

national feeling of Independence adverse to the progress of the English Government, which such opposition creates; and the evil which it is likely to generate by creating feelings of resentment and ill will between both races . . . the result of which, as the Europeans preponderate, must inevitably be very injurious to the Aborigines themselves . . .

He urged that 'every vigilance should be used to check the circulation of a document which written under the guise of Religious sympathy', in the 'present state of the native mind', and in the districts where it had been circulated, was 'of a most dangerous and seditious character . . .'.¹² Wynyard had already instructed the Native Secretary to make every possible exertion and inquiry to trace the authors and to get him a copy.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies was informed. Wynyard stressed the danger to the work of colonisation and the tendency of the circular to create disaffection 'and a disposition to resist her Majesty's authority on the subject of all others [in which] the Natives are most susceptible and most easily mislead' [sic]. Public opinion pointed to the Church Missionary Society as the author and he regretted to inform London that their inquiries 'confirmed the fact, and places the onus of this mistaken and imprudent measure on a Member of that Body . . . in Auckland'.¹³ Among the enclosures was a copy of his letter to the local C.M.S. Committee calling upon them to 'counteract the evil tendency such a document is calculated to create'.

In New Zealand, members of the Society were quick to repudiate any responsibility for the document or its publication. Robert Vidal, the recently appointed Secretary of the Central Committee from England, in a statement dated 27 October and signed jointly with G. A. Kissling (who Grace later declared had first agreed with his views), and W. C. Dudley, declared that they were 'neither directly or indirectly connected' with it and knew nothing of it until their attention was drawn to the newspaper article three days after its appearance on the 17th. In a lengthy accompanying letter Kissling said he understood that Grace intended to call on Wynyard.¹⁴ No record of the subsequent interview exists. Grace later felt that he had quite satisfied the acting Governor who gave him a very kind reception although the latter's impressions were less favourable.

The broadside itself had no imprint, thus giving some encouragement to the opinion of both press and officialdom that it was run off on the Mission press. Maunsell as the person in charge of mission printing was most anxious to rebut suggestions that such was the case:

We have nothing that can properly be called 'The Mission press'. There are I believe only two amateur presses (if I may so call them,) very small, now in the