

European could live on terms of equality to their mutual advantage. He considered the event of enough importance to write of it in a letter to his mother which recorded not only his feelings on receipt of the news of the death of his father but also his marriage a few weeks earlier to Kate Williams. On 28 June 1852 he wrote:

'Last Sunday week I was in Wellington to baptise the oldest and most influential chief in that district – Te Puni. Sir George and Lady Grey were present also a Mr Dundas. I saw a Mr Barraud who sends sketches to the *Illustrated News* [sic] so perhaps you will see a sketch of it.'<sup>2</sup>

His regard for Te Puni is revealed in his annual report to the Church Missionary Society for 1852. Archdeacon Hadfield expresses his sense of gratification in admitting the old chieftain into the Church 'because of the high character he had borne among the English for integrity' and for his deep interest in Christianity. He found –

'... his humility in many respects very remarkable. As an instance of this I may mention that in the selection of a name, though several great names were suggested to him, he asked me to recommend some very simple one, and finally took the name Johnson – the name, I believe, of Dr Johnson, who had showne [sic] him kindness when on a visit to Auckland.'<sup>3</sup>

*The Wellington Independent* of 23 June reflects the Archdeacon's feelings towards Te Puni in its account of the baptism. There is no mention of the venue.

'Our readers will learn with great pleasure that their good old friend E'Puni was, on Sunday last, received into membership with the Church of England – the ceremony of baptism having been performed in the presence of a large congregation of natives by the Rev. Archdeacon Hadfield. It was indeed a sight, no less interesting than instructive to witness the venerable old chief with his long grey beard, meekly kneeling at the Altar of the white man's God, after having probably served in the capacity of Priest among his countrymen under very different circumstances, during several years of his life. E'Puni has long been known as the warm friend of the settlers, and the promoter of good feeling between the two races, and he will, no doubt, be remembered in this settlement with feelings of attachment and respect. Sir George and Lady Grey with several ladies and gentlemen attended to witness the ceremony, and the Governor's presence on this occasion, cannot but be viewed by the natives generally, as a mark of that respect which is justly due to E'Puni, and in which we cordially desire to unite.'<sup>4</sup>

But to begin the story of the painting it is necessary to go back to a comment made by Kate Williams shortly after the completion of Rangiatea Church in 1851. At this time she was living with her brother Reverend Samuel Williams at the Otaki mission. In a letter of 11 Octo-