

link with the Volcanic Plateau is the big-leaved *Gaultheria oppositifolia*, which is one of the species that are confined to the middle latitudes of the North Island, and *Dracophyllum strictum* which does not extend to North Auckland.

Colenso gave new names to two specimens, apparently both of this same *Dracophyllum*, from the Cape Runaway area. Of "*D. imbricatum*" he had only one piece, "sadly crushed in long carriage in a saddle bag" (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 25), but Mrs. Featon sent a good description of her plant, "*D. featonianum*" (*Trans N.Z. Inst.* 22): "The flowers are white and the buds pink, the leaves a pale-green on top and glaucous below, having a purplish tinge as it approaches the buff-coloured sheath". Colenso also draws attention to the floral bracts, half an inch long, orbicular and largely concave, and notes that they can be seen only in the incipient state of the inflorescence, before expansion, as they fall off very early. In August all these points could be checked, as there were plenty of fat, finger-sized spikes just bursting into flower, and very pretty the plants were.



Sorrel, Dock and Scotch Thistle

Richard Davis, Superintendent of the Mission Farm at Waimate North, to Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, 24 April, 1841. (Davis Papers, No 78, Hocken Library).

DAVIS describes ploughing 25 acres, but sorrel sprang up and took possession—"My mind has been much distressed by the introduction of this weed, as it is but too plain it will prove a curse to this country. The Society's Farm which has cost me so much anxiety and personal labour is nearly ruined thereby." He describes the spread of dock which was introduced before he came to New Zealand. And of Scotch thistle he has this to say: "Some time ago my friend Coleman sent me out some seed of the Scotch Thistle which I cultivated with care but I soon found I had introduced an enemy which I found some difficulty to eradicate."

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