

course of the Whanganni, and following the deep chasm of that river, approached the sea, where to-day he rears his colossal but solitary bulk near the coast. During his journey, a couple of fragments detached themselves from his forehead ; and to-day, by way of proving the truth of their story, the natives point out two masses of rock, differing from the volcanic formations around the Whanganni, which are found at about eighteen miles from its source.

Ruapahou, the loftiest summit in North Island, has the form of a considerably truncated cone, and rises into the region of perpetual snow. It has never been ascended or explored ; however, no doubt can be entertained as to its volcanic nature, but it appears to be completely extinct, and at a distance no trace of a solfatara can be detected either on its sides or its summit. The exact configuration of this vast cone is not known—whether it forms a table-land or terminates in a crater. It is rarely free from clouds ; but in clear weather, great masses of snow can be distinguished on its flanks, which, plunging deep into their numerous furrows, apparently end in glaciers.

Most of the hot springs of this region lie on the southern shore of the lake, near the Maori village of Tokanu, and not far from the river of that name. They extend from the little conical mountain Manganamu, to the mouth of the river Tokanu, and cover an area of two English square miles. The thick column of vapours which is discernible on the borders of the lake, belongs to the great spring of Pirori. From an orifice on the left bank of the Tokanu soars a column of boiling water, two feet in diameter, always undergoing the action of vapour, and whirling round in the air to a height of six to ten feet. Occasionally, it reaches an elevation of forty feet, with a loud detonation. A few feet distant is a basin eight feet broad by six feet deep, in which the water is constantly boiling.

These thermal springs are also numerous in the valley of the Waikato. The Waikato, forming in its course a succession of rapids, pours headlong through a narrow ravine, deeply immured among precipitous mountains. Its waters swirl and foam around two rocky