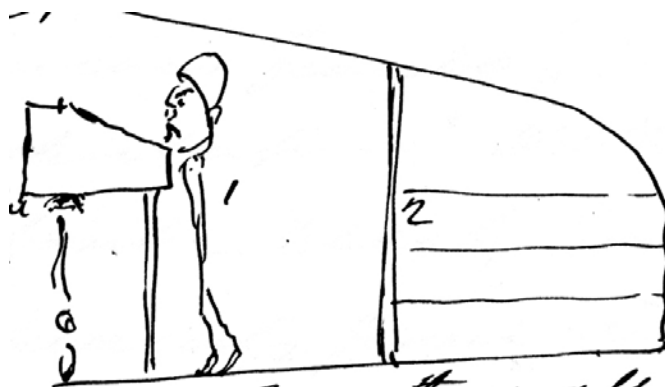
9th April 1875
Friday

My dear Hector,

I hear it is doubtful whether our government allows franked letters to go by this route so I shall not waste much time upon it.

The building progresses as well as can be expected. The South wing nearly finished & the roofing timbers about to be placed on front. I was on Weds PM suddenly called upon to fix colours for finishing coat of paint & intended to have asked Bowen not to come over & decide – but alas yesterday morning it rained, so I told them to give it two shades of French grey – like my kitchen – no minister could be expected to come out in rain. As to the fittings you have left a much perplexing conundrum – because almost all the cases have to be cut or otherwise altered, and we have nowhere to store the specimens – Storekeeper seeming to be out of cases.

Luckily the divided table cases will not go on the top of the gallery rail – because that rail is just about as high as the very summits of these cases and a person of ordinary height wd. be puzzled to do anything but break his nose on them.



(The figure (1) in the illustration represents a patagonian. (2) represents about the place where the wall cases will come to, with a depth behind as unfathomable as the native mind. A small bay to creep in to the back pettlements will be indispensable. The gallery height does not correspond with that shewn in the sections, & I am told you agreed to this alteration. Sorry for it.

Skey has returned from his holiday & is now analysing antimony from P----.

Buchanan wholly absorbed in the *Transactions*. Bothamley ditto.

Fencing of Bot. Garden

[Page terminates]

11.45. Major Palmer[?] has just been here & tells me that the Frisco mail of Tuesday by which he goes, arrives five[?] days before this, so I shut up. Wallie has had a long bout – Nearly 3 weeks & not out yet – mainly from inattention of our medico or I think his old failing - that of ceasing to attend before his patients are cured. Self bad too but won't bother such doctors.

Kirk ill – no end of bother about[?] Pov Bay Petroleum on wh. you have omitted to send a report to Govt. while you have sent an elaborate one to a Mr Stubbs – How was this? I am going to get Bothamley to compile[?] a report from your ----- letter.

A long letter from Hackett not needing to be sent on. I will acknowledge it. He is doing well.

I enclose a blackguard[?] a ---- on our Sc.D – truly that virtuous youth seemeth to have made many enemies.

Kind regards to Mrs Hector.

Sincerely Yours

WBD Matara

(to be continued next week)

A Quick Run Home

GSNZ Miscellaneous Publication 133D

M7: Buller to Hector, 10-4-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/5

Wellington
10th April 1875

My dear Hector,

It has occurred to me that it would be a good thing if you could bring out with you, for the use of our printer, a supply of the type-symbols ♂ ♀, to denote male and female. I find that in many recent papers wherever these signs occur, Hughes has been compelled to substitute the words in full for want of the proper type, and in some cases this looks rather awkward.

Since I last wrote I have got fairly settled here. I like Barraud's house, but in some respects I should have preferred yours. I think my professional prospects are good. At any rate I am determined I deserve success if hard work and close attention to business will do it.

Haast went up to Sydney & Melbourne just after you left, and has not yet returned, nor have I heard any thing from him.

Everything seems to go on very smoothly at the Museum, and Mantell sticks to the office from 9 to 5!

Ever faithfully yours
W.L. Buller

M8: Mantell to Hector, 13-4-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/6

Your Den
13th April 1875

My dear Hector,

That petroleum business, unless you can assist us, is our worst trouble yet – I mean as a point to be seized on by our enemies if we have any. As it stands, it would seem that, having thoroughly explored the district, our director sends a very full (though called 'preliminary') report upon it to the manager of a private company, illustrated by maps & sections photolithographed at the Govt offices, and not one word of information to the Government. While there are lying in his office two references from the Native Department praying information to enable them to judge whether certain lands as surveyed are worth sharking or not. However, Bothamley has, more or less, transformed your letter to Mr Snubbs a whatever his name is into a very creditable preliminary memod. on the District & I have sent it in to the Col. Sec. who will let the Native Office take a copy & return it to us. Meanwhile where is the report – you must have taken it & all your data with you – send it out.

The consignment of seed from Miller & Sievens, San Francisco, is getting under way. I hope to send some to Ferguson, Sydney, today. They seem very bad & I have recommended Govt. to get no more. Gore will send you some seeds from Buchanan today – I think the box for germinating Kau--- ---- &c. is underway but no *sapota* has arrived yet. The fence of the garden progresses & has nearly reached the turn near the ----- on the Tinakori road. Bramley reports that stuff[?] is wanting, while waiting[?] for that the men are employed creek cleaning & so forth. Weather still too dry to do new paths profitably. Ludlam is off to the South with his wife.

I have only seen Pollen once, in the street & once at Board meeting. Before he had been back a week he – (I have just franked the Gad.[?] catalogues for you, Mr C---- will send additional sheets in another parcel) – snubbed me ferociously about a telegram from Cox – but that he now says was all a mistake – I thought so at the time. I had many things on which I wanted to write by this mail but my time has been so broken by nursery duties, & I have had such wretched nights from the same cause, that I could do nothing till now. But as Walter is better this morning I have entrusted him to the housekeeper till mail time.

Here are a few little commissions.

1. Cremation. & order to send per post to Gen. Ass. Sectry. the most recent reports, company's prospectus &c. – English & foreign.
2. Stanford. Pay him £1.14.6 for us – He thinks I owe it, I don't; but pray square it & thank him for his attention while he really could attend to the business. It was only that association with Mr Blific[?] which disturbed our relations.
3. Graham has not paid the £10.
4. Boat. We (Wallie & I) want a really good model boat, cutter or other simple rig (billy-boy best) everything to "take up & down". Cut from solid, not clinker built – 18in to 2ft keel – 2 or 3 or 4 pounds we estimate would fetch it. Might ---- rigging sails taken down & be packed & sent at once – The model yacht makers would probably have or make such a thing. My last from Cox is dated Raglan Ap. 1. They have finished Wangaroa but have no hope of getting to Kawhia this journey.
5. If you discover any whisky of superior ----- virtues send me a cask (I mean some in a cask not any particular[?] -----). You must be able to find some if you go North. I don't mind going in for £10 or[?] 20 worth for many will be glad to have it at cost ----.

I am so constantly interrupted that I shall give up for this time especially as it is time to give W. his ----. He is now in his 4th week of a bronchial attack which I think should have been cured in two, but Kemp has been --- good lately – I don't think much of his successor yet but suspend judgment. Pray --- ----- that I am not neglecting your work so far as my natural stupidity will allow. I am at it morning noon & night – I don't get down the beach above once a fortnight – and begin to feather[?] myself that I will deserve all the pay I get.

With kind regards to Mrs Hector
Ever yours
Matara.

M9: Bothamley to Hector, 10-5-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/11/8

Colonial Museum
Wellington N.Z.
10th May 1875

My dear Doctor,

During a lull in the storm of proofs which now constantly assail me I take up my pen to let you know how little progress we have made with my special work during the month. It is aggravating (but Hughes always was so) and can't be helped, but Mr Mantell is rather enraged with Hughes and vows he shan't get any more work to do. You will see by the copy I send how far he has got but I may tell you that now he has made a fresh start, having 3 men at work, and today even asked me whether he shd: let them work overtime. I don't feel certain that I cd: keep up with him if he did so as Didsbury is also pressing me. Finding that his promises were not to be relied on I wrote a memorandum to him asking him to state when the vol. wd: be finished. He declined to say, so I wrote to Mr Mantell sating that only 240 pp out of 500 were done & Parl: papers already being printed. Mr M forwarded it whereupon Pollen asked Didsbury what caused the delay. D. replied that he regarded it as a "stock job" & had told me it shd: be printed by session (which in his official memo to me he had not, & of course his verbal promises went for nothing) to which Dr Pollen replied "See it finished by 1 June". I shall be glad if it is done by middle of June.

To revert to Hughes. He had a row with his men, complaining that they didn't do enough, so after a bit they cleared out. The last of them came back, but heard that Hughes had been defaming his char. somewhere & immediately left again. These constant changes of men make the work much more trouble, as new hands at the work are not to be depended on for accuracy in "correcting" revises. There are now 376 pages done & the rate (criminal) is to be 50 pages a week, actual will probably by 30. I think it will be as well to omit Dr Kidd's learned discourses on science truth & probability from the appendix in order to hurry the publication.

I warned Hughes some time ago that Mr Mantell would not overlook these delays and then he was very cocky & declared his utter carelessness as to whether he got Vol VIII or no, as this one had been a loss to him. I think that now he has changed his mind. After a great row with him the other day (when he came up to say he cd: go on with the work again and began to abuse me for not working hard enough for him, upon which I had to order him out & referred him to Mr Mantell if he had any complaints to make) he asked for some geological reports but Mantell told him that it wd: be time enough to talk about them when *Trans* Vol VII was finished. It will be a pity if he loses next vol, but though we may get on in fine style from some body else, it will be a lesson to him that he must be provided with proper types etc. to turn the book out decently. Seven volumes & no greek type!

I am trying now to square Skey's papers, which is not quite so difficult a matter as before, as a good deal is reprint from Chem. Journal.

Buchanan is getting on well with plates, having only 4 to do now, besides the adult form of *Globicephala macrorhynchus*, which is to have an entire plate to itself – and Dr

Knight's mosses which were omitted owing to his having taken the drawings home & stowed them away, so I knew nothing about them. They are to be done if there is time.

I am sorry to see that the head of your paper on whales is disorganized[?] by the Plates XVI-XVIII being in the wrong line, but I dare say no one will notice it but you & myself.

You will get from Mantell – Haast's letter resigning Presidency of Phil Inst of Cant: & you will see in summary wh: I send (among other political news from Canterbury) that there is delay in completion of ChCh: Museum. I think that will fairly drive poor old Haast mad. McKay wrote a very coherent but needless letter for the newspaper which I advised him not to send. There is a report that 2 sessions will follow quickly on each other, which if true will put a set on my home trip after the session. H. Otterson[?] comes over soon to be married & is to hold (without final appt.) the billet of 2nd Clrk Assist. H of R. I am down on estimates as 2nd Clrk Asst Lay Cl at £150. I wonder if it will pass.

Twelve weeks out. I wonder where the *Howrah* is, and how are all its passengers. We shall be looking soon for tel: news of your arrival in London.

The Museum is getting on finely and is an 'imposing structure' as the newspapers are sure to call it – and about as hideous as cd: be wished. Mantell thinks the office arrangements abominable, and I certainly think that a little trouble on Clayton's part wd: have improved them. I don't suppose I shall have more to do with them then the trouble of moving in. I suppose Gore will tell you of family sickness & Mantell of Wally's – the latter principally due to unnecessary coddling.

Fancy our friend Markell: Provincial Secry. of Canterbury! I haven't heard of Nelson & the Nelsonians[?] but you will of course get your news without its filtering through my inkpot & pen.

Kind regards to Mrs Hector
Yours Sincerely
A.T. Bothamley.

M10: Mantell to Hector, 4-6-1875

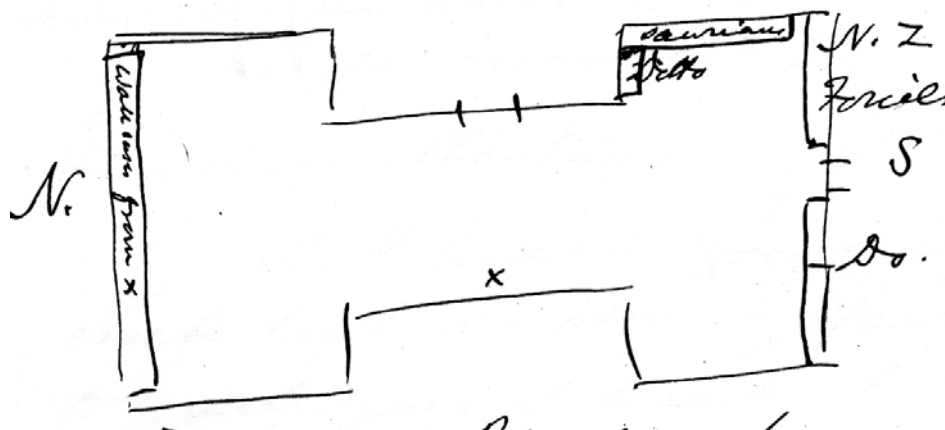
Hocken MS-0443-3/12/1

Museum
4th June 1875

My dear Hector,

S.F. mail goes next week but as it may fail to reach you, I think it best to send you a few words --- at Museum arrangements to prevent you making any mistake in ordering cases. For reasons which I will if not too pressed for time give in my next, I have made the following changes in your proposed plan for cases –

1. The range of table & wall cases & drawers containing the New Zealand fossils. I have placed on each side of the South door, instead of along the North wall as you suggested. This leaves 2 cases over wh. I will place elsewhere.
2. The tall glass cases which you proposed to put in gallery over the present stance I shall put along the North wall. This will leave one case over.
3. The Saurians are almost arrayed along East wall of South wing where they look very well.



Richardson P.W. was here yesterday wincing[?] rather than winking[?] at every expenditure & doubts ----- he can afford to ----- cases & table cases. However I don't, so D.J. I think they will be done.

Poor --- ----- died yesterday aged 72. Cooper is still away very bad with eczema. Pollen a little better.

We have telegrams to 26 May & no news of your arrival – When do you intend to arrive?

Au revoir
Yours
Matara

P.S. Pollen has ----- to raise ----- 120 ----- to 100 but refused additional 50 to Gore. Ludlam very bad with rheum. ----- Had to come in ----- to explain to banker that he could not sign on cheques. Kind regards to Mrs Hector.

M11: Bothamley to Hector, 4-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/2

Wellington, N.Z.
4 June 1875

Mr dear Dr.,

There will be rather a hiatus in our correspondence I suppose, owing to the loss of the *Schiller*, though I have hope that a chance may have saved our letter, as some are reported to have been recovered.

To make certain of your getting files I send you a copy of the Vol. as far as done, also your usual files. The file is Mr Mantell's but as he never by any chance looks at it, he thought it wd. be better than drawing another one.

You will see by the slow progress made that Hughes is as obstructive as ever. The yarn now is that his men are ill. I have only had one row over it this month, and that was with Travers, who wanted to be nasty, but I smoothed him down. I ordered Hughes to send his proof & by mistake he didn't get proof of a note (wh. you will see inserted) whereby errors passed & he asserted that I had told the printer not to let him see a proof of it, in which he was of course wrong. He said if the errors were not corrected his paper shd not appear. But as it began a page I wrote a minute explaining to Mr Mantell that the vol. wd. be complete without it, and that Mr Travers was quite mistaken, & misinformed by the printer as to the orders I had given. I threw both his letter with my note on it back to him and pacified him. It got very near a shindy though, for his letter was very insulting.

Didsbury has not finished Vol. I⁴⁶ but it is all in type except contents etc, and 448 pp printed off. It will make 500 or so.

All the Vol. VII plates are done, but one to illustrate Knight's mosses is not printed yet. They are all pasted in so there will be no delay when the Vol. is printed. I am afraid that wont be for a month, as it is impossible to get Hughes to work faster and even without the appendix it will be as big as last years. I shall try and get Mantell to postpone Kidd's very doubtful philosophy, as I think the Proceedings will bring it up to fully the size mentioned and that is quite big enough for a Vol. I think. There will be no papers from Haast next year I suppose, which will allow of some of these things being in.

I am sick of these printers and hope next year to escape them by going home. That seems doubtful now, though, if things political don't travel squarely. It seems to be the general opinion that there will be two sessions following pretty closely together. If so I am doomed to exile for another year and goodness knows how many years after. There was a review of the security[?] without Vogel in the New Z. Times when the announcement of his illness was made, criticizing them all severely – since which no semi-officials have appeared in that wretched paper.

⁴⁶ Volume 1 of the *Transactions of the NZ Institute* was being reprinted at the same time as volume VII was being prepared for publication.

The Museum is getting on towards completion, but it will be quite another month yet I think before it is finished. All the cases are shunted into the new wing, which looks like a chance of the floor being lowered, and then that infernal hammering will begin again. It looks a fine big place and the partition is down and a clear view is got from end to end. Mr Mantell talks of putting me into your new room as soon as finished, but I don't think it will be, much before the session. I believe that it is to be as early in July as Ministers can make it. I also hear that Stafford is to be Premier, but you will hear all about this from other people who know.

A census of office furniture actually belonging to the Department was taken the other day, with the net result – as far as chairs go – of 2 – all the rest appearing to be the property of N.Z.I. & W.P.S. Mr Richardson & Dr Pollen have been over here colloquing with Mr Mantell. Mr Ludlow has just left and Mr Kirk is now here, so you may imagine it to be a reception day at the Museum.

Mantell has worked like a brick (not to mention seeds etc) at reading Transactions with me whenever I was hard pressed and as he hates it, it is all the kinder of him. He does not seem to have been very well lately, but appears better the last day or two, and has been in office more. Wallie is getting spoilt as usual, but is well in spite of codling.

