



NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
(PROVINCE OF NELSON).

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

*All Public Notifications which appear in this Gazette, with any Official Signature thereunto annexed, are to be considered as Official Communications made to those Persons to whom they may relate, and are to be obeyed accordingly.*

*By his Honor's command,*

HENRY ADAMS, *Solicitor of the Province.*

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VOL. II. NELSON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1854. No. 19.

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Superintendent's Office, Nelson,  
27th November, 1854.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs the publication of the following letter from the Colonial Secretary, with its enclosure, for general information.

By his Honor's command,  
ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
Clerk in Superintendent's Office.

Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, 7th Nov., 1854.

SIR—In forwarding to you the enclosed notice of the Registrar General, issued in the *Government Gazette* of yesterday's date, No. 35, I have the honour, by the direction of his Excellency the Officer administering the Government, to request that, as it is of the utmost importance to the colonial public that the Marriage Act recently passed by the General Assembly should be properly initiated, your Honour will be good enough to cause this notice to be published in the *Provincial Gazette*, and also in each of the newspapers published in the Province.

I have, &c.,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,  
Colonial Secretary.

His Honor the Superintendent,  
Nelson.

MARRIAGE ACT.

OFFICIATING MINISTERS FOR 1855.

The attention of the person or persons within the colony of New Zealand in whom is vested Ecclesiastical authority over any of the religious bodies enumerated in Schedule D annexed to the Marriage Act, 1854, viz:—

- The United Church of England and Ireland.
- The Church of Scotland.
- The Roman Catholic Church.
- The Free Church of Scotland.
- All Presbyterian Congregations.
- The Wesleyan Methodist Society.
- All Congregational Independents.
- Baptists.
- The Primitive Methodist Society.
- The Lutheran Church.
- All Hebrew Congregations.
- The Society of Friends.

Also the attention of Ministers of Religion not connected with any of these Bodies, who may desire to be placed on the list of "Officiating Ministers" within the meaning of this Act, is specially called to the following extracts from the Act aforesaid:—

"Any Minister of Religion whose name shall have been sent into the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, or other Officer to be appointed by the Governor in that behalf, by the persons or person within the Colony in

whom Ecclesiastical authority shall for the time being be vested, or reputed to be vested, over any of the Religious Bodies enumerated in the Schedule D to this Act annexed, shall, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, be an Officiating Minister within the meaning of this Act, and the name of every such Minister of Religion shall be certified under the hand or hands of the person or persons aforesaid, and shall be entered and published as hereinafter provided. Provided always, that any Minister of Religion not connected with any of the Bodies enumerated in the aforesaid schedule to this Act annexed, who shall present to any Registrar a certificate signed by twenty-four householders resident in the district for which such Registrar shall be appointed, declaring that such Minister is their Officiating Minister, shall be entitled to have his name inserted in the list of Officiating Ministers in the meaning of this Act. Provided always that such certificate shall be attested by two Justices of the Peace; and such attested certificate shall be sent in to the Registrar-General or other Officer as aforesaid anew in the month of December in every year, and no such attested certificate presented to any Registrar by any Minister as aforesaid shall continue in force unless renewed in like manner.

"The several Ecclesiastical Authorities as aforesaid of the respective Religious Bodies shall send in to the said Registrar-General, or other Officer as aforesaid, a correct list of such Officiating Ministers in the month of December in every year."

It will therefore be necessary that the names of all Officiating Ministers, duly certified, be sent in to me before the termination of the month of December next ensuing, in order that all such names may be entered in the list, a copy of which will be published in January, 1855, in the *New Zealand Government Gazette*.

JOHN B. BENNETT.

Registrar-General.

Registrar-General's Office,  
Auckland, October 31st, 1854.

Superintendent's Office, Nelson,  
November 27, 1854.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs the publication, for general information, of the following Reports and Sailing Directions, relative to the Waimea River, French Pass, and Pelorus, as furnished by Captain Drury, of H.M.S. Pandora.

By His Honor's command,

ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
Clerk in Superintendent's Office.

#### WAIMEA RIVER.

H.M. Surveying Vessel Pandora,  
Waimea River, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1854.

Sir—Having made a survey of the entrance of Waimea River, chiefly for the purpose of determining how far it could be made a port of refuge for vessels that have reached Bolton Roads, but are unable to enter Nelson Harbour, I have the honour to forward you my recommenda-

tion regarding the buoying of the entrance, and in forming this opinion I have consulted Mr. Cross, the efficient pilot of Nelson, and he fully agrees with me as to the position and kind of buoys required.

I should advise the can buoys, with the gear, being ordered from England, for they could be imported cheaper and better than they could be procured in the colonies under existing circumstances.

The smaller buoys leading up the river might be fitted here, and need not be larger than hog-heads.

I will leave a tracing of the river, and the position for the buoys, which Mr. Cross can refer to in laying them down.

