

1873.

NEW ZEALAND.

DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR OF NEW ZEALAND
AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

In compliance with an Address of the House of Representatives, presented 25th July, 1873.

MESSAGE No. 5.

JAMES FERGUSON, Governor.

THE Governor transmits, in reply to the Address of the House of Representatives, “copies of all Despatches not already printed, from their Excellencies “the Governor and the Acting Governor, to the Secretary of State, relative “to the Ministerial changes during and subsequent to the last Session of the “General Assembly; and also relative to any visits of the late Governor or Acting “Governor to Native districts since last Session, including that to Kawhia “Harbour; with all replies from the Secretary of State.”

Government House,
Wellington, 19th August, 1873.

DESPATCHES FROM THE GOVERNOR.

No. 1.

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

(No. 77.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 7th September, 1872.

In my Despatch No. 62, of the 6th July ult., I reported that, on my recent voyage from Auckland to Wellington, I visited the principal Native settlements on the East Coast of this Island, and that all is now tranquillity and loyalty to the Queen where there was so much sharp fighting a few years ago, as will be seen from the official correspondence of the period from 1855 until 1870.

2. I have now the honor to forward a translation of the report, sent to the Colonial Government by the Maoris present, of a great Native meeting held in last July, at one of the places lately visited by me, viz. Mataahu, near the East Cape, the *kainga* or settlement of Ropata Te Wahawaha, the principal warrior of the powerful clan of the Ngatiporos, and one of the six chiefs to whom the Queen has presented swords of honor.

A.—1A.

3. The main object of this meeting was to erect, with great ceremony, a flagstaff, and to hoist on it the "Queen's Flag"—i.e. the Union Jack—in token of the permanent establishment of peace, and of the return of the entire Native population of the East Coast from rebellion to their allegiance to the Crown, and from the Hauhau fanaticism to Christianity. There were also carried by the representatives of the several clans other banners bearing devices symbolical of the loyalty and Christian faith of the Maori people.

4. It will be perceived that a very appropriate prayer was delivered on this interesting and important occasion by the Rev. Mohi Turei, one of the thirteen Maoris who have been ordained clergymen of the Church of England; all of whom, it may be added, adhered steadfastly to the Crown and to Christianity throughout the troubles of the last twelve years. The prayer was in the following terms:—

"Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we thine unworthy servants do give thee most humble and hearty thanks for all thy goodness to us, and especially for thy goodness to us at this present time, in permitting us to assemble ourselves together at this place to uphold thy truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let now thy Holy Spirit descend upon us as a sound from Heaven, and as a mighty rushing wind, like cloven tongues of fire. We bless thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life, but above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. Accept now our prayers, O Lord. Why standest thou afar off? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble? Look down now in thy mercy upon this great assemblage of the tribes, the major, the leaders of the people, and the ministers of thy Word, met together to fulfil thy righteous commands. Bestow on us largely of the multitude of thy mercies. Give us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, that we may show forth thy praise and declare thy goodness, not with our lips only but with our whole hearts, and turn unto thee, and walk before thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And to thee and the Holy Spirit be all honor and praise for ever and ever. Amen."

5. The speeches of the leading Maori chiefs present at the meeting will repay perusal; especially that of Ropata Te Wahawaha, who wore his uniform as a Major in the Colonial Militia, and the sword of honor presented to him by the Queen for his long continued services in the field in support of Her Majesty's authority and the cause of law and order. He began in these words:—

"To all the runangas,* tribes, sections of tribes, and chiefs, I offer thanks because we have all met here together to witness the raising of our 'Power' (the flagstaff), and the sign of our union in this our great security, and to enable me to show you these swords, which you have not before had an opportunity of seeing. These swords are a mark of honor from the Queen for your steadfast loyalty to her; a token of her love and approbation conferred upon you for your bravery in putting down the evil and upholding the good; and this flag also is a token of the support afforded you by the Government for your bravery in suppressing evil."

After explaining the position of the Maoris at the present time, and exhorting them to peace and union, he concluded his address as follows:—

"Let us all rejoice and be glad under this our flag (the Queen's flag), because we are able to breathe freely during this period of rest and security under the protection of this new power. Therefore, let us also be energetic and active in making roads in our districts, erecting schools for our children, building churches, and adhering and promoting Christianity; and let us also hold on to the law as a protecting fence round about us.

"Now I have explained to you, O ye people, the objects of our present assembling together, and which may be condensed under two heads:—First, The command of Christ to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow him. We shall then be His children indeed, and co-heirs with him in His kingdom. Taking up the cross, we should pray always both in prosperity and in adversity.

* "Runanga" in Maori signifies a Council or Assembly.

“ Second, This is our power and strength (*mana*) which waves above us “ [*i.e.*, the British flag]. If we do good we shall by it be increased and exalted; “ but if we do evil—that is, if we return to Hauhau practices and principles, or “ take up arms without due legal authority—we shall be crushed entirely.

“ God preserve the Queen, and you (the people), and take you under His “ divine protection.”

6. It will be further seen that the ceremony ended by the Natives opening a subscription among themselves for the erection of a new schoolhouse for their children.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

I have, &c.,

G. F. BOWEN.

No. 2.

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

(No. 79.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 20th September, 1872.

1. I have the honor to report that not long after the commencement of the present Session of the New Zealand Parliament, Mr. Stafford (the leader of the Opposition, and formerly Premier of the Colony in two Ministries,) moved in the House of Representatives a Resolution to the effect that the administration by Mr. Fox and his colleagues of the Public Works and Immigration Policy had been unsatisfactory. A debate ensued, which was carried on by both parties with much ability, moderation, and good temper. Full reports of the speeches delivered will be found in the copies of the New Zealand *Hansard* transmitted herewith. Mr. Stafford's motion was finally carried by a majority of three in a full House, the numbers being forty to thirty-seven. Consequently Mr. Fox tendered the resignation of himself and his colleagues, when I intrusted Mr. Stafford with the task of forming a new Ministry.

2. Mr. Stafford has now, for the third time, become Premier, charged also at present with the responsibility of the management of Native Affairs and of the Defence Office; while Mr. Henry Sewell is Colonial Secretary and representative of the Government in the Legislative Council; Mr. Thomas Bannatyne Gillies is Colonial Treasurer; Mr. William Fitzherbert, C.M.G., Minister for Crown Lands and Immigration; Mr. Donald Reid, Minister for Public Works; and Mr. Oswald Curtis, Commissioner of Customs and Postmaster-General.

3. In the present nearly equally balanced state of parties in the House of Representatives, the four Maori Members appear to be practically almost masters of the political situation, as the Irish Members who followed the late Mr. O'Connell were formerly said to be in the Imperial Parliament. The Representative Chamber in New Zealand is composed of seventy-eight (78) Members; the four Maori votes are therefore about one-twentieth of the whole, or equivalent to about thirty-two (32) votes in the House of Commons. However, the Maoris—according to their usual practice in questions of a purely party nature, not directly affecting the interests of their own race—divided equally, two for Mr. Fox and two for Mr. Stafford.

4. It will be remembered that the Native population is now doubly represented in the New Zealand Legislature. All Maoris who choose to qualify and register can vote for the European candidates in their several electoral districts, and are themselves eligible. Considerable numbers of Maoris, especially in the North, are already on the ordinary electoral rolls, and in some places their votes have turned the scale in elections contested by Europeans. But it was thought right and politic to secure the actual presence of Maoris in the Parliament. Consequently the Colony was divided into four Native electorates, in which Natives alone have votes and alone can become candidates. In other words, the Maoris can vote for the European Members, but the Europeans cannot vote for the Maori Members. As I have reported on previous occasions, the experiment of admitting Maoris to the House of Representatives has proved completely successful, and it has now been decided to admit them also to the Legislative Council.

