

gathered in two long rows in fighting costume, ready to greet the long-expected Duke. They were stripped to the waist, with feathers in their hair. All wore native mats and carried mere, taiahas and Te Whetehas. Behind them were gathered a great crowd of native people, while at the entrance to the village a select party of forty women, in gala costumes, wearing blue sashes, flax waist mats, and carrying green boughs in their hands, were stationed to wave and sing a welcome to the Royalties. They were headed by a woman named Kiri Matou, better known as the Duchess—the leader of women's dances at Rotorua.

The carved house and marae were gay with flags. In front of the house stood the Arawas flagstaff, from which floated several large ensigns. At the foot of the post the Arawa had mounted on a carved pedestal the bust of Queen Victoria, presented to the tribe thirty years ago by the Duke of Edinburgh, who visited Ohinemutu in 1871, when the place was in a very primitive condition, and when the old fighting pa stockades still stood here. Over the bust of the Queen was erected a handsome wooden canopy, painted in Maori style.

In front of the parade of warriors sat old Major Fox of the Ngatipikiao section of the Arawas, clothed in a fine kiwi feather mat, and holding in his hand the claymore presented to him many years ago for his services in the war. Other chiefs, representing all sections of the Arawa tribe, were gathered here to meet the Royalties. Capt. Mair was busy superintending arrangements for the reception.

At 10.30 the Royal carriage drove up with the Duke and Duchess, Lord Ranfurly, and the Hon. J. Carroll. Others of the Royal party were followed by the Premier, the Ministers of the Crown, and other distinguished visitors, including eighteen officers from the British warships now at Auckland.

The women sang and danced their powhiri of welcome, waving their leafy boughs and retiring slowly backwards, still singing in musical rhythm as the Royal party advanced to the marae. The song greeted the Duke in poetic language as being drawn to these shores in the Arawa canoe, from the uttermost ends of the earth, and the regions that lie beyond the horizon. On reaching the marae the Duke and Duchess were saluted with great enthusiasm as they walked on to the centre of the plaza, the Duchess, with Hon. Mr. Carroll leading, followed by the Duke and Lord Ranfurly.

Then came the Arawas' formal song of welcome. The armed men were all kneeling on the ground, facing the Royalties, with their wooden weapons held in front of them with both hands, led by their chiefs, who ran up and down giving the time. The men of Te Arawa sang in tremendous chorus their powhiri to the Duke, keeping time, by waving their plumed weapons, with splendid precision, old Major Fox in front of the warriors flourishing his glittering sword as his tribesmen yelled their loud-throated welcome to the King's son.

This was their song of welcome, as chanted by some three hundred men:—  
 "Haere! Haere!  
 "Welcome! Welcome! to the Duke.  
 "Drawn hitherwards by the Arawa.  
 "From the far boundaries of the sky.  
 "Welcome! Welcome! Approach us.  
 "Come to our marae.  
 "Come hither to see your people.  
 "Oh, 'tis the Duke standing here on land.  
 "Come to greet the Arawa,  
 "To meet us face to face  
 "And cross the sacred threshold of Hounaitawhiti."

The last line was in allusion to the paepae, or door sill, of the carved house. Tamate-Kupua, which the Royalties were to inspect. The house is named after the famous navigator of the Arawa canoe.

At the conclusion of the martial song the natives, still kneeling, all saluted the Duke and Duchess, who were then escorted to Tamate-Kupua, crossing the paepae, and walking round the interior to inspect the curious historical carvings on the slab panels with which the walls are decorated, forming a tribal picture gallery of the Arawas. The Hon. Carroll acted as interpreter and vicereine. After a few

minutes spent in the house, which was spread with fine mats for the occasion, the Royal party emerged and walked across the marae to the foot of the flagstaff, where stood the bust of the late Queen. Here a number of Arawa chiefs and chieftainesses were in waiting to receive the Duke and Duchess. Mr. Carroll, assisted by Captain Mair, introduced them to the Royalties.

Two handsome young women of rank of the Arawa tribe were in waiting to make presentations to the Duke and Duchess. The ladies were Te Hongokahira and Te Paeraki Haerehika, both of whom are direct descendants of Hinemoa and Tutanekei, of romantic memory. Te Hongokahira and Paeraki, and also Miai Erhapeti Parata, of the South Island, of the Ngaitahu Maoris, had been presented to the Royalties yesterday at the Grand Hotel.

The two chieftainesses now handed to the Duchess a much-valued patu pouama and greenstone weapon, an ancestral relic, also a white kiwi feather tea cosy, and a muff of brown kiwi feathers. The greenstone was a marriage gift to Hongokahira from the Ngaitahu, a South Island tribe. It is known to the Maoris by the name of Taratawa.

