

7. In the case under consideration the matter of the place where the General's Head Quarters were to be located was referred to the Secretary of State for War, without my having been informed that this had been done. But the editors of Auckland newspapers knew it, as also some of the reasons on which the General justified his non-compliance with my orders, and this knowledge was used for the purpose of attacks in the press here; and ultimately the Home Government came to a decision upon General Chute's letter to them, before they had received any report from me on the subject, and entirely under a misapprehension that I had asked something to be done which had never entered into my imagination, and upon other grounds, some of which, after the difficulties which have arisen, it is painful to those acquainted with the country to read, such as that Wellington is unfitted to be Head Quarters from the dangerous navigation of Cook Strait, and from the inexperience of Wellington merchants in taking military contracts. It is more disadvantageous than might be at first supposed, that the Home Government should be hurried into a wrong decision on such questions, for I have generally found that the Departments at home, before coming to a decision, will carefully consider the evidence they then have before them, but that it is very difficult to get them to reconsider a subject, or to reverse a decision once taken, however erroneous that decision may have been.

8. But this, at least, must be conceded, that a man governs a country under great disadvantages when officers in that country can write direct to Her Majesty's Government, without informing him that they have done so, on a most important subject, regarding which they have differed with him in opinion, and have their own views peremptorily confirmed, and his set aside, without any report from him on the subject having been sent to Her Majesty's Government, or having been asked for, and this especially when one portion of the press in the Colony has been informed of the purport of the letters written to Her Majesty's Government.

9. The fact of editors of papers having been informed of the steps taken by the Military Authorities, shows that some of these authorities regarded it as a party or personal question. If persons who act thus can have their wishes pressed on the Secretary of State for War without the Governor knowing that this has been done, and the Secretary of State for War moves the Colonial Minister to issue orders in conformity with their wishes, and in direct opposition to the wishes of the Governor, who has had no warning that the question has been referred home, then these gentlemen become the hidden and irresponsible rulers of the country.

10. In reference to the statement made in the letter from General Chute, herewith enclosed, that military operations against the disaffected Natives in the Wanganui District had been placed in the hands of an Officer of the Colonial Forces, without any reference to the General's control or authority, I would state that we are in the field here a small mixed force of Her Majesty's Imperial Troops, Her Majesty's Colonial Forces, and Natives, trying our utmost to extinguish a local rebellion which was rapidly spreading. How can we, in moments of immediate peril, appeal to the control or authority of a General more than fifteen days from us in point

7. The fact of my having referred home the question of the location of my Head Quarters has been already disposed of in paragraph 5. The imputation that my views on the subject were communicated either by me or Officers of the Staff to editors of papers, I, on my own and their behalf, indignantly repel. On the remainder of the paragraph it is not for me to make any remark.

8. Has been already answered, so far as I am concerned, in paragraphs 5 and 7.

9. I have already denied that the steps taken by the Military Authorities were communicated by them to the press, and I appeal to the Secretary of State for protection against such insinuations. I may inform him at the same time that the question of the change of Head Quarters to Wellington was freely discussed at that place by civilians, before I received any communication from His Excellency on the subject. It was, I believe, a matter of general conversation, and did not appear to be an official secret, and, in a small community like this, might readily find its way to the press. I regret, in common with His Excellency, that it should have found its way there, and that he should have been so annoyed at it; but I repudiate the imputation now made against myself and Staff.

10. My Despatch of the 1st instant, No. 342-66, answers this paragraph. The Secretary of State will have seen that my statement about the employment of a Colonial Force in the Wanganui District irrespective of my authority, is indisputable, and entirely unaffected by the circumstance that His Excellency subsequently called on the Officer commanding Her Majesty's Troops in that district, to "adopt means to subdue the armed Natives," in combination with the Local Forces. (See Governor's letter, of the 24th October, in my Despatch of the 30th instant, No. 361-66. This Officer (Major Locke, 2-18th Regiment), cordially complied with His Excellency's