

Enclosure in No. 19.

COPY of a DESPATCH from Lieut.-General Sir D. A. CAMERON, to the Right Hon. the SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR, with Sir GEORGE GREY'S remarks thereon.

SIR D. CAMERON.

SIR GEORGE GREY.

On board P. and O. Steamer "Yeddo,"
4th September, 1865.

MY LORD,—I have the honor to forward to your Lordship a copy of a letter, and its enclosure,* which I received before I left New Zealand, from Brigadier-General Waddy, commanding at Wanganui, reporting the evacuation of the Weraroa Pa by the rebels on the 21st July last.

2. A Despatch from Sir George Grey to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, reporting the operation which led to the evacuation of the pa, and a Speech made by His Excellency at the opening of the General Assembly, on the 26th July, were published before I left the Colony, and will reach Her Majesty's Government by this mail.

3. I beg to draw your Lordship's attention to them, and to the following remarks which I have to make in answer to the complaints which they contain—

4. 1st, Of the delay in attacking the Weraroa Pa; and 2nd, of orders stated to have been issued by me to Brigadier-General Waddy, Lieut.-Colonel Trevor, and the officers and men under their command, precluding them from taking any active part in the operations against the pa.

5. I would begin by observing that the most serious delay which has occurred was caused by the postponement of hostilities until January, by which three or four of the most favorable months for operations in the field were lost; and for that delay Sir George Grey alone is responsible.

6. In my Despatch to your Lordship of February last, I explained to your Lordship my reasons for moving the column under Brigadier-General Waddy's immediate command to the Patea without attacking the Weraroa Pa; and in my Despatch of the following month I acquainted your Lordship with the instructions I had received from Sir George Grey to occupy the coast between Taranaki and Wanganui.

7. Of these instructions, which defeated the object for which I moved General Waddy's column to the Patea, and which for a long time prevented any operations being undertaken which had the capture of the Weraroa Pa for their object, Sir George Grey makes no mention in his Speech. They were given, I presume, with the concurrence, if not by the advice of the Colonial Ministers, who, as well as Sir George Grey, were aware of my objections to the occupation of so large a tract of country by Her Majesty's troops.

8. A chain of posts having, in pursuance of these instructions, been established, which I was requested to occupy during the winter, Sir George Grey proposed to me in the month of May that operations should be commenced against

Brigadier-General Waddy, in his letter of the 19th of July, 1865, stated, that from the instructions under which he was acting from Lieut.-General Cameron, he could only direct an immediate attack on the Weraroa Pa when Lieut.-General Cameron directed that such an attack should be made, and that he could not undertake this operation against the pa unless he received the orders of the Lieut.-General Commanding the Forces to do so.

The enclosed extract from Despatch No. 82, of the 6th of July, 1865, will show that such was not the case. (See Appendix A.)

This Despatch of the 4th February last was never communicated to me. I had no idea of what were the objects contemplated by moving the column under General Waddy to the Patea. The maintaining the objects of this movement a secret from the Governor of the country, who had so largely to aid in the operations, shows the system which was pursued.

General Cameron never stated the objects for which he had moved General Waddy's column to the Patea, and never stated that any instructions I had given had defeated those objects. I do not think any instructions I gave could have done so. They are contained in my letters of the 13th of March and 22nd of March, which are enclosed. (See Appendix B.)

This quite mis-states the instructions I issued with the knowledge and assent of my Responsible Advisers. It will be seen above that all General Cameron was asked to do, was,—that as he could not attack the Weraroa Pa, as it was so formidable a work "He should continue his advance as far as the means at his disposal would admit." The extent of the tract of country was thus left entirely to his own discretion.

* General Waddy to Assistant Military Secretary, 25th July.
Governor to General Waddy, 23rd July.