

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 30th July, 1855.

SIR,

I am directed by his Excellency the Officer administering the Government to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, reporting on the critical state of the Native Disturbances at New Plymouth, and to return you his Excellency's best thanks for your zealous efforts to restore peace and terminate the dangerous condition of affairs of that settlement.

I have, &c.

(Signed)

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

Rev. H. Turton,
New Plymouth,

New Plymouth,
April 7th, 1855.

SIR,—

I am directed to acquaint you that it is with extreme regret the Officer administering the Government finds, that his unwearied exertions during his sojourn in Taranaki have failed to secure that happy result (so earnestly aimed at from a visit to this settlement) in the minds of the surrounding natives connected with the feud that has so long been existing among them. At one time he was in hopes, by the support of the bulk of the Chiefs to have arrived at a conclusion that would have been satisfactory to all, but the absence of a feeling of subordination and deference to the British supremacy on the part of a few has convinced his Excellency that any prolonged exertions on his part, would only lessen the influence the European authorities ought to possess, and while he much laments this conclusion, he has the satisfaction of having ascertained that the reports made by yourself and the Resident Magistrate have been fully borne out, and that the present state of the settlement of Taranaki is one calling for the serious and earnest consideration of the fostering care of the Imperial Government. During his Excellency's stay, no time has been lost to meet any emergency, and while contemplating a negotiation with the contending natives, steps have also been taken to prepare for military occupation. His Excellency will consider it his duty to represent to the coming Governor, and also to the General Commanding-in-Chief, the urgent necessity which appears to him to exist for a force being stationed at Taranaki, such as may not only protect the European inhabitants, but support the British authority.

With this feeling his Excellency feels the propriety of stationing in the Province of New Plymouth a considerable detachment of troops (considerable in reference to the force detained in the colony), which coupled with local exertions may, in his estimation, be sufficient to secure the object in view.

If, therefore, a detachment of 300 men, supported by guns, can be supplied for this post, it will be the duty, as he believes it will be the disposition of the inhabitants under the peculiar position of the mother-country, to lend their cordial aid by the formation of a local corps, for the arming of which he will use his utmost endeavours to secure the necessary supply of arms and ammunition, provided such a force be placed under the authority and command of an officer enjoying the confidence of the General Government. I am to add, that his Excellency will be pleased to receive from you a nominal return of such settlers as may wish to enrol themselves for the sake of self-preservation, and for the purpose of acting in conjunction with H. M. Forces, when placed in position, and for which purpose no unnecessary time will be lost, although this moment may be considered most unfortunate—a moment when the military of New Zealand are undergoing a change in disposition, though not in actual numbers.

A copy of this communication, as also a copy of his Excellency's enquiries during his stay at Taranaki, will be furnished to the Secretary of State, and laid before the new Governor on his arrival, and I am directed to add that any suggestions the constituted authorities of New Plymouth may be disposed to introduce to his notice, shall meet with his best consideration.