

prospectors to the King Country, but the long-hoped for Waihi or Waitekauri in the gullies of the Rangitoto or the Tuhua Ranges has not yet been located. Quartz specimens have been found in the creek beds leading down from these ranges, and also the Hanhangaroa, away down in the West Taupo Mountains, but nothing of any value has been discovered. In the "eighties," before the Rohepotae was opened, a number of prospecting parties crossed the Puniu, and made for the Rangitoto Ranges and other gold-promising localities. Some were turned back by the natives; others eluded the vigilance of Ngatimaniapoto, and spent some weeks scouring the damp bush gullies and gorges of the Rangitoto, but found not the El Dorado.

The lover of Nature will find all varieties of scenic beauty within the bounds of the Rohepotae. There are lofty forest-clothed mountains, clear, rushing rivers, roaring waterfalls, wonderful limestone stalactite caves, deep canons, walled in by precipitous bush-topped cliffs, a wild coast lashed by the ocean breakers, calm harbour and river reaches, and sparkling brooks tinkling down through green groves of the drooping tree-fern. I knew of no more beautiful bush and mountain scenery than that on the slopes of Mount Pirongia. Cool crystal creeks wind their courses down over rocky beds from the dark recesses of the high fairy-mountain, their waters almost hidden from the traveller's view by the dense green growth of the primeval forest. *Rata, rimu, tawa, miro* and all the leafy children of Tanē-Mahuta climb from the ferny foot-hills of Pirongia to its cloudy summit, and bend over the pure cold streams which dash down every mountain gully. Now and then between the trees on some sharp ridge you catch a view of the plains below, the wide basins of the Waipa and Waikato, with their townships, farms, willow-shaded rivers, and little shining lakes set in a green margin of *raupo* swamp. Westwards is the blue rolling ocean. Then away South there are other rugged chains of mountains, the

Rangitoto, Tuhua, Hurakia and Titi-raupenga, almost unknown except to the wandering bush-surveyor or the bird-hunting Maori.

Kawhia Harbour is a place whose natural attractions are becoming better known every year, and when Kawhia is a brisk shipping port and the outlet for the rich district behind it, the scenery of that fine sheet of salt water and its bush-fringed estuaries will be much talked of.

Before the Waikato war Kawhia was a



Puhua,

Auckland.

THE LATE CHIEF REWI MANGA MANIAPOTO.

busy place. When in the early days the Europeans came to trade at Kawhia, the great chief Te Wherowhero, afterwards known as King Potatau, and his people of Waikato went there to barter flax for muskets, powder and bullets.

Later on came the missionaries, and as Christianity became popular, the people gathered round the churches. Then the natives of Tainui, Ngatimahuta, and Ngatihikairo grew large quantities of wheat and potatoes, put up flour-mills, owned their own schooners, and exported their produce