

61 **CHARLES BLOMFIELD**

1848 - 1926

*View of Pink & White Terraces,
Rotomahana, with Mt Tarawera Beyond*

Oil on board 29 x 83

Signed

25,000 - 35,000

This painting is believed to be the one mentioned on page 178 in Charles Blomfield *'His Life and Times'*, Muriel Williams, 1979. The text reads as follows:

Some time later, when Bessie called to visit her father, he was having one of his lucid periods. Turning his sad eyes on her he cried: I didn't think you'd let them do this to your father, Bessie. Bessie ran from the hospital and arrived home in tears. "I'm going to get him out of that place," she said. As good as her word, she went to the minister of the Tabernacle, Rev. J W Kemp, and begged him to help her. He called on the hospital officials and found that Charles was much better mentally, but weaker physically. They considered he was well enough to be looked after at home, so gratefully Mr Kemp brought Charles back to Wood Street.

After this, Charles tried to paint, but not only was he too weak, but his ability has deserted him. He ruined some of his good pictures by daubing over them, and his attempts at drawing were strange. One day his doctor came to visit him and asked if he could buy a Terrace picture. "But you haven't signed it Mr Blomfield," he said. "I'm too weak and tired to do it," replied Charles. So the doctor gave him an injection, helped him to sit up, and handed him a brush. Very carefully Charles signed 'C. Blom-----' and dropped the brush - probably the last thing he ever painted.

Text: Charles Blomfield, *His Life and Times'*, Muriel Williams, 1979

This work is thought to have been painted in the early 1920s remaining unsigned by the artist until the early months of 1926. Bessie Blomfield, the artist's daughter, noticed a change in her father on the morning of March 15. Looking up at her from his bed *"I'm floating on the ocean of Gods love,"* he said and a few minutes later he passed away.

Charles Blomfield built his fame and a small fortune painting the Pink and White Terraces at Lake Rotomahana. The Terraces were a popular tourist destination before they were destroyed by the Tarawera eruption, June 1886. Blomfield's *Gallery of New Zealand Art* in Auckland's Victoria Arcade was a tourist attraction in itself.



