



THE
HAWKE'S BAY GOVERNMENT GAZETTE

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

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DONALD M'LEAN,
Superintendent.

VOL. VII.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1866.

No. 37.

* Superintendent's Office,
Napier, Oct. 30, 1866.

THE following (from the *New Zealand Gazette*) is republished for general information.

DONALD M'LEAN,
Superintendent.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 25th October, 1866.

THE following correspondence respecting the recent engagements between the Militia and Volunteers and the rebel Hau Haus at Omarunui and Petane, in the Province of Hawke's Bay, is published for general information.

E. W. STAFFORD.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 17th October, 1866.

Sir,—The Government has received intelligence of the successful result of the engagement which took place on the 12th instant, between a force composed of Militia and Volunteers from Napier, and of friendly Natives in the vicinity, and a body of armed rebel Hau Haus who had encamped at Omarunui, threatening the safety of the town, plundering the settlers and the resident Natives, and refusing to give any satisfactory explanation of their intentions.

The Government earnestly trusts that the energy and gallantry displayed by the Colo-

nial Forces under the direction of your Honor and the officer commanding the Militia and Volunteers, and the vigorous measures taken for the suppression of the first symptoms of armed insurrection, will have the desired effect of at once restoring and securing peace and safety throughout the Napier District.

The promptitude shown by your Honor in the organization of the necessary measures for the expulsion of these armed fanatics, and the patriotic courage of the Colonial Forces, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Whitmore, deserve high praise; and although the Government has not yet received any official account of the engagement, I have to request your Honor to be good enough to communicate to Lieutenant-Colonel Whitmore, and to those who served under him, the thanks of the Government for their conduct on the occasion referred to, and its sympathy with those who were wounded, and with the survivors of those (fortunately so few) who were killed by the enemy.

I have, &c.,

E. W. STAFFORD.

His Honor D. M'Lean,
Napier.

Napier, 16th Oct., 1866.

Sir,—In continuation of my report to you of the 9th inst., I have now the honor

to state that the preparatory measures then contemplated have been carried into effect.

On Thursday, the 11th inst. Major Fraser arrived from the Wairoa with forty rank and file of the Military Settlers, accompanied by the chiefs Kopu and Ihaka Whaanga with thirty of their followers.

The same afternoon Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore, who was in town waiting for orders, had the Forces under his command marched at midnight towards the several positions to be assigned to them, as detailed in his full and explanatory despatch herewith enclosed.

I may be permitted to state that the zeal, alacrity, and high spirit displayed by all classes of the European inhabitants during a time of imminent danger, reflects the greatest credit upon the community, who as loyal subjects were prepared and resolved to uphold Her Majesty's lawful authority within the district.

Almost simultaneously with the movement of the European forces, the friendly Natives of Pawhakauro were communicated with by Mr. Locke, a gentleman who justly possesses great influence with them. The several chiefs and their followers were, with Mr. Locke, at their positions by daylight—having failed in every effort used to bring about a settlement of impending hostilities.

I addressed a letter to the insurgent Natives at Omarunui, the translation of which is herewith enclosed, having previously, in order if possible to avert bloodshed, requested Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore to surround the enemy's position with a large force, in the hope that this might be the means of inducing unconditional surrender without recourse to arms.

In this expectation I was however disappointed, and after granting a further extension of three-quarters of an hour beyond the time stipulated in my letter sent by Mr. Interpreter Hamlin to the enemy, the white flag was hauled down, the Union Jack hoisted, and the Forces advanced to the several positions assigned to them by the Officer commanding.

The engagement which then took place is so ably described by Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore, that without any addition of mine the Government can gather the fullest information in reference to it from that gallant officer's despatch.

I herewith enclose plans of the enemy's position at Omarunui.

Almost at the same time that military operations were taking place at Omarunui, Major Fraser's small force of Military Settlers, ably seconded by Capt. Carr, of the R.A., and some Volunteers, became engaged at Petane, with Te Rangihira, the head chief of Tarawera, a most turbulent and dangerous man, who took a prominent part in promoting the Hau Hau faith at Wairarapa and elsewhere.

This chief and eleven of his followers were killed.

The loss sustained by the enemy in both engagements is 33 killed and 29 wounded, and 47 taken as prisoners.

