

As each new settlement was opened Burnand was among the first of the prospective purchasers and that notwithstanding his exasperations and his complaints against the Company. The many maps and references to Nelson and New Plymouth show him to have been an earlier purchaser in those districts. Coalfields in the former settlement especially attracted his attention.

New Edinburgh in its turn appealed to him and some of the most interesting of his maps show the settlement planted in the vicinity of Banks Peninsula. A letter received by the Rev. Thomas Burns, Presbyterian minister at Port Cooper, copied by his hand is an interesting document not otherwise available to the historian. It is headed, 'Extract of a letter received.' The removal of the settlement to Otago does not appear to have commended itself to him and I have not been able to find a record of any purchases made there.

On the other hand he took up several Canterbury properties, one of his town sections being an exceedingly valuable one in the south-western angle of the junction of Colombo and Hereford Streets. Apart from being an original purchaser in the various settlements he was always on the look-out for good properties coming back on the market through the failure of earlier proprietors.

Apart from these extensive purchases within the Company's domain he also bought a property in Takapuna.

Any reference to absentee proprietors as undesirable entities brought him to the defence of his kind and there is no doubt that he made out a good case for them. Certainly if all had taken the keen interest which he took in the country they would, as a class, have been more acceptable than they were. 'The absentee proprietors,' he once said, 'have given the country a local habitation and a name.' A characteristic caustic comment on the same question will be found pencilled in the margin alongside an article on the question at page 5 of Volume X.

Of course he had his opinions on the government's varying policies on the New Zealand question. They were founded on the conviction that free institutions ought to be granted the settlers at the earliest possible moment. For example on page 45 of Volume X reporting the debate in the House of Commons on the New Zealand report in 1850, he notes in the margin