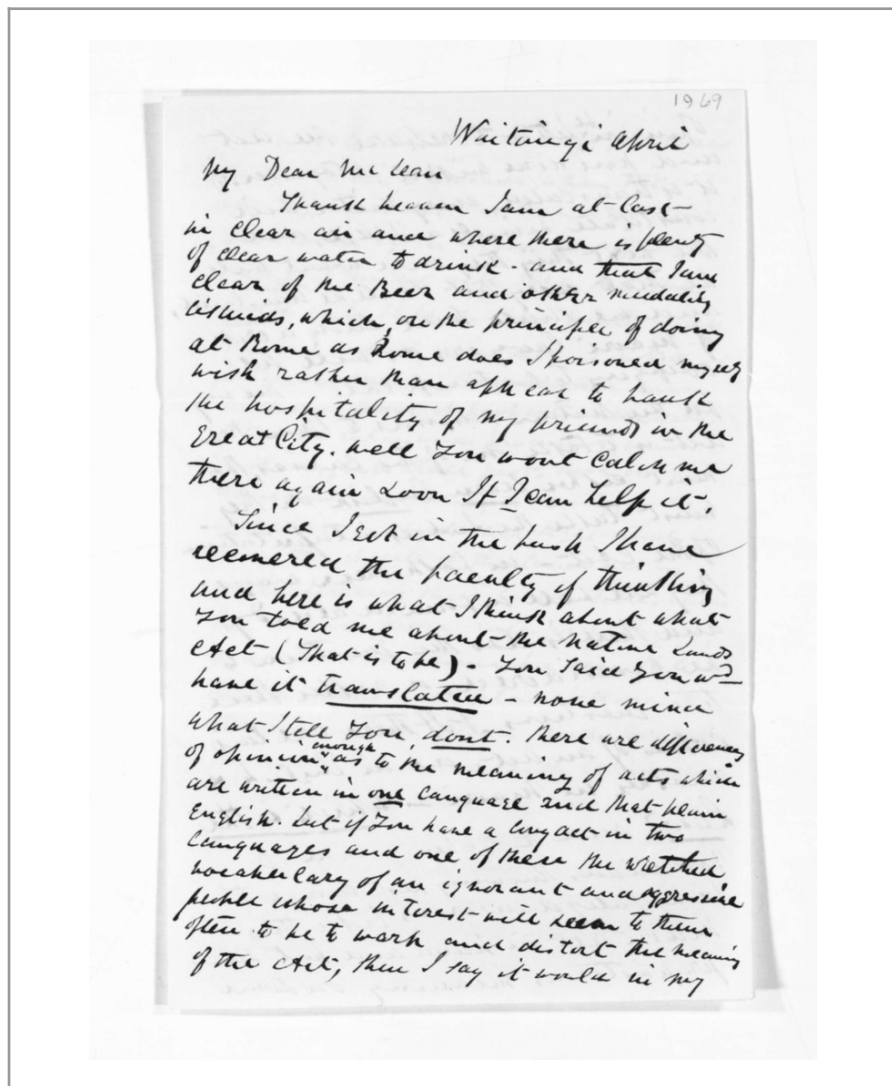


5 pages written by Frederick Edward Maning in Waitangi to Sir Donald McLean



MANUSCRIPTS & PICTORIAL

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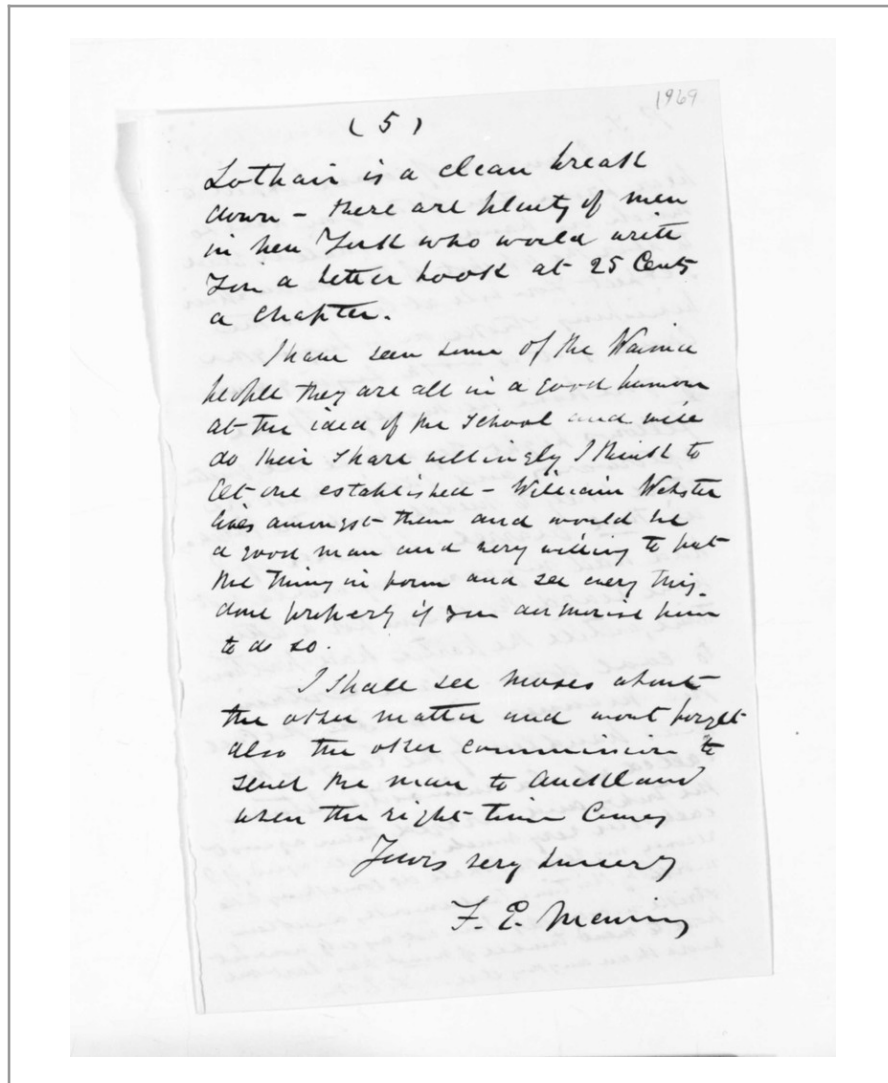
He letter to refer to the Act
 and how it will be altered. If
 it is translated every Maori will
 constitute himself a Judge, and
 the best thing they will want will
 be that every Act shall be translated,
 and we shall have such a class
 of Maori Lawyers as will be
 obliging to contemptible. The way
 for the future seems to show the
 Act is to take one of two courses, they
 must either learn English or they
 must take the Judges interpretation
 of the Act - in both these ways
 they are well informed already,
 and there is also the question to
 be considered, or rather these
 two questions - If there are two
 copies of the Act, one in English &
 another in Maori - which is the
 Law? and 2 - when a mob of
 Bushmen knowing just enough to
 be angry, and even to see the
 Maori Act in Maori and put some
 propertors, meaning or some

Clause to suit their own purpose
 What are we to consider when they
 say "if this is not the Law why did
 you print it in Maori for us?" - The
 spirit of the Act will save, but the
 words will hold in their hands - The
 Maori mind however is not a
 judicial mind, they decide many
 matters, those of knowledge, evidence,
 of law or rules, and procedure, and
 actions, but still just, and only
 sometimes according to equity (as we
 people are without that high intensity)
 and the object of the Law Act is,
 while settling their land titles, and
 her all on more rules, or by them,
 to at the same time for ever settle
 those rules and laws later into
 Maori in their stead, and this very
 desirable conclusion will be deferred
 the longer the more we put a power
 of interpretation in their hands, and
 as they have never been accustomed to
 submit to any restrictions or checks
