

COPY OF A LETTER FROM MR. HICKSON TO THE GENERAL
GOVERNMENT AGENT AT OTAGO.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. HICKSON to Mr. BRADSHAW.

(No. 163-67.)

SIR,—

Warden's Office, Mount Benger, 31st May, 1867.

In compliance with your instructions I have the honor to report, for the information of the General Government, that on the 29th April last, during my absence from this station, Messrs. John Hughes and J. C. Brown, Members of the Provincial Government, Otago, called at my quarters and obtained possession of the key of the Court House here, when they proceeded to the building and placed on the door a hasp and staple, to which they attached a padlock. They were assisted in their operations by Mr. John Brighton, storekeeper. On my way home I met the abovenamed gentlemen on the Knotty Range, when they asked me if I meant to remain in the Provincial Government Service, at the same time informing me that if I did remain I would be sure of twelve months' salary. On my reply in the negative, the keys of the Court House were handed over to the Constable, who was with me, with orders not to admit me into the building, unless I gave him the Constable, my "promise, on my word and honor," that I would take nothing but Resident Magistrate's papers, books, and documents therefrom; this I distinctly gave them to understand I would not do.

Mr. Brown thereupon, in a most impressive manner, not to say offensive, informed me that I must consider myself dismissed the Government Service. Mr. Hughes added, that they were the delegates of His Honor the Superintendent, under whose instructions they were then acting. When I arrived here I found that you also had arrived, and on consulting with you I took no action in the matter.

J. B. Bradshaw, Esq., J.P.,
General Government Agent, Dunedin.

I have, &c.,
JAMES HICKSON,
Warden.
