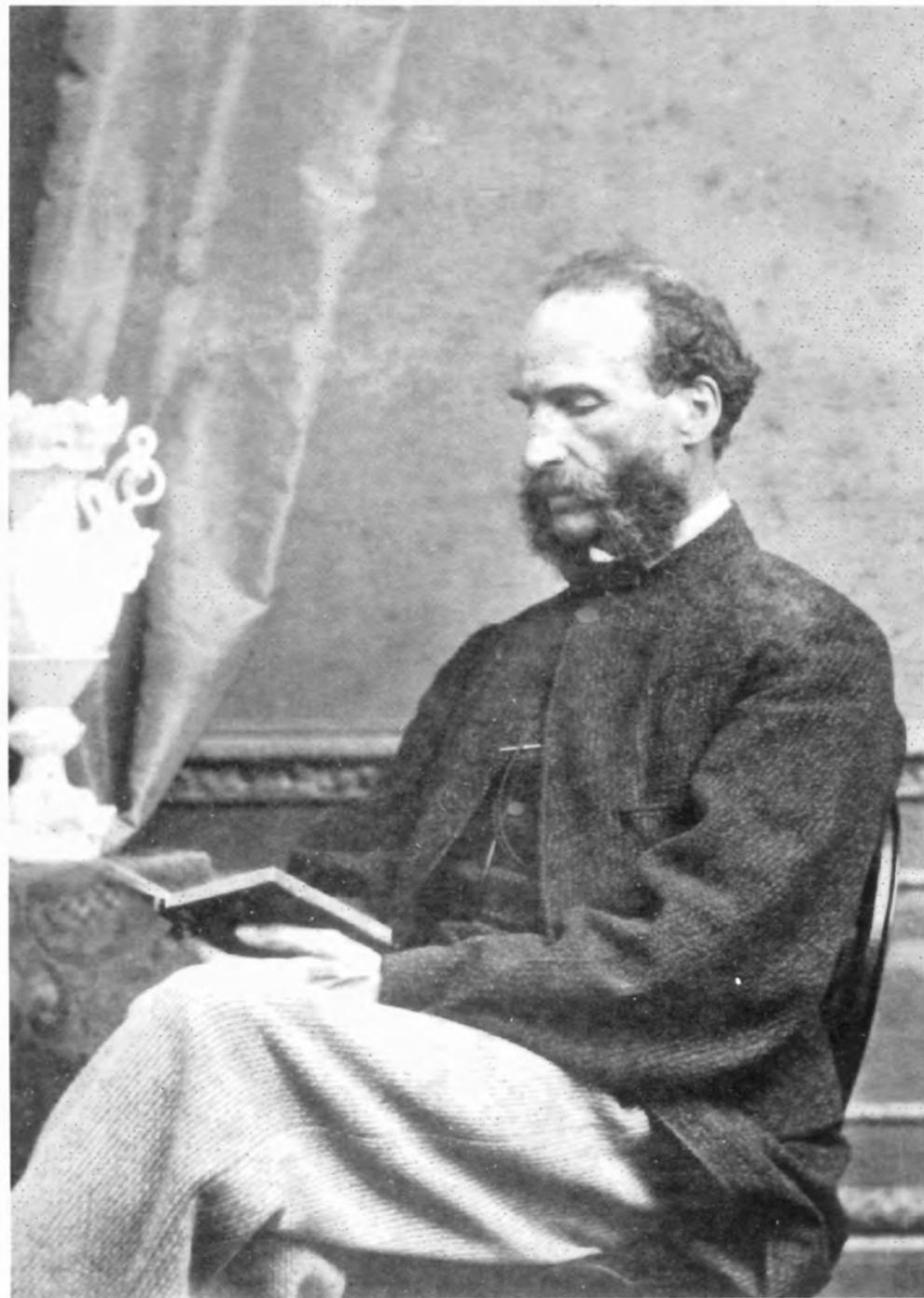


ANDREW BUCHANAN



OF CHINGFORD  
1807-1877





**ANDREW BUCHANAN**  
**of**  
**CHINGFORD**  
**1807-1877**

**Andrew Hamilton Buchanan**  
**and**  
**Neal Harkness Buchanan**

1995  
Christchurch  
NEW ZEALAND

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Andrew Buchanan,  
18 September 1866

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and Neal Harkness Buchanan

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# INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this book is to bring together a number of documents and reminiscences on the life and family of Dr Andrew Buchanan, 1807–1877, who lived in New Zealand from 1857 to 1873. He has been called “Andrew Buchanan of Chingford” after residences of that name in England and New Zealand.

