

myself with a meal. I felt rather encumbered with my blankets & bedding and turned them into twelve shillings with little difficulty. Just as I was going into a Cook shop I met some of my shipmates who said they were delighted with the place. They employed me to make a sketch of the harbour which I did in about two hours, and after paying for paper and drawing pencils I cleared with this job and other one for Mr. Lindsay about seventeen shillings – My stock of funds were now in all twenty nine shillings, and I began to think myself pretty independant [sic] – Having had a ‘nobler’ and a dinner on the strength of it, I began to think of making enquiries for employment – I first entered a baker’s shop, Peter Christison’s,¹² on the beach, ‘Weel my man are ye just come ashore?’ ‘Just landed out of the “Ariel”’ I replied. ‘What part of Scotland are you frae?’ ‘Edinburgh’ I replied – Come inside old man, what duy they “caw ye”’ & so on he went, and a long conversation ensued between us. The good baker insisted on me having some dinner, but I declined, accepting his invitation to tea instead – I explained my present situation to him and my wishes for the future. He gave me plenty of encouragement more beer and gin and concluded with a graphic description of New Zealand, ‘Aye Mawn’ says he ‘This is a moun-tayn-eous country, but “aye Mawn” its a fine country’ – I found this thirty five year baker a broad Scotsman, and to use a colonial phrase, a queer old fiddle; his wife a fat plump and hearty dame was very kind hearted. I drank tea with this pair in the evening, and I obtained comfortable lodgings for the night at Kenedy’s Hotel,¹³ which in my opinion is the best place of the kind in the settlement. Sunday morning. Had a most refreshing sleep and comfortable breakfast for once, after which I took a stroll through the town and met some of my ship mates. We took a long walk out by Kai Ware Ware and proceeded along the Porirua road for several miles. It would be a fruitless effort on my part to convey a just idea of the fine scenery we witnessed. We reached Wellington about two o’clock. I dined at Miller’s Freemason’s Hotel and after that had another walk through the town. I called at a store out of curiosity to make enquiries for employment. The store was kept by Mr. George Hogan a native of Jamaica. This darkie asked me if I wanted work, and if I would go to the bush. I told him of course I wanted employment. He told me his father in law and his son would be in town in about an hour and in the meantime invited me in to have tea. I learned that Mr. Hogan had a considerable property and had rapidly made himself wealthy commencing farming a few years ago his wife keeping a store, and selling the proceeds of her father’s farm consisting chiefly of Butter cheese eggs milk etc. I found them very intelligent and civil, they had been married several years, Mrs Hogan being Mrs Barnes eldest daughter – There being two Barnes’s, for the sake of distinction I shall call one Old Barnes, and his