

naturally 'thought this rather an extraordinary way of receiving them' and Taylor's suggestion that it would be better to have a special photographic session in Maori costume at Putiki was arranged. They were all grouped near Taylor's house, 'when, lo, some slide had been left behind', the interval till it had been collected being occupied by the chiefs 'drawing an outline of New Zealand on the ground... pointing out the different provinces and showing how central was the position of Wanganui'.³² Not unexpectedly all spent the day with Taylor who, as so often, had to feed the multitude.

Within a day or so, when Featherston arrived from his Manawatu function, the long anticipated up-river journey by canoe to Moutoa and Ranana went ahead. Sir Francis, meanwhile, had seen enough of Wanganui and took the *Rangatira* over to Picton to savour what Marlborough had to offer. There was clearly a tiff over this breakaway step, for months later, back in Australia, Murphy, in acknowledging some photographs which Docker had sent him 'had the grace to apologise for the Wanganui business'.³³ It was left to the most willing photographer Docker and botanist Gunn to make the most of the excursion.

The journey was, of course, only three months after the battle of Moutoa Island, when a large Hauhau party under Matene Rangitaira had been narrowly defeated by Wanganui 'friendlies'. Many of the contestants on both sides were closely related. Docker's account of the expedition extended over two letters only one of which has survived but the main details appear to be in the one available. Photographically, it was his most successful excursion to date:

The scenery was most exquisite and I got about 18 plates wet and dry, some of them good and others bad, chiefly from the collodion which has a most extraordinary propensity to split and crack all over, even before developing. I had some provoking mishaps too, one especially; I had taken a capital plate of the War Dance & had got safely transferred to a large pan of water when being obliged to go to set the camera for another scene, although I had urged the interpreters to let no men into the dark room, on coming back I found a Maori emptying a pot of sweet potatoes into the pan right on the face of the negative which was of course completely spoiled.

He had got a good one of the presentation of the address of the General Assembly to the heroes of the battle of Moutoa 'which is to go to the Illustrated London News. I have got myself in it.' Regrettably a search has not found it in the paper. There were some interesting first-hand stories of the battle itself:

About 300 Maories accompanied us to the Island of Moutoa and there acted the battle with all the previous incantations of the fanatics knocking each other down