The casualties of the combined forces of Europeans and Natives have been one European and two Maoris killed, and one Offi-

cer (Capt. Kennedy), eight Europeans and four Maoris wounded.

I herewith enclose Major Fraser's despatch, addressed to Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore, reporting the spirited engagement that took place under that gallant officer's command at Petane.

I should fail in my duty to Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore and the officers and men of both races under his command, if I did not represent to the Government how strongly I feel that services so cheerfully rendered and so ably carried out are deserving of some marked public recognition on the part of his Excellency's Government.

I feel assured that the result of such successes as those of last Friday will exercise such an influence throughout this Island as must tend to neutralize the designs that are being matured by the Hau Hau fanatics for the extirpation of the Europeans and friendly Natives.

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Rev. S. Williams shows that an attack on the town of Napier had been planned by Panapa and Rangihira. It is also stated by the prisoners that the attack was to have been made in three days.

I have also to report that an expedition has been started this morning to follow up Paora Toki, Anaru Matete and others, to Titiokura, composed of seventy Volunteers, under Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore, the Military Settlers under Major Fraser, and about one hundred of the Natives of the district, with Ihaka and Kopu's followers from the Wairoa.

The capture of Paora Toki, who is a most badly disposed Native, would be of great importance.

The instructions to Lieut.-Colonel Whitmore are herewith enclosed.

I should recommend that the prisoners taken be sent to the Chatham Islands, and that the Government should be prepared to meet any future emergency that may arise in this district, and that a supply of arms and ammunition be sent without delay in a Government steamer, to be retained on this coast during the present unsettled state, and while the Natives are concocting plans in the interior for a combined movement on this district.

I have, &c.,

DONALD M'LEAN.

Enclosure No. 1.

Napier, 13th October, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honor to inform your Honor that in conformity with the arrangements made with you on the evening of the 11th instant, I caused the Napier Militia and Volunteers, number as per margin (a)

(a) Europeans—Strength, armed men—			
	Officers.	N. C. O.	R. & F.
No. 1, Militia ...	3	2	33
No. 2 ditto ...	3	2	33
No. 3 ditto ...	2	1	17
No. 4 ditto ...	2	2	44
Napier Volunteers ...	3	2	43
Cavalry Volunteers ...	1	1	24
	14	10	204
Doct guard canoes ...			13
	14	10	191
Ditto ditto ammunition ...			13
	14	10	179

Natives—Nearly 200, of whom 70 were on the hills

to be paraded about midnight, and to march by various routes to the vicinity of the Omarunui Pa. Although the time was scarcely more than requisite to traverse the distance, all the bodies placed under my command, whether European or Native, were at the posts I assigned to them as day broke. I had erected a flagstaff during the night opposite the pa, on which at daylight I hoisted a white flag. I then sent Mr. Hamlin, my interpreter, across the Tutacuri to the pa, which is, as you are aware, situated on its banks, with the letter you had prepared to serve as an ultimatum. For some time the Natives took no notice of Mr. Hamlin, but ultimately they received his letter, and he returned to me. By your letter the Hau Haus were promised that they should not be molested for one hour, after which they would be attacked if they did not lay down their arms. In reply they told Mr. Hamlin they thought the time rather short, but did not lead him to suppose that if it was prolonged it might influence their conduct. By this time it was six o'clock a.m., and you had reached the field, and had learned the result of the letter; you then informed me that you did not wish to disturb any part of our plans, but that you trusted I would endeavour to carry out the service with as little bloodshed as possible. I therefore waited for three-quarters of an hour beyond the time at first granted, and the force advanced closer to the position.

