

route (wisely they were not followed) and proposing that a national park be established north of Tongariro on what he called the Pakaru plains, to include the Ketetahi springs and the Okahukura and Ruamata plains south west and west of Kakaramea, but, strangely, excluding the volcanoes themselves.

The first instalment of the narrative appeared in the *New Zealand Herald* on 2 June under the title 'Explorations in the King Country', the last, no. 19, being in the issue for 22 September. With minor textual changes and some rearrangement of material the narrative is substantially that of the book itself. His map of the journey was lithographed by the *Herald* and distributed as a supplement to the issue of 14 July. He also sent a copy to Grey showing the boundaries of the proposed park.¹⁸ The map prompted a friendly but firm public letter from Davis correcting the spelling of some 17 names; 'as Mr Nicholls is a personal friend, I know sufficient of him to warrant the belief that he will not resent the liberty I take in making the necessary corrections . . . many of the Maori names are extremely euphonious and worthy of being retained, consequently it is most desirable that they should be rightly spelt and pronounced.'¹⁹ Davis's was very much a novel viewpoint in the English orientation of mid-Victorian immigrant society.

Apart from this letter the articles seem to have provoked little public response. When Rochfort's party was turned back at Ruakaka, Kerry-Nicholls could not resist a complacent letter to the *Herald*. Anyone who understood the feelings of the Maoris 'of that wild region' could not be surprised. The last words of the men who had put Nicholls and Turner on the track were: 'Look out that they . . . don't take you for land speculators, surveyors or prospectors. If they do, there is no telling what harm may come . . .'²⁰

What does a balance sheet of Kerry-Nicholls's achievements in the region and in the narrative look like? To his credit was the completion of the journey with Maori accord, an understanding with Tawhiao which provided information, slight in quantity but important in substance, his advocacy of a national park around Tongariro three years before the first steps towards one by L. M. Grace and Te Heuheu IV and, geographically, his discovery of the Whangaehu ice caves.²¹ He climbed only one of the three major peaks on Ruapehu's summit plateau and hence did nothing to relieve the Survey Department's own uncertainties about their relative heights; he did not see the crater lake although a number of his predecessors had but the limited publicity given to these ascents meant that the Department, again, was ignorant of the lake's existence although one of its contract surveyors, William Cussen, must have seen it when he climbed Paretaitonga a month before Kerry-Nicholls was on Te Heuheu. A. H. Murray, the Marton