

Letter from Mr. P. J. Bridge to Mr. C. H.
 Bridge - Huiarau - Auckland
 July 14th 1899.

"We left
 Rotorua at 8.30. a.m. on the 14th. Mary
 and I got out at Otoroiri, about forty
 miles on the way to Auckland. We were de-
 lighted with Otoroiri, its beauty had not
 been exaggerated. The hotel stands on
 a hill and through the grounds flows the
 Waikou river, more commonly called the
 Otoroiri creek - a clear mountain stream,
 the steep banks thickly clothed with a
 wealth of ferns, veronica and manuka.
 At one place the banks rise into steep cliffs,
 the river narrows and rushes down with im-
 mense force forming rapids. Just at the
 foot of these, where the river spreads out
 into a deep basin, are the warm baths,
 but there is no bubbling and steaming mud
 as at Rotorua, it is all loveliness. There
 is the Fairy Bath in which we both bathed,

a warm bath in a bower of ferns lighted
 up at night by glow-worms, so they say.
 There is a tradition connected with the
 rapids. The Otoroiri Maories defied
 another tribe to shoot the rapids in their
 canoe, they accepted the challenge and
 thirty five Maories attempted it. Every one
 was dashed to pieces, the canoe floated
 a few yards further and got wedged
 between the rocks. There it is now, I have
 got a photograph of it.

Mary and I went for a
 drive this morning to St. John's College
 and round some of the suburbs. Yes -
 today we went by bus to the foot of
 Mount Eden and walked to the top,
 a most lovely view of the two harbours,
 Onehunga and Auckland, and of the
 neck of land between. The weather is
 delicious, so warm and yet fresh and
 invigorating, it is certainly an ideal winter
 climate."