At seven o'clock, two hours after I had sent the letter, I sent Mr. Hamlin once more forward, with a small white flag on a pole, to inform the Hau Haus that I would wait no longer. They replied that there was no reason to do so as they meant to fight. By this time the force very nearly surrounded the pa. The Cavalry Volunteers, enrolled the previous evening, had been despatched to seize the canoes at Park's Island, believed to have been intended to enable the Hau Haus to escape, or to cross the harbour to attack Napier. Captain Gordon was thus prevented from joining me at Omarunui till a later period, and, to fill the place intended for the Cavalry, I was obliged to avail myself of the detachment of No. 3 Company, which Captain Rhodes had, with so much zeal, brought up from Clive and Havelock on horseback. I also was obliged to make a further slight change of plan, and posted Captain Buchanan's company of Rifle Volunteers and Mr. Brown's section of Militia about 500 yards up stream of the pa, under cover of a ditch and bank fence. The Native Contingent, under Tareha, Hapuku, Ihaka, Kopu, Renata, and Karaitiana, and directed by Mr. Locke, occupied the edges of the swamp and outside of the cultivations, at a distance of several hundred yards, opposite the dray entrance. I formed the Napier Militia, Nos. 1 and 2 Companies, and a part of No. 4 Company, into open column. This part of the force was placed under Major Lambert, and I gave the signal to advance and to hoist the Union Jack at the flagstaff from this point. On sounding the advance, Major Lambert moved steadily forward and gained the top

of the river bank, where he at once came into collision with the enemy. I found the Hau Haus drawn up and armed, and myself ordered the leading files to fire. We then received their fire and returned it, penetrating the outer courts of the pa. At this moment part of the Native Contingent which had approached the pa also entered the outer parts, and, coming unexpectedly under fire, moved to the right in some disorder to take shelter under the river bank. Their movement disordered our Militia, and finding our men entangled with the Natives, I ordered them to take cover under that part of the bank which commanded all the ground we had taken. It was just now that Captain Kennedy, commanding No. 2 Company, was wounded, and finding him apparently determined to remain with his men in that condition, I ordered him to leave the field, and Lieutenant Wilson took command of the Company. A very hot fire was now kept up for a quarter of an hour, and the friendly Natives joined our men and gradually pushed back the enemy, who abandoned the huts and took shelter in a hollow roadway near the further end of the pa, where he found complete shelter. Finding I could not easily dislodge them from this without unnecessary loss, I now sent orders by Mr. Hamlin to the Napier Volunteers to advance on the pa by the river. The fire from the main body was then stopped to enable the Volunteers to leave the shelter of the bank which protected them from our cross fire; but as it slackened, Captain Buchanan drew out his Company and gained the river bed. At first so exposed were the enemy to this new advance that the Volunteers mistook the men for friendly Natives and withheld their fire, but at length, being perceived and fired upon themselves by the enemy, the Volunteers opened fire and quickly drove him out of position. Major Lambert thereupon moved up the bank and drove the Natives into the last of the several courtyards into which the pa was subdivided; many of the friendly Maoris notably Tareha now moved up also, and in a few moments the last stronghold would have been carried by assault had the enemy not at this moment displayed the white flag. After some time in making his surrender known and stopping the fire, I called to the chief man to advance and lay down his arms. This having been done he assembled the survivors of his party, whom I placed under charge of Tareha. Meanwhile a party, unperceived by me, had quitted the pa and come into collision with the detachment of No. 3 Company, which had taken up the ground vacated by Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Brown. Captain Rhodes met this party in a spirited manner, and delayed it for some time, but being unable to get his horses through the fence, was prevented from arresting the flight. I now reached the spot, and, fortunately receiving intelligence of the arrival of the Cavalry, I sent for Captain Gordon and his men. Mr. Ferguson, of No. 3 Company, in gallantly endeavouring to delay the fugitives, had his horse shot under him. Captain Gor-

don overtook the fugitives before they gained the summit of the hills, where his leading files assailed them with their sabres (the only arm I had to give them) and they surrendered after some resistance. A few straggling Hau Haus escaped; the number at present is unknown; one, however, was taken this morning, and another was found dead, so that, according to the prisoners' account, nine only remain unaccounted for, of whom some may be dead in the adjoining swamp, where they were heavily fired upon.

