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BRETT'S

HANDY GUIDE

TO

NEW ZEALAND.

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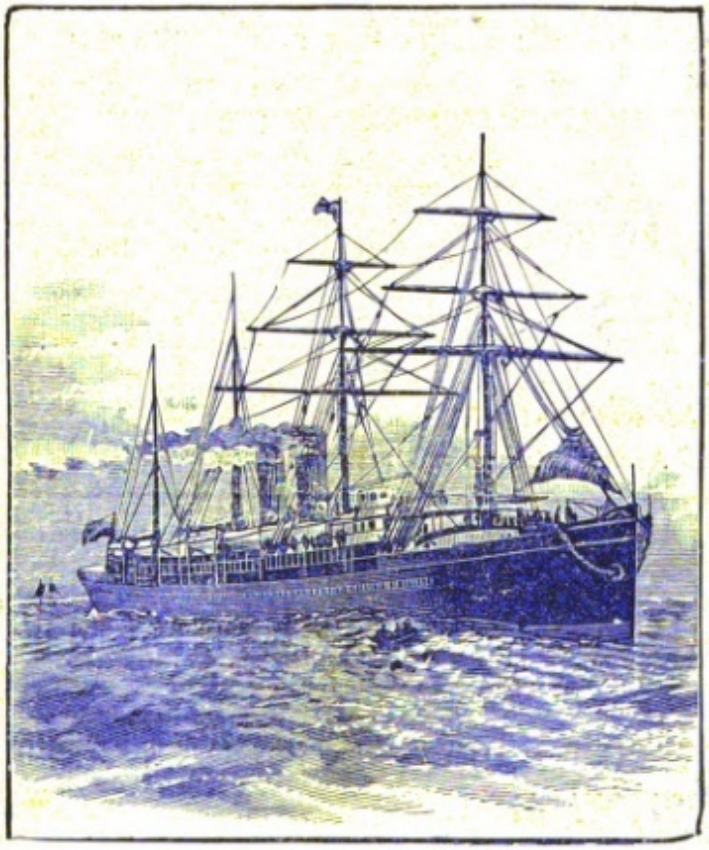

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KING TAWHIAO.

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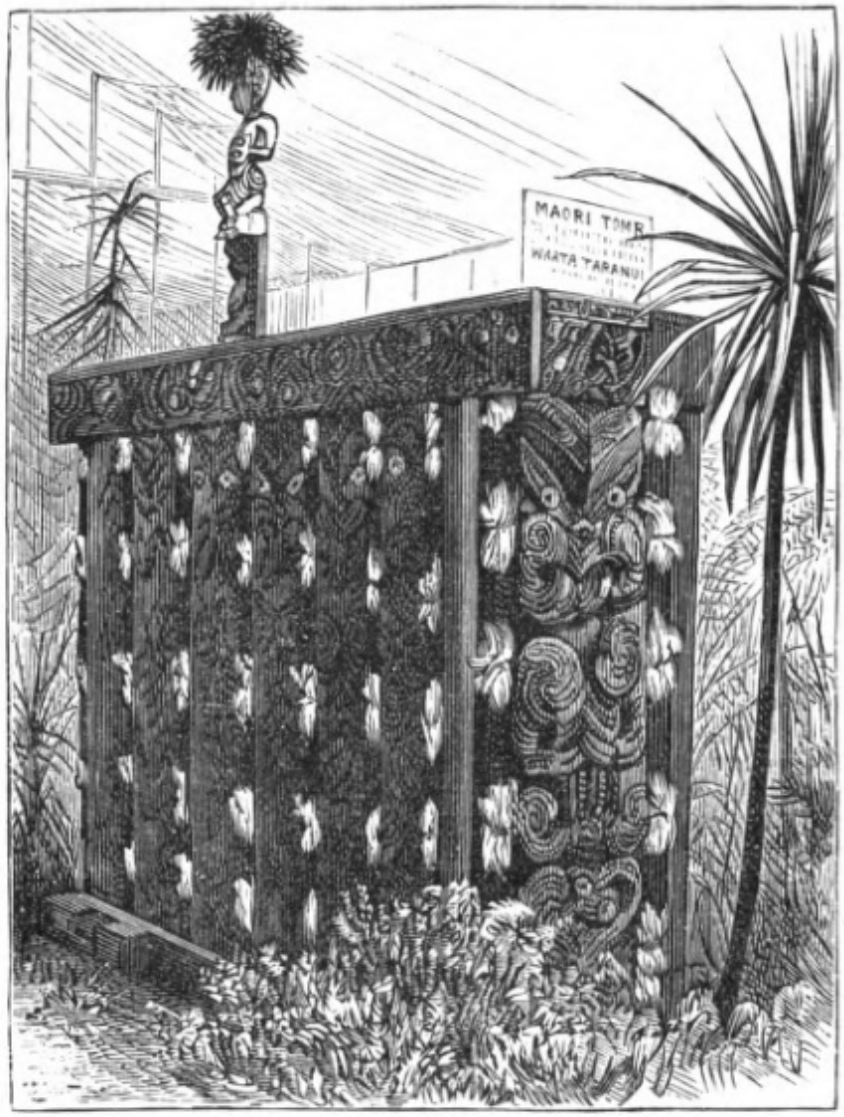
The manners and customs of the Maori were in many ways singular, and the constitution of the tribes and the system of governing of a decidedly interesting nature. There is something amusing too in the fact, that from the original four or five hundred immigrants, no less than eighteen nations have sprung; these nations being subdivided into tribes, and the tribes into "hapus," or lodges. The



MONUMENT, OR MAORI TOMB.

highest in authority was the chief of the nation, ruling over possibly forty or fifty tribes; then came the chief of each tribe, and then the lesser chiefs. The tribes consisted, speaking generally, of three classes; the chiefs, the great mass of the people, and the slaves. The principal chief governed in much the same fashion as a modern monarch.

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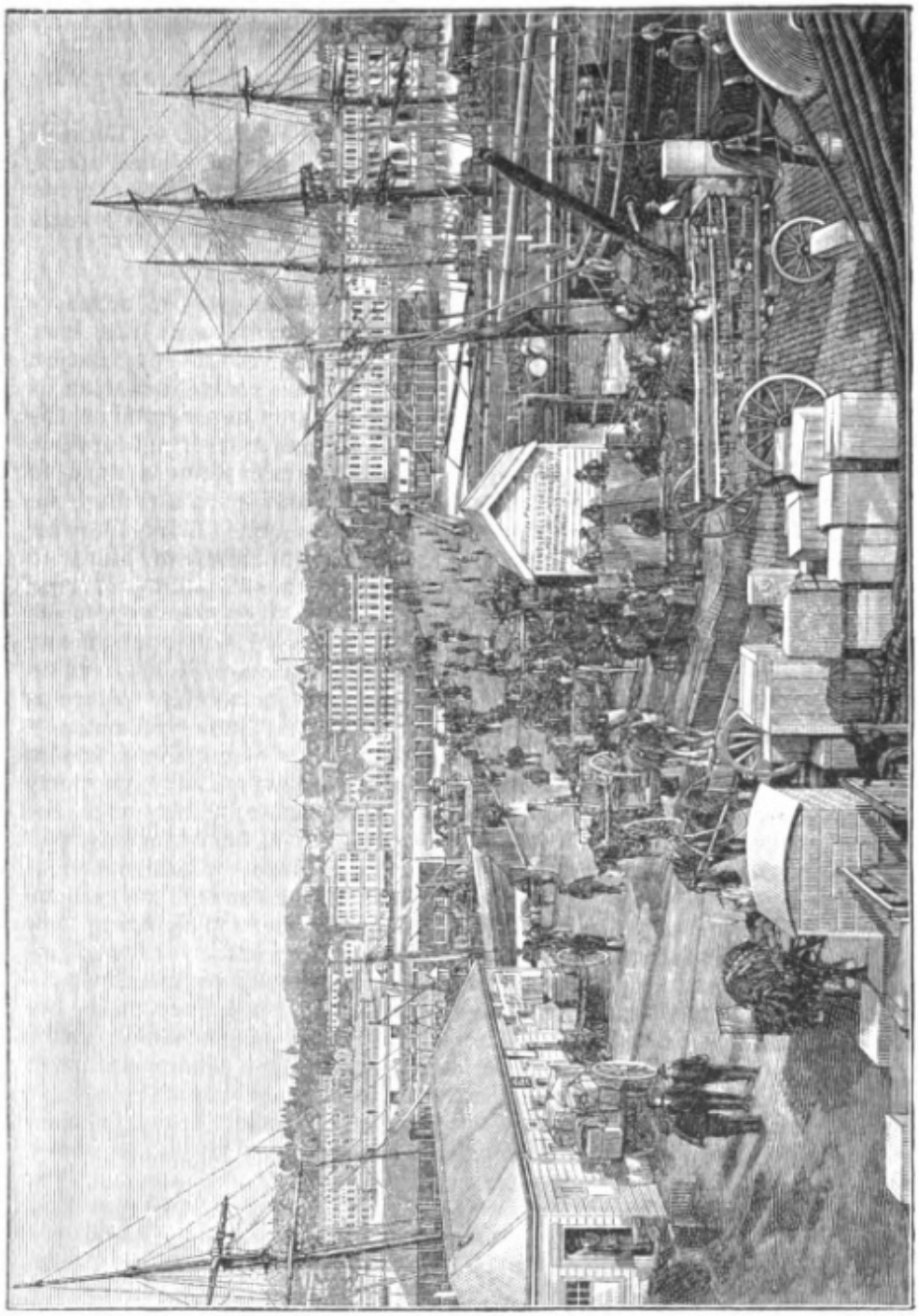

QUEEN STREET WHARF AUCKLAND.

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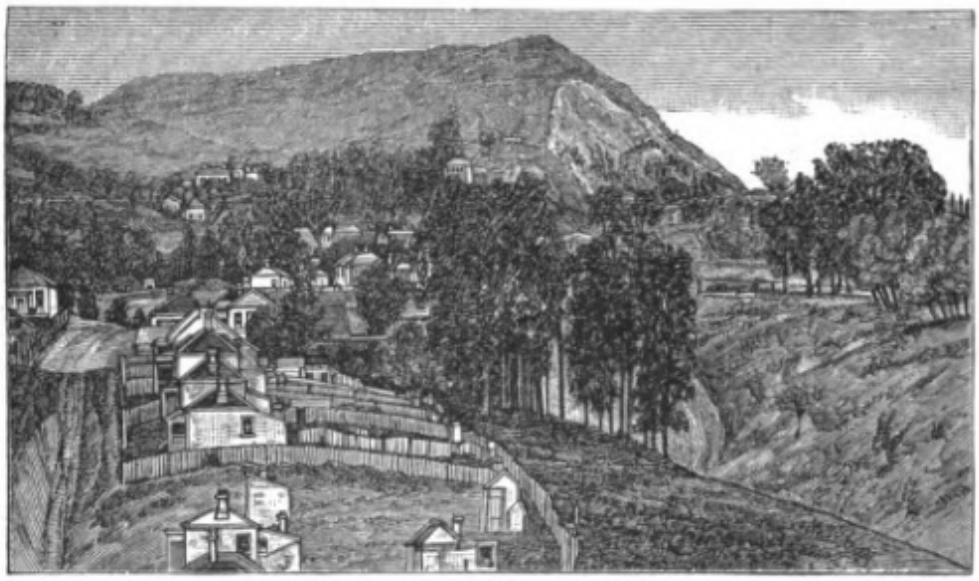
to the summit, and 'busses pass the fort on one side and trains go near it on the other, but to any traveller on whom the "dolce far niente" influence of the atmosphere has not begun to tell, will find it a pleasant walk from the wharf, by Queen Street and Wellesley Street East, into Symond Street, thence by Mount Eden Road which runs round its base. The mount is the site of an old Maori Pah, as well as being an extinct volcano, its crater, a hollow inverted cone, remaining intact. The view from the summit is remarkably vast, and although it is mere exaggeration to compare it with that from the top of Snowdon, or to say—as has been said—that it is the finest in the world, it is unquestionably in many respects unique. The whole of the surrounding land and water is spread out clearly below, the volcanic isthmus on which the city stands being visible in its entirety. Surrounding the mountain are many of the finest and best situated houses in Auckland, those at



MOUNT EDEN, AN EXTINCT VOLCANO.

the pretty suburb of Remuera, which lies nearer the harbour beyond Newmarket alone, being more imposing; near Remuera is Parnell, a populous suburb, and away to the westward the yet more populous suburbs of Ponsonby and Newton extend. There were sixty-three points of eruption noticed by Hockstetter, within a ten-mile circle of Auckland, the most notable being Rangitoto (Island) or Bloody Sky, Mount Eden, Mount Albert, and Mount Roskill. On a very clear day the lighthouse on Tiri Tiri can be seen, and beyond it northwards the Coromandel Ranges loom out, while between it and the city lie the islands known as Waiheke, Ponui, Motutapu and Rangitoto. Across the harbour is the North shore with Mount Victoria, and the North Head the Waitemata running inland from Lucas Creek. Birkenhead and Northcote lie visible on bluffs, surrounding that side of the harbour where the tide also ebbs and flows into Shoal Bay and Takapuna Bight, and sweeps against Kauri and Stokes Point. Eastward, between Waikeke and the mainland, lies

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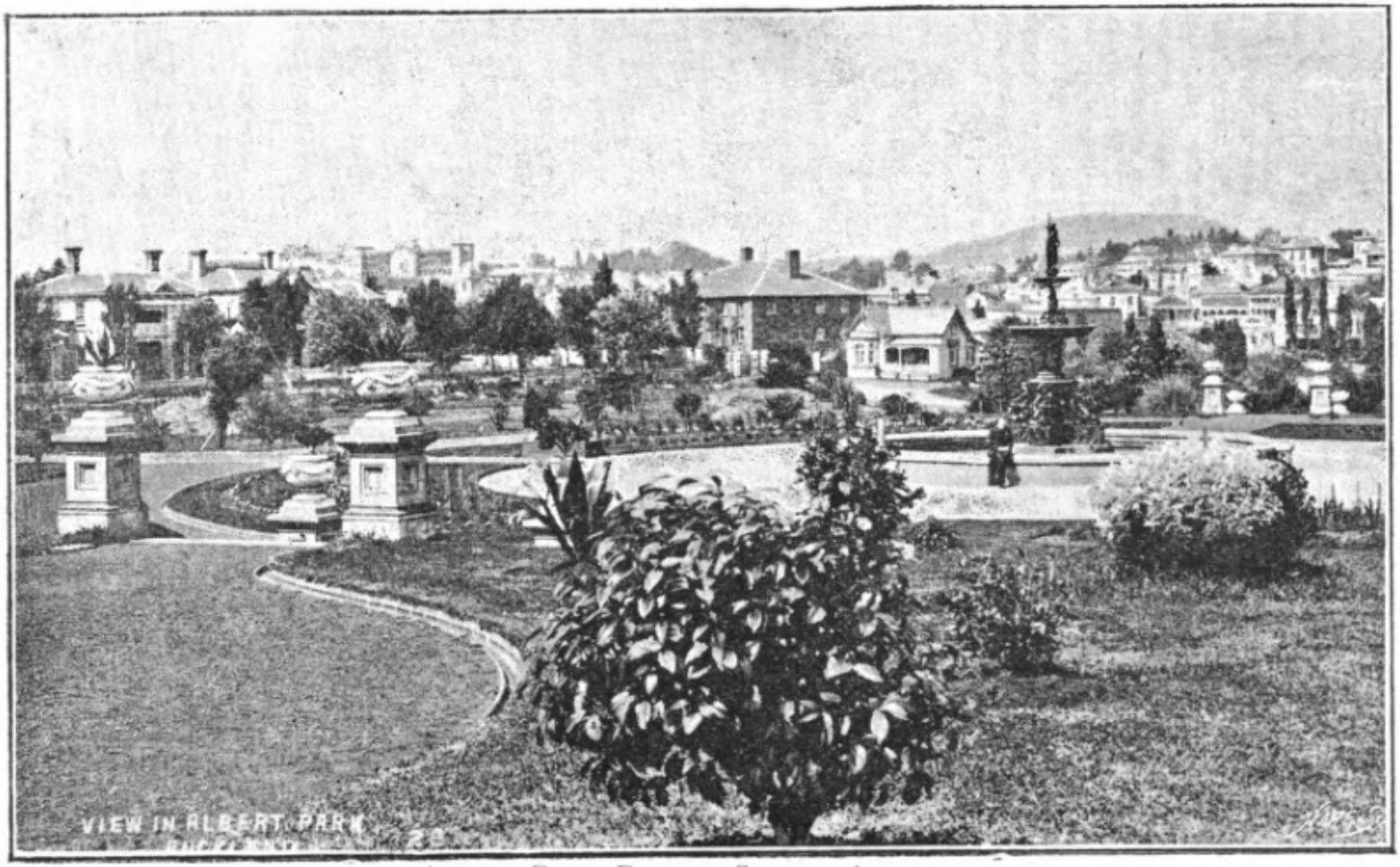

ALBERT PARK, PRINCES STREET, AUCKLAND.

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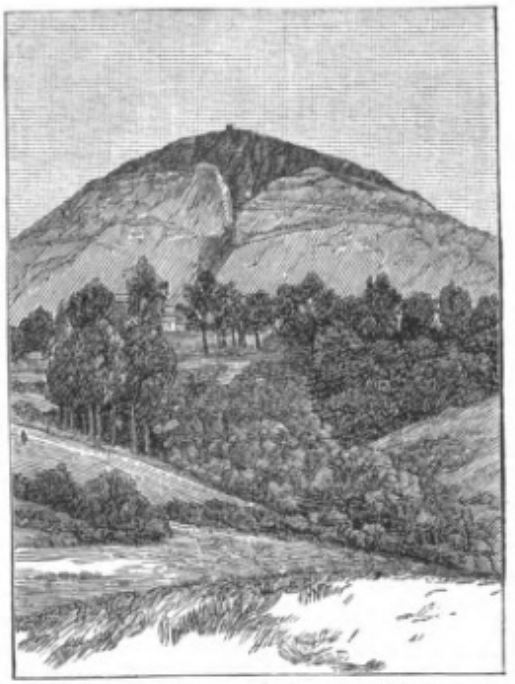
the mouth of the Firth of Thames, with Tamaki River and Hobson Bay, and to the south and west the Manukau Heads, Mangere, the Manukau Harbour, with the Waitakerei Ranges in full view. It is indeed a magnificent panorama.

One of the pleasantest outings is by ferry boat to North Shore, then by carriage or on foot to Cheltenham Beach, and thence to Lake Takapuna, where a fine hotel has been built for the reception of visitors. Lake Takapuna will now become one of the favourite week-end resorts, as it is already a favourite place for villa residences and picnics.

Another little trip for a ride or drive worth taking is to the Caves at "The Three Kings," three hills situated about five miles from the wharf. Maoris are supposed to have picniced there in the early days, since numerous bones remain, suggestive of cannibalistic tendencies. There is also a pleasant drive to Titirangi, the nearest Kauri Forest to Auckland (eleven miles).



MOUNT ALBERT, EXTINCT VOLCANO.

Of the longer excursions, the Waitakerei Ranges, the Nehotopu Falls, and Waiwera, are the most attractive. The Kawau, an island thirty miles from Auckland, and until quite recently the home of the veteran, Sir George Grey, K.C.B., whose name will be ever revered in Auckland, and respected wherever ability is appreciated, one of the earliest Governors of the Colony, and one who was most successful in his dealings with the natives, used to be a highly popular excursion for high days and holidays, but since Sir George Grey left and sold the island it is not visited as of yore, though a charming place for yachting and picnics. A similar character applies to the Island of Motuihi (the Quarantine Station), Motutapu, and Waiheke. In fact, in settled weather, the Auckland Harbour is the beau ideal of a yachting ground. St. Helier's Bay in one direction, and River Head in the other, are favourite picnic spots also.

Waiwera is the Cheltenham or Harrogate of Auckland; it can be reached from the city by steamer or coach, the respective distances being twenty and thirty miles. If agreeable, it is advisable to take the coach to Waiwera, and return by steamer. The little sanatorium is situated on the bank of the Waiwera river, on a tongue of land running into the sea. The hotel stands in well laid out grounds, with lawn tennis courts and a fountain. The mineral springs lie within a few feet of high-water mark, and there is a hot-water swimming bath and

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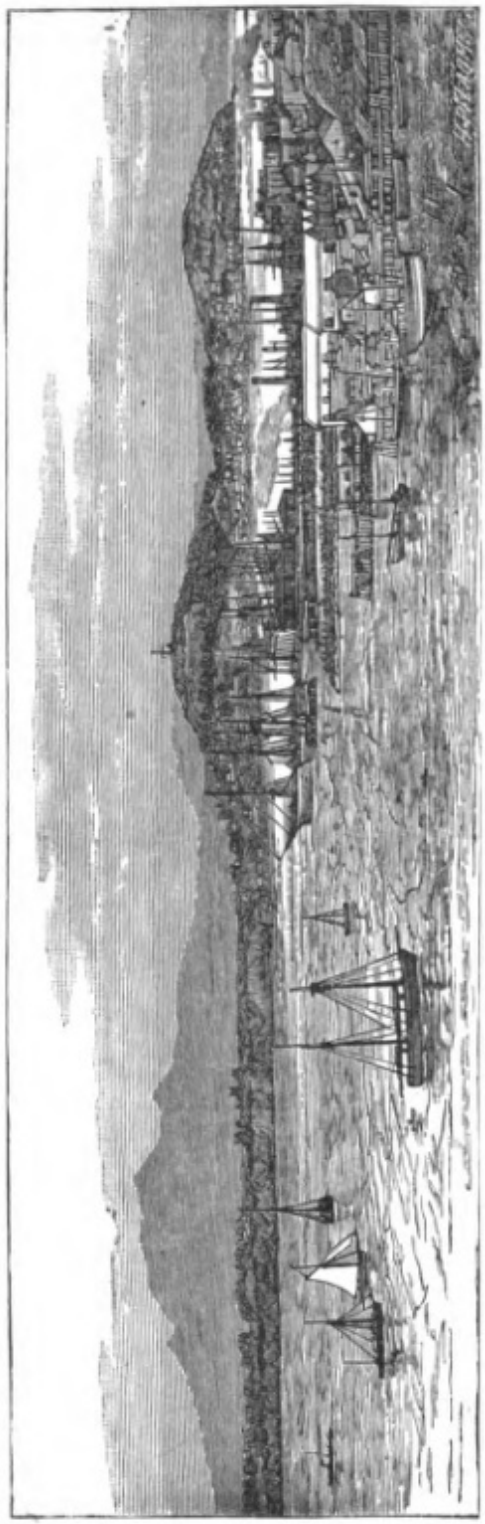

THE NORTH SHORE:

SHOWING NORTH HEAD, MOUNT VICTORIA, AND RANGATOTO, FROM FREEMAN'S BAY.

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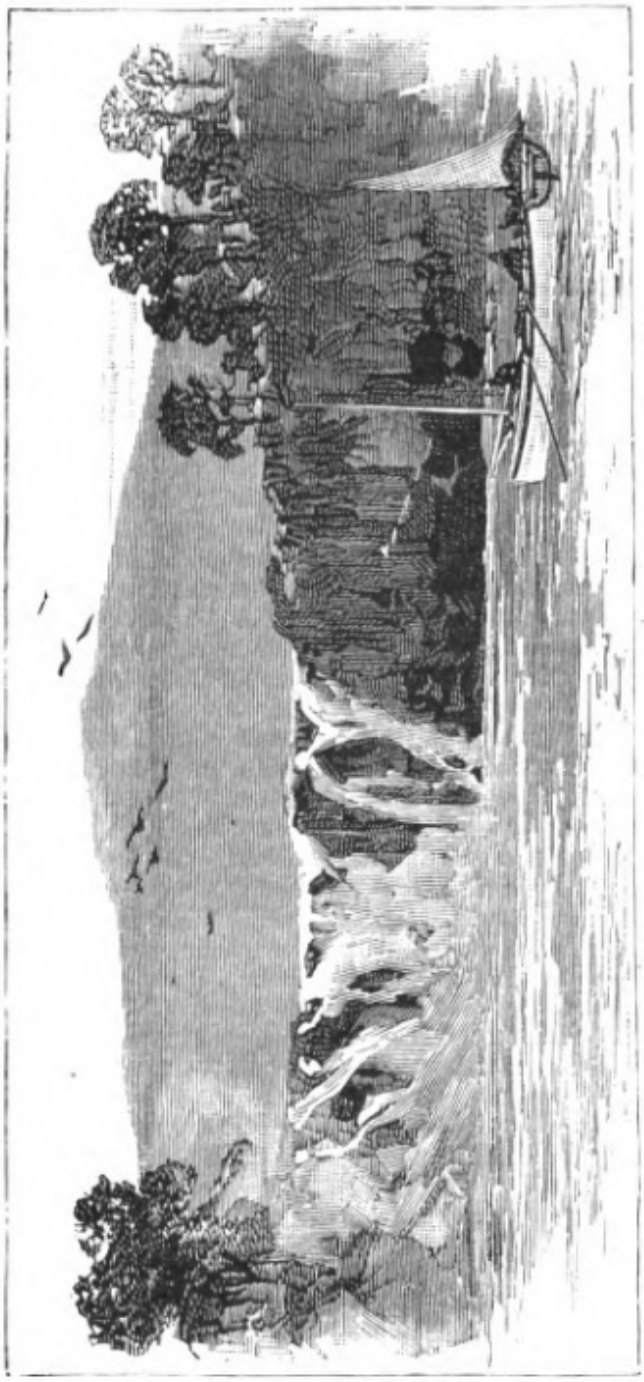

WAITANGI FALLS, WAITANGI RIVER, BAY OF ISLANDS.

