

THE MANAIA MONUMENT

THE monument which was ordered from Aberdeen by Captain Hempton, and which is to be erected at Manaia, came to hand on Saturday, and will shortly be erected. The circumstances under which the monument was obtained are as follows:—A corps called the Patea Field Force left Wanganui in 1869, and on the way to Patea had many skirmishes with the natives, during which a large number of horses and cattle were captured. This loot was sold, and it was intended to divide the proceeds amongst the men. Many of the shares not being claimed, the money was placed in the hands of a committee of three officers for safe keeping and for future distribution. The officers were, however, removed one by one, and the last one, Captain Anderson, transferred the trust to Captain Hempton in 1873. The amount at that time was £40, but subsequent amounts received from the Government brought it up to £107. This sum was banked, and with interest had increased to £180. The money continuing to be unclaimed, Capt. Hempton, after taking the necessary steps, decided to procure a monument. The purpose of the monument is explained by the following inscription which is lettered on one of the sides:—"This monument, to the memory of the officers and men of the Armed Constabulary and of the Patea Field Force, who were killed during the operations in Patea and at Ngatapa, in the years 1868-69, is erected by the officers and men of the A.C. Force." On another side are given the names of the places where the engagements in which the men lost their lives were fought. They are Turuturu Mokai, Te Ngutu-o-te-manu, Te Ruaruru, Okutuku, Ngatapa, Karaha Flat, Otauto. The monument is an obelisk of polished Aberdeen granite, and will stand about eighteen feet in height. There will be an iron railing around it, and the site selected for the erection of the memento is the town square at Manaia. It may be interesting to know that the names of all the officers and men who fell during the engagements mentioned above are engraved on the stone. The following is a copy of the list: Major Von Tempsky, Major W. Hunter, Captain Ross, Captain Brown, Lieut. H. Hunter, Lieut. Hastings, Sergeants Cahill, McFadden, Kirwan, Maxwell, Hietaraha, and Mouzies; Corporals

Blake and Russell; Constables T. Smith, Shields, Holden, Ross, Beamish, Swords, Gaynor, Lennon, McKoy, Elkin, Fobnessy, Hart, Gilgan, Davis, Farren, Lee, Satler, Path, Urquhart, Eastwood, Norman, Savage, Eagers, Kenealy, Brown, McEwen, Sawyer, Chislett, Clarendon, McKenzie, Cummins, Boyle, Barras, Clowen, Stowe, Banks, Hirs-pool, Smith, Baith, Stephenson, Gundry, Fluers—all of the Constabulary. Of the Patea Field Force: Captains Buck and Palmer, Privates Wallace, Kerr, H. Geary, Hughes, Lumsden, Deeks, Wells, Smith, Collins, Devon, Rogers, Kenneally; and Mr. Squire and Mr. Clarke, settlers.

In order to get cleared up for the Christmas holidays, the Freezing Works at Waitara have not been killing for the past week. The works will be closed for a fortnight from about the 20th instant, and on resuming next year the operations will probably be on a reduced scale until the meat trade becomes more active. At present there are close on sixty hands employed on the works, but with a smaller output the services of many of them will be dispensed with. A large shed is at present being erected in the yards attached to the factory, and is to be used for drying and storing skins.