

ART. XIX.—*Chips from an Ancient Maori Workshop.*

By Captain G. MAIR.

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Plates LI. and LII.

ON the shores of Tauranga Harbour, near Katikati, there used to be a long sandy ridge about 40 ft. above sea-level, covered with such plants as love the seaside. This place was known by the name of Waiororo (the waters of grinding or rubbing). Struck by the singular inappropriateness of this name, I once asked the late chief Hori Tupaea the reason why it was so called. He said the name had come down from prehistoric times; that it had been the home in bygone ages of a numerous tribe, now long forgotten—the Ngamarama.

About ten years ago, owing to the destruction of the vegetation by fire and the trampling of stock, the sandhill began to move seawards before the fierce and prevailing westerly winds, leaving, in a short time, the original surface of clayey soil, and forming a level sort of plateau some chains wide and perhaps 150 yards long, and disclosing the site of an ancient village with numerous middens and workshops. Around the latter cartloads of obsidian, chert, and different kinds of stone knives and flakes could be seen. Heaps of even-sized round stones for net-sinkers and fishing-sinkers, and hundreds of bone implements made from whalebone, human bone, moa, albatros, and native-dog bones could be seen in every stage of manufacture. Barbed points for fish-hooks or bird-spears also strewed the surface. In fact, here were to be found specimens of almost every domestic article used by a primitive people. Here and there were stone platforms or pavements, consisting of flat stones neatly fitted together and set in some kind of cement, apparently made from ashes or burnt shell. These places were circular, about 6 ft. in diameter, and were probably used for roasting or drying food on. The corner posts (of totara) of many of the houses were still standing, but crumbled to brown dust on being touched. None of the huts appeared to have been more than 8 ft. wide and 10 ft. to 12 ft. long. Stone hammers were also very numerous, and so were stone axes, adzes, gouges, wedges, chisels, drill-points, &c. I gathered over two hundred perfect implements, while probably twice that number of broken ones I discarded. There were also several wooden weapons—paddles, spears, &c.—some showing signs of rough carving; but they fell to pieces on being touched, as did most of the bone articles—hooks, &c.—excepting the uhis or tattooing-adzes and beautiful little



It is evident that these villagers were a tribe of artisans who made weapons and domestic articles for trading purposes. While they were on a prolonged visit to some other place a gale of extraordinary severity must have overwhelmed their kainga, burying it 20 ft. or 30 ft. deep with drifting sand, and now, after a lapse of perhaps hundreds of years, it has been exposed to view. Since I last visited it the sand has again covered the larger portion of the village-site.

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EXPLANATION OF PLATES LI., LII.

PLATE LI.

- Fig. 1. Haft of fish-hook.
- Fig. 2. Fish-hook.
- Fig. 3. Fish hook made of human bone.
- Fig. 4. Toothpick made of human bone.
- Fig. 5. Sewing-needle made of albatross-bone.
- Fig. 6. Stone and shell fish-hooks.
- Fig. 7. Bone barbs for bird-spear.
- Fig. 8. Mother-of-pearl ornaments.
- Fig. 9. Uhi, or tattooing-adzes.
- Fig. 10. Spoon made of mother-of-pearl.

PLATE LII.

- Fig. 1. Bone toggle for fastening tiki ornaments round the neck.
  - Fig. 2. Curious stone ornament.
  - Fig. 3. " (side view).
  - Fig. 4. Bone ornament.
  - Fig. 5. Stone ornament.
  - Fig. 6. Portion of jaw of native dog, cut in two.
  - Fig. 7. Tuatara jaws.
  - Fig. 8. Shell adze.
  - Fig. 9. Stone spear-head.
  - Fig. 10. Moa-bone cut in two.
  - Fig. 11. Portion of human thigh-bone cut in two.
  - Fig. 12. Top end of handle, showing carving.
  - Fig. 13. Poria, or ring for foot of pet kaka.
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