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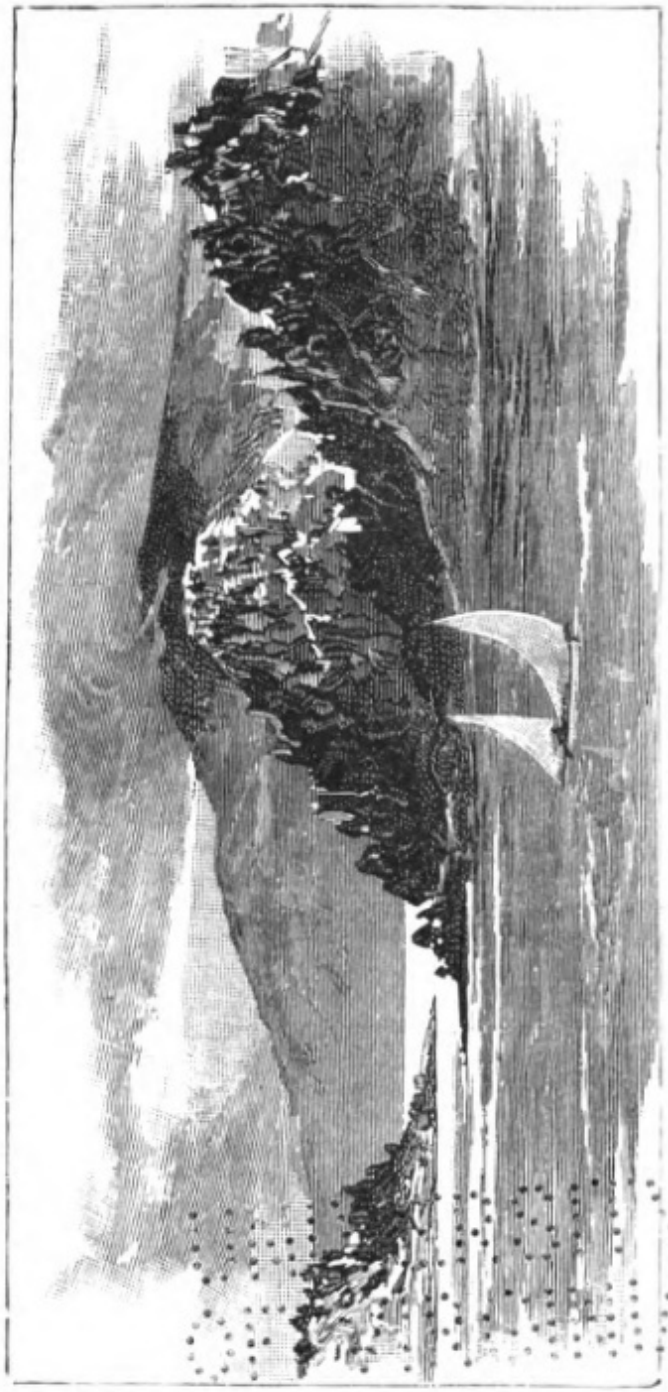

WHANGAROA HARBOUR, SCENE OF THE "BOYD" MASSACRE.

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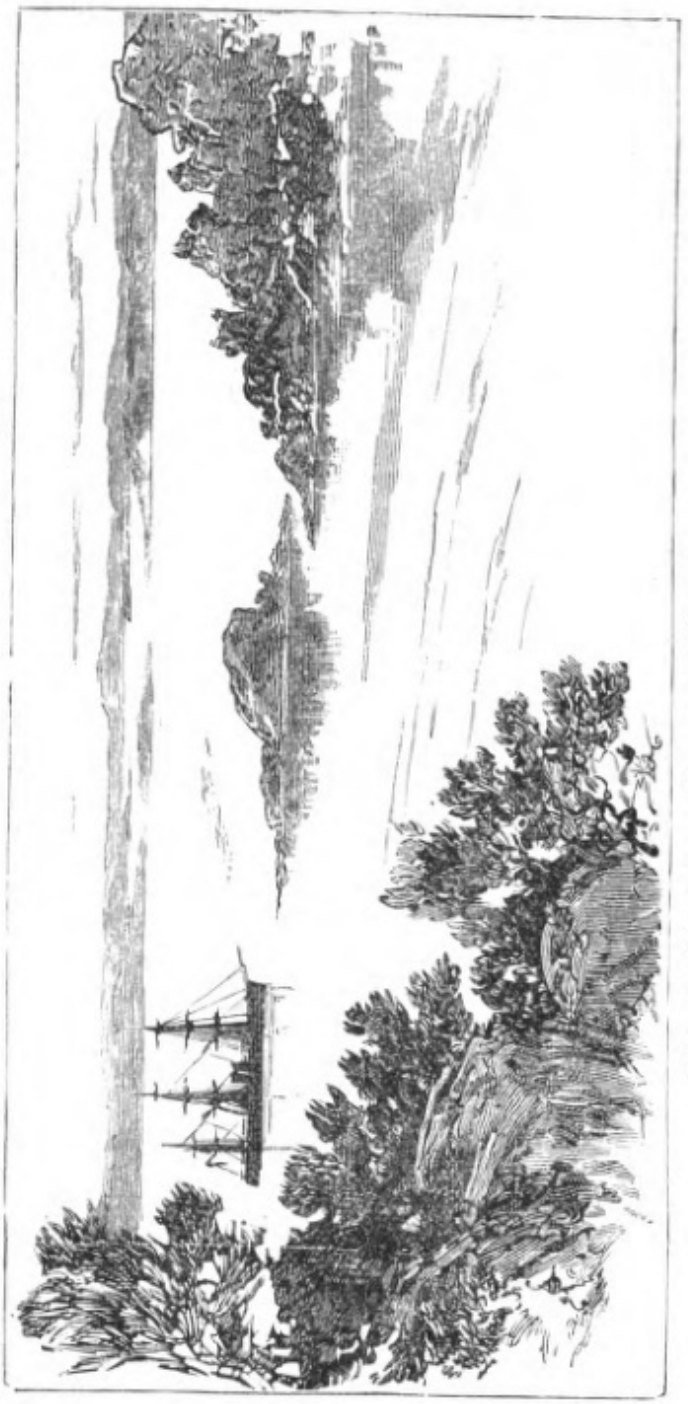

BAY OF ISLANDS. ENGLISH WAR SHIP AT ANCHOR.

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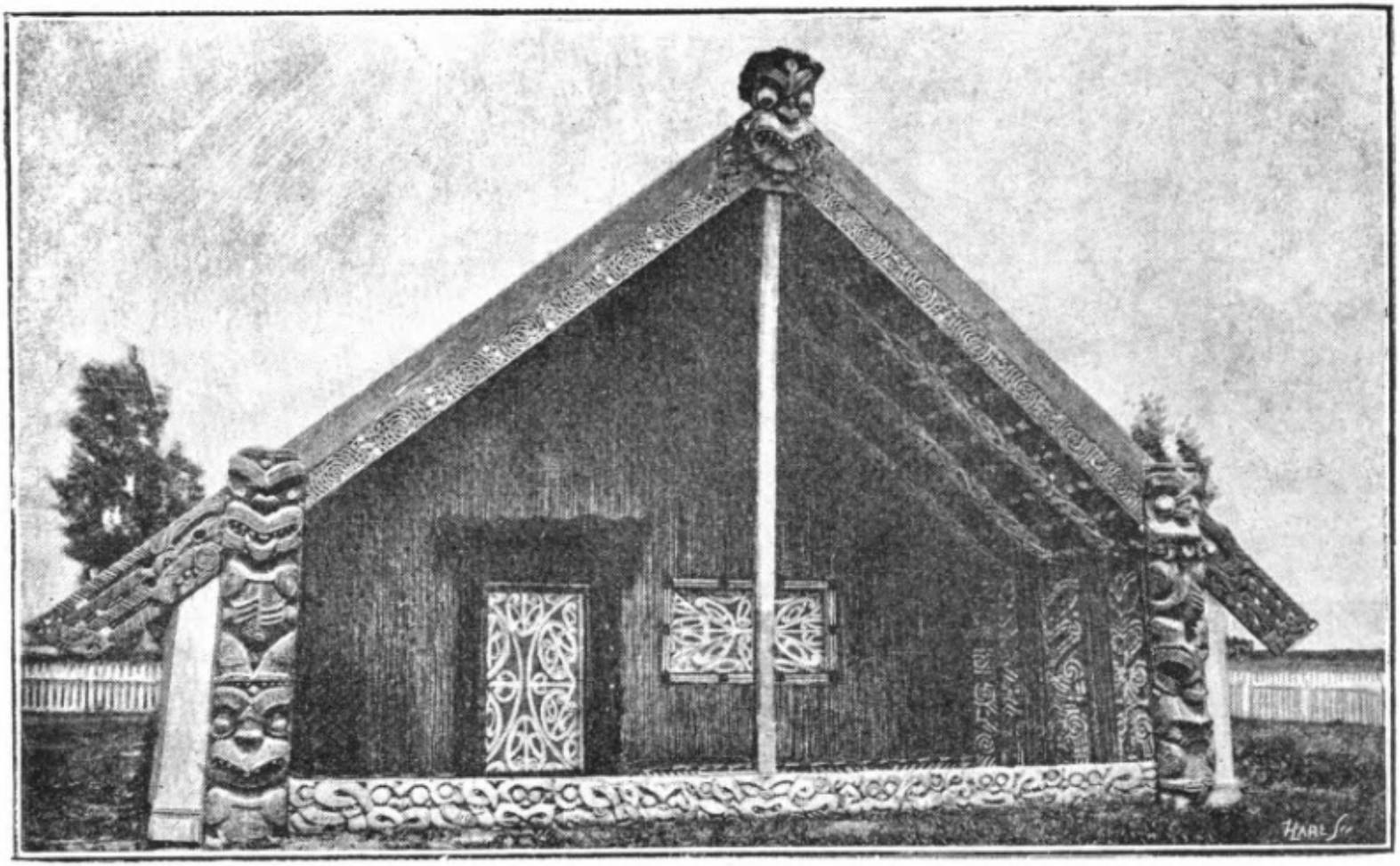

TAIPARA'S MEETING-HOUSE, THAMES.

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vessel goes aground for a brief spell in consequence now and then, and requires a combined effort to get her off.

There are several mines still working at the Thames. The once celebrated Prince Imperial and Caledonian still exist, but the Waiotahi, Albunia, and Cambria and Saxon, have of late been better

KAURI TREE.

properties to have shares in. There is a wide-spread impression gaining credence, that in any case the wealth of the district has been but very imperfectly tested, and that plenty of payable gold still exists and will be found when capital is obtained to work the ground properly. There are far too many individuals, however, in the country, who prefer to

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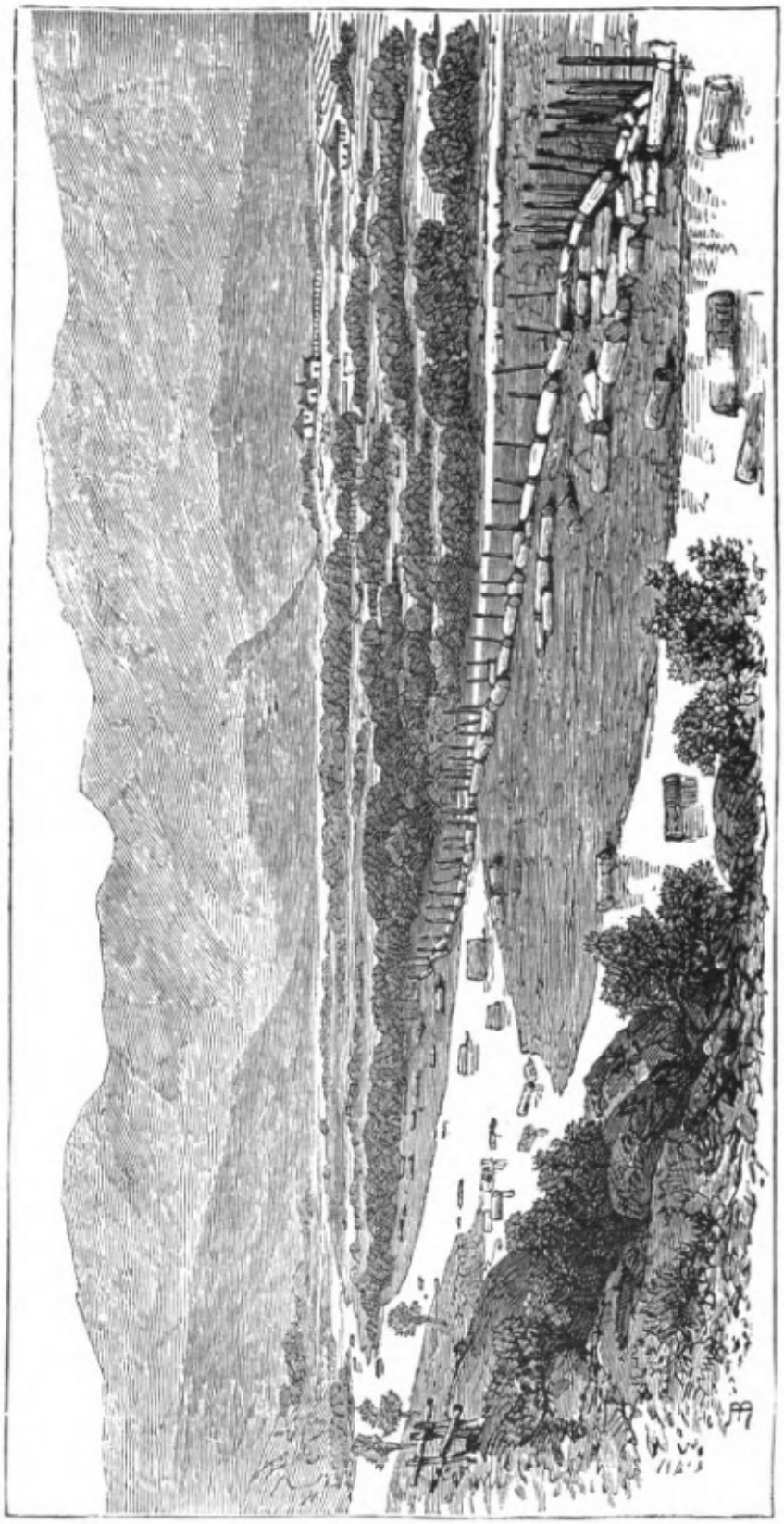

TIMBER CLEARING IN THE THAMES DISTRICT.

