

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

Copy of Heteraka's letter above referred to.

Raglan, September 18th, 1861.

FRIEND MR. FENTON,—

Salutations to you. Friend, what I have to say to you is in reference to the trial by me of Tamihana of Kakepuku. That man's offence was pig stealing. The Tainui demanded payment for their pigs for two years, but none was given; he has refused up to the present year. On the 7th September, 1861, Te Wetini, of Tainui, laid the case before me. I issued a summons, and tried the case, and the guilt of that man was proved before the Pakehas and Maoris, who were in our Court House. £2 15s. was demanded, upon which that man danced about in the Court to keep his money. He was left alone, and after a while the money was again demanded, with a like result. There was money of his in the possession of the Doctor, the Magistrate here; it was payment for his work done for the Pakehas. After a time the matter was investigated, and the Doctor caused to be paid into his hand the sum of £4 14s. 4d. It (the sum awarded for the pigs) was again demanded, when the conduct of that man was very bad. I went to the Doctor and asked him for that man's money, but he said that he could not give it to me, that it would not be legal to do so, he could only pay it into that man's hand, and that I must get it from him. I thought there might be a disturbance, and so I said to the Doctor, "Give me £2 15s. of your money to pay that man's, and you recover your money from him." The Doctor said, "There is no law for such an arrangement." I said "No, but give it to me." He said, "No, it would not be right; that I must wait and when I saw him ask him for it, even if it was two years hence." I said "This man has been here for six years, and has never had anything, it is only now that he is possessed of any property, and that is why I continue my demand." The Doctor said, "let him get it into his own hand, and then take it." I said "give me yours (you pay me) and recover it from him." He told me to go to his house, and then I could see the giving of the money into Tamehana's hand. I went, and after waiting two days Tamehana came, and the Doctor gave into his hand £4 14s. 4d. I then demanded mine from Tamehana, but he would not give it; his hands trembled, and his countenance was dark with anger. The Doctor told me not to take away that man's money. I then asked him to give me some of his, but he would not. He told me not to take it by force. I insisted, and he then told me to do it at a distance. I agreed to this, and took away from that man £4. The Doctor was very angry, and said I had made a disturbance at his place.

Friend Mr. Fenton, I have used all my Civil Summons forms, and also the Warrants to seize the goods of those who refuse to pay their debts to the Pakehas. Give them to Hakopa; do not refuse them. All the Pakeha debts are referred to me.

From your loving friend,

To Mr. Fenton,
Auckland.

HETARAKA NERO.

No. 3.

REPORT BY J. E. GORST, ESQ., R.M., OF A NATIVE MEETING AT KAHUMATUKU.

Otawhao, April 9th, 1862.

SIR,—

A small hapu, called Ngatiwhauroa, numbering some 50 or 60 men, has recently renounced its allegiance to King Matutaera. The occasion of its defection was a trial which took place a few weeks ago before a Runanga at Paetai concerning the right to an eel-fishery, claimed by Ngatiwhauroa on one side and the King on the other.

The Ngatiwhauroa lost the case, renounced their allegiance, handed over their king flag to Taati and his soldiers, and wrote a letter to invite me down to their principal place, Kahumatuku.

I have just returned from visiting them. Unfortunately their letter was a week on its way here, so that when I and Mr. Clarke got down the tribe had dispersed, but some of the chief men who remained said that they were empowered to act for the rest.

A meeting was held at Kahumatuku on Monday last; Hona (who was a probationary Assessor under Mr. Fenton) spoke first; he simply announced that they had given up all connection with the King and were anxious for the Governor's plans to be established among them. Mr. Clarke then addressed them; he said that it was no part of the Governor's plan to bribe any of them to give up their king, and they must distinctly understand that money would be given to people for doing work, and in proportion to the amount of work done; and that the Government would be ready to help in schools and other works for the benefit of all, provided the Natives did as much as they could for themselves: they must also be careful to behave with strict justice to those on the other side, and not consider themselves as the enemies but the friends of the Kingites; and all should labour together to convince the other party of the sincerity of our friendship, that one law might be established over the whole district.

Hona and his friends expressed their assent to these principles. In answer to our questions, they told us that the number of their hapu was 50 or 60, scattered over a wide extent of country, reaching to the north into the Lower Waikato District as far as Paetai, and to the south to Whatawhata on the Waipa, and closely intermixed with the Kingites. I said that they must choose one of their number to be their Magistrate: and a discussion followed upon the mode in which law was administered, in the course of which I gave them positive injunctions that in the event of a wrong being committed by one of the other party, they were not to take the law into their hands but to apply to me. They then