I suppose you are settled down as much as you are likely to be. I am sure I shd. be more use to you there than I am here. As soon as the printing is over there will be nothing for me to do unless I make work.

I find the Hutt fearfully damp, which wont affect my health, but mildews my boots and everything else. The train leaves at 8.25 now which is rather early when one has to cook one's own breakfast. Kind regards to Mrs Hector.

Yours sincerely
A.T. Bothamley

[June 4 1875]

My dear Dr

The enclosed plates are complete for volume bar 1 which will be printed today – weather too hot yesterday.

Hughes is obstructive again and we go so slowly. It will be a big volume. The biggest out. Mr Mantell still sticks to the appendix. It will appear as if Hughes was short of plates (of which we are entitled to 3 files) by his having torn out some to make up these. I have sent none to Dr Hooker as I expect you have already supplied him. K. Otterson & A. Nation (G. Turton's partner) marry Laurie & Mildred Turton in ½ hr. The Munros have kindly asked me to -----, but I am afraid I shall get no holiday before the session as I am in ----- - a ----- as do Skey calls them in----

Yours sincerely
A.T. Bothamley

M12: Mantell to Hector, 7-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/3

Museum

7.6.75

My dear Hector,

Since I last wrote I have had something to do which certainly you should have done before leaving – to prepare your Estimates. I waited for Pollen's return & then made as good a fight as I could. You had applied for an increase of £50 & Mr Kirk⁴⁷ for the confirmation of some arrangement before by you. I don't think he will give Gore's increase, but Kirk is put at £100 & Smith at £120. Burton to remain chargeable agst. field vote which with contingencies is put at the old amount - the extra expenses owing to alterations to be otherwise charged. When it became necessary to define clearly what alterations in cases were to be made I found Richardson, to whom Pollen had referred me, very economically disposed. But I fancy it will all be done.

I wrote you a few days since via Suez to tell you of the alterations in arrangements of large cases which I had found necessary – but as that mail may miscarry I had better recapitulate.

1. The ----- wall & desk cases with drawers below I have had placed (10 out of 12 that is) right & left of the South door – this saves them from those shiftings and places the N.Z. fossils near the fossil room, their source of supply – dispensing with a march all through the Museum for purposes of comparison. Beside this it leaves the North wall free for the high wall cases which must be placed there as the gallery can only be made to hold them at a cost equalling that of new cases.

The Saurians with their clumsy & cumbersome settings are arranged along the East wall of new wing. By at once erecting the ----- wall cases in their present place I gain a place for the birds & out of the tall cases fossils there wd. otherwise have been no place.

I am now in correspondence with the Min. Public W. about the back stream between the Laboratory & the Museum. This it seems should have been excavated 7 feet lower & should have been drained. It is not. There is also no way of emptying the cesspool but through the Museum. No connection has been devised between the North wing & the Maori House. I have suggested that the earth under the 4 ft interval between those be dug out & a way reestablished. In this case the ascent to the level of the Maori House must be cut from its floor. It won't harm it much, as I would take it along the wall, not direct to the middle of the floor.

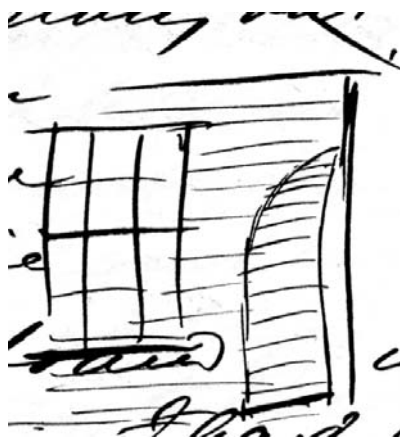
Mr Kirk⁴⁸ alleges an agreement with you about collections of plants (It seems, *en passant*, that you gave him the free run of the herbarium). He today sends 4 'Facsimile' as he calls them & a bill on a voucher for £25. I have asked Gore, who knows nothing about it – he is now asking Buchanan who is equally well-informed. He says you assured him you had told

⁴⁷ Thomas Kirk Jnr, who was an assistant in the Museum.

⁴⁸ Thomas Kirk Snr, who taught Natural Science at Wellington College.

me all about it – but you never. The charge is only 2/- per specimen. I will enclose a copy of his letter if I can fit it.

To revert to Museum, I have discovered & communicated to Mr Evans C.W. a plan for the watchman to get round – by simply arching out the corner of the fossil room where it abuts on my fence I am proud of this device.



The Observatory I find in a sad state of damp. I have called on Govt. who have detailed Blackett to see to it – so I hope to get it dry – (Wallie says “remind about the boat”).

Fairchild brought a ‘cowfish’ for you in pickle – the bones that it – he gave a small one to Professor Hutton at Dunedin – Buchanan has cleaned the head & got it photographed by Deversie[?]. B. says it is quite new. I enclose 3 photos (1 has detached earbone) & a list of measurements by Buchanan.

Bot Garden. Nothing to report. Fence finished. Path up Glenbe--- ----- this time reached saddle over Tinakori road. Ludlam laid up with rheumatic gout, can’t sign his name. He is still bent on pinefying the whole ground, in which I think you agree with him.

Cox is still at West Coast inspecting Denniston’s work. He was delayed by Bowen’s requiring him to go to Resolution Island to spy out granite &c. for a general penal establishment. He, Fairchild & Lemon[?] were the Commissioners. Bowen tells me they report dead agst it. Lemon[?] says telegraph wd. Cost 20,000 +. Cox says no granite & Mr Commissioner Fairchild says no go.

MacKay in the North not heard of for a long time.

Bothamly finishing his beloved volumes & longing to be off to England.

Buchanan having at last finished the plates has at my request undertaken the herbarium – to see what is left after your submitting it to pillage.

4.10 PM. I have just been down to the Museum. New wing covered with cases &c. The old --- partition is just being ----- across its connection with new building to screen it off during the floorwork.

Body of bldg. Contains remains of wall cases & 2 spare -----.

Old (North) wing – contains 2 empty pyramids waiting by section the big bird cases – the fish house (I dont call that a case & cork offends).

The windows have been put into the new offices – the grates are going in & supposedly end of the week the varnishing work will be done.

Finding there was a balance of some £70 or 80 of your vote I drew a furniture requisition agst. it to save it from expiring. Richardson says it shall be honoured.

I write this at your new table which is pretty well for a contract affair.

No one in England writes to me now so you get all my compositions & if they bore you as much as they bore me you are not to be envied. We have teleg. news of 26 May ----- arrival of the *Howrah*. If you have been such an idiot as to go & get lost I shall never forgive you – never.

I have --- ----- (-----) at £4.10 per acre. I have not yet got Briscoe to cut up m-----. He seems too busy.

Cooper is I believe still ill at the Wairarapa & as that ---- Barraud has run out of d----- --- I suppose I shall go ill too.

I dont trouble you with commissions more than I can help (although I have no one else to trouble) because I am sure you have your hands full & because you never offered to do any.

Greet all enquiring friends – Remember me kindly to Mrs Hector – make all due haste back & believe me -----

Yours ever
Matara.

M13: Mantell to Hector, 8-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/4

8.6.75

My dear Hector,

I send on Hackett's letter which at first I resolved not to bother you with & after ----- laid in a place of great security.

I sent you a long account yesterday of my sinecure which for safety I doubly addressed – the stationary of this Dept. being simply excerable.

I suppose you will have Major Palmer there soon after you – He never came near me on his return, until he found Burton wd. not prepare some birds for him, without my sanction & then he came – That's his size.

I hope I shall soon be able to spare a little time from this place as my own is going to the dogs for want of my presence, and poor Wallie is left to his own devices when he ought not to be. I sent him back to my ----- yesterday ----- . He returned at noon chilled through having had 3 hours in a fireless room at below 45°. So last night we had bronchial & asthmatic troubles again. Mr Garland either could not or would not cure him of his last attack so he has not been without coughs for 8 or 10 weeks. I am on the lookout for a medico but know not whom to try. Mr G[?] tried to give W chloroform for extraction[?] of 2 ----- condemned by Moffitt. He managed to put some in his eyes – propped his mouth open with a cork – applied a napkin with chloroform across his nose which was stopped (as he knew from having a-----ed cd. & not cured him) so the poor boy was not in the slightest affected by him. I dont think he will do – however he was I suppose the best Kemp could get.

Goodbye – I shall write on till August when of course you will be starting on your return voyage.

Ever yours
Matara.

M14: Mantell to Gore, 22-6-1875

Te Papa MU000147/004/0208

[Colonial Museum]

22nd June 1875

Mr Gore,

Some days back I requested you to look daily to the South wing in order to ascertain the safety of the collections stored there. I find that you must ----mitted to do this & consequently the cases are being used as a platform by the carpenters. I have directed the clerk of the works to have the platform immediately removed – will you see that this is done.

Mr Kirk can finish the division of seeds today.
Mantell.

M15: Travers to Hector, 29-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/4

Wellington
29th June 1875

Dear Dr Hector,

I was glad to see by the Telegrams that the *Howrah* had arrived safe, and trust that you & Mrs Hector were quite well and had enjoyed the voyage. Great anxiety was beginning to be felt as to the *Adamant* she being so long on the voyage, but the last Telegrams from England gave notice of her arrival after a passage of 150 days. I fear that many of the birds and plants will have suffered. I was very sorry to see in the “Home News” a short time ago the death of Dr Gray as I feel sure you will miss him very much.

Dr Filhol a French Naturalist was here a short time ago, and has now gone to the Fijis. He spoke very highly of Capt. Hutton, but thought Dr von Haast a very great humbug. He told me that Dr Haast had promised him a fine collection of Moa bones, and when in Christchurch went to see Dr H about them, however Dr H said he had not promised them, Dr F then said that unless he received the bones or an equivalent he would publish in the Home papers Dr H’s letter to him in which the bones were promised upon which Dr H have him the skeleton of *Berarduus arinixii* which was in the Museum. Dr Filhol told me that he was greatly disappointed at not seeing you as he wanted information about the whales, being very anxious to procure the skeletons of every species for the Paris Museum. He informed me that the whale which you called [line left blank] and of which I brought the lower jaw from the Chatham Islands was a new species as he had seen the entire skull with Dr Haast who had three just received from the Islands, forty of the whales having recently gone on shore there. I hope to be able to get a complete skeleton as I have written to some people there to secure me one. I hope to leave passed my final examination about the end of January and if so intend taking a holiday of about two to three months but am uncertain as to where I should go. I should like to go to the Fijis as I believe there is a lot to be done there. I also thought of the Chatham Islands again, so as to try and get a number more specimens of the new and rare birds from there. I should be glad of your advice upon the subject as you will be able to find

out what things are most wanted. Will you also let me know what terms you would be prepared to offer me (provided you took sufficient interest) should I decide to go to either place. You would confer another great favour on me by endeavouring to get me a sale for Bird skulls & skeletons. Plants live and dried, Fish, Shells &c.

Hoping you & Mrs Hector are well and enjoying yourselves.

I remain dear Dr Hector
Yours Sincerely

Henry H. Travers

M16: Mantell to Hector, 6-7-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/12

6.7.75

My dear Hector,

I write you nothing this time – to describe the present state of the Museum wd. be to inflict on you a part of the distraction under which I must necessarily suffer, & which you may well be spared. Suffice it that all goes as well as wd. be expected but is just now at about its acme of horror. The floors are lowered successfully, not many breakages yet. The resection of wall cases to begin when painting is ready. Gore Cox & Kirk in front offices – Skey, frozen out of his, has a corner in his future den (your old one). A general atmosphere of sixes & sevens resting on a congress of higgledy piggledy is about a fair description of our present state.

Bothamly is at Sir David's for a fortnights holiday. He was giving[?] in, Stowe does editing for him during absence.

I have written you so much & got so little in reply that I am almost tired of it.

Ludlam very bad – quite laid up with rheumatic gout.

Gore's wife prematurely comfd. last night, child dying, he away to get a Xtener for it to save it from the devil & hell & everlasting blazes combined with the most exquisite agonies which the justice of a beneficent creator can devise - under these circumstances I must excuse him.

Simmons[?] (at ----) here last night. This sketch is by him.

[Sketch not found]

Kind regards to Mrs Hector. Munro reports bairns all well.
Ever Yours
Matara.

M17: Cooper to Hector, 6/7/1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/13

Westport
4/7/1875

My dear Hector,

I was glad to hear of your safe arrival at home after an apparently somewhat lengthy passage. I hope that Mrs Hector & the young gentleman or lady (I forget which) got strong & healthy on the voyage & that you are all enjoying yourselves. You, I expect are up to the ears in work as usual.

I worked in Range up to end of May & am here in town plotting. D. & the men are cutting lines & exploring on the Sea face near the Waimangaroa & they will keep on at this during the winter, the country will then be Surveyed from Ngakawau to summit of Rochfort & as far E. as Mt. Wm. Ridge. I have recommended for next season Cascade Ck, Head of Orikaka, & Mohikinui, as far in each case as good indications of Coal appear. My report has just gone up & I have suggested to Cox that he shd. get a copy made of it & sent you. Cox was down for a week early in June & went over the ground.

I have been too busy as yet to do you any more of the sketches, but will try to send some shortly. My letter of 10th Febry. with 2 sketches reached Wn. after you had left, but Gore said he wd. forward them on. Did you receive them?

The proof of sheet 9 was sent to me only a few weeks ago! & about half the errors were still uncorrected. I corrected them again & returned it & they are to get my certificate that all is right before finally printing off – the hills are very poorly done, by some one in the P.W. Office I believe.

The *Luna* is going to take Normanby round the Sounds in Novr. or Decr. Can you get Richardson to let me go by dropping him a line by first post? provided of course the Marquis (not Barker[?]) is willing. I could arrange so that the men were here fully employed in my absence & it might count as a holiday if necessary; as I shd. be entitled to one by that time.*
[Marginal note: * or if Govt choose to count it as service I wd. make them copies of all sketches I took – by the way I made a new will other day & bequeathed my sketches to Museum if they wd. be accepted.] The chance may not recur in a hurry & I have been disappointed so often now that I shall soon begin to despair of ever seeing them. At any rate if you can manage it I shall feel much indebted. And if I go can I get & take your camera lucida?

I must wind up now, as it is midnight. So with kind regards to Mrs Hector & yourself & to the Richmonds if you shd. see them I am

yours very truly
Wm Cooper

M18: Buller to Hector, 19-7-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/5

Temple Chambers
Wellington
19th July 1875

My dear Hector,

The San Francisco mail this morning brought me your letter of May 14, written at sea. I was very glad to see your hand writing once more and to hear of your pleasant passage, although we had heard by telegram some time before of your safe arrival in the old country.

You would not be disappointed so far as I was concerned for I suppose several of my letters would be waiting for you in London.

The Ornithological portion of your letters I have already copied out to lay before the Society at next meeting, and I shall move that it be recorded in our *Transactions*. Your observations on the general scarcity of Oceanic birds interest me, because I was myself struck with this during my passage Home and out again. About the guano Island in the Red Sea, and among some of the scattered islands in the Pacific they were numerous, but nowhere else. The Petrel about which we were in doubt followed you, I believe, by the first mail. Have you been able to determine it? Young Burton has succeeded in getting a second specimen.

The Museum is drawing towards completion and we shall soon have a very commodious Room for our Sitzings⁴⁹.

I have convened a meeting of council for Thursday next to decide on some date for the Anniversary meeting.

I suppose it will take place in four or five weeks so I must begin to think about my Presidential Address!

The Printing of Vol VII (*Trans. NZI*) is just finished and you will receive it by this mail. It is certainly a valuable addition to the series.

I hope its successor will be worthy of it, but it is just in this that we shall most miss your unwearied zeal and industry.

Travers is getting up a good paper on "The recent extinction of the Moa."

I hope while you are in England you will arrange with some competent men to compile a critical List of our Insects, similar to which E. von Martens gave us for the Mollusca.

⁴⁹ Meetings of the Wellington Philosophical Society.

I intend to ask our Society to reprint in full in next years' *Transactions* Butler's paper on New Zealand Lepidoptera which appeared in the new issue of "Erebus & Terror". The work itself is quite inaccessible, and I believe Fereday & myself are the only persons in the Colony who possess copies.

Everything here is quiet. The General Assembly opens tomorrow. Of course speculation is rife, but no one seems to know what is likely to happen. My own opinion is that it will be a short & uneventful session and that all Constitutional changes will be reserved till after the Gen. Election now impending. But it is impossible to say. I had a long letter from Günther by this mail. He wonders how you have not turned up at the British Museum and concludes that you have either tarried in America or that you are rustivating somewhere at home! He informs me that I have been unsuccessful again with the Royal Society this year; but it is satisfactory to know that I was at the head of the Zoologists proper. Günther says that up to the last moments he had great hopes, as I had a large proportion of votes in the preliminary ballots. Of course I mention this *entre nous*.

My friends will no doubt put me up again next year, and I know I can depend on your doing what you can to advocate my claims, while in England.

Mrs Buller wishes me to thank Mrs Hector for her kind offer to do anything for her in London – of which she will probably avail herself – and joins me in very kind regards.

Glad to hear such a good account of your Ornith. fellow passengers.
Ever Faith. Yours
W.L. Buller.

M19: Bothamley to Hector, 3-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/2

Wellington
3 Aug. 75

My dear Doctor

Having got rid of my Committee and the mail being detained for ½ hr I am enabled to write you a legible note. I should have done so yesterday, but I was very much interrupted while writing my letters.