 as come in the place of absolute
 authority, and then only a little
 hope, and as the Judges are

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assessors of the Land Court do
 manage to put on a sort of appearance
 of authority which is in most cases
 very successful, I think it best not
 to translate the act. It may be
 also remarked that the assessors
 have little or nothing to do with the
 act except merely that part which
 ordains that claims shall be
 decided according to native
 usage and in this point alone
 are the assessors of any use they
 are useful in deciding claims
 in accordance with a barbarous
 and unjust code of which the
 judges of the Court are for their
 most part as ~~well~~ well informed
 fully as themselves and therefore
 they would scarcely be wanted
 at all were it not that it is
 well that disaffected
 litigants should see that it
 was not merely by foreigners
 but by their own country men
 also that they were vanquished.
 Hocano taha Horero mo tenei
 tenei ano —

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I cannot of course expect to hear from you often you have to much on hand but I shall be glad to hear the upshot of the Archa affair I expect you will at last put the finishing stroke on by buying the land if it is worth buying and if you have the money. If the fellows fight they will be the quieter afterwards and I don't think are still likely to meddle with the Pākehā in that quarrel. However if I had had my own way would not have heard the claim for a little time, until the parties had had time to cool down. I am certain the manner in which the case was handled by the lawyers has called up old animosities between the tribes, and increased them against each other very much. I would say, if I recover my health I shall do something like worth by this time to them with and then strike most life if I am not my self now but hope to meet trouble if ~~my~~ has last me more than anything else. F. E. M.