

there had never been an accident, owing of course to well trained horses and careful driving. The two seats had been previously engaged by some gentlemen tourists, but the driver, who had known something of my friends and was desirous of obliging them if possible, represented one of us as his sister, the other as her friend. To this laudable fiction we owed much of the pleasure we derived from our ride. We arrived in Akaroa about four p.m. and were very glad of an early tea which revived us after the intense heat. There is a lovely harbour embosomed by hills, with a long entrance from the Heads. It seems strange that a place with such good facilities for ship-ping should be so lifeless and dull, having degenerated into a quiet little watering place. The surrounding hills afford splendid views of the town and port, many are covered with bushes,

and form pleasant resorts for picnic parties. The view from our front windows was beautiful, especially in the evening when the waters were of that deep blue tint which so nearly matches those of the sky, and the lovely shadows rested on the hills in all varieties of shapes and shades. The climate seemed to us most relaxing, the heat was intense, and we felt utterly disinclined for any exertion during the day, but the evenings were delightfully cool, and after an early tea, we used to saunter out to go up some of the lanes near the house, and pursue our various occupations of reading, working and sketching. One morning we came across a curiously quaint vine-covered cottage which Miss H. recollected visiting eight years before, then occupied by a French settler named Poileau. We all went to see if the same person lived there now, and Miss H. at once recognized him in the old gentleman who came forth to greet us. The conversation was conducted in French, and he