

Letter: John Morrison to J. P. Robinson, Superintendent of Nelson dated 30 Oct 1858
Archives NZ Wellington Reference NP 7/3b 1859/82

Written from 173 Fenchurch Street, London and sent per steam ship 'Salsette'. The letter was received 2 Feb 1859.

Sir, I hasten to avail myself of the first opportunity since my arrival in England to intimate that my partnership with Wm Rufus Powell under the style of John Morrison & Co. ceased on the 8th day of March last.

It is a matter of deep regret to me to find that the mismanagement of the business of my late firm, which, in various ways, became painfully apparent to me during my recent progress through New Zealand, has been confirmed to even a greater extent than I had feared. While, unfortunately, I can only express my sorrow at the annoyance to which those who had confided in my firm have been subjected, it is yet due to me in my own justification to state that on leaving England in May 1857, I left behind me a carefully prepared Deed by which the entire scope and smallest details of my business transactions should be regulated. Had this been even approximately adhered to, the disgrace attaching to the culpable and reckless manner in which the affairs have been conducted, would not only have been avoided, but a heavy pecuniary loss to myself would also have been averted.

When it became manifest that it was hopeless to look for any more prudent and faithful management on the part of my partner, the power of dissolution I had reserved to my Attorney was resorted to. While, therefore, this occurrence might have created considerable embarrassment in the fulfilment of Contracts I had entered into during my absence, I am happy to find that these have been carried out to a great extent; and I am myself now occupied in executing the remainder.

You will be good enough to note that I am prepared to receive communications from my friends, and to give my Careful attention to all business they may be pleased to confide to my care:- while I may express a hope that the knowledge and experience which I have obtained in my progress through the Colony will peculiarly fit me to secure their interests.

All letters and remittances on account of my late firm, must, as heretofore, go to Mr Joseph Sawyer, 173, Fenchurch Street, and begging you to note my present address as above indicated. I remain, Your most obedient Servant, John Morrison.