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FREDERICK WELD: A POLITICAL BIOGRAPHY

Thesis submitted for the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy in History

by

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University of Auckland

February 1973

PREFACE

Frederick Weld arrived in New Zealand early in 1844, an unassuming and shy twenty-year old with high hopes and modest assets. He left the colony two decades later, a well-established and prominent citizen whose reputation was regarded by imperial authorities as ample qualification for appointment to a colonial governorship. Following a successful term of office in Western Australia, he was promoted to Tasmania and thence to the Straits Settlements, from which post he retired in 1887. The purpose of this study is to demonstrate how Weld's colonial experience greatly influenced the nature of his administrations as a governor and to illustrate how his outlook gradually changed from one of a colonist to that of a servant of empire.

The principal sources of information for this thesis have been manuscript collections, newspapers, parliamentary debates and official despatches, and I am most grateful to the staffs of the following institutions for their advice and help in locating material. In New Zealand, the Alexander Turnbull Library, Auckland Public Library, Auckland University Library, Canterbury Museum, Canterbury Public Library, Dunedin Public Library, General Assembly Library, Hocken Library, National Archives, Victoria University Library; in Australia, the Archives of the Catholic Archdiocese, Perth, Battye Library of Western Australian History, La Trobe Library, Menzies Library, Mitchell Library, National Library, New Norcia Mission Archives, University of Sydney Library, University of Western Australia Library; in Malaysia, the National Archives and University of Malaya Library; in Singapore, the National Library and University of Singapore Library; and in

England, the British Museum (Bloomsbury and Colindale), Dorchester Records Office, Institute of Commonwealth Studies, Institute of Historical Research, and Public Record Office. I am indebted to Mr and Mrs S. Scrope of Flaxbourne House, Great Ouseburn, York; Lt-Colonel and Mrs H.J. Weld of Chideock Manor, Bridport, Dorset; Mr and Mrs H.H. Vavasour of Ugbrooke near Blenheim; and Mr and Mrs J.B. Douglas-Clifford of Stonyhurst near Cheviot, for their generous hospitality and assistance. My thanks are also due to the University Grants Committee for a three-year postgraduate scholarship of mixed tenure; the Auckland Savings Bank and the British Council for travel grants which enabled me to work in Malaysia, Singapore, England and Western Australia, 1968-9; and my parents for their ready offers of financial aid towards my various research trips in New Zealand and to eastern Australia in October 1971.

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Finally I should like to thank Mr Don Branch for drawing the maps; Miss Elizabeth Andrews, Dr Margaret South and Mr Alan Burton for saving me from committing a number of solecisms; Dr Annelies Rohrer for proof-reading the entire manuscript; and Mrs Mary Ogle for calmly persevering with the formidable task of typing it.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONSOfficial

AJHR	<u>Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives</u>
PD	<u>Parliamentary Debates</u>

Newspapers

<u>CC</u>	<u>Cornwall Chronicle</u>
<u>HBH</u>	<u>Hawke's Bay Herald</u>
<u>LE</u>	<u>Launceston Examiner</u>
<u>LT</u>	<u>Lyttleton Times</u>
<u>M</u>	<u>Hobart Town Daily Mercury</u>
<u>NE</u>	<u>Nelson Examiner and New Zealand Chronicle</u>
<u>NZS</u>	<u>New Zealand Spectator and Cook Straits Guardian</u>
<u>ODT</u>	<u>Otago Daily Times</u>
<u>PG</u>	<u>Pinang Gazette and Straits Chronicle</u>
<u>PH</u>	<u>Penang Herald</u>
<u>PT</u>	<u>Penang Times</u>
<u>SDT</u>	<u>Singapore Daily Times</u>
<u>SFP</u>	<u>Singapore Free Press and Mercantile Advertiser</u>
<u>SI</u>	<u>Straits Intelligence</u>
<u>ST</u>	<u>Straits Times</u>
<u>TH</u>	<u>Taranaki Herald</u>
<u>TT</u>	<u>Tasmanian Tribune</u>
<u>WI</u>	<u>Wellington Independent</u>

Location:

AP	Auckland Public Library
AT	Alexander Turnbull Library
CMu	Canterbury Museum
DRO	Dorchester Records Office
Du Ho	Hocken Library
GA	General Assembly Library
NA	National Archives
NL	National Library, Singapore
PRO	Public Record Office
TA	Archives of Tasmania