

New Zealand Company – Letters received 1846Archives NZ Reference AAYZ 8990 NZC108/2/7

03 Jan 1846 Octavius Carrington, Barretts Hotel, Wellington to Colonel William Wakefield
Sir, I was strongly urged by several of my Friends in New Plymouth, immediately to proceed in the *Scotia* ... with the serious consequences that might ensue from every minutes unnecessary delay. I at once took the liberty of following their advice, a liberty which, the circumstances will, I am persuaded, extenuate. The *Scotia* left on the 15th instant, but meeting with bad weather, returned to the Roadstead on the 20th instant, when I went on shore intending to travel overland. I arrived here yesterday, and beg that you will fix an early day, on which, it may suit your convenience to favour me with an interview.

05 Jan 1846 Octavius Carrington, Barrets Hotel, Wellington to James Kelham
Sir, I have the honor to inclose you an account of my claim upon the New Zealand Company under the arrangement with Mr Wicksteed entailed in my letter to Colonel Wakefield of the 16th August last. If I am now to consider myself as no longer employed by the Company I shall also claim a year's salary instead of the years notice provided for in my agreement with them.

The New Zealand Company to O. Carrington
31 Dec 1845 For salary and ration money from 31 Aug 1844 to 31 Dec 1845 – one year and four months at £290 - £386 13s 4d
By amount received from Captain King on account of work done for the Government - £10 8s 9d
Total £376 4s 7d

17 Jan 1846 William Wakefield, Wellington to R. D. Hanson, Solicitor, Wellington
Sir, I hereby undertake out of the funds for general purposes that may be first placed at my disposal by the New Zealand Company to pay to Mr Octavius Carrington the sum of four hundred pounds, the agreed amount in full for all his claims upon the New Zealand Company up to the present time upon Condition that he waive all claim to further employment or notice of discharge and delivers to Mr Wicksteed possession of the Company's House at New Plymouth together with all maps, road plans, instruments and other property belonging to the New Zealand Company and in his possession.

10 Feb 1846 R. Chilman, Millers Boarding House, Wellington to Colonel William Wakefield
Sir, I beg to inform you of my arrival in Wellington, and to request that, if agreeable to you, you will appoint an early day on which I can have an interview with you.

14 Feb 1846 William S. Graham, Auckland to Colonel Wakefield
Sir, I have not till now had opportunity of acknowledging receipt of your letters of 27th November and 8th October last and by this conveyance I have pleasure in advising you that I shall forward the remaining numbers of the Gazette and New Zealander newspapers referred to in the former letter. The number of the Auckland "Times" I cannot procure. I beg to enclose herewith a statement of my account and to advise you that I have this day drawn upon you at 3% in favour of Messrs Ridgway... & Co. for the balance £13 3s 6d which have the goodness to honor on presentation.

19 Feb 1846 Richard Chilman, Wellington to Colonel William Wakefield

Sir, I shall be obliged by your forwarding the enclosed letter to the Secretary of the New Zealand Company.

19 Feb 1846 Richard Chilman to the Secretary of the New Zealand Company

Sir, Having been informed by Colonel Wakefield that a copy of my representations to him respecting certain charges I have brought against Mr Wicksteed, will be transmitted to the Court of Directors; I beg most respectfully to offer a few further remarks on the subject.

I presume that the whole of my correspondence with Colonel Wakefield will be forwarded for the information of the Directors, and I therefore beg first to direct your attention to my letter of the 4th of December, wherein it will be seen that from a conversation which took place between Mr Wicksteed and myself on the 12th November, Mr Wicksteed stated that he meant to make me a large payment on account of my salary, and that he wished me to insert it in the September Quarter's accounts. I declined doing this, as I thought it a most objectionable proceeding; and I must still submit that if I had done so, I should have been guilty of a most gross dereliction of duty towards my employers. Mr Wicksteed has not paid me any money since, notwithstanding this promise, but in a late communication to Colonel Wakefield, as appears from the enclosed correspondence between Mr Wicksteed and myself, has endeavoured to set up a counter claim for land in order to account for not paying me, as he was directed by Colonel Wakefield to do; the land transaction referred to having been all arranged by himself in February 1845, and leaving a balance in my favour, as will appear by Mr Wicksteed's despatch to Colonel Wakefield on the subject No.5/45 to which I beg to refer to you.

