

Superintendents Office, New Plymouth.

18th May, 1855.

SIR,—

Referring to that portion of my letter of the 8th instant, noted in the margin, in which I stated that the Ngatiruanui natives were coming on a peaceful visit to the European settlement, and had abandoned their march by the inland road in Waitera, I have the honor to state for the information of your Excellency, that with a view to obviate the threatened opposition of Rawiri's party, accompanied by the Inspector of Police, I visited Arama Karaka and Rawiri's party at the Pah they have recently erected at the Ninia, about halfway between the pah formerly occupied by them, which will be abandoned, and the Kaipakopako, thus taking a position clear of European limits, clear of Manawahue which was objected to as a site by Wiremu Kingi, and still sufficiently in advance to satisfy Arama Karaka's native feeling of honor, that he was bound to make good by possession, his claim to the land for which Rawiri fell.

This object having been accomplished without interference by Katatore, all the natives were in high good humour, and unanimously agreed with me that the Ngatiruanui coming by the beach road to trade, should not be interfered with, the more especially as Arama Karaka having nothing further to detain him would shortly have to pass through the very tribe on his return to Wellington, an intention was likewise stated of shortly sending a messenger by the war path to the Eastward of Mount Egmont to seek peace, and Pahana was despatched at once, at his own request, to inform Manatu and his brothers that their warnings to the Ngatiruanui to retrace their steps, would not be supported.

The Ngatiruanui arrived at the Patoko, Thomas Williams's pah on the 10th instant, and after half-a-day's debate with them, Tamati Wirimu and myself succeeded in inducing the majority to leave their arms at the Totoko and proceed into town on the following morning with their pigs, cattle, &c., at the same time they stated that the presence of troops would afford them every requisite sense of security. By agreement, Tamati Wiremu and myself accompanied them, and also many Taranaki natives of influence, unarmed, to carry out our guarantee of their safety, the result was highly satisfactory, and prepares the way for the prevention of armed bodies of natives traversing the settlement.

I regret to state that the above cheering prospect of a peaceful and early solution of difficulties, is likely to be speedily changed, the course adopted by Katatore (Wetere) it was given out and generally believed that Katatore had not attacked Arama Karaka in deference to your Excellency's wishes that he should not adopt any offensive measures; it seems however that he has applied to the Ngatiruanui by the inland road to come to his assistance, his messenger was seen at Kete Marai, 70 miles south, by a native and a European policeman, who came in the day before yesterday, and was informed the call would be responded to. This will give rise to all the threatened complications of counter interference by Taupo, Whanganui and Ngatiruanui tribes.

The main point that Tamati Wiremu and myself will direct our efforts to, will be to prevent the armed Ngatiruanui trading party from joining the war party by traversing the settlement; I feel on this question that native respect for the European territory in these feuds, greatly depends on no armed tribes traversing it.

It is a cause for great regret that Katatore should show such a determination to have what may be termed the "first and last words" in a matter which calls for his forbearance, and in which the other natives seem to be gradually influenced by your Excellency's views, and the impression that troops will shortly be placed here.

I enclose, for your Excellency's information, copies of a letter from Arama Karaka and his friends, to Tamati Fokawa, chief of one of the sections of Ngatiruanui, and leading chief over the whole.

The object was to smooth down asperities and ill feeling; it is I believe correct in its statements, very temperate and well written, They order it to be