

everything for themselves but metalwork: made their own shoes and clothes and wine and candles. The principal people in Sydney then were the Merchants supplying the sheep farmers with European goods and taking wool in exchange. But the tone of society was given by the Government officials & officers of the troops stationed there.

Collinson's impressions of Sydney were recorded in a letter to his mother written when he reached Auckland in September 1846, and were supplemented by a sketch (see plate V) of the scene which he took from his window in Colonel Gordon's house:

To make it complete you must imagine the water and sky blue, the earth white & the trees dark green, & the whole seen through an atmosphere of the most astonishing clearness that gave to every colour a supernatural brilliancy to my eyes; it was a positive enjoyment to sit still and admire the colouring of the landscape all around: there is also the Emily Jane in which we came from China & the Terror schooner in which I came to New Zealand; lying in Sydney Cove surrounded by this scenery & as calm as a lake.

September 1863 saw the arrival of Mr and Mrs Charles Kean, their niece Patty, Mr Cathcart and members of their household ready to embark on a theatrical tour of the Australian Colonies. In a lengthy series of letters to their daughter Mary they give a graphic account of the fortunes and misfortunes attendant upon their tour, during which they were welcomed by Governors and members of society and varied their itinerary with inland tours and visits to the goldfields. Their descriptions are given in the fullest, frankest manner and are supplemented with rough sketches. The temptation to quote at length from this eminently quotable collection must be resisted and the reader referred to J. M. D. Hardwick's edition of the letters in *Emigrant in motley*.<sup>11</sup>

Robert Shortried Anderson in a two-volume autobiography describes in great detail his early life in Edinburgh, a five-year stay in and around Melbourne and various travels before settling in Auckland in 1857. Anderson worked as a clerk, draughtsman and labourer and comments in great detail upon Melbourne itself, his employment, his excursions to the goldfields, his social life, and the events of the day.

George Bennett's descriptions of Sydney and the surrounding townships are vivid and perceptive. He was disappointed in his first view of Sydney Harbour, having confused in his mind reports of the fine harbour with a vision of fine scenery: