

Nelson Examiner published news of the war in the form of bylines mainly from the *London Times*, the *Liverpool Times*, the *Manchester Guardian*, *Journal de Constantinople*, *Journal de Debats*, the *Sydney Morning Herald* and in the form of letters written from the battle front by servicemen. Such was the *Nelson Examiner's* influence and interpretation of Britain's efforts in the war that through its successful appeal over £1,031 12s. 6d.²⁵ was collected as a British Patriotic Fund for the orphans and widows of fallen British soldiers. In this exercise, the *Nelson Examiner* was a champion of Anglo-Saxon virtues and energies.

If ever there was a just war undertaken, it is the war which has led the troops of England and France to the East, to beat back a ruthless and cruel invader of the territory of an unoffending ally; if ever it was the duty of peaceable men, and those who live by the arts of peace, to succour those engaged in war, it must be when the enemy is a violater of treaties, an infringer of rights, and one whose lust of power leads to the enslavement of our race. As Christians, as patriots, as lovers of freedom, nay, as men averse to strife, and desirous of seeing the world become one great temple of concord, we must admit the necessity—the sad necessity—of checking the march of the Russian towards universal dominion, the destiny which her sovereigns have sought to persuade themselves was in store for them; the object which her rulers have long and strenuously kept in view. People who hold these sentiments, will need little stimulation to subscribe liberally, according to their means, to relieve the suffering which such a war will inflict; those to whom such sentiments are foreign, if British subjects, are unworthy of the name they bear.²⁶

The *Nelson Examiner* not only reported the news of the war but also provided critical commentary on how other journalists were presenting the news. While Elliott found the *New York Courier and Advertiser* pro-British, he saw the *New York Herald* as pro-Russian and attributed the general unsympathetic American attitude to Britain during the war to the large Irish element and cosmopolitan character of the American population.²⁷

Elliott sought to influence public opinion along similar lines in support of Britain during the Indian mutiny (1857-1859). Though he did not initiate it, Elliott drew editorial attention to the setting up of an Indian Relief Fund. With bylines from the *Bombay Telegraph*, the *Friend of India*, *The Times*, the *Colombo Times*, and the *Sydney Empire* in addition to his own editorials, on the diversity of peoples and geographical features of India, he provided news about the rebellion. The *Nelson Examiner's* position was that a successful British rule in India was a desirable civilising influence for the Far East.²⁸

The American Civil War (1861-1865) generated marked divisions in public opinion which were reflected in the editorials of most contemporary newspapers. Part of the controversy was due to ignorance of American conditions at the time; an ignorance that led