

in entering the defences. But as they crouched by a deserted fire, they were heard whispering among themselves by a woman of the *pa*, and the garrison was alarmed. That was the end of that war party.

When, many years ago, a strong band of Waikato warriors attacked Ope-riki, they came down the river in canoes, and invested the *pa*. The siege lasted many months, but the Pa-moana people had an abundance of

food in the fort, and easily drew from the river the water required by the garrison.

The enemy constructed a huge *rangi* large enough to contain forty men. It was a singular structure, composed of a wooden frame so closely wattled or interlaced with the tough *kareao* creeper, as to prevent a spear being thrust through. When this strange object was finished, forty daring men, armed only with wooden spades, entered therein, and lifting the light but strong shield, advanced on the *pa*. On reaching the earthen walls, they set the *rangi* firmly against it, and commenced to undermine the walls by digging, supported by their comrades. The besieged, however, produced long poles, which they placed in a slanting position against the palisades of the defences, so that the ends projected outside and over the *rangi*. Securing these poles,



WHANGANUI RIVER.