

I was astonished last evening at the tone of the Governor and Mrs Gore Browne when for five minutes only some question was touched upon bearing upon the state of the country. You may judge of the 'animus' of the Governor and the Ministry by the 'Native Offenders Bill'; by the Governor's 'Proclamation' to stop the free expression of the opinion of the colonists; by the report, well founded as I have reason to think, that a majority of one only saved us just the other day from the Proclamation of Martial Law in Auckland. But last evening he was sneering at the free and enlightened community and distinctly implied that the only way to govern this country, and both races in it, is to have an absolute Despotism. I sat between him and Mrs G. Browne and turning to him stopped the conversation. . . .

In another context Patteson records that 'the Governor himself described the state of the English population by saying that they alternate between abject fear and beastly bullying' stressing that the general disaffection of the Maori was created by the present misgovernment.

No amount of Martial Law, no quantity of soldiers and Armstrong guns will stop that; they are *not disaffected towards the Crown, but towards the present Governor and Government*. Is this distinctly understood at home? The real hope is that the Home Government will do them justice; they themselves draw this distinction, and cling to the hope of it proving a well-founded one.

This letter of 5 February is the key letter in which Bishop Patteson gives a picture of the state of the country and sets down his views as to the remedy:

I constantly reiterate the same statement, that the only hope for N. Zealand consists in the immediate removal of the present Governor: and in the appointment of some Governor or Commissioner empowered to investigate fully the causes of the present quarrel. If Sir George Grey came out, that would, humanly speaking, be best of all. Next best, some strong man of rank and position to hold his own against the the mischievous spirit of the colonists. . . . I pray God that the Duke may be guided to see this matter aright—by which I do not mean necessarily seeing it as I see it, but that he may be enabled to realise our actual position here and the line of action that must be adopted with reference to it. I dare to affirm that humanly speaking, it is as inexpedient and useless as it is unjust to attempt to settle this question by force. Send a new man—offer terms of peace—investigate the whole question openly and honestly—do not be so cowardly as to be ashamed to confess that we are in the wrong. This will restore confidence—Then introduce measures for the well government of the two races.