

I have since found out that the native loss is 34 killed and a large number wounded. Two Maories came with a white flag to look for dead bodies, saying, "Peace to day; war to-morrow." I ascertained from them that their intention was to attack Col. Waddy's camp at daylight this morning, in conjunction with another force from Paterangi. They fancied that they had been discovered in their ambuscade and consequently fired on the bathers. I do not think that any chief of note was amongst them.

Te Ao-o-te-Rangi returned this morning from Pikopiko Pa. He found Waikato natives quiet, but Ngatiraukawa and others who have not already suffered were excessively pounceable in their speeches, telling him that they were tired of waiting, intimating that they would commit murders, &c., if the General did not attack their pas.

I have to acknowledge with thanks your permission for me to go to town. Under the circumstances I think it would be better for me to remain; anyhow till we get to Rangiaohia.

I have, &c.

R. C. MAINWARING.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary.

No. 24.

COPY OF A DESPATCH FROM GOVERNOR SIR GEORGE GREY, K.C.B., TO HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, K.G.

(No. 29.)

Government House, Auckland, February 17, 1864.

MY LORD DUKE,—

I have the honour to transmit, for your Grace's information, a very interesting account which has been written by the chief Wiremu Nero of his visit to the position of the rebel natives after the occupation of Ngaruawahia by our forces.

I have, &c.,

His Grace the Duke of Newcastle, K.G.,
&c. &c. &c.

G. GREY.

Enclosure in No. 24.

ACCOUNT OF WIREMU NERO'S VISIT TO MAUNGATAUTARI.

I started from Raglan and arrived at Whatawhata, and then went to Ngaruawahia, to the General. I expected to find Tamenana and Te Wharepu at Ngaruawahia, and also the Governor, but when I arrived I found that they were not there. When the General heard that pas were being built, he said to us—"I shall go to Whatawhata. I do not like this place. I thought that when I arrived at Ngaruawahia it (the war) would end here. Now they are still determined on fighting. I have no thought about the Waikatos; the Waikatos are dead (utterly defeated); but the Ngatimaniopoto still survive."

I replied, "What you say is correct. Perhaps I had better go to Maungatautari." He said "Very well; it rests with you, only don't say that I sent you. You go out of compassion for your race."

The General gave up the idea of going to Whatawhata, and left the days to us (*i.e.*, to give them an opportunity of going to see the natives at Maungatautari and elsewhere.)

I said to the General, "Farewell; if they agree to peace, well and good. If they are obstinate, the law will overcome them."

We went, and arrived at Maungatautari. They had finished their pa; the name of that pa is Te Tiki-o-te-iHINGA-arangi.

They had a tangi when we arrived, and then Karaha Te Taniwha, of the Ngatimahuta, stood up, and made a speech, bidding adieu to the Waikato prisoners.

Patara stood up, and said, "Welcome, my son, welcome."

I could not see that there was any good in his speech; it was bad in fact (*i.e.*, warlike)

I said, "What is to be done about the Waikatos who are in prison over there?" The reply was "What do we care?"

Tamehana stood up and said, "Welcome, friend; welcome; welcome, sons. I don't say that peace is made. The gift (Koha) to your fathers and younger brothers is this, Meremere has been given up, and Rangiriri and Paetai and Rauwhitu, and Ngaruawahia and this flowing stream. They are my gift to your fathers and brothers; as for me, I shall remain here. If the Governor follows me here, I shall fight. If not I shall remain quiet.

"However, when peace is made let it include Waikatos, Ngatimaniopoto, and Taranaki. Then only would it be good. But if the General goes to Waipa (to attack) the Ngatimaniopoto I shall be there."

Wi Nero—"Friend, those were your words at the commencement, and even up to the present that is, up to the time of the war, and the result is the land has been taken, Waikato captured, and the men slain, and now you again make use of the same words, and to-morrow there will be the same thing over again. Why have you no compassion for Waikato? Why leave your fathers, brothers, and your tribe in prison?"

On the following day the Waikatos came. There was a tangi, after which Te Kawana stood up, and said "Welcome, son, welcome; let your father and brothers remain where they are. They are the captive descendants of Terewai" (an ancestor of the Waikatos, who was taken prisoner, and afterwards effected his escape).

Enough. They showed no pity for the captives. I heard nothing about peace. Hikaurua went to demand the guns, and also the murderers, but they would not consent (to give them up.)