

passage must be attempted above or below, and the traveller must then climb up the steep woody bank, where he is every moment exposed to the risk of slipping on the completely soaked soil, and falling into the burning mud. M. Hochstetten accordingly contented himself with a close examination of the more accessible springs on the left bank.

A great platform, about one hundred and twenty yards square, composed of a whitish silicious tufa, and extending from the base of the mountain Tutukan to the Waikato, embraces some of the most remarkable springs of the basin, and notably that of Homaiterangi.

This spring is situated close to the river-bank, on a hillock shaped like a church-spire. Great precautions are indispensable on the part of the traveller who, without an experienced guide, for the first time approaches one of those *pinas*. M. Hochstetten's companions wished to enjoy the pleasure of a bath in the Waikato, and had already deposited their clothes near a basin of thermal water, when loud reports suddenly deafened their ears, and they saw the water rising and boiling in the basin. They had scarcely time to escape a douche-bath of anything but an agreeable character, for a liquid column mixed with vapour sprang up, with a hiss and a roar, to a height of twenty feet. Startled by this adventure, M. de Hochstetten's companions hastened to relate it to him; but when he arrived on the spot, the geyser had subsided into a sulky repose, and nothing was visible in its basin but water limpid as crystal, and very slightly agitated. Its temperature proved to be 94° C. ($= 201^{\circ}$ R.), and its taste was not unlike that of broth.

The first explosion of which Hochstetten himself was a witness, did not take place until near noon. Shortly before the basin was full to the brim; suddenly masses of water and vapour shot up to an elevation of from twenty to thirty feet, under a circle of 70° . This lasted for several minutes; then the force of projection diminished; the water rose only one or two feet; and then the jet disappeared in the centre with a hoarse, dull sound. When he again approached the