Buoys required—2 can buoys, six feet long by five in the head, with the following moorings:—for one, 30 fathoms of chain and 10 fathoms bridle; and for the second, 20 fathoms of chain, and 6 fathoms for bridle. A smaller can buoy, five feet long, four feet in the head, with 10 fathoms of chain, and 4 feet bridle. And three small cask buoys, to be made in the colony.

The price of the largest can buoys, as made in Auckland, cost £15, made of wood; but galvanized iron would be preferable, and probably as cheap.

In similar cases at Auckland, I have recommended a direct application to the Trinity House.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,

BYRON DRURY,

Commander and Surveyor.

To his Honor the Superintendent  
of the Province of Nelson.

#### FRENCH PASS.

H.M. Surveying Vessel Pandora,  
Nelson, Nov. 21st, 1854.

Sir—Having returned off Nelson from a survey of Current Basin and the French Pass, I have the honor to send you, for the interest of navigation, a report on the latter, having made a strict survey of it; and I have the pleasure of leaving with you tracings both of it and the Waimea, as I think it is necessary they should be made available as soon as possible, only requesting that no farther copies will be made but what you may consider necessary to persons actually interested, as sometimes spurious lithographs have been made under the title of Admiralty charts.

I first report the existence of a danger on entering Current Basin. The Pandora purposely took the passage north of the Chicots, as I found it had not been sounded, and we passed within a ship's length of an isolated rock, which has since been surveyed.

The Rock bears N. 74° W., 5½ cables from Sauvage Point (D'Urville Island), and N. 73° E., 7 cables from the large Chicot, and is just without the line from the h. w. extreme of Lebrun Peninsula to Sauvage Point; it is about 50 feet in extent, only visible at low water, and steep to, there being 11 fathoms between it and D'Urville Island, and 12 fathoms between it and the Chicot Rocks.

N.B. For the above names, *vide* D'Urville's chart of Current Basin.

The tracing of the Pass will best give an idea of it. Between D'Urville Island and Middle Island, at the narrowest part, there is a distance of 540 yards at high water; but from D'Urville Island, rocks extend across this distance, S. by E.,

upwards of 400 yards, leaving a clear and straight channel of 117 yards between the low water of the shore and the extreme rock, both being steep to.

Upon the extreme rock we have, with some difficulty, erected an iron perch 15 feet long; it is drilled 3 feet into the solid rock, and set up by four chain stays, so firmly, that I have no reason to fear its being washed away. Therefore, vessels passing through at any time of tide can see exactly the width of the channel, and may pass as near as 10 yards of the beacon, if necessary. The rock upon which the perch stands only uncovers at spring tides. I should therefore recommend that this perch be kept in repair, if not replaced with a larger one, for it is absolutely necessary for the safe navigation of the pass. A rock I have called Rock Cod Point (from the immense quantity we obtained there), has sunken rocks extending from it, S. by E., 100 yards, and should be also avoided, from the set of the tide being stronger there than north of it.

The extraordinary nature of the bottom in this Pass is quite sufficient to account for the whirling of the current, in connexion with the narrowness of it, the depth ranging from 7 to 54 fathoms, without reference to the distance from the shore or rocks: and here I would remark, in reference to tides, that a phenomenon, by no means of rare occurrence, but of special effect in this pass, is observable—that the ebb stream running to the eastward commences and runs in great force (although the tide is actually rising in the Basin and Pass, and over the rocks forming the the pass) for nearly two hours before actual high water. This phenomenon is partly accounted for by the same laws of gravitation which produce the highest tide three days after the full or new moon. The impulse of the tidal wave having been accelerated, continues as a pendulum to oscillate after being put in motion, and passing through Cook's Strait to the westward, sends its mass of water into Blind Bay later by two and a-half hours than it actually ebbs in the Straits: this will account for the declension of water through the Pass before the tide has reached its highest in Current Basin.

I wish particularly to refer to the set of the tides in the Pass, as shown in the plan. Instead of setting through the narrow channel, they set across, more in a line from Rock Cod Point to Channel Point, and *vice versa*. This I ascertained by anchoring there in boats.

Before reaching the pass, there is an awkward shell bank, with eight feet on it at low water spring tides, three cables long from the N. E. to S. W., and two cables broad. The N. E. extreme is only two cables from the Perch: and as leading marks in rapid tides are scarcely available (as also the points being too monotonous), I refrain from giving any, as likely to lead to error, but leave navigators to judge their distance between it and Rock Cod Point, which is one and a-half cables. On this bank I strongly recommend a buoy to be placed, which, with the perch, would leave nothing required for the passage through. On the east side of the pass there is a rocky patch, one and a-half cables N. E. of Reef Point; but a vessel having passed through has no business to near it.

Having described the French Pass, it will necessarily be inquired my opinion of it, as an available passage.

