

ago. J.C.P. I dont defend Archd. Hadfield's conduct; but surely a man may reserve to himself the right of differing in opinion from any policy adopted by the Government. Gov. Certainly, so long as the difference of opinion does not lead him into a course of action contrary to the welfare of the country. J.C.P. I can hardly think that any man can fail to see that his simple duty to the Queen now is to support your Excellency to the utmost of his power; but I can understand how it is, that several of the persons you usually consult should have hesitated to obtrude their opinion upon you. The suppression of information I dont defend. Gov. The Bishop is a man of war. J.C.P. He has a strong feeling naturally on all native questions, but I can assure your Excellency that he is anxious and ready to cooperate with the Government though I dont think that he is privately convinced that the claims to this land at Taranaki have been properly investigated. Gov. It is painful to me not to be acting with my usual advisers on native questions. I have a letter from the Bp. of Wellington which I can only characterise as a 'painful letter'. I wrote to him in the most friendly way possible, but he differs from me, and has written a very painful letter, which in vindication of myself I must send home in the Despatches. It seems as if they all took a strange course. As for Archd. Hadfield, his conduct is that of a *traitor*. But I have put myself into Mr Martin's hands. I can act with him (implying that he could not act with the Bishop). . . .

This conversation graphically illustrates the extent of the Governor's alienation from the Auckland Triumvirate particularly Bishop Selwyn but apparently it at least helped temporarily to re-establish contact as Patteson reported on 20 April that Colonel Gore Browne had 'assented to a proposition' that Bishop Selwyn, Mr Martin and Mr Swainson should draw up papers relevant to discussions at a great meeting of chiefs to take place at Kohimarama.²⁴ He did not expect the Governor to follow their recommendations but considered that 'He is quite at his wits end, and his ministers dont know what they are about. In fact the country is not governed at all at this minute.' But Bishop Patteson and his friends saw no reason for the Governor's recall at this stage:

I think that, after this lesson, he would do well. His fault, I take it, has been that he has taken no pains to know much about the natives, their usages, customs and rights; and that he does not know them personally, and conciliate the chiefs by proper attentions, and learn to talk to them even a little. There has been great pressure upon him, from Taranaki especially, somewhat also, I suspect, from his ministers. But the truth may be not impossibly that he thought English rule must sweep away some of what he thought to be Maori