This book includes information on his family, his ancestors and a list of all his descendants. The main sources of information are various publications which are referenced in the text. Unpublished sources include letters, and a diary kept by Andrew Buchanan in 1865 and 1873. Handwritten notes from an old family bible have been reproduced in full.

Acknowledgements are made to the many individuals, too numerous to name, who willingly assisted with information and photographs.

## **Computer Database**

All the people mentioned in this book, and other ancestors and relations of Andrew Hamilton Buchanan, are stored on the Pedigree genealogical database. Printed copies or disk copies are available on request from Dr Andrew Buchanan, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Canterbury, Private Bag 4800, Christchurch, New Zealand.

# ANDREW BUCHANAN

Andrew Buchanan was born in Jamaica on 10 December 1807, the son of George Buchanan, a sugar planter. His mother was Jane Gowie, daughter of a Scottish planter on the island of St Kitts.

With the emancipation of the slaves in the West Indies many planters left the islands and returned to England, and the Buchanans were among these. In 1816 they settled at Sherborne in Dorset, where Andrew was educated.

He was tall and erect, but of slight build, he stood 6ft 2in in his stockings, and stooped a little in later years. His weight never over eleven stone, his hair black and inclined to be curly, his features aquiline, grey eyes overshadowed by strong eyebrows ... according to relatives “a marked Buchanan face”. (Fulton 1922)

After leaving school he went to Paris to study medicine and surgery. In 1830 while he was still in Paris, there was an uprising in Poland, where the Poles were trying to free themselves from the oppression of more powerful neighbours – Russia, Prussia and Austria. Andrew Buchanan’s sympathies were with the Poles, and he joined them as an army surgeon, and remained with them until the uprising was put down by the Russians.

## Medical Practice

Andrew Buchanan returned to London, and later went to Scotland, where he studied and graduated from St Andrew’s University with a degree in



Dr Andrew Buchanan



Emma Buchanan  
(née Harkness)

medicine. Back in London he was made a public vaccinator in 1833, vaccinating more than 1000 people each year, and for the next 25 years he carried a large and successful practice. He was one of the Governors of St George's Hospital. In 1835 he married Emma Harkness, daughter of Dr John Harkness. They had a home at Stepney in London and a small farm at Chingford in Essex where they spent weekends (Fulton 1922, Scholefield 1940).

Andrew Buchanan took a warm interest in colonial matters, being a frequent speaker at the Colonial Institute. He was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, a Fellow of the Colonial Institute, and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

## Children

The dates of birth and christening of their eight children are as follows. All were born in Stepney, London.



Andrew Buchanan,  
27 May 1843

Name	Birthdate	Christening
Emma	2 July 1835	4 September 1835
Agnes	18 February 1837	17 March 1837
Edith Mary	17 November 1838	June/July 1839
Fanny Chaytor	13 April 1841	21 April 1841
Janet Curling	27 March 1843	21 April 1843
Arthur Vaudrey	26 January 1846	March 1846
Noel Lee	6 March 1848	6 April 1848
Emily Batson	6 April 1850	May 1850

## Travel to New Zealand

Andrew Buchanan travelled to New Zealand on the *Dinapore* in 1857 with his wife Emma and eight children. Among the passengers were British Army officers Humphrey Jones and Alexander Clerk who married Emma Buchanan and Edith Buchanan, respectively, soon after their arrival in Auckland. Bishop Selwyn officiated at the double wedding ceremony on 1 December 1857.





Clovernook in the background of a painting by John Kinder, 1859

According to Eliza Stack (1938), who was on the same ship, "*the voyage was long and tedious, and not marked by any striking incidents*", taking almost four months from 13 April to 5 August 1857.

## Clovernook

In Auckland, Andrew Buchanan bought a property called Clovernook from Mr John Stokes on 9 October 1857 for £1000. A series of paintings by

Clovernook, 1862  
Reproduced with permission of  
Auckland Museum





John Kinder of St Mark's church in Remuera show that the house was constructed between 1857 and 1859. According to the title deed, Andrew sold it to Mr Charles Stichbury in September 1861. The Buchanan connection with the house did not end then, however, because Andrew Buchanan's diary shows that his daughter Emma and her husband Humphrey Jones were living there in 1865, presumably leasing it on their own account or through the army.