5. I am assured by my new Ministers that it is their intention to continue to pursue towards the Natives a policy of peace and conciliation. Now that tranquillity appears to have been permanently established, it is proposed ere long to proclaim a general amnesty for all offences of a political character committed by the Maoris,—a measure which seems to meet the approval of all parties and classes in this community.

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

I have, &c.,
G. F. BOWEN.

No. 3.

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

(No. 87.) Government House, Wellington,
MY LORD,— New Zealand, 26th October, 1872.

In my Despatch No. 79, I reported that Mr. Stafford had carried in the House of Representatives a resolution to the effect that the administration by Mr. Fox and his colleagues of the Public Works and Immigration policy had been unsatisfactory. I added that Mr. Fox had consequently resigned, and that Mr. Stafford had formed a new Ministry.

2. I have now to report that Mr. Stafford has, in his turn, been defeated on a direct vote of want of confidence. He therefore advised me to dissolve the House of Representatives; but, after full deliberation, I decided (on the principle which had guided me on a previous occasion of a like nature, when the former Ministry was in office,) that an immediate dissolution would be premature. I annex copies of the minutes which passed between Mr. Stafford and myself on this subject, and request attention, in particular, to the following extract:—

Vide Appendix to Journals H. of R., 1872, A. No. 10.

“ Among the considerations which have led the Governor to the decision at which he has arrived, may be mentioned the following:—

“ (1.) It has always been held by English statesmen and political writers of authority that frequent dissolutions are injurious to Parliamentary government, for, in addition to other disadvantages, they have an obvious tendency to cause Members to be regarded as mere delegates of the constituencies, and not as representatives of the country at large. Now, the existing Parliament of New Zealand was elected for five years, in 1871. It is as yet only in its second Session, and is barely eighteen months old. To put the Colony to the great expense and inconvenience of a general election twice within so short a period, could be justified only by the gravest necessity.

“ (2.) It appears probable that the country is as much divided as the Legislature which represents it. At all events, there has been no strong or universal expression of public opinion in favour of either of the parties which have lately held office. Indeed, it seems evident that the country generally is disposed to regard the differences between most of its leading men as personal rather than political, and as concerned with matters of detail rather than of principle.

“ (3.) There is absolutely no question of magnitude to refer to the constituencies. Both sides in the present Parliament support the policy of Public Works and Immigration which was adopted by the last Parliament. Both sides approve a policy of peace and conciliation towards the Maoris. No measure of urgent importance respecting which any material difference of opinion exists, appears to be pending.

“ (4.) If the nearly equally balanced state of parties in the Legislature (as shown by recent occurrences) be taken into account, it appears that Mr. Stafford may probably be somewhat too sanguine in deeming it beyond doubt that either of those parties, as at present constituted, would find no difficulty in getting supplies, or in securing the passing of an Appropriation Act with a view to an immediate dissolution.

“ (5.) It seems to be morally certain that the majority of the Parliament and of the people of New Zealand agree in desiring that there may be formed, on a wider basis, a new Administration strong enough to carry on the Government

“ without further interruption of the public business. It is confidently expected that practical effect can be given to that desire.

“ On the whole, the Governor believes that a fresh appeal to the country would be premature, until all proper endeavours in the direction indicated in the last paragraph shall have failed. Consequently he has decided that his duty compels him to decline to accede to Mr. Stafford’s recommendation of an immediate dissolution.”

3. It should be stated that, in addition to the above-mentioned considerations, there was another which weighed powerfully with me. The Maori Representation Act of 1867 (31 Vict., No. 47) was tentative, and was passed, in the first instance, for only five years. It was on the eve of expiring, and a Bill continuing the admission of the Natives to the Legislature had been introduced. All parties were agreed as to the necessity of a measure of this kind, although there was much difference of opinion concerning its details. In the event of an immediate dissolution, it was possible that the new Representation Bill might fall through, and that the Natives might thus be excluded, at least temporarily, from the future Parliament. The Maoris themselves were keenly alive to this contingency, and it was calculated to cause a dangerous agitation among them.

4. Upon the subsequent resignation of Mr. Stafford, and the voluntary retirement (for the present) from official life of Mr. Fox, a new Ministry was formed, with Mr. George Marsden Waterhouse as Premier. The other members are—Mr. Julius Vogel, C.M.G., Treasurer; Mr. Donald McLean, C.M.G., Minister for Native Affairs; Mr. John Hall, Colonial Secretary; Mr. Edward Richardson, Minister for Public Works; Mr. John Bathgate, Minister of Justice; Mr. George Maurice O’Rorke, Minister for Crown Lands and Immigration; and Mr. William Hunter Reynolds, Commissioner of Customs.

5. I need scarcely say that my inability to accede under the circumstances referred to above, and as an impartial arbitrator between contending parties, to the advice of Mr. Stafford and his colleagues, will not in the slightest degree impair the cordial relations, personal and official, which I have always maintained with them, as with the other public men of all sides in New Zealand.

6. Subsequent proceedings and events have abundantly proved that the general opinion of the Parliament, as also of the country at large, is in harmony with the course which (as I conceive) my duty compelled me to adopt respecting the proposed dissolution. The new Ministry at once commanded a strong working majority in the Legislature; the Maori Representation Bill and several other important measures have become law; the Annual Appropriation Act has passed; and the Session for 1872 was yesterday brought to a close without further interruption of the public business.

7. Copies of all the Acts of the recent Session will be forwarded so soon as the Attorney-General shall have prepared the customary report upon them. Meanwhile, further numbers of the New Zealand *Hansard*, containing full reports of the debates, are transmitted herewith. I annex also copies of the Speech delivered at the prorogation. It will be seen that the concluding paragraph is as follows:—

“ In bidding you farewell, I desire to congratulate you on the general and growing prosperity of the Colony. The official statistics recently published by the Imperial Government show that New Zealand, although only thirty-two years have elapsed since the beginning of colonization here, is already fourth in rank and importance on the long list of British Colonies. In its public revenue, in its trade (including imports and exports), and in the other elements of material progress, it is now surpassed only by the Dominion of Canada, by Victoria, and by New South Wales. It may be confidently expected that, through the blessing of Providence on the energy and industry of its population in developing the vast and varied natural resources of this country, New Zealand will soon rise to a still higher place among the Provinces of the Empire.”

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. F. BOWEN.

No. 4.

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

(No. 106.)
MY LORD,—

Government House, Wellington,
New Zealand, 6th December, 1872.

I have the honor to report that I have recently returned from an official visit to the Rangitikei and Manawatu districts, situated on the West Coast of this Island, between Wellington and Wanganui.

2. Large purchases of land have of late years been made from the Maoris in this quarter, and colonization is steadily advancing in a very satisfactory manner. A settlement of Swedes and Norwegians, as practised woodsmen, has been planted near the new township of Palmerston,* in the midst of the vast primeval forest which overspreads that part of the country. To facilitate the export of the valuable timber, a tramway has been laid down from Palmerston to Foxton, the township near the mouth of the River Manawatu. Roads and bridle-tracks are being pushed forward in several other directions, partly with the help of Maori labour.

