

Te Haka, Te Mokena, and Timoti Tarahau, of Turanga. Te Hira Popo spoke doubtfully. Later in the day, they had a talk about the Pakehas. Kereopa asked why the Opotiki Natives allowed white men to live amongst them. Hiki, a Ngatiawa chief (father of Whakatatare) said, "Because they are married to our women." Kereopa replied, "You should take away your women, and send the Pakehas away; for they go to Auckland and tell what is going on here. The chiefs said, 'We are not willing to send them away; if they do us no good, they do us no harm.' After this talk, Kereopa brought a European's head and had a post put up. He then placed the head by the side of the post, and put up a circle fence of Manuka sticks round them. He then made the people go round the post, and went through the Pai Marire ceremonies. The same ceremonies were gone through by the people under Kereopa's directions, every day in the evening up to the day when the schooner "Eclipse" arrived. On the day after the arrival of the Pai Marires, Patara and Kereopa, with some of their people—Taranaki Natives—went and collected Mr. Volkner's horses and put them into a paddock next to his house. I saw them do this. I know the names of some of the Natives who assisted them; they are Mere, Wiwini, Kowhai, and a half-caste, whose name I forget. They were Taranaki Natives. Afterwards, they broke into Mr. Volkner's house and took possession of the things in it. I saw them break into the house. The next day, Patara and the half-caste held a mock auction, at which Hua Te Popo also took part. They sold Mr. Volkner's horses and the things in his house by auction, and the Opotiki Natives bought them. The horses were sold for five shillings each. Tiwai was present, and protested against the proceedings, but no one would listen to him. After this Patara wrote a letter to Mr. Volkner, to tell him what had been done, and telling him not to come back to Opotiki. The next day Patara, with three of his party, went away down the coast, taking the letter with him. Kereopa and the rest of the party remained behind. Patara said he was going to Whitinga to meet Robert Black, who had a watch belonging to him, which Black had taken to Auckland to have repaired. He said if he met with Black he should send his letter to Mr. Volkner by him and return to Opotiki.

The day after Patara left (March 2nd) the schooner "Eclipse" came in, Mr. Volkner and Mr. Grace were passengers by her. Kereopa was not in Opotiki when the vessel arrived. He and six of the party had gone to a place inland, five miles distant, on the road towards Tauranga. The rest of the party were waiting at Opotiki for Patara's return. As soon as the "Eclipse" came in, the chief Mokomoko sent off a message to bring Kereopa back, Hohaia was the messenger. I met him on his way and he told me his errand. When the "Eclipse" came in, she went up to Levy's store and anchored there. I went alongside as soon as she was anchored. While I was there the Taranaki native named Wiwini went on board. I heard him ask Morris Levy, who was on board, for his Hebrew prayer book, which Levy gave him. He held it up and pretended to read out of it and showed it to the Natives standing on the shore, expressing great satisfaction at becoming possessed of so great a treasure. He then told Morris Levy that nothing was to be landed from the vessel until Kereopa should come. He did not speak to Mr. Grace or to Mr. Volkner. He then went on shore taking the prayer book with him. After this Mr. Volkner's Natives came on shore to cry over him. They knew what would happen. A short time after Kereopa arrived a meeting was called and Kereopa spoke as follows in my hearing:—"Heoi ano te korero ki te kore koutou e whakarongo ki taku kupu ka patua koutou e taku Atua. Heri ano taku kupu he haere ki te tiki i tetahi o nga Pakeha i runga i te kaupuke ki a kainga e au." The Whakatohea (Opotiki natives) were silent, and some of the old men began to plait flax ropes. Shortly after everybody on board the schooner was ordered on shore. On landing Mr. Volkner went up to the people and offered his hand, but no one would shake hands with him. Kereopa then gave orders to put all the pakehas in the "whare Herehere," and they were all put into the house of Paki and a guard was placed over them. Nothing more was done then. At night there was a Runanga of the chiefs. A man named Rauapia, a relative of my wife, went to listen and came and told me what took place at this Runanga. The Natives who Rauapia saw at the Runanga were Kereopa, the Taranaki half-caste, and Wiwini, of the Hau Hau party; and Hakaia, Timoti, Te Wachaku, a half-caste named Keha, Te Ahi Tapu, Pokeno, Mokena, all of Opotiki. Rauapia told me that it had been decided to hang Mr. Volkner the next day and that Mr. Grace was to be kept a prisoner as he did not belong to that place, but he was to be kept until Patara's return. Rauapi and I then talked over plans for getting Mr. Volkner and Mr. Grace away, and Rauapia went and asked that they should be handed over to us, but Kereopa refused this request, saying "Tenei te tangata tapu maku, ka kainga e au ona karu! Apopo te 20 nga haora ka kite koe i taku tikanga." Next day there was another talk and Rauapia went again to ask for the Ministers to be given up to us, but Kereopa refused, "Kore rawa au e whakaae. Tahoa katukue aukotahimou" (meaning Mr. Grace). Kauapia asked when? Kereopa, "to-morrow." Kauapia returned and remained in my house, and was so much affected that he would take no food. At 10 o'clock, p.m., Hakaia came over to my house, and pressed Rauapia to consent to Kereopa's proposal about Mr. Volkner. "Whakaaetia kia mate." Rauapia said "no." Hakaia then left the house. Soon after Timoti came and spoke to Rauapia to the same effect. Rauapia said "I am dark, I will not consent." "Don't come to me and ask me to consent, for I will not." At this time there were five armed Natives posted outside my house to prevent any one from going out. Timoti then went away. Soon after Rauapia looked out of the window of my house and saw Mr. Volkner with his hands tied, and a rope on his neck being led by three Natives, Te Ahitapu, Te Akau, and Te Mokena. He called my attention to this, and I looked out and saw this. Rauapia then rushed out of the house with a tomahawk in his hand and attempted to cross the bridge (a plank) over