

marched forward as far as the scouting had proceeded, where they camped over night. A similar precautionary movement was made next day, and the day after, the force arrived in the vicinity of the pa. They concealed themselves in the bush until nightfall. Tuhawaiki and some of his principal men made their way stealthily along the ridge overlooking the pa. Their reconnoitings convinced them that Te Pauhi and his people had no idea of their proximity. During the night the attacking force was so disposed as to operate to the best advantage. With their intimate knowledge of the pa, that disposal was made on the very best terms.

Just as day had broken, one of the pa dogs set up a long, piercing howl. The howl was taken up by the others, and a terrific chorus ensued. This brought Te Pauhi himself to the door of his hut, and he was in the act of chastising one of the canine offenders, when a bullet, fired from a spot overlooking the pa, reached him, and

he dropped dead. Tairaoa, father of a Legislative Councillor of that ilk, with a few chosen men, was posted at this spot as a reserve, while the main body led the attack from an opposite direction. The shot, it would appear, was fired in contravention of the order of attack decided upon, but proving successful, it was not, as it otherwise would have been, rated a breach of discipline.

The occupants of the pa were now alarmed, and they rushed pell-mell in the direction from which the shot came. This gave Tuhawaiki the desired opportunity. He and his men were enabled to get in over the palisading unopposed. In that way the inmates of the pa were cooped up helplessly in a corner, before they realised what had actually occurred.

Te Pauhi and some thirty of his people were slain, or afterwards died of their wounds. The others, including the women, were taken prisoners, and carried to Ruapuke, where they were kept in bondage.

As the Kings Rode Home.

THE Holy Three Kings were riding
Homeward through night and day.
They kept them from Herod's madness
By passing a different way.

They spoke not of child or worship,
For these were the secret things
(They deemed) to be told by sages
Only to seers and kings.

Yet gladly they rode, and carried
A troubled gladness abroad.
The Ash tree bowed and the Cedar
To eyes that had seen the Lord.

The Olive heeded their coming,
The birds flew near with the morn;
A strange sad fragrance floated
From thickets of Noble Thorn.

And why did the blossoms tremble,
Those blossoms so pale to see
(One day they must stain to purple)
That hung on the Judas Tree?

The Shepherd where flocks were feeding
Had lifted a watchful eye;
He gazed with a dumb new longing
As the Three Kings passed him by.

"Strange, as these courtly riders
Drew near, I could almost say
They rode to hallow my dwelling
With tidings from far away."

Spoke to his feres right cheerly
The fisherman Zebedee,
As the Three Kings followed the stony road
By the Lake of Galilee.

"My hut holds babes this dawning;
But soothly it may be
They too shall see great Kings go by
While drawing the nets with me."

The Holy Three Kings spoke never;
They rode to their own far land;
But Olive and Cedar and Noble Thorn
Had Knowledge to understand.