

**Letter: John Morrison to the Colonial Secretary's Office**  
Archives NZ Wellington Reference IA 1 1856/3265

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1856 Jul 09 John Morrison of Auckland "was requested by Messrs James Morrison & Co. of Philpot Lane, London to take steps in their behalf for their appointment to the office of agents for the colony of New Zealand.... to lay before you... an application in writing... and in doing so I have only to regret that my connection with these gentlemen has been so recent that I may not be so well qualified to speak of their circumstances as others to whom they refer who have known them longer... Messrs Morrison & Co. state that the New Zealand Government have hitherto employed a gentleman of the name of Ridgeway to transact their business for them, but they surmise that that appointment is only temporary; and as it will be necessary to transact the business of the General Government by a regularly appointed mercantile agent they express their desire to obtain such appointment, feeling themselves well qualified by position, capital & character to accept it...the present members of the firm... who are well known in Sydney, Melbourne & Adelaide as well as in the several settlements of New Zealand... They are represented in:

Wellington by Messrs W. B. Rhodes & Co., Nelson by Danl. Moore & Co., New Plymouth by Geo. Curtis, Auckland by myself [John Morrison] and as they have been for years interested in the New Zealand trade they are perhaps as intimately acquainted with the general bearing of affairs in this colony as any other house in London... Their charges for purchasing are 2.5% and by their connection with the banking interest they are prepared to negotiate for such loans as those now contemplated by the General Government in favourable terms... Messrs J. Morrison & Co. have communicated with Thos. Baitley Esq., Auckland & Messrs W. B. Rhodes & Co., Wellington on the subject."

*Attached correspondence*

1855 Sep 08 Partial transcript

Sir, I beg to inform you that I have this day retired from the firm of James Morrison & Co., leaving with my late partners my perfect goodwill; and I request for them a continuance of the favors which by your confidence and correspondence, the house has hitherto enjoyed. I am Sir, Your Most Obedient Servant, Joseph R. Morrison, Philpot Lane, London.

Dear Sir, Referring to the above circular, announcing the retirement from our house of Mr Joseph Robert Morrison, we take leave to inform you, that the business will be carried on by us without any alteration in our firm, capital, or business arrangements. We remain, dear Sir, Yours Faithfully, John Wingate McLaren , John Renshaw Signed James Morrison & Co.