

government to preserve as far as possible, both the freedom and the commercial interests of the natives, the promotion of whose welfare has since been the guiding policy of imperial action in the Pacific Islands. On the 29th of May, 1840, the formal act of annexation took place, just in time to prevent the acquisition of the group by the French.¹

The subordinate relation of New Zealand to New South Wales could not long be maintained. Distance alone and ignorance of the condition of the islands made effective supervision on the part of the Sydney Executive altogether impossible. In an announcement to the Legislative Council of New South Wales on May 28th, 1840,² Governor Gipps recognized the purely temporary character of this relationship, in stating that "the annexation of these islands to the government of New South Wales would impose additional labors on the Council, but would be attended to until the New Zealand colonists were in a position to legislate for themselves." The time was not long coming, for towards the close of the year a royal charter³ was issued erecting New Zealand into a separate colony, establishing a Legislative and Executive Council and conferring an independent authority upon the Governor for the administration of the colony. Thus quickly ended the nominal connection of New Zealand with New South Wales—a connection arising solely out of the inability of the English government to supervise the work of organizing the new colony, which necessitated the commission of the task to the nearest colonial Governor. The relationship was altogether too brief and too unreal to make the slightest impression on New Zealand's history, or affect her relation to the Australian group.⁴

Meanwhile an important migration had taken place to another part of Australia.⁵ A small party of settlers from Launceston crossed over the strait and effected a settlement on the shores of Hobson Bay. They entered into an agreement with the natives for the surrender of a considerable tract of country, claiming to have acquired thereby a good title from the sovereigns of the soil.⁶ But this claim was repudiated by Governor

¹Quick and Garran, *Annot. Const. of Aust.*, p. 75.

²N.S.W. V.P.L.C. 1840, no. 1.

³Nov. 16, 1840. Quick and Garran, *Annot. Const. of Aust.*, p. 75.

⁴Rusden, *Hist. of Aust.*, vol. 2, p. 192.

⁵Quick and Garran, *Annot. Const. of Aust.*, p. 52.

⁶Bonwick, *Hist. of Vict.*, p. 160.