

of the project's termination part of a seventh was in type, and a further two and a half volumes had been translated and were ready for typesetting. Four volumes of genealogies were also begun during 1890 but held over due to printing delays, and disappeared once the project was axed.⁵⁷ They, like the other unpublished material, lie amongst the heterogeneous manuscript collection comprising White's papers. The two published fifth and sixth volumes, along with volume four, completed White's history of the Tainui canoe. The sequence from mythological accounts to nineteenth century historical incidents used for the Takitumu volumes was repeated.

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If most parliamentarians viewed with relative equanimity the end of White's history, not everyone was so contented. White expressed his own feelings in a letter to Dr T. M. Hocken:

As to the Maori History being stopped, not any thing in life could have caused me such regret. I had used all my energy in life to obtain a complete account of the maori and after the written agreement I had with the Government and the six out of the seventeen volumes in Print, and four more translated ready to print[,] for the House to do as they have is a fact that I have not yet been able to understand, but if the History is not worth its cost to translate and Print, well it is not for me to say that I am to have all my own way, but I do think that if I die there may not be any one who will be able to put the maori I have collected into the full meaning that the public may wish, as for the Poems I do not know any one who has studied them to render them into English but such is life.⁵⁸

Hocken and Sir Robert Stout, the former premier, both expressed their regret at the work's termination.⁵⁹ Stephenson Percy Smith, soon to found the Polynesian Society, had fears in 1890 that a 'mania for reductions' then 'possessing' the Parliament would prevent the work's continuation.⁶⁰

The strongest statement of support came from A. S. Atkinson. He sought to drum up parliamentary and other support, including that of his brother and Percy Smith, with whom it appears he was well acquainted. He described those seeking to stop the project rather graphically as 'te iwi nanakia' (the deceptive people), and the speeches of the Colonial Secretary in the House as 'ta te kuare tana mahi' (his contribution was that of an ignoramus).⁶¹

Eventually even he had to admit defeat, writing in October, 'Ka po taku rangi i tou kupu pouri rawa' (my day has set on your very sad message). The depth of his feeling was subsequently expressed in a letter of condolence to White's widow, 'It will be a constant source of great regret to me as I know it will be to you that he was not allowed to finish his work—stopped by those who did not know its value—and which it would have been his joy [and] pride to have finished'.⁶²

White's newspaper obituaries also criticised the government's actions, labelling them 'questionable wisdom', and referring disparagingly to