That blessed volume is done at last⁵⁰, and I have this morning got my official copy. It appears all right at a glance, and the only difference from other volumes is it's tremendous bulk. I hope you wont be able to pick many holes in it. The next volume will not bear Hugh's imprint unless you send out particular advice on the subject.

I was very hurried this morning as I had to meet Levin & McIntyre down town at 9.30 – a most inconvenient time on a mail day. Mr Mantell used his influence to get me appointed

⁵⁰ Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute, volume VII.

Secretary⁵¹ and took a good deal of trouble about it too. He wont do a stroke of work in the matter himself – so he says – and he has certainly carried out his rule so far.

The Govt have written privately to ask how much money the Committee want and Mantell replied £5000!! I wish they may get it. If they do I should hope to see you in Philadelphia next year. Somebody must go in charge of the packages and I think Mr Mantell will try to get them to send me to meet you there. It will be a great scramble getting anything done – especially as I cant be in 2 places at once; and I am afraid S---- & Mantell will be pulling against each other, as Mantell got the speaker to say that if Phil's work interfered with the Council, I must get someone at the Council to help, and I think S---- wont see this. It is very kind of Mr Mantell to put me into it, as he must know that my time will not be wholly at his disposal during the session, and he might have got some one else to devote all their time to the work.

I told Mantell what you wished about collecting the Vienna things⁵² at home, and have called his attention to it again several times, but he doesn't see it. There must be a good deal in London that would make the Colony show up a bit at Philadelphia.

The Museum is getting on now and the hall plastering is beginning to assume some shape but there is no admittance yet for sightseers and is not likely to be for a long time yet. Mrs Gore has been very ill again – but is somewhat better. Mr Mantell is also not at all well. His liver bothers him a good deal and he has bought a small cargo of lemon juice. Wallie as usual at home half his time wheezing and spoilt.

I am not at all well, but that is nothing unusual. I had to visit Garland the other day as my holiday didn't have the desired effect. I certainly felt better for it for a few days & then felt as bad as ever. Prolapses aim is the fie--- causas doloris.

I think I told you Lady Munro was very well. Sir David looks well & hearty too, but he is very quiet, does nothing, sleeps a good deal in the evening and is not in good spirits. I think he is more afraid of himself than he need be to judge by his looks.

You will see all political news in the Summary which Mr Mantell sent. An opposition has been formed with Sir G. Grey as leader & he announces it today. We have got a real statement of debt at last - £20,000,000 in round numbers.

Yours very sincerely
A. T. Bothamley

⁵¹ The Committee that was organising the New Zealand contribution to the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia.

⁵² Items from the New Zealand display at the 1873 Vienna Exhibition, that were stored in London.

M20: Mantell to Hector, 27-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/8

Noon
27th August 1875

My dear Hector,

I have just returned from the Garden whither I had to go to lay out a path. I have to thank you sincerely for your letters by last mail & trust I shall be able to steal a few hours before the San. Francisco mail goes on Tuesday to write you fully.

I enclose you slips of the last two meetings of the W.P.S. and a report of a meeting of the Otago Inst. which will remind you of the necessity for discussing longitude with authorities at home⁵³. Gore adds a letter which appeared on the subject possibly by Travers or Crawford – many have expressed their indignation to me.

One was ----- to divine poem & said
Has Hutton made such longer etudes
Concerning our true longitude
As justify the latitude
----- to his ingratitude?

I don't understand it but said I would send it on. The Ot Inst has also passed some seven resolutions sympathetic with Jack & savage to you concerning the Cave of Balaam copy of which I will forward next mail, and Rolleston makes an application for the Canterbury Inst. in the same manner but I have not received it yet.

I add no more as we Govt. Officers are not wished to patronize this mail.

Ever yours
Matara.

Kind regards to Mrs Hector. I have a piano now in the house which is played divinely every day, by a lady far exceeding Mrs Q.

-----W.J. for me ready in L.C. this ----.

⁵³ See Appendix 1.

M21: Buller to Hector, 30-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/9

Wellington
30th August 1875

My dear Hector,

I returned from Wanganui after nearly three weeks' absence on Saturday. This morning's mail brought me your letter of 30th June.

You are quite mistaken if you suppose that I "fret" about Hutton's Catalogue, or suppose that it "did me any harm." I dismissed the whole matter from my mind long before I returned to the Colony. It came up again incidentally at Canterbury and you then took my view of Hutton's action in the matter. Haast quoted me without authority (hence the correspondence). There was hardly any necessity for you to mention the matter to Sharpe, but as you quote his opinion I may add that not one of my friends at home was more loud in his denunciation of Hutton's action in trying to forestall my Book than R.B. Sharpe himself!!

I confess that at the time, it did give me some annoyance. Perhaps I was too sensitive. Absent men are apt to feel too keenly any thing like imperious[?] treatment when they know it is undeserved. I feel thoroughly disgusted at the tone adopted towards you down South, and don't hesitate to say so on every occasion.

Can anything be more un-English or unfair than the enclosed Telegram which went the round of the Colony?

It is as well you should see it, as I understand that further mischief is intended.

We have, as you will see, commenced our Session here.

Travers has a good paper ready for next meeting.

I hope you and Mrs Hector are thoroughly enjoying your home trip.

Ever Yours
W.L. Buller.

M22: Mantell to Hector, 31-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/10

Colonial Museum

Wellington

31st August 1875

My dear Hector,

I have proved bad correspondent this time for here I am, within 8 hours of the steamer sailing, just beginning my first letter.

Yours of various dates, the last of 8 July received yesterday, have been very welcome & satisfactory but I shall not be able to comment on them now. The building gets on – slowly of course – In the galleries we have the half cases almost fixed. For economy's sake I had a new ----- stand made for them & shall have all the old stands on hand which – covered --ially with rough boards will help to cover the desert spaces reserved for your English cases. In the high part of the South Gallery we are going for some months to have a light erected (a lighthouse discato---- affair) by request of the Customs. Burton is preparing the upright wall cases under the North Gallery & preparing them to receive birds – The diaphragm which separated temporarily the South wing from the rest of the building has been removed. Stairs are nearly up & so forth – but when we get a little farther on I'll send a marked plan – only understand that the following places[?] are taken.

1. Gallery rails, by half cases[?]
2. North wall under gallery, by upright wall cases
3. South wall ditto. by ----- wall cases with deck[?] fronts.
4. E wall of S wing – by Saurians also returning angle where it joins Maori building.
5. E & W walls of main bdg by Fish - birds & split pyramids as you directed.

I sent you by Suez some cuttings about Longitude &c. I now enclose a fuller report of the Thompsonian meeting ex Ot. Witness wh. I have not had time to read. Also copy of a letter from Captain Hutton enclosing recollections condemnatory of you & abolitionary of the menial.

I communicated your ---- to the praise of Buchanan's drawings to the proper parties – Mr Bothamley disclaims the “capital catalogue” which he only copied from McKay's & Kirk's lists.

You will ---- ----- at my having so little time to write when I explain my present circumstances. Fulton about 10 days ago brought up his eldest little girl & her governess to whom I made over a magnificent suite of two rooms which I hope they may continue to occupy for at least a week to come – for they are very happy there & so are Wallie & I - & on the whole we had a rather smiling period. Alice is a darling child & Mdle. remarkably nice & spirituelle - rather too pretty perhaps if I were not so grave & revered a -----.

Fulton leaves for Nelson today & I must trust to his posting this there if I am too late for post. We have splendid music. Danish piano playing with a witness. Mr F's cousin Miss Hardwick⁵⁴ sometimes comes to see the bairns & she plays divinely – Something between

⁵⁴ This is the first mention by name of Jane Hardwick, who was to marry Mantell in January 1876.

Mrs Q & Anabella ----- So on the whole for this brief period consider us as happy as the days are long.

I am so glad to see that you & Mrs Hector are really enjoying yourselves - & mind your ---- to ---- - that is my pay & if you stop it I will resign at once like any other sugarminder of a teapot - I hear the jolliest of news of dear old Barky Charlie & co. from Ch. Munro & Dillon – Barky says Wallie has charge of his Garden tools – W says he hasn't but fears the Bishop has embezzled them.

Well – if this is to get away I must end but I should like to have all day to write – & then another for Woodhouse Cooke & all the others out in the cold – but *que faire*. Fulton has just come in and complains of the writing, so I endeavour to end a little more legibly.

Greet all friends & continue to be as happy as you ---- can.
Kind regards to Mrs Hector,
Ever Yours
Matara.

M23: Mantell to Hector: 26-9-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/11

Sunday PM
26th September 1875

My dear Hector,

I am much afraid that the usual monthly reference will fail you this time for I see little hope with so strong a gale blowing of Gore's return before the mail starts. The Meteorological Stations all require his inspection which I intend they shall have after the prorogation, taking some myself but sending Gore to the greater number – but the Cape Campbell & Farewell stations lie so far out of the common track of steamers that I thought whether to take advantage of the *Luna's* present trip for the purpose - so Gore left on Friday night with the promise of return tomorrow. A strong SW gale has however sprung out in the meantime and I no longer hope to see him till the middle of the week. "In this conversion[?]" you were I suppose duly furious with me for my open confession of the absurd blunder of that dimbleheaded noodle at Bealy – I wear away *mon ami* – you would have winched it up I know – following your action about Stock's temporary longitude – but you know I don't like that way & you must endure "*les defauts de mes qualities*".

Nothing after all has been done toward draining the observatory – no reply vouchsafed to my recommendation there anent[?]. Gore now takes hygrometrical observations there once more but has not given me the results.

Your building progresses with ghastly slowness. The plasterers in the hall did remove their execrable scaffolding last week; - for two months or more we have had to crouch under that, receiving showers of plaster, lime & dirty water till the thing became almost intolerable.

The present state of affairs is much as follows.

The divided table cases are ranged round the galleries with occasional intervals where the line is continued by a permanent table on the level of the bottom of the cases.

In the North Gallery they are occupied by the foreign shells followed by foreign tertiaries beginning with the most recent. The South contains our modern & tertiary shells arranged in similar order – these meet in the middle or rather are there divided by one of the table spaces about a case & a half long. Below, the birds are going into the upright cases along the North wall, and Cox & MacKay are engaged in replacing the NZ collections in the dumpy[?] cases on the South wall.

Cox occupies his office next the library. The library is in some order & a pleasant room – in which I have lately had to take occasional refuge from the bellhangers & shelf builders in your office. Gore's office & anteroom as before with some symptoms of reverence to the old chaotic arrangement of papers which characterized his former den.

In your anteroom I have just had erected (from door to front wall) some of the shelves from the old library & to these I have caused your books to be ----- . Another of those cases stands between the E & W doors of your drafting room & in this I propose to stow the books from your old office.

I have not allowed any of the carpets to be laid nor will I until we emerge from our present state of dirt. Hearthrugs of course we indulge in in the chilly cells.

I regret that you did not ask for electric bells – Seven[?] I was told were allowed & of these 5 start from your office.

1 to Gore

2 to Cox

3 to Fossil room

4 to Laboratory

5 a ringing bell (the rest to be gonglets[?]) to South lobby (on Bowen Street) all wrong, you say – Can't help it – nor, as I neither expect nor hope for anything but abuse from you & any one else, am I in a position to care very much, so long as I for my own satisfaction, do my level best.

27 Sept. 3 PM. Got your two letters of 29 July & 4 August just before dinner the letter prodigiously fined for insufficient postage – I also got the envelope with Mr Kirk's bill certified & at once wrote him a note to inform him. I am rather surprised to find that there was any foundation in fact for his alleged agreement for he lied so wantonly in a letter which he wrote to me & which of which I took no notice as I heard he was very ill & in a high state of excitement perhaps induced partly by Govts refusal to pay for the steed which his son lost in his endeavours to teach him acrobatic accomplishments. However I am glad of it for heaven only knows where he would get £25 for his facsimiles - (*En passant* let me observe that both of your letters appear to have been written in a bad temper – a state in which it is unwise to remain).

If you wonder why I have not sooner resumed my scribbling let me at once confess that both Bothamley & I have been round at my house enjoying the exquisite pleasure of listening to two of Beethoven's sonatas – Op. 22 & 16 in A – perfectly played - & that to no other audience than the two Sybarites aforesaid. What do you say to that! I assured the dear

kind lady who so highly favoured us that even if it prevented my writing at all, such was your love & appreciation of good music, that you would hold me excused.

Since Miss's H's arrival music is resuming its old power over me & I feel the thrill of those sonatas yet I shall for hours. But you want business – not rhapsodies – so I'll just sit & smoke a quiet pipe by the fire (we get your den up to 58° now) and try to let the effects pass off - which they didn't do.

Sept. 28 10 am. Have been once to House to decline attending a ---- of ---- so that I may have time to finish my screed to you.

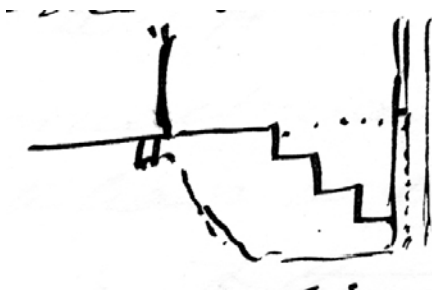
First I have Mr Neill Frasers[?] letter & list of desiderata to which I will reply next mail. He also enclosed 2 copies of the BL which as they have arrived safely is convenient as I can send one to Otago – I will get Frank Fulton to have the case seen to there, if necessary. This also I see accounts[?] sufficiently for the present your note from Selkirk of July 29.

(Smith says he thinks [thanks[?]] ---- is signalled)

Now to that of 3 August. Your design is lovely but my friend it is based on an incorrect recollection of the place to wh. you would adapt it. If the gallery were as you shew it 16[?] ft. high & about 7 at its lowest & if the rail had not been contracted for at 3.6 high there wd. be more reason for adhering to your idea. But as it is it would be perfectly inapplicable. Instead of 16[?] feet we have 8.4 $\frac{3}{4}$ instead of 7 at back 4.2. The cases set on the rail would leave not 13 feet but between it and the beam over the columns but 4.1 $\frac{3}{4}$.

By next mail you shall have a section to xscale[?] & then you will understand it. I wanted to put the cases on the rail but there were at least two great objections even if the rail had been lowered to suit. First the projection would have had a very bad effect ---ding the appearance from below even more well like than now - & next the glass would just have had the position to throw only its own glare into folks' eyes – Suffice it that they are very satisfactory as they are and having retained a rough topped the stands we have a valuable amount of table space so long as we want it, & when we dont, things which will sell[?].

Could not get excavation by Maori House extended beyond line of piles & a slope to support them – thus.



The intention was to have only lined the inside at that part and have no outside boarding but let the clay come against the lining – As to the ---- the tank which was originally buried in the back---- for its conservation has been abolished & replaced by one outside the Coal door

fed by a drain from the W.C. The first mentioned tank was twice shifted before its use there was abandoned – when Clayton wanted to take it away, but, as the Reservoir supply, is doubtful in summer, I got it placed as a reserve for Skey over the WC.

Kirk's plant claim. Do you mean to say that you left a memo. with me about it? You are quite mistaken. I will see Buchanan about your requirements when the mail is off.

Glad of what you say about Owen. – Now I drop your letters till next time. I would get on faster but for this deenable stationary of yours which drags on the pen like old boots on hind wheels.

First of all remember *mon ami* – that my long talks to you prevent the few friends I have in England from getting their due, and that it will be kind of you as occasion may offer to explain this personally to them. Say to Cooke and to Alfred Woodhouse (1 Hanover Square) and if you can (Cooke will introduce you) to Geraldine Jewsbury - & should you see them to my dear cousin Louie ---, mother now in Devon but in winter at 27 or 37 Warwick Gardens Kensington. I know you won't do any of this but it eases my conscience to ask you.

Philabuster Exhibition you have I suppose your instructions by this time. I cannot be sure that you will like it but it was in that hope as well as in what I thought the interests of the country that I moved in that direction. I meant to have if possible got our Commission to send Bothamley in charge of the Coll. to Phil. to see to their unpacking & so forth, and help you – but my dunderheaded colleagues are hard to work in this direction – especially with the slow wooley[?] malignant[?] of Griggs working against it. You may remember that B. would not testify to some statements in committee on the 97 business – so Gis. & ----- Sir Toenails are steady against him.

However we meet tomorrow at 9.30 & if they will not come to a decision about it or come to one adverse to my views I'll not rub a foot further in such company. Our Exhibits will I fear be poor, but I look to you & your observations & reports for the real return from the expenditure.

I really must end though I have not said a little of what I had to say – I will add a few commissions, that when you are taking your pleasure you may have the exquisite additional delight of feeling that you have neglected them – so superadding the frequency[?] of sin like the pork loving coal[?] will[?] wished he was adieu.

1. The Geol. Soc. – R.G.S. & ----- I look to you to put on a good & secure footing the payment of my subscription & the forwarding of publications.

2. German songs. I want copy of my dd. book (little square one) wh. Fenton appropriated – the K, Studenten, Sold--- & Folks Leider - & any others like thereunto. Also some of the larger 4to songs with accompts. & part. songs. "What do I want with these as I cant sing?" Well, Sir I dont know only I want you to get them.

3. The boat.

4. The Tortoises.

5. The hedgehogs.

Well I'll bore you no more this time especially as a hurried run to my house & back has brought migraine after a sharp loose pain.

Of the party squabbles past present & future I have had no time to write. Of the delightful spell at home with my visitor you must remain uninformed until you can hear of it. Can Geology conceive a remoter date? Of the fact that I have really been[?] to a ----- you must be satisfied with the memorandum next (Excuse writing for I can't see the end of my pen) – I feel that despite its length this letter will not be satisfactory to you – I have said nothing of the Gardens or of a lot of other things. Ludlam having ----- & taken to ----- is again a corps mobile – Grey (George) is very cheery twice[?] - Rolleston coming back to his dear old form again – Poor Webster & even I ---- ---- ----. Whitman has arrived. Another sort of N97[?] common of the L.C. is sitting[?] on the ---- ---- grant to and a disqualificate ---- which I have already got instruction to report on my power to take my[?] ----- & to which I shall try to have referred the question whither I can hold the ---- ---- involving as it does the expenditure of public money.

Let me end with something light – an extract from a letter of a lady a dear friend of mine – received last week.

Nous avons été invité chez plusieurs personnes ici entr'autres chez Monsieur le Pr. von Haast qui nous a amusés par ses chansons allemandes et son orgueil. M. F.. lui dit que sans doute il espérait avec le temps avoir le meilleur musée des colonies à quoi il répondit avec emphase "Razer!" et, se frappant la poitrine "it is this baby here that does it all!" Presque aussi humble que vous! n'est-ce pas?⁵⁵

Give my kind regards to Mrs Hector & tell her I wish she would try & be friends with me when we meet again. I am sure she ought.

Goodbye & enjoy yourself as much as ever you can.
Ever yours
Matara.

⁵⁵ Translation by Sandra Shearn: "We have been invited to the homes of several people here, among others that of Prof von Haast who entertained us with his German songs and his arrogance. Mr F... said to him that doubtless he was hoping in time to have the best museum in the colonies, to which he replied emphatically "Rather?!", and patting his chest "it is this baby here that does it all!" Almost as humble as you, isn't he?" Translator's note: The word 'rather' seemed so he spelt 'razer' which could imply that he was speaking with a strong German accent but trying to sound English. It also sounds like the French 'raseur' which means a crashing bore.

M24: Mantell to Minister of Public Works, 6-10-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/12

Memorandum
For the Hon Minister of Public Works

Application having been made to me on behalf of the Ball Committee of the General Assembly for the use of a portion of the Museum Buildings for a Ball to be given by members on the 13th inst. I have ascertained from the Hon the Premier that the Government offers no objection to the proposal. It was my duty to represent that the use of the Buildings for this purpose would cause a loss to the Public of some days work of the Department in addition to the infliction of much inconvenience upon myself & the other officers of the Department. The Premier appears to consider this a sufficient sacrifice on the part of the Government and stipulates that no direct expenditure of public money shall be incurred. To this I understand the Ball Committee cordially to agree.

The Building being still, and unfinished, under the control of the Department of Public Works I have now to suggest that it would be better that such preparations as may be found necessary by the Committee & approved on behalf of the Govt. should be made under my superintendence & subject to my approval by workmen provided by the Government – the Committee paying all expenses.

The lecture hall to be used only as a Supper room – The Gallery, with the exception of so much of it as maybe required to be partitioned off for the band to be closed to the guests, and entirely at my disposal & under my control.

But it is perhaps unnecessary to trouble you with details of this kind as a general authority from you will suffice to empower me to deal with them; on the condition above stated – that no direct expense is to be imposed on the Government.

WBD Mantell
Colonial Museum
6 October 1875

[Note in another hand]

I approve of these suggestions and shall be obliged by Hon Mr Mantell seeing that they are adhered to.

M25: Buller to Hector, 22-10-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/13

Temple Chambers

Wellington

Oct 22 1875

My dear Hector,

I have nothing to tell you as I have been away from Town on a professional tour for nearly six weeks. But I cannot let the mail leave without offering you my congratulations on the announcement in last night's telegrams⁵⁶. My only surprise is that this honour was not conferred sooner.

The House was prorogued yesterday, and Members are all on their way back.

The dissolution is expected to take place very shortly, and then we shall have keen fighting all over the country. I believe every seat will be contested. I intend to offer myself, and am pretty certain of success.

The Haast-cum-everybody dispute is still going on, and the last development is Mantell's motion in the Upper House for an inquest on the remains of the pre-historic man from the Sumner Cave!!

The Museum building makes good progress, and after using it for their Ball the House ought not to grudge you a liberal vote for fittings &c. I hope you are bringing out a good collection of things.

I am getting up a paper on New Zealand Genera of Birds, for our *Transactions*. It will require numerous woodcuts. If you are not too busy in London, I think I shall trouble you to order these for me (by next mail). I will arrange with Keulemans to make the sketches.

Burton gets on well with his bird stuffing and takes considerable interest in his work.

I hope Mrs Hector is thoroughly enjoying the trip. Remember me very kindly to her.

And Believe me,
Faith. Yours
W.L. Buller.

⁵⁶ Hector was awarded the CMG while he was in London.

26 October 11AM, '75
Sidney Street

WELLINGTON, October 14th.
A brilliant ball was given last night, by the members of the General Assembly. About 500 persons were present, amongst whom were the Governor and Lady Normanby, and Captain Digby, of H.M.S. Sappho. It was held in the large building just erected as an addition to the museum. The rooms were decorated with the flags of all nations, there was an excellent band, and every arrangement was simply perfect.

My dear Hector,

The Suez mail to 3 September arrived yesterday & brought nothing whatever from you or anyone else to the Dept. only the Home News tells me that my poor cousin & friend Edward died on the very day when I was welcoming my alarming visitors - August 20 - a day which after three weeks experience of these dear children - I had resolved to mark with the whitest of cretaceous deposits. This mail closes at 12.30 and I would explain how it comes about that your communications from me thereby will be of so unsatisfactory a nature. First the press of work & worry has naturally been great toward the end of the Session and although in the early weeks thereof I was seldom in my place I was obliged to give more attention & attendance at the close. This, and worries & anxieties from two or three different sources & quarters combined to throw your very inadequate substitute into a state closely approaching that which culminated in his last illness - indeed it seemed that another hepatic abscess was imminent - and the brain at such times & under such circumstances, is not good for business. However I think we stopped it in time. Garland came to me on Saturday night & has been two or three times since and I have nearly got back to my normal state. As I must have change if I wish to hold on till you return I shall go over tomorrow or by next steamer to Nelson to see Ponder or old Battersbee with whom the climate there does not seem to agree at all. While writing that sentence I received a note from Mrs B dated yesterday, giving better news on the whole but saying that there is danger of blindness - Dr Farrell is attending him -

After that I shall set out work for Museum & field and then take another outing to the South. I shall wherever I go, inspect Meteorology Stations (which want it) but shall not go ostensibly or solely for that purpose, as Govt. can defray no part of my expenses or passages w.out bringing me under danger of the Disqualification Act; and I do not care to make too

prominent the weakness as oftness of a coon (*et fr. quelquim*) who consents to do Govt. work on such purely Pickwickian principles.

So I am not even going to look up your letters for answer (there are no questions in them) this time – Only to thank you meekly for the launch of the *Matara* (why such an ominous name?) – and the concomitant cargo which I shall take as it stands less of course the something – scope which you destine for Buchanan. Have I also thanked you for the cremationary books?

The cutting at the head of my letter is from your Otago Witless just received, and is enough about the Ball just now. I required of Baillie & Parker that if I let them have the building it must be on the assurance that the Ball should be unquestionably the very best ever given in Wellington and that no expense or exertion on their part should be spared to make it so. This I thought essential in compensation to your Museum for the admission of such remarkably preterplupleistocene mammals – that in short they should all be in good spirits. Well they kept their word like men. It was just as the telegram describes it. Bellamy's cellar was evaporated to desiccation – testacea[?] in thousands had their nook – The supper suitably adorable and adorned with flowers outdoing any Horticultural Exhibition &c. &c. Of course we had lots of wrangles and I had to bear some persecution from the Committee some of whose suggestions none but an obstinate cuss like me could have rejected – that for instance of removing the columns for the night & replacing them next day – Or turning the type bird & fish & wall cases out of doors covered by tarpaulins & soon - I admit I was unreasonable but I was firrrum - and at last I assured them that unless they would content themselves with such concessions as I thought sufficient I would paint the columns and I would – and they became aware that I would – and the end was peace – and the most perfect thing of its kind I ever saw anywhere.

Hansard containing the debate is not yet out so I only enclose notice of motion on the Prehistoric man. I moved the resolution in the most considerate terms to Jack standing by for reply but no one trod on the tail of me coat and the resolution was carried nem.[?] cor.[?] – Perhaps had Buckley not been down with the measles (wh. declared themselves in Council a day or so before) the fuss evidently expected by the galleries might have ensued, but as it was we had far more the day before on Chamberlin's acoustic motion.

Goodbye my friend. Take this as the produce of a man who ought to be doing anything but writing or thinking – rest assured that I will do my best to stand by the ship till you reappear & that I will then take my Kicking as what I ever all along expected. I send Buchanan forthwith to exploit[?] Kauwau with Sir George & forage for us. Cox to the field *quam p----*. Ludlam is better since he took to lemonjuice. Bramley still very poorly. Skey in want of work – the rest as usual. I am resigning the Phil. Com. in fear of Disqualification. I am afraid they wont send Bothamley in charge to aid you. The £3500 is voted for it. Kind remembrances to Mrs Hector.

Ever Yours
Matara.

PS. the Bishop has taken your house for 3 months longer.

M27: Gore to Hector, 26-10-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/14

Wellington
26 Oct 75

My dear Doctor

I was very glad to hear from Mr Mantell that you were enjoying yourself & getting on all right.

We are making some progress now with the Museum altho' the carpenters are not quite gone. The entrance hall looks very well - you ought to try & send us out some nice statues for the sides, they would look splendid.

The Members have at last departed, but before going they gave a fine ball & as they got the Museum for the purpose, it was very grand, the best thing of the sort ever given in Wellington. Dancing down stairs in the centre north wings & supper in the upstairs lecture room: it looked very nice all lighted up & decorated with flags – about 600 people attended. I am glad to say that owing to Mr Mantell's efforts they have given me an increase of £50 to my salary. They have also increased Kirk's to £100 & Smith's to £120. We also got a supplementary vote of £150 for inspection of Meteorological Stations & salary for Robson at Cape Campbell & for a new station at Jacksons Bay recommended by Mr Bonar. I think Mr Mantell is going to inspect some of the southern stations & I will have to do the northern ones. I don't at all object as I want a change. The sites of Chch & Invercargill Stations are to be altered – this as you know is much needed.

We are getting on all right here in the most harmonious & friendly manner. Mr Mantell is very kind to us all. You will be glad to know all this. You don't seem to have met my brother yet. I should like you to see him so that you could give me an account of him on your return. I hear that he is going to marry a very rich girl – a Miss Hope. I hope it will come off.

Mrs Gore is not at all strong yet. I am sending her away to Taranaki to stay with my brother Charles who married a girl from Auck? – he is stationed at New Plymouth now in the Customs.

I should like to have a letter from you if you have time.

A----- sincerely

Richard B Gore

Dr Hector CMG FRS.

Let me congratulate you on getting the C.M.G. We were all glad to hear it.

M28: Bothamley to Hector, 27-10-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/16

Wellington
27 Oct. 75 Wednesday

My dear Dr

Just a line by the supplementary mail. I have not seen your last letter, having been very busy at the end of the session and somewhat so since. However now the battle is over and I shall be freer to do as I like. Mr Mantell is a little seedy just now. I think from over smoking – & Garland has advised him to knock off – ineffectually I fear *Nicotina causus* is too ----- per diem. He wants to make out that the Phil. Comm is the cause of his trouble, but that is only an excuse. The position of Chairman he has resigned, but only I think till next meeting. He wants to bring the other Committee to book and make them feel that they must appoint an agent – and one wearing my shoes to go to Philadelphia. Nothing less will suit him than that I should go, which even tho' I was appointed, would still be doubtful. I have got leave for next session. Though I don't want to be away if I can help yet I think that going home makes it impossible to get back with any comfort. I shall be almost certain to see you therefore before you leave, either in London or Phil. The collection of things in N.Z. is I fancy a failure. Otago & H.B. & Auckland are dumb. Welln, Nelson & Canterbury alone seem to be doing anything. Of course Taranaki wants a great deal of money to buy ironsand with! Mr Richardson sent me to say that he wd send a photographer round the country, if cnl appd. Appd accordingly.

You have of course heard that the Scientific Ball was a vast success – the prettiest ever seen in spite of the pillars and people. soda & b. in the Director's room for a select few. McTavish would wed Janey Hales – and my chess evenings are gone – alas! General Humphrey having come of age has wedded his Riddiford. Matrimonial markets are the most quiet – except for Levin & Miss Fitzgerald – which leads me to say that Amelars is “gone” on £800 a year in Wanganui with a widow called Danelle attached to it.

The Museum is looking up a little and the elephant holds a prominent position facing the door. It really is a tremendous place now. Having that back place all concreted is a great advantage. The Hall would look all the better for tiles which I hope you will succeed in getting. I cant say the architecture is beautiful, and the workmanship is simply disgraceful. If I were director the Clerk of the works' tenure of office would be a short one. What the gaps in the walls & floors will be after the summer heat I am afraid to say. It is sufficient to tell you that gaps are plainly visible already. The windows are shamefully loose and have a fair ½ inch allowed for rattling, and the whole thing being green timber and a large proportion sap wood. You may expect to want another £10000 in a few years to replace it. If the new Govt Buildings are built in the same way the Minister architect & clerks of works should be made to suffer. However it is all very nicely painted & whitewashed and is a great improvement on former arrangements.

The following may be of use to you if you have forgotten it:

Dr He. To Col. Sec. 8 Feb 75

“I beg to enclose a Catalogue of the collections I have withdrawn from the Museum for which I will hold myself accountable and will furnish Govt. with a particular account of the distribution of all the specimens mentioned therein”

Kind regards to Mrs Hector. From
yours sincerely
A.T. Bothamley

M29: Mantell to Hector, 18-11-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/17

Museum Wellington
18 November 1875
10.30AM

My dear Hector,

Neither I nor anyone in the department has a word from you by the last 2 mails – the Suez mail is just telegraphed from the Bluff so I suspend the xpression of my opinion. I cannot attempt to give you any details in this letter for I feel so queer that I do not know how suddenly I may have to end it. I hurt my head yesterday by rising under the bough of a N.Z. pine in the garden on my way to pick up a ball for some young cricketing[?] miscreants outside. I struck severely with a crush[?] on the rt. frontal & felt a pain separate in each of the four or 5 cervicals from atlas downwards & at junction of lumbar with pelvis – So you see it was a good squash. Now I feel pain in it occipl. & find sight queer, with a tendency to go down sometimes when on foot – That’s all about it Doctor; how say you to those symptoms.

I did not hear of the poor baby’s death till a week after it happened. Smith who had seen it in a Nelson paper asked me if it was true & I made him find the paper & saw it – The mail had gone first. Every one I have seen sympathises deeply with you, even to judge Johnston who was here just now & Gillies last night.

The B.L. for the Matara arrived last mail “by direction of Dr Hector of Bristol.”

Tidal wave a derangement day before yesterday & slighter yesterday no observation or notice in papers.

Tongariro or whichever of the group it is which goes to blazes has been going for a long time. I inspected Nelson Met. Station last week & Gore leaves to day to inspect Taranaki – to return in time to let me go South on 26th by *Easby*[?] for a change. When I will do the Dunedin one & perhaps XCh & Bealey & West Coast. Rolleston will come with me he says.

I have a circular from George which shews three more calls on Gas shares to be payable 1 Dec 1 Mar 1 June – they shall be met.

I left for Nelson on the 6th & reached home again on 15th. I saw Munro & Lady M. but did not go to Newstead – indeed I was only asked once, on the night of my arrival when I was dead tired having only had 3 hours sleep in the previous night. Sir David dined with us on Saturday & seemed very well. I also saw Alex. & Charles. Friend MacKay[?] treated me like a prince while there – every one was very good the weather lovely – my invalid ---- I had gone to see, better – so on the whole I had a delightful time of it.

Gore begs me to forward the prehistoric man debate – It was *manque* from Buckley's absence with measles. I sent Cox to look at the Collingwood Argentif. galena lodes - washbournes but instructed him to report only to me. Skey's results are from 180[?] to 200 oz of silver to ton. I have not his report yet. MacKay has joined him & they are off to the West Coast according to your programme. Buch. has gone to Kauwau with Sir G. Grey to forage for us. I expect him back shortly. Skey - bother him – has applied in a somewhat pre-emptory manner for leave for a month – his “usual holiday” – It is rumoured that he intends leaving so keep your eye open for a possible successor. He is getting almost too crabbed & perverse & the Laby. still in its old hopelessly dirty state. This matters little to you & me who believe him to be very careful & cleanly in his actual ----ations but must shake the confidence of any outsiders who see the place.

I am more depressed than I care to admit at the absence of letters from you – If it portends an intention on your part to throw us over I can only assure you that the moment I become aware that it is your intention not to return, I throw up my billet my interest in which will evaporate in an instant. But I hope better things than this. Your commissions Philad. cannot be signed for this mail owing to the Governor's absence. I hoped to have got a copy to send – perhaps ---- Smith will send one. Cooper being still *hore de combat*.

If you see George Cook tell him I'll write him next & Alfred Woodhouse – interval of half an hour - caused by ingenuity[?] of Smith reporting large unknown steamer - a ----.

Gore is just going so I'll get him to post this.

Goodbye. Hope Mrs Hector has recovered her first sorrow & you too my friend.

Greet all friends – Wallie sends great love (----- our schooner I suppose) so do I. I expect to be all right in a day or two. I was jolly well before I did that stupid piece of supererogatory fielding for others' cricket balls – I have had a whole ring of branches taken off to prevent recurrence of similar accidents.

Ever Yours
Matara

P.S. Philadelphia letter for you only – don't let that ---- cad Sir Judas⁵⁷ see it.

⁵⁷ Presumably Sir Julius Vogel

M30: Mantell to Gore, 6-12-1875

Te Papa MU000147/004/0239

Dunedin, New Zealand
6th December 1875

My dear Gore,

Glad all goes as well weather here very precarious & disagreeable. Have seen little yet – Buchanan not yet turned up – perhaps not recovered from seasickness or its antidotes. Will inform Hutton about ---- box. Have wired you to bag the birds. Wish you well through your contested election.

I have wired Mr Ludlam direct about rich cloth[?]. That is I think all of official to be noted this time.

I am very glad that I did not wait for you especially as no harm has come of it. A letter from the -B.A. (enclosing 10 Depos. sects.) should have arrived ere this – of course I dont want it here but I should like to know it has arrived.

I was quite sure that the delay in your return arose from no fault of yours – you remember that before you left I was quite aware of the possibility of your not being able to come to town[?]. I shall try to be back in about 10 days though I am assured that I shall not quite have worn out my welcome by that time.

I have continued to suffer from my eyes for a day or two severely but am almost recovered now. A cold is a natural consequence of such changeable weather as we have had & have & the absence of the grand old bath of Maram-----.

I hope your folk are all well & that you--- good news of Mrs Gore.

I shall have a look at the Met. Station here when I can find it but leave the inspection for you to do when we can spare you.

I am delighted to hear such good accounts from home. The little party there seems so happy that it wd. be almost a pity to disturb it. Let me hear constantly.

Yours very truly
Walter Mantell.

M31: Pollen to Hector, 10-12-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/14/3

Colonial Secretary's Office
Wellington
10th Dec. 1875

Sir,

I have the honour, at the request of the Commissioners appointed by His Excellency the Governor to carry out the arrangements for the forthcoming Philadelphia Exhibition, to forward a Commission appointing you to be an additional Commissioner, in order that you may attend and be present at the opening of the said Exhibition on the date appointed for the opening thereof, and thereafter from time to time during your stay in Philadelphia on any ceremonial or official occasion, or otherwise in conjunction with your Co-commissioners arrange and provide for the representation of this Colony at the Exhibition as is set forth in full in your commission.

A copy of this letter and of its enclosure will be forwarded to the Chairman of the Commission who will in due course instruct you as to the special duties you will have to perform on behalf of this Colony.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Mr Pollen

Submitted for the information of the Agent-General and any action he may think desirable.
J.Hector 25-2-76

C.O. advised of Dr Hector's appointment by AG letter of Mr --- herewith JCH. 1/3.

M32: Mantell to Hector, 14-12-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/14/5

Caversham
14 Dec 1875

My dear Hector,

Here I am for another week returning then direct to Wellington and duty. I was and had long been getting into a cachectic (is that right?) state for want of the change which doctors have so long been recommending me to take, and, as each hepatic (!) relapse seemed grave & more threatening than its predecessor, I feared I might break down before your return. So I have come away here for two or three weeks, staying with friend Fulton, and spending time as happily as may be with all the dears of his family. I left on 26 Nov and, the *Taupo* offering a good opportunity of returning today if my presence North was required, I telegraphed yesterday to Col. Sec., Gore, Bothamley & home to ask – Col Sec & Gore (for Mus. & home) have replied no hurry. And so as my hosts oppose my departure I am here for the rest of the week.

Buchanan is also here on leave – collecting & working away like anything – Cox wired me yesterday from Ahaura which he & MacKay reached the previous night – He leaves on Monday for Hokitika by the Bell Hill track to arrive if possible by Xmas – asking instructions thereafter – I replied that I shd. be at home before Xmas & would instruct from there.

Skey also has leave till the 18th – I wish he would clean up his dirty laboratory.

Yours of 20 October came all right last Saturday. I will attend to all the instructions on my return.

The only cheery line of it is that in which you say you would like to visit America again – So my scheming & its successful result will please you. I thought it the best arrangement in the interests of the country and perhaps the most agreeable to yourself so I was not & am not sorry for my part in it.

Write a cheery word or two when you can, for remember that the work you have left me – forbidden to get cases as I am - cannot be brought to a satisfactory conclusion by me – I have no prospect beyond six months more of drudgery – preliminary drudgery – with no possibility of getting honour or thanks from you or any one else. For which I don't care a ---- gue - but I do require that you be constantly enjoying yourself & gaining knowledge & strength for your work on your return. That's my pay. – and you ----- me as you please on your return if ---- only ----- them.

If at Rolandi's[?] or Ewer[?] & co. (87 Regent St) or elsewhere you can get me German songs galore with accompts. Folkslieden Studenten Kinder – Jager – Soldaten[?] &c. to the tune of £5 to £10 I shall be happified and any thoroughly good classical piano music of recent production. I want a good exhaustive collection, so far as all old popular songs go - ---- - & scores included – of course a copy or copies of the little square book which Fenton took away & of any others like it.

The *Avalanche* here arrived & I expect to find the box waiting when I get home – The Maramaramans[?] seem very cosy – Miss H. & Wallie appear to get on so well together.

Goodbye my friend. I shall have very much to tell you when you return – always provided that you condescend to keep up our *amitce* after the grand folk among whom you have been sojourning.

Remember me most kindly to Mrs Hector.
Ever Yours

Matara.

M33: Mantell to Hector, 22-12-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/14/6

11.30 am
22 Dec 75

My dear Hector,

I wrote you at 8am this morning – enclosed a clipping from the mornings' paper at 9, and now ask you to order & send ----- the books noted on the last page. One copy to me, the other to

Mrs F. Fulton
Caversham
Dunedin NZ
for Miss R.M.N.

I must rouse the writers & take letters in to the post so goodbye – such a lovely day.

Ever Yours
WBDM

M34: Mantell to Hector, 14-1-1876

Hocken MS-0443-3/15/1

14 Janry. 1876

11am

My dear Hector,

Thank you sincerely for your kind letter which I have not time to look up now but the Suez mail goes tomorrow & I may get an hour with you for that. My motives for undertaking your work are just as you describe them; I am selfish & I saw nothing for my hand to do more likely to make me jolly, than to help you to w--- & in your leave – As to the Parsons, let the poor misguided fellows alone, they cannot teach us much save how to be miserable – and that -----.

Bothamley leaves today to join you in America with all his exhibits. He not I has been practically Chairman & leading spirit of the Commission – I have been only a signing sort of body. I have done all I set myself to do about it – you as special Commissioner, he as agent in charge & assistant to you – I know you will justify my ----- scheming, of which now it is done I make no ----- to Pollen Bowen & co. I hold & tell them that it is the only way by which we can hope to get anything from expenditure.

Your Nevada suggestion I laid at once before Ministers (on my way to try once more my fate with a certain lady, having previously interviewed[?] Richardson as to Cooper's request for further instructions. – Business first, pleasure afterwards – Well, R. approved my suggestion that Cox should report. Bowen approved ---- (I have since written officially but --- - notice yet) and (this was last Friday) the lady became my wife on Monday⁵⁸.

Now although your time in England is getting short I must absolutely beg that you will with Mrs Hector's kind aid execute the following commission or place it in hands which will cause its satisfactory execution.

I want you to select, purchase & send to me as soon as possible one of Broadwood's best pianos - not a horizontal geared for that you know we could not accommodate – Nor should I care to have one of those wardrobe looking upright grands – these however I am rejoiced to hear are extinct – but a perfectly good one for a perfectly good pianiste.

I am told that the very best kinds for all but concert purposes are no larger than yours – or those[?] one of Chappell's old[?] ---- model “which is all I have now.” I have not succeeded in finding any catalogue of Broadwood's instruments which could aid me to give the correct designation though Willm. Levin has kindly helped. He says his mother would assist – also that he thinks I can hardly spend more than £65 on what I want and that by taking the proper course & getting aid of friendly professionals a liberal discount will be allowed. All this I leave to you. As to price I place no limit. I wd. rather give double £65 than not get what I want a sweet pure rich powerful piano of full range & best construction &

⁵⁸ Walter Mantell was married to Jane Hardwick about 10 January 1876

materials. Although, thanks to the Gas calls you are getting into my debt, I know how you will yield to temptation & run yourself dry so I send by this mail to Alfred Woodhouse (1. --- ---) BL. for £100 which he will give you. I remitted to him as I feared you might be from town. If more is required ask him to advance it if you can't, but let us have a piano in which we can rejoice – Some of ----- if any may be spared in a Canterbury & 2 music stool, to match, for duets.

You will do this for us won't you Hector?

Congratulatory telegrams continue to come in from various quarters – my dear friend Miss Rosa first – and today Fulton adds his word. I don't ask yours for I consider that as you representative I have power to give that – Like Skey I found my permanent presence was necessary – and I thought I should have ---- - ----- was incompatible with my official duties so we just walked home postponing our rejoicings & holidays until your return to relieve guard in Museumland. I have not skirted duty in consequence; and the next evening had a game of Billiards at the club. I have (again ---- your -----) sent Woodhouse a notice for the --- - & Home news.

Can write no more. Have been sitting with on very strong ----- in my side – rather too long - ----- like mischief – Wallie in from a brain of the ---- but better than ----. Too late for papers unless Both. will get them.

Will write again tomorrow. --- The *Matara* is before me & looks splendid – the ---- game schedule --- to ---- ---- it no longer --- ---- ---. Kind regards to Mrs Hector

Ever Yours
Matara.

M35: Mantell to Hector, 15-1-1876

Hocken MS-0443-3/15/2

Saty.
15 Jan '76

My dear Hector,

There seems to be some doubt whether the S.F. mail, by which our letters and Bothamley with his 42 packages of exhibits left last night, will go right so while the wife plays delicious sonatas I will try briefly to repeat the commissions with which I tried to trouble you yesterday.

1. Piano – Broadwood – not horizontal grand for which you know I have not and never shall have room – but the best within the area of such an instrument as yours. From what I can learn here his best, for compass power richness & sweetness, now that the hideous old cupboard wardrobe uprights are extinct, are not very dissimilar in size & appearance from your piano – *en passant*, outward show is nothing to us compared to the inward & spiritual grace, which I could wish to be perfect. Use chiefly for classical music but a little for accompaniments (for Mrs Dillon might some day honour us) – Price. Of this I cannot judge.

Willie Levin thinks that the best, short of the horizontals, costs no more than 65 gns, but I would go to double that or more to ensure having an unimpeachable instrument. He says that by using the services or assistance of a professional man or even of a merchant, a large discount is allowed & that he is sure his mother & his father would help if need were. So would Cooke & his ways & means. In my ignorance as to cost I have remitted £100 by Frisco & dup. by this mail to Alfred Woodhouse, in case you should be out of town; and I have asked him, if more is needed, to advance it, for I am sure you will spend your last shilling before leaving so that I do not count on you financially, though I shall have a bill of some £60 or 70 against you when you turn up for gas bills & such like. Adjuncts. If funds stand two music stools & a Canterbury also = When? all by earliest opportunity after a satisfactory purchase well packed – insured – with duplicates of such strings or parts as may be of doubtful procurability *in partebius infidelium* ---- & so forth & so forth. I fancy £150 will cover all, if it don't, I'll sell another section somewhere rather than be baulked of my humour. Remember that you as a neighbour are not uninterested in the matter & Mrs Hector I am sure will support my appeal for your aid.

2. A Binocular for Marine Field & theatre – either hinged amidships or spaced as below to suit my very approximated eyes.

*2. A Binocular for Marine
Field & theatre – either hinged
amidships or spaced as be-
low to suit my very approx-
imated eyes.*

3. A full length bath with boiler and arrangements so that it can be heated by an ordinary fire in a room by pipe connection between the moveable boiler & the bath – Burton, 39 Oxford Street has I expect what I want from £6.10 upwards. I wish it full size & strong & plain – no extra ornament whatever.

My previous prayers for music, books & so forth you have long since granted, especially I hope that for the little German song books (such as Fenton walked off with) & the other Yarman sings.

Your house is let till the 31 March to BP. Redwood – After that date he will be in his new palace, & it will be perhaps better to take charge of the place than to let in a new destructive element for three months, at least Mrs Hector's piano must be protected from outrage – No one having a ----- of ---- from you we, that is, B Smith & I must bungle on as best we may – doing you may be sure what seems best in your interests.

I am too seedy[?] to day to go on having gone in for s----- externally over the hepatic region & blue draughts & black pills throughout the remainder of my system. Bothamley got half a dozen of the new maps for you last night before he left.

By the way, should you be in Scotland as doubtless you will be before you leave and any where near Kirkcaldie go to Balmuto and see Mrs Boswell there my wife's sister & tell her all the evil you can about me and bring word of her & hers to me & mine. If you have already paid your last visit to the North, drop a note offering to &c. you know. And warn Hooker that he will be probably be asked all about me (only knowing half) and that I expect him to be more kind than just. Greet him warmly & Willie.

Well must end. For a man only five days married I think I have done pretty well – I told Skey that I too had found that my personal presence was required & that I thought I should have time – whereof he ----- knowingly.

Well, dear Hector, I begin now to hope to see you (we take our honeymoon after my release, Council permitting). It will be all right about Nevada – dd. if it shan't – though I have no official acc---- yet – It will postpone our honeymoon for a week or two *mais qu'importe?*

Kind regards to Mrs Hector.

Ever Yours

Matara.

P.S. I forgot to tell you that I have brought 20 odd black fish ranging from 8 to 20 feet & they are now being buried in Lyall's Bay waiting your orders. Buchie who returned yesterday from furlough says they are of the sort of which no skeleton has yet been got only 2 skulls you have. They will cost £25 to £30 buried. I sent Buchie out today (this is Burton's 3d day then) to take bearings of the graves in order to save surface marks. 2 skeletons are picked & one partly picked & buried already.

Robson's new fish are given to the Museum but sent to Hutton for identifi.cn. or description to save[?] Robson's claim to discovery of any new species.

Well dear old boy I am fairly done now – tired body & soul thanks to the Black pill & Blue consequences[?]
Adieu!

M36: Mantell to Hector, 16-1-1876

Hocken MS-0443-3/15/3

7.30am Sunday Morning
16 January 1876

My dear Hector,

Burton & Robert Nairn came back about 9 last evening having stayed to bury the last of the 23 – a small one which had been mutiloten but the head of which is reported good. They reported that Buchie had made a sketch so I sallied forth at 6 in search of B. as there is a supplementary Suez-sidal mail at 10am today. After waiting 3/4 of an hour I at last roused B. & bore home his sketch which I have done on the nearest approach to tracing paper available so early on a Sabbath morning. He says they are very rare & valuable. I hope so for your sake as they will be good exchanges. My hatred for all cetaceans, caused by your utter absorption in the d--- cusses[?] for the last six weeks of your stay (when you shd. have been preparing me for my work), you well know – well enough at least to appreciate the devotion & self sacrifice which I have shewn by actually tracing their beastly bloated outlines for you.

Phoebe has arrived – I met Mr Charlie O'Neill on his way to mattings just landed[?] so I'll try now to post this & see Gore MacKay, all just come, before breakfast.

Remember the Piano &c. &c. &c. &c. &c. &c.
Ever Yours
Matara.

P.S. Recapitn. – 23 beasts varying from 8 to 19.10 feet – 2 picked – 1 partly 1 little in mutiloten[?] – all interred above H.W.M. at Lyall's bay – cost £20 & £1 to H.H.J. for Superintending sexton and cost of burying remainder about £7 or £8 – and 5/- each for 15 of them.

20.0.0
1.0.0
8.0.0
3.15.0
£32.15.0

Plus 3 days Burton 1 dog Buch & devil[?] only knows what hereafter. Excuse theological reference as tis Sunday.

M37: Mantell to Hector, 11-2-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0287

Wellington
11th February 1876

My dear Hector,

You should be on your homeward track before this mail can reach England so I shall address to Philadelphia the letter I have ---- sending this to Westminster on the chance of it finding you there.

The box brought by Lady V. was delivered here the day after her arrival – At Sir David's desire I have directed it to be shipped per *Falcon* for Blenheim – so they may get it next week. He wrote for news of you & Mrs Hector & I send him in reply extracts from your last from which I had drawn the inference that *Matara* would come soon by sailing ship. I hope this will for I understand that Dillon's wedding only waits her arrival for its celebration.

Apropos – I hope all is right about the Broadwood &c. for if you have not executed my commissions before you get this I have little hope of your doing so at all.

From America I only want a dozen or so of Yale locks of various sizes from box to house and an "Adder" of the non venomous kind.

The *Great Good* arrived last night and received (as Markes[?] says) a "spontaneous reception" – what ever that means. Great exertions have been made for ten days past to get up this piece of spontaneity & you may form some estimate of its splendours when I tell you that carefully counting all the rockets (at from[?] 6d to 1/3) which were sent off during the 2 hours, from 7.30 to 9.30 from various places over a mile in spread, there were no less than 59!

Izard[?] goes home with his wife & family in the *Howrah* having lost poor little May by typhoid about a fortnight ago. On Saturday week – a day or two after May's funeral – B---- - died at Nelson & his widow having telegraphed asking me to go over to the funeral. I left on Monday midnight & got back by Thursday midday. As the Monros were at Bankhouse I ----- saw[?] nothing of them at Nelson – Collins too was away.

I reopened the Museum on the 1st having by arrangement with the Defence Dept. two of the armed constabulary on duty, relieved by two other at 1 PM – so from 10 till 4 we are in receipt of custom. The maximum for a day as yet has been 120 – generally about half that number. By opening without flourish of trumpets I ----- this that the increase of visitors was gradual. Unfortunately I had to be at Nelson on our opening day.

