

says "Rowley," as he meditatively rolls his quid of "backer" in his cheek. "We lost Jack Duggan, one of our chaps, there." Canoeing down the beautiful Wanganui again, after the Hauhaus had been dispersed from around Pipiriki, the Forest Rangers landed at Wanganui town, and then went on to Wellington in the s.s. "Stormbird."

CAMPAIGNING ON THE EAST COAST.

"We left old Von at Wellington," continues Hill. "The company split up there; we had a row on the wharf, a regular mutiny—not with Von, but against the Government. Anyhow, afterwards, about half of the old No. 2 volunteered for the Maori war on the East Coast, and we went up there under Captain Westrupp, who'd been an officer in the Forest Rangers. We were taken up to near the East Cape, and marched in to the back of Waiapu. We had fights with the Hauhaus at Pukemaire, a strong pa about ten miles from Waiapu, and at the Kawakawa, about thirty miles from Poverty Bay, where we captured a lot of prisoners. They were sent to the Chatham Islands. Then we had a big fight at Waerenga-a-Hika, a place of the Hauhaus, back of Gisborne. We had about a week's constant fighting there—a regular siege. We had trenches and rifle-pits commanding the Maoris. About a hundred Maoris got killed there, and a lot taken prisoners. Bill Bond and me—Bond was our sergeant-major—were the two last of our fellows to leave the rifle-pits at Waerenga-a-Hika. The rig of our men then was blue jumpers, trousers or shawls, peaked caps, and water-tight boots. Our trousers didn't trouble us much when we were on the march or in the bush; we generally marched in our shawls, tied round the waist. After the fighting was over there we came back to the Waikato, went to Harapepe, and disbanded there. That was the last of my service with the old Forest Rangers."

But Hill could not rest very long away from the sound of the bugle and the smell of burnt powder. He went down from Wai-

kato to Napier again, and joined Major Fraser's Military Settlers. There was a bit of a fight at the Petane River, near Napier, in which he took part. Then he went to the Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, where the corps disbanded. Hill now joined the No. 1 Mounted Armed Constabulary Company, and with his comrades was sent, in 1867, round to Whakatane and Opotiki, to fight the savage war parties of the Urewera tribe, who made periodical murderous forays down on the coast.

"Colonel St. John had command of us there," to quote Hill's words. "We went on an expedition from Opotiki up the Waioeka Gorge, against the Hauhaus. We had a fight there, and had to retreat. Then we marched up from Whakatane to the Waimana River, and went up the Waimana Gorge—awfully rough march it was, too. We were after a Urewera war-party, but a heavy flood in the river cut us off, and we were up there a week, almost without tucker. What we had to eat was some growing potatoes, pumpkins, and such like, and we had a hard tussle to get out of the gorge again. Then we came back from Whakatane down to Poverty Bay, when the news of Te Kooti's escape from the Chatham Islands came. I was in the fight at Ruakituri, back of Te Wairoa, with No. 1 Division of the A.C.'s. There were 130 of us, under Colonel Whitmore, and Te Kooti had over 200 Hauhaus with him. We had very bad luck there. Captain Carr and four others were killed, and we had to retreat—it was a case of everybody for himself."

When the force returned to Napier Hill and five others of the lightest men in the No. 1 A.C.'s were left as despatch riders, to carry military messages between Te Wairoa and Napier, a work of no small risk in the days of Hauhaus raids.

HOW HILL WON THE NEW ZEALAND CROSS.

It was in April, 1869, that the subject of our sketch performed the valiant deeds which secured for him the New Zealand Cross. He was at Te Wairoa on April 10, when