Neal Buchanan visited Clovernook with his family in 1960. The house was demolished in 1962 for construction of a motorway, but remains of the foundations are still in place. A partial history of the property is given by Grattan (1963). Archaeological excavations are described by Wilson and Turner (1993). Dominic Wilson has provided useful information and is continuing to investigate the history of the site.

## **Move to Otago**

Hearing that there was good land in Otago to be had at a reasonable price Andrew Buchanan went to Dunedin to investigate. He rode with Campbell Thomson of Rocklands Station, up through the Strath Taieri and Maniototo. In 1860 he obtained a property called Patearoa from WH Valpy.



Chingford, about 1880  
Reproduced with permission of  
Hocken Library, Dunedin

Two years later he moved his family from Auckland to Otago. They arrived by the schooner *Clutha*, bringing their horses, and some carpenters and kauri timber to build a house. When the schooner arrived at Port Chalmers the horses were lowered over the side, and allowed to swim ashore before being led up through the bush to Dunedin. Going up the harbour the *Clutha* became stuck on a sand bank opposite what is now Macandrew's Bay and some of the timber had to be unloaded before the ship could go on to Dunedin (Fulton 1922).

## Chingford

The Buchanans settled in the North East Valley suburb of Dunedin, in their new house which was named Chingford after their old home in England (Fulton 1922). From the Crown Grant Application

Book in the Hocken Library, the Chingford property was purchased in two sections, on 30 January 1861 and 14 May 1863. The house was built by Mr R Coombs who also travelled from Auckland on the *Clutha*.

Andrew Buchanan is listed in the Roll of Electors for Roslyn, 1866, with place of abode as Chingford, North East Valley. His qualification as an elector was his freehold ownership of the two sections and 21 acres of land.

After Dr Buchanan left New Zealand in 1873, his daughter Janet and her husband William Baldwin lived there for a time. The house was later bought by Mr PC Neill, a well-known Dunedin citizen, who made considerable additions. Chingford was bequeathed to the city of Dunedin on Mr Neill's death in 1936, allowed to fall into disrepair and was demolished in 1968. The original stone coach-house is still there, used as a Community Arts Workshop. Much of the area is now playing fields with many magnificent trees in the grounds. Brief descriptions of the house, with photographs, are given by Hendry (1976) and McCoy and Blackman (1968). Gary Blackman has provided much useful information on Chingford.

## **Patearoa**

Andrew Buchanan bought the Patearoa sheep station in 1860. This consisted of 30,000 ha (75,000 acres) from the Lammerlaws to Sowburn Point, 25 km (16 miles) south of Ranfurly in the Maniototo Valley, Central Otago, in a large treeless area of mountains and wide river valleys. Some details of life there can be gleaned from the diary of the neighbouring Puketoi Station, 8 km (5 miles) away across the Taieri River. The first apparent reference to Andrew Buchanan in the diary is on 23 October

1861 when "Mr Wain came and went to look out a site for the Doctor's house along with Murison and McM." The house was not completed until about 1863 according to a letter dated 1864 (reproduced later in this book).

After moving his family to Dunedin in 1862, Andrew Buchanan often travelled to his farm at Patearoa. He did not practise medicine apart from emergency calls. On two occasions in the Puketoi diary he was called on for his professional services, one being the death of John Black French at Puketoi, when an inquest had to be held. Another entry of note on March 17 1866 says that Dr Buchanan called at Puketoi with Bishop Selwyn who had been preaching at nearby gold mining camps and sheep stations.

Later, Andrew Buchanan's sons, Arthur and Noel, both spent time at Patearoa and Puketoi. The Puketoi diary was kept by Noel Buchanan at this time, and references to Dr Buchanan and family members are frequent in the diary from 20 May 1864 until 22 January 1869. Patearoa is now owned by the Beattie family and the old homestead is still in use. Mrs Margaret Hudson (née Beattie) of Timaru has provided useful information about Patearoa.

Puketoi was owned by the Murison family in Andrew Buchanan's time. It is now owned by Mr Geoffrey Crutchley. Part of the old homestead is still standing and is used for temporary accommodation. The Puketoi diary is in the Hocken Library, Dunedin.

The following letter from Andrew Buchanan to one of his sisters (probably Elizabeth Sheriff if the Agnes in the letter is his other sister) gives a good description of travel to Patearoa.



Chingford, Dunedin, N.Zealand.