BOOMS FOR KAURI LOGS AT THE MOUTH OF THE WAIWHAKAURANGA CREEK.

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OHINEMUTU (ROTORUA).

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probably before such unique and beautiful wonders can be seen again, but apart from all the splendid scenery in the South Island, beauties of mountain, lake, and fiord, the wonderland of the North Island still remains, and though shorn of one of its chief charms, it still possesses

THE PINK AND WHITE TERRACES, DESTROYED IN THE ERUPTION, 1886.

so many others that there is little room for the new comer to bemoan the terrible events of June, 1886. To the travellers who have seen the terraces, their loss would certainly greatly detract from the enjoyment of a second visit, but for one who never saw these lovely silica incrustations, there is so much to see still that he could hardly look for

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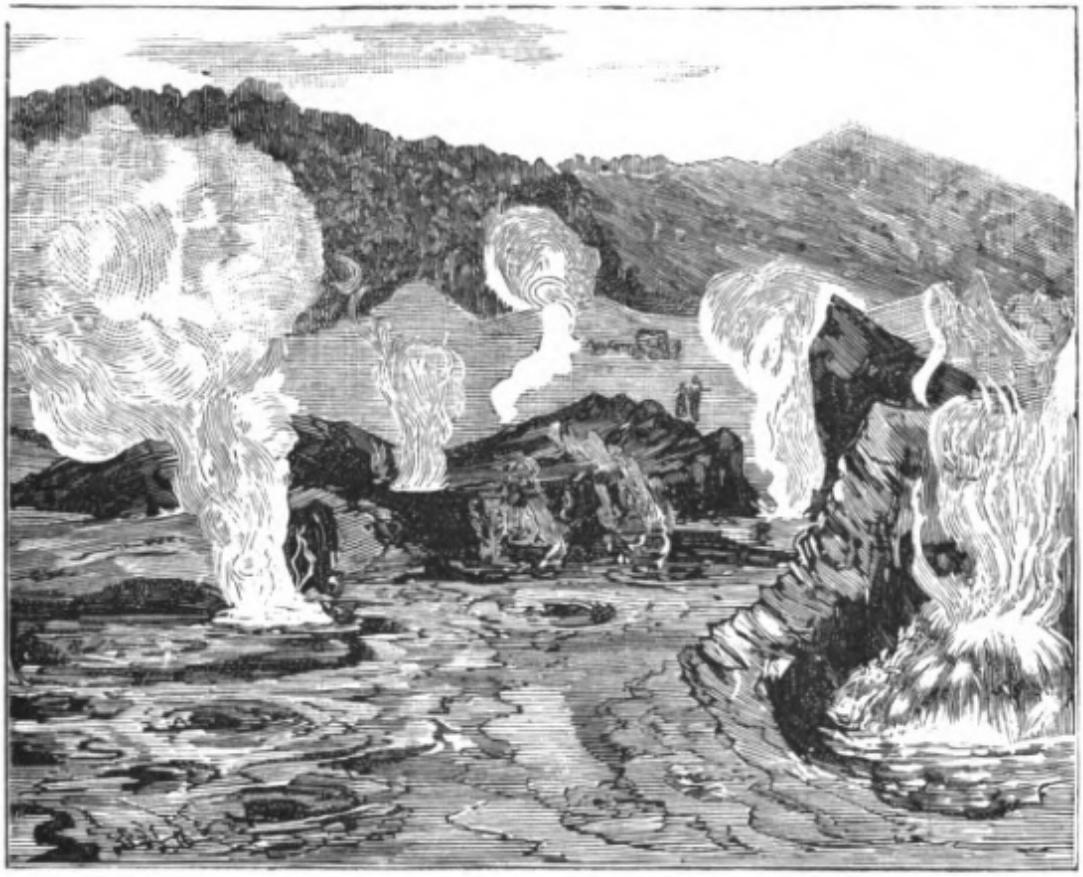
more, while the evidences of the same eruption that annihilated the terraces, forms one of the most striking sights of the districts.

There are three distinct ways of reaching Rotorua;* the most usual is that from Auckland to Oxford by train, thence by coach. Travellers preferring the water to the land come to Tauranga, thence by coach, and those again coming from the South Island generally choose the grand overland coach route from Napier *viâ* Taupo.

Rotorua takes its name from the lake on whose shore it lies, but the proper name of the township is Ohinemutu. It is by no means



TIKI TERI MUD SPRINGS.

large or populous, and the houses are scattered. The Government Sanatorium (rebuilding), the Post and Telegraph Office, Palace Hotel, and Lake House,—the two chief hotels,—and a cluster of houses and stores form the township, with the addition of the Maori village situated on a tongue of land running into the lake. Ohinemutu is a scenic jewel well set, but with its steam jets and rumblings, is usually considered more weird than beautiful. It is the capital so to speak of the great New Zealand wonderland, embracing a large tract of country which includes Okoroire Springs, Te Aroha with its baths and springs.

* *Vide* "Coach Routes," and "Skeleton Routes."

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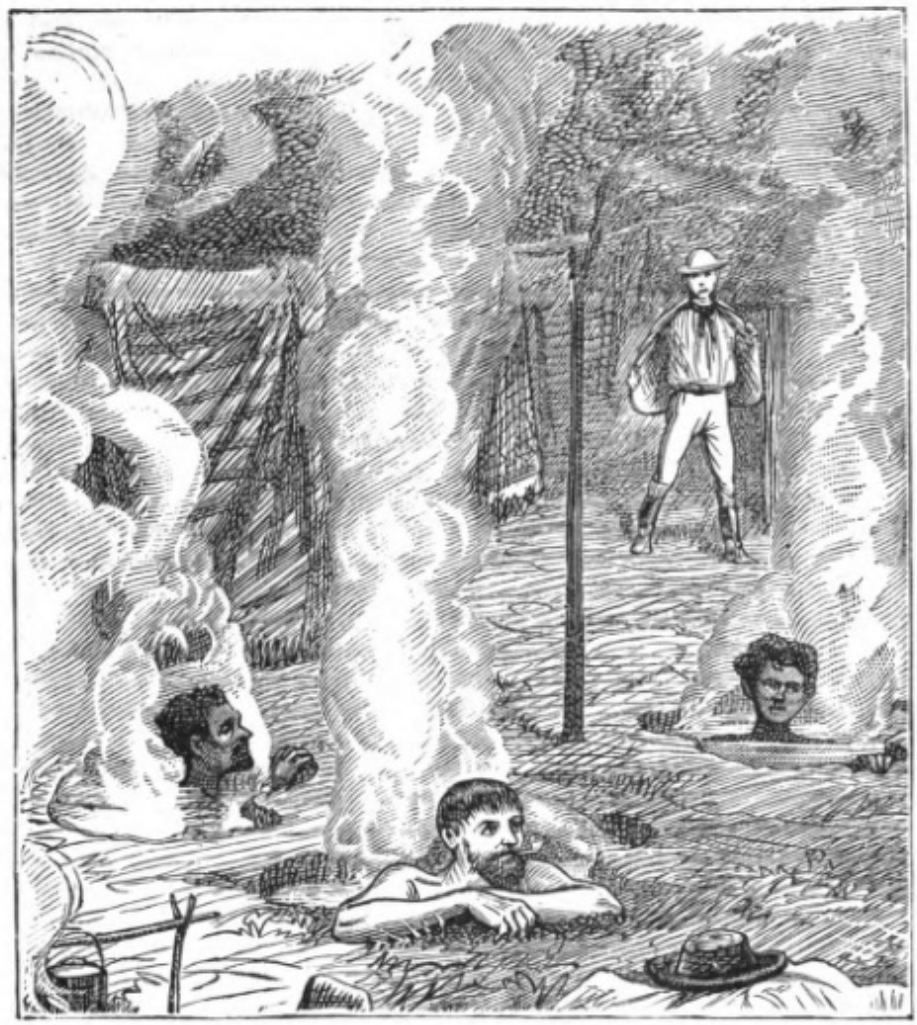
rheumatism, gout, etc. The "Blue Bath," so-called from the colour of the water, is almost the same in its properties as Madame Rachel. It flows into a large swimming bath. It is employed as a change from other baths, being useful in the treatment of rheumatism, etc. Other springs in the grounds are Cameron's Bath, Coffee Pot, Pain Killer, and McHugh's Bath, all of which possess medical properties of a



BATHING IN THE HOT LAKES.

high order. There is a tennis court connected with the Sanatorium, kept green by the patent sprinklers made by Mr. Malfroy, for some years connected with the establishment. At present the baths of Rotorua are but little known. Some day the great South Pacific Health Resort will be frequented by thousands of sufferers, like the Pyrenées and the German Spas, in comparison to which it will never take second place; many of the cures that have been effected there

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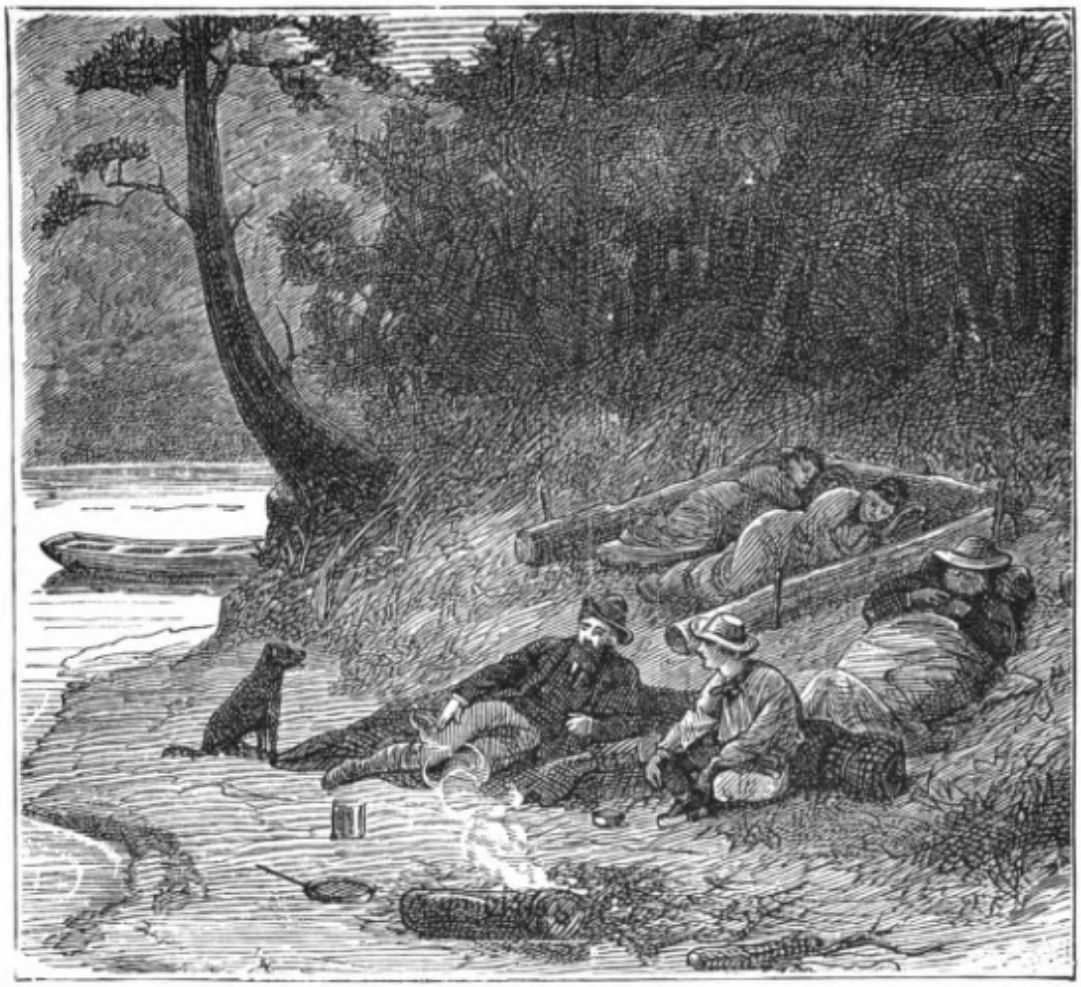
cemetery; see Bainbridge's Monument, and thence by way of Sodom and Gomorrah—two terrible desolate spots—to Rotorua.