With regard to the charges I have made against Mr Wicksteed for receiving money on behalf of the Company and not accounting for it, I have so distinctly stated the particulars in my letter to Colonel Wakefield of the 14th instant that I have now only to enclose copies of the receipts. Mr Wicksteed's attempt to evade the charge, by stating in general terms that he always placed a memorandum of all monies received, on my desk for insertion in the books, and that if there was anything wrong it was my doing; is so very frivolous that I only notice it to remark; that the books were of course always open for Mr Wicksteed's inspection, that the Cash Book in particular has for upwards of twelve months past had so few entries that any omission must have been at once detected, and that the rough copies of the Quarterly Accounts were uniformly shown to Mr Wicksteed before being made out for transmission to Wellington.

I wish particularly to direct your attention to several circumstances which indicate, that Mr Wicksteed, for some time past, had not been in possession of the large balance which stood against him in the Company's books. Besides the difficulty experienced by the Company's officers in obtaining their money, alluded to in my letter to Colonel Wakefield of the 14th instant, I have good reasons for believing that up to the 2nd instant Mr Newsham was not made acquainted with the circumstance that Colonel Wakefield had disallowed the sale of the Suburban Section purchased by him and directed the return of his money. Mr Wicksteed's excuses also for not remitting the proceeds of Mr Hine's goods and the money for Captain Davy's bill, and the falsehoods he resorted to on that occasion as detailed in my letter to Colonel Wakefield of the 14th instant (the documents to substantiate which statement I herewith enclose) fully prove that the real reason was, that Mr Wicksteed had not the money in his possession at the time; which is confirmed by the circumstance that up to the 2nd instant he had only paid away about £40 since that period, having received nearly the same amount, and that neither Mr Watson on behalf of Mr Evans, or myself, with the exception of the small sum of eight pounds seven shillings and seven pence, have been able to obtain any money from him.

Having now directed your attention to some points which I had not brought prominently forward in my letter to Colonel Wakefield, I have most respectfully to submit my case to the consideration of the Court of Directors, in perfect confidence that after having been nearly five years in their employ, they will not sanction my being dismissed without any notice, or any remuneration for any sudden discharge, solely because I thought it my duty to bring certain transactions to the notice of the Principal Agent.

Mr Wicksteed accuses me of intriguing to supplant him as Resident Agent. I most distinctly deny that throughout the whole of this transaction I have been influenced by any other motive than that of doing my duty. Being a witness to Mr Wicksteed's difficulties in meeting the demands upon him for money, being requested by that gentleman to falsify the accounts, by substituting wrong dates for the correct ones, and being aware of the falsehoods he had written to Colonel Wakefield not only in the cases before alluded to, but also in Mr Carrington's case, I became very suspicious of him; and upon discovering that he had not put money to account that he had received, I thought it my duty at once to acquaint the Principal Agent with the circumstances.

I cannot for one moment believe that I have erred in the steps I have taken, and I now therefore leave my case in the hands of the Court of Directors in the full trust that they will not allow me to suffer for what I considered to be the conscientious discharge of my duty; but that they will reinstate me in their service, and remunerate me for the loss I shall sustain in consequence of Mr Wicksteed's proceedings. Apologising for the great length my remarks have extended to.

02 Feb 1846 J. T. Wicksteed, New Plymouth to Richard Chilman

Sir, By virtue of the authority vested in me by power of attorney from the New Zealand Company "to dismiss or discharge any person or persons whomsoever in the employment of the said Company whenever I shall think fit to do so", I hereby discharge you from the offices of Clerk to the Resident Agent and Clerk to the Land Office in New Plymouth. When I inform you that I am aware of the aid afforded by you to Mr Octavius Carrington in prosecuting his claim against the New Zealand Company; and also that Colonel Wakefield has sent me a copy of your letter to himself of December 4th last, alleging malpractices against myself, there will be no surprise on your part upon receipt of the above notice.

