



Te Matau-a-Maui (Cape Kidnappers) from Hukarere School

TE KORIMAKO-TANGI-ATA

THE BELL-BIRD THAT HERALDS THE DAWN
(Translation)

BY

W. H. WILLS, B.A.

Licensed Interpreter 1st Grade

Late Teacher of Maori at Te Aute and Hukarere Colleges

Author of

“Lessons in the Maori Language”

PUBLISHED BY
THOMAS AVERY & SONS LTD.
NEW PLYMOUTH, N.Z.
1959

Printed and bound by
AVERY PRESS LIMITED
New Plymouth, N.Z.

PREFACE

Suggestions have been made to me from time to time from teachers, students and others that I should publish a reader in Maori for those who have made some progress in the language but who are not yet ready for the more difficult text books available.

The idea of doing so has lain dormant in my mind for a couple of years, partly because of pressure of work and partly because I could not make up my mind to begin.

The necessary impulse came from Miss Hunter, Headmistress of Hukarere School, who early in 1953 pointed out that as I stayed at Hukarere every Thursday night, I should settle down and write the book. To my somewhat reluctant consent she added, "Perhaps some of the senior girls would like to associate themselves with you in the work."

This was certainly an attractive notion and we hastily scanned the school roll and selected three likely girls, and when I put the proposition to them the book had already begun and that very evening the first chapter was completed.

The girls were delightful and stimulating company, and formed a sounding board as to what was interesting to themselves. They all speak Maori at home, and the use of their Christian names for the fictitious characters in the book, kept up their interest, and when I could not make up my mind, they made it up for me. I found, moreover, that where I had no set plan of writing the book, I soon developed the simple but effective one of keeping my companions interested.