At the foot of the Queen's statue were laid out several very fine flax mantles and mats, together with a greenstone mere. These were the Arawa gifts to the Duke and Duchess. A tall black-bearded chief named Pirimi Matoiaha, of Whakarewarewa, made a short speech in reference to the gifts of the Arawa people, Captain Mair interpreting. Pirimi said, "We are spreading these Maori's gifts before the statue of our late Majesty Queen Victoria. This is in accordance with the custom of laying down presents in memory of those who are departed. They are tokens of our love, therefore we beg your Royal Highnesses not to disregard these small presents, unworthy though they may be, but to take them with you. This is all. We here are all the Arawas."

Their Royal Highnesses graciously acknowledged the gifts. Pirimi also displayed before the eyes of Royalty the Arawa tribal ensign, a blue silk flag, heavily fringed, bearing the words "Te Arawa, 1870." Leaving the foot of the flagstaff the Royal couple and party walked up along the lines of the armed men until they came to the tattooed veteran Major Fox, who by reason of his feeble health was seated in a chair. The major rose and was presented to the Royalties, who shook hands with him. The old man's face lighted up with deep gratification and pleasure as the Duke and Duchess inspected the sword borne by the venerable soldier, which was sent to him by Queen Victoria. The Major, on being presented, handed a greenstone toki or axe to the Duke as a token of his love and regard. The Duchess, seeing the old chief was an invalid, asked him why he had troubled to leave his bed to see them. He replied gallantly that his love for the Royal family was so great that he could not stay at home.

Another song of welcome was sung in a lower key by a section of the Arawas behind Major Fox. Soon afterwards the Duke and Duchess were escorted to their conveyance, which drove up to the marae for them. They took their leave of the Arawas amidst a scene of excited enthusiasm, the Maoris chanting a farewell waiata in the plaintive fashion of native songs. This was an old, well-known chant, which appropriately bade sorrowing adieu to friends.

The Duke and Duchess bowed and smiled as they drove off, the Duke turning to the assembled people and raising his hat, in which was displayed a huia feather, presented to him on the marae, the rare plumage which was the old Maori badge of chieftainship. Then the Royal couple drove away, followed by the shrilly chorused farewells of the gaily garbed people, whose minds will ever retain vivid memories of this all too brief visit to the lake side home of the Arawas, amongst boiling springs of the historic Ohinemutu kianga.

### Whakarewarewa's Weird Wonders

From Ohinemutu the party drove to Whakarewarewa, arriving at 11.30. They were met by the Tuhourangi section of the Arawa tribe, headed by Te Keera, Uta Taupopoki and other leading chiefs, the natives cheering enthusiastically. They were

shown Nelson's famous carved house at the entrance to the village as they passed, and then proceeded along the road to the bridge over Tuarenga Creek. Here an arch of welcome, handsomely decorated with ferns and lycopodium, was erected on the bridge, with "Haere-mai," the Maori welcome, written overhead. After crossing the bridge Their Highnesses and party alighted, and proceeded to the Government reserve.

Mr. W. H. Clark, Government Inspector, led the way. Sophia, the veteran guide, and one of the few survivors of Wairoa during the famous Tarawera eruption, acted as guide to the Duchess, Maggie Papanura, a handsome half-caste girl, guiding the Duke. The first spot visited was the Wairoa Geyser. Mr. Clark threw in a quantity of soap, and in a few minutes a magnificent column of boiling water burst from the aperture, reaching to the height of about one hundred feet. The geyser played with immense activity for several minutes, making a grand spectacle.

Pohutu, another famous geyser, was visited next, and more soap was applied to coax the pent-up waters to burst forth; but Pohutu had been playing splendidly for nearly an hour, stopping just before the Royalties arrived, and evidently the geyser considered it had done enough for a day, anyhow it declined to exhibit its qualities, so the party passed on to examine Kereru, the Torpedo, the Brain Pot, famous in the history of inter-tribal wars, and other spots of interest.

Returning through the native enclosure, the Duke and party stationed themselves on the bridge, and watched with great interest and amusement the dusky native children diving from the railing into the creek, twenty feet below. The Duchess was highly amused at the antics of these excited little mortals, who vied one with another in diving for a silver coin and pennies thrown from the bridge above. The Premier bribed two tiny Maori girls with a present of half-a-crown each to dive from the bridge for the benefit of the Duchess. Nothing loath, the little mites, putting the coins for safety in their mouths, jumped boldly from the rail amidst great laughter and applause. A band of Maori girls in bright coloured blouses danced the graceful poi dance. As the Royal party passed along from the village, the brass band played the National Anthem and the crowd cheered lustily. Both the Duke and Duchess appeared thoroughly pleased with the curious sights witnessed.