In this action, which lasted nearly an hour and a half, which was maintained with the greatest gallantry by our forces, and an obstinate bravery, possibly stimulated by fanaticism, on the part of the enemy. I have to regret the loss of one man of the Colonial Forces and two of the Native Volunteer Contingent, among the former, one officer, Captain Kennedy, and eight men; of the latter, four Maoris were wounded. The exact number of the enemy's casualties I do not yet know, but 23 have been buried, and at least as many are now wounded in our hospital. The prisoners amount to 56, and of these two are chiefs of secondary rank, Nikora and Henare, while Kipa, the head chief, Panapa the prophet, and Kingita, a notorious character, are killed. The enemy had the advantage of position and cover to compensate them for a disparity, more apparent than real, of number. The Militia and Volunteers turned out 204 rank and file, being every resident between the ages prescribed for the first and second classes for whom on such short notice arms could be obtained. But out of this number I had to furnish a guard of 13 men for the canoes, and another for the reserve ammunition, so that there were not more than 180 actually engaged. None or almost none of these men had ever been before in action, yet they marched in excellent order straight into the pah, and though borne on one side by the Native Contingent they never again allowed the enemy to re-occupy that part of the pah they had at first taken, and gradually gaining ground under a very hot fire, eventually hemmed him in a space of a very few square yards of ground. Only a part of the European force was employed in attacking the pah in front. It is true the reserve and Volunteers made a flank movement which materially affected the result, but at no time were there more than 100 men about the pah itself in actual collision with the Natives. It may be out of place to remark, but I pray your indulgence in doing so, that the manner in which all ranks turned out was beyond all praise, and proves the high spirit and determination to support the law which animates our settlers. At seven p.m. on the 11th, I assembled the officers for the first time, and told them of the expedition, explaining what duties and posts were assigned to them, and the hour at which I wished them to parade. The men, who had done their usual day's work were summoned to march that night quite unexpectedly, and the last left this town at midnight, with scarcely an absentee, and leaving no stragglers on the road. They then marched nine miles to

the ground, fought the action, and returned to Napier in capital order, carrying their wounded with them. These were not trained soldiers, but civilians from the town, who left their shops and their work at a short notice during the night, and countrymen who left their homes with just enough warning to dress and reach the rendezvous. Captain Rhodes's Company, from Havelock and Clive, unable to march on foot so great a distance in the time, was represented by upwards of half, who voluntarily obtained horses and rode to the ground. So high a spirit made success certain, and could only have resulted from the firm determination of the settlers of this province to put an end to a state of things which of all others is most repugnant to an Englishman's feelings of submission to and respect for good order and the law of the land. I must not omit to bring to the especial notice of the Government the assistance afforded me by officers of all ranks. To have assembled their men from every part of this scattered town, and from their farms in the suburban lands, during the night, in a couple of hours, was, notwithstanding the willingness of the men, most creditable to the zeal of the officers, commissioned and non-commissioned. Failing enough arms, I authorised Captain Gordon, late of the Iniskilling Dragoons, to raise a party of horse, armed with swords alone, from the unarmed men, and six more unarmed men in each company marched with us to the ground to carry the wounded and to bring up ammunition if required. The Natives had still less warning than the Europeans, but they turned out at once, and reached their posts in time. A large section was not brought under fire, but prevented the enemy's retreat on one side. Another, under the leading chiefs, did join our men. Perhaps my inexperience of their mode of warfare may have placed them at disadvantage, but they did not materially add to our strength. Nevertheless many individual acts of gallantry were performed by them under my own observation. The chiefs Tareha, Renata, Ihaka, Kopu, distinguished themselves highly, but the two first named were conspicuous throughout the action, endeavouring to induce their followers to charge. Tareha, with a sword alone in his hand, rushed among the enemy to stimulate his men. Happily no harm reached him, and a valuable ally is spared to the Europeans of this province. Although I may have failed to afford a fair field for these natives to fight with the gallantry which I believe they possess, their prompt assistance has been most valuable. It has shown both the genuine nature of their professed friendship, for they lost several wounded and two killed in supporting us; it adds one proof more to the many we possess of the justness of our views of the question at issue with the Hau Haus, and it enabled us to prevent almost entirely the escape of the defenders of the pah. Mr. Locke, to whom the natives were entrusted, exerted himself with so much gallantry and zeal as to deserve my warmest thanks. Among my fellow-settlers of all ranks, many conducted themselves in such a manner as to merit any

distinction the Government can bestow. I shall be very happy to designate them for such a purpose, but here I think it would be invidious to do so. I shall therefore confine myself to remarking, that but for their willingness and cheerfulness, the operation could not have been carried out at all, and to stating that I did not see one solitary case of misbehaviour throughout the affair.

