

George Grey, expressed readiness to submit to him. Most important matters transpired between Sir George Grey and Tawhiao at private interviews. The King, Rewi, and Te Ngakau applied for an advance on money matters. No reference was made to the return of Waikato. The chiefs expressed a desire to return to their old habits of cultivation, supplying Auckland market, and asked for farming implements. They also wished to send their children to English schools. Tawhiao and Rewi promised to erect buildings for the reception of Europeans. Rewi attends next session of the Assembly. Sir George Grey, in response to an earnest request, promised to return during March. He also expressed his intentions on that occasion to go from settlement to settlement. Rewi promised to erect a wooden building for the express accommodation of Ministers on their next visit, and said he was ashamed to receive them in a raupo *whare*. Sir George promised conditionally that all surveys beyond the confiscated boundary shall be stopped, and also promised to use his influence to obtain the pardon of all murderers except Winiata. The latter requires confirmation.

[From the Auckland *Evening Star*, 5th February.]

THE WAIKATO PROGRESS.—DEPUTATIONS TO THE PREMIER.

Alexandra, Monday.

THE Premier and Native Minister and party, on arrival at Te Awamutu, were received with cheers by a large number of settlers. An address congratulating Sir George Grey was presented by Mr. Parsons, and read by Mr. T. Gresham. Sir George Grey replied.

A deputation, consisting of the Chairman of the Road Board, Mr. Sloane, and others, interviewed the Premier and other Ministers, inquiring if it were true that the railway was to be leased to private parties, stating that if it were so they were of opinion that it would not be advantageous to the district. The Premier replied that he was not aware of any such arrangement being contemplated: they might depend that anything of the kind would be done by private tender.

Sir George Grey and party having visited the mission-house church, proceeded on to Kihikihi, *en route* to Cambridge.

VISIT TO TE AWAMUTU.

Newcastle, this day.

Sir George Grey, accompanied by the Hon. the Native Minister, the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Mr. J. C. Brown, M.H.R., and Seymour George, Esq., left Alexandra at ten minutes to 11 o'clock yesterday, and drove to Te Awamutu, where they paid a visit to the mission station. It will be remembered that this mission station was one of the new Native institutions introduced by Sir George Grey during his Governorship, and that Mr. Gorst was driven from it before the war. Mr. Gorst had a printing press, and issued a newspaper called *Te Pihiohoi i Runga i te Pito o te Whare* (the sparrow in the house-top), against which the Kingites started a paper called *Te Hokioi* (the hawk), meaning that it would swoop down upon the little *Pihiohoi* and eat it up. For a time there was a brisk argument between the rival papers, but the reasoning and trenchant literary ability of the accomplished Cambridge scholar proving too strong for the weak arguments of the Maori editor of the *Hokioi*, Rewi came down with a detachment of the King's ragged army, set sentries, made "pie" of the type, sent the timber intended for a schoolhouse floating down the river, and caused Mr. Gorst to leave. Some of the type rounded with a hammer was afterwards used as bullets by the Maoris at Paterangi, and the paper was utilized as wrapping for cartridges. Sir George Grey remarked that he had seen at this station in the old days between eighty and ninety ploughs all in full swing, and very extensive Maori cultivations. He also paid a visit to the graves of the soldiers who were buried here during the war.

ADDRESS FROM THE INHABITANTS.

Mr. Sloane, Chairman of the Highway Board, presented an address in the afternoon. The address expressed great esteem for the Premier, confidence in his administration, and pride at this the first visit of a New Zealand Premier to the settlement. The address concluded with an ardent wish that Sir George Grey might be spared for many years to continue that beneficial influence which had already resulted in the increased welfare of the colony.

Sir George Grey, in reply, said that for thirty years he had interested himself in the welfare of the district, and they might rest assured that it would receive justice at the hands of himself and colleagues. He expressed pleasure at the prosperous appearance of the place.

VISIT TO KIHIKIHI.

The party left Te Awamutu at 1 o'clock, arriving at Kihikihi about a quarter of an hour later. Here an address was presented by the inhabitants, offering cordial thanks for Sir George Grey's visit to the township, and expressing a belief that the visit would be the means of establishing more friendly relations between the two races. The address also referred to the exposed position of the settlement, and expressed disapprobation of the conduct of the late Government in depriving the township of its share of the Defence Force, and abandoning the protection of the place at a time when swarms of Natives from Waiuku, Mercer, and parts contiguous had settled on the immediate boundary line. The address concluded as follows: "Well may the settlers here exclaim that you, sir, are to them in the matter of defence as the shadow of a rock that standeth out in a desert land."

Sir George Grey made a suitable reply. He then visited the redoubt and other places of interest.

VISIT TO RANGIAOHIA.

At a quarter to 2 o'clock the party left for Rangiaohia, the scene of one of General Cameron's victories in 1864, when he masked the almost impregnable Maori position at Paterangi, which was constructed with great engineering skill by the celebrated Te Kaokao. He visited the school, which is held in the old Native church, where Potatau was crowned in 1858 by William Thompson. This church has a fine stained window, which was purchased, I believe, out of funds subscribed by Natives. Sir George Grey took great interest in the school children.