

make purchases around here as much exertion is being made by Europeans to close up the country & prevent natives selling land. An abominable printed document on this subject is now being circulated, one copy of which is now before me. I am also very anxious for you to purchase the land for the Church . . . [to] enable me to carry out my plans with ease . . .<sup>5</sup>

The 'abominable printed document', the subject of this paper, could hardly have been an element in the Financial Message (no. 5) of his Excellency the officer administering the Government, a fortnight earlier. From an extended statement, the House about to adjourn learned, inter alia, that 'the native mind is disturbed by the extent of territory which has . . . lately been added to the Crown Demesne'. Colonel R. H. Wynyard, who for thirteen months was the administrator between the departure of Grey and Gore Browne's arrival, thought that active land purchase negotiations should be suspended for a time to allow Maori feeling 'to subside'.<sup>6</sup> McLean may have been alerted by other informants or, more likely, Maori feeling may have rendered Grace's action irrelevant. However, resentment at this claim broke into a storm with the publication in the *Southern Cross* of 17 October of a translation of Grace's circular and strong editorial comment. The editor said that the document had been 'placed in our possession' adding later that the translation was 'our own', possibly that of T. S. Forsaith, former Protector of Aborigines but now a draper and Auckland politician with press connections.<sup>7</sup> Its wording was a somewhat more idiomatic version of that later given to the Committee of the Auckland Provincial Council as set out, below, with the accompanying text in Maori:<sup>8</sup>

Ko etahi patai ki te hunga Maori mo te hoho Wenua

Wakamatamatauria nga mea katoa: kia u ki te mea pai

1. I whiwhi nga Tamariki a Iharaira ki to ratou wenua tupu i te pehea? *I hohona ranei e ratou ki te moni?*  
Kenehi 15: 7-18
2. Kahore he Ture i hoatu e te Atua ki a ratou me to ratou wenua? *He Ture ano?*  
Rewitikuha 25:33-34
3. Ko nga Matua anake ranei to ratou wenua, no nga Tamariki ano ranei?  
Kenehi 17:8; Ruka 15:31
4. Na wai hoki tenei wenua i homai mo koutou, mo te hunga Maori? *Ki ta Paora, na te Atua.*  
Nga Mahi 17:26

Some questions to the Maori people about the selling of Land

Let all things be understood: be steadfast to the good thing

1. How did the Children of Israel obtain their land for an inheritance? Was it purchased by them with money?  
Genesis 15: 7-18
2. Was there not a Law given by God to them concerning their land? *A Law indeed?*  
Leviticus 25:33-34
3. Does their land belong to the parents alone or to the Children also?  
Genesis 17:8; Luke 15:31
4. Who gave this land for [i.e. to] you for the Maori people? *According to Paul, it was God.*  
Acts 17:26