

another very heavy pull for two miles. By steady perseverance we managed to get into the bay under the Precipice Peak, opposite the camp. We had been on this beach before, and pulling well up to shelter, we beached the craft, built a fire, dried ourselves, and made the most of the situation until midnight, when a lull took place, then though the night was a very dark one, we launched the boat, and made across the lake, the outline of the Cathedral Peaks against the sky being our only guide. We reached dock in safety, and picking up the

and it is well for us we were not caught out in deep water, or we should most assuredly have been swamped, for loaded as we were with all our belongings and stores, there was very little free board. We had some difficulty in pitching camp, the wind being so strong, although as there was no rain it was warm and dry. By nightfall the wind lulled to a calm.

Next morning we found we were in a panorama of extraordinary scenery. To the north-east the Kepler Mountains rose up in sinuous splendour, their ridges and spinal



CATHEDRAL RANGE, FROM OUR ISLAND CAMP.

buoy that had the ends of the mooring lines, made all fast, went to the tent, boiled the billy and turned in.

Next day we struck tent, and went back to the Isthmus Camp, and the following day took our final departure from here also. It was a looking-glass day, very warm and not a breath of wind, so we pulled through the islands, and settled upon a camp in one of them, east of the Cone Peak. Surrounded by islands, we had a safe place for the boat, and had just secured her when a perfect nor'-west hurricane began to blow,

forms running in all directions, and from appearance one may fairly form an opinion that miles of these ridges are inaccessible. Still further to the eastward the range descends to the intermediate Waiau; but westward the Keplers are connected with the Cathedral Peaks, and together they form a range of splendid character. Their undulatory figure sometimes rising to the summits in slabs of sheer stone, now descending with a sweep, now lost to view along the low foothills, weaving their timber domes into geometrical convolutions;