

wages but he also is a very superior man I could name fifty in the same position if I wished On the other hand I must say that there are a lot who do nothing but growl & curse at the country all day wish themselves back in England & cant understand how any one can live in such a country these hang on for a time they then scrape together as much as will take them to Wellington or Auckland soon get tired of that & go to Sidney that is no better they try Adelaide & generally go the rounds of the Australian colonies having begun to tramp they cannot leave off some have returned but are no better for their experience They are half starved & in rags & yet will not work unless they get exorbitant wages & live a sort of vegetable idle life in a hut . . . in which they have squatted & yet they are ten times better than the unfortunate overworked underpaid English labourer with nothing but the workhouse to look to If these half starved English or Irish labourers could see the way in which even the poorest & idlest thrive here they would come in flocks I am quite sure. . . . I tell you all this my dear Lou that you going amongst the country people as I dare say & hope you do may be able to combat many of their foolish prejudices against emigration & make themselves & especially their children so much better off You should see the little full fat fellows proud & upright independant From old prejudices I sometimes feel a *little* that I am not talking to an English labourer he is not so bowing & scraping perhaps our people are a little too brusque from feeling themselves so suddenly elevated but I cannot say that I regret to see it so after giving it a moments consideration. . . . Give my love to all the dear folks at home & believe ever Dearest Louisa Your very aff brother C A Dillon."

The third letter, dated 27 to 30 January 1851, was also written from Nelson, but Dillon was merely visiting it, having removed to Auckland in 1848 when appointed Civil and Military Secretary by Sir George Grey, the Governor. Louisa, now Mrs Spencer Ponsonby, was still living in London.

"My dearest Lou. . . . You are quite right the Canterbury settlement is not all in my line it is far too high church to suit my taste The population is already one quarter composed of priests of different denominations who are going to fight for the poor souls of the emigrants to give them not to God but to their respective churches. . . . Sir George Grey wrote to me from Wellington a day or two since that he had heard through private letters that he would very soon be relieved I expect this will make very considerable changes in my movements as my office being one in which there is a great deal of personal intercourse with the Governor would be to any one very unpleasant to me unbearable where there did not exist the most perfect understanding with him I doubt very much if I shall meet a person again with whom I shall be able to get on as well as I have done with Sir George He is a person in whose