The passage is perfectly straight; it is sufficiently broad and deep for the largest vessel ever

built. We have proved that it is about twice the width of the entrance to Nelson; there is never any sea, and anchorage can be found on either side, but not in the pass.

But against these advantages the chances of hitting the correct time of tide, the possibility of having to anchor, and of the wind failing, and the consequent risk of being set to the rocks by the current, convince me that the advantage gained by a large vessel saving 12 or 15 miles is not an adequate compensation. But coasters wishing to avoid the cross sea off Stephen's Island might and do anchor in Current Basin, running through the Pass at slack water; the slack high water being preferable, passing from west to east, and *vice versa*.

It was my intention to take the "Pandora" through, and I was much disappointed that continued south-easters prevented it; whereas the ordinary summer sea breeze leads through.

With regard to steamers, a vessel that can command a speed of eight knots could, in my opinion, pass through at springs and ordinarily at any time, the narrowest channel being 117 yards, and passed in about five seconds.

If steam navigation is to be continued through the Straits, I should recommend the captain of the vessel to visit Current Basin and the French Pass, because as a stranger he might be flurried; but I feel assured that he would afterwards adopt it, and by leaving Nelson at the last of the flood, and reaching the Pass in four and a-half hours (the distance being 35 miles), the water would then be slack there; that is, the ebb stream would have ended.

In concluding this notice of the Pass, I may remark, that as a fishing place it is equal, if not surpassing, any place I ever visited: boats could load with hapuka, rock cod, and cavaloes, in an incredibly short space of time. Our ship's company, with hook and line, caught fish and dried them, sufficient to last them for weeks. There is also another fish seen constantly leaping in the Pass, feeding on the herring. The natives call it *te haki*. It is generally larger than the hapuka.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

BYRON DRURY,

Commander and Surveyor.

To his Honour the Superintendent  
of the Province of Nelson.

#### PELORUS ESTUARY.

(Cook's Straits.)

This extensive estuary, with its numerous arms, is situated between Queen Charlotte's Sound and Blind Bay, and is included between latitude 40° 52' S. and latitude 41° 15' S., and between longitude 173° 45' E. and longitude 174° 8' E.

The coast line is no less than 250 miles. The depth of water varies from 45 to 16 fathoms, until gradually decreasing in the main branch towards the head, where it receives two rivers, forming banks at the head of that arm; but, with this exception, and one sunken rock near the entrance, there is no obstruction to navigation, and having this anomaly, that the nearer you approach the points the deeper the water.

With the exception of the head of the main branch, the general character of the country is mountainous, rising with almost perpendicular acclivity to the height of from 2,000 to 3,000 feet, and clothed with dense forest. The intervening

bays receiving the mountain streams are equally impenetrable as the sides of the ravines are steep and rugged. With the exception of the site of an old settlement in one of the arms, there are few acres in any one spot that could be brought under cultivation, and in proof of this the natives seem never to have had any settlement but the one mentioned, and it is deserted, they told us, because the ground is cursed. However, the soil everywhere accords with the luxuriant mountain vegetation, being generally of the richest loam, and of considerable depth.

The geological feature of all the points and banks of the river is soft clay slate, with frequent veins of quartz an inch thick. The whole country abounds in it, blocks being found on the hills, and the beach is strewn with quartz pebbles.

The following is the order in which the bays and anchorages of this estuary follow, beginning at the East Head, or Point Entry. After passing Guard's Bay, which has rocks above water stretching half way across to the East Head, but with 20 fathoms between the extreme rock and the head,—

The first bay is Ketu, one mile within. At the head of this bay there is Snug Cove, having 10 fathoms, but across the entrance of it 30 fathoms. Kopaua, or Richmond's Bay, is immediately beyond, forming a bight of one and a half miles. Here again the anchorage is, at the head, in 14 fathoms, the hills rising 1,800 feet. There is another sheltered bay before reaching Takaka Point, which is immediately opposite Chetwode Island, the channel being a mile in breadth, 40 fathoms deep. Here the main branch of the Pelorus bends to the eastward, while another considerable arm, the Tawhiti-nui reach, stretches nine miles S.W., containing islands, and having a bay within a mile of Croixelles harbour.

Having rounded Takaka Point, the course leading to the Hoiere changes from S.W. to S.S.E. for three miles, when a bare point, Tewero, is rounded, and the course again is S.W. for seven miles, then South seven miles to the upper anchorage, when the channel winds through banks in a westerly direction, four miles, to the mouths of the Hoiere and Kaituna. Opposite Tawera, and two miles east of Kaka Point, is the bay of Kanauroa, a good anchorage, round the south point of which we come to Whakamawahi, an extensive arm of the Pelorus, having three branches, viz., the Hikuraki, which is separated from Guard's Bay, at its head, by a narrow neck, only 100 feet broad, and about the same height; the middle, Mamiaro, having land remarkably bare for the Pelorus; the third, Karepo, runs south for five miles: on its east shore is the before-mentioned deserted village of Kopai, having excellent anchorage, and the only part of these sounds having a tract of land adapted to cultivation, say 200 to 300 acres.

