

Rotomahana and Lake Taupo. Of the five known paintings from this expedition, four are in the Scrope/Weld collection ('Lake Rotomahana', 'Roto Kanapanapa', 'Lake Taupo', 'Tongariro & Ruapehu from Rua O Tane 1854'). The fifth, a more detailed study of the famous Pink and White terraces, is reproduced in Lady Alice Lovat's biography of her uncle.<sup>2</sup> Apart from the brief extracts from Weld's journal cited by Lovat, this set of paintings is the only surviving record of a journey which took the young politician-cum-adventurer through the central North Island and on to Wanganui before his return to Wellington and on to his Wairau electorate. Political involvement was also responsible for the one Taranaki painting in the Scrope/Weld collection. As short-lived (from November 1860 to June 1861) Minister for Native Affairs in the Stafford ministry, Weld accompanied Governor Gore Browne, Frederick Whitaker and Donald McLean to Taranaki in March. It is not surprising that he found time to paint 'Mt Egmont ("Taranaki") from near one of the blockhouses to the right of Marsland Hill behind the town of New Ply[mouth] 1861'. The mountain's majesty had long impressed him. Egmont's 'glorious outline' against the morning sky had been one of his first views of New Zealand as the 750 ton *Theresa* neared the end of its four-month voyage in March 1844.



Mt. Egmont (Taranaki) from near one of the block houses to the right of Marsland Hill behind the town of New Ply[mouth], 1861 watercolour 15 × 24.5cm Art Coll. Rack 249 (Scrope/Weld Collection)

In showing something of the range of Weld's interests and activities, the paintings also reveal the extent to which an early colonist could defy the difficulties of transport and communications