

SVEN BERGGREN IN NEW ZEALAND

Section II

TAURANGA AND ROTORUA (continued from vol 3 no 1 p42)

After some days in Auckland Berggren arrived in Tauranga by sea on 20 December 1874. He seems to have accepted the enforced break of the Christmas season and in his journal lets himself go in recording impressions and incidents more fully and fluently than on any previous occasion. Appropriately he described the Maori celebrations, the Boxing Day carnival – and the Europeans. While the events are probably little different from other end-of-year festivities which would have been reported in the *Bay of Plenty Times*, no file covering Berggren's visit appears to have survived. Not that Mr Langbridge or any part-time contributor would have viewed the contemporary scene quite with Berggren's vision, which, after all, is why we have invited attention to him.

The following extracts from his diary, which it has seemed desirable to leave in journal form, are from the end of his Diary no 3 (to 27 December) and the commencement of Diary no 4. Diary no 4 is supplemented by separate *Notes of New Zealand visit 1874–5*. The paragraphs *Tauranga*, *In Oropi* and *Rotorua* have been added in square brackets at the end of this section.

Wednesday 23 December. Excursion with Silver¹ in his boat to his island Motuhoa.² Strong adverse wind. The captain a tattooed Maori. He was bearing up against the wind. Silver's kotiro 'Pourangi', stupid. On the beach some Maoris were painting a boat for the yacht-races. A dark, tattooed man, eating some stinking corn out of a tin mug: 'kapai tena' and with a shell as his plate. . . . Walked with Silver up to a Tapu place, where peaches and high grass were growing. An old pah with an old sap where peaches now grew and their trunks, dead or living were now forming a thicket, like *Pinus Punito* [?] . . . On a wooden frame, dry sharks were hanging, their bellies full of oil and full of flesh – large wheat cultivations. Potatoes and Kumaras. Dinner in the house of our guide's. Fish, potatoes, coffee and bread. Silver left a bit of fish on his plate, and a Maori pointed to it when he thought he was unnoticed and showed it to the others. This is a sign of an undignified man. The guests always start to eat first and either finish their meal or get well into it before their hosts start eating and this happened all the time, since they ought to have an appetite so that nothing should be left of the food that had been prepared. The women always stay outside and hardly pop their heads within the door when they hand in the food. Mats spread