

# Rauparaha's South Island Raids

(CAPTURE AND RE-CAPTURE OF TŪTURŪ PA).

By R. O. CARRICK.

“MATAURA,” an open column correspondent in the *Otago Daily Times*, September 12th, puts certain pertinent questions regarding the above, and invites further information on the subject. By way of credential, permit me to say, I was many years employed as amanuensis to an ex-native minister, and in that capacity recorded a large amount of Native Land Court evidence, and other inquiry dealing with the early history of the tribes. Although the Southern invasion effected no permanent change in the vested rights of parties, it was so closely allied thereto that the enterprise had, from beginning to end, to be carefully sifted. Probably, you will consider this gives me a right to claim accuracy for the version now rendered, and in giving it, I will confine myself as closely as may be to evidence elicited as above.

Central figure in the engagement was one Te Pauhi, nephew of Te Rauparaha. The point is not clearly established, but the weight of evidence tends to show that Te Pauhi was the son of Te Pehi, treacherously slain by the Nga-tahu at Kaiapoi. The latter was Te Rauparaha's trusted counsellor, and we may fitly conclude, the son inherited a fair share of the mental calibre which advanced his sire in the estimation of this noted chief. That may, to some extent, account for a mission, demanding bravery and address, being entrusted to him.

Although historically named the Southern invasion, it would be more apt to limit the appellation to that of an important branch thereof. Te Rauparaha had made more than one inroad from Kapiti, his island home in the North, and had learned enough to convince him that an invasion of the South, conducted on these lines, would be long and tedious, if not interminable. To shorten the process, and bring it within

measurable distance, strategy was resorted to, and the Pauhi expedition devised. A force planted in the extreme South, co-operating with Te Rauparaha himself from the North, would place the invaded tribes between two fires, and in that way they would be more readily consumed. Moreover, the step in itself was bold and daring enough to strike terror into the minds of the Southerners, and lead them to believe the decrees of fate were against them. In that respect the Maori mind is singularly complex. To such an extent is he the victim of circumstances that, once he makes up his mind the fates are antagonistic, he gives himself over to despair, nay, even to death. Accordingly Te Pauhi, in command of a *tauu*, or fighting force, numbering seventy chosen men, crossed Cook Straits for the South, proceeding thence by way of the West Coast. They were accompanied by five of women. It is worthy of note—Paturan, one of the women, was the last survivor of the expedition. She died at Tumuki (Tomuka), Canterbury, in 1862.

Between Ngatitōa, to which Te Rauparaha belonged, and Ngati-wai-rangi, then a numerous tribe inhabiting the West Coast, commercial relations existed. The latter trafficked largely with their neighbours in that valuable commodity, the *pounamu* (greenstone). It was to information supplied by Ngati-wai-rangi, Te Rauparaha was indebted for the knowledge of a through pass, leading from the West to the East Coasts, and it was on their guidance Te Pauhi depended for finding the way. Their headquarters were the mouth of the Hoki-tika, so that this renowned locality has honourable traditions, ancient as well as modern.

Arriving there, Te Pauhi unfolded his designs to the West Coast natives. Contrary to expectation, Ngati-wai-rangi did