

professional plate as architect and surveyor: 'I felt obliged to people for not ridiculing my pretensions.' But no work resulted. Instead Ashworth again sought Captain Rough's help to find tutoring; and was introduced to Mr Cooper whose five sons he taught twice weekly for six months. A persistent sickness caused Ashworth to call on Dr Davis, whose eldest daughter, 'a blooming little girl of 13, was put under my tuition, and a very amiable and obedient scholar she was for a few months, till the badness of the time prevented her proceeding'.<sup>8</sup>

In the meantime Captain and Mrs Rough had taken to Government House Ashworth's letters of introduction. The young man was invited to call. He went expecting to find 'an elderly, prim, pompous and ceremonious lady'. To his surprised delight he was introduced to Eliza Hobson and found her 'comparatively young, beautiful, most aimiable [sic], and unaffected', sitting in a drawing room smelling of flowers and furnished with unusual elegance—not only a gilt chandelier but 'paintings, a handsome piano and some cases of highly ornamental books'. Mrs Hobson arranged that Ashworth 'should attend 3 times a week to teach her eldest daughter and son'.

Ashworth spent his first few months learning the arts of house-keeping and cooking and coping with the 'oviparous propensities of blowflies'. He suffered the prevailing poverty and comments:

The higher classes also felt the prevailing poverty, surgeons bills ran up, attornies found it was useless to sue, Land surveyors were without employment, cargoes of provision were forced off at auction sales.

The only class that seemed to do well were the *sans culotte* mowries; they had no rent to pay, their coarse food cost them nothing, but they *would* have their 6<sup>d</sup> for a bundle of firewood & 1/- for a kit of potatoes. Their potatoe plantations were nearer than the 'Tamaki farms' & their long canoes well adapted to carry firewood & to hang out many fish hooks, supplied the town plentifully... backloads of potatoes wood maize &c to the doors of the towns people.<sup>9</sup>

While he made his expenses teaching he purchased a 'spot of ground not 110 ft sq' and spent 'the best part of 12 months in framing and boarding and shingling my domicile'. Lacking work he was tempted by the high interest (12½ to 15 per cent) to lend money; but without adequate securities 'I lost more principal than I gained interest'.

How to exist on an ultra economical plan was now the question; for my finances being somewhere between 3 & £400 & no prospect of increase, what could I do? I determined to build a little house of my own, & live rent free, for the veriest holes containing 2 board<sup>d</sup> rooms were letting at from 10s. to 15s. per week. I went to work to purchase a spot of ground in the town. Town lands were sold by Government at an upset price of 100£ pr ac. but in reselling there must of course be profit so for about 2 perches of land of wh the upset price was 12s. 6d. per p. I paid