

SIR D. CAMERON.

16. As their retreat was at the time perfectly open, the pa well provisioned, and as the party on the Karaka Heights could not prevent the entrance of supplies and reinforcements into it from the opposite bank of the river, it may be inferred that they had no serious intention of defending the work.

17. Looking at the result, I think there is no reason to regret that the pa was not attacked at an earlier period.

18. Had I done so, I have little doubt that I should have lost many officers and men without gaining any greater advantage than has been obtained by its evacuation.

19. Nothing had occurred when I left the Colony to warrant the Governor's statement that the delay had involved consequences fraught with disaster, and led to fresh outbreaks in other parts of the Colony.

20. The fact is, that, except on the East Coast, the Natives had for many months remained on the defensive, and all the hostilities that had taken place in or near any of our settlements had been provoked by our invasion or occupation of their territory.

21. In regard to the East Coast, I had received no information for several months from the Governor or the Colonial Ministers about the state of that part of the Colony; but as we have no settlements where the disturbances have taken place, and the loyal Natives greatly outnumber the rebels, there would appear to be no necessity for our interference.

22. I heard, however, that the Colonial Government had supplied the loyal Natives on several occasions with arms and ammunition, and had sent a detachment of Volunteers to co-operate with them; and it would appear from Colonel Greer's report of the murder of Mr. Fulloon and two sailors on the East Coast, that the Government had been endeavouring to raise the loyal Natives against the rebels by the promise of sending troops to their assistance.

23. In regard to this murder and the two skirmishes at Taranaki, of which your Lordship will receive reports by the present mail, and in which you will perhaps consider that some valuable lives have been lost without any useful object, I would observe that large tracts of country having become confiscated and occupied by us, and whole tribes of Natives expelled from their lands, it is not surprising that some acts of atrocity should be committed by them for the sake of revenge when the Government give them the opportunity by sending their agents on such missions as that of Mr. Fulloon's; and that the Governor having encouraged the officer in command at Taranaki to act independently of the Officer Commanding the Troops, and to undertake any operations he may think proper without reference to him, the Governor must be considered responsible for any misfortunes that may occur in that Province.

24. With regard to Sir George Grey's complaint that General Waddy, Lieut.-Colonel Trevor, and the officers and men under his command, had

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commenced. When this reinforcement was surrounded by our men they opened fire upon them, but finding their position hopeless and resistance useless, laid down their arms. This event exercised a powerful influence on those in the pa.

We had captured the only reinforcement they had near them. We had taken all the supplies they had within many miles of them, and were using them. The pa was not well provisioned, and they must have expected every moment that the only line of escape left open to them (that by which they did effect their retreat) would have been occupied. After that, only stragglers could have stolen through in the night.

The remarks on paragraph 9, and Memoranda of Ministers enclosed, (see Appendix C.) will show how erroneous this view is.

I am satisfied the pa could have been taken in January with very trifling loss, and that many of the evils which have since fallen on the country might have been avoided.

I am convinced that no person well acquainted with the state of the country will agree with the statements made by General Cameron in paragraphs Nos. 19, 20, and 21.

The enclosed Memorandum from my Responsible Advisers (see Appendix D.) will show that the rebels on the East Coast very largely outnumbered the friendly Natives; that we have a large and important settlement on the East Coast; and that an absolute necessity existed for our interference.

Mr. Fulloon was a half-caste New Zealander; his mother was a native of the part of the coast he went to visit; he was related to several of the leading families there, and possessed much influence.

The enclosed papers (see Appendix E.) will show that the Government did not send Mr. Fulloon on a mission to Whakatane—that they had ordered him to proceed direct from Auckland to Wellington, and that at his own request he was allowed to go by way of the East Coast, for the purpose, as he expressed it, of checking the spread, and, if possible, of suppressing the Pai Marire superstition, and also of observing the Opotiki Natives.

Colonel Warre has answered this statement in the enclosed paper. (See Appendix F.)

General Waddy's orders have never yet been communicated to me. I believe, from what I heard, that it would be found that General