

Zealand, induces me to lay before you a few observations respecting that group of islands, where I resided as Lieutenant-Governor for three and a half years.

Having been given to understand that it was in contemplation to form a *dépôt* of provisions on the Auckland Islands, I addressed a letter to the Admiralty, stating therein the capabilities of those islands to afford within themselves the means of subsistence to any number of persons who might unfortunately be cast away thereon: with the difficulties, however, they might experience in obtaining the pigs, catching the fish, &c., &c., as well from the inability persons might experience (without a boat) in passing from one island to another (as from other causes), and have pointed out the means by which they could do so.

I also pointed out that it would be useless turning out any rabbits or poultry on Auckland Island (the principal island of the group), since there are a number of wild dogs and hawks, which would doubtless prevent any successful multiplication of them.

As the islands are occasionally visited by Colonial and American whaling and sealing vessels, it is to be feared that if it be made known that a store of provisions has been placed on the Auckland Islands, they will be plundered.

Having said so much, I would observe that the islands are more than capable of being made self-supporting—that cattle and sheep may be placed on Enderby, Adams, Ewing, Rose, and Ocean Islands, where there were no wild dogs in 1853, and where they thrive admirably, without it being necessary to provide them with shelter or food during any period of the year. There are also a number of hair seals, the oil and skins of which are capable of being turned to great advantage, but the taking them would render a hatch boat necessary. The soil is a deep vegetable mould, from twelve to fourteen feet in depth, and I feel quite certain that persons acquainted with such virgin land would not only be able to grow potatoes and other vegetables for consumption, but for exportation.

The islands are by no means unhealthy, the summer not being so warm or the winter so cold as in England, and the only illness experienced by the people under me residing on shore (numbering about two hundred, including New Zealanders) arose from rheumatism. The winds are boisterous, and the gales are often of long continuance; and the rainfall probably exceeds that in this country.

As a proof of my confidence in the resources of the islands and their capabilities, I beg to tender my services to go to the Auckland Islands and to remain there for three or four months, or longer if necessary, for the object of pointing out places where it would be desirable to commence cultivation, and the spots where provisions are to be found.

The advantages to be anticipated by the Government in accepting my offer would be, that on my arrival in New Zealand, so soon as it became known that I purposed visiting those islands for the object of establishing a settlement which was to be periodically visited, I feel sure that very many of those persons who were with me, and who, I believe, are now located in New Zealand, would be willing to purchase of the Government land, or would recommend others to do so, when all further expense on the part of the Government would be avoided.

I have, &c.,

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

CHAS. ENDERBY.

Enclosure 4 in No. 45.

Mr. ROMAINÉ to the UNDER SECRETARY of STATE, Colonial Office.

SIR,—

Admiralty, 9th April, 1868.

With reference to your letter of the 3rd instant, and its enclosures, from the Governor of Victoria, proposing that the Auckland Islands and other islands off the coast of New Zealand should be visited periodically by Her Majesty's ships, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, that my Lords will send instructions to the Commodore on the Australian station to cause these various islands to be visited from time to time by one of the ships of the squadron under his orders.

With regard to the proposal to establish huts and *caches* on those islands, with provisions for shipwrecked mariners, my Lords consider that they should be established from Colonial funds, the Admiralty having no funds at their disposal for such a purpose.

I have, &c.,

The Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office.

W. G. ROMAINÉ.

No. 46.

COPY of a DESPATCH from His Grace the Duke of BUCKINGHAM to Governor Sir G. F. BOWEN, G.C.M.G.

(No. 55.)

SIR,—

Downing Street, 18th May, 1868.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Despatch No. 15, of 5th March.

I learn from it with much regret that the Colony has suffered so severely from floods and hurricanes.

Although the responsibility for the management of the Natives is now transferred to the Colonial Government, the state and condition of this portion of the inhabitants of the Colony has in no way lost its interest, and I shall receive with much pleasure the information which you are collecting respecting the state and prospect of that remarkable race.

I observe with satisfaction that appearances of disturbances have been promptly met by local forces.

I have, &c.,

BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS.

Governor Sir G. F. Bowen, G.C.M.G.