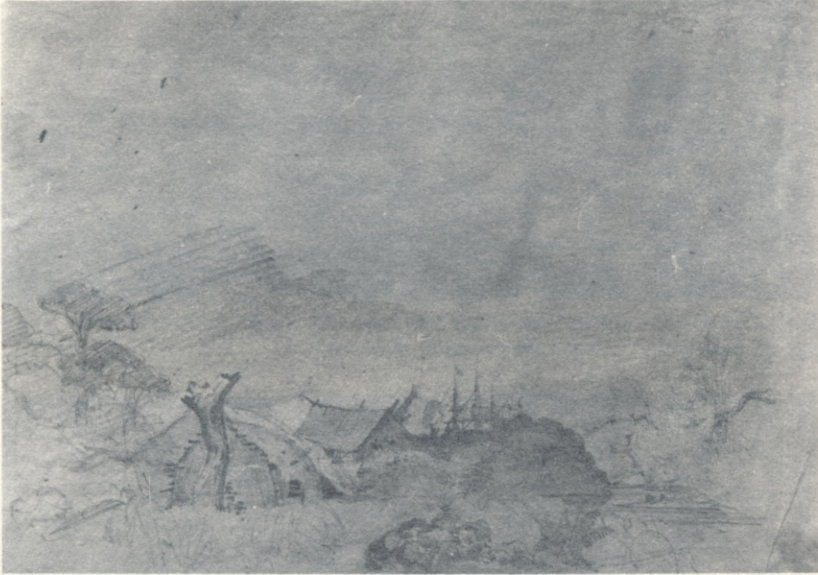


It appears that Le Breton was touched by the loneliness, and the transient presence of puny man, whereas the 'revised version' of this scene affirms the functions and the achievement of the expedition. It is also, of course, more carefully composed.



Observatoire aux îles Auckland mars 1840. pencil 213 × 325 mm. Saint Brieuc Municipal Library (Reproduced by permission)

The lithographic view of Akaroa Harbour ('Baie d'Akaroa', plate 185, reproduced) shows four proud vessels set in the middle distance, flags flying, their masts nearly reaching to the skyline. A dark featureless promontory extends from the right, a dark headland with indistinct features from the left. Along the shore stretches a confused assemblage of trees, buildings, a canoe and some small figures. Gaunt trees and clumps of foliage frame the foreground, and a leafless tree stands left of centre.

In the corresponding drawing ('Akaroa (Nlle Zélande)', reproduced), Le Breton succumbed to one conventional device—an overhanging tree in the left foreground—but it is treated summarily and the rest of the immediate foreground is left empty. The sailing ships are much more modest in scale, dominated completely by the distant hills: two, seen here end-on, are thus less imposing than they will become in the lithograph. A canoe with sail raised is seen a short distance from shore. On the headland in the left middle distance stand two clearly defined buildings, while the promontory