

“Titokowaru and Te Kooti, he will perhaps come to the conclusion that their atrocities are happily as exceptional as the course adopted with a view to their punishment. But the offers in question are not without precedent, in the history of the Mutiny in India, and even of the Fenian outrages within the heart of the United Kingdom. Every atrocity of the Sepoy Rebellion has been paralleled and outdone in the raids, burnings, violations, tortures, murders, and cannibalism of the last nine months in New Zealand, and with less provocation or excuse.”

5. It will be further recollected that, so far back as on the 5th September ultimo, I transmitted a Memorandum from Colonel Haultain, then the Minister for Colonial Defence, showing that every effort was made in the due course of law to bring to justice Titokowaru and his gang of murderers. . . . Warrants were issued against them after the coroner's inquest held on the bodies of some of the settlers, whom they have treacherously killed and savagely mutilated. . . . Any prisoners that may be taken will be tried before the Supreme Court of the Colony, as were the Maoris who in 1865 murdered Messrs. Volkner and Fulloon at Opotiki, on the East Coast of this Island.” In my previous Despatch No. 78, of the 8th August, 1868, I had forwarded a copy of Titokowaru's proclamation to his tribe (dated 25th June, 1868), in which he boasted of his cannibalism—of “eating an European trooper like a piece of beef. He was cooked in a pot; the women and children partook of the food. I have begun to eat human flesh; and my throat is constantly open for the flesh of man.” Again, with my Despatch No. 14, of the 31st January ultimo, I forwarded Colonel McDonnell's account of his visit to Titokowaru's abandoned pa at Te Ngutu-o-te-manu (“the Hawk's Beak”), to ascertain the fate of the officers and men of the Colonial forces who were killed and wounded in the action of the 7th September, 1868, and whose bodies unfortunately fell into the hands of the rebels. Colonel McDonnell wrote: “I regret to say that the report which reached me about the burning of the bodies of those left in the field is too correct; and a more horribly revolting spectacle could not have been witnessed. We found the remains of two large fires or altars outside the pa, and of a small one inside, at the foot of a rata tree. The charred remains of human bones and skulls at each of these fires, with other signs horrible to think of, told a sickening and awful tale. I fear the story related of poor Corporal Russell, relative to his having been burnt alive, is true; and this most likely took place at the foot of the rata tree mentioned above. There is no doubt that the dead were partly eaten and partly offered as a sacrifice by the infamous Titokowaru and his band.” In your Despatch No. 45, of 23rd April ultimo, your Lordship acknowledged the receipt of my Despatch “enclosing a report from Colonel McDonnell of a successful expedition under him to the pa of the rebel chief Titokowaru,” and added, “I am greatly shocked to hear, from Colonel McDonnell's report, of the barbarous manner in which the remains of some of the Colonial troops were treated; and I can hardly express the feeling of horror with which I learn that there is reason to fear that one of them was burnt alive.”

6. Your Lordship has required from me explanations of the conduct of the Colonial Government with regard to Titokowaru. The above-mentioned facts alone, taken in connection with the opinion of the Attorney-General, seem to justify, according to the law of nations, the decision of the Ministers to treat Titokowaru and also Te Kooti (whose cruelties have been hardly less atrocious) in an exceptional manner, so as to make a clear and broad distinction between them and those insurgents who, like the Waikato tribes, have waged a comparatively honourable warfare. Moreover, it has been asked here, “Why should the Ministry of New Zealand be blamed for adopting, against Maori murderers and cannibals, measures far less stringent than those for which Lord Seaton, Sir Henry Ward, Lord Torrington, Lord Canning, and other Governors, have been applauded for adopting in the suppression of the rebellions in Canada, Ceylon, India, and Ireland?” It is well known that, in all the rebellions alluded to, rewards were offered for the persons of the rebel leaders, in some cases “dead or alive” *totidem verbis*; that “martial law” was proclaimed, the *Habeas Corpus* Act was suspended; numerous prisoners were executed for being