



Frank Milner, aged 53, with his mother Annie Dodson Milner, aged 83, and sister Annie Beatrice Milner, at the family home Sunnybank, Nile Street East, Nelson, March 1929. Photograph in the author's possession.

Bertram's book has so finely shown,⁴ was to have brought sweetness and light to the whole of Polynesia, and beyond. Gibbs was a moving force in the Philosophical Society and the Nelson Institute and later in the Cawthron Institute, which he had a large hand in establishing. A skilled botanist, with wide scientific interests, and a tireless and adventurous trapper, he would take pupils and friends on walking trips up the Maitai, the Dun Mountain track and the Tasmans, commenting vividly on plant and bird life on the way. As educationalist he sympathised with new and more humanly stimulating methods: his disapproval of formal grammar teaching won him the title at the Central School of 'No grammar Gibbs'.⁵ The example of Gibbs—as scholar and teacher, as promoter of good cultural causes, and as lover of Nature and of Nelson's flora and fauna—was in the forefront of young Frank