

language and attending to the sick 'in a very humble way'.

Although she has little to say on the matter, the stress of keeping things 'going forward at home' and the anxiety of the Bishop's long absence took its toll on Sarah's health. She felt that she was living in a box '... ceiled walled and floored with Kauri wood'. Her need for quietness is obvious when she writes of slamming doors and the chattering of Maori visitors in and out of her home at all hours, of carpenters making rooms upstairs for the students of St John's College. She looked forward to migrating 'to a less noisy corner of the house when they have vacated the lower rooms'. She had accepted that 'a public life was to be mine from the day I landed' but life at St John's College which officially opened in January 1843 must have been a scarcely endurable ordeal for her. Sarah became 'utterly helpless and suffering from severe nervous headache'. The Bishop took her to Kororareka to the care of Mrs Burrows and set up a retreat in the stone store at Kerikeri

... in the cathedral library and another room of equal size in the lower story [*sic*]; where the quiet is as unbroken as the most nervous person could desire; and in this respect entirely different from the inevitable noise of wooden buildings.¹¹

In October 1843 the Selwyn family left for Auckland to spend the summer with Mary Ann Martin while the Bishop made another long Visitation journey which took him as far south as Stewart Island.

The depth of the accord between the Selwyns and the Martins is perhaps epitomised in Mary Martin's comment as she recalled the voyage to New Zealand:

One thing... had been clearly impressed on my mind by my husband, ... namely, that the aborigines of our new country were to be cared for and worked for, and this lesson was by example as well as by precept daily brought before all of us on board by Bishop Selwyn.¹²

Mary Ann Martin was ten years younger than Sarah who had enjoyed the young invalid's lively company on the *Tomatin*. On her part Mary Ann found the Bishop's wife '... staid and so very good' which probably reflects Sarah's contentment in remaining quietly in the background in the presence of her husband's forceful personality.¹³ Mary Ann's letters are strong and practical and she speaks of Sarah's need, now that she was pregnant, for a quiet, comfortable and congenial home where, removed from all domestic responsibilities, she could be cared for:

And this is a comfort in a strange new land, for it is the lack of sympathy that is the most trying part of a woman's lot. People fancy at home that our sufferings are to be of a more material order—salt pork and dampers and the like... No—the