

**COLONIAL SURVEYING WITH  
A VIEW TO THE DISPOSAL OF  
WASTE LAND: IN A REPORT TO  
THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649420506

Colonial Surveying with a View to the Disposal of Waste Land: In a Report to the New Zealand Company by Felix Wakefield

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Cover @ 2017

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**FELIX WAKEFIELD**

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# COLONIAL SURVEYING

WITH A VIEW TO THE

## DISPOSAL OF WASTE LAND:

IN A REPORT TO THE NEW-ZEALAND-COMPANY.

BY

FELIX WAKEFIELD.

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LONDON:

JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

MDCCLXIX.

S 850-14 r. 34.

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TO

T. C. HARINGTON, ESQ.,

SECRETARY OF THE NEW ZEALAND COMPANY.

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*Nayland, 10th September, 1849.*

SIR,

REFERRING to the letter which you did me the honour to address to me on the 8th May last, to my answer of the 9th May, and to your reply of the 8th June, I have now the satisfaction of submitting to the Court of Directors of the New-Zealand Company a Report on the subject of that correspondence.

As this Report is intended to form a sort of code for the regulation of public surveying, and the disposal of public lands in the South Province of New Zealand, and to be so framed as to place upon paper, for the direction of the Company's servants, now and hereafter, the views, generally and in ample detail, which I should have endeavoured to carry into effect myself, if I had been able to accept the proposal which the Directors did me the honour to make to me of being appointed their Surveyor General; as the extent of waste land to which such Regulations would be applicable when the native title thereto shall be extinguished, amounts to nearly fifty million acres; and as, with a view to the most rapid and prosperous colonization of this vast territory, there is nothing to be compared in importance with the adoption of the

best mode of converting into private property the waste lands at the disposal of the Company, it seems expedient and even necessary, that I should commence my Report by distinctly setting forth the principles which I have taken as a guide in framing regulations with respect both to surveying and to the disposal of land by the Company to individuals. If the Company should do me the honour to adopt my suggestions, it will desire to obtain for them the public confidence: and this it can only do by subjecting to public examination the grounds on which those suggestions are based. The whole plan, if it should be the best for the South Province of New Zealand, would also be the best for the North Province, and the Australian colonies, whether the disposal of the public lands in those colonies were administered by Companies or by the Colonial Office, or by local governments independently of the Colonial Office. The subject of the disposal of waste land excites an interest in that part of the world proportioned to its great importance to the welfare of the colonists. The New-Zealand Company therefore may be sure that its mode of proceeding will undergo rigid scrutiny by competent judges. If the verdict of colonial opinion should be in its favour, the colonization of the Company's territory will thereby be greatly promoted. For all these reasons I purpose, in the explanatory portion of my report, to aim at fulness of explanation rather than brevity.

The main and over-ruling principle which I have had constantly in view, and to which every one of the Regulations that I shall presently submit to you has strict reference, is that which is commonly expressed