

deeply the Archbishop of Canterbury's warning in the consecration service of how a bishop should rule his own house—'the fear that one might *hinder* & cd. scarcely help. It seemed as if the shadows lay thick upon me.'<sup>35</sup> Always intense and something of a worrier, within the idiom of Tractarian piety, she was now a mother for the first time when some of her contemporaries were grandmothers. It all exacerbated her tendency to self depreciation. Worry over her ability to be Charlie's 'playfellow' as well as to train him to stamp out Satan under his feet colour many of her later letters. Fortunately Charlie abounded in self-confidence and, although it was pain and grief to his mother, in normal naughtiness. When the Hadfields with four young children came to stay, Charlie bit Occy Hadfield and then shaped up to fight Annie. 'There is no innate gallantry in him I fear', Caroline solemnly wrote to Sophia Marriott. When Prince Albert died she even worried about the responsibility resting on the Queen's shoulders in raising a son who was heir apparent.

But when she turned her mind to public affairs her opinions are pertinent and significant. In letters she was outspoken at the folly and injustice of the Waitara purchase and at the short-sightedness of the 'grasping and covetous Settlers':

What one chiefly mourns is the thought of our doing wrong to this people [the Maori], and then supporting it by force and so beginning what may be a long chain of wrong and misery to both races; like all evil, the beginning seems small.<sup>36</sup>

She was also contemptuous of the folly of the military who

never having walked over a mile of the interior & knowing nothing of the nature of the Country say, "Make roads thro' it, destroy the Bush & the Forests etc".

... and now he [General Cameron] finds even in peace without the least shadow of opposition from the Natives, that in making the road into Waikato, he had the utmost difficulty in maintaining an advanced post only a few miles beyond the metalled road! Does it not seem curious that men shd. not have common sense about such things?<sup>37</sup>

She had found Gore Browne kindly and courteous as a private person but she had no time for his ability as governor:

I feel rather disposed to be indignant with the Home Govt ... A Country like this ... ought not to have been confided to a man whose Governing powers had only been exercised on the rock of St Helena ... It became well known to the Natives that McLean, the land Commnr. was in fact Governor ... & that their character was judged by *him* only by their willingness to sell land.<sup>38</sup>

From Sir George Grey who was a frequent visitor to Bishop's House she expected better things. But she became more and more puzzled by him as he too became involved in the coils of war: