

a window. He possesses a considerable number of cattle, which he is now endeavouring to collect and tame. On walking over the plantations I saw a large piece of recently abandoned land, on which the dock has not, as yet, established itself. After discussion, Hetaraka promised to sow all this with grass and clover, if I can get him the seed. All the people consented and are ready to aid in the work. I have much reliance on these people. For this purpose he will go to town with me, and see what can be done. The soil is light and sandy, and is admirable for clover and rye-grass. The place will be fenced before Hetaraka's return. I suppose the piece contains five or six acres. Hetaraka has several horses also, but he will sell these, and purchase sheep. The example once set, will spread rapidly, and will fitly usher in the division of lands and issue of titles. I expect that soon the Government will be overwhelmed with applications for grass seed on credit. The stacks of wheat on the river are numerous, but will not be threshed during the continuance of the present low prices, although many of them, from insufficient thatches, are growing.

[Mem.—If Government will get the owners of the vessels (only two I think), that ply between Onehunga and Waiuku to keep accounts of what they carry, they will have most complete statistics of the produce of this river and district, as nothing goes to town (except pigs) by any other means. Considerable quantities of flour are now consumed in the district by the natives themselves.]

To-day I was caused to think of the inexpediency of encouraging the building of larger houses by the Maories until their social condition is raised, and they have greater means. The Maori depends principally upon the fire for warmth during winter, and in a large house, during that season, a large fire is necessary, or it is uninhabitable, and at the best the remote parts are very cold. A fire in a chimney of course gives less than half the heat, three sides being useless. If the house is divided into rooms, the sleeping apartments will not be warmed at all. We depend upon plenty of blankets for warmth in bed. But a Maori has only one or two, and no means to procure more, so that he would be wretched if deprived of his fire. In Rawiri's house they tried to remedy this evil by having two fires, but this rendered the house uninhabitable from smoke. No; large houses must follow, not lead, social advancement. A man must live in a house proportionate to his means. This is a social law, the infringement of which, even in civilized communities, is followed by unpleasant consequences. The question of keeping their houses clean, and having them as well built as possible, is different.

[Mem.—To explain in the Book, about oaths in judicial proceedings.]

At every place we stop at, the evening is consumed by the natives of my party detailing all I have said and done—the proceedings in court, &c. This is very wearisome, though occasionally amusing. They tell immense lies. To-night they have introduced an entirely new witness with a long evidence;—a man who never opened his mouth. And yet they seem to speak very accurately in Court as a rule. Indolence of mind is, I think, the root of this wild talking.

July 30, Saturday—Horahora. Walked overland to opposite Paetai, and crossed in my canoe, which happened to be at the very place wanted. Mr. Armitage met at the waterside to speak of a bull of his killed by Mr. Ashwell's people by mistake for one of his own. Received a letter from the latter stating that the people up the river were anxiously expecting me. The flat over which I walked is a fine sandy alluvial deposit admirably adapted for grass. I wish there was some seed at Waiuku, on which I could draw by means of order, whenever I find natives anxious to sow. Found the Courthouse at Paetai finished—a capital house, the timbers of matai, and the roof lined with reeds, but without doors and windows; the internal fittings, desks, &c., very imperfect and inconvenient. They had fenced off places for plaintiff and defendant, and provided several rows of seats. On the whole it is very satisfactory, and highly creditable to the people of this part of Waikato. Every post rafter and batten has been adzed, so that no labour has been spared. I hope the Government will provide the requisites, to provide which the natives are incompetent. They have done their part well. The place where the great meeting was held is now under wheat. Issued two summonses for Saturday: pigs killed by dogs, and a lost canoe. Worked for two hours at the fittings of the house. In the evening had long conversation with the assembled natives, explaining that slander is not a common lie, but includes malice, &c., &c. They seem inclined to summon a man for the slightest careless speech. Although I hear little of the king business in the lower parts of the river, yet it seems by no means extinct. King's party are organizing arrangements to cause Potatau to leave Auckland next summer, and settle at Ngauawhia, the junction of the rivers. But the law party comprises the owners of the land, and they say they will not suffer it. The affair seems at length to be taking a practical form, for I have heard of letters having been written to Potatau in cases of dispute, asking for his commands. Takerei, I hear, finding his settlement divided in opinion, and his proceedings obstructed by the kingites, has abandoned Whakapaku, and established himself and his people at Karakariki.

July 31, Friday—Paetai: Heard this morning that Taraiti, hearing of the summons out against him, had taken to the hills to avoid service. This device will have bad consequences if it is generally adopted. The fact is, that the Maoris are so miserably poor now they cannot pay judgments. Taraiti, however, has been long known as a sort of outlaw. In conversation with Hetaraka, he told me that our great difficulty will ultimately be the apathy and indolence of the Native magistrates. This is true—the only means of fighting against the evil is the annual assembly of the District Council, which will keep up a certain perpetual but not unhealthy excitement. Spent the day in instructing the Native probationers, &c., &c. Constant rain from N.E. Gave Wiremu Te Wheoro, paper, books, &c. In the evening conversed about sowing a large piece of land below Mr. Ashwell's with clover and grass. It has been recently abandoned by these people, and must include above 50 acres. It is to be considered in "runanga" to-morrow. About half a mile of fence will be necessary. I wish I knew whether Government will advance the requisite quantities of seed. Mr. Armitage, an educated settler here, very much approves of the new movement, and thinks it will greatly benefit the European.