MARSDEN IN COOK STRAIT

us. Mr. Marsden spoke to the natives through an interpreter, and he then gave the history of his first affection for their race. He told them that twenty years elapsed after his seeing those two natives before he saw another New Zealander, or did anything for them; he then went to England and brought out Mr. King, etc. There were 300 natives to listen to his discourse.†

Age and infirmity had neither dulled Marsden's enthusiasm for travel nor diminished his desire to find fresh fields of enterprise for the missionary cause. On May 30th, 1837, he reached Kerikeri in company with Mr. Busby, the officers of the Rattlesnake (Captain Hobson), and the Rev. A. N. Brown. From thence he sailed in the Rattlesnake, accompanied by Brown, visiting the mission stations at the Thames, and travelling as far to the south as Cook Strait. Heavy weather, however, prevented Marsden from landing in the southern part of the island although, as he subsequently wrote, the information given him that 1,500 natives lived near Cook Strait and that no missionary had yet visited them made him strongly wish to do so.§ Brown describes this part of Marsden's journey as follows:—

Zealand in 1813 and visited Buff, reported that the natives "had a field of considerably more than 100 acres of potatoes which presented one very cultivated field, filled with rising crops of various ages, some of which were ready for digging while others had been but newly planted."—The Sydney Gazette, September 4th, 1813, quoted in McNaab, Muriwai (Invercargill, 1909), pp. 145-7.

† Vide ante, p. 65.
§ From Parramatta on August 3rd, 1837, Marsden wrote: "Captain Hobson came to New Zealand when I was there on a visit to the missionaries. Captain Hobson is a very kind man, and was well behaved to me with the greatest kindness."—Vide Appendix VIII.

Captain Hobson visited New Zealand in 1837 in accordance with instructions from Sir R. Bourke, Governor of New South Wales, who asked him to report on the New Zealand situation and give suggestions for the securing of the best interests of Maoris and Europeans there. Captain Hobson in his report, dated August 8th, 1837, suggested that some form of British jurisdiction be established.—Parliamentary Papers, Correspondence with the Secretary of State Relative to New Zealand (London, 1840), pp. 9-11.

§ Mission stations at Cook Strait were established almost immediately after Marsden's journey of 1837. "The honours of the coming of the Church to Cook Strait were fairly divided between Wesleyan and Anglican," writes McNab. "The first native teacher was Ropaha, an Anglican (at Wakanui); the first visiting missionary was Mr. White, a Wesleyan (Queen Charlotte Sound and Cloudy Bay, 1836); the first mission stations established were the Wesleyan ones, by Bumby and Hobbs (Port Nicholson and Misa, about June, 1839); the first Europeans to be stationed was Mr. O. Hodgfield, an Anglican (located at Wakanui and Oraki by the Rev. Henry Williams in 1839, in response to the request of Tamaahau Te Rauparaha); finally, the first service preached to the Company's immigrants was by Mr. Butler, a Wesleyan (at Port Nicholson in January, 1840).—Robert McNab, The Old Whaling Days (Christchurch, 1913), pp. 333, 334.

The Rev. John Hewitt Bumby, the Methodist missionary who went with Mr. Hobbs in August, 1839, to the Cook Strait district for the purpose of establishing a mission station there, found the natives of Port Nicholson "of milder aspect, and gentler carriage, than the natives of the north of the island." "Thinking the place suitable for a new station," he continues, "and presuming that the Committee would sanction such a step, we tamed a piece of land of the proprietars, two respectable chiefs, for some blankets and fish-hooks. The tapu secures to us the privilege of purchase, if we should fix upon the place for a missionary settlement. Having spent a week amongst these interesting barbarians, and furnished