

Not everything in London won unqualified praise. The Albert Memorial was 'a hideous abortion'. 'I'd heard that this was pretty bad, but nothing, no picture, no description, can come up to the horror of the original.' And there was, of course, another and grimmer side to London. That I will return to in a moment.

'It strikes me I am pretty heroic to get any work done under the circumstances', he wrote, but work had to be done. First, the subject for research had to be settled. He saw Pollard (Professor A. F. Pollard, the eminent Tudor historian, Fellow of All Souls and Professor of English History in the University of London) 'who is a great man . . . with the result that I shall probably be working under him on political theory of some sort, I think the idea of sovereignty. . . . Pollard reckons that would be far more broadening to the mind than working on NZ history'. It was not plain sailing. He heard that a lecturer had just finished a book on sixteenth century political thought (J. W. Allen, and his *Political Thought in the Sixteenth Century*) and considered switching to the seventeenth century. Then, realistically, recognising that Allen could hardly have 'cleaned up the whole of the century', went back to the Tudor idea and took along an outline of a proposal to Pollard. This, Pollard 'proceeded to tear to pieces in a manner rude, if not insulting. However it is something novel for me to have a prof take enough interest in me even to tread on me; so although I was a bit dashed at first I haven't been unduly depressed on the whole.' Worse was to follow. He revised the proposal. Pollard was highly critical:

I happened to mention the letters PhD and he was so horrified he nearly fell off his seat—thought I was going for an M.A.! I told him I was one already & had been accepted as PhD student by the Univ. Homily on wonderful character of London MA. Almost superhuman character of London PhD. Well, says I, would I be wiser to get back to NZ history which I know pretty well. Finally he thought yes, I might get a PhD on that. So I have to see Newton the colonial hist man.

Pollard, the 'great man', thereafter became 'that swine Pollard'. Newton 'turned out very decent'. In his view the subject was relatively unimportant, what was needed was the most intensive grounding in historical method and research, 'but as I was a colonial student, & wd probably be occupying a colonial chair (which I thought unduly optimistic) the best thing to do would be to take a colonial subject & work under him'. He settled on the subject of instructions to colonial governors between 1783 and 1840, 'I'm afraid it won't turn out to be especially readable when finished . . .' and changed his registration from University College to King's, which was Newton's college.

While the young colonial was being put firmly in his place by