



SUMMIT OF THE ICE CROWN, "POINT VICTORIA."

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of a competent interpreter the dual challenge of finding one's way and recording accurately where one has been is a test which in the centre of the North Island few other than Hochstetter secure an 'A' pass. If Kerry-Nicholls made mistakes he was still better than men of the calibre of Donald McLean (whose diaries of his 1845 journeys are geographically worthless), G. F. Angas, and James Hector who on his first expedition in 1867 was very much a North Island new chum. Nicholls's itinerary and dates, can, however, balance by the substitution on p. 258 of the date, April 27th for 24th, an understandable misinterpretation of a pencil figure. Being neither surveyor, gold prospector nor land purchase officer, but simply a genuinely disinterested English traveller he was not only acceptable to the Maoris but quickly achieved a high degree of rapport with leaders such as Pehi and Topia Turoa, and Tawhiao with whom understanding deepened during their second meeting. What Tawhiao told him of his life and participation in the Waikato War, particularly the Rangiriri battle, is still a valued, independent record.¹⁶ Back in Auckland by the end of May he sent Grey a seven page summary of the journey¹⁷ giving his views on the Main Trunk