

The Maori singer often addressed his poem to the winds; a very frequent opening to a love song or a lament is a reference to the idea that the breezes and the scudding clouds are messengers from those who are far away. The girl who composed this waiaata had evidently ascended a hill where she could see the mountains of Arapawa looming blue in the west across the strait, in the direction in which her lover's canoe had gone. Te Tawake, mentioned in the song, is a prominent peak on Arapawa. The sentiment with which the chant begins reminds one of Robert Burns' old love song—

"Of a' the airts the wind can blaw,  
I dearly like the west."

Cloudy Bay, the name which Captain Cook gave in 1770 to the wide indent into which the Wairau River flows, is here pidgin-Maorified into "Karaurupe," the proper Maori name is Te Whanga-nui ("The Big Bay"). The allusion to the "works of Kupe," refers to the Maori tradition of the canoe explorations of Kupe, the early Maori navigator who sailed to these Islands of New Zealand from his far off home in Hawaiiki, in the eastern Pacific in the canoe "Matahourua"; he came down the west coast, naming many places on the shores as he came, and explored the islands and sounds of Cook Strait and the northern shores of the South Island. In the poetic symbolism of the Maori, Kupe's discovery and circumnavigation of the various islands hereabouts, is spoken of as his god-like severing of them from the mainland. The row of jagged rocks on Barretts Reef at the entrance to Wellington Harbour was named "Te Tangihanga-a-Kupe" (Kupe's Weeping party), because of the fancied resemblance of the rocks to a row of mourners at a Maori tangi. There are many other coastal place names memorising the great canoe sailor.

Kupe, in the "Matahourua," entered Porirua Harbour and remained there some time. A celebrated and venerated relic of his stay there is the great stone called "Te Punga-o-Matahourua" (the anchor of "Matahourua"). This is a very large