

About the same time Mr. Jonathan Brown came to me at Hairini, near Tauranga, where my wife and myself resided, and asked me, in the event of my wife's name being inserted in the lease or the supposed Crown grant, what were my intentions? what would I do with the land? My answer was that I would consent neither to a sale nor lease of the lands. Seeing how things were working, I employed Mr. Warbrick, a licensed Native Interpreter, at Tauranga, to watch the movements, and appear on behalf of my wife's rights in the event of any further meetings being held, and also to give my wife notice of any meetings regarding the aforementioned block of land; and for his services I agreed to pay him £10. But here, I may mention, I was disappointed again, for shortly after Mr. Clarke called a meeting of selected Natives at Maungatapu, for the purpose of getting the names for, as I suppose, a "salted" Crown grant, and formally settle the lease for Captain Morris; and my interpreter, having probably been "tipped," left me as wise as I had been before. Some time after, about fifteen months after Captain Morris had taken possession, I met this gentleman accidentally on his property, and bade him the time of day. He asked me if my name was Douglas. I answered in the affirmative, when he told me that, having heard from Natives and others of my wife's rightful claim in the lands leased by him, he was very sorry she had not got her name inserted along with the rest; it, however, could not be helped now; when I spoke up and said, "If you will assist me it may be managed yet;" but to this he replied it would be totally against his own interests if he did so, and consequently could not comply with my request. In the latter end of 1872, or early in 1873, I left for Hawke's Bay, and, whilst working near Mahia in 1876 heard from several Natives from Tauranga, who were on a visit there, that Captain Morris or his agent were negotiating for the sale of the blocks. I immediately wrote to Judge Fenton, asking whether Ohauiti and Pukepoto had passed the Native Lands Court; to which Judge Fenton replied, "None of those lands you mention in your letter have ever been adjudicated on by this Court." I consequently got my wife to write asking Judge Fenton whether she could get those blocks passed through the Native Lands Court to vindicate her rightful claim, and the answer received was, that it could be done at any time, providing that a proper form of boundaries and application was filled in and forwarded to that office; which was, of course, done; but I learned, immediately afterwards, that Captain Morris or his agent had purchased the blocks of land in question, and £2,000 had been paid. I at once started for Tauranga to inquire into the matter, and on my arrival at Hairini was informed that the money had been paid, but not to the supposed grantees who previously leased the blocks to Captain Morris and signed the lease. I may here mention that only £600 were paid in cash to the Natives; the rest was paid to storekeepers for the Native debts.

On my return to Napier I called at Mr. Sheehan's office for advice in the matter; but, he being absent in Wellington, I left what correspondence I had from Mr. Fenton and others with his clerk at his office. Since then I have been strongly advised to write a full statement to your Honor, which I hope will be approved of, and further hope that your Honor will see the rights of my wife and five children, who, if they had been justly treated, would have a home, but who, as the case stands, have to roam like gipsies—neither home, house, nor habitation. Taking the liberty, and again requesting your Honor to see, or, rather, inquire, into their rights,—I have, &c.,

EDWARD DOUGLAS.

The Hon. Sir G. Grey.

Mr. H. T. CLARKE to the Hon. the NATIVE MINISTER.

I CAN only say that, as far as I am concerned, I support the application made by the writer, and sincerely hope that an inquiry will be made into this matter. If the statements generally are as far from the truth as those relating to myself, Mr. Douglas will have no case.

H. T. CLARKE.

20th December, 1877.

KI A KAPENE MORIHI,—

Maungatapu, Nowema 28, 1877.

He reta tena ka tukua,—atu i runga i nga takiwa whenua o te nei motu o Nui Tireni ki a korua ko Henare Karaka e hoa ma tena korua he pukupuka-inoi atu tena naku ki te Kawana, kia tere mai te whakarite mai aku pihi whenua mehemea ko te pai te Kawana me utu ki te moni mo aua whenua e pai ana ahau kia utua mai ke te moni ko te mea kua kite ahau i nga korero o te nei pire kua tae mai nei ki au i nga roa.

Hepetema 11, 1877.

Kua kite au na kona ahau ka tuku atu i taku Pitihana ki a korua.

Na TOKORUA MATUA,

(Wahine) Na TEKAHUI,

Ko Kotahure.

KI A TE KAWANA e pa tena koe,—

Hairini, Tauranga, Akuhata 20, 1877.

Kia rongo mai koe ki toku whakaaro mo toku whenua ara mo te whenua o toku matua o te Kohiwi. Ko te Heitaru te tamaiti tuatahi, te tuarua ko te Waewae, te tuatoru ko te Ramahiri, te tuawha ko Ane. Ko matau kihai i tango i te moni o te whenua o Pukepoto, o te Hakaroa, o Pukehouhou, o Whananui. Ko Pita anake o matou i tango i te moni o enei whenua. Ko toku hiahia kia whakaputaria mai e Kapene Morihi te whitu rau, ki te kore e puta mai ki a matou tenei moni me whakaputa mai te hawhe o te whenua te waru rau eka, kua tae ahau ki a Kapene Morihi i te tekau ma ono o nga ra o Hune kua ki atu ahau ki a ia kia homai te moni, ki te kore te moni ko tetahi wahi o te whenua, ka whakabokia mai e ia ki ahau, kei te Kawanatanga te ritenga. Ka haere ahau ki a Mita Hapi ka korero atu ahau ki a ia, ka ki mai ia ki ahau kaore i te Kawanatanga te ritenga kei a ia ano te ritenga o tona whenua i hokoa ai e ia.

He kupu atu tenei naku ki a koe mau e tiro tiro te mahi a Kapene Morihi, e tinihanga ana ranei ki a matou e aha ana ranei. Ko toku hiahia ko au kai whakahaere tikanga hai korero ki a ia ki taua pakeha. Heoi nga kupu ki a koe. Ka tu he kupu.