

Expedition to Western Canada from 1857 to 1860. Upon his return, and only 26, his professional status was acknowledged by acceptance into the British scientific establishment. When the Provincial Council of Otago sought a geologist for the Province, they readily offered him the position on Murchison's recommendation. Both recommendation and nominee were the more readily received because of their Scottish connections. Appointed in 1861, Hector began his initial three-year term on 1 June 1862 under a contract which marks the establishment of the first scientific institution and office in New Zealand.<sup>59</sup>

The nature of the respective responsibilities of the two men as well as their personalities made it inevitable that theirs would be an ambivalent relationship, a mixture of professional cooperation in the search for support for their common commitment to science and a competition for the limited resources and opportunities then available. Haast, the older, was of another generation. He lacked Hector's Britishness as well as the ties with the British scientific establishment which Hector's training and accomplishments had earned him. Haast gave the impression of the enthusiastic amateur whose antecedents were the great traveller-explorers who in the maturing of Romanticism sought universal Truth in the varied details of Nature. Hector was more staid reflecting the new face which a professionalised science had imposed upon its practitioners who, like the clerics whose position the new truth-seekers sought to share, displayed in their sober public stance the responsibilities for a rational explication of Nature, for a *Natural Science*.

At a much more explicit level than that of overall outlook or personality, Hector and Haast played out roles which were defined as they were constrained by the particular structure of New Zealand society and government. Both the plan of settlement and the Colony's topography conspired to emphasise provincial affiliations and allegiances against the sense of a national identity. The individual provinces, each with its coastal urban centre looking away to the world beyond, were separated one from another by the difficulties of overland communication as well as by the distinct nature of their settler populations and goals. Not unlike the American colonies, an initial sense of unity was born only out of the feeling of isolation which distance imposed and the necessary dependence upon the mother country for grudgingly granted economic and military assistance. The centre of social and economic life lay at the provincial level. The earlier history of the Colony sparkles with the effects of the consequent inter-provincial rivalry and conflict. Both Hector and Haast began their professional careers in New Zealand as provincial geologists as each province sought to maximise its hoped-for natural resources. Although—