

South Wales in 1788 had on board 'a printing press, with all needful appliances for a printing office'.<sup>16</sup> The wooden screw press sent there by Captain Arthur Phillip lay unused until about 1796, when George Hughes utilised it to become Australia's first printer. His better-trained successor, George Howe, was a West Indian born in St Kitts. While working as a compositor on *The Times*, London, he ran into trouble for shoplifting in Alcester, Warwickshire. First sentenced to death for the offence, his sentence was commuted to seven years transportation to New South Wales, where he arrived in November 1800, just at the right time to become the government printer. Two years later, he issued the *New South Wales General Standing Orders*, the first book to be printed in Australia. He also founded, on 5 March 1803, the first newspaper in the continent: the *Sydney Gazette and New South Wales Advertiser*. Government support for the press continued when Governor David Collins's small hand press was employed to print government proclamations in Port Phillip, Victoria, on 16 October 1803, but Victoria's first newspaper, the *Melbourne Advertiser*, was not printed until 1838. Governor Collins carried his press with him when he was transferred to Hobart Town, Tasmania, in 1804, where as in Port Phillip the press was used to print government orders. In 1810, the first newspaper in Tasmania was launched as an official enterprise. The foundation of printing in Queensland is similar to the pattern described above. James Swan, who was first employed as a compositor on the *Sydney Colonist* by Dr John Dunmore Lang, a Presbyterian evangelist, had also worked on the *Sydney Empire* before being persuaded to take a small press to Brisbane, on which he printed the *Moreton Bay Courier* on 20 June 1846.<sup>17</sup> But the printing press in New Zealand was quite different in sentiment from the press in the Australian colonies. While pioneering settlers came to New Zealand of their own free will, and had no animosity towards Britain, a very large proportion of the early Australian settlers were convicts and Irishmen with no friendly attitude to Britain. The tone of the press, therefore, was not unlike that in colonial Ghana.

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In designing the *Nelson Examiner*, Elliott was aiming at the characteristic nineteenth-century newspaper, a newspaper that the pioneering settlers would easily recognise as one of the trappings of modern civilisation. The head line banner of the *Nelson Examiner* has a seven word compound title: THE NELSON EXAMINER, | AND | NEW ZEALAND CHRONICLE. The first line set in black letter appears to be in the five line pica type cast by Vincent Figgins and has an 'h' with a slightly broken or worn out serif in