



William Cutten was born in 1822, and arrived in Otago on the *John Wickliffe*. In 1850 he married a daughter of Captain Cargill, first living in a wooden house at the bottom of Stuart Street. In 1861 he shifted across the harbour, to what is now known as Sunshine – where his house called Belmont still stands at the top of Belmont Lane. Cutten first set himself up as a merchant and auctioneer, but in 1851 helped to launch the *Otago Witness*, shortly thereafter becoming the editor and later the sole owner of that newspaper. It was Cutten who opposed Cargill over whether Scottish immigrants should be preferred to those from England, while also attacking the small Free Church coterie with which Cargill had surrounded himself. In 1861, in partnership with Julius Vogel, Cutten launched the *Otago Daily Times* in November 1861. Cutten served in the Otago Provincial Council and in Parliament, while also serving as Commissioner of Crown Lands for Otago. Among other things, Cutten introduced resolutions into the Otago Provincial Council to provide for the disposal of Crown lands on deferred payments, a mode of disposal later extended to the whole colony. Cutten died in 1883, survived by his wife, seven sons, and four daughters.