While these operations were being brought to a close, another part of the general plan was being carried out by the gallant Major Fraser, who has so often led our fellow settlers to success. It was arranged that Major Fraser should pass over the harbour-mouth and march to Petane, to intercept any fugitives from Omarunui, and to prevent reinforcements coming up by that route. The smart little affair which followed is so well described by Major Fraser that I cannot do better than forward his despatch to you with this, trusting that you will recognise the behaviour of the officers whom he names.

Later on in the day, after attending the Native meeting with your Honor, at Pa Whakairo, to concert further operations to complete the discomfiture of the survivors of the Hau Haus in their especial part of this Province; and after revisiting my own home, where I had assembled a small body of Volunteers to hold one of the roads to Titiokura, I rode across to Petane, reaching Major Fraser in the night. Finding that he was not likely to be immediately assailed, and therefore not in want of reinforcements, I returned this morning to Napier. I cannot conclude this despatch without expressing the obligation I feel I am under to the following officers for the zealous assistance rendered to me by them, which made my task a light one:—

Major Lambert, commanding the main body of Militia, whose gallant example was most valuable and conspicuous.

Major Fraser, whose co-operation prevented the Hau Haus from again establishing themselves in this part of the country.

Captain Kennedy, who was severely wounded early in the action, and who led his company with great coolness and gallantry.

Captain Rhodes, who brought all his men that could get horses from Clive and Havelock, a distance too great to be marched on foot in time, and who performed valuable service in delaying the fugitives.

Captain Buchanan, whose Volunteers contributed so much to the final success, and who showed them so gallant an example.

Captain Birch, who collected the scattered Company of the Napier country districts, and brought all to the field.

Captain Gordon, who raised his troop in a few hours and, armed with sabres alone, performed so much valuable service.

Lieutenant Wilson, who, after Captain Kennedy was wounded, took command of his company, and showed it an example of cool courage and zealous obedience to orders.

Captain Withers, who, in two hours, at

night, completed the equipment of the whole force, and arranged all the details of the movement, besides assisting me all day in the field.

Captain Hamilton Russell and Mr. Agnew Brown, who acted as staff officers throughout the day most zealously, and performed much dangerous duty.

Mr. Hamlin, who acted as my interpreter, and who on two occasions rode under a hot fire to carry out my orders, and was wounded in so doing.

With this affair, and the few days further operations required, I trust that the recent unsettled state of this district may cease, as nearly all the turbulent spirits are now killed or taken, and that your Honor may once more have the satisfaction of seeing the blessing of peace restored to our Province; and I trust I do not transgress in acknowledging the great assistance afforded me on all occasions by you, to which and to the harmony and concert with which your Honor's transactions with me have been distinguished, together with the noble conduct of our settlers, is wholly due the signal success of the late operations.

G. S. WHITMORE, Lieut.-Colonel
Commanding Militia District.

To His Honor the Superintendent,
Hawke's Bay.

Enclosure No. 2.

Captain Carr's Station, Petane Valley,
13th October, 1866.

Sir,—I have the honor to report for your information my proceedings consequent on your orders to me of the 11th instant. I marched as therein directed at 2 a.m. on the 12th, and crossed my company (a) over in boats to the Petane Spit, along which we proceeded. The march was rendered very fatiguing by the heavy sand, but the men went along well, and in the highest spirits. We reached the pa "Pou" about 6 a.m., and there halted for the purpose of seeing if it were inhabited and by whom; we only found in it three men, with a number of women and children. The men I arrested in accordance with your instructions to me. After a short time we proceeded to Captain Carr's station, and I caused all the settlers in Petane near Capt. Carr's station to be assembled there. We arrived about 8 a.m., and I should imagine the length of the march to be altogether some twelve miles. Shortly after our arrival, and while awaiting your orders and the mustering of the settlers, two officers, when proceeding to bathe, saw a body of horsemen in the distance and informed me of the fact. I accordingly posted my men in such a position as to guard against accidents, and awaited their arrival. They proved to be an armed party of Hau Haus under Paora Toki, Rangihiroa, and Anaru Matete, to the number of about 22; they had, I must mention, to pass through a gorge before they could see us, and so I was enabled to surround them, and, in compliance with your orders, call upon them to surrender. This was accordingly done,

(a) Strength of Company—1 Field Officer, 8 Subalterns, 1 Assistant Surgeon, 37 rank and file.

