

the most refined art could not render more convenient or more elegant. You may choose among them the dimensions which you prefer and the temperature you desire; for the latter diminishes in proportion to the distance from the principal spring. Some are of such a size and depth that one might swim in them conveniently.

The most elevated terrace surrounds a large platform, in which are excavated numerous pretty basins from five to six feet in depth, whose water has a temperature of 86°, 90°, 104°, and 122° F. In the centre of this elevated platform, and near the chief basin, rises a rock about twelve feet high, covered with a thick growth of manuka, lycopodiums, mosses, and ferns; the traveller can ascend it without danger, and from thence look down into the blue vaporous depths of the central reservoir. Such is the celebrated spring of the Té-ta-Rata. The pure white of the stalactites contrasting with the intense blue of the water, the verdure of the surrounding vegetation, the bright red of the naked walls of the aquatic crater, and, finally, the clouds of vapour, which are incessantly renewed and incessantly revolving on their own axes, contribute to form a picture as unique as it is impressive.

The splendours of the Té-ta-Rata, says M. F. de Lanoye,\* have a pendant on the opposite bank of the lake, in those of a spring not less remarkable for its temperature and its encrusting qualities. It has received from the natives the expressive name of Otaka-Puarangi, the "Cloudy Atmosphere." Its white silicious deposits also descend from its orifice down to the lake, and the traveller scales them by a marble staircase, so sharp in its outline, so regular in its construction, and so adorned with graceful borders of evergreen shrubs, that it seems as if Nature had designed it in very mockery of the skill and industry of man.

It may be that the superimposed terraces of the Otaka-Puarangi are not as majestic as those of the Té-ta-Rata; but they are more elegant and graceful, and a light rosy tint overspreading the whole calcareous deposit communicates to the scene a peculiar beauty. The

\* [Felix de Lanoye, "Les Grandes Scènes de la Nature."]