

DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR OF

Sub-Enclosure to Enclosure in No. 43.

STATEMENT of Sums due by the Imperial Government for Maintenance of Naval and Military Prisoners in Provincial Gaols.

Provinces.	Date.	Amount.
Auckland	From July, 1865, to March, 1866	£ s. d. 172 16 5
Auckland	From November, 1870, to March, 1871*	9 4 0
Wellington	From April, 1865, to March, 1866	480 0 2
Wellington	From April, 1869, to July, 1870	68 7 8
Taranaki	From October, 1864, to March, 1866	328 17 10
		1,059 6 1

C. T. BATKIN,
Paymaster-General and Accountant.

Treasury, Wellington, 23rd December, 1871.

* A claim for £4 14s. of this amount has been sent to the Senior Naval Officer on the Station.

No. 44.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G., to the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

(No. 10.) Government House, Wellington,
MY LORD,— New Zealand, 11th January, 1872.

My predecessor, Sir George Grey, with his Despatch No. 42,* of the 6th, and No. 55,† of the 27th April, 1865, transmitted a number of Papers concerning the murder at Opotiki, in the Bay of Plenty, on the 2nd March, 1865, of the Rev. C. S. Völkner, whom he described as “one of the most amiable, devoted, and “gentle missionaries that he had ever met with.” It may here be mentioned that Mr. Völkner, by birth a Prussian, was in the orders of the English Church, and employed in New Zealand by the Church Missionary Society of London.

2. A full narrative of this crime, and of the proceedings of the band of Hauhau (or Pai Marire‡) fanatics and rebels by whom it was perpetrated, will be found in the above-mentioned official documents, and in the 15th chapter of the “War in New Zealand,” by Mr. Fox, now the Prime Minister of this Colony. It will be seen that Mr. Völkner was murdered by being hanged on a willow tree close to his own church,§ with circumstances of deliberate and shocking barbarity; and that Kereopa, a pretended prophet of the Hauhau faith, was the main agent in this atrocity, tearing out the eyes of his victim, swallowing them before the people,|| and committing other outrages too horrible for description. Kereopa was (as I am informed) originally a Native policeman in the pay of the Colonial Government; he afterwards joined the rebels, and possessing (as it is stated) some knowledge of ventriloquism and mesmerism, assumed the character of a seer among the Hauhaus. In the early part of 1865 he started from Warea, near Taranaki, on the West Coast of this Island, with a large band of fanatics, carrying with them the baked head of an English officer,¶ for the purpose of exciting the Natives of Opotiki and other parts of the East Coast against the European settlers and the friendly Maoris.

3. Sir George Grey’s Despatches and Mr. Fox’s book will further show that a mixed force of the Colonial Militia and Volunteers and of the loyal Native clans

* Printed at pages 20–34 of the New Zealand Papers presented to the Imperial Parliament in February, 1866.
† Ib., pages 72–79.
‡ A succinct account of the rise of the Hauhau fanaticism will be found in Mr. Fox’s “War in New Zealand,” chap. ix.
§ On my visit to Opotiki in 1868, I inspected the scene of this murder. See my Despatch No. 52, of the 1st July, 1868, printed at page 139 of the New Zealand Papers presented to the Imperial Parliament in July, 1869.
|| Hence Kereopa was known among the Maoris by the opprobrious sobriquet of “Kai-whatu,” or the “eye-eater.” It may here be mentioned that the late Lieutenant the Honorable H. Meade, R.N., has graphically described, in the 5th chapter of his recently published journals, his narrow escape from a portion of Kereopa’s band, on its way across the centre of this Island.
¶ Probably of Captain Lloyd, of the 57th Regiment, killed in a skirmish near Taranaki. See Fox’s “War in New Zealand,” chapter ix.