

MANUSCRIPTS & PICTORIAL

1 page

THE POSITION OF THE KING PARTY.

[From one of our correspondents.]
To Awamutu, Tawhiao.
REWS OPINION OF MR. BRUCE.
Secretary of the Native Minister, Rewi said: Mr. Bryce is straightforward in speech, and one gets to know what he means. I appreciate a man who acts thus. I am pleased with Mr. Bryce. I find, in reading the report of the interview, that my utterances are faithfully given, and Mr. Bryce's also. There are certain omissions relating to my avowed allegiance to the King movement and my perfect communion with the same subject an omitted also, so that I ought not to complain, as both sides are silent on that subject in the report.

WERRERE'S LETTER.
Rewi, in speaking of Werrere, said: I did not see the letter that was published in the Herald on the Mokai issue. I know nothing whatever of such a letter being written, although it was dated from my place, Kihikihi. I had seen on this subject, that I should be dragged into a dispute about which I have nothing to say. I had beyond Mokai, but the land referred to in the letter rests with Wairangi, who has gone to Mokai to demand an inquiry. I hold Werrere's letter, now in my hand, and I impeded Mr. Grace, saying to him: "How could you send a letter of this nature, dated from my place, Kihikihi—and keep me in ignorance of the matter. I cannot come to any decision at present regarding my innocence or the innocence of Tawhiao and Mr. C. O. Davis. I must suspend my judgment until I know the whole of what has been said, and if I find that Tawhiao and Mr. Davis have acted wrongly in regard to their correspondence, then I will turn upon them both, and concern them severely, but if I find that their line of conduct upon you (Mr. Grace), whom action has been as ungenerous, and Werrere will suffer with you."

COPPER, GOLD, AND COAL IN THE KING COUNTRY.
Rewi said: Many years ago a European who planned the mines you see yonder, informed me that in digging at Kakapeka mountain, he discovered copper, but I paid no heed to it, and I am equally indifferent about it now. Regarding the gold: I had specimens in my own hands from the Taupo country, but in consequence of so many coming to look at them, I threw them into the river, and I have no desire whatever that the gold in that country should be touched. There let it lie. As to the coal at Mokai, I recommended that the coal should be used by the Europeans, if required; that the land should not be sold, but if necessary, it could be leased, and as it is known there are quantities of it there, it may be leased to account for the advantage of both parties.

NO MORE FIGHTING.
Rewi said: The King movement was initiated by Te Heuheu of Taupo, consequently all responsibility devolved on him to defend the system he had set up. I had no wish to see any of Puriri's servants warring the chief said, "Go ye, and be food for the fowls of the air," upon the Europeans if proposition of trying our strength with the Europeans, and I advised our people to retire, but after uttering their speech about the birds some of them went into the fight, and I followed, saying, "Now, let everyone cessation of hostilities I said, "No, let us allow my opinion, and I say with Tawhiao more truly, let there be no more fighting. I have made up my mind that no more fighting shall take place unless you Europeans drag us into hostilities."

REWI ON THE PROPOSED BRIDGE ACROSS THE WAIPA.
In speaking of the Rewi said: Tawhiao acted in concert with me as to the erection of the proposed bridge across the Waipa. Beyond that point I did not assent to any proposition, as to townships, roads, railways, &c.

TAWHIAO AND HIS ADVISERS.
Rewi said: "It is not our rule that Tawhiao should act independently of his Council—the chief of the King party, act with great caution, and when his advisers act independently of him they are concerned, as in the case of Te Ngahau, whose line of conduct has given offence. Tawhiao does not act without first consulting his Council, nor the members of his Council Manga's corroborates Tawhiao's assertion in his previous report, viz., "I have a Parliament at Whatihahoe."

SOLDIERS' GRAVE AT TE AVAMUTU.
I visited the graves of those who fell in the fight at Orakau and Rangarua, and were buried at Te Awamutu, and regretted to see the decayed wooden slabs placed over the graves of those who fell in action. Some of the slabs are lying on the ground rotting—the others on some being almost obliterated, and before long all record of the soldiers buried here will be lost. Surely the Government of the country will not allow the monuments of those who fell in the Maori war to pass away, when a few pennies only would replace them and simple headstones.

TAUPU MOUNTAIN.
Reference has been made to this mountain in a previous part of this report. Taupu is a previous part of this report. Taupu is a mountain in the Maori Islands, and is in the Rangarua, Tawhiao's grandfather. When passing the mountain on my return to Auckland, I was followed by a Maori, who was well acquainted with Maori legends. He gave me a long list of the following being the first few:

[A Maori verse is quoted.]
He haka whaka a haka ake as I found but
The whole of it I have written
To record as it Tawhiao's name
It is a haka made for the King
(Tawhiao's name)
The whole of it I have written from the South
And I am sending him letters I send away to
I am sending him letters I send away to
From my horse—coming in the dim distance
I am sending him letters I send away to
For this my constant care.

OPINIONS OF THE KINGITES AS TO THE MURDERERS.
Several prominent chiefs assert that the Maori almost universally consider that Te Koro is not a murderer, nor Parakatu, between the two. What is more, however, is on a different issue, and they have nothing force, therefore, into the King country to an attempt on the part of the Government to capture the two former would be considered more heinous. One leading chief said:—"If you capture those men on your side of the boundary, your act will not be questioned by us, but if you cross over to our country matter." I cannot conclude these letters without expressing my indebtedness to Mr. C. O. Davis, who was present during the interview with Tawhiao and Rewi, and gave me much information as to the history and and subsequent affairs of the King party, and his knowledge of how to deal with Maori, as mentioned. With Europeans generally the natives are more or less reticent, but they speak to Mr. Davis as frankly as amongst themselves.

John Robert papers