

western portion of Nelson province. There is an unusually large number of maps of this district with careful reference to the location of coal seams.

HISTORICAL VALUE

Mr Alexander Turnbull in a note on one of the volumes says, 'There are an immense number of notes, MS. matter, MS. maps, many original drawings, etc., bound up with the volumes, which makes them exceedingly valuable and interesting.' On the whole I am inclined to think that they are more interesting than valuable though this is by no means to underestimate their value. Most of the notes are summaries in the margins of the various articles and letters—only comparatively rarely are the notes other than summaries. One valuable aspect is the way in which Burnand has inserted the name of the writer of a letter whose name is not given by the printer. We sometimes get this kind of note as in No. 259 (1849) alongside an editorial concerning compensation for absentee proprietors. 'This is a garbled and impudent article, there is scarce a word of truth in it, the editor is only annoyed because the committee would not countenance a long paper he had prepared, claiming the compensation in land for all original Colonists after they had sold their —— ———.' (land orders?). The uncertainty about the last two words raises a point. Many of the footnotes were written on the bottom margin of the page and have unfortunately been cut off too sharply by the binder. A great many of them are in pencil, and some, being over a century old, have become illegible.

The modern reader could wish for more forthright notes of this kind, especially with reference to contemporary characters.

MAPS

Unfortunately very few of the maps are the printed results of scientific surveys. The great majority are free drawings largely based on his own reading of various reports and not even on personal acquaintance with the country. Consequently there are some rather grotesque results when compared with the modern finished map. I found the most useful part of the maps to be the assistance they give in the identification of disused place names. For example, Port Eliot is shown by the map to be New Plymouth, and Port Newton to be Picton.