

that if he could only get bottom he would make a fortune. I said - "What is the necessity for finding bottom if you have found the gold?" "If you had read your Bible you would have seen that the ancient peoples saved similar gold on sheepskins".

Afterwards all this ground was worked and the gold was saved, at first on blankets and afterwards on quick-silvered plates.

An instance of Maori superstition which came under my own observation, will probably interest you.

There is a place near the junction of the Arnold and the Grey - about 60 claims up the river, which had a very bad name amongst the Maoris. I wanted to camp there, but Terapuhi said to me - "Do not camp there. It is a very bad place".

I said - "I do not see why I should not". "Well", he said "if you do, I will come too". We camped on the spot and it came on to rain. I told my men that we were going to have a flood, and two or three days rain, and as it was no use them eating up the tucker, I told them they had better go to the Grey. This they did.

Terapuhi said there would be weeks of bad weather. I said - "I'll stay here". Terapuhi said - "Don't stop here by yourself. If you do, something terrible will happen to you. If you stop, I'll stop too".