03 Feb 1846 Richard Chilman, New Plymouth to J. T. Wicksteed

Sir, I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date informing me that you have discharged me from the offices of Clerk to the Resident Agent and Clerk to the Land Office in New Plymouth. As I do not consider that you are justified in dismissing me from the New Zealand Company's employ at a moments notice, particularly at a time when you are resting under a very serious accusation, I shall appeal to the Principal Agent on the subject; and intend proceeding immediately to Wellington to substantiate the charges I have made against you. Referring you to the annexed copy of a letter from Colonel Wakefield, I have once more to request that you will immediately discharge the arrears of my salary.

03 Dec 1845 William Wakefield to Richard Chilman, New Plymouth
 Sir, I have received your letter of the 9th October representing that you have had some difficulty in obtaining your salary from Mr Wicksteed. I had noticed this subject in my despatches to Mr Wicksteed so far back as the 30th August last, by the present opportunity I have again brought it to his notice, and I have no doubt upon your application you will obtain an immediate settlement.

04 Feb 1846 J. T. Wicksteed, Mount Eliot, New Plymouth to Richard Chilman
 Sir, I have written to Colonel Wakefield by this day's mail on the subject of your claim against the Company and the counter-claim of the Company upon you; and I think it probable you will find that gentleman's opinion as to the proper mode of settling the account different from your own.

J. T. Wicksteed, New Plymouth 10 Mar 1845
 Received of the Lord Bishop of New Zealand twenty pounds for two town sections marked Nos 711 and 712 on the Map of the Town of New Plymouth.

J. T. Wicksteed, New Plymouth 16 Jan 1846
 Received of James Soul and David Soul, Richard Foreman and Stephen Foreman twenty pounds six shillings on account of suburban section No.19.

Copy of R. W. Foreman's Account
 Mr Wicksteed's account
 1845 had 75lbs of flour – 9s; one bushel of wheat – 5s
 05 Jun 1845 one ton of flour - £12
 14 Jun 1845 four hundred weight bran – 16s; six days work – 15s
 08 Aug 1845 one bushel barley – 3s 6d
 21 Aug 1845 three days work – 7s 6d
 13 Jan 1846 $\frac{3}{4}$ ton of flour - £6 15s
 Total £21 11s

03 Mar 1845 James Evans & George St George, New Plymouth to Richard Chilman
 Memorandum whereby we acknowledge that of the amount due to us from the New Zealand Company of £51 2s 6d, £10 2s 6d is to be paid to Mr St George and £41 to Mr Evans or the party appointed by him to receive it.

24 Jan 1846 Josiah Flight, Mangaraka to Richard Chilman
 Sir, I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your note of yesterday in which you enquire whether the statement contained in an extract from a despatch of Mr Wicksteed's to Colonel Wakefield viz "I have also promised Mr Flight to take up a Company's Bill for £43 acceptance of which was refused by the Directors, in the event of its non-payment in England" be correct. In reply I have to state that it is wholly incorrect, inasmuch as Mr Wicksteed has in no way whatsoever given me any such promise.

12 Feb 1846 Copy of account of Richard Chilman with the New Zealand Company

01 Apr 1846 William Mein Smith, Wellington to Colonel William Wakefield
 My Dear Sir, I have to thank you for a copy of a Report made by Mr T. H. Fitzgerald, Government Assistant Surveyor for this district, upon the Native Reserves in the district of Port Nicholson bearing date the 24th December 1845.

Had this report been merely a description of the reserves I do not know that I should have felt called upon to notice it; but Mr Fitzgerald concludes by asserting that the original intentions of the New Zealand Company have been defeated by the mode in which the native reserves have been selected, and as I selected all the town and some of the country sections it appears to me that it is proper I should make a few remarks upon this document.

I ceased to select for the natives upon the arrival of Mr Halswell upon whom that duty then devolved. I find that I have the honor to enjoy Mr Fitzgerald's approbation of my town selections, but I will take the opportunity of observing, I was informed upon good authority, that they were declared utterly valueless by Mr Felton Matthew, formerly the Surveyor General of this Colony. Mr Fitzgerald however considers the hundred town reserves of little value to the natives because not adapted to agricultural purposes. I doubt not that had they been badly selected it would have been declared to be a circumstance exceedingly to be regretted because these reserves will hereafter and at no distant date prove so exceedingly valuable to the native population.