My wife is well & happy. Wallie asthmatic for the last ten days. I don't think gasland comprehends the case &, in common with all ailing humanity, want you back. In fact I shall perhaps have the greatest reason to rejoice when "James comes heading home" – for I have really a great deal to do at home now which I cannot hope to do till I see you again established here. The wife is patient however but will her patience last four months longer – Queen Sabe? The Broadwood & music will reconcile her, I trust.

I jog the Governmental elbow now & then about outstanding affairs – sending a broadside of reminders on fencing the Museum. Weights & measures – draining, observatory &c. &c. Another infernal consignment of seeds has come from Kellog – Cooper having without Ministerial authority, written at Magic[?] Jackson's suggestion for a small quantity for which that gallant ex-legislator was to pay. It seems he only wanted £10 worth – so by order of Govt. I have sent him that quantity (liberally weighed) out of an invoice of about £320 in California. The bulk of the remainder lies made up in ledger large lots waiting till I have time to attend to it.

Cooper still ill & off duty. A---- Smith doing U.S. Ludlam has left for home at last & resigned his governorship. So, as he has promised to take the treasurer-ship, I have got Stock appointed & we meet on Monday to appoint him treasurer.

Of course wife & I have had to undergo the usual inflection of calls – there seems no end to them, and we shall have to return some of them I suppose which is a bore.

Bramley continues more or less an invalid – I can seldom get so far as the Bot Garden. so I hope our venerable colleague will take some active part there – till now, with Ludlam ill & Travers negligent I have been left singlehanded there.

The *Commonwealth* has arrived so in a month we may get the glass – but no new cases. Cox & McKay are still on the West Coast (S. Id) having been marooned by Bonar at Abbey Rocks. They are due here in a week and I shall be chary of letting them out again until they can do nothing more toward arranging the specimens ready for the cases.

Next mail when I shall be safe in addressing you at Philadelphia, I may send you a plan showing how far we have been able to make any arrangement in the Museum – during the season since last mail my time has been too broken by sickness, death & ----- to allow me to do a ----- toward that end.

My own affairs, when not in Fulton's hands, go to the dear---- bowwows. George again calls for a call which I shall again pay – I think there will soon be a dividend toward reimbursement.

The Volume progresses – Vaux's paper is printed & I send him 6 copies by this mail – stopping 6 for readers & discussions here. Unfortunately I did not think of this necessity until some of the Type was distributed so, as discussion is really necessary upon it, I would not stand on trifles, Let Vaux curse as he will – he will hardly exceed the animus of execration which, had I been a Churchwarden, I would have lavished on him for writing a lot of unknown gibberish in a hand not more legible than this scrawl.

Just interviewed by Mr L. Coates of Philadelphia & Christchurch to whom I have given a note of introduction to you. He was chairman of the wool subcommit. at xCh & seemed to me a man whom you will like. He has a brother at Philadelphia.

I hope Mrs Hector has sailed before this. The news of the poor baby's death must have determined her to start at once.

Bothamley should be a great help to you – at any rate I meant it so. Don't imagine that I grumble at your lengthened absence of course it causes a bit of a drag on me but I knew what I undertook twelve months ago and this child likes going through. You have hit my motives & I am by no means ashamed of them. I could have had no more useful or honourable work than this though it be merely holding the reins till the drover mounts again, and the fact that you have used & enjoyed the time is ample pay.

But on all accounts we shall be delighted to see you again & the wife shall play Op. --
- in her best style to celebrate your return.

Ever Yours
Matara.

M38: Mantell to Hector, 28-2-1876
Te Papa MU000147/004/0288

Wellington, N. Zealand, Col. Museum
28th February 1876

My dear Hector,

Not a line from you or anybody else by the Suez mail today, & yet in your letter of Oct. 20 you promised that by the next mail you would send a programme of field work for this season. We shall do very well with out it – I have already many hints from you on the subject, but barring the most urgent, I shall postpone them until more progress has been made in working up the former collections ready for your arrival. Cox & McKay returned on Saturday & are already at work. It is very strange that your letters via Suez have not arrived – but sometimes they delay them in Melbourne.

I write now to enclose a letter which the Linnean Society was fool enough to send to you by this mail. You can deal with it from Philadelphia. I will write a note to the Secretary to explain the cause of your delay in paying up. It be all the same date as your last to me via San Frisco.

I tell everyone that I think Mrs Hector must now be on her way ---- by long sea. I hope ---- is so.

Monro has I trust got the box but he doesn't say so.

My wife is away to Miramar today – I could not go having matters here to attend to. Imagine how my ears have been tingling all day!

Museum measured for matting today – but not knowing the ----- or shape of the cases to come. I have only gone in for a belt all round ground floor & a path down the middle

[Diagram not included in the letter]

(the lines represent matting). The stairs are to be leathered. Clayton says there will be no glass from the new G.B. as it is all sent out to measure. To compensate for your want of backyard I go in for a 6 foot or more fence round front wh. Clayton proposes to do in iron, a carriage gate to your back premises & one at bridge but none on S.E. square.

Brandon has continued Bowen Street over site of Trotters[?] house so that my present entrance (if his street be permanent) will be superfluous – but there is no way either by sale or lease for the Govt. to get it from a M.G.[?] without bringing him under Disqualification Act.

There – that's enough gossip for a byebow of a letter – wh. won't count when mail day comes.

Greetings to Bothamley
Ever yours
Matara.

M39: Mantell to Hector, 17-3-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0290

Colonial Museum, Wellington
17th March 1876

My dear Hector,

So many little things escape notice when one only begins a letter after the announcement of the mail which is to take it, that I think it will be better to keep one underway during the placid intervals, & add notes from time to time.

Tuataras & lizards of various small kinds have begun thanks to Mr Lewis Wilson, to come in from the Brothers where they are building a lighthouse. The first lot was contained in a bottle – chiefly mokopapas & the little smooth shiny fellows – but with one rather larger (about 5 ins long) which I maintained to be a young Tuatara. These I had put in one of your field glasses – Afterwards came a very fine Tuatara, about 18 in long – a great fellow. ----- Burton made a special box in wh. he was placed in the Museum. Thinking to relieve his loneliness and perhaps to witness some touching manifestations of ---- - I had the little ones placed in the same box – He did not seem at all touched & is now as lonely as ever - having eaten his compatriots including his young relatives (I grieve to say) x x Stowe has come in & as he expects no more proofs till 4 others & as I am on the sick-list we go to a light refection of billiards in the cottage.

6 April

My hope of writing from time to time was disappointed. Couldnt manage it – no more tuataras for us but Sir Vogel having promised three or four to some scientific friend of his (Garrod) for the Zoological has sent us one of 20 inches to keep for him till more come & make up the party for the voyage home. So having the fear of our estimates before our eyes

we have razed one of the great glass casks & built him a steeover[?] house therein. Did I tell you that in his Sunday walks McKay had found many jaws of Tuatara in the sand at Lyall's bay – some of unusual size.

Apropos of that bay – It having been reported that folk were digging up your whales & stealing the teeth, I determined as Burton[?] said they would be ready for cleaning, to have them all in to the Buchanical Garden but alas he ----- his hand & the work was obliged to stop when we had only got three or four over – It must go on again soon. I fear that now that "influential politicians" have taken a taste for tuataras, we shall get no more here – I have just ordered Burton to set off tomorrow for the remains of the whal's – It will take several days to get them all in – I have had a brick enclosure made in the B.G. not far from the big whale bones to protect the beastly things.

7 April Friday

That is all about wolls, excepting that I got McKay when last here to develop the fossil shells from the West Coast & that it turns out a very instructive specimen with one earbone in situ. All yesterday afternoon was frittered away in consequence of Mr Leave's[?] asking my attendance at a séance with ---- about their grievances after which bother I was in no frame of mind for writing & with evening came the usual welcome excuses & the pleasant duty of helping the wife to forget the conclusions[?] of the day. We can get no certain news about this deed[?] mail, but that the old Col---- having utterly broken down the *Hawea* will take on the mails to Auckland – followed by another tomorrow & next day – all hoping to meet a possible Zealandia at Auckland to take them on – So I shall scribble on till 10.15 & then send off what may be then finished – contravening my yarn by the supplementaries after doing English letters for the Suez at PM today – should[?] I then be unable to write to Bothamley – give him my news, & a hearty greeting & assure him that when I can reassemble the Phil. Comm. we will write officially to you.

We have all been much exercised about Mrs Hector's fate but at last Monro who telegraphed (Enter Skey just returned from leave – I have given him 3 silvers a tin & some coal to amuse him) to Melbourne & learned that the *Bangalore's* Auck---- passengers were due then on 8th (tomorrow) by *China*[?] & wd. come on via Bluff --- Ringarooma- So Sir David & Mrs M went on to xCh & there await the Hector voyagees ----- Skey tells me you promised that in your absence he should have some 2 months leave to compensate for the bowels & things whereby his health had been sapped – So I had no hesitation in letting him go for a fortnight – He will, after estimates had gone in wrote alleging some agreements about increase of which I could find no record, so I have left the matter over for you – Govt. wouldn't pay for the horse he killed at Wanganui - & I dont think he has. He is not satisfactory inasmuch as one can hardly believe him trustworthy.

Did I mention that on raising the broken cable they found[?] it in parts where it had evidently been suspended across chasms, ----- all round with a growth of coral & other marine ----- to the bulk of a man's body - & threw all overboard but a small basin of sundries which I got from Dr L-----.

I hope you noted the grand earthquakes at Oamaru. Judging from their effects they must have resembled ours of 1855.

About the Kew consignments. The *Penshaw* arrived in harbour some days before the casks via Melbourne but the latter were delivered first – the cases having only reached the Garden yesterday – I sent Buchanan to see them opened & he reports favourably on the whole but adds that many deaths seem to have been caused by excess of water – that in two of them the water was standing above the soil. So many of the more delicate conifers are gone. The Cask business was a failure. I was present at the opening of the first & all that heating could do to kill had been most effectively done. (Enter Bramley for the seeds) – One beer-cask had been occupied by rats a nest of them was found in it.

But I have charged Buch. to make a careful return so need ----- more precious ----- upon it now.

It would seem after all that the enormous & undesired lot of seeds last sent by Kellogg was meant for the Queensland Accl. Socy. – but their letter arrived too late to save us the trouble. One cask I was ----- had evidently been half full of bilge water – Had our learned Hooker been aware of the value of crushed charcoal there would I fancy have been few deaths (Enter Gore. Its ten o'clock so I'll end this first chapter – You will be ----- to note the triumph of our style of painting (Nelson style) of course I directed the Museum to adopt it & now Govt. House shines with similar hues & looks far less gloomy than heretofore. Clayton admits that I conquered him there. One thing in your letters gives rise to serious apprehensiveness in my mind – Since the *Matara* affair, which you attended to like a buck I see no reference to the various small commissions with which from time to time I have troubled you – and the neglect to attend to which will, I know, make you hate me for the rest of your days – I write for music (not exceeding £10) I received two books, but no mention of them or of my "order" appears in any of your letters. I asked you to make arrangements for the payment of my subscriptions to societies - & the forwards of their transactions – have you done so? If so you have not told me of it. For[?] other things – as field glass, bath, piano &c. – my requests had probably not reached you when you last wrote. If I ever regretted, I would regret that I had asked you to get them for me – for if you fail to do so you will never forgive yourself & will consequently hate me. You see that during your absence, my friend I have been & shall be till your return daily & hourly executing commissions for you.

But let me hope my fears are unfounded & that all will come out right.
Kind remembrances to Bothamley
Ever yours
Walter Mantell

P.S. Bishop does not seem to have given up your house yet – no tenant likely or desirable for the extra 3 months – your last call[?] (gas) not paid as George says you only wd. get calt. on the payments – Graham has paid me the £10 – MacKay was already at Amuri when yours of 8 Feb arrived. I have written & telegraphed your wishes about section & saurians. Cox on East Coast. You have a valuable aid in him & a gentleman. I will now glance at the items in your last as I have respite till 12.

The glass was in perfect order, none broken save one or two in unpacking – A few kinds were short shipped – of these a note awaits your arrival.

Hookers deliverance re Jack is very fair considering that it was made on an *ex parte* statement. Enys who passed through t'other day on his way home via S.F. by this mail – had

seen it, and says there seems no having to publish it. Hooker was of course not aware that from the repeated postponements of McKay's paper, Jack had full notice – sufficient at least to enable him to write his own – nor could Jack have supposed that the man who volunteered a paper to him which (he says) he treated in so graced -----, would be likely to abstain from communicating his views to a society of which he was a member & whose fellows he could be sure would at least receive & treat it like gentlemen. Nor does Hooker seem to have been told that the Bason's paper as printed is not that paper as read – or in short that herr[?] Haast is a mere blackguard bully of a Doasterswivel. I hear that in contrast to my more heinous offences against that, hereditary noble, you are almost away into favour with him again. Accept my congratulations. Gore tells me that both *Nature* and the *Times* have taken interest in the prehistoric man but I haven't seen either. I have neither shown nor read the copy to anyone though I cannot see why it should be kept secret – Justice to MacKay requires its publication – Oh – another thing – Hooker believes in the change of title of McKay's paper. There was none that I can find. I sent Travers a note to say he could see the judgement in accordance with your permission - Can't quite make out the identity of l----- with L.G.S. fossils but doubtless guess right.

I have not looked at Hutton's book having impartially come to the same conclusions as you have arrived at, but without that trouble. MacKay's instructions according to your letter went off yesterday by post & wire. In his second report (22 March) he says that in the Hapuka River near the watershed that leads into the Clarence River he found "a fine & very important section of the Amuri series which is likely to set at rest some disputed points".

Doctor von Haast has written for some fossils from Opihi[?] which he says he lent to you – I must keep their application for your arrival.

Gore goes next week to inspect xCh & Bealey stations – We got a vote of £150 last session for inspection – As this will not be all expended I ask £600 this year for the Meteorological Department.

The only other change is a suggestion of an add. £50 for Buch. – not asked for of course – but *ex mero motu*. For the unexpended field vote £300 I have written to ask that it be given for fittings if we can get them done in time – afraid we can't – J---- & S--- have come so must end.

Ever yours
Mantell.

M40: Mantell to Hector, 8-4-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0291

Wellington
8th April 1876

My dear Hector,

Time after all for a few more desultory sentences. I send you today's summary - next month's I will unless otherwise directed send to you at San Francisco. These will put you all - ----. I have written you an official letter about Mr Something's [Love's] Gasburner which you will take as a late exhibit. If the invention is worth anything it will be pirated immediately unless he takes out an American patent for it.

I forgot to mention that last Sunday week there was a great telegraphing between your observatory & Sydney on the request of Mr Hocken of that place, to decide on the longitude - with what result I cannot say as while the Archdeacon sent all our times to Sydney he got none in return. Stock, Kebbell, Lemon[?] & some of his men on our side. I blowed them up greatly for accepting the secondary position: but the Venerable says he expects their times by post & will then cipher on our side.

Have you quite forgotten my hankering for tortoises & hedgehogs - or, if forgotten till now, can you not still get them in America. Also pray speer[?] about for some cure for cockroaches for since I allowed that sister of the sullen Martha to come to the house from the "Duke of Edinbro" the kitchen has been getting ---- through with the repulsive beasts. I have tried alum - and borax - but they object to neither. The *Transactions* are getting on as you see - a very inferior volume to its predecessors - one feels not only of cash but of brains ----- low.

Our philosophers have started a round of monthly lectures - why, it is hard to say. Grace gave the first, on the US America - it was said to be very dry - I could not attend as I was engaged to Stowe, & besides poor Collins was dying & I had to be in the way. Tonight Crawford lectures on Geology & we propose to attend. Grace's lecture was supplemented by di----- views which didn't act well. Garland proposes to address the May meeting on Chemistry & after that - a blank - Fitzgerald Waterhouse & co hold aloof - Fitz sent me word yesterday that if I would lecture, on any subject, he will come & disprove everything I say so, if I can get a small bet with him, P.P. I must select the Testimony of Geology to the truth of Revelation - which I can steal readymade from Pyesmith & co - if Silliman's preface to the wonders of Geology won't suffice then friend Fitz will perhaps find it wise to lose his wager.

We have had a great fuss about a copulation case in the Botanic Garden. Crawford gave the culprits a month hard labour each but the man had an influential draper on his side who got hold of the newspaper hounds - so there was a petition for mitigation and daily bulletins until the result was known in the reduction of the sentence to a week without hard labour - which was quite enough - another pair caught a few days before bolted out of the colony. The extracts covering this important affair form a strip two yards long which now hangs behind the door. We shall have to get one or two more cases yet. The place has become infamous and unsafe for decent people not bent on copulation, and to Bramley's indignation

that divine service was performed openly by the pathsides and frequently on his young trees – one *Senecio hectori* has been quite flattened by fornication. From our present point of view this is very horrible and disgusting – yet "while memory lasts" we must own that few more charming places for the purpose could be anywhere found than the Wellington Buchanical Garden. The Kew cases are not to be opened till Monday – Bramley being engaged today in sowing the California & Indian seeds. The latter comprised a lot of Deodar in fine order. Tell Dr Kellogg that his experiment of sending ---- (was it?) in holes in red bark was a ----- failure – How the woodpeckers will laugh at him next time he goes forestward.

Well – I needant go on gossiping into another sheet especially as there is too little about formations & saurians to interest you – Our married life goes on calmly & happily yet if as Vogel says we are to meet early in June, our honeymoon must be still farther postponed. My wife tells me she has referred all her friends to Hooker for an account of me – so there is another reason for hoping that he has not quite forgotten me. Dont forget to greet Bothamley & if you see him Benjamin Silliman.

