

## NEW ZEALAND.

New Zealand, we may remind the reader, consists of two large islands and one small, named respectively North, Middle, and South (or Stewart's) Island. They are of volcanic origin, and a great portion of their area is occupied by a few active and several extinct volcanoes. In North Island the volcano of Tongariro is 6000 feet high, and constantly emitting clouds of smoke. In Middle Island, around Lakes Rotomahana and Rotorua, numerous grand and superb geysers have been discovered, which eject columns of water heated two degrees above boiling-point. But even of greater interest is the volcanic district round Lake Taupo (30 miles long by 20 broad), in North Island, as will be evident from the following summary of Ferdinand de Hochstetten's interesting narrative of exploration :—\*

Lake Taupo, says the German traveller, is a veritable inland sea, 25 miles long from S.W. to N.E., 20 miles broad, and of an unfathomable depth. It is situated 1250 feet above the level of high-water mark, and surrounded in all its circuit by volcanic formations, where predominate the trachytic lavas, rich in quartz, as well as gigantic masses of pumice-stone. These igneous formations compose a great table-land, from 2000 to 2200 feet in height, in whose centre lies the lake, which has evidently been formed by a violent rupture of this lofty plateau, succeeding upon the subsidence of certain subterranean cavities.

All the western shore of the lake is composed of precipitous rocks, which in some places attain an elevation of upwards of 1000 feet. The long wooded summits of Mounts Rangitolo and Tuhua, 3000 feet high, disappear in the horizon in a north-west direction ; it is but as a mere point that we can distinguish the mass of Mount Titiraupenga, whose pyramidal summit resembles the ruins of a dismantled castle.

The eastern bank is almost everywhere level, and forms a continuous beach, along which a road has been laid down. At a certain distance, glittering rocks of pumice-stone bound this beach or shore :

\* [Hochstetten, in "Tour du Monde," vol. for 1866, pp. 291, *et seq.*]