To test Mr Fitzgerald's statements respecting the country reserves would require of me again to examine the ground, for which purpose I cannot spare the time owing to the pressing nature of my country occupations. I confess however I am not prepared to attach much importance to any report emanating from this young gentleman, demanding either the knowledge of an agriculturalist or the science of a surveyor.

To the colonists generally it is known though in all probability to few of the persons who will peruse Mr Fitzgerald's report, that the selections were made subject to a lottery for every order of choice, which upon a little reflection will suggest the extreme difficulty of obtaining the spots most approved and especially when it is stated that there were eleven hundred choices, in all, to be made in one of the most difficult countries in the world to examine; and to be made too before a single foot of road had been effected.

The question is not whether the lands are the best in the district, but whether they are as good as the circumstances under which they were selected afforded opportunity of their being. Before asserting that the New Zealand Company's intentions have been defeated by their Agents in this Settlement some proof should have been afforded by comparing the selections made for the natives, with selections made by settlers and others upon orders of choice as nearly equivalent as might be. Had the inferiority of the native reserves been established by such a comparison, it does not follow that blame would even then attach to anybody, and to maintain this assertion it is only necessary to call the attention of the peculiar circumstances of the time, with which probably Mr Fitzgerald is unacquainted, but which really – even when great care was taken rendered selecting so uncertain that generally speaking the selections would have been as well made by balloting for sections as for the choice under which selection took place.

I do not think it worth my time to seek the purpose sought to be obtained by Mr Fitzgerald in questioning the integrity of myself or others concerned in making selections of lands for the natives. I did and I am convinced all others did select to the best of opportunity and ability and that all of us were most anxious to secure for the native population the very best lands within our reach, and that all did to the utmost in their power carry out the intentions of the New Zealand Company in relation to the native population and their reserves.

I feel that I may safely treat with merited contempt the charge of this unknown youth and appeal to the facts of having held a commission for nearly twenty years in H.M. Royal Artillery and to my being on Staff appointments nearly the whole period of service; and that though I left the service some years before I was entitled to the advantage of selling my commission her Majesty was graciously pleased to give me special authority to desire the benefit of the full period of service. I think I may trust to these facts as a sufficient guarantee that I am not open to the slur which Mr Fitzgerald has endeavoured to cast upon my reputation for integrity.

01 Apr 1846 W. Davis..., Wellington to Colonel Wakefield

Dear Sir, Carrington of the New Zealand Company. I enclose you a copy of a receipt from Mr Wicksteed to Mr Carrington of the property of the Company in the possession of that Gentleman and of the House which he occupied, and I shall feel obliged by you forwarding to me a check for the amount agreed to be paid to him. I make the application on the assumption that you have funds at your disposal for general purposes.

08 Apr 1846 T. H. Fitzgerald to James Kelham, Wellington

My Dear Sir, I would be much obliged to you if you would be so good as to let me have one or two printed maps of the District. The Governor wants one and wished me to get it for him.

28 Apr 1846 New Plymouth

Richard Chilman, New Plymouth to Colonel William Wakefield, Wellington

Sir, Mr Wicksteed having now had an opportunity of answering the specific charges I have made against him, I have to request that you will inform me of the determination you have come to; as I have received no communication on the subject since my return from Wellington. I am naturally very anxious to know the result of your investigation, for as the case stands at present, either Mr Wicksteed or myself is placed in a false position before the settlers, many of whom are acquainted with the charges I have made.

