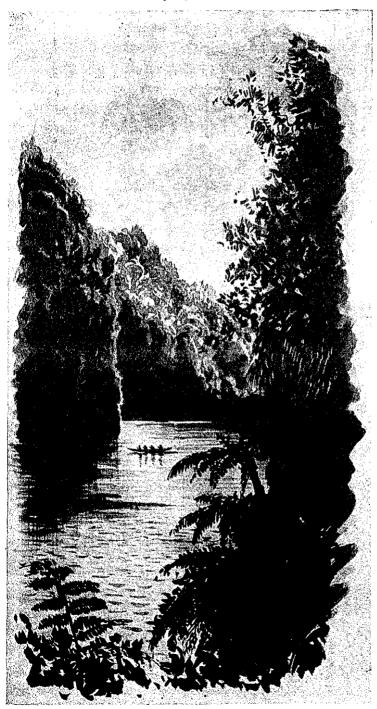
in entering the defences. But as they crouched by a deserted fire, they were heard whispering among themselves by a woman of the pa, and the garrison was alarmed. That was the end of that war party.



WHANGANUL RIVER.

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,