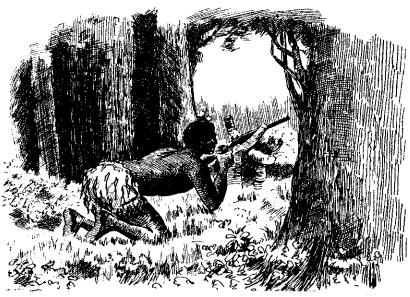
Amiria was now eighteen, and being the probable successor of Tawhiao, the Maori King, was sought in marriage by a number of chiefs from various tribes, but Te Rangi-o-te-Wainui (the Chief of the big sea) generally called 'Te Rangi,' who was the Chief of a large tribe at Hawke's Bay, seemed to be the favourite suitor. He was a bold, determined warrior, but ambitious and resentful of any interference. He wished to marry Amiria, for by so doing he eventually hoped to become King of the Maoris. He was assiduous in his attentions to her, but regarded Harry, the pakeha, with a jealous eye. On his proposing to Amiria, he was astonished and chagrined at her refusal, and finding she would not listen to him taunted her with loving the pakeha. Hot words ensued between them, and they parted in bitter enmity. He retired to his own tribe soon after this, and Amiria hoped she would never see him again. Harry, hearing of this, from her father, and partly guessing the reason of her

husband. She rushed forward and flung her arms around Harry's neck, just in time to receive the bullet in her back. Harry's first impulse was to rush after Te Rangi, but Amiria restrained him with the cry, 'Oh, Harry! don't leave me.' He took her in his arms, and found the bullet had passed between her shoulder blades, and the blood was rushing forth at every breath she took. He realised at once that she could not live for more than a few minutes, and in his agony pressed her to him. 'Harry!' she gasped, 'I'm going to leave you,' and then appeared to lose consciousness. She turned to him again, saying, 'Good-bye, Harry; something tells me you will come to me soon,' and with one or two convulsive gasps she expired in his arms.

I was riding close by at the time, and hearing the shot in the bush, went towards the spot, and was bitterly grieved at the sight before me. We lifted her up tenderly and carried her home, and I thought it



AMIRIA NOTICED TE RANGI WITH A RIFLE POINTED AT HER HUSBAND

refusal, spoke to her and was well rewarded by noticing the depth of her affection for him. They were married within a month, and lived very happily for over a year, and were blessed with a little baby girl, who is now my

within a month, and lived very napping for over a year, and were blessed with a little baby girl, who is now my niece Miriam.

I returned to New Zealand about this time, and atthough at first I did not regard the marriage with favour, I was so much struck with their thorough happiness that I clearly saw it was for the best, and I soon learned to love Amiria as a very dear sister. All went along peacefully and hopefully until Te Rangi appeared on the scene once more, and finding Amiria alone one day, tried to persuade her to leave her home and return with him to Napier, and he threatened if she did not he would kill both her and her husband. Fortunately her father, who was passing, interrupted Te Rangi, who left, swearing to be avenged on the accursed pakeha, who had robbed him of his bride. Amiria told Harry of this, and her father warned them to be careful, and promised to have Te Rangi watched. Te Rangi soon afterwards, however, left for a neighbouring settlement.

better to leave Harry alone with his grief, for in such moments it is impossible to give expression to the sorrow or sympathy which we feel, and all words appear to be empty and expressionless. I considered it necessary that Amiria's father should be informed at once of the death of his daughter, and took the oportunity of riding over to tell him. I found him in his whare, and on imparting the news to the old man he buried his face in his hands and seemed to be overcome with grief, but the next moment he sprang to his feet, grasped his mere, and with flashing eyes and determined mich he left the whare. He issued two or three commands to some of his men outside, and in a moment all was bustle. He then returned to me and asked some rapid questions as to the exact spot, and the time of the shot. Scarcely had he done questioning me, than I noticed a young chief with five warriors stood at the door. They were all naked, except for a light Maori mat around the loins, but they were well armed. Kingi Hori turned to them, and speaking rapidly and in an excited manner, told them what had occurred, and explained all particulars to



THEY CREPT SILENTLY ALONG WELL HIDDEN BY THE TI-TREE SCRUB.

The next Sunday they visited her father, and on re-turning home had to pass through a piece of dense bush. The track was narrow, and Harry was walking a little in front, when suddenly Amiria noticed a movement in the bush, and there saw Te Rangi with a rifle pointed at her

them, and urged them to be revenged on Te Rangi. His last words as he pointed with his mere in the direction which Te Rangt had taken, being 'Go! and never return until Te Rangt sleeps with his fathers.' I took them to the place where Amiria was shot, and

they immediately found the trail and quickly disappeared from sight. Te Rangi, however, had a good start, and it appeared that, expecting to be pursued, he had done his utmost to baffle any who might follow him. They trecked him to Waiwhakarewarean, near Rotoras, where they arrived in the early morning, and on questioning the natives there, heard that Te Rangi was asleep in one of the whar's, but on aurrounding it they found that the bird hat flown. One young man who had slept in the same whar's stated that about an hour before daylight the heard the dogs barking, and going to see what was the matter, he saw on the brow of the hill close by the figure of Te Rangi clearly outlined against the moonli sky. The young chief add his warrivor once more pashed forward as for its geysers and boiling springs, also its beautiful encreatations, petrifications, and other thermal wonders. On the eve of the second day the pursuers were beginning to loss all hope of catching Te Rangi, when they noticed his footmarks close to a small creek, and that the water near the edge of the creek was still slightly muddy, and they pushed onward and cutered the Wairaki Valley, and suddenly caught sight of Te Rangi secending the hill on the opposite side of the gully. From his manner he appeared to have lost all fear of pursuit. Directly he had disappeared from view, they followed him rapidly, and on nearing the spot where they had seen him, they crept stealthily and silently along, well hidden by the ti-tree and scrub. Soon afterwards they saw Te Rangi in a small clearing sitting down to his evening meal. They separated and savanced stealthily towards him from different points, intending to capture him after a the pursue. Soon afterwards they saw Te Rangi in a small clearing sitting down to his evening meal. They separated and sovened stealthily towards him from different points, intending to capture him some slighting for his life, and twice he fairly shook off his foes and rose to his feet, only again to be borne to the grace of the fear

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