

Sunday, July 19th.—At 6 a.m. muster, and told off boats' crews No. 1, cutter "Lizzy" in charge of myself; No. 2, cutter "Tam O'Shanter," charge of Sub-Lieutenant Stephenson—Natives divided on the boats. At 1 p.m. proceeded to Mangere; being too late for tide, returned on board.

Monday, July 20th.—At 7 a.m. manned boats, and landed at Mangere. Self and Mr. Puckey went to the Settlement, and the Natives made no objection to our taking the Canoes. Our Natives launched three Canoes, and the boat's crew towed them to Geddes' Basin, and marked them No. 1. Sent an armed party round Mangere in search of Canoes, but found none. At 2 p.m. weighed and proceeded to Puponga.

Tuesday, at 7 a.m., weighed and proceeded to Papakura Creek; blowing strong from S.W.; could not land at Ihumatao. Arrived at Papakura Creek at 10½ a.m., and searched the creeks; found six Canoes. At 12 p.m. took an armed party with the Natives and launched the Canoes, and dropped down to H.M.S. "Harrier."

Wednesday, 6 a.m., received provisions from H.M.S. "Harrier;" 7 a.m., proceeded up Papakura Creek, when a party informed me there was an attack made on the settlers; immediately landed Sub-Lieutenant Stephenson and twelve men, and returned for more men, leaving one petty officer and six men in charge of the vessels. At 11, proceeded and took a position on high ground near the Chapel. Detached a petty officer and twenty men out skirmishing, who returned at 5 p.m.; sentries were then placed, and at 10 p.m. they were relieved by Volunteer Militia, and my men went on patrol until 2 a.m., and then proceeded to the vessels.

Thursday, 7 a.m., weighed and proceeded to Pukekohe; at 3½ p.m. searched the creeks, and found four canoes; 8 p.m., returned to the vessels, and weighed.

Friday, 6 a.m., boats manned, and proceeded to Ihumatao and Oruronga; found four canoes; weighed and proceeded to Onehunga.

Saturday, 4 a.m., arrived at Onehunga with fourteen canoes, and put them in the Basin; 10 a.m. marched for Auckland, and arrived at noon.

I am happy to report that, with one exception, the conduct of the officers and men was highly satisfactory; also that the Natives were well conducted, obedient to orders, and did everything in their power to carry out the object of the expedition.

I have also to report that there are a quantity of canoes broken up, but some of them are still repairable.

THOMAS E. GUILDING.
Commanding Detachment, A.N.V.

Auckland, 25th July, 1863.

No. 9.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL CAMERON, C.B., TO GOVERNOR SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B.

Head Quarters,
Queen's Redoubt, 3rd August, 1863.

SIR,—

I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that on the night of the 1st instant, I left the Queen's Redoubt with a force of about 700 men, including a party of seamen and marines of H.M.S. "Harrier," for the purposes of reconnoitering the villages of Paparoa and Paparata, where I had reason to believe that a large body of rebels had collected. Captain Sullivan, commanding H.M.S. "Harrier," accompanied the force.

After a fatiguing night march, the last mile of which was through very high and thick scrub, we reached Paparoa about daybreak, and found it entirely deserted, though it had evidently been recently occupied, and I have little doubt that the Natives had received some notice of our movements.

After searching this village, we proceeded along a bush track, which I was afterwards informed led to Hauraki, having missed the track to Paparata. Some Natives, concealed so far within the bush on our right as to be perfectly invisible, opened fire on the leading files, and wounded a soldier of the 12th Regiment. We replied to their fire for some time; but as, from the character of the bush and scrub near it, it was impossible to get within reach of them, and I did not consider it advisable to lose time in searching for a track, I withdrew the force leisurely, without any attempt on the part of the Natives to follow us.

When we had reached the open ground, a large body of Natives came down from the ranges, and joining the party in the bush, commenced a rapid and continuous fire of musketry, in the most absurd manner, as though they had been closely engaged with an enemy; although at that time we must have been fully a mile and a half from them.

The Troops returned to the Queen's Redoubt about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, having been under arms since half-past 7 the previous evening, and having marched nearly thirty miles.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the cheerful manner in which this arduous duty was performed by the troops, and with the conduct of all the officers and men composing the force, parti-