

demnation of the Governor's policy; and all, as I fear, in intemperate, unwise language.<sup>21</sup>

The Bishop is critical too of Archdeacon Govett as saying 'imprudent and in the present crisis, wrong things at Taranaki'.<sup>22</sup>

Patteson considered that Colonel Gore Browne was misinformed and unaware of 'the real difficulty surrounding the question and of the strength of character and means of resistance possessed by the Maori.' He asserts that Bishop Selwyn, William Martin and William Swainson living within a mile of him had not the slightest notion of the Governor's intention to enforce the Waitara purchase. He records their dilemma feeling it would be an act of impertinence to approach him:

The Governor now says 'Why did not men warn me of the consequences of what I said a year ago at Taranaki?' Mr Swainson said to him 'How is it that you never consulted us?' to which he replied that he really did not know what he had been about. I think the truth is that the Governor did not see that he had raised a question which was agitating widely and deeply the Maori people and so did not see that he *needed advice*: they on the other hand did not think it conceivable that he could have acted otherwise than deliberately, when he took such a very decided step, in opposition to the accepted principles on which land was to be bought. . . .<sup>23</sup>

Bishop Patteson's neutral position as Melanesian missionary 'knowing all the circumstances' made him the obvious means of communication with the Governor. A good churchman, Colonel Gore Browne felt himself deserted by the clergy whose championing of Maori rights he, as an Indian Army Officer, was unable to understand, seeing their stand as disloyalty to the Queen. But it was the Governor who first approached Patteson who gives a full account of a conversation which took place on Easter Sunday, 8 April 1860:

I had not seen the Governor for a year . . . But he and McLane [sic], the head native secretary, were on the wooden terrace outside the [Government] house, and he saw me, and came forward in his hearty way . . . [Reference is made to Bishop Selwyn's sermons ('when he spoke out about English covetousness etc.') and the Governor observed 'You only set our backs up.'] . . . Then did the Governor open fire instantly[?], taking me by the arm and leading me into the room, where we sat down on the same sofa. . . Gov. I am very sorry not to meet with the cooperation I thought I could count upon from the Church J.C.P. The Bp. only yesterday said to a third person in my hearing, that he thought it was the duty of every loyal subject to give his best advice and support to the Government. Gov. But why was not information given to me long