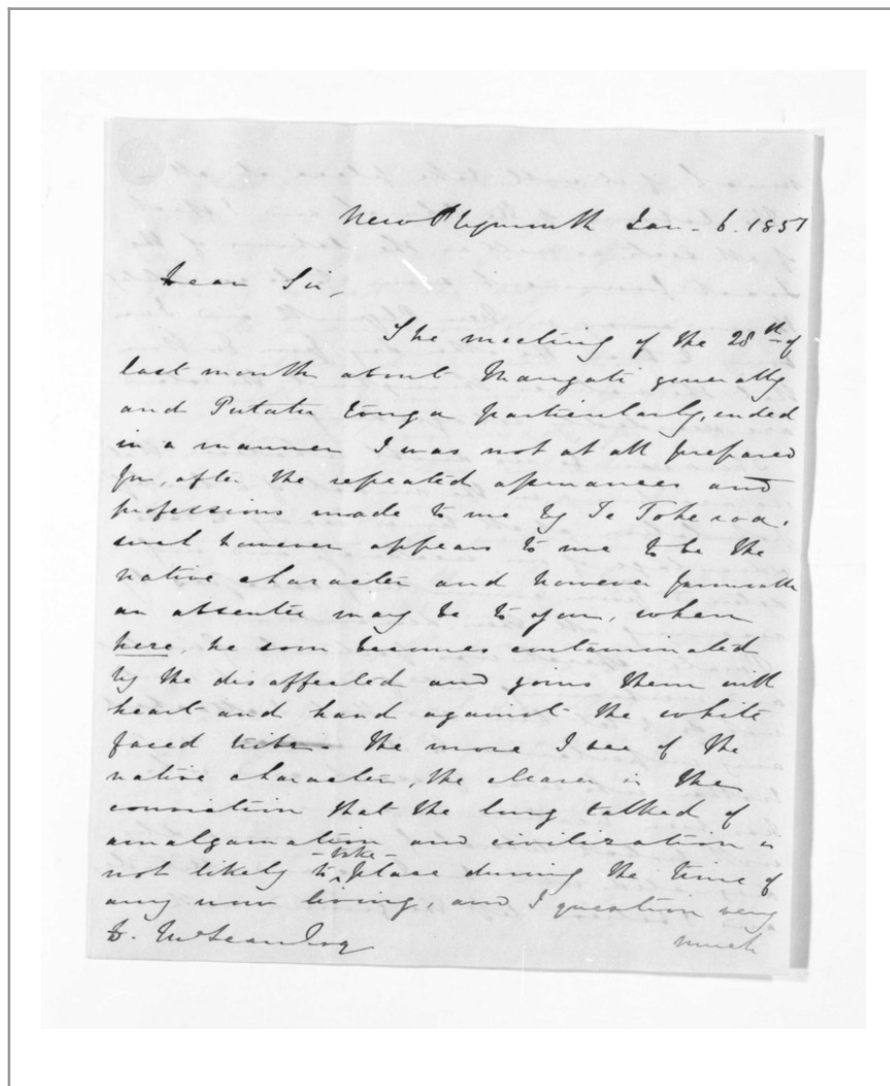


4 pages written 6 Jan 1857 by Henry Halse to Sir Donald McLean in New Plymouth District



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must if it will take place at all -

The labours of the Church and I speak of all sects as well as the labours of the Local Government seem to be completely thrown away in New Plymouth and I was sorry to hear the other day from Sir Wm that the natives throughout the island are decidedly retrograding -

There can be no doubt whatever that we are living in the midst of a lawless population, at all times ready to take advantage of our weakness and are deterred from committing ourselves by receiving all their demands -

Parata's speech was particularly insolent and overbearing but of course it would not do to let him see that I attached any importance to it. ~~Indeed~~ any brother who was present and who has been treating the same natives with British liberality was inwardly disgusted with his tone and attitude, and I believe left the ground with

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altered views towards the whole  
 of them - the meeting appeared to  
 me to be got up, for the purpose of  
 seeing what the soft and tame  
 white men would concede, and  
 when it was discovered that nothing  
 was either promised or forthcoming  
 an attempt was made for a grant  
 of loaves & fishes which were  
 likewise refused, indeed they did  
 not receive the value of a penny.

The reason thus far has been a  
 busy one and I have had my hand  
 full, which by the way is nothing  
 new, but the amount of drunkenness  
 here is positively dreadful - recent  
 immigration has materially ~~added~~  
 increased the Town and what  
 now requires several efficient  
 men to preserve order -

I am been in  
 very sincerely yours  
 H. Halse

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