26th March 1864

My dear Sister,

I had the pleasure of receiving your kind letter of 18th Jan, a few days ago, and I sit down to answer it at once, because I find that in letter writing, as in other things, delays are dangerous. It is very long since I have written to you, although I have constantly intended to do so. I am glad to hear that you and yours are well, but I should have been better pleased if you had entered more particulars about your children and grandchildren. It is principally by telling trifling incidents about mine that I manage to keep up correspondence with the few friends and relations I have in England, an object I have much at heart.

The adventurous propensity which took me to Poland in 1832 [note: 1830 in Fulton] and brought me to N.Z. in 1857, is still

Puketoi homestead  
(Beattie 1940)



Patearoa homestead

strong in me. Not content with building a house in Auckland, and then another here, I have just finished a third on my sheep run, 80 miles up the country, and I am at this moment undergoing all the discomforts, fatigue and expense of once more moving the greater part of my family to a new home quite in the wilds – to get to which I have to travel merely by a track, and to pay £10 a ton cartage for every stick of timber, every article of furniture, and every morsel of food. And yet strange as it will perhaps seem to you, I quite enjoy the going backwards and forwards and the occupations of station life.

My wife and eldest son are there, and I intend to start in a day or two with my daughter Fanny and Harry Harkness, my brother in law who lives with us. I have a very light American trap with high wheels and wide axles which is difficult to upset, and well calculated to go over rough ground, and with a pair of good horses, I do 40 miles a day very pleasantly in fine weather, and safely in rough. Of course we have to ford

rivers and to go up and down rather steep places, but my wagon is furnished with a brake (an American contrivance I believe, for I never saw it in England), by treading on the handle of which I can stop the hind wheels without moving from my seat, and so can trot down almost any hill, to the greatest saving of my horses flesh on a journey.

Arthur, now 18, is learning to be a sheep farmer. He is very steady, intelligent, and active, and takes great interest in his work. I hope that in about two years he will be able to take charge of the run, and I begin to look forward to paying a visit to the old country. At present I have a manager.

My second son, Noel, and Emily my youngest daughter, will remain at school in Dunedin, where I think they have very fair means of education, and where I am sure they will be well taken care of. We are all perfectly well. My two eldest daughters Emma and Edith are in Auckland with their husbands who are with the troops at the seat of war. They are thoroughly sick of it, but there is not at present any prospect of peace. I am truly glad that in this the middle island we have but few Maoris, and are not in any way affected by the war except that we shall have to help pay the bill. Emma has no children. Edith has a girl and boy, who are really very engaging.

Janet (Mrs Baldwin), expects to be confined in August, for which event she is coming to stay with us at Patearoa Station, Maniatoto, New Zealand where please to address to me when you next write. I enclose a short note her mother had from her when

Wellington, 1860s



she first arrived at their run, which is about 40 miles from ours. By it you will be able to form some idea of her doings. I have every reason to be thankful that I am still surrounded by my children and that I can see them from time to time. When she speaks of swimming the Molyneux, you must understand that they crossed in a boat, but the horses had to swim.

I beg you to accept my photograph which was done since the one Aunt Eleanor sent you to look at, but which has the same unpleasant scowl and screwing up of the eyes, that a strong light always produces on me. From her letters Agnes seems quite happy with her new husband. But her marriage was rather a surprise to us.

I am, my dear sister,  
Yours affectionately,  
A. Buchanan

Andrew Buchanan retained an active interest in his farming venture for many years. Among John Robert's papers in the Hocken Library is a letter from Dr Buchanan, dated March 25 1873, the year he returned to England:

I saw Mr Shennan this morning and asked him if he would do you and me the favour to value the furniture etc., at Patearoa for us, and he has kindly consented to do so. I also took the opportunity of consulting him as to the probable value of sheep next November, when I am to give delivery, and I mentioned to him that the price you and Mr Cordon had agreed on was 9/- each. (I think that was the sum you told me.) But Shennan said that as the Patearoa sheep are merinos, whilst

Gordon's were half breeds, he thinks that merinos would not be worth as much as the others by at least 6d a head. If you have no objection therefore, I would like to name 8/- or at most 8/6 each. I hope to have the opportunity of seeing you on the matter tomorrow, as I promised to write to Groom about it on Thursday.



Dunedin in the 1860s

And then in a postscript:

After having written the foregoing, I found in my box at the Post Office, your note of yesterday's date, in which you suggest that 9/- be fixed for the price per head for sheep delivered, in excess or short of 25,000. I happened just now to see Driver in the street, and asked his opinion. He said after a little consideration, he thinks 8/- would under the circumstances be fairer than 9/-, bearing in mind the uncertainties of the future, and that wool is more likely to fall than to rise. As his views then seem to concur with those of Mr Shennan, I would propose that we agree to make 8/- the price to be fixed on.