Passing this arm, the next reach, for seven miles, is Popoure, having bays on either side: the Pokohino on the east; the Tamuakaiwawi, the Piaukahe, and the Opouri on the west: the west bays having the best anchorage. The channel of this reach has twenty seven fathoms, mud.

The next reach, Pinohikapu, is less indented. The head of this reach was the anchorage of H. M. Sloops Fantome and Pandora, which, with the exception of the Government Brig, the Tory, and H.M.S. Pelorus, I believe are the only vessels of any size that have yet navigated the estuary.

At this anchorage, ready communication can be

had with the natives. Their cultivations are now visible, and small fishing stations seen on the banks, and it is about five miles below the village. East of this anchorage is the long arm of Torea-mouoi Kipuru, extending twelve miles E. by N., having a depth of not more than fourteen fathoms, gradually decreasing towards the head. It is an average breadth of three quarters of a mile. The Mahau Sound is three miles in length. The from the last by a narrow ridge, Putahinu, divided its head there is a level plain, a mile long and one and a half miles in breadth, extending to the Torea-mouou arm.

Ohingoroa Bay and Moi Tapu have cultivated lands one mile S.S.W. of the anchorage. The Mahakipawa arm is very shoal, the head of it is about an hour's walk from Anakiwa Bay in Queen Charlotte's Sound. Mahakipawa is rather a large native settlement, and from whence we got most of our supplies. Two small vessels trade between it and Nelson. Wheat and potatoes are their principal produce. Near the east head of the Mahakipawa, the rivers Hoiere and Kaituna meet, forming banks, and leaving channels only navigable for small boats. To Parapara on the Hoiere, from the above point (through a winding channel only navigable at or near high water), is a distance of three miles. Here I give Lieut. Jones's account of the Hoieri valley, as he accomplished the journey to Nelson with Dr. Jolliffe, returning by Croixelles Harbour: and Mr. Blackney's journal supplies details of the Kaituna Pass.

"The track from the Pelorus to Nelson is a portion of that cut by Mr. Barnicoat, a Government surveyor, some few years since, with a view of establishing a shorter means of communication with the Wairau plains than the route at present employed. From about a mile above the native settlement of Parapara, a cross track leads into the surveyor's road, which winds along the right bank of the Hoiere river about nine miles, until the juncture of the little river Rai, at which point the Hoiere is forded, and the track continues along its left bank as far as the foot of the Maunga Tapu, a distance of about eighteen miles in a direct line. Two small streams, the Herenga and Tui-tine, which also effect a junction with the Pelorus, are crossed after leaving the river Rai.

"The valley through which the Hoiere winds varies in width from one to three miles. The soil appears good, and well adapted for agricultural purposes. Portions of it are heavily timbered, and very fine spars could be procured with but little difficulty. The patches of wheat, potatoes, and maize in the hands of the natives, which we passed through, although not extensive, appeared in an exceedingly flourishing condition, the wheat particularly, the ears being remarkably large and heavy.

"The ascent of Maunga-Tapu is steep and difficult; a series of smaller ridges, covered with dense forest, rendering the track intricate and very fatiguing. Its summit is 3,500 feet above the level of the sea, and from it a beautiful view of the windings of the Hoiere may be obtained: parallel ranges of lofty and densely wooded hills, succeeding each other as far as the eye can reach; the bare peaks of the 'Saddle Back' on the left, 4,000 feet in height, and the 'Sugar Loaf,' also 4,000 feet, on the right, being the most conspicuous objects.

"The descent of Maunga-tapu is equally tedious and difficult. After leaving the immediate neighbourhood of the summit, high fern succeeds the

forest, the track winding round the intervening ridges, in many places so narrow as barely to afford a footing. On reaching the foot of this range, the track winds along the banks of the Maitai river until it enters Nelson.

"To make this track at all practicable, would necessarily involve a very large outlay. Many substantial bridges would be required to span the streams, which, although at this season are easily forded, after heavy rains or thaws, are swollen to a considerable size; the banks in many places showing a rise of from ten to fifteen feet. The impracticability of avoiding many of the very steep ascents would also render the road at all times difficult, and, excepting as a mule track, useless for any description of vehicle.

"As the track remains at present, it is tedious enough for foot passengers; in many places already much overgrown, and through its whole extent the stumps remaining a foot above the ground, the larger trees having been allowed to fall across and remain as they were felled. The whole distance can be accomplished in two summer's days."

Journey from the head of the Pelorus through the Kaituna Pass to the Wairau Plains, by Mr. Blackney.

