

able if the school was to fulfil its true end of training the whole human personality. Thus at Nelson College, athletics apart, they initiated and developed between them, with widespread pupil response, a debating society and literary club, an entertainment committee (Milner as chairman) for organising Saturday night concerts, 'socials', and dances (boys partnering boys in the pioneering days).²⁴

In these and other ways under Littlejohn there grew perceptibly a more conscious sense of collegiate identity and pride, an *esprit de corps* that the young Frank Milner, now first assistant, greatly esteemed. One of the entries in a diary of this time, used largely for notes and quotations, is:

The eminence, the nobleness of a College depends on the capability of each of its generations of being stirred by the memories of a great past, and of a striving for spiritual ends. . . . It is this living force of sentiment in common that makes a collegiate consciousness.²⁵

More than anything else, Nelson College under Littlejohn persuaded him that even in a young New Zealand school such a 'collegiate consciousness' could be created and fostered. When he went to Waitaki this was perhaps the supreme lesson, and experience, he carried with him.

One activity at Nelson, the building up of the magazine the *Nelsonian* into what Littlejohn judged (generously, after three years at Scotch College) 'the best school magazine in Australasia',²⁶ was inspired solely and distinctively by his own initiative and talent. Within five years its circulation increased from less than 300 to more than 900. Issued each term—a remarkable undertaking—it filled ninety pages, with many illustrations. The magazine was edited by a committee of senior boys, together with the 'Business Manager and Treasurer', Mr Milner. Without the latter's prolific hand, stylistically observable if not formally proclaimed throughout many pages of each issue, the *Nelsonian* could scarcely have attained its range of interest and quality of presentation. Under the heading 'Managerial (Notes by the Business Manager)', which became a regular and expanding feature, he admits that

the bulkiness of the magazine places a big strain on our exchequer. But with an editorial staff fertile in voluminous copy, and a Business Manager also at times afflicted with the *cacoethes scribendi*, we find it difficult to restrain this exuberant tendency.²⁷

The 'temptation' to accept 'the allurements of would-be advertisers', though 'enticing', is rejected on principle: 'we feel that the traditions of the *Nelsonian* would be lowered by our admission into