

L E T T E R

FROM THE

LORD BISHOP OF WELLINGTON TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE
OF NEWCASTLE, K.G.

Bishop's House, Wellington,
New Zealand, 13th September, 1862.

MY LORD DUKE,—

I feel it to be a duty to the native people of this country to draw your Grace's attention to *one particular* portion of the Address to Her Majesty the Queen, that is being forwarded from both Houses of the Legislature in this Colony, which seems to me to contain so fundamental an error of principle that some one ought to protest against it.

If time had been given to the public to examine the Address before it was proposed in the Houses of Legislature, I should have forwarded this Protest to those Honorable Houses or to His Excellency the Governor. But as the Address was made public yesterday for the first time, no one outside the House has had an opportunity of canvassing or criticising the Document.

The general features of the Address I have no cause to remark upon; but when I see it stated not only once, and inadvertently as it were, but over and over again in different forms and in different paragraphs, that your Grace has proposed to hand over the Government of the Maoris "to the Colonists," and that the Colonists, though for the present they decline the charge, will be prepared to accept the duty under certain altered circumstances, I venture to express a hope that your Grace will confirm the view I have derived from a very careful perusal of your Grace's Despatch of the 26th May, 1862, that your Grace has never expressed or contemplated any such proposal, as to hand over the Government of the Natives to the Colonists, but to the *Colonial Government*, of which I would humbly maintain the Maoris themselves form a part, and to a practical place in which Mr. Fitzgerald proposed to admit them at once in a series of resolutions submitted to the House of Representatives, 6th August, 1862. I hope, therefore, that your Grace will deign to express a decided opinion that the Colonists are not to govern the Maoris, nor the Maoris the Colonists, but that the Colonial Government should govern both and all alike, as equally British subjects, and as having equal rights of local self-government.

The fundamental error which runs through all our language, if not our Legislation, viz: "that the supremacy of the English is to be enforced" instead of the supremacy "of the British Crown" was distinctly pointed out, as I would venture to remind your Grace, in Sir W. Denison's Despatch to your Grace of August 8th, 1860, enclosing a letter of his to Governor Gore Browne, of May 16th, 1860.

I need hardly say that I do not for one moment suppose his Excellency Sir George Grey recognises such a fundamental error in our relations, or ever countenanced it by word or deed, and I should have deemed it sufficient had time been allowed to Address myself to His Excellency. I am aware that your Grace on a former occasion commented with somewhat of severity on what you considered clerical interference in matters political, but I trust that this feeling will not prevent your Grace fairly weighing the importance of this subject; especially when I remind your Grace that in the Colony there is no established Church, and that I have no status except as a citizen and subject of Her Majesty, in which capacity I am now writing.

Having from circumstances, peculiar opportunities of observing the relations between the two races, I venture to state that nothing will tend more to engender distrust and jealousy between them, than the claim on the part of the colonists to govern the Maoris (and the latter are sure almost immediately to have in their hands the Address to the Queen translated into their own language), and the bare idea of Her Majesty's Imperial Government listening to or countenancing such a claim.

I have, &c.,
C. J. WELLINGTON.

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle,
Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies.