

deep. Even in our well-built sleeping-house the noise of the storm was such as to shake our slumbers and send fear to our hearts. For several days Te Ra refused to look upon the earth, and dark and cheerless was our lot.

When three days had passed, the rain no longer poured in ceaseless streams, and we, the children, stole forth to discover what treasures the sea had cast upon our shores. Then, indeed, a wondrous vision appeared. Upon the incoming tide, and borne by the resistless force of the fierce South wind came a huge ship. To describe this vessel is beyond the power of words of mine. Strange tales have been told by those who say they have seen others like unto it. Who shall say? My eyes are old, old almost as the kauri growing yonder. Yet never has such another sight been revealed to them. It towered above the waves high as the ridge-pole of this great house, while in size it was like a mountain. Its masts stood out against the sky as the stem of a tree fully grown. While we looked, and spoke not for fear, there came from its bosom a cloud of smoke, followed by a roar which shook the cliffs around us, and echoed, again and again, from the recesses of the forest. Terror stricken, we hid among the rocks, cowering together by reason of the horror which caused our knees to shake and our teeth to chatter. This could be no mortal canoe, however strange, but some new and terrible *taniwha*. Thus we spake, and much we wondered if the monster would devour us all. Yet I have since had reason to think it was but a vessel, though whether built by human hands I cannot say. I am old, and know there are many things in this world not to be understood by the mind of man.

Out from the point which sheltered our *pa* ran a reef of jagged rocks, like the teeth of a shark. Upon this reef the object, be it ship or *taniwha*, must certainly be cast. With furious force it came upon the crest of an enormous billow, and with a crash, which made the heart quail, lay embedded amid the rocks. Then did we see the strange thing to be verily a ship, for as the

seething waters rushed hither and thither, it broke into many pieces, and to these portions clung figures, we supposed to be those of men. Yet, indeed, such objects were never seen before. Their faces and hands were whiter than those of the fairest of our people, and the hair of nearly all in colour like that of a dog, yellow or red. Their bodies appeared to be dark until we found they were covered with garments the shape of their limbs. Many were washed ashore, but in none of them remained the breath of life. Long ere this our fear had been conquered by the desire



MINE WERE THE ARMS THAT RECEIVED HER.

to behold all these strange things, and the whole *iwi* was gathered on the beach, running, shouting, and leaping into the waves, to snatch some treasure from the devouring sea.

The fury of the storm had somewhat subsided, and the tide was near the turn, when there came to shore a larger portion of the wreck. To it was lashed the form