

issue to another, which is the principal source of the Wykatto; the assertion that it also gives origin to the Thames and the Wanganui is without foundation.

At the northern extremity of Taupo there is a mountain, which Mr. Bidwill supposes to be five thousand feet in height. At its southern end rises Tongarido, which, although it appears, when viewed from the northward, to overhang the lake, is separated from it by a mountain, and another lake called Rotuiti. The country around Lake Taupo is thinly inhabited, owing to the scarcity of fuel; but the several pa's contain a population which is vaguely estimated at five thousand souls.

At the south-east end of Lake Taupo is the village of Koteropo, which, like Roturua, is surrounded by boiling springs, and from thence is seen the peak of Tongarido, which is generally enveloped in clouds, formed by the steamy vapours which escape from crevices in its sides.

Around the Lake of Rotuite the fern disappears, and is replaced by grass; of which more than twenty species were collected by Mr. Bidwill. The common plantain was found in abundance, as it is throughout New Zealand.

The sudden eruption of a column of smoke, whilst Mr. Bidwill was ascending towards the cone of cinders which crowns the mountain, caused the natives to regard his enterprise as one of those presumptuous exploits which, in the earlier ages of the world, were supposed to draw down upon men the wrath of a supreme being.

Having climbed over the loose scoriæ which compose the cone, he stood upon the margin of the crater, which he describes as being a terrific abyss, vomiting forth a volume of steam so dense that it was impossible to see into it more than ten yards. There was abundance of