but although repeatedly asked to surrender, and although they must have seen that they were in a difficult position, they refused to do so, and attempted to gain a house which would have afforded them cover to fire on us from. I had therefore no alternative but to order my men to fire, which was botly returned. The skirmish lasted but a short time, and at its close the casualties on both sides were as follows:—On that of the enemy twelve killed, one wounded, and three prisoners taken; on ours, one sergeant name as per margin, (b) severely wounded. Paora Toki and Anaru Matete, the ring-leaders, and who had said to their men "Don't give up your guns," I am sorry to say, escaped; but I have now sent out a mounted and foot party to scour the adjacent country for them, as it is believed the latter is wounded; among the killed is the chief Rangihiroa, who has so long troubled this district.

In obedience to your orders I shall remain here until further instructions. I beg that you will bring under the notice of the Government the name of Captain Carr, late Royal Artillery, who rendered me valuable assistance in surrounding the enemy and in preventing their escape. He was accompanied by three other mounted men; had there been more, none I am sure of the enemy could have escaped. Lieut. J. G. St. George, late Colonial Defence Force, who volunteered to accompany me on this expedition, and Ensign Richardson, whose previous knowledge of the ground enabled me to place my men to advantage, rendered me very valuable assistance, for which I beg to bring their names under your notice. I may add that the men behaved admirably and coolly, and carried out all my orders exactly.

I have, &c.,
JAMES FRASER,
Major Commanding Detachment
Colonial Forces, Petane.

Enclosure No. 3.

[Letter sent with a Flag of Truce.]
Napier, Oct. 11, 1866.

Sirs,—I have addressed several letters to you asking you to explain the reason of your coming to Heretaunga. Up to the present time you have not given any reason for that act. You have come armed into a peaceful district, and created confusion and disturbance. You have declined to go back to your homes when called upon to do so.

I have now determined to put an end to this state of things, and I require you to give up your arms and surrender yourselves to the Officer commanding the forces, in one hour from the time you receive this letter. A white flag will be kept flying for that hour, and if at the expiration of that time you have not surrendered, another flag will be hoisted, and you will immediately be attacked. This is all from

McLEAN.

(b) Enemy—Killed, 12; wounded, 1; prisoners, 3.
Colonial Forces—Sergeant Fletcher, Military Settlers, gunshot wound through right knee.

Enclosure No. 4.

Napier, 13th Oct., 1866.

My dear Mr. McLean,—

I think it right that you should be put in possession of the fact that I was informed by one of the Native prisoners taken to-day at Omarunui, the son of Rangihiroa, that yesterday afternoon a messenger was sent off by Panapa, Hau Hau leader, to Titiokura, to order Rangihiroa, Paora Toki, Anaru Matete and their party, to come down to-day, and take up their position at the fishing huts on the Western Spit, where two canoes were placed for their use, and that they were to be ready to cross over to attack the town upon notice being given when Panapa and his party were ready to make the attack from the other side.

I have, &c.,
SAMUEL WILLIAMS.

Enclosure No. 5.

Napier, 13th Oct., 1866.

Sir,—Referring to the plan of operations discussed with you and agreed to this morning, I have the honor to state, that to avoid any complications with the Taupo or other tribes, it will be advisable not to extend the march of the combined forces of Europeans and Natives under your command beyond Waiparati, a short distance from the Haroto. It is, however, necessary, in the event of your being able to capture Paora Toki or Anaru Matete, that you should use your own discretion in moving beyond the point referred to should it appear to you that you would be likely to secure these dangerous insurgents.

I have, &c.,
DONALD McLEAN,
Agent for the General Government.
Lieut.-Col. Whitmore, &c., Napier.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 25th Oct., 1866.

Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, of the 15th inst., containing the official account of the successful engagements on the 12th of this month with rebel Hau Hau Natives at Omarunui and Petane.

My letter, No. 328, of the 17th instant, written before I received your letter, will already have informed you of the satisfaction with which the Government received the intelligence of the energetic and effective steps taken to expel the insurgent Hau Haus, and to preserve tranquillity.

The enclosures to your letter sufficiently indicate that these natives intended an attack on Napier, which has, however, been happily frustrated by the arrangements so promptly made by you, and so efficiently executed by Lieutenant-Colonel Whitmore and the men under his command.

I have, &c.,
E. W. STAFFORD.
His Honor D. McLean, Napier.

