

TWELVE WATER COLOURS OF GLACIERS IN THE PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY

Julius Haast and John Gully: collaborators

On 8 February 1864 Dr Julius Haast, M.D. [!], F.G.S.¹ read a paper to the Royal Geographical Society, London. His title was *Notes on the Mountains and Glaciers of the Canterbury Province, New Zealand*. The President, Sir Roderick Murchison, in his prefatory address, referred to three papers of great interest from 'the southern portion of Australasia, New Zealand'; two were by Dr. J. Hector and James McKerrow, the third being 'a most important account of the highly interesting journeys of the provincial geologist, Dr Haast In the year 1861, the rivers Ashburton and Rangitata were traced by Dr. Haast to their sources in Mounts Arrowsmith and Tyndall. In 1862, the course of the River Tengawai was followed, and the mountain range crossed to Lake Tekapo, the affluents of which were traced to the Godley Glacier and Mount Darwin. Lake Pukaki was visited, and its sources to the declivities of Mount Cook ascertained; and the Naumann Range, from whence the Dobson & Hawkins take their rise and flow into Lake Ohau was explored.'² The President continued to describe Haast's comments on the features of glacial action 'which he has thoroughly described in all its different phases, and illustrated by a series of very beautiful, coloured sketches upon a large scale. The sketches are now deposited in the archives of our Society . . .'³ To which remarks the President added, in the print of his address, a footnote: 'I earnestly hope that chromolithographic copies of these very remarkable coloured sketches of New Zealand Glaciers will be soon published. Glacialists and Alpine travellers should possess them.'⁴ But this was another pious publishing hope. No such copies were made. Instead, the 'very remarkable coloured sketches' remained in the archives of the Royal Geographical Society for 110 years, until 1974, when the Society offered to sell them back to the country of origin for £5,000.⁵

A listener to this address might easily have thought that Julius Haast was himself the painter and may not have observed that the paintings were signed, very unobtrusively, *J. Gully*. In Haast's address⁶ as printed there is another reference to these watercolours: it is an editorial footnote, page 92, which reads 'Dr Haast sent to the Society a number of well executed water-colour drawings representing the Alpine scenery of the Canterbury Province, and the following descriptions of glaciers are compiled from his explanations of the different views.'

At the time of this lecture (1864) John Gully would have been little known as a painter even in New Zealand. The 'generous guileless' and 'modest' Gully⁷ was born in 1819 in Bath, England, where as a