

REPORTS OF OFFICERS:

No. 2.

REPORT FROM W. B. WHITE, ESQ., RESIDENT MAGISTRATE.

Resident Magistrate's Office,
Mongonui, December 12th, 1861.

SIR,—

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 28th inst., informing me of Mr. Clarke's appointment as Civil Commissioner, and of my duties in connexion with the system of Native Government to be carried out for the future.

In the letter which I had the honor to address to you on the receipt of Mr. Clarke's note informing me of his appointment, I proposed a separation of the district. One of the grounds for making this request was, that the Rarawa tribe were a distinct and separate people. Mr. Clarke, who is now with me, fully agrees with me in the opinion that this separation would be advisable, and much to the benefit of the Natives; and further, the same proposition had been made by the Hokianga branch of the Rarawa. He will, therefore, also recommend this separation. I think there is no point of difference between Mr. Clarke and myself in the manner of carrying out His Excellency's wishes, and of thorough unanimity in His Excellency's views; but I trust that I shall not be considered as wanting in proper respect, if I should fail in strict official etiquette in expressing how deeply hurt and disappointed I feel at the position I am placed in. I feel that no greater censure could have been passed on me; for any gentleman who may be appointed to-morrow a Resident Magistrate is placed in the same position as I am at this moment, after seventeen years active service, more than thirteen years of which I have had the sole charge of a district in which I am now called upon to consider myself a subordinate; at a time, too, when I had every reason to believe I had given entire satisfaction to the Government, and when I had begun to feel satisfied that, after years of toil and anxiety, and with very little expense or trouble to the Government, the people of this district were more quiet and orderly and amenable to law than any other of the tribes of New Zealand. I was about to propose that I should be allowed to avail myself of the benefit of the Superannuation Act, thinking perhaps the Government considered I belonged to that class of officers mentioned, I think, by Mr. Stafford, who, though not able to obtain a medical certificate, were not able to satisfactorily perform the duties of Government. But Mr. Clarke (whose kind and cordial conduct I most thankfully acknowledge) has suggested for the consideration of the Government a separation of the district, not differing materially from that which I proposed before. If Mr. Clarke's suggestions should be approved, an officer would be required for the people from Herekino to Hokianga Head and neighbourhood, and I am quite sure, from what I have now heard from Mr. Clarke, that we could work together for the benefit of the people in our respective districts. I trust it will not be forgotten that the European population is increasing rapidly in this district, of course much increasing my duties, as well as the responsibility of my position.

In the mean time I have strictly obeyed the instructions conveyed to me in your letter of the 28th ultimo, which reached me yesterday, by giving Mr. Clarke every information required; but I trust that I may be shortly relieved from the position in which I am placed. I must again claim the patience and indulgence of the Government if I have too warmly expressed myself in this or my former letter: the subject is one upon which I feel warmly, and it may perhaps be considered that I have written hastily.

The Native Minister,
Auckland.

I have, &c.,
W. B. WHITE,
Resident Magistrate.

No. 3.

INSTRUCTIONS TO W. B. WHITE., ESQ.

Native Office,
Auckland, January 31st, 1862.

SIR,—

With reference to the various letters that have been received from yourself and from Mr. George Clarke on the subject of the constitution of the Bay of Islands District, I have to acquaint you that upon full consideration of the circumstances, His Excellency the Governor in Council has been pleased to decide that you should be continued in the independent management of the Mongonui district. An Order in Council has accordingly been issued, revoking the Orders of 7th December, 1861, and reconstituting the district of Mongonui, under the Native Act of 1858, according to the original boundaries of 1859.

It will therefore devolve upon you now, to lose no time in taking the necessary steps for bringing into operation among the Rarawa people the plan of Native Government proposed by Governor Sir George Grey. It appears from your letters that the communications which have already taken place between Mr. Clarke and yourself have put you completely in possession of the details of that plan; and I need not, therefore, in this letter, enter into particulars on the subject, or do more than direct your attention to one or two points, and invite you freely and fully to write for instructions or advice on any point where you may be in doubt. I enclose you, in