### Visit to Tikitere.

The Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, accompanied by a large party, made a visit to Tikitere on Friday last, and expressed themselves much pleased with the excursion. The party totalled eighty-five in all, including the Governor, Lord Ranfurly, the Premier and other Ministers and members of Parliament, naval officers and other visitors, including the English pressmen. They were conveyed across the lake to the landing near Te Ngae, an old mission station, in the launches Hamurana and Hinemoa. Mr. H. R. MacDonald, master of the Hamurana, was the Duke's guide for the trip, and he explained all the sights of interest to the Royal visitors. The lake looked its best yesterday, with only a gentle ripple on its surface. The steamers skirted close by the beautiful island of Mokoia. The visitors were delighted with the rich green native vegetation and picturesque Maori dwellings and plantations near the shore. Mr. MacDonald pointed out places of interest, including the locality of Hinemoa's bath, and told the familiar story of Hinemoa and her lover Tutanekei, and showed the played great interest in the place, and said she had read the legend, and was greatly pleased to see the historic spot. The place where Hongi Hika and his cannibal warriors landed eighty years ago and slaughtered the Arawas was also shown as the launches steamed past the long point known as Te Huruhuru, on which most of the houses on the island are

located. The party did not land on the island, but passed it sufficiently close to observe its beauties.

On landing at the Ngae the party were conveyed in vehicles up to Tikitere, where the Hon. Carroll showed most of the sights to the Royal visitors. The stay at Tikitere was limited to about a quarter of an hour, as darkness was coming on. Captain Post, of the Government steamer Tutanekei, put his foot accidentally through the sulphur crust, and narrowly escaped a severe scalding. The Hon. Ward also had a rather narrow squeak from a scalding. It was dark when the party left Tikitere, and they did not get back to the hotel till after half-past six, being delayed somewhat owing to one of the horses in the Duke's carriage breaking down through the heavy nature of the road.

Thirteen of the party returned by steamers, and the rest by vehicles.

### Carnival of the Tribes.

Early on Saturday people were wending their way out to the race-course, where the martial carnival of the tribes was to be held. The big camp itself was early astir, and dancers mustered in position a full two hours before the ceremony started.

It is a curious and striking scene that meets the eye. Massed in the centre of the ground are the dancers, every man in full fighting costume, stripped to the waist, and wearing mats of rustling flax, each carrying a painted taiaha or a long-pointed spear. Over the dusky warriors flags of every tribe assembled flutter in the breeze, from the huge ensign "porourangi," of the Ngaitiporou, with its crescent, moon and stars standing out against the dark blue background, to the tiny bannerettes carried by some of the tribes. In front of the Wanganui natives waves their white Motea ensign, presented by Queen Victoria to the defenders of Moten. Another much-prized flag is the red ensign of the Ngaituhia, presented at Otaki by Lord Onslow. The flags, spears, and columns of dusky warriors combine to lend a very martial air to the scene, and the white tents of the big encampment in the distant background enhance the military effect. To the left are the poi dancers, dressed alternately in red and white, in a huge semi-circle. Round the enclosure runs the black line of spectators, while the stands on either side the Royal pavilion are crammed to their utmost limits. Overhead is a blue unclouded sky, the whole enclosure being bathed in brilliant sunshine.

It is a long wait till 10 o'clock, when Royalties are due, and the tribes fill in the time practising their dances and songs of welcome. Others squat upon their haunches, jabbering excitedly. Four brawny warriors approach the Royal pavilion, bearing on their shoulders the 10ft model of the famous Arawa canoe, laden with gifts for the Royal couple. The canoe is placed upon the stand, and alongside the natives plant the blue banner of the Arawas, a flag presented them in 1870 by the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Hon. Jas. Carroll, director of the whole affair, is early on the scene, wearing a dog-skin mat across his shoulders, and round his waist a mat of flax.

Shortly before ten loud cheering announce the arrival of the Duke and Duchess. The former was carrying in his right hand the greenstone adze presented to him by Major Fox, while the Duchess carried a fine mere, also presented on Friday. Their Royal Highnesses, on taking their seats in the pavilion, were presented by Mrs. Carroll with mats, which she fastened round their shoulders. The Duke's mat was of dog-skin, with a beautiful border, while the Duchess wore a mat of kiwi feathers.

Lord Ranfurly sat on the Duke's right, and the Premier next the Duchess. The Tuhoi drum and fife band played the National Anthem as the party took their seats, and the leading East Coast chiefs, assembled in line before the grandstand to greet their Royal guests.

Immediately in front of the Royal stand were massed the great body of the Maoris in battle array, in close formation of columns, or "matua," each tribe forming a sort of square in compact bodies of armed men, all stripped to the waist, flax kilts or shawls round their waists, their faces