

officer devoted his whole time to the sanitary and hospital arrangements. The sick and delicate were provided with large quantities of port wine, codliver oil, quinine, and other costly medical comforts. Free admission was given to all ministers of religion who chose to ask it. Religious services were held on Sundays and Wednesdays by a clergyman of the Church of England, a missionary of upwards of 36 years' experience among the Maoris, and occasionally by those of other denominations. Testaments, prayer-books, hymn-books, slates, pencils, pen, ink and paper, were largely supplied. Their friends were admitted whenever they asked permission, and letters were allowed to pass to and fro, subject to the inspection of the native office, which was considered a necessary precaution. The superintendence of the whole was entrusted to an officer of the Colonial Government thoroughly acquainted with the native language and customs, who lived on board the whole time, and most energetically devoted himself to their improvement and comfort. There were other European officers, and a military guard of a captain, lieutenant, ensign, and fifty men, who were housed in guard rooms erected for the purpose at the stern end of the upper deck apart from the prisoners. No recommendation made by the vigilant Superintendent and medical officer for the improvement of the sanitary condition and general comfort of the prisoners was, Ministers believe, ever refused or neglected.

The result of the care bestowed was most satisfactory. The general health and condition of the prisoners improved so much that many who had seen them at the period of their capture scarcely recognized them after a few weeks. All their filthy cutaneous diseases disappeared entirely, the vermin was extirpated, and many were cured of disease of a more serious character which they had brought on board. Although many were very old men, many others severely wounded, and so much disease existed when they were first brought in, and although the season ashore was unusually unhealthy,\* only nine died out of upwards of 200 prisoners in the eight months of their captivity, a proportion which to those who are acquainted with the vital statistics of the Maori will appear very small under the circumstances of the case. It is the belief of Ministers that the lives of many of them were prolonged by the care and attention bestowed upon them, and that many are now in the full enjoyment of health, who, if they had remained at large, and not had the benefit of a residence under the care of European medical officers, and the comforts of the prison ship, would long ago have been in their graves, or far gone in incurable disease.

In short, though Ministers would not pretend to have improvised at the Antipodes, on a sudden emergency, a model prison similar to Pentonville, Portsmouth, or Portland, they are confident that the very best arrangements were made which it was possible to make; and they do not believe that rebels, or prisoners of war in any part of the British dominions, in India, in Canada, in Caffraria, or elsewhere, have ever been treated with more humanity, kindness, and care, than the Maoris in the hands of the Colonial Government. They will not designate by the name it deserves His Excellency's statement that the case is one "derogatory to the name of Great Britain."

In conclusion, Ministers will only state that, though the prison ship in which the natives were confined lay within 500 yards of Government House, His Excellency (believing all the time he did that atrocities were being committed there), never once during the eight months while it lay there, visited it himself, (although it was suggested to him on one occasion at least by the Colonial Secretary), nor even sent any authorized person to make an official inspection. On the other hand, the ship was visited repeatedly by all the members of the Ministry, very frequently by the Colonial Secretary, by numerous Members of Assembly, by various ministers of religion, chiefly missionaries, (one of whom spent there a great part of two days in every week) by strangers from the Australian colonies, by military officers, by reporters for the Press, by friendly natives, and lastly by Mr. Justice Johnston, of the Supreme Court, visitor *virtute officii* of all the prisons of the Colony, who spent great part of an afternoon on board, but never intimated to the Colonial Government any complaint, or made any suggestion that he saw anything there which called for comment from him. From none of these did the Government ever receive any such statements as are made by His Excellency, and many of them expressed their gratification at the substantial comfort and good general condition of the prisoners.

Ministers will be obliged by His Excellency forwarding a copy of this Memorandum by the current mail to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.

Auckland, 22nd September, 1864.

WILLIAM FOX.

### Enclosure 1 to No. 72.

Copies of MEMORANDA containing evidence that HIS EXCELLENCY was the author of the Suppression of Rebellion Act.

These additional papers in reference to Isaac's conduct, together with a statement of certain information received by the Governor upon the subject, are referred to the Attorney General, who is requested to state whether they disclose, in his opinion, sufficient grounds for taking and keeping Isaac in custody.

September 22nd, 1863.

READER WOOD.

These papers disclose facts which implicate Ihaka in transactions and intrigues clearly showing that he was a dangerous person to have at large.

But as to a prosecution in the Civil Courts, it must be borne in mind that some of the most important evidence would be that which could be given by persons who have furnished secretly informa-

\* Dr. Philson, formerly Surgeon in H.M. Army, and now the Coroner for Auckland and Hospital Surgeon of the Provincial Government, says, "During the whole of my residence in this city, amounting to 16 years, I have never known so great a prevalence of fever and dysentery as occurred in the past summer and autumn. In fact, such was the mortality that during one quarter the deaths exceeded the births in the district."