3. A very important work has been undertaken, and is already nearly completed by the Colonial Government, in the connection of the East and West Coasts by means of the formation of a good carriage road from Foxton to Napier (the chief town of the Province of Hawke's Bay) through the gorge of the Manawatu River. This remarkable pass is the only opening in the cordillera or dividing watershed, which to the north of it is called the Ruahine, and to the south of it the Tararua Range. These mountains vary from 4,000 to nearly 7,000 feet in height, and their summits are covered with snow during the greater part of the year. The narrowest part of the pass is about four miles in length; and the road has been skilfully carried at a short distance above the wide and rapid river. The precipitous slopes of the mountains on either side are clothed with the magnificent foliage of the New Zealand forests. In many respects, the Gorge of the Manawatu, dividing the ridges of Ruahine and Tararua, resembles the Vale of Tempe, which is the gorge of the Peneus, dividing the ridges of Olympus and Ossa.

4. For some time past, a coach has been running regularly between Wellington and Wanganui, through Foxton. It is expected that within a few months from the present date a coach will be able to run from Foxton to Napier, which latter town will thus be brought into easy communication with the seat of Government. Already coaches run from Napier to the central Lake of Taupo, and from Auckland to Cambridge in the Waikato, which is only about seventy miles north of Taupo. The Maoris are at work on this part of the line, and it is confidently believed that in 1874 public conveyances will carry mails and passengers between Wellington and Auckland, through the very heart of the Native and lately hostile districts. This is a result of the conciliatory policy of the Colonial Government, which would have appeared absolutely incredible if foretold only three years ago.

5. In addition to their strategical and civilizing importance, these roads will have the effect of throwing open for settlement broad areas of rich pastoral and agricultural land, hitherto not only uninhabited, but almost unknown.

6. But the most interesting feature of my recent tour was my conference at Foxton with the assembled chiefs and clans of the southern portion of this Island.

7. There has been for more than one generation a fiercely-debated quarrel between several Maori tribes for the ownership of valuable lands near Otaki and the beautiful Lake of Horowhenua. Before the arrival of the English an internecine warfare had been carried on for many years; and it has required the constant efforts of the successive Governors to prevent these blood-feuds from breaking out afresh. At last the several disputants have been persuaded to submit their claims to the decision of the Native Lands Court; a tribunal composed (as your Lordship is aware) of English Judges and Maori Assessors. This Court is now sitting at Foxton, in the district of Manawatu; and on my arrival there I found the little township encircled by the camps of the contending tribes, which presented a most striking appearance, with the flags and streamers of the several clans flying over their tents. The news of my promotion to the Government of Victoria, and of my

* The places referred to in this Despatch will be found, for the most part, in any good and recent map of New Zealand and also in the annexed chart (Enclosure 1).

approaching departure from New Zealand consequent thereon, had become known to the Maoris, and the leading chiefs came forward to express their regret, and their assurance that if I would visit Foxton on my return from the Gorge of the Manawatu they and their respective clansmen would forget their mutual animosities and gladly hold an united meeting to bid me farewell. I was amply rewarded for my ready consent to this invitation by the enthusiastic greeting which I received from the assembled clans, and by the speeches of the principal chiefs, all full of loyalty to the Queen and of goodwill to myself. I annex a brief summary which has appeared in a Wellington newspaper.

8. It will be seen that, in the course of my address in reply, after expressing my deep sense of the respect and courtesy of the Maoris, I spoke to the following effect:—

“O my Friends, the mere fact of the assemblage on this occasion of all the leading chiefs and tribes of the southern districts of this Island is of itself a patent proof of the vast improvement which has taken place among you during the last few years. For why are you assembled here? To attend the sitting of the Native Lands Court, which is to decide, according to law, questions of land tenure and ownership, which, at a time within the memory of most of you, would have been decided by war and bloodshed. It is right and just that the Maoris should support the laws which govern all alike who dwell in this country, for the Maoris have now an adequate voice and influence in making these laws. As you all know, Maoris now sit in the three great Councils of the Colony—in the two Houses of Parliament which frame the laws, and in the Executive Council which administers them.

“Moreover, Maoris sit as Assessors to the Judges in the Native Lands Courts, and advise them all on all points affecting Native rights and customs. My friends, it is the pleasure of our Queen, and it is the earnest desire of myself and of all the other Europeans of all parties and classes of this community, that the two races, the white skin and the brown, may live under equal laws in peace and friendship, and may finally grow into one people. And now, my friends, farewell. My successor in the government will, I am sure, feel the same warm interest in your welfare which I have ever felt. As for myself, remember my last words to you: They are an earnest exhortation to you to continue to live in peace and friendship among yourselves and with your European fellow-subjects; and an humble prayer to God, the giver of all good, to pour His blessing in your homes and families.”

9. As it is stated in the annexed report, my speech was received with very hearty applause by the Maoris; while the presence at an united meeting with the Governor of all the rival clans will be productive of much public advantage. I have now exchanged farewells and good wishes with the tribes of the South; and it is proposed that a similar meeting of the tribes of the North shall be held in next March, at Auckland, whence I am to take my final departure from New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. F. BOWEN.

No. 5.

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

(No. 20.)

Government House, Auckland,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 6th March, 1873.

I have the honor to report that Mr. Waterhouse, the Premier, unexpectedly caused a brief “Ministerial Crisis,” by placing his resignation in my hands a few days before the time fixed for my final departure from Wellington.

2. There has been no difference whatsoever between the Governor and the Ministry; nor had any serious dissensions arisen in the Cabinet itself, as will appear from the enclosed Memorandum addressed to Mr. Waterhouse by the other Ministers present, when they first heard of the action which he intended to

Enclosure 1.

take.* Under these circumstances, I felt it to be my duty to request Mr. Waterhouse to reconsider his position; pointing out that the resignation of the Prime Minister must, in accordance with constitutional usage, *ipso facto* dissolve the existing Ministry at a very inconvenient moment—that is, on the eve of the departure of the Governor, and of the temporary assumption of office, as Administrator of the Government, by the Chief Justice. I added, that if Mr. Waterhouse should persist in his proposed course, it appeared to me that it would become the duty of Ministers to advise the summoning of Parliament at the earliest period practicable. Sir George Arney would thus be enabled to have recourse to the advice and assistance of the Legislature in the formation of a new Ministry, while Mr. Waterhouse would have an opportunity of explaining the motives of his conduct.

3. From the correspondence annexed, it will be seen that Mr. Waterhouse declined to withdraw his resignation, and finally left me no alternative but to relieve him from office. I then requested Mr. Fox to become Premier and Colonial Secretary, and to reconstruct the Ministry; which he consented to do as a temporary measure under the peculiar circumstances of the case, and from a sense of public duty, though at considerable personal inconvenience to himself, for, as I have already reported,† he had some time since determined to retire from official life.

4. It will be observed that it is stated in my Memorandum of the 28th ultimo, that if I were able to remain long enough in New Zealand, I should myself deal with the whole question so suddenly raised, but that this is impossible, for your Lordship's instructions are imperative that I should proceed without delay to my new government of Victoria. I may add that I would take the responsibility of deferring my departure while awaiting further instructions, if New Zealand were in the least danger or difficulty—if, for instance, there were any prospect of a renewal of Native disturbances, or if even there were any grave political problem to solve. But there is absolutely nothing of the kind. This Colony has never been so prosperous or so tranquil as at the present time. I am assured that there is no change whatsoever in the policy of the Colonial Government.

5. In conclusion, I would observe that my main object throughout the affair referred to in this Despatch, as on all other occasions of like nature, has been to assert and uphold the well-known constitutional principles applicable to the case, and, in particular, the principle that the death or resignation of a Prime Minister must dissolve the existing Administration.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. F. BOWEN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 5.