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Head Quarters, Napier,
October 26, 1866.

MILITIA DISTRICT ORDER,
A No. 3.

1. The Lieut.-Colonel commanding publishes for general information the report of a Board of Officers, convened by his order to enquire into a representation that had been made to him by Captain Birch, commanding No. 4 Company Napier Militia, to the effect that paragraph 4 of the Militia District Order A. 2, in which it was stated that "the Lieut.-Colonel thanked Captain Fitzgerald, commanding No. 1 Company, which advanced by the Puketapu road, and was the first to come under fire," was incorrect, inasmuch as it was No. 4 Company or the Detachment of that Company under Captain Birch himself, from Meanee, which actually first came under fire.

The Board was composed of the following officers:—

Major FRASER, *President.*

Members:

Captain RHODES

Captain BUCHANAN.

After a patient examination of all the evidence which was offered by Captain Birch, and all that was brought by Captain Fitzgerald, the Board come to the conclusion—

"That the paragraph referred to in the Lieut.-Colonel's order assigning to No. 1 Company the credit of having been first under fire is substantially correct, and not open to contradiction; but that the evidence adduced warrants the conclusion that a portion of No. 4 Company, if not all, who were under Captain Birch's command, were exposed to and received the same fire, a fact which, from the shelter they had secured around the whares and from the nature of the ground, could not come under the personal observation of the Lieut.-Colonel."

After perusal of the proceedings of the Board, the Lieut.-Colonel has approved and confirmed the finding and opinion of the Board, and has to thank the Officers who served upon it for the careful and impartial manner in which they have performed a delicate and laborious duty.

The Lieut.-Colonel has therefore to amend his order of the day after the engagement at Omarunui in the spirit of the recommendation of the Board, and it will now read thus—

"Paragraph 4.—The Lieut.-Colonel desires to thank the whole of the officers and men for the ready and willing assistance they afforded him throughout these short operations. He also begs to offer his thanks to the following officers for their zealous conduct and support:—Major Lambert, who took command of the main body of the militia; Captain Kennedy, commanding No. 2 Company, who, though severely wounded, continued on the field till

ordered away by the Lieutenant-Colonel; Captain Fitzgerald, Company No. 1, which advanced on the Puketapu road and first came under fire; Captain Buchanan, commanding the Napier Volunteers, by whose well aimed advance on the flank the enemy was compelled to leave his last cover within the pah; Captain Rhodes, Company No. 3, who, being unable through the distance to march his whole company to the ground on foot, mounted as many as he could and brought up a valuable portion of the force on horseback; Captain Birch, commanding No. 4, whose company was collected with scarcely an absence from a widely scattered district, and with the Meanee detachment, was exposed to and received, equally with No. 1, the first fire of the enemy; Captain Gordon, who raised the volunteer cavalry in a few hours, and performed with it valuable service in seizing the canoes by which the enemy might have escaped, and in pursuing and taking prisoner that detachment of the enemy which endeavoured to escape to the hills after the pah surrendered."

The Lieutenant-Colonel takes this opportunity of thanking Captain Birch for having brought this subject to his notice. He feels that so long as an honorable emulation for distinction exists among the Militia and Volunteers, the Province need have but little to fear when she places her safety in their hands. There can be no doubt that in operations against an uncivilised enemy the less delay in coming to close quarters the better, and this will always be found to be the course adopted by the Lieutenant-Colonel. But the particular portion of the Force first engaged may really be less exposed to an enemy's fire and suffer less under it than another which comes later into action; and he therefore announces that the course adopted on this occasion will not form a precedent, and that should he ever again be called upon to lead the Colonial Forces the portion first engaged will not be specially mentioned for having received the first fire. He trusts that each company or detachment will strictly keep that position which it is ordered to occupy, remembering that there can be nothing more honorable than to discharge a duty perfectly, and that to endeavour to obtain a post assigned by the Commanding Officer to another part of the Force might cause disaster to both. This caution he addresses to the Force without any reference to the late engagement, but because, through the stress evidently laid on what is really only an accidental arrangement, the Colonial Forces might otherwise erroneously conclude that to draw the enemy's fire is to hold the post of honour, and hurry too eagerly to win that distinction.

By Order,

E. WITHERS,

Captain and District Adjutant.