

chorus-chant which particularly impressed me was a song which I heard at the tangi over the late King Tawhiao at Taupiri, on the Waikato, a few years ago. A great body of the Waikato people, several hundreds of men and women—the former armed with guns and dancing the wild war-dance of their ancestors—chanted all together with inexpressibly sorrowful effect, the stentorian song echoing far across the wide-flowing Waikato river, this lament for their dead “Ariki” :—

I hear the thunder crashing
Above me in the sky ;
It is the sign of death !
The arising of the spirit from the depths !
Alas ! alas ! alas ! my grief !

From Mokau unto Tamaki
The earthquake shakes the land ;
The moon has disappeared ;
The stars fall from the heavens.
It is Waikato arising from the deep.
Alas ! alas ! alas ! my grief.

Waters of Waikato
Lie silent before me ;
Waikato tribesmen
Weep long for the lost one.
Alas ! alas !

Alas, oh Tupu !
Where is your ruler ?
Lo, he stands there above you,
At the shrine of our fathers.
But below we wail sadly ;
Like rain our tears fall fast,
We weep for the chieftain !
Alas !

But my feeble translation cannot give an adequate idea of the effect on the listener's ears produced by this “keen” for the dead king. The song, which was entitled “Te Taniwha o te Rua,” likening Tawhiao's departed spirit to a great “Taniwha” or mythical water-monster, was especially composed for the occasion, and was chanted by nearly a thousand people. The concluding line of each verse “Auè ! Auè ! Auè ! te



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