

the Samoans but the only people in Samoa able to help him were capitalists such as Nelson and Westbrook. The oddness of the situation did not pass unnoticed. It provided Holland's critics with a powerful argument and sorely embarrassed his Labour Party colleagues. Holland disliked being reminded of this 'weird alliance' but it could not have displeased him that he was attaining an objective by manipulating a capitalist.

\* \* \* \* \*

'Biography,' it has been said, 'is about a man, and the ideal data is that which seems to take us deepest into his or her personality, like Florence Nightingale's notes from God and Alfred Deakin's prayers.'<sup>25</sup> It is fortunate that this ideal data is to be found in quantity amongst Westbrook's letters to Julian Dana, the American author who saw *Gods Who Die* through the press. Westbrook, who was always careful to 'maintain a stiff upper lip', took Dana completely into his confidence between 1933 and 1935. He consistently revealed to Dana things about himself that only crop up occasionally in his letters to others<sup>26</sup> and he unburdened his personal woes upon Dana. Westbrook's friends—and there were not many left by this time—probably realised the extent of his private worries, which his poor health aggravated, but only by observation and not through mail. He confided so completely in Dana probably because the latter was the only outsider removed from the political scene whom Westbrook trusted. He could not allow the others to see that he was merely a man of common clay yet he desperately needed someone to talk to, hence the intimate letters to Dana. Dana, on the other hand, was reticent in revealing personal details about himself but flattered Westbrook in a nauseating manner.

How nice it must be to know that you will soon be a very famous person! I think I've done a good and truthful job in writing your story, George, but the thing that will please me most (outside of the fact that, as my friend, I want the book to please you) is that the people of Apia and Samoa will have to sit up and take notice of the First Gentleman of Samoa in their midst.

Yours enthusiastically,  
Dana<sup>27</sup>

Westbrook's correspondence also reveals the extent to which he was consumed by the political situation in Samoa. Whether writing to his son in Auckland, to old acquaintances of his early trading days, to the editor of the *Pacific Islands Monthly* or to friends and correspondents in New Zealand, Westbrook invariably has a preponderant amount to say about events in Samoa. Quite clearly, his involvement in politics became an obsession that resulted in his losing both sense of proportion and direction. In the end he felt he could not withdraw from the arena.