

W. K. The shameless falsehood of these assertions of McLean amazes me. He did not venture to speak in that positive way to me in Wellington when I told him that I knew of fifty claimants who opposed the sale.

What a foolish proceeding it appears to have an assembly of the chiefs¹² at the present time! It really seems lamentable that twenty years after the establishment of the Government in the country there does not appear to be the least advance in government of the natives. McLean's nominees are called together to advise with him. What weight will their proceedings carry with the various tribes? Absolutely none. And then again the move is ridiculed as an act of weakness. I seem at times as if I am in a dream. I am sorry you have been obliged to send your children away. I feel sadly grieved to think your settlement is so thoroughly disordered. We must pray and trust that peace will soon be restored. . . .

Yours very faithfully,
Octavius Hadfield

Ven. Archdeacon Govett

II

Bishop Patteson's papers were purchased by the Library in 1970 as part of a collection in the estate of Mr K. Webster, London. The correspondence consisting of twenty-nine letters covers the period 1854 to 1871 and concerns primarily the affairs of the Melanesian Mission. These letters, addressed almost entirely to his father, Sir John Patteson, some of them in journal form, have significance in the discussion of British Colonial policy as it affected missionary activity in Melanesia which was territorially outside the British sphere of influence in the Pacific. Comment is made on Church activity and events which occurred in New Zealand during the five months spent each year at the Melanesian mission school at Kohimarama. Eight letters discuss the Waitara affair and reveal Patteson's key role in the outcome of the purchase. Throughout he frankly recognises the import of what he writes.

Bishops Selwyn and Patteson came from families linked by friendship and common interests in the legal world, tied to Eton and strong followers of High Church principles. Rev. W. Tucker, biographer of Bishop Selwyn, observes that he sought counsel and assistance from Mr Justice Patteson, 'One who better than almost any other man, was qualified to give it',¹³ in the formulation of the colonial Church constitution. Sir John Patteson became a member of the Privy Council in 1852 after a distinguished