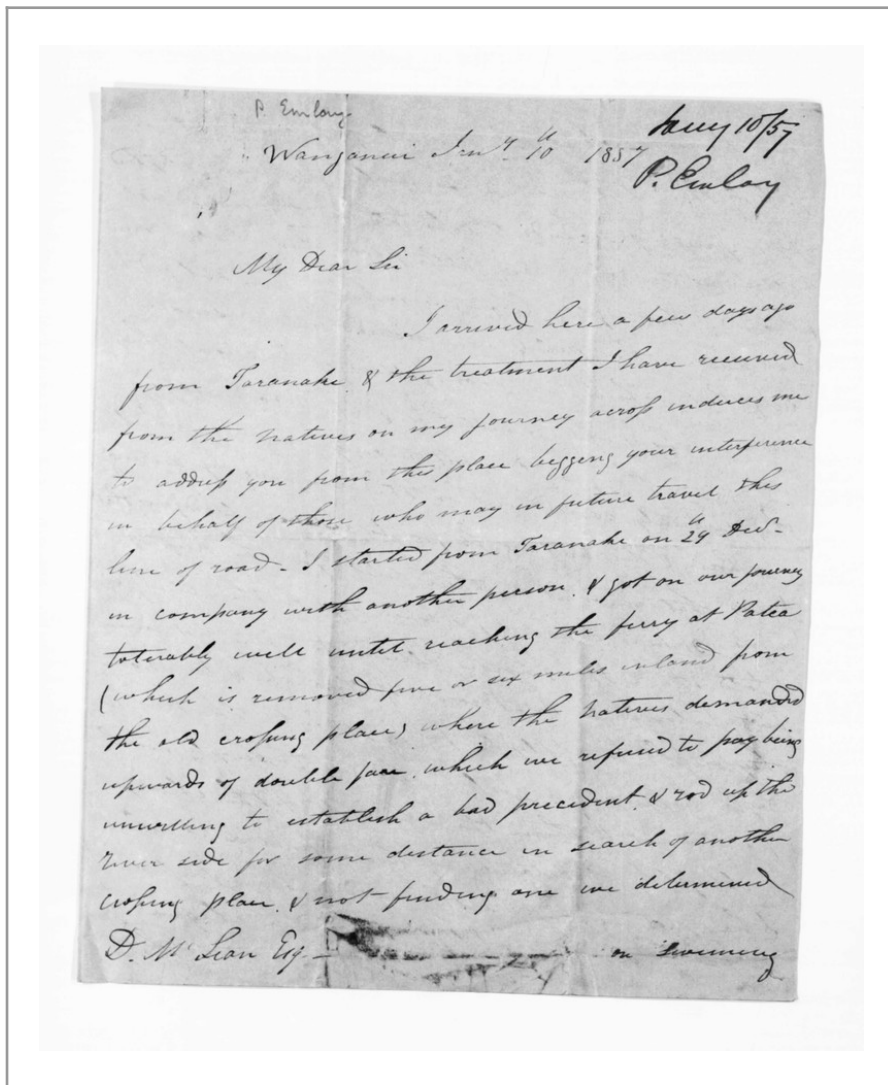


4 pages written 10 Jan 1857 by P Emlay in Wanganui to Sir Donald McLean



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our horses across at the mouth of the river, but in
passing their Pak named Le Aveke, we were stopped
by a parcel of scoundrels who told us they would not
allow us to cross at any other place than the one men-
tioned. The night becoming dark we were obliged to
remain at their Pak, & were ordered into a small
duty hut, which was soon filled up by about thirty
Maoris who profly insulted us, & whose conversation
was how they could extort money from us, which
they certainly carried out in the morning by securing
my horse & demanding £5 for its release alledging that
I was that amount in their debt for the keep of
nine (9) head of horses for seven days on their bushy
I told them the 9 horses alluded to were not mine
but belonged to Mr. Brown of Taranaki, & to whom
they ought to apply for payment. - The Rev. Mr.
Taylor happening to pass on his way to New Plymouth
pointed out to them the absurdity of the charge
& illegality of detaining my horse for a debt which
I had nothing to do with made us impudon
on them & I was obliged to send a cheque by
that

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Gentlemen on the owner of the horses for the amount
 they demanded before my horse was released. This
 is not the only outrage committed lately by the same
 tribe, about ten days ago they seized a horse belonging
 to a person passing with cattle to Paronahi, alluding
 as an excuse that he had driven away & sold in Wanganui
 one of their cattle which was a palahood - None of ours
 are not adopted soon by the Government to punish
 those nations & compel them in future to allow
 travellers to pass unmolested. The communication
 between the two settlements must cease -
 I have talked over ^{the} matter with Mr. Wierstad who
 is ^{now} editor of the Wanganui paper & pointed out to him
 the great necessity of preventing a repetition of outrages
 which could be accomplished in my opinion by ordering
 the two Police Magistrates to meet each other halfway
 across & get the principal chiefs on the line to establish
 dog pen places near some of their pahi where cattle
 or horses could stop for the night. paying the natives
 a reasonable price for each animal. they would require
 to put up a small paddock at each place of some acres
 which

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would require to be shown with English maps furnished to them by them in the habit of travelling that way. I am of opinion the natives would readily agree to this proposition if they were told in the event of their refusing that the Government would be under the necessity of establishing ~~stations~~ stations at different places the same as on the line from this place to Wellington. I trust however that something will be done soon, and as you know better than I do how to arrange it, I hope you will give it your early attention. Your friend Capt. Campbell & perhaps Miss Campbell will return with me to Taranaki. I glad should we be if you carry out your intention of visiting Taranaki soon & meet us all there. if you promise to come I will ~~promise~~ give you another dance & plenty scotch reels. Dr. Wilson told me before leaving home that he fully expected you & I trust you will not change your mind. As I will leave this in a couple of weeks your every address to me at Taranaki & remain
 My Dear Sir
 yours very truly P. Emlay