

£13 per perch—This was the only suitable spot I could see & the surveyor who was agent for it pointed out the advantages of its being a corner allotment tho I could see no corner nor indication of streets. High Street the east boundary was only I found to be 16½ ft wide, & my valuable angle was most wofully wide (I afterwards found) of a right angle. I ought to say wofully narrow, wofully acute. The law expense for this location about 15ft by 37 was to be 2 guineas, but I ultimately paid above 3½. I next set to work to purchase timber, the noted New Zealand pine that makes such prime spars, this is sold by the lineal 100 feet, boards being equalized to a foot in width—14 shillings per hundred was asked at some sawpits on the beach, but by the advice of my acquaintances I waited the arrival of a raft, when any quantity could be had for 10s. or even 8s. per hund^d10



S^t Georges Bay Auckland [1844?] ink and watercolour 14.2 x 28.4cm. (In his Sketchbook, 1843-1844) *Drawings & Prints Coll. E42/45*

Ashworth's watercolours of Auckland most probably were done when he was tutor to Mrs Hobson's children—that is, during the first half of 1843. Some of his spare time must have been spent working on the presentation album. Ashworth's name is one of those on the farewell address presented to Mrs Hobson.¹¹

He notes the effect of colonising hardships on the women (his sister, perhaps, or a friend's wife is the model): 'She had landed in the colony 2 yrs before a delicate pretty young woman; she was so still, but sad coincidences of poor fare, of hardships & hope deferred... were visible on her pale but once rosy cheek...'12 His brief and clearheaded account is a critical record of the early layout and administration of Auckland: 'An unwieldy government establishment swallowed up the slender funds for supporting the dignity and authority of Victoria in these islands... capitalists seemed aware of the puff and humbug that had been promulgated about New Zealand and kept their cash safe in England.' He added to the cultural life of Auckland on 29 July 1843 by giving a lecture on Grecian architecture at the Mechanics Institute.¹³

On 4 December 1843, Ashworth set off on a journey up the Waikato to collect a debt from 'the rascal H', a fellow passenger with Ashworth on the *Tuscan*, a part Indian who used to talk of his studies in Edinburgh.