To Wairoa, before the eruption, there was an excellent coach road. The mud scattered over the country by that catastrophe, however, being impervious to rain, caused the water to collect in the various cuttings, and completely washed away the road, so that the ten-mile trip has



CAMPING OUT ON LAKE TARAWERA.

now to be performed on horseback. It is quite possible by starting at daybreak to go to Wairoa, thence be rowed across Lake Tarawera by a Maori crew to the mountain, climb the summit, seeing the craters and the whole scene of the eruption, and back to Rotorua in one day; but it is pleasanter in summer to camp out at Wairoa for a night, if satisfactory terms and arrangements be made. By reading a description of Wairoa, Tarawera, and the terraces as they were,* the fearful

* "A Weird Region," by Thomson W. Leys. H. Brett, Auckland.

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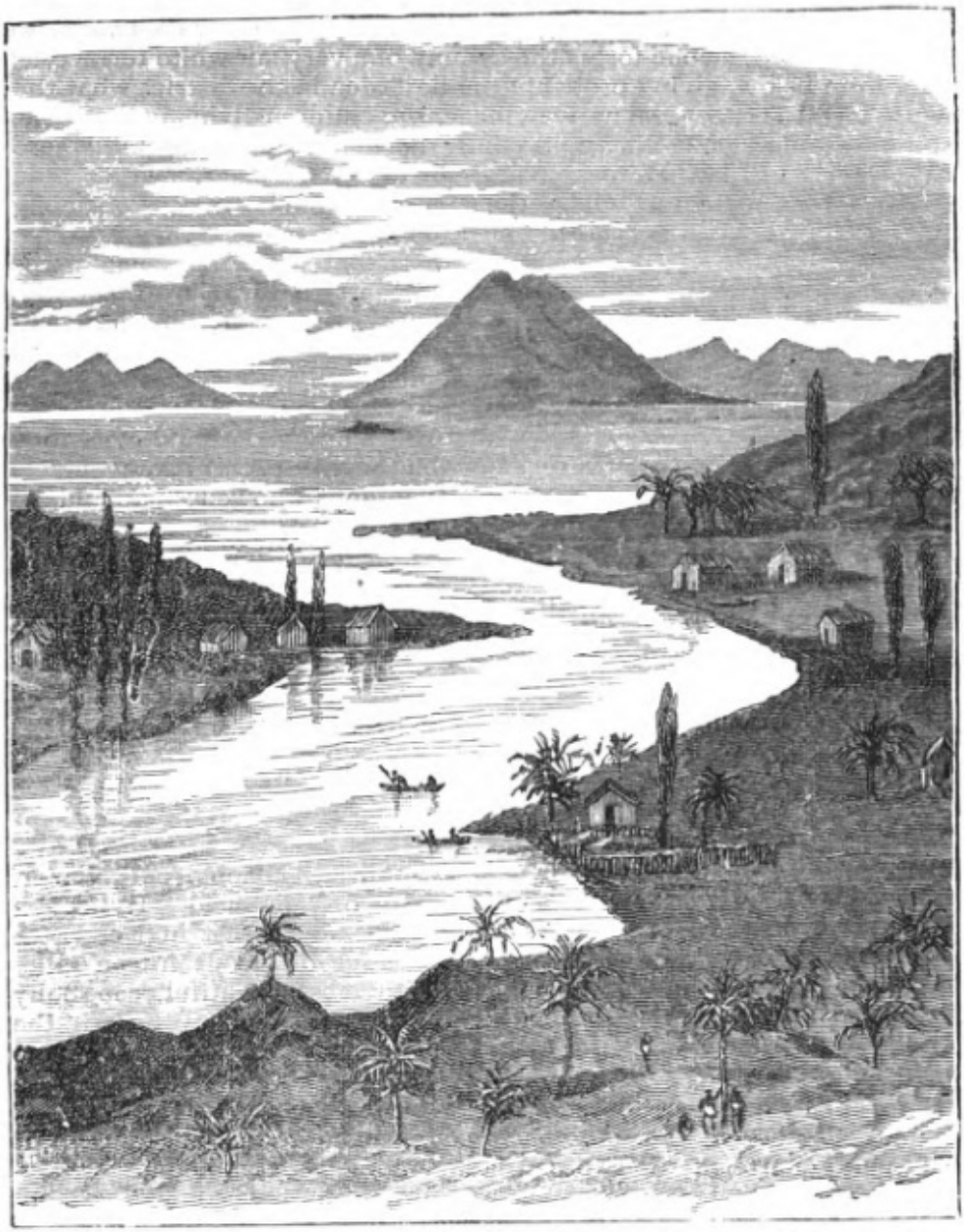
made for the same. Tokano (fifty miles by road) can also be reached on horseback, or by vehicle when the Tongariro or lower Waikato River is fordable, and the journey can be prolonged to *Tongariro. Among



SOURCE OF THE UPPER WAIKATO RIVER AT LAKE TAUPO.

the other lengthy excursions from Taupo, must be mentioned Orakei Korako, as being especially interesting, though it is a trip that entails

* *Vide* Taupo, "Alphabetical Directory."

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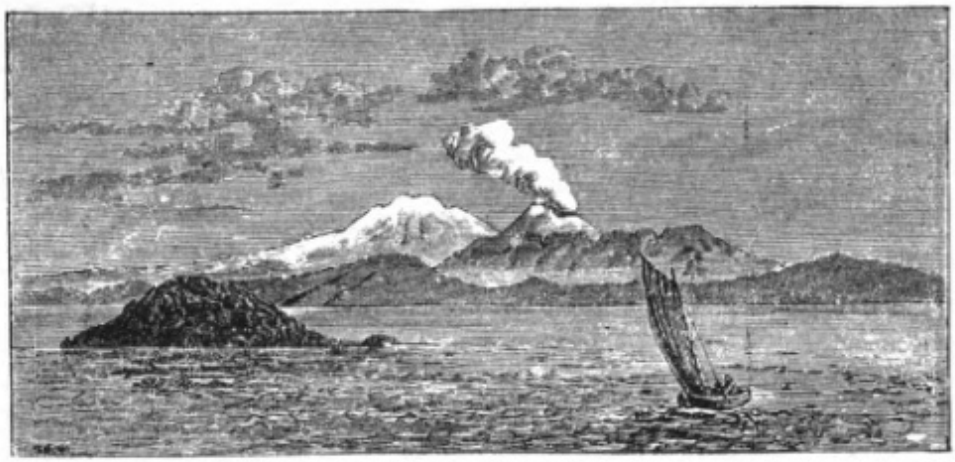
a certain degree of either hard riding or rough quarters. The alum cave and bath there, and the terrace formation, are well worth seeing. The ascent of Tauhara (3,600 feet), which dominates the Taupo district, is to be recommended, the view being splendid from the summit. The sulphur holes round Rotokawa (Bitter Lake), eight miles to the north-east of Taupo, are also well worthy a visit, as is also Karapiti, a large steam hole about ten miles away.

The tourist will elect whether to stay in the township or at the "Spa," Mr. Joshua's Sanatorium, less than two miles away, at Glen Lofley. If he prefers a lake view he will stay in the former at the Lake Hotel, where he will be made comfortable; if he enjoys a novel and pleasantly-luxurious mode of living in the vicinity of the wonders of Taupo, with a grand swimming bath to disport himself in, he will choose the latter course. There he will sleep in a cottage on the Continental *dépendence* principle, go to another cottage for his dinner, and another for his smoke, yet another for his bath, and yet another for the society of the ladies. Invalids of all kinds receive special



TONGARIRO AND NGAURUHOE.

attention at the "Spa," and there are four baths—alum, sulphur, oil bath, and swimming bath, while a fifth, of the Madame Rachel class, is being made. Within a pleasant morning stroll are all the sights of the locality. Down by the lovely Waikato River is the "Crow's Nest" Geyser, active from September to January, and one of the highest in New Zealand. Close by is the Witches' Cauldron and Satan's Glory, and a hundred yards away "Paddle-wheel Ben,"—from which a sound exactly like paddle-wheels issues,—and other weird sights.

Seven miles away by a very fair road lies

WAIRAKEI.

This region is justly celebrated for the remarkable number of genuine natural wonders clustered together in a small space. There is accommodation for a limited number at the Geyser Hotel on the property,

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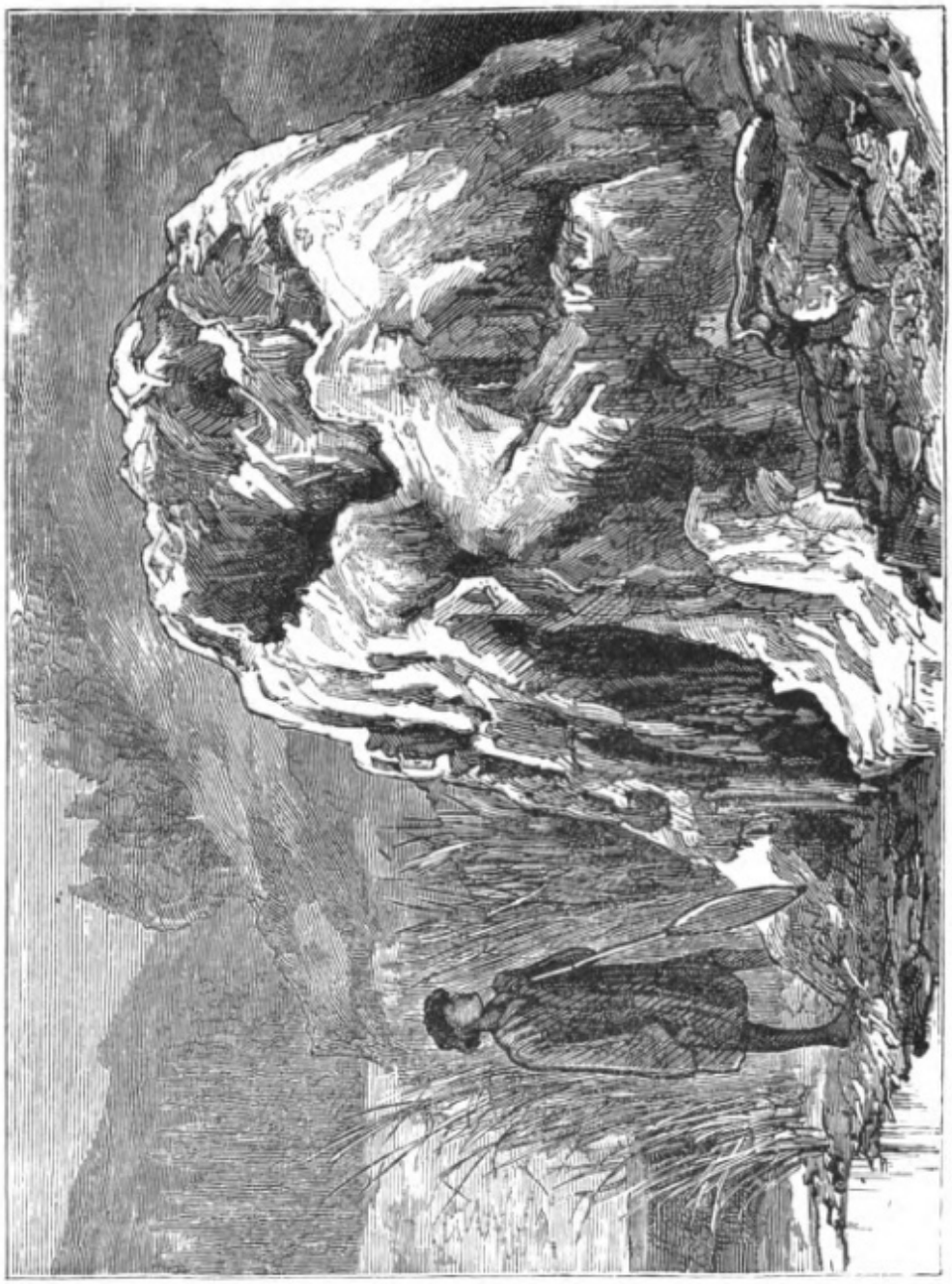

CROW'S NEST (GEYSER), HOT LAKE DISTRICT.

