

England's imperial wars when he describes how in 1912 the Resident Commissioner of the GEIC, having fallen from favour with his superiors, was transferred to a territory of even lower status, namely, the Falkland Islands.

Clearly written, comprehensive and up-to-date, *Cinderellas* is informative and stimulating not only about Kiribati and Tuvalu, but also in regard to the broader processes of cultural and political change that have affected other former colonial territories. Now, garbed in the raiment of Macdonald's polished scholarship (and adorned with indigenous histories recently published by the University of the South Pacific) Kiribati and Tuvalu have been securely removed from historical obscurity. If, in a literary sense at least, that makes them a species of Cinderella after all, Macdonald may well lay claim to being a Charles Perrault — or a Prince Charming.

HUGH LARACY

University of Auckland

The Aggressions of the French at Tahiti and Other Islands in the Pacific. By George Pritchard. Edited by Paul de Deckker. Illus., bibl., 253 pp. Auckland University Press, Oxford University Press, 1983. Price \$48.00.

GEORGE PRITCHARD, who arrived at Tahiti as a missionary in 1824, served as British consul from 1837 and was expelled by the French administration in 1844. The story of his meddling career, and the diplomatic background to French protection and annexation of the island he sought to keep as a British sphere of influence, have been recounted many times and can still draw a certain *frisson* from French historians. Pritchard's manuscript of some two hundred pages, deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library, is essentially his version of the story, intended for publication shortly after his expulsion, but wisely allowed to gather dust by both the London Missionary Society and the Foreign Office, which had separately sanctioned the polemical work by Marc Wilks in 1844 and the series of Parliamentary Papers dealing with French and British treaty relations with the Tahitians and Pritchard's removal, 1843–1845. Some of the manuscript found its way into his son's *Polynesian Reminiscences*, published in 1866, but its existence has been largely ignored by researchers until Dr de Deckker took an interest, arising from his investigations into the career of J. Moerenhout.

For a polemical work aimed at general condemnation of French actions it is less exaggerated than one might expect, and the general reader will gain a good deal from the text and the insights of the editor into the background history of Tahiti in the period leading up to French occupation. Its usefulness to the historian and student of Pacific societies is perhaps less evident, despite the copious citation of original documents by Pritchard, as these found their way into French and British official papers, and adequate accounts of the episode are given by W. P. Morrell, J. Faivre, L. Jore and others. A more interesting question is whether Pritchard selects or omits from the evidence to suit his case.

He certainly glosses over certain facts, such as the age of the infant Pomare III,

when he requested 'protection' from Great Britain in 1827, and neither Pritchard nor his editor gives the text of the law against the preaching of Catholic doctrines passed by chiefs and missionaries in November 1835, which gave rise to Captain Laplace's treaty of 1839 and the series of threatening postures adopted by visiting French naval officers. Pritchard also confuses Tahitian disavowal of Moerenhout's 'treaty' of 1841 with later recantations by chiefs in 1843, and he exaggerates the harmful effects of the outbreak of smallpox in 1841, which he blamed on the American consul, Blackler. He is misleading on smaller points in Tahitian and French relations arising from correspondence by Captains Buglet and Dubouzet, on the measure of local support among missionaries and foreign residents for French actions in 1842; and on some of the stronger terms in Dupetit-Thouars's proclamations and verbal broadsides which he translates in full. More seriously, we do not learn from Pritchard all the details of his own actions, when he returned to Tahiti in February 1843 to find it under a provisional French protectorate, his commercial operations and his efforts to suppress or ignore instructions from the Foreign Office and Consul General Miller of Hawaii, in the hope that Dupetit-Thouars's actions would be reversed. And because the text terminates a few months after the date of his expulsion, the policy of accommodation with Guizot adopted by Lord Aberdeen, following his embarrassment at Lord George Paulet's annexation of Hawaii, is not discussed at all.

The editor, however, has served the reader fairly well by making these discrepancies clear in the notes and introduction, which draw on the large literature that has accumulated around Tahiti. There are useful identifications of the *dramatis personae* of the text, plus some supplementary documentation from the archives by material that Pritchard chose to omit or which gives a better perspective to the French side of the case. The Tahitian side is handled less well, and I think an opportunity has been missed by not reproducing the translation of the protectorate treaty left by Acting-Consul Wilson, which differs on some important points from the English translations left by Alexander Salmon and turned into the official French text by Moerenhout and Dupetit-Thouars. Wilson's version is fairly easily located in works cited by the editor in the bibliography, and Pritchard was probably right (p.95) to argue that the treaty as published was 'too methodical, too definite, and too abstruse', compared with the simpler and idiomatic version conveyed to the chiefs and Pomare. There are also some curious solecisms by the editor concerning 'Indian Affairs', a 'protectorate' over Fiji in 1874, and the Tahitian 'Beria' (Purea) who, it is rightly noted, did not cede Tahiti to Wallis.

But on the whole this is a handsomely produced and annotated edition, with excellent illustrations and an early map, and is a credit to Auckland University Press and the Alexander Turnbull Library Endowment Trust.

COLIN NEWBURY

Linacre College, Oxford