

followed by his period of architectural apprenticeship M. H. E. Kendall, architect of Suffolk Street, London, wrote under date 19 February 1841 that he had known Brees 'for many years, he having been in my employment, during which time I found him most active, industrious and intelligent on all professional matters'. George W. Buck, Principal Engineer of the Manchester and Birmingham Railway, wrote that he had known Brees 'for the last seven years, during which time he has been extensively concerned in surveying for some of the principal Railways in England . . .' The reference which headed the list was that from the famous engineer Robert Stephenson who stated that Brees worked for him for two years 'getting up nearly the whole of the Plans of the London and Birmingham Railway'. He had every reason to be satisfied with Brees's talent, assiduity and conduct. Stephenson had a high opinion of his architectural abilities. If therefore we deduce that his seven years as a railway surveyor began in 1834 he was not long in embodying his talents and experience in technical monographs for in 1837 he published his *Railway practice. A collection of working plans and practical details of construction . . .* Two years later he published an *Appendix* and in 1840 a *Second series of railway practice*. His sudden abandonment of this interest for an 'in charge' position in a distant country where any possibility of railway construction was infinitely remote is the more difficult to understand.

Although his application was dated in February it was not until September that he was recommended for appointment by the Land Committee of the Company. The latter considered that 'his professional attainments are in the opinion of the Committee greatly superior to those of the other Candidates, as evidenced by the Testimonials submitted to the Committee: and secondly, it will be recollected by the Court that several Directors had opportunities at the time of the appointments which took place on the Nelson staff of becoming acquainted with Mr Brees character, and of judging of his efficiency for the office for which they have recommended him and they are of opinion that his appointment will be found to conduce to the interests of the Company . . .'⁴ It would appear from this that he may have been considered or at least encouraged to consider an earlier appointment to the Nelson settlement survey staff.

His conditions of employment were covered by a three-page contract. His appointment was for a period of three years at a salary of £600 per annum, to which was added an initial outfit allowance of £150 and £50 for 'his superintendence and assistance in the instruction of the . . . [survey] cadets' during the voyage. All maps, plans, drawings, sketches and draughts made by him were to be regarded as Company property.⁵

Brees left on the *Brougham* in October 1841 with the cadets and sur-