On February 19th, at noon, Lieutenant Jones, Dr. Jolliffe, and myself left the ship to travel through the Kaituna Pass to the Wairau Plains.

We arrived at the village, Orakawhea, where we engaged our natives at 3s. 6d. per diem. This village has about forty natives, belonging to the Rangatani tribe. The river here (Kaituna) is not more than thirty yards broad at h. w., and the water always fresh. It is one mile within the mouth, and situated on the east bank, the land about it cultivated with wheat, maize, and potatoes. They do not appear to grow pumpkins, melons, or onions, as in the northern island.

On the 20th, we crossed to the west bank, and commenced our journey towards Wairau, accompanied by several natives. In half an hour we crossed the Whakaibu, twenty feet broad, its bed pebbles; it rises in the hills, forming the western boundary of the valley. Three miles from Orakia, where we left the surveyor's (Barnicoat's) track, taking the native track at the suggestion of our guides, who said it was the shortest; but we found it very difficult, having to crawl beneath low trees and among supple jacks, and occasionally stung by a nettle, that gave infinitely more pain than those at home. At 10, a.m., we crossed to the east bank, and came to a small pond called Tekopua, in which the natives caught eels, by groping for them in holes which they made near the edges: each eel weighed 2 lbs. At 11:30 we again came on Barnicoat's track, and at noon crossed the Rororiki and Kariki streams, and came upon an open fern land, which is judged to be 200 feet above the level of the sea. Within an hour we crossed the small streams of Awakiri, Teawheki, and Motupuki, heading the Kaituna at Orameo. Here we found the water good and clear, running over a bed of pebbles, and about eight miles S.S.E. from where we started. Three quarters of an hour from this brought us to the Wairau plains.

Our principal route had been through a level forest. Our guides never failed to point out the Totara tree, saying they were highly prized by the white man. They are scarce; the highest eighty feet, and twenty feet in girth.

From the head of the Kaituna to the head of Areare (a branch of the Wairau), the distance is not more than a mile and a half. It is merely a swamp where the latter ends in the forest.

The small streams mentioned were easily crossed, the season being dry; but it is very difficult at other times.

We saw numbers of parrots and pigeons. The robin was so tame as to allow itself to be fed by hand. The natives killed all they could lay hold of for baits to catch eels.

The first view of the Wairau plains was uninviting, the weather giving it a cheerless aspect, and the drought had been excessive.

About a quarter of an hour after leaving the forest, during which time our road was on the slope of hills, varying from 200 to 400 feet high, bare, and lately burnt, we crossed a swamp near the head of the Areare, and ascended about 300 feet of a bare ridge, which terminating the Kaituna valley, is also a part of the northern boundary to the Wairau plains. Crossing this is a seam of quartz rock, meeting the level at an angle of 20°. Having descended the hill, our road was at the foot, and several swamps were crossed, only passable because the season was dry.

Having left our natives behind with the luggage, we were without guides, and, missing the road, we struck off to the right, towards what appeared to be a whare; this whare, on approaching it, revealed to us a settler's house, which, though built of wood, and thatched, had nevertheless a homely appearance. The owners, Michael Mahar and his wife, welcomed us.

Tuesday, February 21st, at 7, a.m., our natives and their companions arrived, having passed the night at the foot of the quartz hill, which we ascended. We then started for the native pah at Pungarauawite, crossing the Wairau river a quarter of an hour afterwards. The greatest depth was about three feet, and the strength of the current, where we waded, two or three knots. The whole breadth was not more than 300 yards—there were dry patches; yet this short distance made our feet sore, having walked it bare-footed; it was difficult to keep a firm footing.

Since September last very little rain has fallen in the Wairau, so that the river at this time was as low as it ever is likely to be. And yet in October the eldest son of Mahar was lost here. He was on horseback with his brother; both arrived at the edge of the river, about 10, p.m., and the youngest, having found the proper spot, crossed in safety; the other told him he would soon follow, that he was taking off his spurs, and desired him to ride towards home. Supposing him to have stopped on the bank of the river, not venturing to cross until daylight, no anxiety was felt. In the morning his horse was found, and though many people were for three weeks constantly looking for the rider, yet nothing was found of him until a week before our arrival, although it was six months since he was lost. It is supposed that his horse slipped, and being spirited, threw him, and that he was swept down by the current into some deep hole.

In the winter, travellers are frequently detained by the rains, which cause the river to swell until it is more than a quarter of a mile broad, and makes it otherwise impassable by the strength of current.

At the village of Pungarauawiti on the west bank of the Wairau, the natives were very hospitable, giving us eels, potatoes, damper, butter, and tea, and never hinting at payment.

The river here is 150 yards broad, and very deep; boats navigate five miles above.

The pab, two miles from this village, had been recently burnt by accident, the natives losing much wheat, rice, and sugar.

