

clause 14 as an example of East Cape dialect which drew attention to Grace as the possible author. The Committee decided to write to the Superintendent for information on the point although subsequently Wynyard provided a firm answer.³¹ Doubtless the elusiveness of the author was the reason for its failure to state correctly either Grace's initials or place of residence in its report which was tabled on 8 December. 'The Rev. M. Grace, of Turanga, near the East Cape' on his own admission to His Excellency was 'the author of the document in English'.

The Committee did not attribute 'any improper motives either to Mr Grace or to Mr Telford', but could not acquit them 'of a most serious want of discretion, and . . . much . . . regretted that these gentlemen should be located in districts where the propagation of such views . . . are most likely to be productive of the most mischievous results'. It pointed out that the opinions of the duet were in strong contrast with the members of the C.M.S. generally: ' . . . none . . . who have had an opportunity of expressing their opinion . . . feel the slightest sympathy towards this unfortunate proceeding . . . '. On the wider question of speeding up land purchasing the Committee recommended that a number of resident land purchase officers be appointed in key districts.³²

Without the cooperation of Carleton the Committee might never have seen a copy. Wilson in the evidence quoted had clearly seen one before the meeting although he probably made his comparison at the hearing by using the one left by Carleton. Wynyard was expecting a copy 'from the interior'³³ which doubtless never arrived; John White had not seen one when he also appeared³⁴ and Dr Andrew Sinclair as Colonial Secretary told Wynyard that 'it never has been in the possession of the General Government'.³⁵ Whether pernicious, simple, evil or honest it has, to the time of writing, simply disappeared although the writer is confident that at least one will be found. An interested friend has been watching for one to surface for some 25 years.

In a post mortem on the report the *Southern Cross* was really concerned only with the steps necessary to speed up land acquisition from the Maori owners. It thought that Grace and Telford were much to blame, perhaps not completely so, for the Central Committee of the Society had acted with 'utter disregard of their duty in sending Mr Grace to the interior again among the natives', adding with Henry Williams in mind, although not quite correctly on points of detail, that time was when they had taken it upon themselves to dismiss one of their brethren 'for the crime of being opposed to Governor Grey'.³⁶

Meanwhile, at quite a different level and in another hemisphere, the hasty despatch of 31 October from Wynyard to Sir George