I have taken the earliest opportunity of again bringing the subject under your notice, from the circumstance of having heard it stated that it was not your intention to interfere in the matter, but to refer the whole case to the Court of Directors. If this should be your determination, I must especially remark that I think it a very unsatisfactory one; for if Mr Wicksteed has, in your opinion exonerated himself from these charges, it is but justice to that gentleman that he should be able, at once, to state publicly that such is the case, instead of remaining under so serious an imputation for a long period; and that I should be informed of the fact upon which this opinion is founded. If on the other hand he has not been able to acquit himself, then I am placed in a very false and unjust position; as by Mr Wicksteed retaining his situation and my remaining dismissed from mine, the supposition naturally is, that I have accused Mr Wicksteed falsely – an inference that I cannot submit to rest under unless it is passed to be a just one. In the event also of Mr Wicksteed's statements and my own not agreeing, the Court of Directors would not be able to determine which of the two was correct, and would probably refer the case back for further investigation; whereas, if the question was decided in the Colony, both parties would have heard each others statements, and the truth have been arrived at. Now, Mr Wicksteed has the advantage of knowing all I have stated, without by being at all aware of his version of the affair. When I left Wellington it was under the idea that some decided steps would have been taken in the case, for although I was aware that you had declined reinstating me in my situation, yet I supposed that was because my charges had not then been fully investigated; but I naturally expected that, should my statement be proved correct, Mr Wicksteed would have been at least suspended until the final decision of the Court of Directors on the subject was ascertained; and that I should not have been allowed to suffer for doing my duty to my employers.

09 Jun 1846 Alfred Wills, Karori Road to Colonel William Wakefield

Dear Sir, In reply to your note I beg to inform you that for the first week commencing from May 4th one survey labourer only was employed by me – from the 11th to the 14th two, and from the 14th May to the 5th instant four. In reference to my Field Book I find that the total amount due for the wages of my men is £17 6s 8d inclusive of Sundays for which the chainmen and the Government service are paid – the rate per day is 3s 4d. I selected my party from the labourers at Wanganui but the men were all engaged under Mr Symon's authority. On our first arrival at Petre Mr Symons told me that he did not clearly understand whether the expenses of the survey were to be defrayed by the Government or the Company, adding that he should write by the cutter to Major Richmond requesting information on the subject and that the only instructions he had received as to payments were from His Excellency to the effect that "all his (Mr Symon's) expenses whilst employed at Wanganui would be paid." I at once told Mr Symons that you were "led to believe that the expenses of the survey would be defrayed by the Government."

For the 26th May three of my men applied for an advance and as Mr Symons had disbursed a considerable sum as caterer and paymaster for our party (McLean, White and myself). I paid the men £3 on an understanding with Mr Symons that he (or in his absence Mr White) should see that the money was returned to me in Wellington when the Government abstracts were made out.

As Mr White had all the cultivations & survey of the river and I was too fully engaged (on the South Bank) as a surveyor to “watch” his progress, I sent Lett to Mr White as a Fieldman with instructions to point out any of the cultivations which had been cleared since May 1844.

Both Mr White and Mr Symons understood the arrangement – I paid Lett as fieldman in the Company’s employ the sum of £2 9s for 15 days work, Mr White was pleased with him and afterwards engaged him with Government pay – he is returned for one week in Mr White’s abstract.

20 Jun 1846 B. Gordon, Petre to ...

Sir, According to your request I forward you a copy of the Inventory of Goods left with Garner belonging to the New Zealand Company. We shall be glad to receive (through Captain Taylor) the amount due to us. Mine (from 4 May to 5 June inclusive – 33 days) amounts to £5 13s and you wished me to remind you of the 6s 8d for Mr Hair for looking after Smith’s House 2 days.

The people here are anxiously waiting for the decision of the Governor respecting this place. Cameron is trying to bargain with the Natives to allow him to stay. Everyone else has suspended operations and will not put in a crop. I shall be glad to be employed on the Survey or in any other capacity at Wellington and if you can favour me in this subject I shall be greatly obliged.

24 Jun 1846 W. Carrington, New Plymouth to James Kelham, Wellington

Sir, In answer to your letter of the 26 March last I have to state that I paid Friend part of his wages on account and then was a balance due to him at the time of his death, but what was paid him or what the balance due is I have not the least recollection it is so long ago and all receipts that I had were given up at the time I left the Survey in September 1841.

07 Aug 1846 Margaret Wills, Tinakori Road, Wellington to James Kelham

Dear Sir, I beg to enclose the envelope of a Letter received from my eldest son in which Mr Illingworth (his late partner) accounts for the delay of the £60 given to the New Zealand Company as a collateral security for that sum having been advanced to my son Alfred by Colonel Wakefield.

