

THE MAORI RECORD.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE MAORI PEOPLE.

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The Puke-ki-Hikurangi and Maori Record.

THE present issue of this paper, for the first time containing matter in both the Maori and English languages, is produced by the liberality of Niniwa-i-te-rangi, a Wairarapa chieftainess of high rank, and owner of the Puke-ki-Hikurangi. It has been made possible for her to do so by the hearty co-operation of the English editor of the Maori Record, who has freely given his services. With the help of the public of both races, it is hoped to issue sufficient numbers of the paper in the future, and gain an adequate patronage from advertisers, to enable the promoters to pay expenses. Money-making is not the object in view, and if, by the encouragement received from the public, any surplus is left after paying legitimate expenses hereafter it will be expended in furtherance of the main object of this paper—the development and improvement of the Maori people. The price of a single copy will be 3d. The paper will be issued weekly. The subscription per annum will be 12s 6d, or 15s if posted, in both cases to be paid in advance to the agents, or to the head office of the Puke-ki-Hikurangi, Greytown, Wairarapa. Europeans are urged to purchase copies for distribution, and Maori well-wishers are reminded that they may pay more for the good of the cause, but they cannot pay less and obtain the paper.

The Maori Record.

IN selecting the above title for the portion of the Puke-ki-Hikurangi to be printed in the English language, it is hoped that it will appeal in a broader sense to the people constituting the predominant partner than the native title does to the native race. Because, whilst the latter speaks to the Maori loudly of that past, to draw inferences and formulate hopes for an entirely changed, a distinctly improved, a more ambitious seeking after a higher civilisation in the Maori record of the future. For the one end and aim of the Puke-ki-Hikurangi and Maori

Record is the advancement of the Maori people. In the past it has been thought that the salvation of this race lay in the conservation of their lands, the individualisation of the titles to them, and the allocation to each of a sufficient area for his support, combined with a benevolent guidance along one of the variously chosen trails which lead to the presence of the one Master in the beyond. But whilst these are great factors in the making of the Maori of the future they are not the only ones which should be taken into consideration in pointing out the way, the goal of which is that useful citizenship which makes the individual, Briton and Maori alike, a valuable asset of the State. For at present the 40,000 Maori people who own, through representatives of their race, the five millions of unalienated lands left in New Zealand, are practically as waste as their derelict lands, though the potential value of both lands and people, is of the highest. Neither at present sufficiently contribute to that improvement of man and his environment which should be the guiding star of all, in what may be made a happy progress, but has been called a pilgrimage and a martyrdom, towards the curtain which all must pass, but none can know its other side. Efforts have been made, from time to time, to secure the immigration of people of alien race, in the interests of settlement, who are not of a higher order of natural intelligence than the 40,000 native people we have in our midst, and to whom we owe so much. And yet our efforts to make these thousands useful citizens of the colony are entirely inadequate to that end. By advocates of justice to the Maori, much is said of the obligation we are under by the Treaty of Waitangi, to conserve the lands of the native to him, but all efforts seem to presuppose that the destiny of the Maori is for him to be a more or less extensive gardener, whilst his race marches towards a near disappearance, with representation only in the blood of those allied to certain of the European people. But late counts of the Native people testify that in certain districts the dangerous line separating barbarous from civilised habits has been passed, and the people of those native districts are increasing. What has been done in one district may be done in all. And where increase in population has taken place, communal habits have to a certain extent disappeared, and it may be that their entire disappearance would be a misfortune, for hospitality and the

truest charity are at the base of them. Given opportunity the Maori becomes a professional man, a tradesman, a day labourer, or a farmer. To extend these opportunities is the duty of all, and the Record will advocate every means to that end. For we have not shuffled off the "White Man's Burden." When a people of a higher race seeks to impose upon a barbarous or semi-barbarous nation the civilisation itself enjoys, it is bound to supply a state of happiness at least equally great with the normal happiness it supplants. And the Natives have not yet begun to enjoy the new happiness, whilst their old happiness has become impossible in the social conditions brought by the people of the Sovereign to whom they have given the mana of their islands. The word "ambition" has been used. Is there any position in colony or empire to which in the future the Maoris may not aspire, if their tottering footsteps are properly strengthened through the corridors of time towards the perfection of civilisation their white fellow-subjects enjoy? Let us answer the question by an approximate example. After centuries of rule and misrule of the Mexican people by Spaniards and half-castes, a state of anarchy was reached subsequent to the barbarous murder of the quasi-Emperor Maximilian. The revolution which has resulted in the establishment of a Republic, not the least successful of those of the world, and of a state of prosperity never before equalled in Mexico, was initiated and consummated by two pure American Indians. Of course, no one wishes a repetition of such an apotheosis of the Native in New Zealand, because the operation could be only possible by the decay of the European. But if such a high standard of intelligence can be reached by an Indian who is of Mongoloid stock, surely it may lie in the womb of the future for the Maori, who is a long-separated brother of our own Caucasian race. Man is the result of his environment, for countless ages the Maori has had but savage neighbours in savage lands. It remains for the improved conditions to make the improved man, if his course is guided through the shoals of temptation to err, which are the obstacles attending those conditions and have to be surmounted. But in all guidance we must leave him that self-reliance and self-respect which were always his till we intervened. In acquiring technical skill in artisanship and trades the European has an admirable system of apprenticeship, which