



*The Anglican Church, Russell.*

time, and in one year 120 of them sailed in and out of Kororareka.

It's hardly surprising that by 1838 Benjamin Turner had a lot of competition. Innumerable grog-shops had sprung up, there were five pubs, a theatre, gambling hells, and skittle alleys. And the chance of getting a cracked head from a flying bottle was perhaps the least risk a man took when he walked down the track that served as the main street. The Rev. Henry Williams, from the mission station at Paihia, across the Bay, was often called in to settle arguments and put things right with the outraged natives. At one time, too, some of the less lawless of the settlers formed a Kororareka Association to dispense rough and ready justice in the form of fines, tarring and feathering, and beating up. But it wasn't until the arrival of Governor Hobson that law and order finally came to this lawless town.

It was the skipper of a ship which lay off Kororareka who caused the Maori war in 1830, known in history as the "Girls' War." This skipper, whose name was Brind, took a couple of Maori girls as his wives. And when he tired of them he took two more. The discarded wives picked a quarrel with the captain's new favourites; insults and curses were exchanged, and very soon war began on the Kororareka Beach. In spite of the strenuous efforts of the missionaries, among them Samuel Marsden, who happened to arrive in the Bay just after the war began, the fighting spread from Kororareka to the south, where it continued fitfully over some seventeen

months. It has been said that: "In the history of New Zealand there is no episode to be compared with this when four native girls of high birth and ignorant of the western idea of unmarried chastity, having fallen out and cursed each other for the love of a man of another race, embroiled a whole countryside in a war which cost many lives."

Captain Hobson, in H.M.S. "Herald," arrived in the Bay of Islands on January 29, 1840, and it was in the little Anglican Church at Kororareka that he read to the assembled populace on the following day the Proclamation disclosing the reason for his presence in New Zealand. The British Government had intended, apparently, that Hobson should land in New Zealand as consul in succession to James Busby, the British Resident, and negotiate by treaty with the native chiefs for the cession of their sovereignty to the Queen, proclaiming himself Lieutenant-Governor over territory as



*Bishop Pompallier's house.*

it was ceded. What he did, however, was to proclaim himself Lieutenant-Governor in a country where he did not then control an inch of territory.

The treaty which would give him the right to proclaim himself Lieutenant-Governor was submitted to the native chiefs on February 5 on the natural lawn in front of Busby's house at Waitangi, directly opposite Kororareka, and signed there by more than forty chiefs on the following day. Busby's house was a large and commodious one, built largely of Australian hardwood.