

A sympathy almost revolutionary in its intensity was matched by practical kindness as is witnessed by this reply to a request invoking Lander's assistance for some unfortunate.

"It grieves me that I can do so extremely little for Padre Gasezzi. But out of my poor 300 a year which is all I receive from an estate of 3000, I have given the Hungarian 30, and must help some few Italians poorly indeed. Tell the Padre that humble as my offering is, I would have accepted the same from him in the same circumstances. . . ."

In commenting on Fitzgerald's colonization schemes Lander did not hesitate to prophesy. That such prophecies have been fulfilled only in part does not diminish their interest.

"I look forward to the time when the wiser and more equitable government of America will induce the inhabitants of Vancouver to unite with those of Oregon. Only one great advantage can be derived from the goldmines of California. They will attract inhabitants, who will starve without agriculture. The gold is merely the manure which fertilizes the surface and fructifies the seed. California, before the end of next century, must be the most commercial state in the world. Virtually she will command both India and China and at no expense of fleets and armies." Again in another letter two years later, (1851), he returns to the same theme.

"On more than one occasion I have published my opinion on the importance of California. That blind blunderer Canning might have obtained it when he acknowledged the independence of Mexico. Even this he could not have done unless a wiser man had prompted him: I mean Huskisson the best of our statesmen, not only of the present age, but of any."

Fitzgerald's arrival in New Zealand on the *Charlotte Jane* in 1850 prompted Lander to further prognostications.

"Strange it appears to me that any man should fix himself at such a distance from his country, when the finest and most fertile regions of America lie open to him and when land can be purchased for a quarter of the money. France and America will contend for the occupation of the Pacific and England is out of the question: her power is lost irretrievably. Nations, like plants scatter their seeds before they perish: ours has done so in New Zealand. . . . The United States, whether they continue united or not, must within the life-time of some now born (for some will live a century) contain three hundred millions of inhabitants, even if Ireland and Germany should send over only half a million yearly, and only for the next ten years."