

## Appendix three

### Attachment to Abel's application for Stirling Senior Research Scholarship\*

#### Statement of Plans and Purposes

If it be permitted me, by grant of financial assistance, I propose to continue the investigation that I have already started into the history of British Native Policy.

While teaching English History and United States History at Goucher College, 1906–1915, and British Imperial History at Smith College, 1915–1921, I was constantly and profoundly impressed with the fact that there was practically nothing available for the use of students on certain subjects that I had good reason to think were of tremendous importance for a right understanding of colonial and national and imperial progress. Foremost among these subjects was the great influence that organized religious and philanthropic bodies have had in the shaping of political policies; in extending, consciously or unconsciously, incidentally or deliberately, the limits of empire; and in spreading civilization. Having already developed for myself a very special interest in the treatment of aboriginal peoples, I was keenly alive to the deplorable absence of authoritative information on the subject and it was a subject that necessarily involved the one just referred to. I went deeper and deeper into it myself and came to the conclusion that organized humanitarianism had been almost the only force operating to prevent Anglo-Saxon colonization from being absolutely destructive of primitive and feeble tribes, particularly in the Americas, in Africa, and in Australasia. Native Policy, or the treatment accorded aboriginal people, I regard as a very vital part of the history of colonization—and, of the colonization itself, a supreme test.

In recent years a few scholars have manifested some slight interest in certain phases of Native Policy; but no one, so far as I know, except myself, has yet studied it in a large and comprehensive way, notwithstanding that much has been said in testimony of the fact that it is an unworked field in British Imperial History as in United States National. Considerable publicity was given to this idea at the meeting of the American Historical Association in Richmond, December, 1924. Fuller knowledge of what has been done, in the past, to develop Native Policies cannot fail to assist in the solution of Native problems of today, as, for instance, in the United States and in the various parts of Africa.

During this past year I have endeavored to concentrate on that part of British Native Policy most immediately influenced by the great humanitarian movement of the nineteenth century and I hope to present the results of my researches in the form of a

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\* Student records of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University (RU 262). Reproduced with permission. Emphasis in the original.

book, entitled, Some Aspects of British Native Policy, 1836-1867; A Study in British Humanitarianism and a Memorial to Dr. Thomas Hodgkin, Philanthropist.

When this book is completed, two courses lie open to me: I can bring my present study, which is chiefly a study of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia, down to the present day or I can take up Africa in detail. The former would be my preference, it being the more logical thing to do. It would be a study of the way the great dominions have carried on the work that the Mother Country handed over to them with the grant of Responsible Government and the control of waste lands. It is more than possible that each one of the big dominions will call for separate and distinct treatment. Some years since, indeed, I felt so convinced of this fact that I projected the following three studies:

The Maoris Under British Rule

The Indians of British North America

Native policy in Australia and the South Seas

To date, I have not nearly exhausted all of the sources of supply, as far as materials go, here in England and there must be many that I have never had the opportunity to examine at all in Canada. So well repaid have I been for the stay I made in Australia and new Zealand that I wish it could have been a longer one; and, for any future study, a similar stay made possible elsewhere. It would most certainly be inadvisable to attempt to investigate the Native policies of Africa without making an extended visit there.

Respectfully submitted,  
Annie H. Abel-Henderson

Westfield College,  
Kidderpore Avenue,  
Hampstead, London, N.W. 3  
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