

prejudices. This, I hope is not in his mind, because it would be manifestly unjust.²⁵

However by the end of this long journal letter written between 10 and 27 April, 1860, Patteson stated that he feared that the Governor did 'not wish to recede from the course' he had taken. This hardened line is reflected in the arrangement made by the Triumvirate to ensure that their position was understood by the Imperial authorities. Bishop Patteson acted as their mouthpiece:

The Taranaki affair very serious. The Governor has now a considerable force at his command from Sydney and elsewhere, and he is determined (as I fear) to follow up the war vigorously. Bp, Mr Martin, and Mr Swainson all think him wrong. . . . The papers I will send if I can: they are violent and scurrilous in the highest degree. There is great difficulty about writing. The Bp thinks that with his friends in power at home, his letter would carry weight and damage the Governor terribly. Mr Martin and Mr Swainson will not write. Yet somebody from whom information may be obtained at the Colonial Office, ought to be in possession of the facts. Hence I write with their knowledge to you: I don't mean that they have seen this nor do I write officially as it were, but rather leave you to make out for yourself from what I have written in so diffuse a way the real state of the question. The fear is that the Maori race will be oppressed: the tone of the colonist's mind is very unjust and very strong; they would repudiate the treaty of Waitangi tomorrow. N.B. The correct translation of the *Maori* copy of the treaty gives the chiefs the power of chieftainship *over their lands*. This clause *does* occur in it.²⁶

John Coleridge Patteson returned to his flock in Melanesia and his letters are not concerned with New Zealand affairs until he returns to Kohimarama on 28 November 1860. In spite of preoccupation with his Consecration he discusses fully the precarious state of the colony. The situation had deteriorated so much that he considered the recall of the Governor as the only possible means of achieving a peaceful settlement. He observed that the Maoris were uniting over the land question and they could attack anywhere in the North Island. 'The Maori thoroughly distrusts the Governor—nothing for it but a *new man* as well as a *new policy*.'²⁷ In his letter of 5 February 1861 he writes:

Now that you are in communication with the Duke of Newcastle we have great hopes that you may be instrumental by God's blessing in bringing about a very different state of things here.

He gives a full account of dinner conversation at Government House on 4 February: