

He spoke of his treatment and said it was the cause of alienating him from us, but that he had never since then joined in hostilities against us, nor sanctioned anything hostile to us in his own district, although he had often been tempted to.

I have frequently represented to the Government that the non-molestation of the Military Settlers in the Waitara district, was attributable to the influence of Hapurona and Wiremu Kingi Te Rangitake, who have steadily opposed any hostile action in their district for several years past, and hence my reason for opposing the expedition into their district, which, last year, was ordered by Colonel Whitmore from Patea; for which I was so severely censured, but which saved the district from a second desolation.

Hapurona assured me that the information which he sent me, and which I reported to you on the 24th December, relating to the gathering of the Ngatimaniapoto and Ngatiraukawa to reinforce Te Kooti, was perfectly correct, and that they are estimated altogether, including Te Kooti's band, at 800, (which, allowing for the usual exaggeration of numbers, may be from 500 to 600) that their main position is said to be at Taumatamahoe, very high ranges, over which the line of an old war track passes.

That Kereopa is there with about twenty followers, and is the only one who advocates aggressive movements.

That very strong appeals have been made to the Waitara Natives and to Titokowaru to join them in a trial for victory or death, which has been refused.

The Hon. the Native and Defence Minister,
Auckland.

I have, &c.,
R. PARRIS,
Civil Commissioner.

No. 19.

Mr. PARRIS to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,—

New Plymouth, February 10, 1870.

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency's Government, that a party of from twenty to thirty of the Manukorihi Natives under Eruera Kingi, son of William Kingi te Rangitake, came from the bush to Waitara for the first time last week.

William Kingi did not come in himself, but this party is considered to represent him. They visited all the Native kaingas from Urenui to Warea (Pariaka) where they are expected to arrive this day, and will remain to attend a large meeting which is to be held there in March.

They arrived at my office last Monday morning early, accompanied by Teira, Hemi Pataka, Tiraurau, and others, who came from Waitara with them; when I gave them some food, and after a very friendly conversation they went on to Moturoa to the chief Poharama's place.

The Hon. the Native and Defence Minister,
Auckland.

I have, &c.,
R. PARRIS,
Civil Commissioner.

No. 20.

Mr. PARRIS to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

SIR,—

New Plymouth, 23rd March, 1870.

I have the honor to report for the information of His Excellency's Government, that on my return from Auckland on the 16th instant, I found the chiefs Hone Pihama, Wiremu Kingi Te Matakatea, Ropata Ngarongomate, together with several others, waiting for me to know if I intended to attend the meeting about to be held at Pariaka. After a brief consultation with them I decided to attend the meeting. I left for Pariaka the next morning, accompanied by Mr. Thomas Kelly, M.H.R., and Mr. Charles Brown, M.H.R., (the latter since resigned) and on the road the above chiefs with others joined us. The chiefs Poharama and Tahana, with about forty followers, had preceded us.

On arriving at Pariaka, a distance of about thirty-five miles from the town, we found a large number of Natives assembled there, including a deputation of two Natives (Manuwa and another) from Tokangamutu, Wiremu Kingi Rangitake's people from Ngatimaru, and representatives from all the tribes between the White Cliffs on the North and Waingongoro on the South, altogether over five hundred. An immense stack of food was already piled up, on our arrival in front of the village situated in a dense forest under the base of Mount Egmont. The distribution of the food occupied the whole of the day after our arrival, and the following morning (Friday) Mr. Kelly and Mr. Brown both returned to town.

On Friday, the 18th instant, about two o'clock p.m., Te Whiti commenced the business of the meeting by stating that the questions for consideration of the people assembled were three in number, namely—the Government, the King, and the Prophets, all of whom, he said, had got into confusion and disorder, and the garments of each must be unravelled and a better state of things established. He said he belonged both to the Government and to the King, but the ruling of both was bad, and as to the Prophets he most emphatically condemned them, and said they had all been guilty of perverting the truth. One he referred to personally, Tamati Teito, who he said was an idiot (porewarewa).

Te Whiti is one of the few who never embraced Hauhaism, but is said to have steadily professed the Christian religion, and the study of the Scriptures; consequently he scarcely utters a sentence without quoting from Scripture, his perfect knowledge of which has filled his mind with very primitive notions, and rendered him very impracticable in controversy; and having for the last ten years lived a very secluded life in the Warea district, he is not able to appreciate the advantages of the improvements necessary in a new country, and the development of its resources, but seems to think that food and raiment is all that is necessary for mankind.