

sion of the understanding was that Wakefield would assist him in the compilation of the work and was expected to arrive 'almost immediately'. And in a later letter he again went over the Count's position. His French edition 'was long ago ready to be printed . . . [but] Mr Edward Wakefield who has engaged to assist him in bringing out the English edition, had asked him to wait until he (Mr. Wakefield) arrived in Europe before making any arrangement;' Wakefield, however, had brought out the English language edition without any reference to Count D'Abbans, who had no profit in view in the matter 'his only object being to give his countrymen a fair account of New Zealand.' Had Bell known of the full circumstances he would certainly have made it a condition of the Crown's acceptance of the thousand copies that 'the Count should be free to bring out his French edition at any time and in any way he might think fit . . .'

Among the many unanswered questions on this unfortunate publishing venture was the extent to which the Count's work was original or a revised draft of an outline which Wakefield had possibly given him. In view of the apparent break-down in communication the stronger probability is that the draft by Count D'Abbans was his own, although were this so Cassell could have little ground for insisting on the prior issue of the American edition. One is tempted to wonder whether this condition had not been suggested or at least encouraged by Wakefield.

At the time of writing an insufficient number of copies has been examined to be dogmatic about the precise nature of each issue. There would appear to be at least four: the New York issue with the errors, no actual copy of which has been seen; the 'first' New York issue in red cloth which appears to have been followed by a similar binding in brown similarly illustrated as the 'first' but with a leaf of advts. before the title-page; one London issue in paper of which no firmly identifiable copy in original state has so far been seen and the 'commercial' London issue in plain blue cloth with cover-title: *New Zealand of To-day* which has at the end of the six leaves of advts, present in all other issues, a further eight which are 'Selections from Cassell and Company's Publications'. All issues seen, however, as the correspondence would indicate, are from the same type setting and carry on the back of the title-page the note: 'Copyright, 1889, by O. M. Dunham . . . Press of W. L. Marshon & Co., Rahway, N. J. U.S.A.'

Some indication of the character of the Agent General's issue may be seen from the advance copy in yellow paper covers on which the absurdities of Wakefield's design are accentuated. Turnbull's copy has his note: 'This one of the advance copies sent from New York to Agent General in 1889 from whom I got it. The work was pub here (London) in 90'. The copy has the same preliminary leaf of advts. as the