

THIRD MEETING: 2nd July, 1894.

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

New Members.—J. Brown, A. H. Hosking, W. Philcox, Professor Tubbs.

The President said he had much pleasure in announcing that the Council had purchased the celebrated carved house at Maketu. Some years ago it was intimated to them by their esteemed member, Mr. F. D. Fenton, that this famous house could be purchased; but at that time there were difficulties in the way of money matters. A few weeks ago, however, Mr. Fenton obtained an offer of the house at a very reasonable price, and at once placed it before the Council. The Council decided to accept the offer, and asked Mr. Fenton and Mr. Cheeseman to proceed to Maketu to complete the purchase and obtain possession of the house. This had been done, and the carvings would arrive in Auckland during the week. He would now ask Mr. Cheeseman to give a description of the house.

Mr. Cheeseman said: The carved house, which, through the assistance of our friend Mr. Fenton, has just been purchased for the Auckland Museum, was the property of Te Pokiha Taranui, the leading chief of the Ngatipikiao Tribe, a section of the Arawa. Te Pokiha is better known to us by his European *sobriquet* of Major Fox, he having commanded a portion of the Arawa contingent during the chase after Te Kooti. The house stood at Maketu, about eighteen miles south of Tauranga, and was built about 1863. It belongs to the class of carved houses known as *pataka*, or storehouses. These are raised on legs, and have the whole of their carvings and other ornamentation on the outside, thus differing from the *runanga*, or meeting-houses, in which it is the interior which is carved and decorated. The house is without doubt the finest and most complete of its class in existence, as you will probably all admit when it is erected in Auckland. It is about 35ft. long by about 20ft. broad, and has a height of 15ft. to the crown of the roof. The sides and both ends are formed of upright totara slabs, boldly and elaborately carved, the carvings being mainly grotesque representations of the human figure. The ridge-boards are carved to represent a number of *ngarara*, or lizards, running along the roof, and the *maihī*, or gable-boards, have carvings of the mythological animal known as *manaiā*—probably a kind of taniwha. In front of the house is a carved verandah, some 5ft. or 6ft. deep, and it is on the walls of this that the most elaborate carvings in the house are placed, many of the slabs representing well-known ancestors of the Ngatipikiao Tribe. For instance, a large carved figure over the doorway stands for Tama te Kapua, the captain of the "Arawa" canoe, which, it will be remembered, was finally beached at Maketu after its adventurous voyage from Hawaiki to New Zealand. The *tekoteko* on the roof above is Takenga, one of the descendants of Tama te Kapua, and a remote ancestor of Pokiha; another *tekoteko* is Awanui, a son of Takenga; and so on. In fact, the chief figures on the house are evidently intended to illustrate Pokiha's genealogy. The house itself bears two names—one being Tuhua Katoore, the signification of which is "the pit of the taniwha"; the other Puawai o te Arawa, or "the flower of the Arawa." Maketu also possesses two *runanga* houses—one of them, known as Houmatawhiti, being the finest of its kind in New Zealand. As already mentioned, Maketu is noted as being the landing-place of the famed Arawa canoe; and a clump of mingimingi trees, old and hoary, and evidently of great antiquity, is still pointed out as having sprung from the skids which were used in hauling up the canoe on the beach.

On the motion of the President, a cordial vote of thanks was unani-

mously awarded to Mr. Fenton for his action in securing so valuable a relic of the Maori race for the City of Auckland.

Paper.—“The Geology, Resources, and Future Prospects of the Thames Goldfields,” by James Park, F.G.S., Lecturer of the School of Mines, Thames. In the absence of the author, the paper was read by Professor Thomas.

FOURTH MEETING: *16th July, 1894.*

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

Professor Arnold Tubbs gave a popular lecture on Greek Art, entitled “A Greek Madonna.”

FIFTH MEETING: *6th August, 1894.*

Mr. J. H. Upton, President, in the chair.

New Member.—Mr. G. Wilson, Inspector of Mines, Thames.

Paper.—“The Treatment of Lunatics, historically considered,” by F. G. Ewington, Official Visitor to the Auckland Asylum.

ABSTRACT.

The lecturer considered that mind was one of man's best endowments. It made us heirs of the ages; enabled us to live the past over again, and anticipate the future; also to move amongst buried cities and extinct civilizations, and almost feel the heart-beat of our ancestors. The light of reason enabled Newton to deduce the law of gravitation from a falling apple; Galileo to infer from the sympathy between two magnetic needles that men at great distances apart might converse together; Edison to treasure up the human voice in the phonograph; Darwin to conceive and expound his marvellous theory of the origin of species; and Aristotle and Shakespeare, and other immortal leaders of thought, to sway empires vaster and more glorious than ever fell to the lot of political rulers. The lecturer then showed how necessary it was to realise the greatness of mind, in order to realise the seriousness of its ruins. He gave instances of patients under illusional and delusional insanity, also of some suffering from mania and idiocy. The lecturer next proceeded to show the necessity for public vigilance, and then emphasized the fact that the lot of the insane to-day might be any man's to-morrow, through fright, joy, grief, or a break-down in running the pace that kills in modern industrial life. After dwelling on the value of hope, the lecturer showed that in ancient times Hippocrates and others held very humane and scientific opinions on insanity and its proper treatment. Some illustrations were then given of cruelty practised in the Middle Ages, when lunatics were burned as witches or killed as demoniacs. Thence the lecturer proceeded to modern times, and showed how shamefully patients were bound, flogged, chained, caged, held up for public exhibition, half drowned in surprise baths, chained in stalls, nearly