Having visited Boulder Bank, we returned to Pangarauawiti; but, missing the road, we passed with great difficulty through a swamp. On arriving at the village, we were again treated with great kindness.

We left Mahar's house on the 25th. We again tried a short cut by walking straight for the hills, and, as a natural consequence, passed through a swamp up to our middles; we walked round the base of the hills, arriving at Orakiawhea at 3, p.m., where we found a boat from the Pandora.

The natives walk easily from Mahakipawa to Pangarauawiti in one day, by a road which leads near the Waikakaho, a branch of the Wairau.

During a still night, reports of distant guns were distinctly heard, which proved afterwards to be H.M.S. Fantome, firing at night quarters in Wellington, at a distance of 38 miles. There could have been no other guns in Cook's Straits. The natives as well as ourselves felt assured they were guns; and we have since found that the Fantome was firing at that exact time.

From the observations of the officers on this pass (for illness prevented me from prosecuting the journey), I cannot believe that the Pelorus offers a better means of shipment of the produce of the Wairau plains than Port Underwood. The swamps are barriers to road making, and even if this were overcome, the difficulties of navigating the Pelorus to the anchorage are considerable.

The banks at the head of the Pelorus would prevent a vessel of burden approaching the Kaituna nearer than six miles; and during ordinary winds, it would take a sailing vessel three days to work out, with difficulty of reaching an anchorage of moderate depth. We had on one occasion to let go a bower anchor in 37 fathoms, and it is necessary to anchor in every tide.

To continue the description of the Pelorus: At Chetwode's Island we left the Tawhitinui reach. It differs from other portions of the Pelorus by having in it, beside Chetwode Island, three islands, Tawhitinui, Awaiti, and Oaie; these latter all in that part of the reach where Croixelles harbour is separated by an easy half hour's walk over a hill of 600 feet.

Kawai Sound forms the head of Tawhitinui. The four bays at its head are all of the same nature, backed by mountains from 2,000 and 3,000 feet high.

The channel west of Chetwode Island is called the Apuan, and is half a mile broad, with 27 fathoms. There is a double bay south of it, which cannot be three miles from the French Pass; but the range dividing is very precipitous. As we proceed outwards along the west coast, we come to Waitata Bay, perfectly clear, with fourteen fathoms throughout. The points of entrance are Kaiana, a yellow point, and Moitena, having a white rock off it, resembling a boat under sail.

Waibmau Bay is considered a good anchorage by the natives, as the squalls are not so heavy as in those on either side; but the only danger in the Pelorus is at the mouth of this bay—the Kainoki rock, having one foot on it at low water: from it, Danger Point, the north point of the bay, bears N.N.W. half a mile, and West Entry Point, N.E. by E., one and a quarter miles.

Port Ligar, named after the Surveyor General,

immediately within the West Entry Point, is a fine harbour, and equal to any in Cook's Straits. The outer portion, called Kopi, has fourteen to seventeen fathoms. The north part of this harbour is separated by a narrow creek, of a quarter of a mile, from Admiralty Bay, Cook's Straits.

The north entrance to Port Ligar is formed by a long yellow clay point tapering to the water. From it the land trends N. by E., one and a quarter miles to a bluff point opposite the Kakaho Island. From thence the coast trends westward to Admiralty Bay. There is a rock covered at half tide in the channel between Kakaho Island and West Entry Point, with 25 fathoms round it, although not more than three cables from the west shore.

In coming through the Kakaho channel, bound for the Pelorus, keep the Guard Island rocks on the starboard bow until West Entry Point is open. Then you are clear of it.

There are in the Pelorus at least thirty bays or anchorages, mostly land locked, and safe in any winds. The gusts in bad weather are very furious. In these anchorages water may always be found, and an abundance of fish may be caught off the points.

The tides in the stream run from two to three knots: the effect is scarcely felt in the anchorages. The prevailing winds blow down the reaches from seaward; but when it shifts to the S.E., it is accompanied by heavy rain and violent gusts, lasting forty-eight hours.

I may here remark that on visiting Queen Charlotte's Sound, in January, 1854, we found in Ship's Cove the following interesting relics of Cook:—The root of a Karaka tree close to the beach, hollow beneath: on this root was cut deep and distinctly, "Look under." The only portion disfigured being the last syllable of "under," which has made some travellers believe that the "look" is "Cook," and the "und" the beginning of "end—eavour." But I think the following extract from Cook's voyages explains the case:—

"The morning before we sailed, I wrote a memorandum, setting forth the time we last arrived, the day we sailed, the route I intended to take, and such other information as I thought necessary for Captain Furneaux, in case he should put into the Sound; and buried it in a hole under the foot of a tree in the garden, which is in the bottom of the cove, in such a manner as might be found by him or any European who might put into the cove. I, however, had little reason to hope it would fall into the hands of the person for whom it was intended, thinking it hardly possible that the Adventure could be in any port in New Zealand, as we had not heard of her in all this time. Nevertheless, I was resolved not to leave the coast without looking for her where I thought it most likely for her to be."

