"The Southern World is My Home": The Working Life of Thomas Ferens 1848 - 1888

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Abstract:
This thesis is a case study of Thomas Ferens, a Methodist lay preacher from England. Utilising personal testimony, it follows his life in New Zealand from 1848 – 1888, focussing upon his various occupational pursuits to explore how his sense of ‘self’ affected his migrant experience, analysing how he navigated life in the settlement, and how he was influenced by the world around him. Typically, migrant scholars using personal testimony focus on those of a (literate) middle to upper class status. A focus on Ferens, however, provides a working-class perspective. He similarly offers a perspective on Methodists in the Scottish Presbyterian Otago settlement. This work engages with studies of missionaries, religion in New Zealand, intercultural relations and constructs of self/other. It also addresses the impact of runholding and declaration of hundreds in North Otago and the need for personal mobility, both geographical and occupational, in this early period of settlement.

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Thomas Robinson Ferens (4 May 1847 – 9 May 1930) was a British politician, a philanthropist, and an industrialist. He was the Member of Parliament for Hull East for 13 years, and served the city as a Justice of the Peace and as High Steward. He helped establish Reckitt and Sons, a manufacturer of household goods, as one of Kingston upon Hull's foremost businesses. His career with the company spanned 61 years—from his initial employment as a confidential and shorthand clerk until his death, as chairman. ...Nature is My Home The world in which we live in has a very unique and special form of resources, people, and land. People with many different backgrounds have to learn how to survive and maintain a social and economic status. People have numerous experiences, moral, and ideas that all contribute to the wellness, safety, and allocation of land and resources. I believe that having a balance between rural and suburban life is beneficial so that an individual can undergo a variety of experiences. Rebecca Solnit writes about her personal experiences that occur at her friend's summer house in rural New Mexico. She compares and contrasts the events of living both there and her home back in the city. Home is one of the best places on earth. No matter wherever we go, there is something special about our home that attracts us. It is the peaceful atmosphere, the loving family members, the cherished memories and the bond that you share with one another. There is no other beautiful place than your and that is why we want to come back to our homes. Enjoy a peaceful atmosphere – There is no other place in the world where you can enjoy both comfort and peace. That is why home is the best place to relax and the being in the company of your family members is certainly an added advantage. When people wish to get out from their work, the first thing which they do is to visit their homes as it is the only place to rest and feel homely. There can be nothing better than being in your home.