

## MEMORANDUM.

William King, of the Waitera, a chief of considerable influence never hitherto exercised in favor of Government,—his character is considered mercenary.

Hone Rophia, of the Waiwakaiho, a principal assessor, a man of some note, but I do not think of very great influence; his disposition is friendly, but he appears to shrink from taking any active part in contested matters where Government is concerned.

Takaria of the Hua, an Assessor, whom I consider a chief of growing importance, well disposed to Government. Raniera of the Hua a chief of whom I had no knowledge, before his relative Rawiri, was killed, the general opinion appears to be that, in recommending him to be made a first class Assessor in succession to Rawiri, Mr. McLean overrated his position but whatever it be that circumstances gives a claim to any influence he possesses.

Epaiah of the Waitera, the injured husband, this man and his brother Tamati, are persons of some consideration, but have lately felt dissatisfied about a sale of land to a person named Sinombe which Government refused to sanction, and which led to an information against Sinombe, before the Resident Magistrate for a breach of the Native Land Purchase Ordinance. Poharemu of the Moturoa, an assessor, a man of much influence, of very firm and independent character, whom, with judicious management, I think, might be made serviceable to the interests of Government.

Tamati Williams, of Tapiu, an Assessor, a very clever man, of considerable influence, very mercenary, hitherto not thought disposed to take an active part in favor of Government, an opinion in which I concurred, and the line of conduct he has pursued during the late disturbance appears to have borne out my views.

Sam Puketapu of the Waiwakaiho a man of some influence, very shrewd, and I think quite alive to the fact that his own interests would be best served by a friendly disposition with first so much show of difficulty as to preserve for him an independent position.

Auckland, January 27th, 1855.

Sir,—

I have the honor to report for the information of his Excellency the officer administering the Government, that in accordance with the instructions communicated on the 27th ult. I proceeded to Taranaki on that day per steamer Nelson.

2.—On my arrival at Taranaki on the afternoon of the 28th ult., I found everything quiet, but there was evidently an unsettled feeling amongst the native population from the fact of their going about their occupations with arms in their hands and from these commencing to put their Pahs in fighting order.

3.—From enquiry, I found that the first affray, in which Rawiri the native assessor, one of the most respected natives of the Ruketapu tribe, and six others had been killed by Katatore, and partly arose from Rawiri attempting to cut the boundary of a piece of land which he had offered for sale to Mr. G. Cooper, the Land Commissioner of the Taranaki district. It appears that Katatore had long ago stated his intention of retaining this land and had threatened to oppose any one who should offer to sell it; Rawiri, however, on account of some quarrel with Katatore, proposed selling the land and was desired by Mr. Cooper to cut the boundary.

Rawiri proceeded accordingly with twenty-two others, on the morning of the 3rd of August last and had succeeded in cutting some part of the boundary line, when Katatore and party rushed down from his Pah, and after warning Rawiri twice without effect to desist, fired and killed him and six others, four were severely and four slightly wounded.

4.—With regard to the second affray, it originated in the following cause. I