

**THE  
COLONIZATION  
OF NEW ZEALAND**

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The Colonization of New Zealand by Charles Ritter

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**CHARLES RITTER**

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## P R E F A C E.

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As recording the opinions entertained by a distinguished scientific foreigner, and reflected by him on the minds of his intelligent countrymen,—the great German nation,—on the no less interesting than important subject of the systematic Colonization of New Zealand, it has been thought, that a translation of Professor Ritter's recent Publication would not prove unacceptable to the British public.

The learned Professor passes in comprehensive review, the past and present circumstances, as also the future prospects of New Zealand; deducing from the latter nothing less than that, by a wise administration of its affairs, and right development of its vast natural resources, the "double island" may eventually become the Britain of the southern hemisphere. In this conception, conveying as it does, a tacit hope that such may prove in effect the crowning result, the enlightenment and philosophy of a purely philanthropic mind are manifested; nor is there surely a patriotic British bosom which will

not cordially respond to these generous aspirations for the reflection of Britain's greatness in this her latest, and most promising colonial offspring.

In the course of his remarks, Professor Ritter feelingly deplores the consequences of the neglect in which New Zealand had been left from the time of its discovery by Cook, until a recent period, when the attention of the British Government was only first awakened to a sense of its injustice towards the aborigines, by the example set to it in the work of moral and social improvement by a private company of benevolent enterprising individuals, animated by a sincere desire to carry out to their full extent the true principles of a humanizing colonization.

To the patriotic efforts of the **NEW ZEALAND COMPANY**, the Professor accords, indeed, the highest praise; more especially as regards the very liberal arrangements made by it for the welfare of the natives, by the gratuitous assignment, for their sole benefit in perpetuity, of one-tenth part of all its territory purchased from them. It will, doubtless, afford Professor Ritter pleasure to learn, that while this inadequate translation of his able discourse is passing through the press, accounts have been received from New Zealand, of the successful establishment of the Company's Second, or **NELSON SETTLEMENT**, at **TASMAN'S GULF**, on the Southern Shore of Cook's Strait; thus fully bearing out his own and other testimony to the fact of the highly-favoured districts bordering the respective sides of that strait, being those to which settlers would naturally resort

in preference, as destined to become, in effect, the true emporium of the colony's future greatness.

As an indication of the watchful interest excited on the Continent, by the progress of British Colonization, Professor Ritter's Pamphlet can scarcely fail to create attention in this country, or to produce a salutary effect upon our colonizing operations; by proving that they are subject to the searching scrutiny of foreign contemporaries to whose opinion weight attaches, and who will be ready to hold them up to general approval or condemnation, according to the evidences of their merits.

THE TRANSLATOR.

*London, April, 1842.*





# PROFESSOR RITTER

ON

## NEW ZEALAND.

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THE Colonization of New Zealand, through the medium of the New-Zealand-Company, formed in England, and especially in London, during my brief residence there, a short time since, a prominent topic of general conversation. I visited the New-Zealand House, situated in the heart of the City, within the walls of which building, a rich store of knowledge, relative to that cardinal point of the earth's compass, was revealed to my attention, and where, at the same time, as a diligent observer, I was brought into communication with many of those who, up to this period, had been leading men in promoting the colonizing proceedings.

The first difficulties of the undertaking—the greatest impediments which the Colonization had until recently experienced, from the opposition of the Colonial Authorities and the Legislature, because the British Crown had as yet been undecided with reference to the mode of taking actual possession of the double

Island,—were now triumphantly surmounted. The Crown had proclaimed the Act of Sovereignty over New Zealand: the substance of Parliamentary discussions and investigations of the affairs of the colonization had been printed and published on the public account: the public voice had unequivocally pronounced in favour of the continuance of the Company's proceedings, and this was now assured by the participation in the enterprize, of members of some of the most noted families, and of the first mercantile houses in the kingdom.

The annually increasing want of a steady emigration from the European British Isles to distant colonies, had now, in fact, resolved itself, in the minds of this great sea-faring nation of twenty millions of men, into a matter of the most urgent necessity. Nor was it difficult to understand that a fruitful double-island, hitherto entirely unappropriated, of the size of England, and numbering at the most a native population of 100,000 souls,—being scarcely twenty-five individuals to the German square mile,\*—must serve as a wide field of industry and development for British subjects, crowded together in their own country in the closest contiguity, in the proportion of 4,500 and upwards to a similar square mile. The nobler part of the British nation yielded the full measure of its assent to the new, humane system of colonization, differing entirely from all former systems, which was now for the first time adopted. The astonishment of the observer could not but be excited at the restless activity displayed by a private Colonization Association; at the great amount of land purchased in New Zealand through the medium of its agents; at the

\* The German geographical mile is equivalent, to 4.60 English miles.—*Translator.*

rapid afflux to that distant region, of numerous emigrants of all classes of the British population—the rich and the poor alike! Yet, without the assistance of the Government,—nay, without its sanction,—the operations of the Colonizing Company, though not quite two years had elapsed since its formation, had been of so vigorous a nature, that already, possessed of a capital of 100,000*l.*, it had effected the purchase of twenty millions of English acres, (1 acre = 1.5846 Prussian acres: 13744 acres = 1 German square mile,) or 1,454 German square miles\* of territory in New Zealand, equivalent to nearly one-third part of the entire Island. Already had about twenty-four emigrant ships been despatched with 7000 settlers, comprising individuals more or less wealthy, the whole of whom were conveyed to, and landed at their destination, free of any expense to themselves! Already had the foundations been laid of three not unimportant harbour-cities; while in the port of that intended as the future metropolis of the Island, and designated *Wellington*, (a name replete with interesting associations to every Briton,) no less than 110 ships of various tonnage had entered during the first year, laden with all necessaries for supplying the wants of the settlers, and these vessels have been followed by hundreds more. Down to the middle of last summer, the cost of the dwelling-houses erected at Wellington had operated the local circulation of a capital of 18,000*l.*, and the value of the goods and stores in depôt was estimated at 200,000*l.*! The steady progressive development of the extensive enterprise to which, besides London, towns such as Plymouth, Glasgow, and other places, had zealously attached themselves, was now readily to be anticipated.

\* See note *ante*.