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but new and larger buildings must be erected to cope with any regular tourist traffic. People passing through from Rotorua to Napier frequently stay a night or two there; others prefer to make the "Spa" their head-quarters, and drive over to see Wairakei. The vehicle can be taken within a few yards of the various objects of interest, which is a great convenience for ladies.

RIVER WAIKATO, FROM LAKE TAUPO.

The finest sight at Wairakei is the first which tourists are generally shown by the guide, called "The Champagne Pool," but artists should take note that the place to see it from is across the river, and not from the spot where you visit it first. It is a fierce bubbling, boiling cauldron, picturesquely placed, and there are two small mud cauldrons or paint pots close by. Not far away is the "Small Wairakei" geyser, remarkable for the varied colouring of the ground and wells behind it; and

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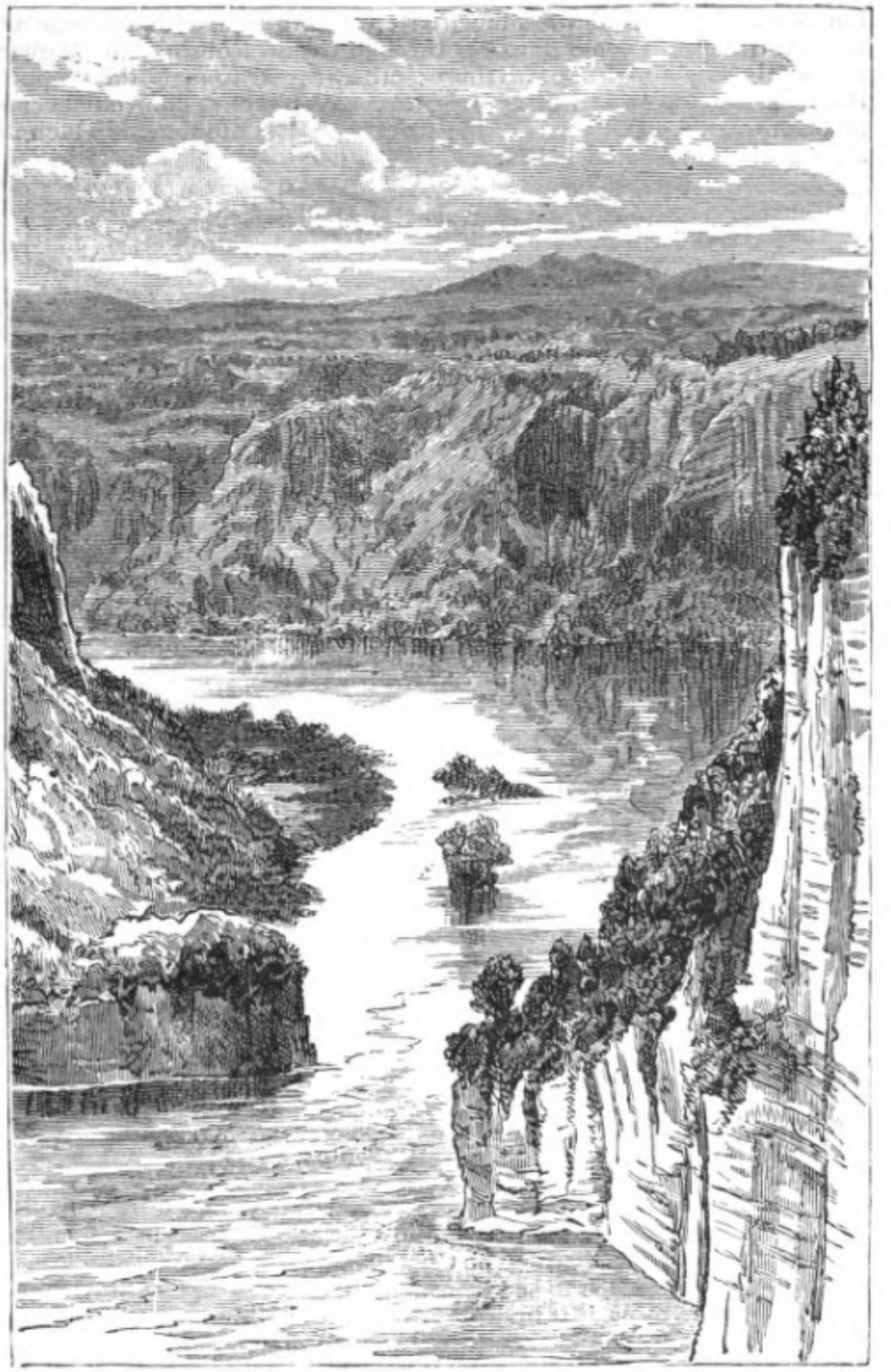

River Waikato, Hot Lake District.

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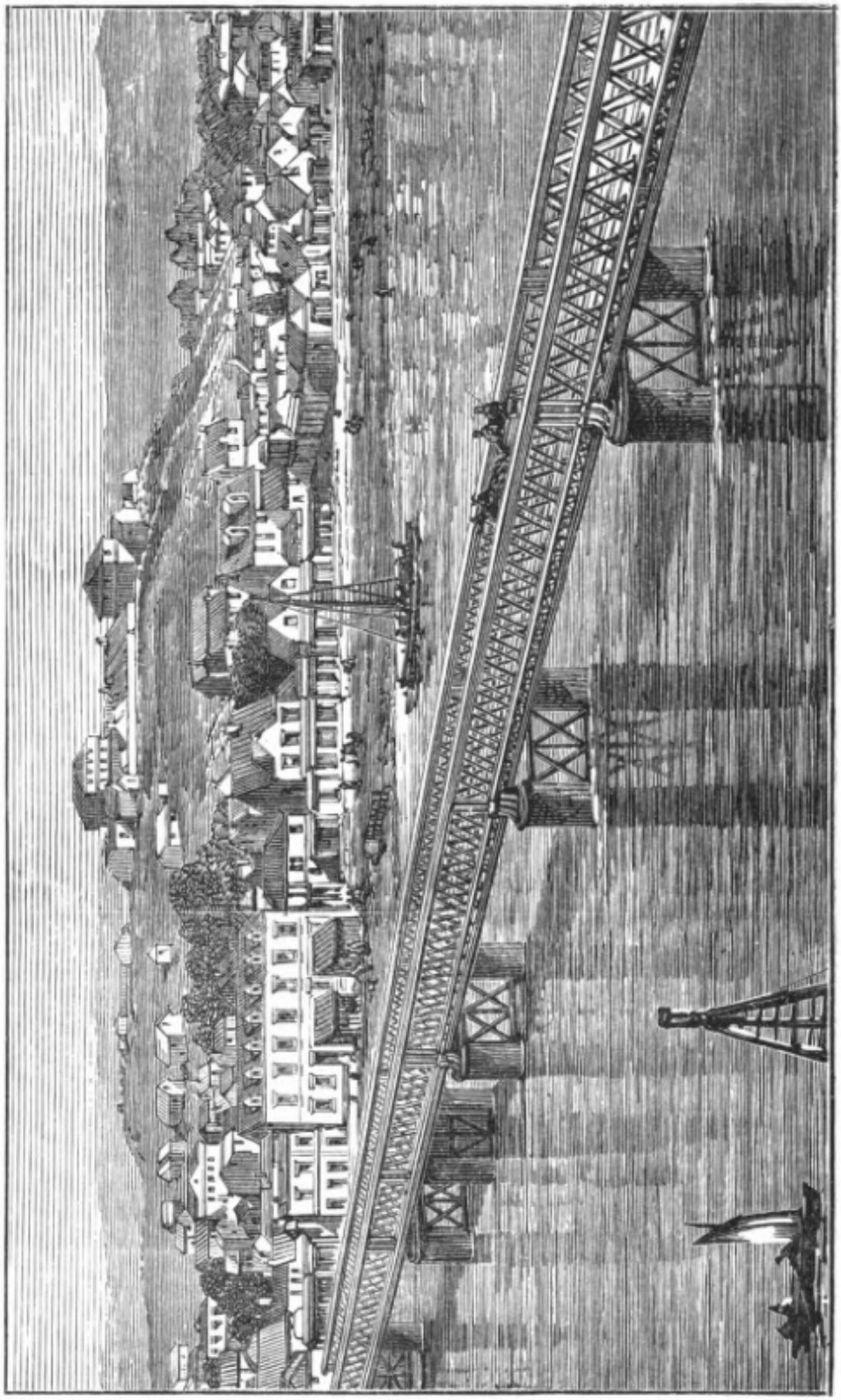

WANGANUI (NORTH ISLAND).

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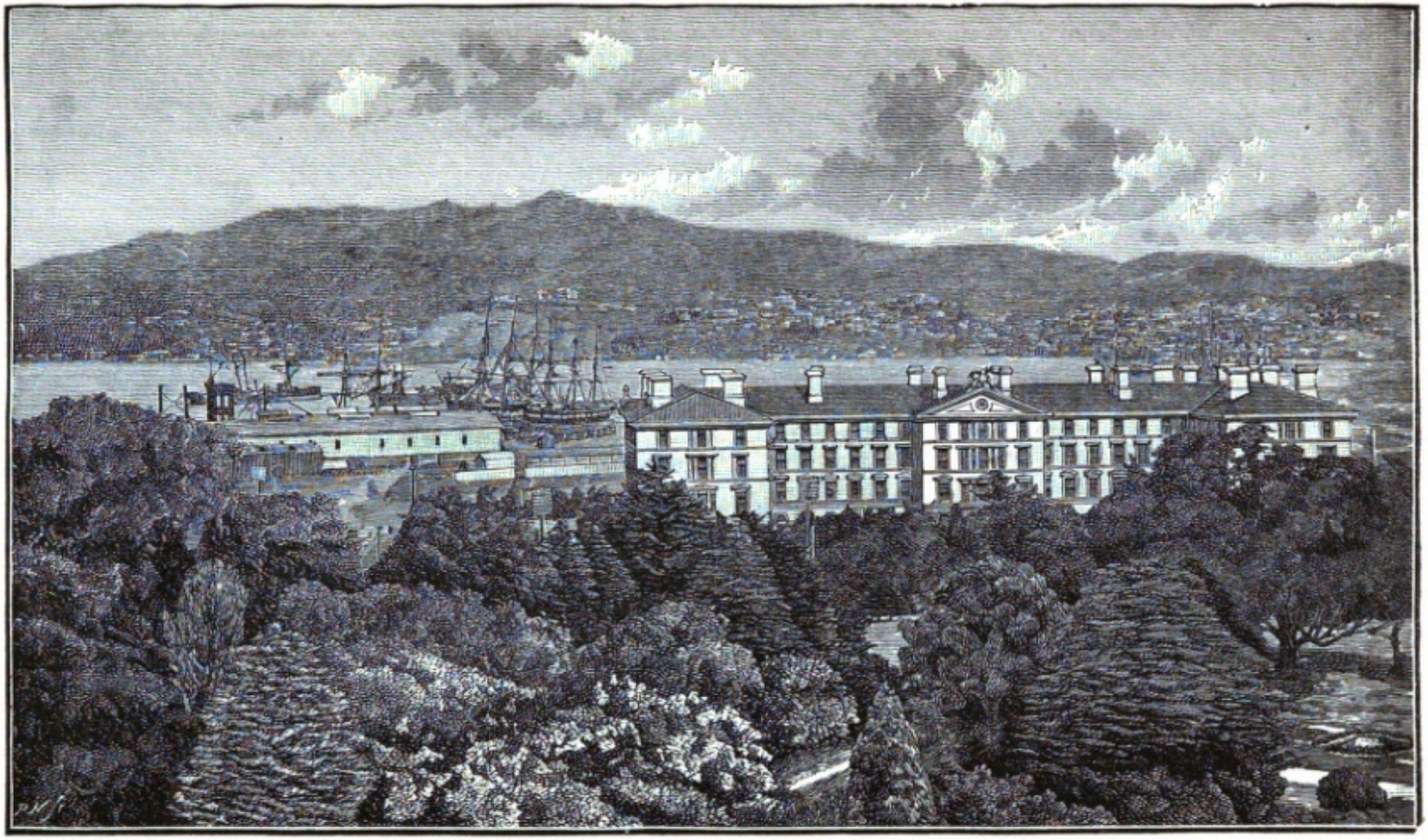

WELLINGTON CITY AND HARBOUR.

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They are one of the chief lions of Wellington, and a very pleasant place to visit on a summer afternoon or evening. The Racecourse is situated at the Lower Hutt also, while there is another at Island Bay or Cook Strait, at which there is also an hotel, where tourists can find comfortable accommodation.

As the capital of the Colony, Wellington might be looked upon as the best starting place for tours, but owing to existing arrangements, unless travellers wish to make it their head centre for some special reason, both Auckland and Dunedin are the better towns to stop at first, as Wellington can be visited *en route* from either to either. It is the starting point, however, for the Northern Sounds trip, by way of Picton to Nelson; and for Westport, Greymouth, or Hokitika, for those who wish to coach through the Otira Gorge to Springfield (for

EVENING AT WELLINGTON.