MEMORANDUM to the Hon. the PREMIER.

YOU are already aware that we have received the information given by you verbally to us of your intention to resign your office of Premier with much surprise and regret. You favoured us with the perusal of a copy of a letter dated 4th February, to the Hon. Mr. Vogel, which you had forwarded before communicating its contents either to us or to His Excellency the Governor. In your letter you state the grounds which had induced you to form the resolution to resign; and on the reasons therein stated, as well as the position of affairs generally, we desire to tender now to you our observations, in the hope that you may be advised to reconsider your determination and to continue in office.

In your letter to the Hon. Mr. Vogel, you state that you have felt throughout that Mr. Vogel regarded himself as the actual and you as the nominal Premier, and the strength of his will and the advantage arising from his having formed the Ministry had given him an influence in the Ministry which was fatal to you exerting the influence attached to your office as Premier.

This paragraph contains two points which deserve notice. First, as regards the formation of the Ministry. We understand that the whole of the members of the Cabinet were individually agreeable to you and had been approved of by you; and that although Mr. Vogel had been the medium of communication, he had your entire concurrence in this. No attempt, so far as we are aware, has been made in any one instance to force any member upon you against your will. This belief has strengthened us in hitherto working with you in the utmost cordiality and harmony. At the same time, if it is to be held as a legitimate inference that you are dissatisfied with the *personnel* of the present Ministry, and are of opinion that a change would be beneficial to the public interest, we are each ready to place our resignation in your hands.

* Since the retirement of Mr. Waterhouse, Ministers have found it necessary to publish this and the other official documents connected with the case.

† See Despatch No. 87, of 26th October, 1872, paragraph 4.

Second, as regards the influence attached to your office as Premier being prejudicially affected, we are not aware of any occasion in which your views have been thwarted or set aside by the Cabinet. There have been the most cordial concert and mutual exchange of advice and intercourse amongst the different members of the Executive, and in no instance known to us has there been any radical difference of opinion affecting your supremacy in the Cabinet. In any discussion upon minor points of administration which led to an expression of opinion, we believe that your views have been always sustained by the majority present, and approved accordingly.

You state, further, that there are points of political difference between the Treasurer and yourself which render it difficult for you to work with him with satisfaction so long as his influence in the Ministry is paramount. You do not say what these points of difference are, except by affirming generally that Mr. Vogel is anxious for the introduction of fresh measures of policy, while you are of opinion that attention should be confined as much as possible to the work of administration. We may remind you that no question of new policy has ever yet come before the Cabinet, and that all your laudable efforts in the way of administrative reform have been unanimously approved and vigorously supported by your colleagues. We may also observe that should any unforeseen differences arise on the subject of the policy to be brought before Parliament, your colleagues have neither the right nor the intention to oppose your views. Should any important and irreconcilable difference arise, it will be for those who differ to retire; and it is not a constitutional interpretation of your duty as Premier for you to resign.

We are firmly persuaded that you are doing an injustice both to yourself and your colleagues by the anticipation of differences which may never occur; and our experience of the last four months leads us to the conclusion that every member of the Cabinet is animated by a sincere desire to correct abuses or imperfections in the administration, and to promote to the utmost the prosperity of the country.

Having thus, we hope satisfactorily, disposed of your reasons for tendering your resignation, we beg shortly to specify general grounds which should operate on your mind in the retention of office, at least till the meeting of Parliament.

First, By your resignation the Ministry is *ipso facto* dissolved. This principle was affirmed both by you and Mr. Vogel at the end of last Session in your respective Houses. This taking place during the recess involves more or less awkward consequences, and these are heightened by the peculiar circumstances in which the Colony is at present. His Excellency the Governor, after a career which has called forth the approbation of his Sovereign, is upon the eve of leaving the Colony, and it is due to his past services and to his good feeling towards the Colony that any political complication should at this conjuncture be avoided, unless absolutely imperative for the welfare of the country.

It would be a source of embarrassment to the Chief Justice, Sir George Arney, during his interregnum as Acting Governor, that he should have the onus laid upon him of arranging any new Executive; and it would be equally ill-timed that the new Governor, Sir James Fergusson, should be on his arrival at once plunged into a sea of political trouble.

In the event of the Governor thinking it desirable in the circumstances that Parliament should be called together, such a proceeding, at an unusual and unseasonable time, would be attended with much inconvenience to the Members, and would entail an unnecessary expense of at least £10,000 to the country. Besides, in the present condition of the Government Buildings undergoing extensive additions and repairs, agreeably to the wishes of the Assembly, there is no accommodation for the meeting of Parliament, and any temporary makeshift would lead to a further unnecessary expenditure of several thousand pounds.

In the second place, your tendering your resignation at present, when three of our colleagues are absent on public business and unable to afford the benefit of their counsel and advice, is placing the whole Cabinet in an unfair position. It is due to those who are absent that no step of grave importance should be taken before their return to aid in the deliberations of the Ministry; and to those who are here, that they should not have most unexpectedly the duty imposed on them of having to advise His Excellency in an unprecedented position of affairs.

Finally, in addition to the force of the arguments we have used, we desire to add, in case a matter of personal feeling or sentiment should still weigh with you, that we appeal to your sense of patriotism, which should prompt you to make some little self-sacrifice. You have fairly and considerably undertaken a duty of importance to the Colony which cannot be lightly laid down. There has been no unpleasantness existing either in the Executive or in the relations of the Executive and the Governor, and none need be anticipated in the future.

Taking everything into consideration, and especially our willingness to accord to you all the rights and privileges of your responsible position, we trust that you will be persuaded to give up all idea of tendering your resignation at present; in which event your own political reputation will be materially enhanced, and the Colony saved a serious complication and a considerable expenditure.

JOHN BATHGATE.
F. RICHARDSON.
G. M. O'ROURKE.

Wellington, 21st February, 1873.

No. 6.

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

(No. 22.) Government House, Auckland,
MY LORD,— New Zealand, 15th March, 1873.

I have the honor to report that on the 3rd inst. I left Wellington in the Colonial Government steamer "Luna," and reached Auckland on the 5th instant.

2. As your Lordship is already aware, it had been arranged for some time past that as I had already been present at the farewell meeting of the southern Maoris at Manawatu, so I should be present also at the farewell meeting which the northern Maoris were about to hold in my honor at Ngaruawahia, the old Maori capital in the Waikato. It had also been arranged that I should take my final departure from New Zealand for Melbourne by the first steamer after the close of this meeting, *i.e.* by the "Hero," which is to leave Auckland for Australia on the 18th instant.

3. On the 11th instant I proceeded to Ngaruawahia, whither I was accompanied by the Chief Justice, Sir George Arney (who will on my departure become the Administrator of the Government pending the arrival of my successor), by Mr. McLean, the Minister for Native Affairs, by the Superintendent of the Province of Auckland, by the Senior Naval Officer (Captain Simpson, R.N., commanding H.M.S. "Blanche,") and by other functionaries and officers of Government. This was my fourth visit to the Waikato, which I have fully described in previous Despatches.*

4. On my arrival at Ngaruawahia, I was received with great enthusiasm, and with loud chants and songs at once of welcome and farewell, by the most numerous assemblage of Maoris which has been known for many years past. The loyal chiefs and clans were fully represented; and there was also a large number of Hauhaus, recently in arms against the Queen, but whose leaders now laid at my feet the embroidered mats which are the recognized token of submission and peace.

