

COPY OF DESPATCH FROM GOVERNOR SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B., TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF
NEWCASTLE, K.G.

Auckland, New Zealand,
December 6th, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—

I regret to state that since I transmitted to your Grace, on the 4th instant, a favourable report from Colonel Russell, on the state of the Ahuriri or Hawke's Bay district, a letter, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, has been received from that officer, given an account of a rather serious disturbance which has taken place in his neighbourhood.

2. I take this opportunity of transmitting to your Grace, copies of two letters which I have just received from the Lower Waikato, showing that that country is still in an unsettled state. I still hope that these difficulties may all be got over; but as I have not the means of moving rapidly from place to place, my chances of satisfactorily arranging the affairs of this country are very much diminished.

I have, &c.,

G. GREY.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.

Enclosure 1 to No. 4.

Civil Commissioners' Office, Napier,
27th November, 1862.

SIR,—

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency the Governor that:—

It was reported to me this day, by H. McGreevy, Policeman at Waipukurau (Clive), that a Native named Mita, living in that locality, had stolen a pair of trousers from the store of a Mr. Boddington, and, having been taken by him in the act, was given in charge by him to the Policeman, who lodged him in the Lock-up at Clive, intending to bring him this morning before the Resident Magistrate here (Captain Curling). This occurred about three o'clock in the afternoon, and about nine o'clock, p.m., several Natives proceeded to the house of Mr. Edward Hamlyn, my interpreter, who lives at Clive, to demand the release of Mita, and insisted upon his (Mr. Hamlyn's) accompanying them to the house of J. B. Ferguson, J.P., for that purpose.

Mr. Ferguson remonstrated with them to no purpose.

They proceeded, to the number of six or eight persons, to the Lock-up, removed the Policeman by force, broken open the lock, notwithstanding the remonstrances of the Magistrate and the resistance of the Policeman, and released the prisoner.

On this report being made to me, I addressed the letter to Karaitiana, herewith enclosed. He had last night written to Mr. Hamlyn, demanding the release of the prisoner.

Mr. Hamlyn was on his way to deliver my letter to Karaitiana, when he met him, accompanied by Renata, Wirihana, and another, on his way in to Napier. They have since been with me, and show the strongest disinclination to submit to the law. I have insisted upon the man in question being brought before the Resident Magistrate, and the Lock-up being placed in its former state. I may obtain this, though they have not yet assented to it, but further concession I have no hope of.

Nevertheless, I do not think they want to do more than insist on sole jurisdiction over their own people, as they offer to judge this case and all others, committed by Maoris against Europeans, themselves. They strongly repudiate any wish for war, though it is evident a perseverance in their present course must lead to it.

I have, &c.,

A. H. RUSSELL,
Civil Commissioner.

P.S.—I have requested the Superintendent and Donald McLean, Esq., to decline the transaction of any business with these people until they have delivered up the man, and have little doubt that this combined action upon the part of Government officers will produce the desired effect. Karaitiana has lately returned from the Waikato; I have had no conversation yet with him on the subject, but I hear he states that his assertions were in favor of the Government, and had great effect.

A.H.R.

Mr. E. Hamlyn's recollection of Karaitiana's letter. The original shall be forwarded if it can be got from Clive in time.

A.H.R.

FRIEND EDWARDS,—

There is one of our number taken by the Pakehas into the "whare-herehere" (jail), this is a "mahi pohehe" (foolish work); there is no policeman who has the power to take a Maori in charge. You know that our law is that we shall try our own criminals. Let that go at once.

From KARAITIANA.

This is a "mahi pohehe" (foolish work).

Civil Commissioner's Office, Napier,
27th November, 1862.

FRIEND KARAITIANA,—

It has been reported to me to-day that a Native, named Mita, stole a pair of trousers yesterday from Mr. Boddington, at Clive. That he was given in charge to the policeman, in order that he might be brought before the Resident Magistrate (Captain Curling).