Christchurch), and tourists wishing to see both coasts of the North Island, would do well to make it their first stopping-place, just as those who are only desirous of making the quickest and most comprehensive tour should not do so.

One of the chief excursions from the city, and certainly one of the most interesting in the Colony, is the railway ride over the Rimutakas. Although the line can in no way compare with the wonderful engineering enterprises in the Rocky Mountains, the California Cañons, and the Mexico Vera Cruz Railway, yet the work has been very skilfully carried out, and the Fell Engine working on the steep grade with the centre rail is well worth some trouble to see, and from the point where the railway closes for the present, coach can be taken

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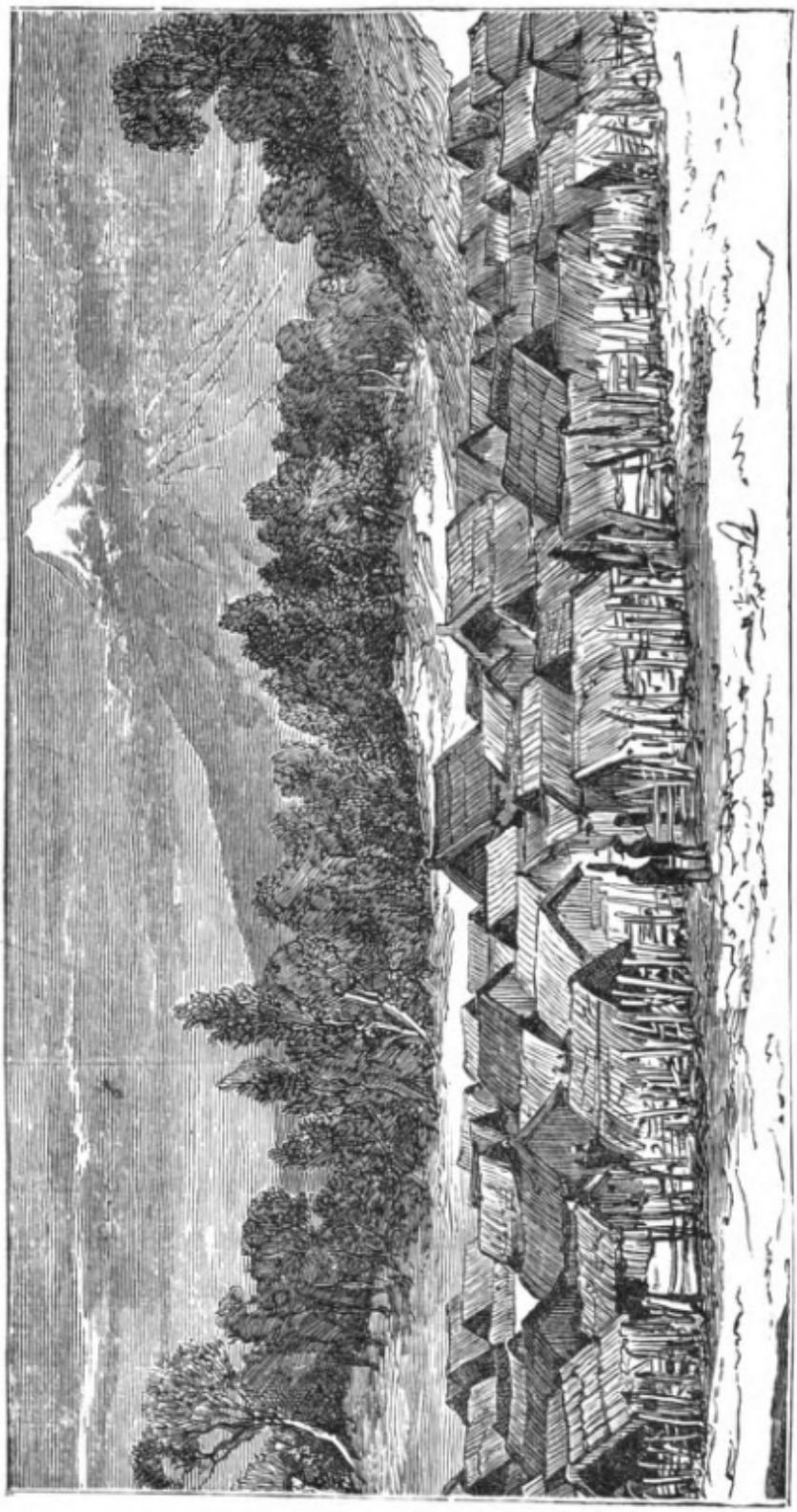

PARIHAKA (NATIVE SETTLEMENT) MOUNT EGMONT IN THE DISTANCE.

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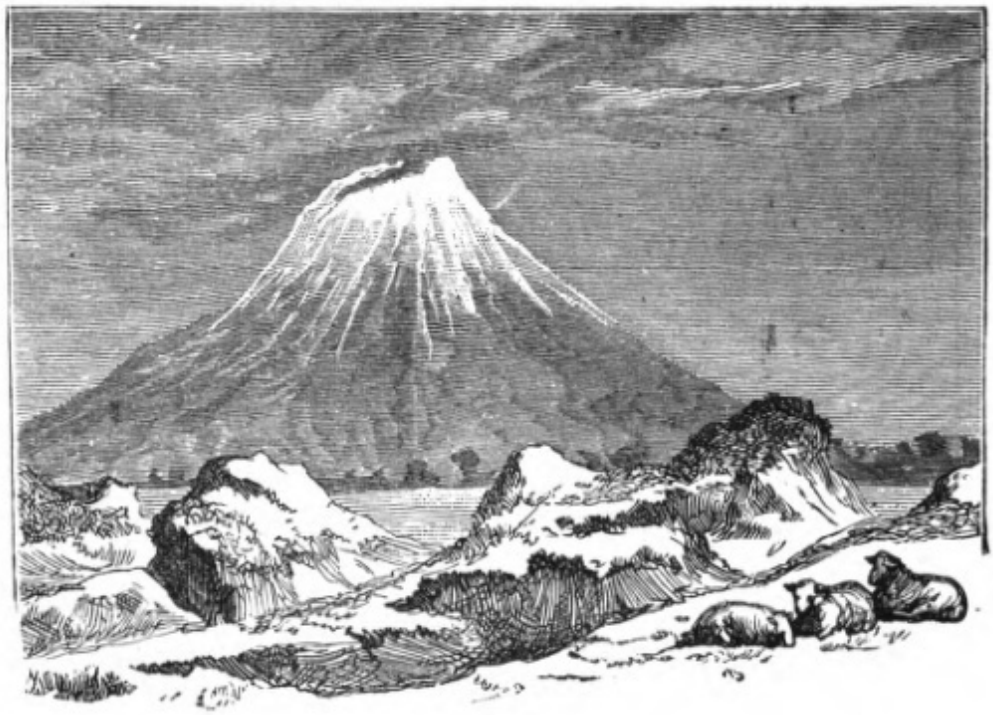
through the beautiful forty mile bush to Woodville, whence the iron horse communicates with Napier. The Wellington-Manawatu Railway Company also communicate with Napier, and this is the quicker route. The train goes to Palmerston, thence the traveller coaches through the Manawatu Gorge to Woodville.

There is capital fishing to be had in the vicinity of Wellington, and also good pheasant shooting and deer-stalking.



MOUNT EGMONT

REMAINS OF MAORI FORTIFICATIONS AT TURO TURO MOKAI.

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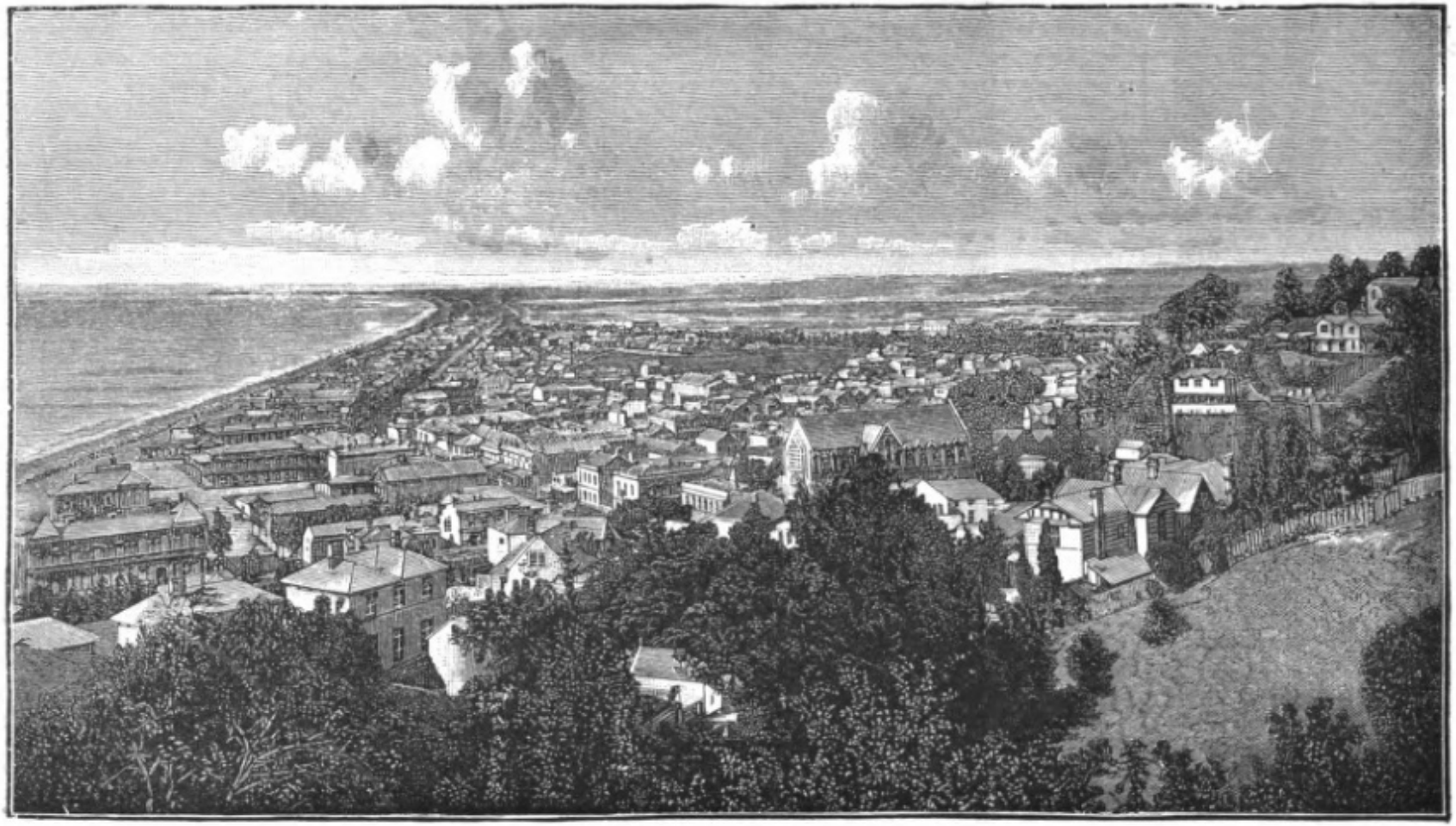

NAPIER (HAWKE'S BAY).