## Political Life

Andrew Buchanan was nominated to a seat on the Legislative Council (the Upper House) by Governor Gore Brown, and was appointed to it in 1862 (Fulton 1922). The nomination must have been in 1861 because Sir George Grey replaced Gore Brown as Governor in October 1861. During Andrew's 12 years in the Council he was active in improving the conditions of people in mental hospitals, and in many other aspects of life in the community. He

spoke in the Council on a variety of subjects. Brief references to his speeches are made by McLintock and Wood (1987) and Jackson (1972).

An interesting account of life and politics of those times is given in the diaries which he kept in 1865 while living in Wellington and visiting Auckland, and in 1873 en route to England. The originals are in the Hocken Library, Dunedin and some quotes are given below.

Andrew's duties took him to Wellington frequently. A sea voyage to Wellington in July 1865 with his wife Emma is described in the diary. Canterbury passengers boarding at Lyttelton near Christchurch included Cracroft Wilson, also JBA Acland from Mt Peel who shared lodgings with Andrew Buchanan in Wellington and who is mentioned frequently in the diary. Comparisons between Otago and Canterbury included the following:

We could not help being struck and pleased with the civility of all the people at Lyttelton. Coming from Otago, where the Scotch uncouthness and rudeness are almost universal among the lower classes, this was very marked. Your raw Scot, though no doubt possessed of some sterling qualities, has not the smallest idea of "the small sweet courtesies of life", and is consequently to me a very repulsive animal. (22 July)

The political scene in New Zealand was in disarray in the 1860s largely because of the land wars with Maori tribes, often mentioned in the diary. The Government changed 10 times in the 17 years that Andrew was in New Zealand. Among other difficulties, a faction of settlers in the South

Lyttelton, 1860s



Island wanted to secede to avoid the cost of the wars:

An adjourned debate on the separation of the two islands, brought in by Russell of Auckland, was resumed at 12. It was great fun hearing it, both parties being riled and hard words banded from side to side. All the Auckland men except Mason, and nearly all the Otago men are banded together to support it. (9 September)

The frequent references to “The Governor” in the 1865 diary would have been to Sir George Grey, whose appointment was terminated in 1868 after he connived with the Government to keep British troops in New Zealand after they had been ordered home (see Bateman 1986, Belich 1993).

His diary has many references to places and political activists of the day, such as:

I dined for the first time at Bellamy’s ... The party besides myself and Acland consisted of Jolly, Stafford, Eyes and one more. Stafford talked a hurricane all the time, so that no one else had a chance. Although I am at all times a better listener than talker, yet this is too much of a good thing. The dinner consisted of a variety of showy dishes, some of them having a flavour of having been warmed up, and both the wine and beer were bad. (30 July)

The Canterbury men who have meals at Bellamy’s are Shepherd Kings, and seem to think it beneath their notice to enquire whether their dinner costs £1 or 30/-. I not

only cannot afford it, but I think it foolish and wrong to submit to such excessive charges. (7 August)

Dined at the Club at 6.30 with about 20, among whom Stafford, who is certainly less loud, egotistical and pretentious than he used to be. He sat opposite me, and I was able to take a fair share in the talk. Vogel seems [to be] getting fat and stupid. (10 September)

His view of the press is revealed when:

We also looked at the reporters' gallery, as they complain that they cannot hear well. We directed that the contractor should see some of them and do the best he can to accommodate them, although the reporting has hitherto been done so badly, it would be of no great consequence if the body of them should stop working forthwith. (15 August)

His medical background was apparently useful, when he had to:

... meet Prendegast, who is introducing a bill to regulate the sale of poisons. He has asked me to confer with Drs. Renwick and Menzies and advise him on making a proper schedule. We consulted some works on medical jurisprudence, and decided on a list which includes all the active poisons. Arsenic and strychnine are to be colored with indigo, and strychnine when sold to be put into a bottle and corked. (14 August)

## Lunatic Asylums

Shortly after his arrival in New Zealand in 1857, Andrew Buchanan was asked to appear before a committee of the House of Representatives, to give details of his knowledge and experience as a doctor in the mental hospitals of London (known then as lunatic asylums). The methods used in two of these were much more humane than in most places at that time, and he was able to report on the success of providing useful employment for the patients.

