

débarqués dans un état de dénûment complet au milieu d'un pays presque sans population. La nouvelle du sinistre ayant été expédiée à la capitale de la province, Dunedin, les autorités de la ville firent appel au capitaine Jacquemart, commandant de la "Vire," qui stationnoit dans ce moment là à Port Chalmers. Cet officier, avec la promptitude la plus louable leur offrit son aide, et se rendit avec son vaisseau à l'entrée de Catlin's Bay. Les naufragés furent, avec l'assistance d'un petit bateau à vapeur de la localité et des canots de la "Vire," embarqués sur ce dernier vaisseau, et transportés à Port Chalmers, d'où ils se rendirent en sûreté par le chemin de fer à Dunedin.

3. Le Gouvernement de la Nouvelle Zélande désire vivement exprimer combien il apprécie le secours aussi important qu'opportun apporté par le capitaine Jacquemart, les officiers et l'équipage de la "Vire" dans cette déplorable circonstance; et je suis chargé d'offrir à cet officier, avec l'assentiment que M. le Ministre de votre Excellence, a bien voulu accorder sur ma demande, un service en argent de la part du Gouvernement de la province d'Otago.

4. Le capitaine Jacquemart, répondant à l'adresse qu'on lui a présentée à Dunedin a dit, dans un langage digne de la marine française depuis longtemps habituée à se signaler par des actes d'héroïsme et d'humanité, qu'il n'avait fait que remplir le devoir qui incombe à tout officier français en se hâtant d'aller au secours de ceux qui avaient si grand besoin de son aide, et que c'était au gouvernement français et à la nation française qu'étaient dus les remerciements qu'on lui avait adressés. C'est pour me conformer à l'esprit de ces nobles paroles, Monsieur le Maréchal, que j'ai l'honneur de présenter à votre Excellence, comme chef du gouvernement de la France, et de ses armées de terre et de mer, les remerciements du Gouvernement et du peuple de la colonie de la Nouvelle Zélande.

Daignez agréer, Monsieur le Maréchal, l'expression du profond respect avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'être

De votre Excellence,

le très-humble serviteur,

I. E. FEATHERSTON,

Agent-Général pour la Nouvelle Zélande.

A Son Excellence Monsieur le Maréchal de McMahon,
Président de la République Française.

[TRANSLATION.]

7, Westminster Chambers, Westminster, S.W.,

25th September, 1874.

SIR,—

I have the honor to inform you that I have received a despatch from the Hon. Julius Vogel, Prime Minister of New Zealand, directing me to convey to your Excellency the thanks of the Government of that colony for the services rendered to its people by the French war steamer "Vire," Captain Jacquemart commanding, on the occasion of the wreck of the emigrant ship "Surat" off the coast of Otago, on the morning of the 1st of January.

2. The "Surat" sailed in October last from the port of London, with 270 emigrants on board, and had made a prosperous voyage until close to the coast of New Zealand, when, on the 31st of December, she struck a rock near the mouth of Catlin's River. Next morning the ship began to sink, and was run ashore in Catlin's Bay, where the emigrants were landed in a destitute condition in a sparsely settled country. Intelligence of the disaster having been communicated to the provincial capital, Dunedin, the local authorities appealed for aid to Captain Jacquemart, of the "Vire," then stationed at Port Chalmers, and that officer with the utmost promptitude offered his services and proceeded with his ship to the bar of Catlin's Bay, where the shipwrecked people were, with the aid of a small local steamer and the life-boats of the "Vire," taken on board that vessel and safely landed at Port Chalmers, whence they were carried by train to Dunedin.

3. The Government of New Zealand desire to record their sense of the most valuable and timely service rendered by Captain Jacquemart and the officers and men of the ship "Vire" on this distressing occasion, and I am charged to present to that officer, with the assent of the Minister of War and of your Excellency's Government, for which I have already successfully applied, a service of plate on behalf of the Government of the Province of Otago.

4. I observe that in his reply to an address presented to him at Dunedin, Captain Jacquemart stated, in language worthy of a service long and often distinguished by deeds of heroism and of humanity, that he had only discharged a duty incumbent on all French officers when he hastened to succour those who were in need of help, and that it was to the French Government and nation the thanks of those who addressed him were really due. It is in this spirit, Monsieur le Maréchal, that I have the honor to tender to your Excellency, as head of the Government of France and of its forces by sea as well as land, the thanks of the Government and people of the Colony of New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

I. E. FEATHERSTON,

Agent-General.

To His Excellency M. le Maréchal de McMahon,
Duc de Magenta, President of the French Republic.

No. 55.

The AGENT-GENERAL to the Hon. the MINISTER for IMMIGRATION.

(No. 1680).

7, Westminster Chambers, Victoria Street, Westminster, S.W.,

SIR,—

1st October, 1874.

In continuation of my letter of 7th August, No. 1508, respecting the steps I am taking to carry out your instructions for the publication of the New Zealand Handbook, I have the honor to