

well organised throughout the country to oppose the Queen's government the Governor should have left it alone and gone out of his way to attack a chief who was opposed to it. Nothing now but a very strong force will do to put down this conspiracy and rebellion. It will require many years to do it.

The principle to which you allude, of asking an individual *tutua* to sell any land he may fancy he has a title to, is wholly at variance with Maori custom. If the Governor could carry the point (which he could not except by force) anywhere it was attempted, it would be futile for any practical purpose, as no *tutua*⁶ can establish a title anywhere to 50 acres of land. But as said before, it is wholly repugnant to Maori notions on the subject and cannot be acted on.

With regard to Matene's⁷ opinion about Teira's title he says he had no opportunity of seeing any one but Teira's party. He was afraid of expressing his opinion at Taranaki. A letter of Wi Tako's was published by McLean; but Wi Tako said here last week that there was no doubt whatever that Wi K. was right in denying Teira's right and in resisting the Governor. He told Rewai⁸ so; who is my informant.

My own opinion is that a greater act of injustice was never committed in N.Z. or elsewhere than the possible expulsion of W. K. and his tribe from land they refused to sell. It was unjust; it was illegal. And I will never cease to argue in support of these two assertions till the truth is admitted. I have quite convinced two or three members of the Gen. Ass. that I am right in this. I distinctly deny McLean's statement as to the majority of the claimants to the land in dispute having been satisfied. But the alteration of men's property cannot be decided by majorities. McLean last year started this new principle at Manawatu, because Ihakora and others wished to sell their land. He opposed the chiefs and said you can't interfere, he may do what he likes with his own. They shrewdly replied—'Very good; that cuts both ways; if he has a right to sell we have a right to withhold.' The result is that the block purchased is full of Maori lands with ill-defined zig-zag boundaries—some containing many hundreds of acres. The greatest possible confusion will be the result. And a very high price has been given for a very small block of land; and the natives are all intensely disgusted. With regard to Ropoama,⁹ he is a personal enemy of W. K. He unjustly interfered with Euoha's¹⁰ rights in Queen Charlottes Sound. You could have this confirmed to you if you like by any Waitara natives. Wi K's having appointed him as his successor is a fiction—at least I am told nobody knows anything about it. Ropoama sent McLean a list of names favourable to Teira's sale including those of Whitikau's¹¹ party who had never authorised him to do so, and who side with