

## Despatches Lieut-Governor Grey to Right Hon Lord Stanley 1845-1847

Archives NZ Reference ACHK 16580 G25/2

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Many despatches in this volume can also be viewed in typewritten form via "British Parliamentary Papers, Colonies: New Zealand" on the University of Waikato website. These are marked (\*) and can be accessed at <http://digital.liby.waikato.ac.nz/bppnz>. Some transcripts of despatches that don't appear to be included in this online resource are added here.

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1846 Feb 05 Despatch No.15 written at Government House, Auckland

My Lord, A vessel arrived this morning from the Bay of Islands, and I understand that everything is proceeding tranquilly at the seat of the late rebellion. The country in the neighbourhood of Auckland is also in a most satisfactory state. And as I have this morning concluded the arrangements I propose to carry out with regard to the future extent and expense of the Government Establishment at Auckland, and have given directions for the necessary reductions in the existing establishments, my duties in this portion of the Colony may be regarded as completed in as far as they can be for the present.

I intend this evening to embark in H.M.S. "Castor" and to proceed direct to Port Nicholson with a view of acquainting myself with the state of the Southern Settlements – and of carrying out in as far as I may find practicable, the instructions I have received from Your Lordship.

I beg to state that the letters I have received from the Superintendent of the Southern district lead me to suppose, that I ought to appear at Port Nicholson, accompanied by such a force, as may satisfy the Natives that I have both the ability and inclination to enforce an observance of the Law, and the recognition and compliance with the just rights of Her Majesty's subjects of European descent – and I shall accordingly be accompanied by H.M.S. "Castor", "Calliope" & "Driver" together with five hundred men.

So soon as I feel justified in returning to the Northern portions of New Zealand, it is my intention to proceed direct from the Southern Settlements to the Bay of Islands, as I feel unwilling after the disastrous occurrences which have taken place in that portion of the Colony, to absent myself from it for any lengthened period, until I am quite satisfied that everything has settled down into a state of complete and permanent tranquillity. I understand that since the Blockade has been removed from that district, European Settlers are again returning to the Bay of Islands.

I will lose no time in reporting to Your Lordship the nature and extent of the reductions I have made in the Government Establishment, but before doing so, I have thought it desirable to visit the Southern Settlements, in order that my report upon the probable future expense of conducting the Government of this Colony might be laid before Your Lordship in a complete form.

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1846 Feb 12 Despatch No.21 written from H.M.S. "Castor", Wellington  
My Lord, I have the honour to report that I this day arrived at this settlement, and that I lost no time in visiting the Hutt district, and in ascertaining the nature and capabilities for the conduct of military operations of the country occupied by those natives who in spite of repeated warnings from the Government have occupied lands the undoubted property of Europeans, and which they had neither previously occupied, nor had been admitted by the other natives to have any claim to.

I find that there will be no difficulty (if any necessity for my so doing should arise) in my taking measures which will enable me effectually to dislodge the intruding natives from the positions they occupy, and to punish those natives who have on several occasions insulted the authorities who have recommended them to remove from the land they were unlawfully occupying, but I have reason to think, that the strength of the force at my disposal and the intelligence they have received of the events which have recently occurred in the Northern part of this Island will induce the natives to abandon the Valley of the Hutt without offering any further opposition.

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1846 Feb 13 Despatch No.22 written from H.M.S. "Castor", Port Nicholson  
My Lord, I have the honour to transmit for your Lordship's information the copy of an address which was this morning presented to me by the inhabitants of Port Nicholson and its vicinity together with a copy of the reply which I returned to that address.

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1846 Feb 14 Despatch No.23 written from Port Nicholson  
My Lord, I have the honour to state that Taringa Kiru one of the principal chiefs of those natives who have intruded into the Valley of the Hutt has just been with me, as a kind of deputation from the other chiefs in that district, and that upon my requiring him to name a specific day upon which the Valley shall be evacuated by the natives, he has assured me that all those over whom he has any influence shall quit the land belonging to the Europeans upon Tuesday or Wednesday next. After making this promise he wished to enter into a discussion regarding the kind and amount of payment which should be made to them for the crops, houses &c which they must leave upon the land, I however thought it proper to observe that as they had originally occupied and subsequently retained possession of the land in defiance of the repeated warnings of the Government, and without any regard to the right of the proprietors of the land, they were not justly entitled to any consideration, and that I should not hold any communication with them upon these subjects or upon any other subjects, until they had shewn their respect for the Government, by quitting this land and returning to their own homes: but that after this had been done, and the Europeans had entered into peaceable possession of their property, I would receive any deputation of the Chiefs, and hear any representations which they might make to me.