A few yards behind it there is an old tree with T. Brown the "e" being left out. The natives did not seem to be aware of this relic, but they call the root "Cook's tree;" and I sincerely hope that it may be preserved, and think the natives must have been attentive to it, or it could scarcely have escaped the fires 82 years.

I have pleasure in annexing a summary of the remarks of Dr. Jolliffe, as drawn up by that officer, including the ornithology, botany, ichthyology, &c., of the estuary.

BIRDS MET WITH IN PELORUS.  
Hawks—two kinds.

Owls.  
Kingfishers.  
Tui, or Parson Bird.  
New Zealand Crow—Kokako of the natives.  
Parrot—large brown kind—or Kaka of the natives.

Paroquets—two kinds, one considerably smaller than the other, but of similar plumage—called Kakariki by natives.

A small kind of Cuckoo, not larger than a sparrow—called Pipiwaharoa by the natives—a migratory bird.

Pigeon—called Kukupa by natives.  
A large white Heron—only seen twice, but are said to be common near Nelson.

Woodhen—Weka of the natives (*Ocydromus Australis*)—a kind of rail as large as the common fowl.

Paradise Ducks—Putangi-tangi of the natives—a small kind of wild goose, with beautiful plumage.  
Ducks of several kinds—Parera of the natives.

Teal.  
Cormorants—several kinds of. They live in communities, and build their nests in trees overhanging the water. The *Phalacrocorax Punctatus*, or *Cristatus* (spotted shag), is said to be common in Pelorus, but we did not meet with any; all kinds are called Kauwau by the natives.

Quail—formerly abundant, now becoming scarce.

Oysterpickers—two kinds—called Toria by natives.

Pukeko—numerous in swampy places.  
New Zealand Robin—common in the bush, and remarkable for its tameness.

The Kiwi-Kiwi and Kakapo—formerly common, but now not to be found in the neighbourhood of Pelorus.

A small bird, with yellow head and neck, size of the Canary, and in flocks of a dozen.

Stilts—two kinds—called Toria by natives.  
Flycatchers and Fantails.

Gulls, Petrels, and other sea fowls, common near the entrance of the Pelorus.

The above are the most common kinds met with, there were several others, especially small birds.

All the birds in the bush are exceedingly tame: the Weka is easily caught with a noose at the end of a stick, the bird being attracted to the spot by brushing the ground with a bough, or the noise made by breaking pieces of stick.

The Robins are so exceedingly tame and unsuspecting, that they pitch upon one's head or shoulders when sitting quietly. The Pigeons are even more tame or stupid, for they sit quietly on the branches and allow two or three in succession to be shot out of the same tree.

The Ducks are the only wary birds met with.

#### TREES.

Black Birch—exceedingly common, forming the greater portion of the forest near the water's edge.

Totara—of very large size in the forests at the end of the Pelorus: several are pointed out by the natives as being fine trees.

Kahikatea—Red Pine.  
Manuka—Tea tree, of larger size than we anywhere before met with in the Northern Island.

Nikau—Palm (*areca sapida*) was found in abundance and of great size; being about 180 miles further south than is mentioned in Dr. Hooker's Flora of New Zealand.

Rimu—Drooping Pine, numerous and large.

Rata—plentiful and of large size.  
Ti—Ti palm or Ti bush—common everywhere.

Supple-jacks—Karea of natives, numerous in all the forests.  
Kawa-Kawa—were of large size and numerous.

Tawa—plentiful, bearing a large blue-looking fruit with a resinous taste, eaten by pigeons.

Flax—Korari of natives, of different kinds, everywhere plentiful.

Tutu—the berries somewhat resemble those of the Elder, the juice is wholesome and pleasant, but the fruit, stalks, and seeds are poisonous. Three of the men were poisoned by eating the berries of this tree, without first separating the fruitstalks and seeds; they were seized with convulsions, delirium, retching, and a severe burning pain in the throat and stomach, followed by a swollen tongue and soreness of the throat. They recovered from the convulsions and delirium in a few hours without any medical assistance, and the after consequences were easily removed by a brisk purgative.

Tawai—a large tree, commonest of all the trees in the Pelorus forests.

Ferns, mosses, and the other tribes of Cryptogamic plants, were exceedingly numerous and of most luxuriant growth, the tree-ferns were particularly large and beautiful. Upwards of ninety kinds of ferns and club-mosses were found, and all, excepting about six species, are common to both the North and Middle Islands. Of Mosses, *Jungermannii*, Liverworts, and Lichens, more than 140 kinds were collected, the greater number of them being also found on the North Island.

