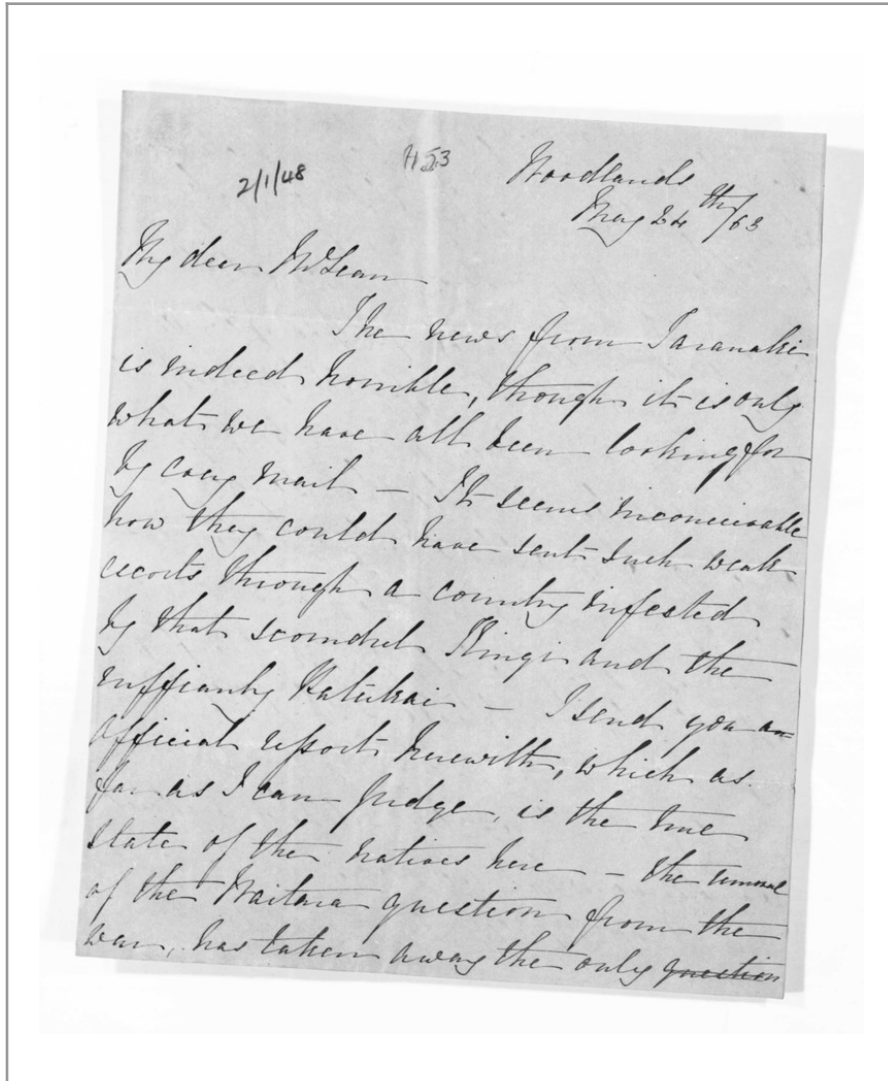


4 pages written 24 May 1863 by George Sisson Cooper in Woodlands to Sir Donald McLean



Woodlands

May 24th /63

My dear McLean,

The news from Taranaki is indeed horrible, though it is only what we have all been looking for by every mail - It seems inconceivable how they could have sent such weak escorts through a country infested by that scoundrel Kingi and the ruffianly Patukai - I send you an official report herewith, which as far as I can judge, is the true state of the natives here - the removal of the Waitara question from the war, has taken away the only

