

for Maori anecdotes and local lore as if it were fresh in his mind, not something he had read in the past.

A year more or less, one again reflects, is of little moment to anyone save a pedantic biographer. Whatever the precise date of his initiation, by the late 1880s Turnbull had become an ardent book collector. A handful of accounts survive from the last months of 1887, recording some of the young tyro's early purchases. In view of his recent travels it is not wholly surprising that voyage narratives figure prominently – Cook's in eight volumes quarto (presumably the official eighteenth century set), Parkinson's and Dampier's. In the New Zealand collection, narrowly defined, foundation works were Brees's *Pictorial Illustrations* (of special interest to a Wellingtonian), Cruise's *Journal of a Ten Months' Residence*, Domett's *Ranolf and Amohia* (bought soon after the poet's death), Grey's *Mythology of the New Zealanders*. Early in 1888 he acquired most publications of the Hakluyt Society, while a large purchase later in the year enriched and diversified the New Zealand collection. Certain items take on added significance in the light of the 1886 journey. S. Percy Smith's *Eruption of Tarawera*, for example, is a report on the disaster which occurred less than five months after Turnbull visited the Terraces. Then, as pictorial mementos of the tour, there are *The Sounds, Lakes, and Rivers of New Zealand* and the companion brochure, *The Thermal Springs of the North Island*. Works on the Maoris abound – White's *Ancient History*, Gudgeon's *History and Traditions*, Grey's *Polynesian Mythology*, Pope's *Health of the Maori* – and, less directly related to Turnbull's recent experiences, Buller's *Birds of New Zealand*, Buchanan's *Grasses of New Zealand*, Jervois's *Defence of New Zealand*, et cetera and so forth. His aims in this native field were not yet comprehensive but he was already casting his net very widely.

Voyages and works on New Zealand represent only two of Turnbull's interests in this early formative period. The invoices disclose that he bought 'Bewicks Works' and 'Fitzgerald's Works' and the 'Oeuvres de Moliere'; he bought Craig Brown's *History of Selkirkshire* and 'Lay's Scottish Cavaliers'; he also bought 'Piers Plowman' and 'England's Helicon' and 'Valpy's Shakespere' in fifteen volumes. And with particular zeal he seems to have hunted out and bought the works of John Ruskin. 'Why Ruskin in particular?' asks the biographer and remembers that he once lived on Denmark Hill near both Dulwich College and the Turnbull's 'home' on Sydenham Hill. Pushing his inquiries farther, he consults the invaluable notebook kept by Turnbull in the eighties and comes to a section entitled 'Trip to English Lakes begun 6<sup>th</sup> August 1887'. This laboured account of solitary rambles and coach excursions, of ruined castles and inspiring sunsets, even more stilted in expression than the New Zealand journal, describes an excursion he made on the third day of his visit. In the morning he took a coach to