

WEST COAST COMMISSION.

THIRD REPORT.

To His Excellency Sir HERCULES GEORGE ROBERT ROBINSON, G.C.M.G.,
&c., &c., &c., Governor of New Zealand.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY :

In our Second Report we endeavoured to trace the events which had caused the long trouble on the West Coast, and to show its nature and extent. We have now only to tell Your Excellency what we think ought to be done.

In order to do this with any clearness, however, the first thing necessary is to say exactly what the objects are we aim at. We think these ought to be two. We have to do justice to the Natives, but we have also to go on with the English settlement of the country. No policy is worth a thought that does not provide for both.

I.—WHAT "JUSTICE TO THE NATIVES" MEANS.

The tendency to rush into opposite extremes is so natural, that some of those perhaps who were most truculent last year about a "march on Parihaka," will now cry out, after reading the story in our Second Report, that to do justice all the land must be given back. Certainly we have never said a word ourselves to justify an error so dangerous to peace: and at the risk of quite wearing out Your Excellency's patience, we must ask you to let us say what, in our opinion, "justice to the Natives" means.

(1.) *The Proclamations of 2 September 1865.*

The first thing to do is to determine the true position of the Native tribes on the West Coast under the confiscation.

The confiscation was made in the following form, differing essentially from that of every previous one: "The Governor, in exercise of the power vested in him by the [New Zealand Settlements] Act doth hereby, with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, set apart as eligible sites for colonization, the

Sir G. Grey,
Proclamation
2 Sept. 1865,
N. Z. Gazette
5 Sept. 1865.