Your vicarious dredge,
Matara.

Wallie ---- sends love.

M41: Georgiana Hector to Mantell, 25-4-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303, letter 4

Bank house, Renwicktown, Marlborough
25th April 1876

My dear Mr Mantell,

I cannot let another week elapse without writing to offer you my warmest congratulations & best wishes on your marriage of which I first heard from Mrs Johnstone in Christchurch. I hope you will not think I am taking a liberty in doing so, for all my wishes are sincere & I can assure no one could feel more glad to hear of your happiness & ----- than my husband & myself. I am afraid it will be some time before I have the pleasure of making Mrs Mantell's acquaintance, but I trust when we do meet that we may spend many pleasant half-hours together & perhaps fraternizing over music etc.

I was sorry to have so few minutes in Wellington the other day, having quite made up my mind to see all my old friends & visit the Museum, Botanical Gardens etc., but the chance of coming on at once to what I most prize in New Zealand was too tempting to be thrown away & we therefore transferred our luggage to the *Taranaki* & started for Picton without even landing. I entrusted to Mrs Pharazyn for you a few "pitcher plants" which I brought from King George's Sound. I hope they are new to you and will thrive. They were growing in swampy ground & therefore I think will require a great deal of water. I find the children remarkably well & very much grown though not altered in face. They all knew me perfectly well & seemed as pleased to see me as I was to be with them again.

Now I am going to trouble you about our house. I had a telegram from B. Smith yesterday saying that the Bishop had left it & that he thought some one shd. be put in it to take care of it. I think Dr Hector has written to say that he wishes it to be let again as he will not be here until July or possibly August & I was in hopes that the Bishop might keep it on. However as he has a Palace it is not likely he would care to remain in our modest little house. If it can be let to good tenants, would it not be better, for I don't feel anxious to go & live there for three months by myself, still I would rather that than have the furniture go to ruin. If let, the piano had better be taken out & put in the Museum or some safe place. Will you kindly let me know what you think best & whether I ought to come over & see about it myself.

I am afraid you must be getting very weary of the Museum work I hope it will only for three months longer. The trip home has done Dr Hector an immense deal of good though he has not taken full advantage of it. He has worked almost all the time almost as much as he does in Wellington. We can neither of us express to you our gratitude for having given him the chance of this rest which is the greatest kindness you could show him.

With kindest regards to Mrs Mantell
Believe me ever
Yrs Sincerely
Georgie Hector.

M42: Mantell to Hector, 5-5-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0293

[No place]
5th May 1876

My dear Hector,

I have just closed a long letter to you & in accordance with your instructions, addressed it to you at P.O. San Francisco from which place if still detained at Philadelphia you can doubtless obtain it by a telegram.

You should if still at Phil. have received on the day of the mails' arrival at San Francisco a telegram from the Bank which transacts the B of NZ's business there informing you of its receipt of erima rau to your orders. Skey having sent to me for your signature I cut one from a letter of yours name in full.

I have sent you results of cable correspondence with Sydney on longitude & other contraptions which might interest you.

If Bothamley is still in the land of the showmen greet him affectionately for me & tell him I could have written but that I believe that the 1st of June will see him on his way to England.

For the rest see the Epistle –
Ever yours, longing to see you back,
Matara.

M43: Mantell to Hector, 6-5-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0294

The Shop[?]

6th May 1876

My dear Hector,

Mr McLeod (A.G.) called this morning so I drafted a telegram which he kindly promises to send on arrival – telling you that your letters are at P.O. Frisco & Rima rau (the English of which you know) at Bank there. If you see him please find out & repay this expense on Ap. of the commission – I like his looks much & only regret that it is too probable you may not meet.

You ---- that[?] Cox is away having first set papers in Geology & Chemistry for the Civil Service Examinations. He will be of return before they are ready for judgement.

Did I tell you that the old Herbarium was opened during Buchanan's absence at Easter with a strange Key which was left in the lock which it has so modified that the proper key will no longer operate – I ordered enquiry but without result. Buchie however has no doubt of the culprit.

People here are much exercised about the Rangitoto Silver ore which at that Melbourne on 5 cwt. is said to have given 700 oz to ton – but from which we can only get at the rate of 8 oz – after --- twice on carefully collected specimens, the first got by Cox from the lode – the second sent by Bonar at my request as identical with that sent to Melbourne.

When I add that a company is being formed to work this precious lode I have given you all the data necessary to enable you to form an opinion. The best yet has unquestionably been the Parapara at about 200 oz but that has been smothered under a company. I dont doubt that the Rangitoto will get a rich yield – from its shareholders.

This Commission like all others is a sad humbug. Of course before acting on your letters – sending money & so forth I should have assembled my colleagues & submitted the matter to them – but experience has shown me that they are unassemblable when all on Board English mail is immanent, so I first have to act & then ask them what they think of it all – which I shall do next Tuesday.

I shall hope for further news from you by the Suez mail, due in a week – I am especially desirous to learn whether it will be of any use to write to you by next San Francisco mail – I hope not, for then I shall see the dawn of my deliverance – We all ----- my grumbling, however justifiable it may seem. It is simply my sense of incompetence which takes that form.

You will find as I promised that I have so maladministered (in spite of my best efforts) your work that you are sorely missed & will be welcomed back by everyone – So ---- it be – and I can quietly relapse into my congenial insignificance careless of the ----- of all of you –

Wishing you a good time

Ever Yours

Matara.

M44: Mantell to Hector, 2-6-1876

Te Papa MU000147/004/0295

Col. Mus.
2nd June 1876

My dear Hector,

Many thanks for all your letters & your good care of my bothering commissions – I am & will to the last moment, waste valuable time having been lost in fruitless endeavours to give effect to Mr Cameron's wish for a ----- . The enclosed copy of my letter to B-----atgue gives all about that up to yesterday evening – Since then Hema te Ao & Kikaroa appeared – The former suffering from pulmonary disease & having most of his ----- keep him here – the latter (as another farmer[?]) not a favourable specimen and not equal to going alone – indeed you know how difficult it would be to get me to go alone on a few days notice. I have done my least best though I dont think you will have cause to regret my failure.

I am quite indignant at you & B. for the unpardonable negligence in not giving me an idea of your present address. On 11 Jany. last you directed that from 5 May ---- your letters shd be sent to P.O. San Frisco, & since this you have not given a single hint – You know what embarrassment this caused in last mail when I wanted to send you additional funds – and now 'tis even worse – For when asked to send a Maori I had nothing to justify me in thinking that either you or Bothamley would be in Phil. on his arrival. You were to have left before June 5 - & his agreement with us ended yesterday & we believed that he would then leave for England.

Even now I am probably only writing what will not reach you till long after I have had an oppority. of explaining to you personally my notions of this grievous stupidity.

MacKay is still away the Saurians doing grandly, as he says the drift from the limestone quarries promises soon to bury the boneboulders I shall keep him at it.

Cox returned this morning from West Coast inspection – Does not marry Amy Batkin till next month I believe.

Buch. hard at work at Herbarium but complaining of damp in his new place – Skey analyzing & testing ----- . Mr Garvie the new messenger giving satisfaction.

The grand fence between us of course evaporated but I got them to put old fence on thorough repair which is better - & nothing done to your outer fence –

I did not see Mrs Hector. House now let till end July to Garland who screwed Smith down very cleverly but independently as he will find. Glad of this as Mrs H does not wish to come back till after Miss M's wedding.

I address a letter for B to your care – if he has gone, open it. ----- now talked of for Undersecretary! We shall want a resolution to get rid of all these "permanents". Had I time I have heaps of things to say to you but the puzzle about the address to be written outside bothers me at every turn.

B. complains of the races[?]. This comes with especial bad grace from him. As to Vaux's publication it is his own & part of the paper – his copy was so bad that the publishers sent in a cheque for the whole on the "foreign languages" scale.

Stowe had the disadvantage of having no one to read with him, not having B's relentless way of a ----- people for that dreary work. At any rate the vol. costs about £120 less than it wd. have done on Hughes' charges.

But I am hurried and wearied and so had better end.

I have told Gore to send a official acknowledgement of your NZ's official letters. You require no further instructions from me – sent for ----- nay ill.

Good bye,
Mantell.

M45: Georgiana Hector to Mantell, 20-6-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303, letter 5

Newstead
20th June 1876

My dear Mr Mantell,

I am afraid I can give you very little information respecting Dr Hector's return for he does not speak definitely about it. All he says to me about it, is this, "I don't think I will stay long in America, but if I have to visit the Rocky Mountains & the Nevada Silver mines, you need hardly expect me before August." This was from Selkirk on 10th April & in a note from Phil. he says nothing about his return. Of course you have heard from him there so I need not repeat all he says about the opening. New Zealand seems to have made a better show than we expected. In case No. 4 which will be opened at the Museum you will find a gilt photograph case & several other things of mine Dr Hector tells me, packed amongst Museum specimens. Will you kindly put them on one side for me if the box should arrive in Wellington before I do.

[No signature, final page left blank, copy appears to be complete.]

M46: Georgiana Hector to Mantell, 25-7-1876

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303, letter 6

Newstead, Nelson
25 July 1876

My dear Mr Mantell,

My letters & parcel (a copy of the Centennial March by Wagner) reached me safely on Saturday. I am sorry to say they do not contain any definite information respecting his intended return. In his last letter he says "I have been so delayed that if I am to do anything in California I won't be able to come till the month after, arriving Sep 13th. But I still hope to be out by August 16th". So you see we know no more than we did a month ago. Your supposition that he may turn back to Sierra Nevada from S.F. is altogether too disagreeable & therefore I shall not allow myself to think of it as a possibility. If he is not here by the 13th Sep. I shall conclude that he has become a follower of Brigham Young & taken up his abode amongst the Mormons.

I thank you for your kind offer of help to us in the meantime. It is too bad to impose another duty upon you, who have already done more than any one could expect or deserve from a friend still if I am in any difficulty I shall be only too glad to avail myself further of your kindness. My finances are in a satisfactory state the balance of house rent which was paid to my Father's account for the bairns sufficing for present wants. I am sorry Dr Garland is going so soon for I had hoped that he would remain until the end of August. I wrote to Ben Smith to offer the house to him for another month but have not heard of his taking it. So I suppose we must come over to take charge of it as soon as empty until another bachelor cares to take it. I enclose a list of the only new things in my boxes of wearing apparel with an estimate of their value. I suppose duty will have to be paid on all those the rest is all either used clothes or things which have been in the colony before such as the house linen we used on the voyage home etc.

Mr & Mrs Pillaus lunched with us on Sunday. I am afraid they have formed an unfavourable opinion of ----- Nelson for the certainty has treated them badly nothing but wind & cold grey weather since they came.

With kindest regards believe me Yrs Sincerely
George Hector.

Little Charlie had a sharp feverish attack last week but is nearly well.

APPENDIX 1: The Longitude controversy

During 1874 there was considerable discussion about astronomical and national surveying matters as the scientific community prepared for the Transit of Venus (December 1874). There was a long-standing disagreement between Hector and Otago surveyors, Jackson and Turnbull over the computed longitude of the Wellington Observatory. The disagreement stemmed from a memo read at the 12th September 1874 meeting of the Wellington Philosophical Society (*Transactions of the New Zealand Insitute*.7, pp. 502-4), in which Hector stated that their absolute observations of the longitude of the Wellington Observatory had “never been accepted in the practical working of the Observatory”. Hector’s views were published in July 1875, and the resulting debate at the Otago Institute, and in the *Otago Daily Times*, proceeded throughout the summer of 1875-76. Hector was in England at the time, and was championed in the press by Robert Gillies, who debated on his behalf against Jackson and Thomson.

Hector disputed the accuracy of Jackson and Thomson’s calculated longitude for Wellington, as he considered the Lunar Tables on which it had been based to have far too high a degree of error. Jackson and Thomson took umbrage at being specifically singled out for this method, complaining of Hector’s lack of specialist knowledge in astronomy, and the fact that he himself had not fixed a longitude for Wellington.

Hector was supported by Major H.S.Palmer who had led the English expedition to observe the Transit of Venus at Burnham, near Christchurch and other local astronomers. Although there was considerable publicity in the Otago papers there was no support from other regions, and the debate died away. It is worth noting that there was long-standing antagonism between Hector and Thomson which undoubtedly fuelled the debate.

L1: Hector to Gillies, 16-10-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303

London
16th October 1875

Dear Gillies,

I have just received a clip from a Dunedin paper with a report of the O. Institute meeting of the 10th Augt, containing Mr J.T. Thomson's extraordinary strictures on a memo: of mine about the Long. of Wn. and I observe that you & others were led away by the strong assertions made & even thought it necessary to apologise me for my presumed blundering & presumption on the part of my ignorance. As I have always valued your good opinion I venture to set forth my view of the case so that you may be able to judge more correctly if the presumption & ignorance is all on my side.

I must disclaim having "gone out of my way to throw stones" at any one. The paragraph that seems to have excited Mr Thomson was rendered necessary by the statement of Capt. Nares that Long 11.39.18-63 was used in the Observatory as the basis of the Time Ball Time for the Colony. There are papers in my office that will prove that I have had to resist the very change in the time which Capt. Nares deprecates – and indeed on one occasion during my absence the change was made for a few days till I returned & set it back again, at

the time of the *Challenger's* visit I was ill & confined to bed, and though Capt. Nares came to see me on the subject, I was not made aware of what he (or rather his navigating officer) may have been told about the time ball time by other persons.

When the Commodore was at my suggestion asked by Govt. to get the *Challenger* to remeasure the Merc. diff. from Sydney to Wn. all papers including Messrs Jackson & Thomson's valuable R.A. observations were sent to him & when Capt. Nares sent his memo: to me after the *Challenger* had reached Fiji, I presumed that he had got his idea that a Long. different from the charts was used from those papers. But if fairly read my remarks do not bear the construction put on them. I do not reflect on Messrs Jackson & Thomson's observations, but only account to Govt. for their Long: not being adopted. I indicate two reasons, the first being that the chart Long. shd. be adhered to in any case until the charts had been altered and reissued. This was the course recommended by the Board of 1870 of which Mr Jackson was a member - & it is the substance of the Cautionary remarks by Capt. Nares. The second reason was the doubtful value of an absolute Long. computed from the Lunar tables in the Naut. Almanack. Prof. Ellery & also the Astronom. Royal had mentioned this and Mr Jackson was well aware of it, for when his first series of R.A.'s were published, at his request I sent them to Greenwich and obtained for him the corresponding observed [Lunar?] R.A. Yet I have not seen alteration of his original results arising from this comparison the Long: of the Hutt obs. comp. in the first report of J & T in 1871 being the same as that given in Mr J's provisional report of 1870. You will see therefore that even if observations with small instruments were to be accepted there still remains an error in the computation.

I have heard that the obsd. error in the moons tabulated R.A. for the period in which Messrs J & T observed would if correctly computed, ---- their Long: very nearly the same as that at present in use.

I maintain that it is quite correct to say chronometer measurements have been made when the Mer. diff. has been obtained from a Mer. so well fixed as that in Melbourne by R.A. obt. taken by a first rate[?] astronomical establishment during the last 20 years. It is of course absurd to weigh any N.Z. observations that have been made against the Melbourne work, and with regard to the discrepancy there is of 3.29 sec: between the Sydney & Melbourne Observatory As in Sydney astromination places the Meridian further East to adopt it would have the effect of decreasing our N.Z. Long. and making it still further from the result obtained by Messrs J & T & not identical with it as Mr Thomson's figures show. Nor do I see how a difference of 3.29 seconds in Australia increases to 9.78 when removed to N.Z. by the addition of the same Meridian diff. to both quantities. It is so nearly those times as to suggest there has been an error in the signs. The Sydney Long quoted by Thomson is quite obsolete, being one given by the late Mr Scott[?] in 1859 & like Mr Thomson without having been corrected for observed Moons since Scott gave in 1859.

		h m s
	Long. Syd. Obsty.	10.5.6-84
and in 1860	"	10.4.59-00
and in Official Long.		10.5.3-47
but since 1869 the Long. has been given		10.4.46-00

as may be seen by referring to any Vol. of N.S.W. Statistics but Thomson has not gone further than the Naut. Almanack which being prepared at least 7 years before date does not of course show the change. It is the same mistake that he & Jackson made in their former report.

[*Marginal note*: 2nd. Nov. I have just heard from Mr Hind[?] that the N.A. for 1879 has Syd. Long. as 10.4.47-32. This is not however a change by the Admiralty as Mr Thomson fancies. When that is done it involves a reissue of the Charts!!]

The result of the R.G. obs. at Burnham which have been compared with the corresp. obs. at Greenwich, & the Mar. diff. obtained by Telegraph from other stations in the Colony has been reported by Major Palmer & has no doubt reached the Colony ere this. Being interested I extracted his determination of the Wn. Obs. and give it as you may not have seen the Report, and compare it with other determinations, from which you will see how near Palmer, Ellery & Stokes' Longts. are to each other.

Long. Wn. Obs.	1. Palmer (from Burnham Obsty.)	E.	11.39.4-84
	2. Melbourne obs & Stokes		11.39.5-89
	as given in my memo.		
	3. Sydney obs. & Stokes*		11.39.2-60
	4. Melbourne obs. & Nares		11.39.7-84
	5. Chart (used for Time Ball)		11.39.8-65
	6. Jackson & Thomson		11.39.15-31

* This should now be 11.39.3-92.

