

Letter: William Jenkins to the Superintendent Nelson dated 3 May 1860

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Sir I beg to forward to your Honor the accompanying translations of letters received by me from the natives of this Province containing their sentiments with regard to the Taranaki Outbreak and their avowed determination to adhere to the Government and to respect the honor of the Queen. I have given these translations as strictly literal as the sense would allow. These letters are signed by the principal Chiefs of each district at the request of the whole of their people. I have the honor to be Sir, Your obedt servt W. Jenkins, Interpreter

Nelson 30th May 1860 [sic]

Our Friend, Governor Browne, I salute you. I write these words to you lest you should conclude that I am living here on ill terms with the Pakehas. I have but one desire and that is that I and all who dwell in this Island should conduct ourselves properly and indeed I know that all the Maori people of this Island desire good & that only we will not be like those who have wrought evil at Taranaki. All my people are resolved to unite in one purpose and that is to submit to the Queen and to Governor Browne as our protector & benefactor and the dispenser of good things both for body & soul. This is all I wish for myself & for my people - I am not so ignorant as to close my eyes to that which is good for myself & those who [deal?] with me. I wish to raise myself to ... equably with my friends the Pakehas and that one thoughts and actions may be one. I have carefully enquired of all my people respecting their views and intentions with respect to the future and they all with one consent agree to abide by the law of the Queen. I am desirous that they should seriously think & diligently search out for themselves that they may discern the difference between good and evil. The names of the people who unite in these sentiments are here appended and are forty four. Your respectful friend, Wi Katene te Puoho. Also the following names.

Ko Wirape Mahi, Komene, Tiopira, Te Rei Wharau, Te Rei Kauhoe, Aperahama, Wirape Takarangi, Ngakapa, Meihana, Renoiri, Poriana, Tirene, Kereopa, Keneri te Kaha, Emera Tatona, Te Herewini, Hoani, Te Meihana, Retimona, Pene, Te One

Ko Eruera, Rawiri te Rauhihi, Inia, Rawiri te Ketu, Hoani - Taitapu, Wiremu Ngapara, Henere te Ranga, Remeku, Paramena, Kawana Poara, Te Watene, Riwai, Paratene, Tamati, Aperahama, Takerei, Toto, Tipene, Matenga, Paukena, Karehana

Pariwhakaoho (Massacre Bay) 18 Apr 1860

A mixture of the Ngatitama & the Ngatiawa tribes... Heneri Te Keha is an aged and influential chief. W.J.

To Messrs Robinson & Domett

Sirs, Our respects to you having heard that you wished us to assemble in order that we might express our thoughts concerning our attachment to the Queens authority and our obedience to the laws of religion - we have done so and this is our determination (ie all the natives of Massacre Bay). We will all nestle under the wings of our God and of the Queen. We learn from the Bible that "Queens shall be nursing mother" and also that God will take care of our souls. Sirs, our assembly wish you to send us a reply to sooth & quiet our minds - do not delay. From your respectful friends, Heneri te Keha and the whole assembly.

Auckland April 28, 1860

To Messrs Domett, Po...? & Robinson

Salutations to you all who administer the laws of God & of the Queen. We have arrived here & have been with the Governor and he is pleased with what you have done in bringing all under the Laws of the Queen - who reside at Whakapuaka at Motueka at Kaiaure at the Pelorus at Queen Charlottes Sound at Wairau & at Massacre Bay.

The Governors intentions toward William King are good he wishes him to make an end of his evil work (ie cease to war against the Pakeha) And to turn his wrath against the Ngatiruanui & Taranaki tribes who have committed the murders in the neighborhood. We shall ask the Governor to go to the meeting of the Waikato Chiefs to hear what they talk about whether for good or evil. I very much admire the conduct of the Governor. When we have heard what the Waikatos say then we shall proceed to Waitara to see what William King is about - if he is still obstinate ... can't help it. The Governor has behaved kindly toward him. This is all.
From Hohepa Taniaihengi?

W. Jenkins

If you approve of what I say - you may if you please have my letter printed. The Captain of the Steamer behaved very well to us on board.

Motupipi, Massacre Bay April 9, 1860

This assembly was composed chiefly of Ngatiawa Natives of whom Rawiri & Hohaia are well known chiefs. W. J.

Proceed O my letter of respect containing my sentiment to Messrs Robinson & Domett. Salutation to you both. Listen to my words and to my thoughts, which are only good. The first appearance of life for man is in Religion the Laws of God are the veins of goodness - this is taught to us by Religion. The laws of the Queen also proceed from Religion and those laws shew forth Peace Mercy & good will. So also are the laws of the Government here they are the salvation of the people and teach us to dwell in peace upon these foundations of Righteousness & Truth. And there laws shall be a refuge and hiding place for me. I wish to dwell in quietness and peace only. This is my Oath made in the sight of the Government and approved by the whole assembly here. Rawiri Watino (Assessor), Hohaia te Rangirunga (Teacher)

Aorere, Massacre Bay 12 April 1860

This assembly was composed chiefly of Ngatiawa Natives some of whom are nearly related to William King. W.J.