5. I enclose herewith translations of the addresses presented to me by the principal chiefs on behalf of the assembled tribes. I annex also a copy of my speech in reply, which is stated to have produced an excellent effect. It will be further seen that in answer to the farewell address from the English settlers in the Waikato, I congratulated them on the progress achieved in their district, and which is in no slight degree due to their energy and prudence, and to the friendly relations which they maintain with their neighbours of the Native race.

6. The terms of my official address to the Maoris on this interesting and important occasion were, of course, carefully concerted beforehand with Mr. McLean, the Minister for Native Affairs. In common with other leading men of all parties, Mr. McLean had, during the last Session of the Colonial Parliament, expressed the opinion that, since tranquillity appeared to have been permanently established, the time had come to take into consideration the propriety of proclaiming ere long an amnesty for all past offences of a political character committed by the Maoris. I entirely concur with this view. As your Lordship is already aware, no Maori now remains under confinement for any political offence; but the arrangements deemed necessary by Mr. McLean prior to the proclamation of a general amnesty have not yet been completed. It will be a happy circumstance if my successor in the Government of New Zealand should find himself in a position to inaugurate his administration by the performance of this act of grace.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. F. BOWEN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 6.

ADDRESS from the assembled MAORIS.

THIS is a farewell address to you, O Father the Governor. Welcome, our loving parent the Governor to the chiefs and tribes of Waikato, before you leave for the place which has been appointed for you by our gracious Queen. We are very sad on account of your departure. We will not forget what you said on your first visit to Waikato in May, 1868, that the Maoris and Europeans should bury their animosities in Potatau's tomb. There have been many troubles and evil deeds done in Waikato, but you have not been hasty to take action; you have been patient, and have not forgotten your word. The administration by you during your term of office, of the affairs of this Colony, has been very clear. You have not caused any evil; the evil has been done by other Governors before you. You and your Advisers have been energetic in the suppression of evil. You go away free from any blame to the place which has been appointed for you by our gracious Queen; and we pray to God to conduct you, Lady Bowen, and your family, safely to the place to which you are going. Sufficient.

WI PATENE, HETA TARAWHITI, and all the Tribes.

* See in particular my Despatch No. 40 of 1868, and No. 31 of 1870, and the documents transmitted herewith.

The next address of welcome was presented by Hori Kukutai. The following is a translation:—Friend, the Governor, salutations to you. Welcome to Waikato, before you depart, to see these tribes of yours, and your friends the chiefs of this portion of the great and noble tribe of Waikato, who live in this Island. They are justly punished for their offences, however. Although there were living many who did evil, there are many who have remained quiet up to the present time, and we are still together with our European friends and their chiefs as brothers on this River Waikato. When you first came here as a perfect stranger to see us, you paid your respects to the tomb of your friend, our great chief, Te Wherowhero, who lies in his grave at Ngaruawahia. You then made an important statement, namely, that the animosities of the Maoris and the Pakehas should be buried in the grave of that old chief. Your word has been fulfilled. I, his descendant, and these chiefs, are carrying out what he said when he was living. Although others of his family may have gone astray, I have adhered to what he said, and am still doing so. Do not think that this tribe is the only one that has done evil in this Island; all the tribes have taken part in what has resulted in the destruction of my people and loss of my land. Although this tribe of yours may have been forgotten by the Government, and others may have been favoured, we, the chiefs, will never forget your words. I shall leave them to my children, for it was I who strengthened your hands at the commencement of the great fighting in this Island. I had no grievance against any other tribe. I fought against my own people for the suppression of evil. I am sorry that you did not see the other portion of my tribe and my relations in peace. Welcome, my friends, welcome. Farewell to you and your Lady, and your children. Go to your new Island under the authority and love of our Queen, the mother of our future King, who was protected by God and brought safely through his severe illness. We are very glad, and feel honored on account of the visit to us of the descendant of a great people. Go, O my friend, in peace to your place. May God protect you, and keep you in health.

Na HORI KUKUTAI,
Na KAPENE MATENGA,
RUKA TAURUA,

HOTA PAERANGA,
TE KAI MAHAKIHII,
HURA KUKUTAI.

Enclosure 2 in No. 6.

SPEECH of the Governor in reply to the Maori Addresses.

O MY friends, chiefs and people of all tribes whom I now see before me,—Salutations to you all. When I first arrived in New Zealand, five years ago, I came among you at Ngaruawahia, and you received me with a hearty welcome, as you have also done now. Then, as now, we met near the tomb of Potatau Te Wherowhero, a noble chief of the olden time, who never made war against the Queen, but was ever loyal to the Crown and friendly to the Europeans. Thereupon both races, the English and the Maoris, delighted to honor him. Five years ago, standing on this spot, I said that the two races should bury any remaining animosities in the tomb of Potatau, and my word has proved true; you have buried your hatreds. The two races now live in peace and friendship together. So, too, I said on my first visit that the Europeans and the Maoris should grow into one people, even as the rivers Waipa and Waikato mingle their waters at Ngaruawahia,—the old Maori capital,—and has not this been so? Do not Europeans and Maoris sit together in the Councils which govern this country; in the Executive, in the Legislative Council, and in the House of Representatives? The vote of each Maori is equal to the vote of each European in framing the laws which govern both races. This is my fourth visit to the Waikato, and I should have been glad to have seen more of Potatau's descendants. I have given every proof of my desire to do so. And now, my friends, I have come to bid you farewell. Wherever I go I shall always cherish my love for you and for the glorious country which you share with your English friends and fellow-subjects. I am about to become Governor of the neighbouring Colony of Victoria; but I shall not there be far from you, and I shall always watch your progress with affectionate interest. My parting advice to you is to give you aid in support of the law, and also of the schools which the Government is establishing throughout these Islands for the education of your children. There they will learn to be good citizens, and by acquiring the language and arts of the English, they will be able to take their part in the public affairs of the Colony, and to assist in developing its resources. I am very glad to leave, on my departure, this Colony prosperous and tranquil. On his visit to New Zealand, the Queen's son, the Duke of Edinburgh, expressed his hope that the clouds of war would soon pass away, and the sun of peace would shine forth; and this is now so. The Colonial Government have recognized the establishment of peace. Already all Maoris who were in confinement for political offences have been set at liberty by me—not one remains in prison. And hearken, O my friends, to these words. So soon as the necessary arrangements can be made, it is proposed to proclaim, in the name of the Queen, a general amnesty for past acts of rebellion and other political offences. It is hoped that this act of grace or clemency will further cement the friendly relations now happily existing between the two races. Finally, O my friends, remember that the law is the best and most impartial arbiter for adjusting all the differences that may arise among the Maoris themselves, or between Maoris and Europeans. The law is no respecter of persons; it protects the weak as well as the strong; and you will find it your best shield and guide in future. It is my earnest advice that you should devote your attention henceforward to the arts of peaceful industry, and re-establish the name of Waikato as a country supplying the markets of the town with grain, fruit, and other produce. Thus you will secure for yourselves and for your families the comforts enjoyed by the Europeans. And now, once more, O my friends, farewell. May Heaven pour its choicest blessings upon you. Be assured that my successor, Sir James Fergusson, will feel the same sympathy for the Maoris that I have always felt; as will also the Chief Justice, Sir George Arney, who will administer the Government immediately after my departure and until the arrival of the new Governor. Once more, farewell!

Enclosure 3 in No. 6.

ADDRESS from the SETTLERS at NGARUAWAHIA.