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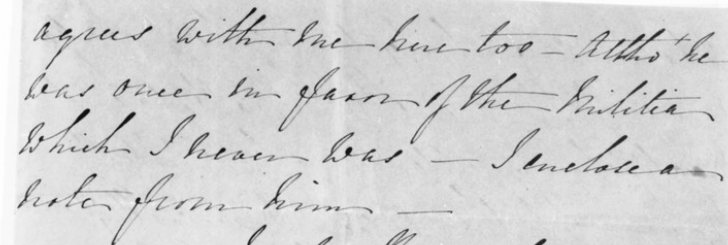
point on which they ever pretended
to sympathise with the Taranaki
Natives - I have communicated
with Ormond since I received your
letter, and find a perfect unanimity
of opinion between himself and
me - Locke thinks the same -
and a few other whose opinions
are of minor importance -
You see what I have said
about the Militia; I should be
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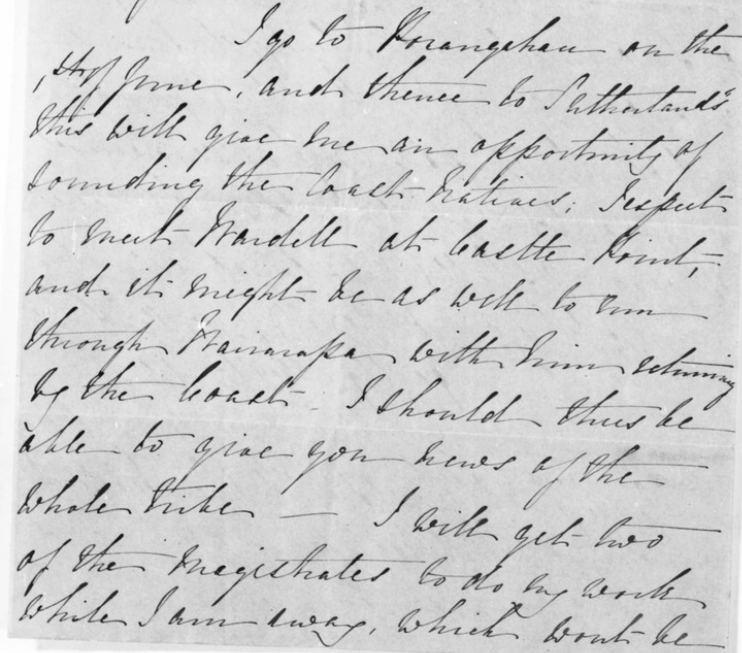
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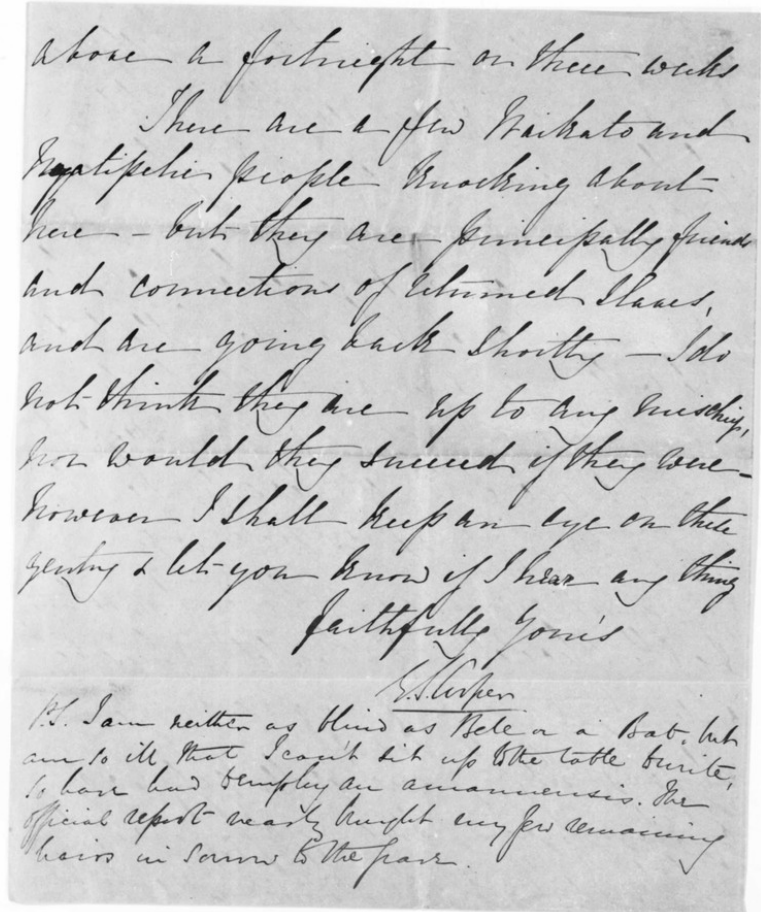
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1st June, and thence to Sutherland's
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Above a fortnight or three weeks
There are a few Waikato and
Ngatipehi people knocking about
here - but they are principally friends
and connections of returned slaves,
and are going back shortly - I do
not think they are up to any mischief,
nor would they succeed if they were -
however I shall keep an eye on these
gentry & let you know if I hear any thing
faithfully yours
G. S. Cooper

P. S. I am neither as blind as Bell or a Bat, but am so ill that I can't sit up to the table to write, so have had to employ an amanuensis. The official report nearly brought my few remaining hairs in sorrow to the grave.

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