I thought it proper to make this statement because although I thought that referring to the large amount of crops they must leave behind them, and to their naturally loose notions of the rights of Europeans to landed property in this country – it might be a proper act of generosity on behalf of the Crown, upon their yielding a ready and complete obedience to the laws, to make an allowance for the crops in the ground; which they were obliged to abandon (amounting I am told to nearly three hundred acres of potatoes). I nevertheless felt that if I offered any compensation, whilst they remained in possession of the land, my motives might be misunderstood, and they they conceiving my object was to purchase their consent, might endeavour to drive a bargain with me, and delay their removal until further difficulties arose, which might result in serious disturbances. I am happy to be able to add that this determination upon my part appeared to produce a very good effect upon the old chief, as I have no doubt it will have upon his followers.

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1846 Feb 17 Despatch No.24 written from Port Nicholson

My Lord, I beg to transmit for your Lordship's information the copy of a very remarkable letter which has been addressed to me by fifteen of the most influential chiefs in this part of New Zealand, indeed every Chief of great importance but one has signed it. These Chiefs express in the most deliberate and decided manner, their desire that the laws of the Queen should be firmly and permanently established among them, in order that they may be raised to a more enlightened state. I have quite satisfied myself that this letter is entirely their own production, and that the idea of addressing it to me originated with themselves – and that it was written at a distant native village where they were not in communication with Europeans. It however accorded so well with my own known and recorded views, that I entertained in the first instance some suspicion that it might have been an artful piece of flattery written with some ulterior object – subsequent events have however convinced me that it was written in complete sincerity.

I likewise enclose for your Lordship's information the copy of the reply which I returned to the letter received from the Natives – in this reply I expressed my readiness to receive any of them, and I instructed Mr Kemp the Protector of Aborigines who I sent with this letter, to inform any of the natives who might be apprehensive from past occurrences of being regarded as enemies of the Europeans, and who might therefore as they had done on former occasions request that their personal safety might be guaranteed, in the event of their coming to Wellington to see me, though he was quite satisfied their apprehensions of injury from any Europeans were wholly groundless, but that he would not venture to propose to me, that the safety of any one should be specially guaranteed, as I would certainly take care that both Europeans and natives moved wherever they pleased in perfect safety, by punishing all persons to whichever race they might belong who ventured to molest or injure others, and that proposing such a thing as a special guarantee to me, would be to evince a distrust of my ability and intention to punish offenders.

Mr Kemp did not reach the pah of Taupo until late on the evening of the 16<sup>th</sup> when both my letter and message were received with a satisfaction which left no doubt whatever of the sincerity of the fifteen Chiefs who had written to me, and my letter was immediately forwarded by a messenger on horseback, to the Chief signing the letter, who lived nearest to the pah of Taupo at which my reply had first been received – whilst Puaha a chief of great influence to whom Mr Kemp had delivered my letter, started at once and travelled all night, in order that he might wait upon me this morning. It was impossible that anyone could have expressed himself with greater propriety than Puaha did when he saw me, and I have every reason to believe that he will exert the whole of his influence to preserve tranquillity and good order in this part of New Zealand.

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1846 Feb 17 Despatch No.25 written from Port Nicholson

My Lord, As a vessel will sail tomorrow morning with despatches for England by way of Auckland, I think it right to inform your Lordship that although the question of the occupation of the Valley of the Hutt by the natives, has not been definitely concluded, it has however advanced so far that the whole of the fighting men who were estimated at three hundred in number, have with the exception of about twenty abandoned the disputed land, and removed their families and property from it – and as the great majority of the natives in this part of the Island are decidedly opposed to any of the intruding natives continuing as they have hitherto done to set the laws at defiance – I have every hope that by tomorrow evening this troublesome and exciting question will have been set permanently at rest. Your Lordship may rely upon my omitting no measure of precaution which may suggest itself to me, for the purpose of adjusting without bloodshed, a question which from the most trifling beginning has been allowed to grow into one of the last importance for the interests of these Islands, and I certainly have very strong grounds for hoping that the affair can now be satisfactorily and finally adjusted, without the employment of Force.

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1846 Mar 08 Despatch No.26 written from Wellington (\*)

1846 Mar 11 Despatch No.27 written from Wellington (\*)

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1846 Mar 13 Despatch No.28 written from Wellington

My Lord, In compliance with the standing Instructions of Your Lordship's Department, I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter, I this day addressed to Captain C. Graham, RN., Senior Naval Officer in New Zealand, applying for a passage in H.M.S. "Castor" to Wanganui and Nelson.

I have felt it proper to proceed to Wanganui with as little delay as possible, in consequence of information I received late last night, that great excitement prevailed amongst the Native Tribes inhabiting the Coast to the Northward and Westward of this Port, from a report which has been maliciously spread that it was my intention to avenge the Wairau massacre – Captain Graham has notified to me that he will proceed to sea in the course of this morning.

