

3 pages written 28 Oct 1858 by James Mackay in Nelson Region to Sir Donald McLean

21/124 B (3)
Nelson, 28th Oct 1858

My dear M^r Lean,

Allow me to tender my sincere thanks for the very kind manner in which you have looked after my interest in getting my salary increased &c.

I came over here to see Donnell on business connected with the exchange of some of the Native Reserves at Para Para and below, whilst here news arrived of a dispute having arisen between the Natives and Europeans a resident at the Pictou, so I at once walked over the hills and put them to rights, and not much before they needed it, as Jenkins has been there two or three times and the Natives do not seem to have paid much

attention

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attention to him & ...

I hear it is probable that I shall be appointed Warden of the Gold Fields; in the event of this taking place I think I may continue in the Government Service, but if not I shall not hold my present situation for more than another year, as it will not pay me, what with travelling expenses and having to neglect some of my private affairs, and I do not see that the Government would be justified in giving me any higher rate of pay unless the population on the Digging increases -

Doneth is very anxious for me to go out exploring towards the Haruru or Grey District, but I have told him I do not see how he can do so unless you have to send me there to arrange with the Natives about Reserves or payment for the land - this I could do now, and only soon by getting my cousin Alexander (who understands the Native language) to act for me during my absence.

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From what I heard in Massawa
Bay, I expected to have found you here
on my arrival and was disappointed at not
doing so, but I suppose you are busy either
in purchasing land, or arranging some dispute
among the natives —

Davidson's marriage with my eldest
sister has at length taken place, they proceed
South by the Swan on her next trip.

If Mrs Gascoyne is still with
you, would you remember me kindly to
her, say that I trust she is enjoying good
health, also that Mr Jackson has left me
but that I think I have got him another
situation in the Wairau. I have just seen
Capt Scarron who tells me his nephew is
well — Hoping to see you some of these days
soon, and that you are quite well —

I remain

Yours truly
James Mackay Jr.