

The complainants appeared before the Commissioners to give evidence in the matter of their complaint.

Mr. Cannon stated:—"Hokomata was one of the grantees of that block. The said Hokomata was legally married to me by a Catholic priest, and the land has been sold by all to a European for £300. All that my wife got for her interest in the land was £2."

Hokomata also appeared before the Commissioners, and said: "I wanted money, and therefore I executed the conveyance. I received £2 in consideration of my interest in that land. Heipora *alias* Hine Paketia told me when she gave me £1 out of the £2, that it was to satisfy my claim as a grantee of that land; but I did not reply to that word of hers."

That woman, Hokomata, also stated that she had as much right as Te Hapuku and others to lands in the Crown grants of which Te Hapuku's name is placed.

None of the other grantees appeared before the Commissioners to make any statement with regard to the evidence of the complainants.

This is my opinion on the whole of the evidence given by the complainants before the Commissioners anent this land:—

1. The Parliament of New Zealand knows what is the law with regard to a European man who is legally married to a Maori woman.

2. When the land was passed through the Native Land Court, the Court did not take any steps to ascertain the amount of the interest of each of the persons whose names were placed in the Crown grant.

3. The sum of £2, which was paid to extinguish the interest of Hokomata in that land, was too small.

WIREMU HIKAIRO, Commissioner.

#### VI.—KOROKI.

Kua oti tenei whenua te whakawa e te Kouti Whenua Maori. Kua whakaputaina he Karauna Karaati ki nga tangata kotahi tekau.

I muri iho o te whakaputanga a Te Kouti i tana kupu whakatau i taua whenua ki nga tangata kotahi tekau ka hokona e taua hunga taua whenua ki tetahi Pakeha mo nga moni e toru rau pauna (£300.)

I tuku tonu mai a Kanana (W. A. Cannon) he pakeha, raua ko tona wahine ko Hokomata ki nga Komihana mo tenei whenua. He whakahe ki te tangata i a ia taua whenua, ara ki te tangata nana nga rau pauna e toru.

A i te wa i noho ai te Kouti a nga Komihana ka tae mai aua Kaitono ki te whakaatu korero mo runga i ta raua tonu.

I mea a Kanana (W. A. Cannon) "Ko Hokomata tetahi o te hunga i tuhia ra nga ingoa ki te Karaati o taua whenua. Ko taua Hokomata, he wahine i ata marenatia ki a au e tetahi minita Pikopo a ko taua whenua kua hokona e te katoa ki tetahi Pakeha mo nga moni e toru rau pauna (£300.) Heoi nga utu i riro mai ki taku wahine mo tona paanga ki taua whenua e rua pauna (£2)." "

I tu hoki a Hokomata ki te korero ki te Kouti, i mea "He hiahia noku ki te moni i tuhi ai au i take ingoa ki te pukapuka hoko. A i riro mau ki a au e rua pauna (£2), hei utu mo taku paanga ki taua whenua. I kiia mai ano e Te Heipora, ara e Hine Paketia i te wa i homai ai e ia tetahi o nga pauna o taua rua pauna hei whakamakanga (whakorenga) tera mo taku ingoa i roto i te Karauna Karaati o taua whenua, heoi kihai au i utu atu i taua kupu ana."

I ki hoki taua wahine a Hokomata he rite tonu to ratou paanga ki Te Hapuku ma ki nga whenua i tuhia ai te ingoa o Te Hapuku ki nga Karauna Karaati.

Kihai etahi o te hunga i tuhia ra o ratou ingoa ki roto i te Karaati o taua whenua i tae mai ki te Kouti whai kupu ai mo runga i nga korero a aua Kaitono.

Na ko aku whakaaro enei mo runga i nga korero katoa a nga Kaitono whakawa i whakaatu mai ai ki te Kouti mo tenei whenua:

1. Ko te Paremata Nui o Niu Tireni e mohio ana ki nga tikanga mo te taane Pakeha e moe ana ki te wahine Maori i runga i te tikanga marena.

2. Kihai i rapua e Te Kouti Whenua Maori i te wa i whakawakia ai taua whenua pehea te nui o te paanga ki reira o ia tangata o te hunga i tuhia ra o ratou ingoa ki te Karaati.

3. He iti rawa te rua pauna (£2) i homai ra hei utu mo te paanga o Hokomata ki taua whenua.

WIREMU HIKAIRO, Commissioner.

### REPORT ON CASE No. VIII.

#### TURAMOE.

Mr. W. A. Cannon and his wife Hokomata made a complaint to the Commissioners about this land, with respect to the leasing thereof to a European named J. H. Coleman.

When Cannon appeared before the Commissioners to give evidence in the matter of the complaint of himself and his wife in respect of this land, it was seen that this land had been adjudicated upon by the Native Land Court, and that a Crown grant had been issued therefor, and that the aforesaid Hokomata was one of the grantees. He further stated that only his wife Hokomata signed the leases and mortgages, but that he had not done so, and therefore the execution by his wife of the said deeds should be declared null and void.

Our opinion with regard to the complaint made to the Commissioners is,—

1. According to Native custom, a man has no authority over the land of his wife.