

which are understood to have been cast by him upon certain of the Church Missionaries whose cognizance of my having obtained it he chose most unjustly to assume.

Here I supposed that the matter had come to an end, but I was much deceived. To my extreme surprise I learned a short time since that the first untruth was followed up by another which had been prudently kept a secret from me that a sentence had been fabricated for the purpose of inducing your Lordship to suppose that it had been wilfully suppressed by me.

The only answer I can suffer myself to make to such a charge is a simple and flat denial of its truth, the letter as printed in the "Southern Cross" is word for word as it stands in the original. Should his Excellency be still bold enough to persevere in his assertion the means of substantiating it are within his reach, and I challenge him to the proof. The passage which he gives is an interpolation a device almost too ill judged to be credited were it not paralleled by his unaccountable attempt to mislead me in the Council Chambers. Not content with the single accusation his Excellency subjoins another equally untenable that the publication of this letter "was made the medium of a most violent and unfair attack upon the Governor and the Bishop." In this endeavour to link up the Bishop's name with his own to find out a cause of grievance common to both, to entrench himself behind the high reputation of his Lordship he has attempted a better conceived manœuvre though with equally ill success. Rightly judging that a conjoined attack upon the Bishop's conduct would have destroyed the force of my strictures upon his own he did not hesitate to charge me with it, believing himself secure in the long period of time that must elapse before chance of denial could be afforded me.

I affirm that no such attack was ever made. So far from attacking, I spoke of the Bishop in the highest terms of eulogy, dwelling on my "admiration for his talents, his zeal, his energy, his sincerity, his singleness of purpose, and for the good works he had already done" coupled with an expression of regret that he should have been "dragged into any connexion with a purely political matter so far from his field of duties and so infinitely beneath the dignity of his office." By a most palpable distortion of words the Governor directs against His Lordship the reproach that was pointed at himself, putting the finishing stroke to his own misrepresentations by making it the groundwork of an additional slur upon me. To guard against being again accused of garbling a document, I have appended to this letter the entire article from which the foregoing passage is extracted, indulging a hope that your Lordship may take the trouble of perusing it and of satisfying yourself as to the nature of its contents

I have now two requests to press upon your Lordship's notice—

Firstly—I ask that my answer to the charge should be allowed equal publicity with His Excellency's attack upon my character, by publication in the Blue Book.

And secondly, that His Excellency should be required to communicate to me an unqualified retractation of his statement; unqualified I say, for a mere attempt at explanation, such as I fully expect under colour of a mistake, I cannot be expected to accept. This indeed I put not so much as a request but as a claim upon your Lordship's sense of justice. It is necessary not for my own satisfaction only but for that of the community, that a check should be placed on this mode of managing the Home correspondence. Every man here who has a character to lose, and has the misfortune to differ from His Excellency in political opinion lives in continual dread of secret aspersions upon his name. Some as in this instance having been made public are refuted, but a general impression obtains that there is much in the back ground which has never come to light.

Your Lordship may think that I have used strong language, yet it is not written in the first heat of anger after discovery of the open insult that had been put upon me. I have deliberately weighed my words, I feel that I am thoroughly justified in the use of them, that I could have said no less without sacrificing the respect I owe to myself, and I know that I shall be upheld in them by the universal voice of public opinion in New Zealand.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) Wm. Brown.

The Right Hon. Earl Grey,
&c., &c., &c.