

Figgins. The text is usually set in brevier which is similar to, but not the same as, that cast by Vincent Figgins in 1841, and in the nonpareil cast by the Vincent Figgins typefoundry. Elliott also used wooden condensed type with slab serifs for the title banner of some of his supplements and for the mast-head of two of his subsidiary newspapers. He also used fonts that are similar to (but not the same as) the sanserif open type cast by Blake and Stephens ca. 1832, and also by Vincent Figgins in 1833 for some of his jobbing printing; as for instance on the title page of J. L. Bailey's *The Nelson Directory and Companion to the Almanack for 1859*.<sup>30</sup> Comparison with later Figgins specimens (not available to me in Wellington) would probably have permitted more positive identification of some of the other typefaces used by Elliott.

Elliott's printing establishment was on a small scale, with (probably) a single press at the commencement of his business. He worked from type set by hand, put to galley, proofed and printed on damp paper following the traditional letterpress techniques.

First issued as a weekly apparently from makeshift premises on government property,<sup>31</sup> Elliott published his paper weekly for a little over a decade before transforming it into a bi-weekly on 5 July 1854<sup>32</sup> and later into a daily on 4 January 1871.<sup>33</sup> The *Nelson Examiner* was for more than a decade and a half before the establishment of the *Nelson Colonist* on 23 October 1857 the only newspaper in Nelson, and became shortly before its death in 1874 the oldest newspaper in the country. During its existence, spanning more than a generation, Elliott issued several monthly summaries for Europe, as well as several monthly summaries for England and innumerable supplements. Elliott's supplements varied in regularity of issue, content and page size from about 145 mm x 285 mm to the size of the parent paper. The first supplement issued by Elliott is unique in many respects. It is a comprehensive historical overview of the Wairau Affray and has a plan of the scene of the conflict between the Maoris and the Europeans at the Wairau plains. The site plan, which was set with types at angles and curves, had water-colour added to it, probably by hand, in three colours of blue, brown and green, which show through the page of the Alexander Turnbull Library copy I have examined.

The *Nelson Examiner* also had three offshoots: the *Wakamarina Intelligencer*, the *Illustrated Examiner Summary for England* and the *Nelson Weekly Examiner*, later the *Nelson Weekly Examiner and Goldfields Advertiser*. Initially designed for publication as the *Nelson Examiner and Wakamarina Intelligencer*, it appears this newspaper did not materialise as intended, but was published simply as the *Wakamarina Intelligencer*.