

luck a clue may surface in the still considerable amount of Selwyn correspondence unavailable to students.

A further question which she was anxious to follow up was one of navigation—whether the Poor Knights would ever be visible from an open boat outside the Bay of Islands, a distance of some thirty miles. She noted that Carter had transposed the Black Rocks from the eastern end of Moturoa Island to the seaward side of Cape Brett and hence was ‘quite happy to play silly beggars with geography to make a good story’. It is relevant that the summit point, Puketuaho, of Tawhiti Rahi, the northern of the two main islands is 645 feet (197m.) above sea level. Under favourable conditions the upper 140 feet should therefore be visible although Mrs Ross recalled that from Oakura Beach (Punaruku), a few miles closer, visibility depended on whether it had been raining or was about to do so. However, in view of wind and current the most remarkable aspect of Carter’s little voyage was that he returned, presumably unaided.

As suggested, it is possible that further detail on other aspects of Mrs Ross’s fascinating discovery may surface in overseas as well as local material. Again, Dickensians and the several Dickens libraries supposedly checked by A. H. Reed may now be able to unearth more from the knowledge of Carter’s authorship and correspondence with Dickens. Enquiries are being made from the Huntington Library.

#### REFERENCES

- 1 *From the Black Rocks, on Friday, and A Gold Digger's Notes*, edited (or written?) by Charles Dickens. Foreword by Professor W. P. Morrell; introduction by A. H. Reed. Dunedin, 1950.
- 2 NZMS 478, AP. In 1936 these papers were borrowed from Mr T. Clendon Millar of Rawene by Professor J. Rutherford on behalf of the Auckland Centennial Historical Committee. After the latter body had gone into recess the Clendon papers had been sent by the Town Clerk to the Auckland Public Library for safe keeping and were later formally deposited in the Library by Mr Millar. See also note 10 below.
- 3 Five letters in Packet 4, dating from June 1861 to July 1872.
- 4 His survey plans of old land claims in this region are in the Lands and Survey Department, Auckland.
- 5 J. R. Clendon’s son.
- 6 R. C. Barstow to Bp Selwyn, 13 Sep. 1859, MS 60/31 AR.
- 7 R. Carter to Bp Selwyn, 16 Oct. 1860, *ibid.*
- 8 Dated 5 Nov. 1860, with 24 signatures appended, *ibid.* Neither Barstow nor J. R. Clendon, who was still living at Russell at that time, were among the signatories.
- 9 R. C. Barstow to Bp Selwyn, 24 Jul. 1861, *ibid.*
- 10 William Clarke to J. R. Clendon, 24 Jan. 1866, Clendon House papers 5/7 AP. When the New Zealand Historic Places Trust purchased the Clendon House