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1846 Apr 07 Despatch No.29 written from H. M. Steamer "Driver", Porirua (\*)

1846 Apr 09 Despatch No.30 written from Wellington (\*)

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1846 Apr 14 Despatch No.31 written from Wellington

My Lord, Adverting to your Lordship's despatch No.9 of the 17<sup>th</sup> July last, transmitting for my information copies of a correspondence with the Chevalier Bunsen the Prussian Minister, and calling my attention to your Lordship's despatch No.49 of 21<sup>st</sup> of Nov 1843 addressed to the officer administering this Government relative to the proposed appointment of Mr Dillon Bell as Prussian Consul in New Zealand and requesting as early an answer as possible to the enquiry which that despatch contained with regard to the propriety of confirming his nomination to the appointment in question, I have now the honor to report that I see no reason whatever to object to the appointment of Mr Dillon Bell as Prussian Consul in New Zealand.

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1846 Apr 14 Despatch No.32 written from Wellington

My Lord, In reference to your Lordship's despatch No.9 of the 17<sup>th</sup> July last, transmitting for my information, copies of a correspondence with the Chevalier Bunsen, the Prussian Minister, relative to a packet of judicial papers enclosed in that despatch, which His Excellency was desirous to have forwarded to Mr J. David Theodor Moeller, supposed to be resident at the settlement of Nelson in this Colony, I have the honor to state that the Police Magistrate at Nelson has reported that Mr J. David Theodor Moeller left that Settlement in August last for Adelaide in the Province of South Australia, I have therefore transmitted the packet of Judicial papers forwarded by the Chevalier Bunsen to the Officer administering the Government of South Australia, with a request that he would cause them to be delivered to Mr J. D. T. Moeller.

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1846 Apr 14 Despatch No.33 written from Wellington (\*)

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1846 Apr 16 Despatch No.34 written from Wellington

My Lord, I have the honor to transmit for your Lordship's information, a memorandum, which I have this day drawn up, on the present state of the British Settlements in the Southern portion of this Island, as regards the safety of these settlements, and the means at present at my disposal for holding possession of the large tract of territory lying between Port Nicholson and Taranaki or New Plymouth.

The line of reasoning I have adopted in this memorandum has led me to conclude that it is essential for the protection of this portion of Her Majesty's possessions that the Boat harbour at Porirua should be occupied by a Military force and that a road available for troops and Guns should be constructed from Wellington to Porirua, and possibly to a point about six miles beyond that place.

I should have preferred in accordance with the established rules of the Public Service, waiting for your Lordship's commands upon the subject previously to issuing the necessary directions for the execution of these works, but I find that any delay in proceeding with them may produce such disastrous consequences to British interests that I have thought it my duty to direct that they should be completed with as little delay as possible.

From the enclosed estimate your Lordship will find that the estimated cost of completing the road from Wellington to Porirua is less than fifteen hundred pounds, and as it is my intention to employ the troops on this line of road I trust that the cost of it will not much exceed one thousand pounds.

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1846 Apr 19 Despatch No.35 written from Wellington (\*)

1846 Apr 22 Despatch No.36 written from Wellington (\*)

1846 Apr 22 Despatch No.37 written from Port Nicholson (\*)

1846 Apr 27 Despatch No.38 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)

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1846 May 10 Despatch No.43 written from Government House, Auckland

My Lord, In reference to my despatches of the number and date specified in the margin (No.30 09 Apr 1846, No.34 16 Apr 1846, No.36 22 Apr 1846) in which I recently transmitted to your Lordship memoranda & reports upon the various measures, which I was adopting for securing the permanent tranquillity of the Southern portions of this Island, I have now the honor to enclose a plan, illustrative of the Military subjects alluded to in those despatches.

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1846 May 10 Despatch No.44 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)

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1846 May 10 Despatch No.45 written from Government House, Auckland  
My Lord, I have the honor to transmit the accompanying letter from Mr George Clarke late Protector of Aborigines in this Colony, which, although dated the 24<sup>th</sup> February last, did not reach me until I was on the point of quitting Wellington for the purpose of returning to Auckland at the end of April.

Mr Clarke's object in addressing your Lordship upon quitting the public service is with a view of obtaining Firstly – the repayment of a certain amount which he regards as being an overcharge for an allotment he purchased from the local Government in 1840; Secondly – that he may be placed in a position not inferior to that which he held, when the local Government originally sought and obtained his services.

Mr Clarke rests his claim for the first of the above points, upon his having been obliged to select an allotment according to certain regulations sanctioned by Sir George Gipps – upon his having been differently treated in this purchase from some other officers, and he instances the difference between the price he was called upon to pay, and that paid by the Chief Justice and the Attorney General.

