

racks, 'from the Hutt Road beyond Kaiwarra', from the 'cemetery back of Government domain' and in fine detail 'Thorndon Flat and Pepitea [sic] Point taken from Wellington Terrace'. Pearse paints Mrs Simmonds' house near Wellington and Mrs Jackson's house Lowry Bay, Noah's Ark, 'the residence of the Chief E'tako, Nga Hauranga', the 'late residence of Mr Justice Chapman' and the 'Residence of Lieut. Gov. Eyre (afterwards of E. G. Wakefield Esq.) Wellington Karori Road'.

John Pearse was admitted to the Supreme Court, December 1853.<sup>20</sup> Further research may show how he occupied his time in the previous eighteen months. It is likely that he would have had some part in legal practice before his admission. He may have decided to settle in Wellington soon after his return as he bought and fenced land in Tinakori Road.<sup>21</sup> His Wellington sketches show the first cottage he stayed in, his friend Richard 'Dicky' Deighton who was to become his next door neighbour when he later built at the foot of Wellington Terrace and a great many other friends he made among the Maoris of the area. In this he must have differed from most of his fellow settlers and in particular from two contemporaries who also drew from their experience—Henry Gabriel Swainson<sup>22</sup> and Robert Anderson<sup>23</sup> but whose observations were totally European. John Pearse did not draw the picturesque Maori: he drew people he knew. 'Polly' and 'Ko Rukanga (alias candle)', 'Piata asleep after his English studies' [was John Pearse teaching him, we wonder?] 'E Tami Ahauriri' in her pink dress and a perceptive portrait of 'a Native Assessor, or kind of Magistrate in native cases' whom he knew by his full name Wiremu E. Taka Kaua Haranga. There are two consistent attitudes which Pearse brings out in his Maori men and women. They are externally Europeanised and they are sad. They all look down, the spirit is subdued. Drawing is a way of seeing and drawings as simple and as honest as these tell more than prose.

John Pearse the responsive artist was also an observant man of action and involved himself with the settlers' life in Wellington. We find his name in newspaper lists protesting against the actions of the British Government;<sup>24</sup> in a letter to George Moore asking him to allow himself to be nominated as a Candidate for the Provincial Council;<sup>25</sup> amongst the lists of managers of the Wellington Savings Bank.<sup>26</sup> He is elected Secretary (1 May 1855)<sup>27</sup> of the Wellington Athenaeum and Mechanics Institute and advertises for them their evening classes in Algebra, Arithmetic, English Grammar and composition, Vocal music and Drawing<sup>28</sup> and protects their copies of the *Illustrated News* in a toughly worded notice.<sup>29</sup> In October 1855 he is still the secretary but by then family circumstances had altered his plans. Manuscript items in the scrapbook contain detailed plans for a house on the Terrace at a price of £140 sterling:<sup>30</sup> a fair sized kitchen and drawing room, a main bedroom 12 x