

explore the interior. In the event he had to leave Waikato without it. How he filled his time before his departure for Tauranga and the thermal regions four months later on 8 March 1883 is unknown. The book gives no hint. During the discussion on his paper to the Geographical Society two years later the President said that he had spent 18 months in New Zealand which accounts for the full period from his arrival in September 1882 until his departure in May 1884.<sup>11</sup> It was possibly at this period that he visited the Auckland Institute and Museum to meet Cheeseman.<sup>12</sup> He also made some agreement with Messrs Wilson & Horton to publish a series of articles about his journey in the *New Zealand Herald*.

He was fortunate—lucky—in two vital particulars. Firstly his timing. The arrest of C. W. Hursthouse by Te Mahuki and his followers at Te Uira, south of Otorohanga in March, 1883, when commencing the rail survey, enabled him to get into the field two months before John Rochfort's parties worked north from the Rangitikei. Rochfort's own rebuff at Ruakaka on the Manganui-o-te-ao in September when the last instalment of Kerry-Nicholls's narrative of his successful journey was appearing in the *Herald* heightened the interest in his story. His map of the region, printed in July, with all its imperfections, was far more detailed than anything available to the Crown surveyors who in fact requested copies before setting out. He was equally lucky in his guide, the Whatiwhatihoe-based half-caste John Turner. Turner, whom Nicholls had probably met during his visit, had led a number of distinguished visitors to the Maori King, such as the British colonial administrator A. P. Maudslay, to Te Kopua in 1876.<sup>13</sup> Turner also had an early knowledge of Wairakei, having given many of the 'quaint names' to the features of Geyser Valley where he was later employed by Robert Graham.<sup>14</sup> Although Waikato and Maniopototo tended to regard half-castes as potential foci of trouble, Turner appears to have had some personal standing which must have smoothed the Englishman's path beyond his knowledge of Maori. Their decision at Karioi, south of Ruapehu to enter the King Country without Tawhiao's explicit permission was something of a gamble which paid off. It could easily have been the contrary.

The journey, and hence the narrative, falls into two parts, the first dealing with the political background, his attempts to secure permission and the visit to the thermal regions. In Rotorua he was in what was even at so early a date a tourist centre, already well-known to hundreds of discerning world travellers. Only his sense of purpose and a shrewd use of exploitable acquaintances lifted him out of the ruck. C. O. B. Davis, the former Wesleyan defender of Maori rights, editor of *Maori Mementos* and biographer