15 Aug 1846 Daniel Wakefield, W. Terrace to James Kelham

Dear Sir, I find on looking at my papers that I have not got the blue book for 1841 and I do not remember ever to have had it. My brother believes that Mr Brandon had it from him and I have no doubt he has got it, as the information on which the Memorial for the scire facias was founded came out of it and must have been obtained G. W. Ross for Mr Brandon. Will you have the goodness to send for it as well as any other book or paper relating to that business, from Mr Brandon and let the messenger leave them with me this morning.

07 Dec 1846 Robert Nankivell, Manawetu to James Kelham, Accountant, NZ Company

Sir, I acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated November 25th but do not remember at this distant period the exact sums I received at the different payments made to me during the time I was in the Company’s service nor have I anything to which I can refer having got all my papers burnt about twelve months ago, but I am positive, I did not get any more than my just due, and if there be any mistake in your accounts it is somewhere else and not with me.

15 Dec 1846 J. W. C. Heine to W. Fox, Nelson

Sir, You know that the old Mr Beit is going to London to request damage from the New Zealand Company for not having got his land. He will also bring the ill success of the expedition he brought out either to your charge or to Colonel Wakefield's as will the unsuccessful proceedings of the Germans in the Moutere.

How far he is entitled to get damage for not having got his land is not for me to pronounce, but the ill success of the first German expedition is rather his sole fault also their settling at the Moutere. You will remind that the Germans had serious complaints against Mr Beit already on their voyage to this place substantiated before the Hamburg consulate at Bahia of which a copy is in my possession and also understood that Colonel Wakefield advised Mr Beit to select one rural section at Wakapuaka and to settle thereupon but that he Mr Beit refusing to do it, Colonel Wakefield advised the Germans to go to the Moutere giving for three months rations because he could not otherwise employ them.

I write to you this only because I have reason to believe that Mr Beit will misrepresent the case, that you may represent it truly; otherwise I am displeased with you because you gave to me no reply to my letter in reference to the land of my Society for which I have to care.

I myself wish to have nothing to do with Mr Beit, but I do not like, that he boasted to the Germans that their ill look in Nelson be the consequence of following your advice if they had followed himself they would have done better &c; it is hypocrisy.

P.S. Excuse Sir this above is written in great haste having little time to dispose of. If you wish to speak with me about the matter on Thursday next I have more time. If you wish to have a statement about this from me as my friends and I have been here with the Germans about Mr Beit and them you will request me to do it in which event I will do it.

22 Dec 1846 William Fox, Nelson to Colonel William Wakefield

My Dear Sir, Mr Beit (to whose charge the first German Expedition to this Settlement was committed and with whose subsequent proceedings you are sufficiently acquainted) left this place for Sydney on his road to London a week ago. I believe it is his intention and it is perhaps in his power, to be very troublesome to the Court of Directors. I perceive however by a Copy of a despatch from the Secretary to yourself (received by the *Hope*) that they have formed a just estimate of his character. I thought it proper however to write officially a few words of caution respecting him by the same ship as he sailed in. Since his departure I have received the letter of which I send a Copy on the other side, from Mr Heine who came out as Schoolmaster to the German Expedition referred to. He is a person of good education, irreproachable character, and highly esteemed by the Germans of both expeditions, to whom he has acted as Pastor since Messrs Riemenschneider and Wohlers quitted them for their Missionary office among the Natives. His statements therefore may be regarded as trustworthy.

Though his letter is marked "Privation" yet as he expressly requests me to "represent the subject truly" to the Court, I think I cannot do so better than by forwarding his letter, the simple and plain phraseology of which speaks more forcibly than I could do to the merits of Mr Beit's intended representations. If you have an opportunity of forwarding it by the *Bernal* or other early ship it may reach home as soon as Mr Beit will by way of Sydney.

No date

... King presents his respects to Colonel Wakefield, and in desiring the Mail Bag to be delivered at his residence is extremely desirous to simplify the matter to the Mourie, and to present his giving it into any chancehoods. The surcharge is to be paid on his return hither with the Bag. Monday 12 o'clock.
