

na ders was repulsed by the repeated discharge of a ship's cannonade, loaded with spikes, scrap iron and such jewellery, which tore lanes through the massed besiegers. Waikato fell back, and then asked to be allowed to enter the fort to make peace. Strange to relate, Ngati-Awa would have admitted the enemy had it not been for the strenuous opposition of Barret and other whalers present.

When the treacherous Te Kooti attacked the Huke native fort at Mohaka, finding that he could not speedily take the place, he induced Rutene, a chief, to let his party inside the pa, promising not to harm the defenders. The well-known character of this ruffian should have induced the besieged to hold out, but not so, and a slaughter grim and great followed. Several of the old followers of Te Kooti are neighbours of mine, gentle gentry, who took part in the Mohaka and Poverty Bay massacres. They are still firm believers in their old leader, his acts, methods and so-called religion, the *ringa tu*.

Tuakiaki, chief of a sub-tribe of Ngati-Kahungunu, yearned for the life of Te Mai-tara-nui of Tuhoe, anent the slaying of Tiwaewae. To induce Te Mai to visit him he sent him his sister as a wife. Then Tu invited Te Mai and wife to visit him, and the witless Mai seems to have been thrown off his guard, for he went. When he arrived at Te Reinga, Tuakiaki rose, weapon in hand, to receive him, and commenced a formal speech. Te Mai at once saw that his time had come. He accepted the decree of fate in the truly Maori style, saying: "I fail to enjoy your hospitality, O Tuakiaki!"

It is surprising to note the apparently reckless confidence with which small parties of natives would await attack by overwhelming numbers, and at times when a retreat might safely have been made. The self-confidence so displayed has, however, been at times rewarded by well-merited success, as when eighty men of Taranaki held the Namu fort at Opunake against five hundred Waikato armed with guns, and caused the Northerners to return home unsuccessful.

#### TREATMENT AND TRAINING OF THE YOUNG MAORI, WITH THE VIEW OF REARING HIM AS A FIGHTING MAN.

From the early age of a few days male children were dedicated to the two great services of Maori economy — War and Labour. On the birth of a male child, it was taken by the priest to the *wai tapu* or sacred waters of the village. Each village had set apart some pond or stream at which were performed divers rites pertaining to Maori religious ideas, and bearing upon birth, sickness, death, war, witchcraft, etc.

In this water the priest performed over the child the ceremony of *tu ora*, the purpose of which was to endow the child with vitality, with physical and mental vigour. After this the mother and child were kept within the *whare kohanga*, or "nest house," a rough shed specially constructed for them, for five or six days. The *tua* rite was then performed in order to take the *tapu* off the child and mother. This was done by the priest taking the child in his arms, and, entering the stream or ford, sprinkling water over the same. The priest would repeat several invocations in order to lift or disperse the *tapu*, and to endow the child with strength, health, a clear mind, a receptive memory, wisdom and bravery. This baptismal ceremony was also a dedication of the male child, his strength, sagacity, etc., to the service of Tu, the primal and supreme war god of the Maori.

While the *karakia* or invocation dedicating the child to the pursuit of arms was being repeated, the different kind of weapons were held up before it, each as it was mentioned by the priest, who also mentioned the various labours and tasks to be performed by the child in after years. We will spare our friends the repetition here of the various invocations recited by the priest. They are difficult to translate on account of the many archaic and sacerdotal expressions they contain.

After the above rite is performed the child is clear of *tapu*, and may be exhibited to the people, and nursed by the women.

When the child is old enough to prattle