

basin it was empty, and he could see to a depth of eight feet in a funnel-shaped opening, whence gusts of vapour escaped with a constant hiss. Then the water recommenced its upward movement, and in the course of ten minutes the basin was filled anew: the eruptions appeared to take place at intervals of ten hours. The bottom of this *pina*, like that of the surrounding springs, is of silicious tufa. The deposit of the waters, when recent, is of a gelatinous white; after awhile it acquires consistency, and ends by forming a solid rock of very different colour and structure. Sometimes it is a granular mass; sometimes a chalcedony hard as steel, or else a gray silica.

A second *pina*, about thirty paces distant, is named Orakeikorako. It is an oval basin, eight feet long by six feet broad, and half filled with a transparent and lightly boiling water.

But the most remarkable of all the springs is situated at the foot of the hill: it forms a boiling jet of two or three feet in height, whose water is exquisitely bright and clear, though impregnated with an odour of sulphur. The Maori chief who accompanied M. Hochstetten in his excursion informed him that, after the earthquake at Wellington in 1848, this spring was transformed into a geyser, which leaped to the height of one hundred feet—an exaggeration, no doubt—and ejected with terrible force the stones flung into its basin. Three smaller basins which, previously, were independent sources, are now filled by the overflow of the great jet, and form excellent natural *piscinæ*. The water passes from one reservoir into another, so as to afford a choice of three temperatures. The third, about three to five feet deep, is about the size of a large bath. Its bed is composed of silicious tufa, white as snow, which seems to possess the purity of marble, and its limpid wave was so attractive that our traveller could not deny himself the pleasure of bathing in it.

Great curative virtues are attributed to these springs. M. Hochstetten met with an Irishman at Orakeikorako who informed him that he had been brought thither paralyzed, but that a brief use of the baths had restored him to his feet.

On both sides of the river the dense brushwood covers tracts of