

pioneering of the freezing industry in Wellington. That which does survive, however, provides a unique picture of domestic life in the late Victorian period and a record of the diverse interests of a most singular businessman.

On his arrival in Wellington Wright seems to have settled first in the then sparsely populated suburb of Berhampore. In the late 1880s and early 1890s he was living in Britomart Street<sup>3</sup> and photographs from this period indicate that the interest in horticulture commented on in his obituary was already well developed. In Wright's photographs of his home and surroundings at this time one is always aware of the importance of a well-kept, productive vegetable garden and glasshouse to city dwellers of the time, especially those in the more distant suburbs.

During this period Wright's interests were not confined to Wellington. A series of photographs taken in the Mahakipawa district, Marlborough County, during the period 1890-91 indicate an interest in the Lucky Hit alluvial gold claim<sup>4</sup> and also, possibly, in the New Zealand Antimony Co. at Endeavour Inlet. An interesting sidelight on the latter is a copy plate of an elaborate testimonial drawn up by the employees of the New Zealand Antimony Co. in 1889 to Houston Francis Logan, who had been dismissed from his position as manager of works by the directors for alleged incompetence.<sup>5</sup>

From 19 December 1892 until 18 February 1893 Wright found himself in a quite different locality and occupation. On 28 July 1881, Little Barrier Island (Hauturu) had been proclaimed as under negotiation for purchase by the Crown in a *New Zealand Gazette* notice. At the time, however, ownership of the island was being disputed in the Maori Land Court by Ngati Whatua and Ngati Wai, judgement being given in favour of Ngati Wai in October 1886. It was not until October 1891 that Ngati Wai entered into an agreement with the Crown to sell the island as a forest reserve and bird sanctuary. At the same time tempting offers were made to Ngati Wai for the kauri stands on the islands and in March 1892, negotiations with the Crown not having been completed, and Auckland merchant, Simon Welton Brown, entered into an agreement with Tenetahi of Ngati Wai to purchase all the kauri timber on the island for £1,000 and to remove it within five years. Felling proceeded apace to the displeasure of the Lands and Survey Department and public opinion. Among the concerned laymen who had visited the island was Henry Wright who, in the *Weekly Graphic* of 30 September 1892 and in a report to the Lands and Survey dated 17 October, made clear the damage that had already been caused to the timber stands on the island. In December an injunction against further felling was issued and Wright was