

the Governor or Government of New Zealand; I shall do everything in my power to make your discoveries known. I shall give a lecture on the 9th at the London Institution & introduce them there; & also to the Geological Society ; though unfortunately [and here the usual criticism] you have not furnished me with sufficient details of the circumstances under which they were found to enable me to make a good geological story.³⁸

For the next few months there were the planned exhibits and papers to attentive audiences. On 2 February 1848, Gideon read his promised paper on the collection before the Geological Society. Since, as he noted with some surprise, the demonstration of the Moa's existence in New Zealand, 'one of the most interesting palaeontological discoveries of our times' had not previously been discussed before the Society, 'I therefore consider myself particularly fortunate in having the opportunity, through the researches of my eldest son, Mr. Walter Mantell, of submitting for the examination of the Fellows of this Society, perhaps the most extraordinary collection of fossil remains of struthious birds that has ever been transmitted to Europe, and which contains the crania and mandibles, egg-shells, and bones, of several genera and species, most, if not all of which have probably long been extinct.'³⁹ There was 'a full attendance,' he noted. 'Mr. Darwin present, and expressed himself much gratified.' Although the new role which Walter had now assumed in his father's eyes, and that which he was to assume in the colonial establishment, reduced Gideon's anxieties as to the future, it seems only to have intensified his dissatisfaction with the use or abuse of his son's talents. In his letters, Walter, although continuing to inform his father of rich discoveries in the natural history of New Zealand, constantly complains, sometimes pathetically, of his father's continuing criticisms and his lack of praise or even understanding of the difficult conditions under which he was forced to pursue his activities in science and in work.

Gideon's reaction to the large collections which his son was providing and, in fact, the size of the collections themselves and the effort in obtaining them introduce another important element into the relationships which were evolving between the professionals in England and the collectors in the Colony. Natural history possessed a value more practical than its contribution to universal knowledge. Williams has described the transformation of the 'intellectual' into something of an entrepreneur, a purveyor of goods echoing Adam Smith who earlier had said of knowledge that it was now 'purchased, in the manner of shoes and stockings, from those whose business it is to make up and prepare for the market that particular species of goods.'⁴⁰ Knowledge, professional knowledge, publicly acknowledged as a restricted resource, in this