

career at the Bar. John Coleridge Patteson, his son, early reveals that his observations are made in the full knowledge of both Selwyn and himself that these views would reach the Imperial authorities notably W. E. Gladstone, Selwyn's friend and contemporary at Eton, and Henry Pelham, fifth Duke of Newcastle, Peelites who joined in strange alliance the government of Lord Palmerston and Lord John Russell in 1858. Gladstone served as Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Duke of Newcastle as Colonial Secretary from 1859 to 1864.

Before arriving in New Zealand Patteson wrote from the *Duke of Portland* in a journal letter dated 25 June 1855 to his father:

I must write one sheet or so to you wh. must not be seen out of the house, giving you an exact account of the state of the C.M.S. clergy, of the treatment the Bp. has suffered from them, and the Salisbury Sq. committee, of the extraordinary manner in wh. self will and ingratitude seem to be developed in a colonial atmosphere . . . also I shall give you, as exactly as I can, an account of the qualifications requisite to make a clergyman useful in N.Z. or Melanesia; of course this will be simply retailing what the Bp. has often told me, *but he does not* write it lest it shd. get abroad and so compromise him; but he told that *I* might, and agreed with me that it might be useful that some such account shd. be in the hands of someone who could state among his friends with some degree of authority the sort of person required.

Unfortunately the 'sheet or so' is not to be found but this observation alerts the reader as to the significance of this collection of letters. J. C. Patteson reveals himself as a sensitive, humble man subject to introspection. He displays a strong sense of dedication and the highest regard and respect for Bishop Selwyn whom he refers to as 'my bishop' on more than one occasion.¹⁴ He writes incisively making very personal comment on personal encounters by reporting conversations verbatim and drawing excellent word pictures of people. This is exemplified in his estimation of William Swainson, Attorney General, as:

. . . not a man known intimately by many and by no means an easy man to understand; in fact his mistake is probably this, that he likes to be an enigma to many people, and almost on purpose is somewhat inconsistent, but he is a valuable man, and personally I value him much, and we talk freely together.¹⁵

The letter concludes with a postscript which clearly puts the significance of the Selwyn Patteson relationship into context:

Jan. 23 (1860). I saw the Bp. yesterday—his mind is quite made up about Melanesia. He said 'Suppose Archd. Hadfield had taken