



Presented in original C F Goldie frame

Mitimiti, Hokianga, August 3rd, 1914

*To Mr Goldie
The Painter of Portraits
Auckland*

Ah Son! Greetings

This letter is to thank you for my picture which arrived a few days ago. great is the admiration of my tribe at the beauty of your work. Enough! I will now express my feelings towards you.

'A voice from the skies makes music to the ear.

It is that of a shining Breasted Cuckoo

The Harbinger of Spring.

33 CHARLES FREDERICK GOLDIE

1870 - 1947

A Noble Relic of A Noble Race - Atama Paparangi

Oil on canvas 27 x 21.5

Signed & dated 1919

240,000 - 290,000

Provenance:

Private Collection, Bay of Plenty

Atama Paparangi (1817 - 1917) was a Northern warrior Chief of the Rarawa Tribe who fought at Kororareka, Bay of Islands against Hone Heke and also at Okaihau, Northland. In later years, as a patriarch of his tribe, he lived at Mitimiti on the coast between Hokianga and Whangape. At over six foot tall with an intricate facial moko executed by the famous tattooist Huitara, Atama presented a striking figure. Photos exist of Goldie trimming Atama's whiskers to better expose this fine tattooing. During his occasional visits to Auckland, Atama often adopted European dress donning top hat and frock coat.

During the 1901 royal visit by the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York, Atama attended the official functions where it is thought he first met C F Goldie. A warm friendship developed and in 1914 on Atama's receipt of an earlier portrait, *Atama Paparangi*, now housed in the collection of the Auckland Museum, he wrote a poem of tribute to his friend, *'Mr Goldie, The Painter of Portraits'*.

Over the course of time Goldie submitted several portraits of this favoured subject to the Royal Academy, London and Paris Salon. Atama was a hundred years old at the time of his death.

The trees of the Forest have bedecked themselves in their summer raiment.

The sea is red with the blossoms of the Pohutukawa.

The Clematis in the Forest Glade have burst into flower, creating vistas of beauty.

The myriad graceful trees of the Woods augment the scene.

They are like unto a bridal pair with their retinue, awaiting the guides who will lead them to the Perfect Happiness, which knows no end.'

Such are the feelings of my heart for you. Many are the wishes beautiful and good that I would wish you but words fail. The sum of the words of greeting, of love and of good fellowship as expressed in this phase:

'May Health and Prosperity attend you and all whom you love.'

Takahi Atama Paparangi