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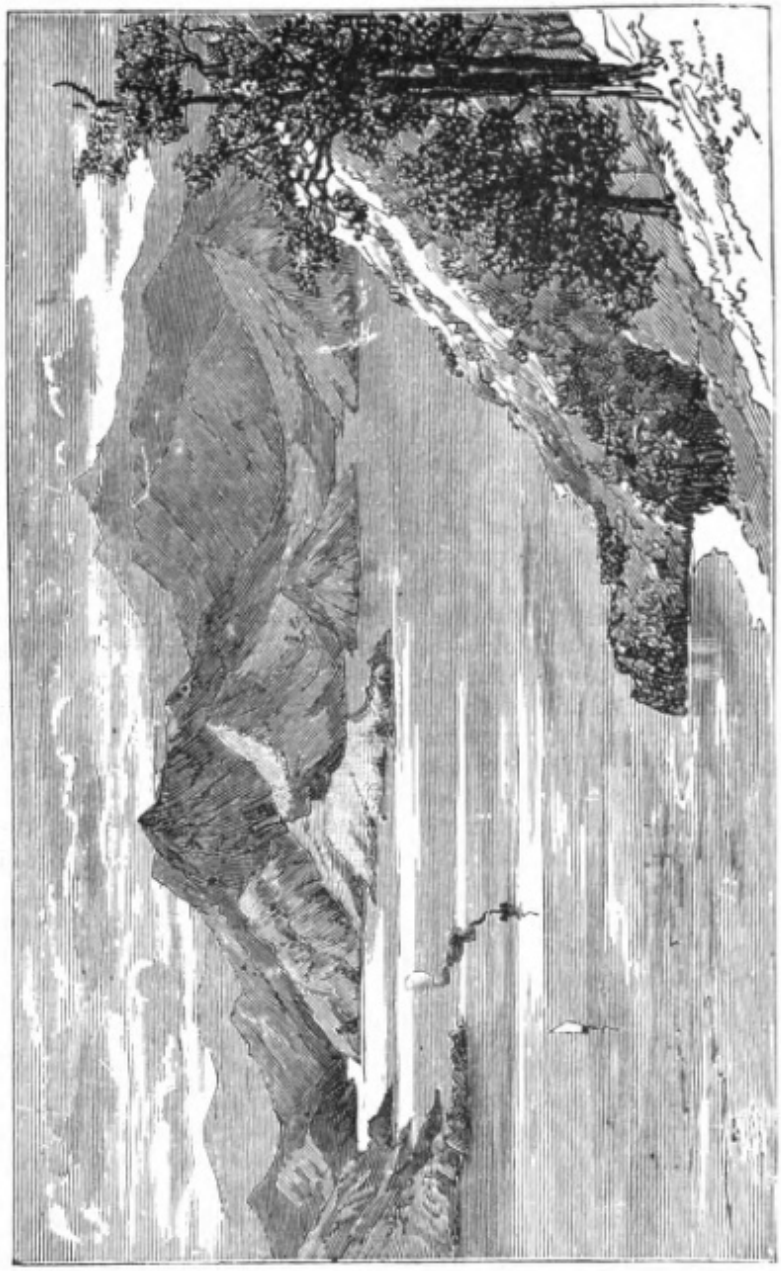
Wellington or Picton; but by the regular steamers Pelorus Sound is left out in the cold, and Queen Charlotte's is only partly seen. There are several ways of making the trip. The most usual is from Welling-



QUEEN CHARLOTTE SOUND, NEAR PICTON, SOUTH ISLAND.

ton by the staunch little boats of the Union S.S. Company, across Cook's Strait and up Queen Charlotte's Sound to Picton, thence back along the Sound into the Straits again, and by the French Pass to

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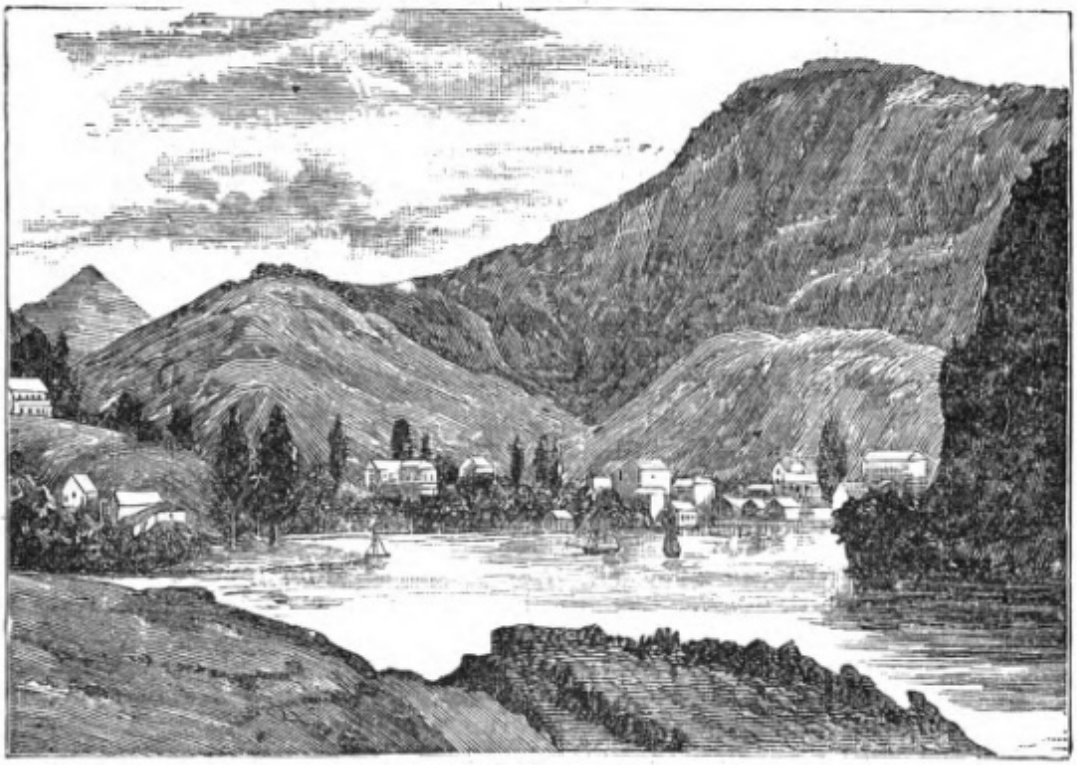
Nelson, and *vice versa* to Wellington; or from Nelson to Greymouth or Hokitika, the latter for the great coach ride through the Otira Gorge, and thence to Christchurch:—or again, from Nelson to New Plymouth and Auckland. Having come across from Christchurch to Hokitika, when the weather permits crossing the bar, steamer can be taken to Nelson, and the trip made thence: or when the coach road between Hokitika, Westport, Buller, Reefton, and Nelson is in suitable order, that can be chosen instead of the steamer, and some of the finest scenery in New Zealand seen on the way. Taken on the whole, however, the best way to make the most of the trip is to take steamer from Wellington to Picton, thence rail or carriage to Blenheim (seeing the Wairau Massacre Monument *en route*),



PICTON.

thence by coach to Nelson, returning to Wellington *via* Picton. By this route a certain amount of time can be spent on the trip, and there is the possibility of seeing Queen Charlotte Sound under two different aspects.

Few countries can boast of having such beautiful approaches to so many of their towns as New Zealand. From Port Chalmers to Dunedin makes a charming little STEAM; the entrance to Akaroa is very inviting; away to the north, Hokianga and Russell are two most daintily posed townships, and for a large town Auckland stands most attractively, the long entrance to the harbour having much in common with the entrance to that of Singapore, while the town, though lacking

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PORT LYTTELTON.

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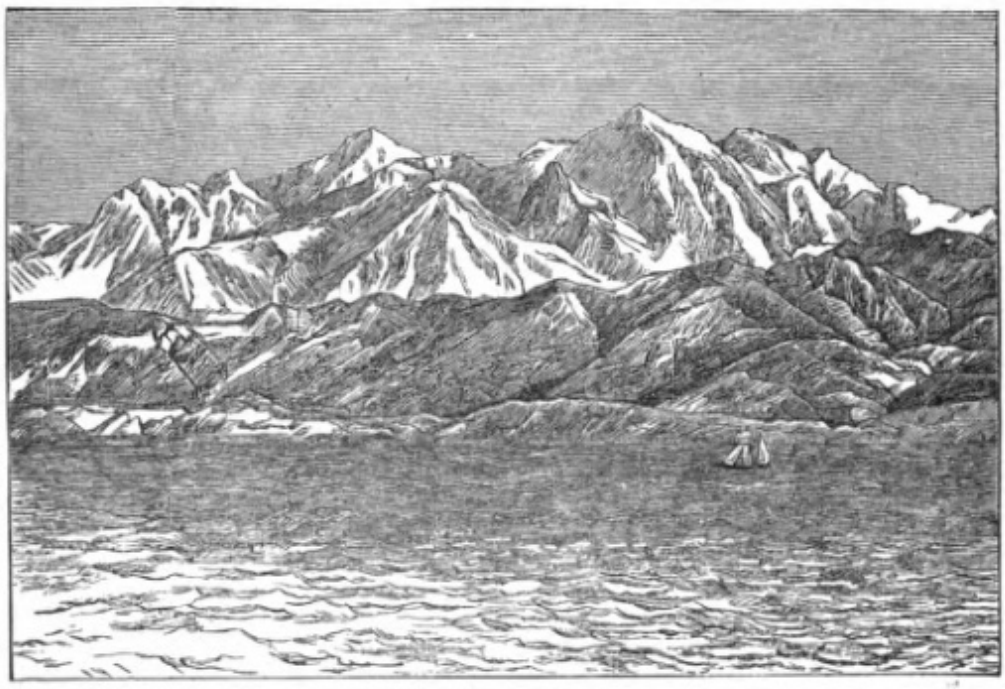
Port Lyttelton is situated in a semicircle of hills, and as far as its natural features are concerned is rather suggestive of Amoy. The breakwater is a fine bit of work, and has added to the safety of the harbour, which, however, will never entitle Lyttelton to rank as a first-class port. The entrance between the lofty bluffs, which form the Heads is imposing, but manifestly dangerous. The first view of the port itself is unquestionably pleasing.

Christchurch is the starting point of the famed coach ride to Hokitika, through the Otira Gorge, train being taken as far as Springfield, and the coach from thence. In smaller excursions, the City is not prolific. There is, however, the pleasant trip to Akaroa *via* Little



THE KAIKOURAS.

River, returning *viâ* Pigeon Bay, which is much patronised from Saturday to Monday in summer, and the shorter trip to Sumner, which forms, with New Brighton, a popular seaside resort near the City. There are other rides and drives about the neighbourhood, such as to the Agricultural College at Lincoln, but nothing of any special importance beyond those already mentioned. It is a very pleasant place to stay in autumn, and forms a nice change from Auckland.

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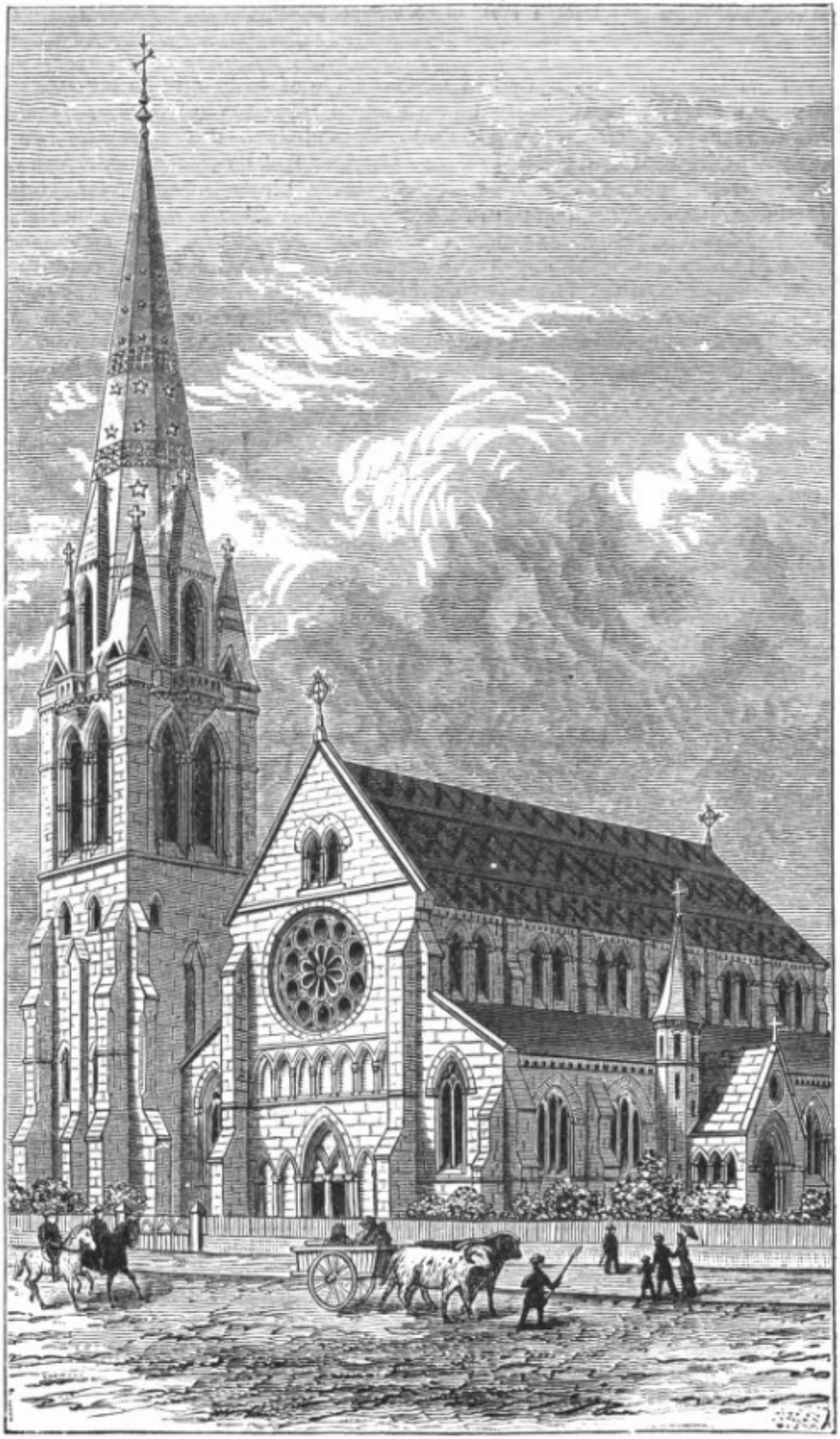

CHRISTCHURCH CATHEDRAL.

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THE GREAT TASMAN GLACIER.

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