I examined into these statements of Mr Clarke with the intention of at once doing him full justice in this respect, if there appeared sufficient grounds for my doing so; but the Surveyor General reported that Mr Clarke did not conform himself to the regulations of Sir George Gipps, which required that Government Officers should only select allotments of average value, but on the contrary he selected the choicest piece of land in the Bay, and one which was rendered still more valuable by abutting on the water, and that the amount he was required to pay for this land was fixed by the Executive Council – the Surveyor General being examined on the occasion. With reference to the small distance between the Attorney General's land and that of Mr Clarke, it appears the distance thus named is measured across a neck of land; that by the Coast line the distance between them must be half a mile, and that the two proprietors are, in fact, situated in two distinct Bays, of wholly different value and importance.

Under these circumstances as Mr Clarke had for his own advantage, departed from the regulations fixed by Sir George Gipps, to acquire a property in a valuable position, I have not felt justified, until I receive further instructions, in directing that any portion of the purchase money should be returned to him.

Upon the second point contained in Mr Clarke's letter, I beg to refer to the enclosed correspondence, and to state in addition, that when I arrived here, I found that a department termed that of the Protectorate of Aborigines was maintained at an annual cost of about two thousand five hundred pounds, of which sum about one thousand pounds was appropriated to the salaries and allowances of Mr Clarke and two of his sons, and that not a single Hospital, School or Institution of any kind, supported by the Government was in operation for the benefit of the Natives.

I found moreover the Native race generally utterly wanting in all confidence in the Government, insomuch so, that several of the Native Chiefs refused positively, to trust themselves on board a British Man of War, to visit me, when I requested them to do so, alleging that, after the treatment received by Pomare, they were afraid to do so.

A rebellion was raging in the North, the native race were paramount in the South, I found that Mr Clarke and his son were equally disliked by the Natives and the Settlers, that the Protector in the Southern district, instead of reporting through the Superintendent there, reported direct to the Protector at Auckland, thus leaving the officer charged with the tranquillity of the Southern district without an Interpreter, or the means of readily communicating with the Natives, or without a sufficient knowledge of what was transpiring.

I ascertained from the Colonial Secretary that, in the same manner, he had always been left in the most complete ignorance of what was going on in the Protector's Department, and in reference to the Natives generally, and I found that a series of injudicious proceedings had been adopted towards the natives, which had plunged the country into distrust, anarchy and rebellion.

I request also to add that I did not find in Mr Clarke a willingness to assist me, that I found on the contrary a tendency on his part to excite alarm by reports of native intrigues, and apprehended disturbances, which would have shaken my confidence in many individuals who have proved themselves excellent subjects, and that the measures which had been adopted in reference to the natives, appeared to me in several instances inconsistent with the openness and generosity which should characterise the British nation.

I determined therefore not to allow myself to be made distrustful either of Europeans or natives by vague suspicions, and by a department separated altogether from the general Government, but to bring the Protectorate department under the control of the Colonial Secretary, through whose office all reports and letters could pass, thus affording this functionary as well as myself, a perfect knowledge of all that transpired amongst the native population; and in the same manner I determined that all Officers charged with duties connected with the natives in other portions of the Colony, should report through their immediate superior. I hoped, at the same time, to make considerable reductions in this department, and thus to obtain funds which might confer really practical and lasting benefits upon the natives.

Mr Clarke refused to fall into these views of mine and threw up his office, and since that time has been a source of some embarrassment to me. Upon the whole, however, I think it very fortunate for the Government that he took this step, as my having ceased to be connected with him, is certainly a source of gratification to a large proportion of the native population, and I do not consider Mr Clarke to have been fitted for the position he would have held.

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1846 May 12 Despatch No.46 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 May 14 Despatch No.47 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 02 Despatch No.48 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 03 Despatch No.49 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 09 Despatch No.51 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 12 Despatch No.52 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 18 Despatch No.53 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 18 Despatch No.54 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 20 Despatch No.57 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 20 Despatch No.58 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 20 Despatch No.59 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 20 Despatch No.60 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 21 Despatch No.62 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 21 Despatch No.63 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jun 25 Despatch No.72 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Jul 02 Despatch No.73 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Jul 09 Despatch No.74 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Jul 20 Despatch No.76 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Jul 20 Despatch No.77 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Jul 21 Despatch No.78 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Jul 23 Despatch No.79 written from H.M. Steamer "Driver", Porirua (\*)  
1846 Jul 29 Despatch No.80 written from Wellington (\*)  
1846 Aug 31 Despatch No.83 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)  
1846 Aug 31 Despatch No.84 written from Government House, Auckland (\*)

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