

to add that my family are left in comfortable circumstances in England.'⁹

From the English address given of Pearse's wife in the death notices of his two youngest children it would appear that the family had been left, not in Bedford, but in Hemel Hempstead, Herts.¹⁰ (Although the children could have contracted scarlet fever on a holiday visit.)

The story of John Pearse is continued in the scrapbook itself. John Pearse leaves England and leaves his wife, either pregnant, or with a very young baby. One senses a cautiously adventurous man wanting to inform, amuse, and reassure his wife and children with drawings of a life which may soon be theirs also. From the arrangement of the book and its occasional inclusion of a notice printed later than 1856—or a travel document relating to his return amongst those of the outward voyage—it is possible to deduce that the scrapbook was compiled by Pearse, after his return,¹¹ from drawings which he had made on, or sent with, letters to his wife. Here is a man not setting out to make pretty pictures but to answer in detail the questions 'What would we children do on board a ship? Is the place like England? What are the houses like? What sort of people are the Maoris? Where will we live?'. In fact, the drawings in his scrapbook answer just these questions for the great grandchildren of John Pearse's contemporaries. And we are delighted and grateful for his kind of looking. He was a lawyer and, as such, was trained to be interested in people, their predicaments and their characters. He did not have the technical facilities of the trained artist but he had an eye for stance, expression, colour; and the ability to make real the people and places and situations he observed. His small portraits of fellow passengers and, later, of Maoris, have a wry appreciation of character. These latter, in particular, show John Pearse's human sympathy, his capacity to see without prejudice, his alert appreciation of the telling detail. 'It will always be, so far as I can see, the most complete pictorial record of the district, for its decade, that we are now ever likely to find.'¹²

John Pearse starts with the World in Mercator's Projection and marks the map¹³ with black for his outward journey and red for his return. The black line tracks down to Cape Verde, sweeps across the South Atlantic Ocean well south of Cape of Good Hope, goes south again of Kerguelen's Land, continues almost directly east to Enderby's Island, and turns north to Canterbury.

In the centre of page three is a card printed in red and black which advertises the 'Duke of Portland, A.1.' 'Chartered by the Canterbury Association, and approved to sail from the Port of London on Tuesday, the 10th June, 1851'. The rates of passage are given for 'Each Person, 4 years old and upwards—Chief Cabin £42. Second cabin £22. Steerage £16.' The added note must have reassured the prospective parent: