

they are covered with vegetation, and gradually ascend to the foot of a lofty wooded mountain, Kaimanawa, about fifteen miles from the lake.

The southern shore of Lake Taupo extends to a great distance : it is bordered by a range of volcanic cones, in whose rear soar the magnificent volcanic peaks of Tongariro and Ruapahou. These two giants are not visible, however, from the southern banks ; but everywhere, from the east shore to the northern, they may be seen tower-

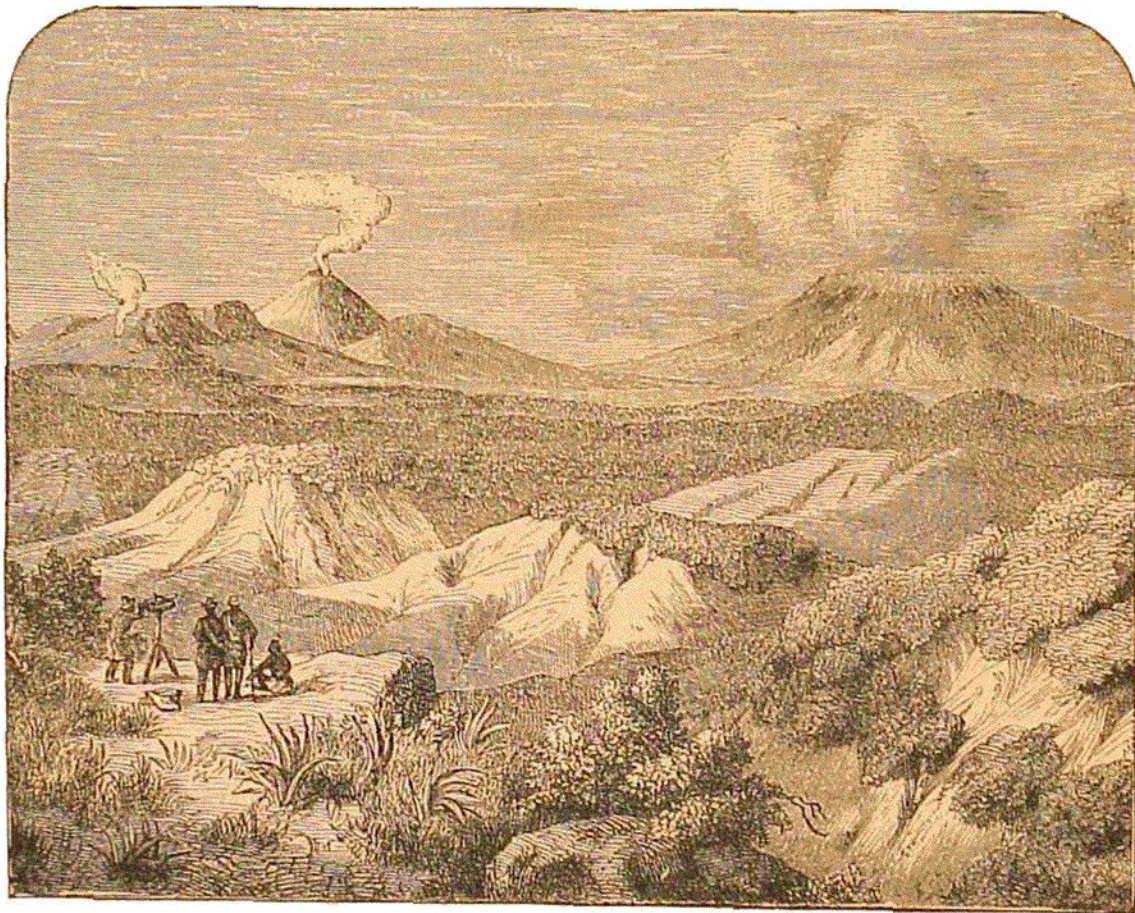


FIG. 152.—THE VOLCANOES TONGARIRO AND RUAPAHOU (*seen from the south-west*).

ing above those little conical mountains which the natives, in their picturesque language, designate their "wives" and "children."

The base of Mount Tongariro is about twelve miles distant from the lake. Between it and the mountains Pihanga and Kakaramea intervenes a broad valley, inclosing the beautiful lake Rotoaia, about three miles long. It is by this road the traveller passes to ascend Tongariro ; but as the mountain is "tabooed" by the Maori chiefs, and as the weather was unfavourable for such an enterprise, M. Hochstetten did not attempt its ascent.