To His Excellency Sir GEORGE FERGUSON BOWEN, Knight, Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George, Governor of New Zealand, &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,—

The inhabitants of Ngaruawahia and surrounding districts are desirous of respectfully bidding you farewell previous to your departure to assume the Governorship of a sister Colony. When your Excellency arrived in New Zealand it was in a state of civil turmoil; but by the wisdom of your Excellency, assisted by your Responsible Advisers, the country is once more in a state of peace and quietness. Your Excellency's name will always be associated in history with the termination of what we sincerely trust, and have every reason to believe, will have been the last struggle between the Aborigines and the Colonists. We wish that your Excellency and Lady Bowen may long continue to enjoy health and happiness, and to secure the affections and respect of the people over whom you are called to preside, as you have so long enjoyed those of the residents of the Colony which you are leaving. We again wish your Excellency farewell.

Ngaruawahia, March 12, 1873.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR'S REPLY.

GENTLEMEN,—

I thank you heartily for this address, and for all the courtesy and kindness which you have shown me during my former visits to the Waikato. My first official tour, after my arrival in New Zealand five years ago, was to this district; and now I have made my last official tour hither previous to my final departure. I congratulate you on the vastly improved state of your affairs since I first came among you; an improvement which is in no slight degree owing to the energy and prudence of the settlers in the Waikato, and to the friendly relations which they maintained with their neighbours. I yield to no permanent colonist in affection for this country, in which I have spent the five happiest years of my life. And now, gentlemen, I reciprocate your good wishes, and bid you a cordial farewell.

Ngaruawahia, March 12, 1873.

G. F. BOWEN.

No. 7.

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

(No. 24.)

Government House, Auckland,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 17th March, 1873.

In continuation of my Despatch No. 22, I have the honor to report that I returned to Auckland on the day following that on which the farewell Native meeting was held at Ngaruawahia.

2. I now transmit a Memorandum from Mr. McLean, showing the present satisfactory condition of Native affairs.

3. It is the earnest desire of the Colonial Government that I should inaugurate, before finally leaving the waters of New Zealand, the monument erected at the public expense over the grave of Tamati Waka Nene. Accordingly, it has been arranged that the steamer "Hero" which is to convey me from Auckland to Australia shall stop for a few hours on the voyage at the Bay of Islands, where this celebrated chief died and was buried in August, 1871, as was reported in my Despatch No. 72 of that year.*

4. It will be remembered that Tamati Waka Nene was the principal chief and most famous warrior of the great clan of the Ngapuhis, the most powerful in New Zealand; and that it was mainly through his authority and influence that the sovereignty of New Zealand was ceded to the British Crown by the Treaty of Waitangi. Alike in peace and in war, he was ever a loyal subject of the Queen, and a constant friend and brave ally of the English. It is generally believed that without his aid and support the British Government could not have been established in this country in 1840, nor maintained during the Maori war of 1845-48. I shall be glad to preside at the proposed inauguration of his monument, as my last public act in New Zealand.

5. I would take this opportunity of transmitting copies of some of the farewell letters which I have received from the Maori chiefs in every part of New Zealand. They all breathe the same spirit of loyalty to the Queen and of goodwill to myself.

6. At Auckland, as in the other principal towns of the Colony, Lady Bowen and I have been entertained at public balls in view of our approaching departure,

* See also my Despatches No. 37 of 1868, and No. 51 of 1870.

and have received numerous and gratifying proofs of respect and esteem from all classes of the community. I shall always look back with proud and grateful remembrance to this country, in which I have spent the five happiest (although often anxious) years of my life; to the welfare of which I have devoted all my faculties, and with the history of which my name, as that of the Governor during an important and critical period, must be for ever associated.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. F. BOWEN.

Enclosure 1 in No. 7.

MEMORANDUM by Mr. McLEAN.

THERE is but little to remark on the general state of Native affairs in the Northern Island of New Zealand, as these have not undergone any material change since my Memorandum of 8th June, 1872; the only exception of importance having been the settlement of some complications hitherto existing on the West Coast, in the Province of Taranaki. It will be remembered that it was in this district that the chief difficulties of late years had their origin, and that it was from it that fanaticism and disaffection extended to other parts of the Colony.

The Native Minister is happy to be able to state that the causes which led to these troubles have been in a great measure removed, and that the settlement of the question of the confiscated lands is in progress.

Natives formerly in rebellion, and several of whom had suffered imprisonment in consequence, have been permitted to occupy lands set apart within the boundary of confiscation for their maintenance; and there appears to be every probability that they will follow the example set them by the previously hostile tribes of the Bay of Plenty, and that they will settle down peaceably side by side with the Europeans.

A considerable section of the Waikato tribes continue to exhibit the same friendly relations as at the date of my last Memorandum. Another portion still declines to come to formal terms, and wishes to be let alone. In this desire the Government acquiesce, as they see no reason for interference.

The tribes of the East Coast, and the Ngapuhi in the North, remain steadfast in their allegiance: they, as well as other tribes, are employed on roads and public works calculated to open up and improve the various districts.

Generally there is a tendency on the part of the Natives to resume industrial pursuits, and this is evinced by the cultivation of larger quantities of land, and by the anxiety shown to obtain agricultural implements. All persons imprisoned for political offences have been released.

It has been the aim of your Excellency's Government to encourage and foster in every way the arts of peace and industry among the Natives; to open up the country by main and branch roads; to promote education by the establishment of village schools where the English language is taught; to cultivate friendly relations with the several tribes, and to use the utmost endeavours to bring the Natives to a higher state of civilization.

Auckland, 17th March, 1873.

DONALD McLEAN.

No. 8.

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

(No. 25.)

Bay of Islands, New Zealand,

MY LORD,—

19th March, 1873.

In continuation of my Despatch No. 24, I have the honor to report that I took my final departure from Auckland yesterday afternoon. My family and I were accompanied to the place of embarkation by the principal public functionaries and local authorities, by the public bodies, by the friendly societies, and by many thousands of all classes of the community. The demonstrations of regard for us, and of regret at our departure, were very lively and affecting.

2. This morning the "Hero" stopped for a few hours (as previously arranged) at the Bay of Islands, to enable me to unveil the monument of Tamati Waka Nene. I annex the substance of the Address delivered by me on this occasion. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the chiefs and clansmen of the Ngapuhi and of the other Maori tribes of the North; and of a large concourse of the leading colonists, who had assembled to pay honor to the memory of their firm friend and gallant ally.

3. I am unable to write at length, for the "Hero" is ready to proceed forthwith on the voyage to Australia. I will only add, that it is an interesting fact that my last Despatch from New Zealand should be dated from the Bay of Islands, which has filled so prominent a place in the early annals of this country; and

During the forenoon, a small canoe was seen paddling towards the "Luna" from the opposite or north arm of the harbour, bringing the notoriously turbulent chief Tapihana, who took a conspicuous part in the Taranaki war, and afterwards in planning and effecting the escape from Kawau (Sir George Grey's island) of himself and other prisoners who had been captured by General Cameron at Rangirā during the Waikato war.

After some slight hesitation, Tapihana stepped on board, and addressed a long speech to the Native Minister and the chief Wi Tako, a Member of the Legislative Council, who formed one of His Excellency's party.

The Native Minister replied to Tapihana, after which Wi Tako made a most effective speech, pointing out the advantages of peace and friendly intercourse with the Europeans. As the discussion progressed, Tapihana's tone, from being somewhat defiant, became very friendly and temperate, and he requested that the "Luna" should visit his side of the harbour, where the Native Minister had, through messengers, been arranging an interview with Tu Tawhiao, who resides there, and who sent a special invitation to the Native Minister.

