

2. It is with much concern that I now find the Reports and official documents which I have sent home described as insufficient; for my Despatches will show that I have conscientiously laboured, sparing no personal risk or toil, to make myself thoroughly acquainted with this country (a great portion of which I have already visited), its inhabitants of both races, and the general posture of its affairs. I would venture further to observe that my exertions in these respects have been recognized in several Despatches from the Colonial Office.

3. In addition to the mass of information contained or referred to in the enclosures, I beg permission to submit the following explanatory remarks:—

A. It will be seen that the accompanying official papers deny, on high authority, the accuracy of the allegations which appear to have been made in the newspapers, and otherwise, respecting the prisoners who escaped last year from the Chatham Islands. It will be recollected, of course, that they were sent there long before the beginning of my connection with New Zealand, and, as it will be perceived from one of the Parliamentary Papers, by order of the Colonial Ministry of that day. The position of these men was one of the first questions into which I felt it my duty to make inquiry immediately after assuming my present office on 5th February, 1868; and in one of my earliest Despatches I transmitted home all the information which I could procure on the subject. After a diligent search, no record could be found (as I am assured) at the Government House showing that my predecessor, Sir George Grey, had ever been formally consulted by his Ministers in this matter, or that he had ever made any Report whatsoever upon it to the Secretary of State. It is not for me to explain this part of the conduct of my able predecessor. It has been suggested, however, that Sir George Grey desired to avoid the appearance of prejudging the decision of the Colonial Parliament and Courts of Law on questions which were certain to be debated in the former, and might probably become the subject of proceedings in the latter. For it has frequently been remarked here that the *Habeas Corpus* Act has never hitherto been suspended in New Zealand during the Maori war, which has now continued, with little intermission, for the last nine years, as it was in Ireland during a lengthened period on account of the far less bloody and dangerous outbreaks of the Fenians. Consequently, it was always open to any person, whether Maori or European Philo-Maori, who should doubt the legality of the detention of these prisoners, to appeal to the Supreme Court of the Colony. It has been further suggested that Sir George Grey felt convinced by his long experience that it would be well nigh impossible for Parliamentary Government in a Colony to be carried on with success, or with honor and advantage to the Queen's service, "if the Governor were to convert his official Despatches (which may be published at any time in the Parliamentary Papers) into a running commentary of criticism on the actions of his Responsible Advisers in the execution of their Constitutional functions." For my own part, I shall always continue to guide myself in this respect (except in extreme cases, or when otherwise instructed) by the principles laid down by successive Secretaries of State for the Colonies, and which may be said to be summed up by Mr. Cardwell, when he wrote as follows:—"I must express an earnest hope that, in future, the daily business of the Colony may be transacted between the Governor and his advisers under relations of mutual confidence, and in a friendly and cordial spirit, rather than by means of adverse Minutes, treasuring up records against a future time, and involving great and deplorable delay in the conduct of present and pressing affairs."

B. Full Reports of the commencement and progress of the fresh disturbances on the East and West Coasts of this Island respectively, and Minutes showing the views and proceedings of the Colonial Government in consequence of those outbreaks, were duly forwarded at the time in my Despatches Nos. 78 and 79, of the 8th August, 1868, and thereafter by every monthly mail. I beg also to solicit attention to the detailed information respecting these events now supplied, with reference to your Lordship's Despatch, No. 30, by the Department of Native Affairs. Many persons here—and I am myself inclined to this opinion—consider it unfortunate, under the peculiar circumstances of this country, that Major Biggs, the Resident Magistrate at Poverty Bay, did not await instructions from the Central Government before he in any way interfered with the prisoners escaped