



Figure 3 (Sketch No. 6): From 'Bottle Point'. 'Kituna Valley from the Wairau' pencil & ink 17.3 × 25.8cm. Picture Coll. A108/12

the mouth of the Pelorus River with others from the head of Queen Charlotte Sound in March 1843,⁸ hence his familiarity with the spot where H.M.S. *Pelorus* had anchored. His explorations across the hills from the Maitai Valley in November 1843 and January 1844, discussed above, were part of a series of attempts by the New Zealand Company to assail the hinterland of Nelson in the hope of finding a more direct route between Nelson and the head of the Pelorus Sound and on to the Wairau Valley. As the *Examiner* had expressed it, in an earlier article, 'The grand desideratum now, therefore, is the discovery of a practicable communication between Nelson and the head of the Pelorus; an object which probably merely requires a little investigation to be proved readily attainable'.⁹ As Drake's explorations resulted subsequently in the building of a road over part of the route he had discovered, his trip had more than passing significance.

Frederick Tuckett, Principal Surveyor to the New Zealand Company, had been Drake's employer in Nelson, and in April 1844 Drake joined other New Zealand Company employees under Tuckett, who moved to Otago to decide on the future site of Dunedin. Between 1844 and 1847 Drake surveyed large tracts of land in and around Dunedin in preparation for the Otago Settlement. By 1851 he was in the Wellington area and in January 1863 was a member of the Canterbury Provincial Survey staff, preceding the opening up of the West Coast. These slight details of