On landing, Mr. McLean and Wi Tako were first welcomed by Honi Wetere, and as they approached the entrance to the King's residence were met in a frank and cordial manner by Tu Tawhiao, the eldest son of the King, a fine young man of about nineteen years of age. An interesting and friendly conversation took place, frequent references being made by the chiefs to Tu Tawhiao's grandfather, Potatau, the first King, and to his friendship with Mr. McLean.

When the meeting was over, Tu Tawhiao accepted an invitation to come on board the "Luna," and was accompanied by a few of his chiefs, all of whom were introduced to His Excellency, who spoke in friendly and assuring terms to the young chief and his companions.

Tu Tawhiao at first displayed considerable emotion, no doubt feeling that by this Act he had broken down the barriers of isolation which had so long separated the Europeans from his people.

After luncheon with His Excellency, Tu Tawhiao and his friends visited all parts of the "Luna," and seemed much interested and full of inquiry as to the working of the engines and other particulars new to them about the vessel.

It is quite evident, from the interest displayed by the Natives, that the accidental visit of the "Luna" has been productive of results the importance of which it would at present be difficult to estimate.

Tu Tawhiao was most anxious that the departure of the vessel should be delayed until his father could be communicated with. Finding that it was impossible to comply with his request, the Native Minister promised to return shortly to Kawhia to meet the King and his adherents.

As the "Luna" left, three English cheers were given by the Natives from the shore, which were responded to from the vessel.

A recent telegram from Waikato states that the Natives generally are gratified at what has taken place, and are very desirous to attend the proposed meeting, which, it is expected, will pave the way for effecting more permanent friendly relations with the King party, who now form the only section of the New Zealand tribes that have preserved their ancient manners and customs, and independence of European progress and civilization.

The Native Minister begs to be permitted to congratulate His Excellency on this remarkable and auspicious event occurring at the commencement of his Administration.

Native Office, Wellington, 7th April, 1873.

DONALD McLEAN.

No. 10.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND to the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

(No. 32.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 10th April, 1873.

I have the honor to inform your Lordship that, since my arrival at the Seat of Government, a change has occurred in the Ministry of the Colony. The Hon. Mr. Fox, who had recently consented to accept office, and had placed his valuable services at the disposal of His Excellency Sir G. F. Bowen to meet a temporary emergency only, tendered on the 4th instant his resignation of his office of Colonial Secretary, his seat in the Executive Council, and the Premiership of the Ministry. At my request he was so good as to give me his advice, acting on which I sent for the Hon. Mr. Vogel. That gentleman has accepted the Premiership, and nominated to me the gentlemen whose services I have accepted, and who, together with himself, form the present Ministry, as follows, viz. :—

The Hon. Mr. VOGEL, Premier, Colonial Treasurer, Postmaster-General, and Telegraph Commissioner.

The Hon. Mr. McLEAN, Native Minister.

The Hon. Mr. RICHARDSON, Minister for Public Works.

The Hon. Mr. BATHGATE, Minister of Justice and Commissioner of Stamps.

The Hon. Mr. REYNOLDS, Commissioner of Customs.

The Hon. Mr. O'RORKE, Secretary for Crown Lands and Minister for Immigration.

The office of Colonial Secretary is not yet appropriated.

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. A. ARNEY.

No. 11.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND to the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY.

(No. 33.)

Government House, Wellington,

MY LORD,—

New Zealand, 10th April, 1873.

Adverting to my recent visit to Kawhia, and to the Memorandum of the Native Minister transmitted in my Despatch No. 31, of this date, it may be superfluous for me to add any remarks thereon; but, as sanguine anticipations are formed that our visit to Kawhia will be followed by important results, I venture to invite your Lordship's attention to some of the conditions on which those anticipations are based.

The harbour of Kawhia, as your Lordship is doubtless aware, is nearly midway the ports of Manukau and Wanganui, on the western coast of the North Island, and opens by far the most valuable inlet in that long, often tempestuous, line of coast. Its waters cover a considerable area, and ramify up two principal channels into the surrounding hills. Those hills fold back into the interior, connecting themselves at no very distant interval with the great Pirongia ranges, which latter, after rising in some parts more than 2,000 feet, at length descend upon the lower waters of the River Waipa, and enclose that side of the great Waikato basin. Amidst and behind the hills which encompass the harbour of Kawhia, but with easy access to its waters, the Maori King and his immediate adherents have planted themselves. An *aukati*, or pale of separation, which the colonist is rarely allowed to pass, having been established on the side of the Waikato, the progress of settlement and civilization from the interior of this Island is barred; and while the harbour of Kawhia continues closed to seaward, the exclusion of the settler and the isolation of the Natives are complete. Regarded with a view, either to strategic objects or to the isolation of the inhabitants, the site is but too judiciously chosen; and this exclusive arbitrary control of an extensive and commodious harbour forms perhaps the most real, if not the only symbol of true sovereignty held by Tawhiao.

On the other hand, it may reasonably be expected that if the harbour of Kawhia be once again opened to shipping, its shores will again become the scene of European enterprise, and that totally different relations will thenceforward arise, not only between the Natives and the settler, but between the Natives and Her Majesty's Government. I say "again," for Kawhia was formerly settled, to the reciprocal advantage of both races. Vestiges of the settlers' improvements still remain; and after steaming a considerable distance up the harbour, we first anchored opposite an European-built house and store (now deserted), wherein a settler formerly conducted a lucrative trade with the Natives, and is reputed to have laid the foundation of a fortune which he now enjoys in a neighbouring Colony.

The soil up the hill slopes from the water's edge, while it is sometimes open and at others covered with bush, is generally productive, and not unfrequently is of excellent quality. Cattle also were visible in various directions along the shore and along the hill sides. The Native occupiers formerly raised and brought to market large supplies, the product of those slopes, upon which occasionally are still seen traces of fencing and cultivation. Indeed, we shared the benefits of their cultivations; for shortly after the "Luna" anchored, Natives appeared tracking their courses from different directions to the shore, for whom Mr. McLean at once sent one of the ship's boats to bring them on board, and who brought with them good melons of different kinds, grapes, apples, &c., lamenting only that they had no previous notice of our intention to visit them, and thus had failed of an opportunity to bring much larger supplies. But, notwithstanding their advantages of soil and climate, these Natives appeared to be miserably poor. On the Waikato

side of Tawhiao's *aukati*, the Natives are less poor ; for the Hauhau, although he banish the Pakeha beyond the pale, is not reluctant himself to cross that pale, or to avail himself occasionally of the settler's stores and merchandise. But the isolation of the Kawhia Native is more exclusive and more stringent. He has only the hills on one side of him, and the dreary ocean on the other. He may, indeed, command a sufficiency of food, attainable by moderate labour—fish, flesh, fowl, vegetable, and fruit ; but he wants to be clothed as well as fed. Many of those who came on board the “Luna” were scantily covered, others were in rags ; and while one finely-grown man crouched for a while under the ship's side, and hesitated to come on board from mere shame at his ragged clothing, another Native despondingly complained that it was no use for them to come among the Europeans, because they had no money to buy clothes. In others, the hollow cough and sunken aspect betrayed a constitution which already, before the winter is yet on, was suffering from cold and exposure. These poor people evidently felt the evils which they had brought upon themselves by their self-imposed isolation, and must needs long for those comforts which a resumed intercourse with the settlers would diffuse amongst them.

