

6 pages written 13 Jan 1870 by Sir William Fox in Wanganui to Sir Donald McLean

1 2/1/75 (27.)

Wanganui
13. 1. 70

My Dear McLean

As I gather from your letter that you are still at Auckland I will chance a line by the Boyd. I returned yesterday from Patea & Waikato. All goes on well on that Coast. I have the Constabulary, employed in several places improving roads, and have contracted ~~to~~ with job of: to run coach twice a week for 3 years at subsidy of £600, £500 & £500 - with lease of 200 acres of land for nothing

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5

the King; quietly near Orowa: He looks as if the King had ordered him to join in. I know they had written to him & were waiting an reply; & I can account for the talk in no other way. I am going out tomorrow & will see how & try to find out the cause of it. I had a long talk with Meritani this morning. He is very commiserate & speaks bitterly of Mr Donald who "paid his own penalty but let him go to jail". He says the whole of his section of Ngāteranui will desert except Amore, Old Taraboni's daughter who seems to have been robbed by her brother young Napier when he left paid the money. But Mr. says when he gets out he can stop her.

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What says this he did not know
 they had already done that.

I cannot recollect the
 news that got from the
 news from Auckland about the
 Kaiti, with what we got here
 from the paper. Wigham
 writes on 30th that all is well
 that Marama has withdrawn
 Apperley & parted the Tamae.
 I send a letter for Marama
 dated two or three days before
 to Tapani encourages him to
 say nothing about Kaiti.
 This is apparently in concert
 with what you have heard in
 Auckland about I presume is
 the same as Paken reported
 through Mr Paken Paken. If
 so I suspect that Mr Paken

knows of Aporo & Marama's re-
 position with the King at
 Kaiti, but with result. At all
 events we have no real alarming
 news here. Report for Taranaki
 however says that Kaiti had
 joined Kaiti with 60 men against
 Teke's war with that Kaiti
 had 500 men with him. But so
 far we have not found the
 Taranaki information about
 Kaiti to be true. The only thing
 I am afraid of is the effect
 that I presume the defeat
 might have if it has reached
 the Kaiti which I fear may be
 have attained the King's council.
 Still all I can say is that the
 bearing of all the news I have
 seen for the last week is any
 thing but alarming - but I have
 not seen very many days that
 time. But including Marama's

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held road, but ~~then~~ there is no
doubt of any fear on their part
of our guests being disturbed. And
so I shall hope for the best.

I intend stopping a day or
two at Manawatu to see whether
I can start a Ngātepunohu
road part on the swamp at
Orowa Bridge, where there is
a couple of miles very bad,
which if put right will make
the road available to Napier.
I believe in haste. It will also
perhaps keep our friends out
of mischief.

I suppose Auckland is
awaiting the Flying Squadron with
impatience.

Yours faithfully,

William Fox