

Wellington, and Chas. Abraham could have some day been Bp. here, I might then have taken Melanesia, but I think this plan the better one of the two on the whole, even were the other possible. I have been for a long time arranging this. I might have delayed a year, but for the political changes at home, the Duke of Newcastle being at the Colonial Office—it will take some time to arrange the *basis* on which the Bpric. shall be constituted. . . . Your father has helped me to determine the question of New Zealand or Melanesia and I can see clearly I can [not?] keep both. I agree with him that with our Church Constitution requiring management with my knowledge of the natives, and at my increasing age, I ought to retain N.Z. The matter is settled, and the letter to the Duke of Newcastle is already in the Governor's hands. . . . It is not as if I am passing over the mission into a stranger's hands—we shall of course always work together, and I shall give all the assistance that I can—go as a *passenger* it may be (whereat I laughed) or do anything you may wish—' . . . and now you know the whole story.

To turn to Patteson's comment on and involvement in the Waitara affair his letters of March and April 1860 and January, February and May 1861 clearly reveal his role. He records his reaction at the outbreak of hostilities and traces the causes and events leading up to the confrontation taking the view that:

The evil is, that the matter was allowed to begin without due consideration, and without any consultation of the Bp. Mr. Martin or Archd. Hadfield, or in short, anyone but the interested parties, the selfish set at Taranaki, and the anti-native part of the community. . . . It is not only that the Colonisation of N.Z. will be delayed: but that a bitter feeling between the two races will be excited and increased. In this case there is some show of justice on the side of the English, but the long course of *insult offered by the white settler to the Maori is forgotten*. . . .¹⁶

As the crisis develops Patteson takes his father into his discussions with Bishop Selwyn, William Martin, Chief Justice, and William Swainson—the Auckland Triumvirate. He writes freely and openly of the dilemma of these Churchmen, their assessment of the situation and their responsibility in the attempt to prevent extended warfare by finally seeking the Governor's recall. On April 10 1860 three weeks after the confrontation at Waitara he wrote:

This Taranaki affair has become so serious, and is likely to involve such very grave consequences, that I think you ought to hear about it, so that you may be in a position to give real information, if required. I really fear, that if not itself the crisis of the attempt to