To Messrs Robinson & Domett

Sirs, Listen to what we say. The assembly convened by Wiremu King te Koihua have agreed to continue to obey God and the Queen, and to dwell in peace. We send you these words because we heard that you wished us to assemble to express our allegiance to the laws of God and of the Queen. These are the words of your respectful friends Wiremu Kingi Koihua and of 41 of the younger brethren assembled at Aorere.

D'Urvills Island, 12 April 1860

The Ngatikoata is a branch of the Ngatitooa of which tribe Te Rauparaha was chief. W.J.

To Messrs Robinson, Domett, Poynter and all who administer the laws of Queen Victoria.

Great has been our love and respect towards you in all past years, and it continues so even to the present time. Hear ye our words. We do not approve of the evil laws & customs of the Maoris. However, you must be already aware, from our past conduct, that our thoughts are good towards you and that we wish still to shew nothing but kindness to the Pakeha as well as to the Maori. This is an established custom of the people of this Island and you all know that this district has been undisturbed by evil. These are the words of the Council of Ngatikoata (Signed) Maka Tarapiko, Rene te Oaenuku, Raniera te Patete. If you wish it you may put these words in Print thus all men may read them.

Nelson April 9, 1860

Copy of a letter written by Hohepa to D. Maclean Esqr.

Friend Maclean, Salutations to you and to the Governor who are now in those places of disturbance. I am here with the Superintendent attending to the Queens work. We are going to assemble all the natives and bring them under the shadow of the wings of the Queen. When this reaches you hasten to write to me that I may go forth to you that I may talk with you and with the Governor for my love and respect for you ... is not diminished in these troublesome times. If I get down to see you soon then I shall know better what to do. From your respectful friend, Hohepa Tamaihengie

Waikawa, Queen Charlottes Sound, 6 April 1860

This letter is from a meeting of the whole of the natives of Queen Charlottes Sound - of the Ngatiawa tribe – assembled at Waikawa near Waitohi - it is signed by four very influential chiefs. W.J.

O Friends and Brethren the Pakehas who dwell in the midst of the laws of the Queen - We here are bending our knees before the Queen and we see no other way for our thoughts at present. We are dwelling under the Queens shadow.

Friend Hohepa - we hear what you say concerning the Pakehas and we are all determined to lean upon the power of the Queen. There is no other way for us. This Island has been already proclaimed by us a sacred place for the Queen. Let all the inhabitants be sacred to the Queen both Pakeha & Maori for the laws of the Queen are our protection and the defence of this Island and its inhabitants. Friend Hohepa see to it that you get all the Maoris of Massacre Bay and of Whakapuaka to express their thoughts on this subject. You had better also get Wiremu Katene te Manu to assist you. These are the words of us all (Signed) Ropoama te One, Ropata Witikau, Inia Paihia, Ihaka te Wharekaoho.

Nelson April 17, 1860

O Friend the Governor we salute you. We have assembled at Nelson by the consent of Messrs Robinson, Domett & Poynter and these are our words.

(Speech of) Hohepa Tamaihengia - Listen to me Ngatitōa! Listen to what William King te Rangitake has done. He has laid down a great evil before the Governor - his error is very great in jumping upon the land which te Teira had given into the right hand of the Governor and of the Queen. O Friend the Governor we do not approve of the evil doings of the Ngatiruanui and Taranaki tribes their error is their own but as for us we will be sheltered by the wings of the Queen.

Ihaka Pukerou - Listen O Ngatiruanui! We have nothing else to do but to trust in the Government and as for the error of William King he is wrong even according to our own laws.

Aperahama te Panakenake - Listen to me my children: I have only one word for you - Let us abide under the authority of the Queen!

(Speech of) Matenga te Aopouri - Hear me O ye younger men! Many disturbances have passed behind us; and as for this evil work which interferes with the laws of God and of the Queen what have we to do with it?

(Speech of) Takerei te Wareaitu - Listen O ye tribes to my word. William King's work is a bad work. Let us not cleave to his wicked devices.

(Speech of) Hapimana Mokoera - Listen to me ye tribes who recline upon the laws of God & of the Queen! William King is doing an evil work. He has broken with the law of God & the laws of the Queen. Let us not sympathise with him in this matter. (Signed also by) Wirihana Rauakitua, Pirimona Weuweu, Karira Tonoa, Horomona Nohorua by the request of the whole of the Ngatitōa, Ngatirarua & Ngatitama people

These tribes reside chiefly in Massacre Bay & at Whakapuaka & Motueka. They assembled in Nelson by the request of Hohepa. W.J.