

den Age of the Arawa Maoris. Old peach and apple trees, cherries and raspberries grow wild amongst the high fern and the tutu and cabbage palms; there are ruins of the old villages long since abandoned to the wilderness.

Riding on along the winding, almost hidden track—it was a cart-road in the old days before the Maori war—we are suddenly brought up by the abrupt bluff that bounds the Tihio-Tonga on the south, and dismount and tether our horses. I want to inspect the pa called Te Ara-karia-Tutanekai and the singular very tapu image Horoirangi and other relics of the ancient Maori of which my companion, old Rangiri, the Kaumata of the Utnhina, has told me on the way. Right on the crest of the ridge are the fern-grown earthworks of the venerable Pa Te Whetengu, afterwards called Te Ara-karia-Tutanekai ("The pathway hewn out by Tutanekai") because of the fact that the chief of old had steps cut down the cliff-face from the fort to the

spot where the images of the gods reposed, a sacred tribal Tushu or shrine, which we shall presently see.

The view from this Pa Ara-karia-Tutanekai, looking south over the deep valley to the forested ranges of Paewhenua and Horohoro and the bold cone of Hapurangi, is one of remarkable beauty, and one that the tourist never sees. The ground breaks abruptly at one's feet, and falls to a shadowy forest; the tui's song comes faintly from the depths. Horohoro's table-topped mesa, a strange upheaval of volcanic rock, rises due south of our view point; at its further extremity the singular colossal rock which the Maoris call Hinemoa, after their ancestress of lake-swimming fame, is distinctly seen in this clear atmosphere, a sharp cut gigantic pillared form. Below Hinemoa again can be seen the huge rock column known as Hine-Ngawari, also named after a tribal ancestress. This Hine Ngawari rock, old Rangiri

tells me, is a "stone of power," for it has a maui-tapu, supernatural influence or attribute; it is the visible form of the genius loci, the guardian spirit of the place. Should a Maori traveller be journeying along the track which winds past the foot of Hine-Ngawari, he will do well to observe the ancient rite of the "Uru-uru-shema," the propitiation of the unseen spirit of the soil, by laying

a heafy offering before it, and saying: "Hui kai mau te minawa u tauhou." ("Here is food for thee, the heart of the stranger") Should this ceremony be omitted heavy rain or sleet or hail or other unpleasant weather will in all probability descend and punish that wayfarer for his neglect. Wherefore it is advisable for all brown-skinned travellers, and perhaps white ones as well, to learn of

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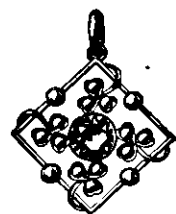
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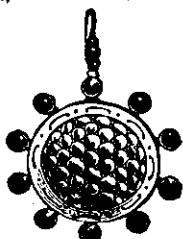
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