Your Lordship will probably believe that the welcome offered by them to their waters was sincere. That welcome was earnestly conveyed also by their chiefs. Seated round the poop deck of the “Luna,” they conducted their debate with the regularity of a formal *runanga*. The Memorandum of the Native Minister gives the general course of the discussion. Suffice it for me to add, that the chief Tapihana, both while replying to the chief Wi Tako, M.L.C., and on his being presented to and shaking hands with myself, declared himself reconciled ; while it was repeatedly urged that the “Luna” should visit Kawhia again and again, after which it was intimated the harbour might be opened to all vessels. This assurance was confirmed in the presence of Tu Tawhiao. Nothing could be of fairer promise than was the whole bearing of that young man. His demeanour was dignified, yet modest and becoming. On being presented to myself he bid me the usual Maori salutation, *Tena Koe*, not with the jaunty—even bantering—air often assumed by the Natives, but slowly, and in a tone of intense melancholy. He then stood before me awhile, with his right hand in mine, his head drooping, in silence, and under visible emotion ; until suddenly he drew back, retreated to a bench at the side of the deck, and there sat for a considerable time between two attendant chiefs, his head bent down, his face buried in his two hands, and in silence. At length he rose, stepped forward and again shook hands with me, after which he preserved a more assured composure. The whole conduct of the young man led me to the same conclusion as that formed by the Native Minister—viz., that Tu Tawhiao attributed to his own visit the significance of breaking down the barriers of isolation, and pledging himself henceforth to a reconciliation with the Europeans.

Upon conditions like the foregoing, it is not unreasonable to hope that the Natives of Kawhia, reduced as they have been by their isolation from prosperity to poverty, will ere long accept the introduction of those comforts which they evidently wish to obtain, and that, as ancillary thereto, the harbour of Kawhia will be reopened to the trade and enterprise of the colonist. But that trade would almost of necessity be accompanied, if not introduced, by the locating of the colonist himself upon those shores ; and it is, I believe, invariably found that the introduction of the settler among the Natives is followed by that of the Magistrate, Native as well as European, whose jurisdiction the Natives themselves become ready and eager to invoke in the adjustment of their disputes. Such relations, once established, are not easily dislocated.

The Natives have never of themselves failed of their confidence in our Courts of justice as such ; and in 1861, after the first year of the Waitara war, the Resident Magistrate's Court of New Plymouth disposed of a greater number of causes in which Natives were plaintiffs than had ever been disposed of in any one previous year before that tribunal. Having regard, then, to the geographical position of Kawhia, as already described, in connection with the district immediately under the control of Tawhiao, it is not too much to expect that, if such relations as are above indicated should be established on the shores of Kawhia Harbour, the Natives

from the other side of the ranges would find it their interest gradually to accept them likewise. Meanwhile it is a vital object to induce all Natives alike to resort and submit themselves to the supremacy of the criminal law of the country. The Hauhaus living within the borders of Tawhiao's district have evinced a certain disposition to recognize that supremacy—at all events as regards offenders who may come within those borders in order to escape from justice. The following example has recently occurred:—An accused person, not a Native, fled from Tauranga, and took refuge within the *aukati*; the police boldly pursued him, and were at first threatened with death by the Hauhaus, but on explaining the object of their mission, the police were allowed to search for the offender, and the Hauhaus, although declining formally to surrender the fugitive, yet gave such directions to the police that they could not miss the capture, which they ultimately effected, of their man. He was brought to trial before myself, and convicted. The Government are anxious that Tawhiao should be induced to recognize and act on the same principle in all cases, especially those of homicide, whether committed by Native or European, and whether within or without the borders of the Hauhaus territory; for they consider that if even thus much should be accomplished, the substance of sovereignty would be in a great degree conceded, the barrier between the Natives and the Government would soon disappear, and the authority of the Queen's warrant would be recognized throughout every part of New Zealand.

After observing for so many years the Natives' mode of action, I am not prone to form hasty anticipations of their improvement: they move slowly, and after long deliberation, but I am hopeful that they will still yield to conciliatory treatment. I wish also to assure your Lordship that during the short time that I may administer the Government, I shall abstain as far as practicable from interfering in questions of policy, whether Native or European, and shall avoid doing any act which may commit His Excellency Sir James Fergusson to this or that line of conduct. My humbler duty will be so to carry on the Government, under the advice of my Ministers, that no heavy arrears of business may be cast upon Sir James Fergusson when he arrives, and to hand over the machine to His Excellency in the same admirable working order as Sir G. F. Bowen has left it. But I agree with my Ministers in thinking that, for the purposes and within the objects above specified, we ought not to delay, but should accept the first opportunity, should any occur, to improve those friendly relations with the Natives which were initiated on my recent visit to the harbour of Kawhia.

In conclusion, I beg to apologise to your Lordship for this long, and, I fear, wearisome Despatch. It will probably be the only occasion for my so trespassing upon your Lordship's time. In that hope,

I have, &c.,

The Right Hon. the Earl of Kimberley.

G. A. ARNEY.

DESPATCHES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

No. 1.

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

(No. 73.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 3rd December, 1872.

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 79, of 20th September, reporting the resignation of Mr. Fox and his colleagues, and the formation of a new Ministry under Mr. Stafford.

I have, &c.,

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.

KIMBERLEY.

No. 2.

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

(No. 75.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 6th December, 1872.

I have received and laid before the Queen your Despatch No. 77, of 7th September, forwarding a translation of a report of a Native meeting held to celebrate the return of the Native population of the East Coast to Christianity, and to their allegiance to the British Crown.

I have read this Despatch with interest and satisfaction.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

No. 3.

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

(No. 2.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 8th January, 1873.

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 87, of 26th October, explaining the circumstances in which Mr. Stafford asked for a dissolution on the defeat of his Ministry, and the considerations which led you to decline to accede to that request.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

No. 4.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to the
OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND.

(No. 15.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 28th February, 1873.

I have received and read with much interest and satisfaction Sir George Bowen's Despatch No. 106, of the 6th December, reporting his official visit to the Rangitikei and Manawatu Districts, and describing the circumstances which attended his conference at Foxton with the assembled chiefs and clans of the southern portion of the Island.

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

No. 5.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to the
OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND.

(No. 38.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 31st May, 1873.

I have received Sir George Bowen's Despatches of the numbers and dates in the margin.

I have read with interest Sir George Bowen's account of his parting interview with the Northern Maoris at Ngaruawahia, as affording a further proof of the friendly relations which exist between the English settlers and Natives in the Waikato, and of the satisfactory condition of Native affairs.

I have to add that Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible of the success and ability with which Sir George Bowen administered the Government of New Zealand.

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,
KIMBERLEY.

No. 22,
March 15, 1873.
No. 24,
March 17, 1873.
No. 25,
March 19, 1873.

No. 6.

COPY of a DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to the
OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND.

(No. 41.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 6th June, 1873.

I have received Sir George Bowen's Despatch No. 20, of the 6th of
March, relating to the resignation of Mr. Waterhouse.

I have, &c.,

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

KIMBERLEY.

No. 7.

COPY of DESPATCH from the Right Hon. the Earl of KIMBERLEY to the
OFFICER ADMINISTERING the GOVERNMENT of NEW ZEALAND.

(No. 43.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 13th June, 1873.

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 32, of the 10th of April,
announcing the formation of a new Ministry in New Zealand by Mr. Vogel, as
Premier.

I have, &c.,

The Officer Administering the Government
of New Zealand.

KIMBERLEY.