New Zealand grass (native grass) is found in the valleys and on the cleared spots on the neighbouring hills of the Pelorus, but was not met with in any quantity nearer than the Wairau Plains.

#### FISH.

Rock Cod—Pakirikiri of natives, red and brown (or black), very numerous.

Snapper—Tamuti, not abundant.  
Sea weeds and corallines are very scarce within the Pelorus, although plentiful in different parts of Cook's Straits.

Terakehi—not abundant.  
Hapuka—plentiful near the entrance in deep water.

Barracouta—plentiful near the entrance.  
Conger—eel, occasionally met with.  
Ling—about four feet long, and resembling the European fish of the same name.

Whiting (or resembling the European whiting).  
Kahawi.

Flat fish—Patiki, plentiful in the rivers at the end of the Pelorus.

Eels, fresh water—common in the rivers and swamps, and of great size. Some were seen more than four feet long, and upwards of a foot in circumference at the largest part. The natives said that they frequently found them much larger than even this.

Herrings—a small kind, six to ten inches long.  
Mullet—not numerous.

Sting-Ray—not very numerous.  
Porpoises—occasionally seen a long distance up the Estuary.

Sharks—small size, from four to six feet in length.

Crayfish—at the entrance.  
Oysters—a few, and bad tasted.  
Mussels—many kinds and numerous.

Cockles—few.

Pipis—few.

Shrimps.

A cephalopod mollusc, called the Octopus or Poulpe, was very plentiful and of great size. It has eight arms, that may be extended to two or three feet in length, and each arm has upon it upwards of 110 suckers, the largest about the size of a sixpence, the smallest not larger than a two-penny silver piece. With this cupping glass apparatus, the creature can adhere to any surface with the greatest firmness; even smooth, slimy earfish held with the greatest ease, as we proved on several occasions by hauling up a fish with one of these creatures firmly fixed to it, and even after cutting off its arms, the detached portions remained firmly fixed to its prey. When wounded in the water, the creature throws out a large quantity of black fluid (sepia), and escapes in the darkness caused by its diffusion in the water.

Thousands of medusæ, or jelly fish, were floating about in the water, showing beautiful golden and silver colours, as the sun's rays were reflected from their various surfaces and fringes. All of them had four brilliant rings in the centre of the umbrella-shaped crown, placed at equal distances from one another.

Star fish of many varieties are numerous on the rocks at low water.

Lizards—small, brown, and green, were occasionally seen.

Insects were far from being numerous, excepting the common house-fly, flesh fly, mosquitos, and sand flies—these were all abundant enough.

The flesh fly deposited its larvæ upon all animal substances, if left exposed for a short time, even the flags, cloth clothes, and blankets, did not escape.

Wild pigs were plentiful in the bush, and some of good magnitude. One brought on board weighed upwards of two hundred pounds, after the offal had been removed, and was exceedingly fat and well flavoured.

The tusks of some of the boars were eight inches in the curve, and exceedingly sharp at their points—very dangerous weapons, and capable of inflicting most severe wounds. A native was brought on board with a wound five inches long, and two deep, across the outer part of the thigh, inflicted by the tusk of a wounded boar.

Only two or three minute species of land shells were found, although search was frequently made for them in all places.

Superintendent's Office, Nelson,  
November 29, 1854.

HIS Honor the Superintendent acknowledges the receipt of One Pound from the Rev. T. D. Nicholson, in aid of the Fund for the Relief of the Wives and

Families of the British Forces engaged in the Russian War.

By his Honor's command,  
ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
Clerk in Superintendent's Office.

Superintendent's Office, Nelson,  
November 29, 1854.

HIS Honor the Superintendent directs it to be notified, that the undermentioned portions of the Waste Lands of the Crown, within the Province of Nelson, as hereinafter described, have been RESERVED for various purposes of public utility, viz.:

1. A block of land situate in the Suburban North district, bounded on the north by a public road; on the east by part of Rural Section, No. 3; on the south by waste lands of the Crown; and on the west by Section, No. 57; containing about 5 acres.
2. A block of land situate in the Moutere district, bounded on the north by Section, No. 201; on the east by waste lands of the Crown; on the south by Section, No. 31; and on the west by a public road; containing 28 acres.
3. A block of land situate in the Moutere district, bounded on the north and east by waste lands of the Crown; on the south by Section, No. 162; and on the west by a public road; containing 20 acres.
4. A block of land situate in the Moutere district, bounded on the north by Section, No. 61; on the east and south by waste lands of the Crown; and on the west by a public road; containing 40 acres.
5. A block of land situate in the Moutere district, bounded on the north by Sections, Nos. 77 and 79; on the east by a public road; on the south by Sections, Nos. 78 and 80; and on the west by the river Moutere; containing 11 acres.

By His Honor's command,  
ALFRED GREENFIELD,  
Clerk in Superintendent's Office.