

take a high rank among productions of this kind. His panorama of Wellington, including the harbour and surrounding district, we recommend to Mr Barker¹² as likely to prove most attractive.¹³ And the normally far from uncritical H. S. Chapman wrote to his father 'Brees the late surveyor will call on you and show you his drawings' – (Brees and Chapman were Karori neighbours although Brees seems normally to have lived in his Hawkestone Street house) – and Chapman writing eight months later about his own sketches said 'In the meantime get a sight of Brees's sketches.'¹⁴

In preparation for his departure he had advertised the sale of his much loved and painted cottage for six weeks before presumably concluding some arrangement. 'House to be sold cheap, situate in Hawkestone Street, and now in the occupation of Mr S. C. Brees, containing 4 rooms, and loft above, standing upon one acre of excellent garden ground, leased at £12 per annum . . .'¹⁵

'Mr and Mrs Brees, four children and servant' finally sailed on the brig *Caledonia* for London on 8 May.¹⁶ Francis Bradey the industrious gardener–capitalist–diarist went down to farewell him. In expectation of his own return he told Brees that they would meet in London in six months but Brees retorted, referring to the nascent Maori troubles in the Hutt Valley, that 'we should all be eat before that time.'¹⁷

It is hard to feel that, in view of his difficulties with his Company colleagues, he was as reluctant to depart as he later claimed in the *Pictorial Illustrations* . . . although there is more than a touch of nostalgia in his New Zealand comments and advertisements in *A key to the Colonies* six years later. In this same work he printed also the testimonials to him on his departure, under the impressive heading 'Complimentary letters received when Mr Brees left New Zealand in 1845'. There were only two, one from Major Richmond, Superintendent of the Southern District and the other from the Church of England clergyman the Reverend Richard Cole.¹⁸ Settlers as well as fellow officers of the Company were silent.

The *Caledonia's* passengers were safely in London at the end of September or early October. However it was not until early December that Brees waited upon the Directors when a minute recorded: ' . . . Mr Brees, late Principal Surveyor was introduced and exhibited the Drawings and sketches alluded to in Colonel Wakefield's Despatch . . . and his own letter of 3rd November . . . and was informed that the Directors consider the Company to have no claim to those executed since Mr Brees left its service; that they relinquish its claim to the others; and that they will be happy to see them conduce to the advantage of Mr Brees by being published.'¹⁹

One would like to know what was understood by 'the others'. Did these include not merely those which he brought to England with him