

inhabitants are taken from it. He further believes, that the manner in which many of the Auckland settlers have rendered important services during this war, and the losses and suffering so many of them have undergone, will interest the entire number of the General Assembly in their behalf, and that they would therefore cheerfully submit to inconvenience rather than entail further sufferings on a Province that has undergone so much.

The evils which the Governor fears may fall on the Province of Auckland if the Governor and Ministers are at the present moment removed from it, would re-act on all New Zealand, and in many respects prove injurious to the interests of Wellington itself.

The Governor was quite taken by surprise when he yesterday afternoon received from Ministers their advice regarding the place of meeting of the General Assembly, without any prior intimation of their intention having been made to him, or without his opinion having been asked. With such momentous interests to consider, he must take longer time for reflection than Ministers wish, and he regrets therefore he cannot reply so rapidly to their question as they desire. He will endeavour to do so in the course of to-morrow.

Government House, Auckland, 12th October, 1864.

G. GREY.

No. 6.

MEMORANDUM by the GOVERNOR.

After the Governor had, yesterday, written to Ministers regarding the place of meeting of the General Assembly, he received a Memorandum in which they inform him that a great peril overhangs this portion of New Zealand; and in another Memorandum, received at a later period yesterday, they inform him that they must make immediately reductions in the Colonial forces, and that as they have not sufficient funds they have no alternative but to make these reductions, although they are quite aware of the importance in the present state of affairs of maintaining some of them.

He is further embarrassed, by Ministers advising him in some things, and declining to advise him in others. For instance: they advise him positively, in the present crisis of affairs, to call the General Assembly at Wellington, and to reduce the Colonial forces. On the first of these points they never consulted him or asked his opinion. In his belief, nothing can exercise a more important influence over the great peril, which they warn him overhangs this portion of New Zealand, than the removal of the Governor, the Ministers, the principal officers of the Government, and some of the principal inhabitants of this part of New Zealand from hence to Wellington, accompanied as this is to be by a reduction at the same time of the Colonial forces.

To advise him positively to take these two steps, which must exercise such an influence on the solution of the great difficulty which now admittedly threatens such peril to this portion of the Colony, and at the same time to tell him that the whole responsibility for its adjustment rests on him, and that they will neither relieve him from it or consent to share it with him, is, he submits, to place him in a position of the greatest possible difficulty; in no way to have consulted him on the subject previously, nor in any way to have warned him of what was to be done, has certainly increased his embarrassment.

Before proceeding further in the matter, the Governor hopes that Ministers will tell him, if the only reason which had led them to give him the advice they have tendered him, to call the General Assembly together at Wellington, is the one they have stated—the convenience of the members of the General Assembly? or whether there are other reasons of importance which he should consider at a time of such danger? He trusts they will answer these questions, for he feels he is in some degree responsible for the difficulties which have arisen from the natives leaving the Kawau, although he believes the greater part of the responsibility will be found to rest elsewhere. Hence he feels that when he is advised by Ministers that a peril from this cause overhangs this portion of New Zealand, peculiar claims rest on him to try to avert, or alleviate, or successfully meet these dangers, and that he must carefully weigh any step he takes which may in any way affect them, and he believes that in doing this rightly, and to the best of their judgment, Ministers, as well as himself, will have the support of all New Zealand.

October 13th, 1864.

G. GREY.

No. 7.

MEMORANDUM by MINISTERS.

In reply to His Excellency's question in his memorandum of this day's date relative to the place of meeting of the General Assembly, Ministers beg respectfully to state that the grounds which induced them to submit that Wellington should be the place were as follows:—

1. It appeared to Ministers that it was clearly the intention of the House of Representatives in passing the Resolution quoted by His Excellency in his memorandum of the 12th, that either Christchurch or some place in Cook's Straits should be the place of meeting.

2. That after the best enquiry they could make Ministers found that there could not be obtained at Christchurch on so short a notice accommodation either for His Excellency or buildings for the meetings of both Houses of the Assembly.

3. That at Wellington such accommodation and buildings could be had without difficulty, and nowhere else in Cook's Straits.

4. That in the event of military operations being carried on as contemplated at New Plymouth and Wanganui, Wellington would afford the most convenience for communicating with those places.

Ministers now enclose for His Excellency's information an amended proclamation fixing the day of meeting on the 21st instead of the 15th of November, and leaving the place to be determined by His Excellency. The alteration of the day has become necessary as the delay that has taken place since the former day was announced renders some additional time necessary to enable the more distant members to be present.

13th October, 1864.

FREDK. WHITAKER.