

Middle Island for the Queen, and so your petitioner's land has been fraudulently sold by other persons to the Queen.

7. Your petitioner will here make a statement as to the fighting between Ngatitōa and Ngaitahu. This is it:—Before the fighting took place between Ngatitōa and Ngaitahu, a man of Ngatikahungunu named Te Kekerengu committed adultery with a woman of Ngatitōa. When Ngatitōa heard of this they determined to kill Te Kekerengu, but he escaped to Kaikoura in the Middle Island, and then the people of that place said that if Rauparaha went over there they would rip his belly up with a barracouta's tooth. When Rauparaha heard that Te Kekerengu had gone across to the Middle Island to Kaikoura he went in search of him, and there was a battle at Kaikoura, in which the people of that place were defeated; the pa was taken, but Te Kekerengu escaped. Te Rauparaha now commenced his war upon the Ngaitahu.

8. Te Rauparaha and his people continued to fight against the Ngaitahu and went on to Kaiapoi, where certain chiefs of Ngatitōa and Ngatiawa were killed by Ngaitahu. The names of these chiefs were Te Pehi, Te Pokaitara, and others.

9. Te Rauparaha then returned to the North Island, and afterwards the war parties under Te Rauparaha, composed of Ngatitōa, Ngatiawa, Ngaitama, and Ngatiraukawa, and other tribes who had joined him, went again to fight against the Ngaitahu, who were defeated at Kaiapoi and Hakaroa. The name of the battle was called Taupoki.

10. Your petitioner states that the battles in which revenge was taken for Taupoki were called Paruparu and Raumoā. These battles were gained by the Ngaitahu—all the chiefs, including those of Murihiku, took part. Te Rauparaha narrowly escaped death by drowning, and all his party were defeated.

11. Your petitioner states that after that fighting the Ngaitahu went back, and the chiefs proposed to raise a war-party under the name of Tauanui, to come over to the North Island to fight.

12. The chiefs to be the commanders of the expedition against Ngatitōa were Tuhawaiki, Te Whakataupuka, Taiaroa, Kareta, and others. They came up from Otago to Te Karaka, Queen Charlotte's Sound, killing in their passage those of Ngatitōa whom they found living on the skirts of the land as far on as Nelson.

13. Your petitioner states that when Te Rauparaha heard that Ngaitahu were coming to the North Island he sent back some of the prisoners of Ngaitahu whom he captured at Kaiapoi. One of them was named Momo; he was a man of rank among the Ngaitahu previous to his capture. He was sent back in token of peace-making, and to tell the Ngaitahu that his anger against them was at an end. Peace was then made, and the fighting ceased between Ngatitōa and Ngaitahu.

14. Your petitioner states that about three years after the peacemaking the Ngaitama went to the Middle Island, under their chiefs Te Puoho and Wahapiro, with all their party. They went to the West Coast of the Middle Island, their intention being to take all the land. They fought along the outlying places of the Middle Island, and went on as far as Tukurau; the name of the river is Mātaura, in the Provincial District of Otago.

15. When Tuhawaiki, Taiaroa, and your petitioner heard of this they fought against Te Puoho's and Te Wahapiro's war-party, and your petitioner killed Te Puoho; the majority were taken prisoners and conveyed to your petitioner's place of residence, Ruapuke.

16. Your petitioner states that when Te Rauparaha heard that the war-parties of Te Puoho and Te Wahapiro had been defeated he went to fight against Ngaitahu, who were defeated, and one of them named Iritonga was killed.

17. Your petitioner states that when the chiefs of Ngaitahu heard of the death of Iritonga the chiefs of Murihiku came up to Akaroa and killed Koko, one of Te Rauparaha's people. This was the last fight between Ngaitahu and Te Rauparaha.

18. Your petitioner states that Te Rauparaha's war-parties did not conquer the Ngaitahu in these battles, but that Ngaitahu were the victors.

At this time the missionaries arrived in the Ngapuhi District.

19. Your petitioner states that those who fought against Ngaitahu were Ngatitōa, Ngatiawa, Ngaitama, Ngatiraukawa, Ngatimutunga and other tribes, and also Englishmen. The Europeans took part in fighting against the Ngaitahu in this way: The death of Te Pehi not having been avenged, Te Rauparaha made up his mind to charter a European vessel to go to fetch Te Maiharanui. The vessel went to Akaroa, and the Europeans, by treachery, got Te Maiharanui on board of the vessel. When he got there he saw Te Rauparaha's band of murderers. As soon as they had got hold of him the vessel returned.

20. Your petitioner states that when that fighting was over, in 1838 or 1839, Tuhawaiki went to New South Wales to make a treaty with that colony to have the rights of Ngaitahu established, and to get the protection of the Queen of England.

21. Your petitioner is aware that the Governor of New South Wales agreed, and invested Tuhawaiki with authority; he gave him the Queen's flag, and gave him full authority; he gave him a suit of uniform; he appointed a secretary for him.

22. Your petitioner states that Tuhawaiki represented to the Governor of New South Wales that Wellington would be the best place for Europeans to first settle in.

23. Your petitioner states that the Europeans are in error in supposing that Te Rauparaha was the strongest in the fighting; and your petitioner prays that you will, in truth and justice, consider that it would be right to restore to myself and people our interests in the lands which we have not sold to the Europeans, because you have given the payment for our land to other people.

24. There are many persons who may be called as witnesses before you, if the Europeans desire to see truth and justice, and to set the mind of your petitioner at rest.

Wellington, 14th August, 1878.

JOHN TOPI PATUKI.