To Andrew Buchanan we indeed owe much; to him we are indebted for the early introduction of the “humane method” of treatment of the unfortunate mentally afflicted. He was the one mainly responsible for the wiping out in New Zealand of the abominable system of “madhouses”, of the grossly wicked entrustment of our diseased fellow creatures to the tender mercies of ignorant, brutal and often drunken officials. (Fulton 1922)

Sunnyside Mental  
Hospital Christchurch,  
1870s  
Canterbury Museum



In 1871 the House of Representatives appointed Andrew to act as chairman of a joint committee to report on the lunatic asylums. The appalling conditions in some of the asylums are described by Fulton (1922) and in Andrew Buchanan's report which made it clear that most had failed to provide proper accommodation and care for the mentally ill. The report concludes:

1. That the Asylums in the Colony have not (save in some localities) either proper or sufficient accommodation for the reception and care of lunatics.
2. That it is expedient that the General Government should take measures to cause proper provision to be made in those parts of the Colony where the present provision is insufficient.
3. That a duly qualified Medical Officer from the United Kingdom, having special knowledge and experience in the treatment of the insane, be forthwith engaged and appointed, and who shall have the supervision and control of all the Lunatic Asylums in the Colony.
4. That the question of a General Central Asylum be postponed until the next Session, by which time information will have been obtained from Reports of the Inspecting Medical Officer, which will serve to guide the action of Parliament.
5. That whilst steps should be taken to improve all the Asylums of the Colony, the state of that at Karori, near Wellington, urgently requires immediate attention and reform.

A. Buchanan, M.D., Chairman

The Government took no action for several years. Fulton (1922) describes how Andrew Buchanan pursued this matter for several years, including a “vigorous attack” through the columns of the *Otago Daily Times* on 27 June 1872, leading to the eventual appointment of an Inspector-General of Hospitals and Lunatic Asylums.

## Church Connections

Andrew Buchanan was a staunch Anglican. His diary records an active church life during his stay in Wellington, including his attendance at the laying of the foundation stone for Wellington Cathedral.

In Dunedin he was a supporter of the first Bishop designate of Dunedin, Henry Jenner, who came to New Zealand at the request of Bishop Selwyn. Jenner never took up his post because of local opposition to his reputation as a high church ritualist. Andrew Buchanan is mentioned by Pearce (1984) who describes this saga in great detail.

In 1873, on board the *Nebraska*

I asked the Captn. if there would be church service. He said that whenever a clergyman was on board, he was in the habit of having prayers – but not otherwise, as he himself cannot read well. But he seemed glad when I volunteered to read, which I afterwards did, and there were some 40 passengers attended. Next Sunday we are to have some hymns.

(20 April)

## Return to England

Andrew Buchanan left for England in 1873. A diary was kept in April and May 1873 on the ship *Nebraska* travelling from Dunedin to Wellington



Andrew Buchanan in later years (Fulton 1922)

and Auckland, visiting Hawaii where he describes island life in some detail. The diary ends mysteriously on 17 May 1873 with two pages torn out.

Shipboard life was not exciting:

I always turn out at day-break for my bath. Then go to bed and read till the breakfast bell rings. After breakfast I read or write till the cloth is laid for lunch (12.30). An hour after, I, Bannatyne, Williamson, and either Douglas or Dr Fisher sit at whist ... I confess I first had some scruples of conscience in sitting down to cards by daylight, but there is so much that is disagreeable on shipboard that the indulgence is excusable as it helps pleasantly to while away the time. (30 April)

Andrew Buchanan never returned to New Zealand. He died in Sherborne, England, in 1877. The *Otago Daily Times* published an obituary on September 9 1877:

The announcement of the death in London on the 4th inst. of Dr. Buchanan will be received with deep and heartfelt regret by his many friends throughout the Colony, as well as the public in whose service he laboured as a legislator for many years. It may perhaps, be some little consolation to his children and numerous friends to know the high respect and esteem entertained for him throughout the Colony, as is evidenced by the fact that although he ceased being a member of the Legislative Council, that body, out of respect for his memory, adjourned yesterday afternoon upon receipt of the tidings of his death.

At St. Paul's Church in Dunedin, on 9 September 1877, the Rt Rev Bishop Nevill spoke of the excellent qualities, genial character, and valuable assistance given him by Dr Buchanan who had regularly attended church though living some distance away. The Dead March in Saul was played and the hymns were "Christ will Gather in His Own" and "Days and Moments Quickly Flying".