

& recompense for your share in the Natural History of your fair Islands.<sup>92</sup>

It was Hector, however, who had the opportunity to observe at first hand how Owen was exploiting the New Zealand material. In London in 1875 on a working leave during which he hoped to acquire by exchange materials for the recently established 'national' Museum in Wellington, he wrote to Mantell that

I have made it clearly understood that none is to have access to them especially Owen, who has done a very shabby thing about *Cnemiornis*<sup>93</sup> and *Harpagornis*.<sup>94</sup> His paper—in which he only mentions me when he can find fault, and by a juggle of words makes it appear as if he had discovered all about it without aid from my paper, saying indeed that I accord with the conclusions he arrived at!!!—is printed in Q to reproducing all our drawings without acknowledgment. However I paid him out at the Zool. Soc. the other night when he read a long paper on *Harpagornis* with profuse illustrations enlarged to full size from the figures in the Trans [*Transactions of the New Zealand Institute*] (Haast's paper). I was called on to speak and praised Owen for the fine memoirs he had produced from time to time on the *Dinornis* and its allies and said that he must have encountered great difficulties from the imperfect data he received—but that on this occasion he had excelled himself for his memoirs described in detail the anatomy of an extinct bird of which he had never seen a single bone. I asked him publicly if this was true and he had to confess. I then laid the pelvis on the table and said I would lend it so as to give some little additional value to his paper by having one bone of the bird figured from the original. He seemed to take it in good part after a while but I don't trust him not to pay me out.... I don't know what the Council of the Zoo. will do, but I told some of them that working naturalists trust to the Plates in the Transactions [of the Zoological Society] as they would to specimens and that if it once gets abroad that they were ever allowed to be mere enlarged reproductions of other drawings without acknowledgment even, the Trans. would be looked on with suspicion.<sup>95</sup>

And a month later after seeing the 'beautiful arrangement' of Mantell's 'old gathering of fossils at Paramoa', he continued with his criticism of Owen's behaviour:

I also saw Owen's *Cnemiornis* bones. You were right. He had the skull beside him for years (15 they say) but never associated with the leg bone till he saw my paper. Besides, his skull has no lower jaw. He has sprigged his figure of that—of the sternum & some other parts entirely from my paper without acknowledgment. Woodward tells me that they are constantly getting into rows by people coming and asking to see the originals of bones that have been figured by Owen, but which are only constructions from fragments which is all they have to show. Since the meeting at the Zoo. when I got him to admit he had not seen a single bone of *Harpagornis* the Council of the Society have decided not to print the illustrations to his paper so I have done some good.<sup>96</sup>

Owen's version of the affair was quite different. His paper, he explained to Haast,