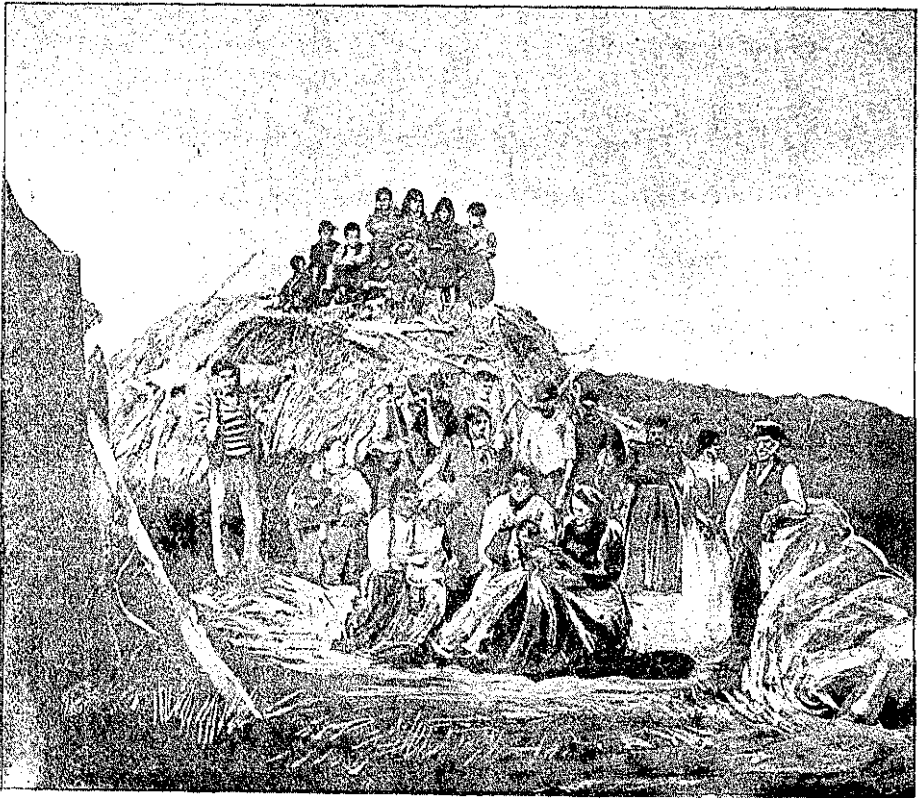


women and children. The excitement in preparing for the departure is thoroughly enjoyed, and the usual demonstrations upon leaving friends and relations are freely indulged in.

As the birds are ready for preserving about the 10th of April, the Maoris like to be down in good time to build impromptu *whares*, or renovate those of the previous season. Some of the families or tribes hold

is carefully worked. Towards the end of the season the work is carried on at night by the aid of torches, as many of the young are then strong enough to leave the nests during the day. All the adults, men and women, old and young, take part in the pursuit.

The orthodox style of killing the bird is by severing the spinal cord at the back of the head with the teeth, but the younger



CAMPING GROUND—YOUNG MAORI WITH POHATTI ON SHOULDER.

the right of "birding" on certain islands, and no one can trespass on these rights. Whether the right of monopoly is held by ancient prerogative or otherwise is not explained. If an outsider applies for permission to the chief of the tribe, the usual *koroero* is held to decide the question.

When the camps are ready and all preliminaries arranged, the "birding" begins in earnest. The nesting-grounds are divided into sections, and each section

Maoris hit them on the head with a stick. The "birding" in the earlier part of the season is done in the forenoon, and the plucking takes place in the afternoon. This operation requires careful manipulation, as the tender flesh of the bird must not be torn. The spectacle the pluckers present during this operation is better imagined than described. When plucked the birds are arranged in bundles of five, and hung over rails in the air for two days to harden.