I have not refd. to Mr Carkeek's observations as they were taken long before the Wn. Obs. was refd. to its present site & his papers having been burnt cannot be referred to. With reference to your own remarks I would say that the fitting up of the Obsty. for the indication of correct Mean N.Z. Time to the Telegraph Dept. having been remitted to me by Govt. it was part of my official duties to superintend in the actual work of regulating the clocks being chiefly done by Archdeacon Stock and an assistant. It has been no part of our work to determine Longitude and if as Mr Thomson states his own & Mr Jacksons observations were no better fitted up for that purpose than the Wn. Obsty. this would afford a further ground for doubting their work. However I happen to know that Mr Jackson's Obsty. at least had a better outfit, for though the Transit Instrument at the Govt. obsty. is quite sufficient for rating the Clocks by selected stars, it has none of the refined adjustments required for determining Long. I have never therefore proposed to determine a Long. nor have I taken or sought any credit in the matter, nor have I as Mr McKerrow insinuates re---- to cook a Long. to tally with that used for the Telegraph time, as it is the official Chart Long. that is (or was when I left the Colony) used, I am glad to say, in spite of all the ill advised attempts that have been made to change it so as to ----- with the so called absolute determinations. I think the Board of 1870 did well in advising Govt. to stick to the Charts and not to give an excuse for careless ----- ship by throwing a doubt on their accuracy, even though their having done so "will not excite contempt but only a smile" from those who dont fear to rush in where others decline to tread.

I have written in haste and without an opportunity of referring to papers and have said just what I would have done at the meeting. If any one has right to complain it is mine on account of the unwarranted interference of those who told the Officers of the *Challenger* that Long. 11.39.18-63 was used in computing the Time Ball Time and thus calling forth the un--- ited rebuke administered by Capt. Nares.

Yrs &c.
James Hector.

L2: Palmer to Hector, 21-10-1875

ATL MS-Papers-0083-303

Matara, I send my answer to Gillies (copy) as circumstances might prevent his publishing it. If he has not till ----- I have sent you a copy – Palmer is off to Barbados.

[*Place illegible*]
21st October 1875

My dear Hector,

Thanks for yours. Come to lunch as proposed at 10'c on Tuesday at the "Criterion", right-hand room as you enter.

I have read with great disgust Thomson's paper on the discussion. It is quite pitiable that any decent men should meet to hear such small & scurrilous nonsense – all to prop up and flatter a third-rate old charlatan like Thomson, and to gratify personal spite and jealousy against a real man of science like yourself. How Gillies & Hutton can lend themselves to such rottenness is a mystery to me. The absurd fact of it all is that the whole of this fuss & waste of time is about work with two-feet portable transit visit[?]. There is a p----- which is quite absurd in Jackson's printed report on the subject. Though his mathematical treatment of it is pretty good, such grandeur and hair-splitting about work of the kind is really too ridiculous.

I think you will find that in all I have written on the subject of longitude I entirely go with your view of the case. Indeed in a ----. I lately sent (a of which they may have a copy at the office in Victoria St.) I recommended[?] that your longitude & time-ball system should adhere to, at all events till the cable connect with Melbourne.

I am longing to see you, having no time to spin a long yarn now. I am very indignant with that conceited old rascal Thomson, who has been working against me as well as you. I do hope we shall beat them. But apart altogether from any question as regards myself, the more I think of it, the more do I feel that it would be a sad & monstrous thing for a man like him to be made ----- of a large & ambitious Colony like N.Z.

In gt haste
---- most truly

H.--- Palmer

L3: Gillies to Hector, 13-12-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/14/4

Dunedin
13th Decr. 1875

Dr Hector
c/o Dr Featherstone
Agent General N.Z.
London

My dear Sir,

Today I have yours of 20th Octr. & regret to see that you have seen the Report of the meeting of the Otago Institute in which I am reported to have spoken of the foggiess of Dr Hector's ideas on Longitude & his ignorance & that you have evidently not seen my contradiction of that Report at the following meeting of the Institute *vide* "*Daily Times*" of Augt. 25th exactly a fortnight after the first Report.

The fact is my remarks of that character were not made about you at all but about the members of the Well. Phil. Society in a jocular way & were based on the remarks of a member a Mr. George (who he is I dont know) but he is reported in the *Transactions* to have said when your paper was read "that he did not see what sailors wanted with Longitude or Time when once they were in Port – once they were in was that not enough for them & what use was it for them to know the true Time then" I quote from memory but you will find it printed in the *Transactions*. These were the remarks I was specially ridiculing (I read them from the book) & as I did not know Mr George I did not wish to hurt his feelings & so did not name him & partly as a bit of fun made my allusion general to the Well. Phil. Soc. The *Daily Times* as you have seen made them special to you which however you will find contradicted a fortnight after as I have said. I was particularly guarded in all I said for I know perfectly well that it was personal animosity on Thomson & McKerrow's part & no desire to put anything right that made them notice it & you will see all my remarks are fenced with the proviso that "if Mr Thomson's figures are right" & so on. I do think however you laid yourself open to the imputation of "going out of your way to cast a stone at Thomson" & your letter now does not appear to me to help that part for though you may have been bound officially to report what you did there was no necessity for that part appearing in the *Transactions* of the Institute. I must say too that I dont think your calling the measurements Chronometric is correct.

There is no doubt Melbourne is entitled to more weight than any other observations & you will see I state so, still after all it is not exact to call measurements based only on Melbourne as you have done – but that is a trifle. I think you deserved a wiggling for unnecessarily hitting Thomson & of course every point was taken against you. I know you have no love for J.T.T. nor he for you & for that matter nor I for him as you know & when little things turn up at our Institute meetings it generally falls to my lot to stand up for you so on this occasion as I could not defend you I perhaps went rather far the other way. I have never looked into the matter in fact with Street away in England I have little time for any thing but business & family duties & am to blame for even seeming to express any opinion without posting myself up in it. But after all I never thought it was of much consequence. It gave us an opportunity to sly "the ---- of red sandstone about" & enliven our meeting & that was all.

As to your Letter of course it ought to be published & I have handed it to Murison for that purpose. The Sub Editor came to me this evening swearing at Dr Hector for having written it on both sides of his paper & saying that it cant appear for a day or two in consequence but it will appear soon & I will try & revise it so that they dont make a mess of it. There is bound to be a rare newspaper war after it. – the whole hive will be buzzing round your ears & I cannot promise to take up the cudgels for you – for goodness knows where it might end – but if I see any fun sticking out of it I may have a sly hit but anonymously[sic] so that I may back out quietly if it is getting too hot for me. I have had my own share of fighting during the past six mos. & when a fellow attains to the high dignity & satisfaction of having thrashed a Lawyer publicly obtains an apology from him & has not had to pay a farthing for it it becomes him to be careful how he endangers his reputation among smaller fry. Still you may rely on it that I wont see you unfairly treated in your absence.

I hope you are enjoying your visit to the old country & that you will come back with no end of Laurels on your brows. I have been getting my name up lately myself in the Nat History line & have actually had a species of spiders christened after me *Vemisia*[?] *gilliesii* or something of that sort by no less a personage than the Revd. Pickard Cambridge & I am generally nicknamed now among all my facetious acquaintances as “The Trap door Spider” – You will see all about the causes thereof in the next Vol. of the *Transactions* – that is if old Mantell has got sufficient discrimination in him to appreciate what has cost me much time & labour in the field during the past three years & does not serve me out for an old grudge he has against me – like you & J.T.T.!!

But I must stop with best thanks for giving me the opportunity of putting myself right with you – I take it very kindly of you to have written me after the nasty things the *Daily Times* put in my mouth about you.

Yours Truly
Robert Gillies.

APPENDIX 2: The Underwater Cable Controversy

This series of letters concerns Hector's involvement in the planning of the laying of two telegraph cables in 1876; one from Australia to New Zealand, the other across the Cook Strait. The North and South Islands of New Zealand had been connected by telegraph in 1866, but this connection had proved problematic due to the strong currents in Cook Strait. The two new cables were hoped to provide a dependable link between New Zealand and the rest of the world, connected through Australia. The project was co-ordinated in London by Sir Julius Vogel (for New Zealand) and Sir Daniel Cooper (for New South Wales).

Hector was not directly involved in the contract negotiations. But while he was in England he was consulted for his opinion on the suitability of various locations for landing the cable. He was accused by a few people (and some newspapers) of meddling in the negotiations, but as the correspondence shows, he was simply responding to questions

C1: Vogel to Hector, 23-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/7

June 23/75

Broad st

My dear Hector,

I have seen Admiral Richards about the cable terminus. He does not like Cape Foulwind & Cape Farewell. He proposes coming round Farewell into within[?] Golden Bay or Blind Bay⁵⁹ at the same time he does not like crossing Blind Bay to the Bay you mention. He thinks the West side of Blind Bay will do if Golden Bay will not.

He names four points viz

1 Clifton or

2 Burial Bay (in Golden Bay)

3 Awarua Bay

4 Astrolabe Road (Blind Bay)

Any of these he says will do. What do you say. Can we get the landline to them & to inland[?] best. Write me about it to 87 Gloucester Place at once if you can for I want to leave town tomorrow.

Yrs very sincerely

Julius Vogel.

⁵⁹ Blind Bay is now known as Tasman Bay.

C2: Vogel to Hector, 24-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/9

87 Gloucester Place
Portman Square
June 24/75

My dear Hector,

I enclose you the letter of introduction to Richards.

Possibly he may not have the construction of the cable. He is the chairman of the East Construction Co. – whilst we contract with the Eastern Extension Co. But his opinion in any case will have weight. I wish you to map the place you think best for taking the cable to & to which we shall have no unusual difficulty in carrying the landline. Never mind about the translating station. We cannot have all our own way. Besides the point we shall not work the cable and it is as well the cable officers should not be too man a ----.

Wherever the Cable is we shall telegraph to & deliver the ----- to the Cable Officers.

Crossing Blind Bay ----- the Co. expense & they have been very liberal, at the same time a suitable bill must be provided.

----- in great haste. Mr Fox will explain more.

Yrs very sincerely
Julius Vogel.

C3: Fox to Hector, 30-6-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/10

7 Westminster Chambers
Victoria St
Westminster
June 30, 1875

Dear Sir,

I find that the “note” I took down at Sir Julius Vogel’s request, re the Cable, is to this effect: -

Ten miles of extra length would cost about £2000; but consenting to such an arrangement might in other ways be of value to the Colony: and if you distinctly recommended him to pay such an amount for such an increased length, he would do so.

Sir Julius is anxious to know the decision arrived at; as he desires not to lose time in instructing Mr Lemon respecting the NZ land line.

----- yrs
Fox.

James Hector Esq.

C4: Vogel to Kennaway, 27-7-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/12/14

[*Copy*]

Wildbad
July 27th 1875

My dear Mr Kennaway,

As soon as you get this communicate with Dr Hector (I do not know where he is but you will easily find out) and ask him which terminus for Cable he prefers that at Motueka or that at Perrins Isle. Ask whether the latter would require a cable for communication with Main Land. Ask which point would occasion us most expense at first – which would cause greatest expense to maintain and which would be subject to least interruption. You might send this letter asking Hector to send you definite answers and if he is far from London he might telegraph his replies to you at full length. You would send the answer to me by letter to Hamburg.

Julius Vogel.

My Dear Sir,

I received a letter from Sir J Vogel this morning (within is a copy of it). Please telegraph reply to me as soon as possible.

Yours truly
Walter Kennaway
New Zealand Agency
7 Westminster Chambers
Victoria Street
London

July 29 1875

C5: Mackrell to Hector, 12-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/3

21 Cannon Street
London
12 Aug 1875

Dear Sir,
New Zealand Cable.

We have seen Messrs. Freshfields the Solicitors to the Telegraph Company with a view of inserting in the memo: of approval of the Contract for the construction of the Cable the site for the Terminal point in New Zealand, but they inform us that it is not definitely settled & that it is liable to be changed at any time, before the departure of the Expedition from England. This is not what we understood from you & though we may not be in a position to require the matter to be settled now we feel confident that Sir Julius would wish us to get it done if possible. If Admiral Richards would report to the Company & to Messrs. Freshfields there will doubtless be no difficulty in the matter. Will you kindly see him & suggest this to him.

Yours faithfully
John Mackrell & Co.

Dr Hector
5 Montague Street
Russell Square.

C6: Vogel to Hector, 22-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/6

Hamburg
Aug 22/75

My dear Hector,

I have this morning received your note & I am waiting for the particulars before sending out Cablegrams. I have sent to Mackrell for them. As you say the whole thing has been unaccountably delayed.

I do not think we should entertain the idea at present of connecting the Cable, of C straits with the other. You probably forget that the Cable to Australia will not be wanted by our people.

I am rather (or I may say very) alarmed at a passage in your letter – You say “I got them to sign a memo on a chart fixing Botany Bay for the West End”. Now I do not know if I am to suppose that you gave any advice about Botany but so it appears & if so you have made a great mistake. Authorised by me to act for me your action is to some extent official and commits those for whom you act.

Our arrangement with the Company is to take the line to Sydney the city of Sydney and I do not think Sir D Cooper from New South Wales would commit himself to an opinion

on the subject of the landing place – at any rate it would be much out of place for me or you acting for me to do so. You may take my assurance that this is so. It would be too long to explain why but you may see how the case stands when I tell you the Company will have to carry the land line from the landing place under ground to ----- St.

If as your letter intimates you have expressed an opinion about the Sydney End let me ask you to at once notify to the ----- & ----- that you did so without authority.

About the Cable Houses the Co if they have anything to say should write to Cooper & me. I hope you will forgive me for saying that it would be better ----- should not rediscuss the agreement with you.

It was in accordance with my understanding with Cooper that I should deal with the landing places at Nelson, but in everything else he has a say, equal to mine. I am writing to Mackrel see inside to see that Cooper's rights he takes the Cable to Sydney are duly protected. If you reply to this write me Hotel Splendide Rue de la Paix Paris. I am glad you are getting on so well with the business at the Museum.

Yrs very sincerely
Julius Vogel.

C7: Hector to Vogel, 24-8-1875

Hocken MS-0443-3/13/7

London
24th Augt. 1875

Dear Sir Julius,

I dont think my note can bear the construction you have put on it. At any rate I did not intend it so. I gave no opinion about Botany Bay being the terminus or rather – land – end of the Cable in Australia for the terminus as mentioned in the contract is the “Telegraph Office Sydney”. Being present I over heard what took place & it amounts to this. Sydney Heads is a bad landing & is further off from Sydney than Botany Bay which is a good landing. The arrangement was one quite between the Telegraph Co. & the Construction Co. & had nothing to do with the Govt. Contract. About the N.Z. end I gave advice as you asked me to do – but only on the ground that the Govt. wished to have early information as to what point in Blind Bay (only term used in the contract) would be taken so that land arrangements might be made.

The signing of the Chart was only an affair between the two companies but I was glad to see it done as it enables you to send out definite instruction to the Colony.

I do not entertain the idea of connecting the Cables at present, but if it is ever to be done sufficient Land should be secured at once. That is all. Nor would the Cables be actually connected at any time, but as it is now, the messages from Australia for the N.I. will have to be translated to Blenheim & then re-translated to Wn. a double expense that will fall on the N.Z. Govt. By removing the large staff for Blenheim to Wakapuaka one translating staff will do the work of both. You may feel quite easy that I have not in any way committed you.

Yrs
J Hector.

C8: Cooper to Hector, 15-11-1876

MS-0443-3/15/9

Nov. 15/76

My dear Hector,

I have very carefully examined the file of papers relating to the new Cook Strait Cable, and there is not a word on any of them which could directly or indirectly warrant the statements made in the extract from the *Evening Argus* which you enclosed to me & which I return herewith. The only mention of your name is by Dr Featherston, where he says that he consulted you upon receipt of a letter from Mr Latimer Clarke suggesting modifications in the order for the cable.

Yrs sincerely
G.S. Cooper.

Evening Argus, 15 May 76

It will be remembered that last session a vote of £10,000 was taken for procuring a new cable for Cook's Strait. This was done before the old one broke and the order for the construction of the new cable was also sent home before that event occurred. The specification of the cable wanted were prepared with great care by Dr Lemon, and the information subsequently obtained, in sounding for the old cable, as to the nature of the bottom, showed that Dr Lemon had correctly specified the kind of cable required. It is specified provided for ten miles of heavy cable for the northern shore end, and the soundings taken subsequently by the *Luna* showed that for nearly seven miles from shore the bottom was rugged, rocky, and broken. The 10 miles of strong cable were therefore just enough to get over this dangerous bottom. The remainder of the cable having to lie on a sandy, even, shelving bottom, was ordered of a light description. Had Dr Lemon's specifications been sent to the manufacturer, exactly the sort of cable required would have been made, but by some ill fortune Dr Hector happened to be in London when they arrived, and the Agent-General consulted him. Now it is Dr Hector's role to pretend to know everything, and to pooh-pooh the knowledge of everybody else about everything. Fancying he knew more than Dr Lemon about the bottom of the Straits, he had the presumption to alter the specifications, and so altered they have been acted on, and the cable manufactured. Instead of 10 miles of heavy shore end there are only two miles, and the result is pretty certain to be that the new cable will not last more than a couple of years at the outside. The very weakest part will be over the chasm where the old cable broke, and the portion where the bottom is smooth is ordered thicker than is at all necessary. This is a very pretty little muddle.

[For a rebuttal on Hector's behalf, see *The Evening Post*, 11/12/1876, p. 2, which quotes the *Appendices to the Journal of the House of Representatives F-8 1876*. The article makes the point that Lemon's original specifications were deemed unsuitable by the engineer in charge of construction. The engineer suggested an alternative which was approved by Hector].