

towards the tribes to whom they belong!" Rangitoto (in the King Country), Pirongia, Wharepuhunga, Karewa Island, and several other mountains are such hills of omen. Rangitoto is the lightning mountain of the Ngatimatakore tribe. When lightning flashes in a peculiar way above that range a chief of the tribe will die.

Many a singular story clusters round the chief features of the landscape in the Rohepotae. The prominent hills especially figure in the strange folk-lore of the tribesmen. A remarkable hill in this broad valley of the Waipa is the volcanic cone of Kakepuku, whose fern-clad spurs rise gently from the plain until they culminate in a crateral summit some fourteen hundred feet high. Kakepuku looks a perfect volcano, with its hollow, scooped-out basin-like top. These hills will carry grass to the very summits, and the patches of native bush left in the hollows and gullies give a most picturesque, park-like aspect to the landscape. Kakepuku is all rich volcanic soil. Away up on the mountain, in the warm sheltered hollows between the ferny ridges, the Maoris grow early potatoes to perfection. But the story. A few miles from Kakepuku stands Kawa, a peculiarly-shaped hill of volcanic origin. A Maori tradition of these tribes solemnly narrates that in the dim long ago these mountains were sentient beings. Kawa was a lady mountain; Kakepuku was a male. And in those days there stood near Kakepuku and Kawa another hill called Karewa (now known as Gannet Island, outside Kawhia Harbour), also a male.

Kakepuku, in the quaint legends of the natives, is said to have come originally from the South, searching, like Japhet, for his father. He was strolling in a mountainous sort of way up the Waipa Valley, when he spied Kawa, the daughter of Mounts Pirongia and Taupiri, and fell in love with her. So he remained there, by the side of the Kawa Hill. The two "gentlemen" mountains made fierce love to Miss Kawa, and of course Kakepuku and Karewa got jealous of each other, and quarrelled. The result

was a fight, particulars of which have not come down to this generation, which is a pity, as it would have been deeply interesting to know just how mountains manage to



Pegler, FALLS ON THE MOKAU.

"scrap" with one another. The end of the Titanic struggle was that Karewa was badly beaten by his big rival, and had to "trek." He took up his rocky traps in the