

together with 1,000 acres of land from the estate of which it formed part, and presented it to the country. The house has been restored and is to-day the national monument to the historic events which took place in its garden.

The first man to sign the Treaty of Waitangi was the Ngapuhi Hone Heke, and it was the same proud Hone Heke's men who cut down the flagstaff at Kororareka on July 8, 1844. Before the British flag was hoisted in the Bay of Islands, Heke and his cousin Titore divided a levy of £5 on each ship entering the Bay; but with the imposition of Customs duties there and the moving of the capital to Auckland in 1842 trade declined, and blankets, tobacco, and spirits became dearer. There was, in addition, a vague, but widely diffused belief among the Maoris that the Treaty of Waitangi wasn't all it pretended to be. But just how much all this, and other reasons which have been advanced, had to do with the cutting-down of the flagstaff, it's hard to say now.

The flagstaff was re-erected; and cut down again on January 10, 1845. Up it went again, and on January 19 it was down for the third time. The Governor (now Fitzroy) appealed to the Governor of New South Wales for military assistance, but before the troops arrived the flagstaff was down for the fourth



*The Treaty House, Waitangi.*

time, and Kororareka Town was in ashes. After some preliminary skirmishes against white settlers in the bays about Kororareka, the Maoris launched their fourth attack against the flagstaff on Maiki Hill in the early morning of March 11, 1845. A blockhouse had been built around the flagstaff's base; but when they heard firing in the town below all except four of the garrison stationed in it went outside, some to see what was going on and the rest to prepare for battle. The Maoris cut them off from the blockhouse, killed the four men inside, and, in spite of the iron sheathing which had been put round it, brought the flagstaff tumbling down. Their main objective had been achieved.

But meanwhile another battle was being fought in the town below. Forty-five bluejackets and marines from H.M.S. "Hazard," which had arrived from Wellington on February 15, were engaged in hand-to-hand combat with about two hundred Maoris round the fence of the English church. The regular garrison, consisting of about fifty rank and file of the 96th Regiment from Auckland, and about one hundred armed civilians, were soon into the fray. And the fighting went on all morning.

About midday the women and children were taken off to ships in the bay. Then an accident occurred which decided the fate of Kororareka. Some careless fellow smoked his pipe as he worked among the bags of gunpowder in the magazine. A spark dropped, and the whole of the reserve ammunition in store went up in smoke. Lieutenant Philpotts, of the "Hazard," the senior combatant officer, after consultation with Mr. Beckham, the Magistrate, decided on complete evacuation; and the day ended with the



*The Anglican Church at Waimate where the first inland mission was established.*