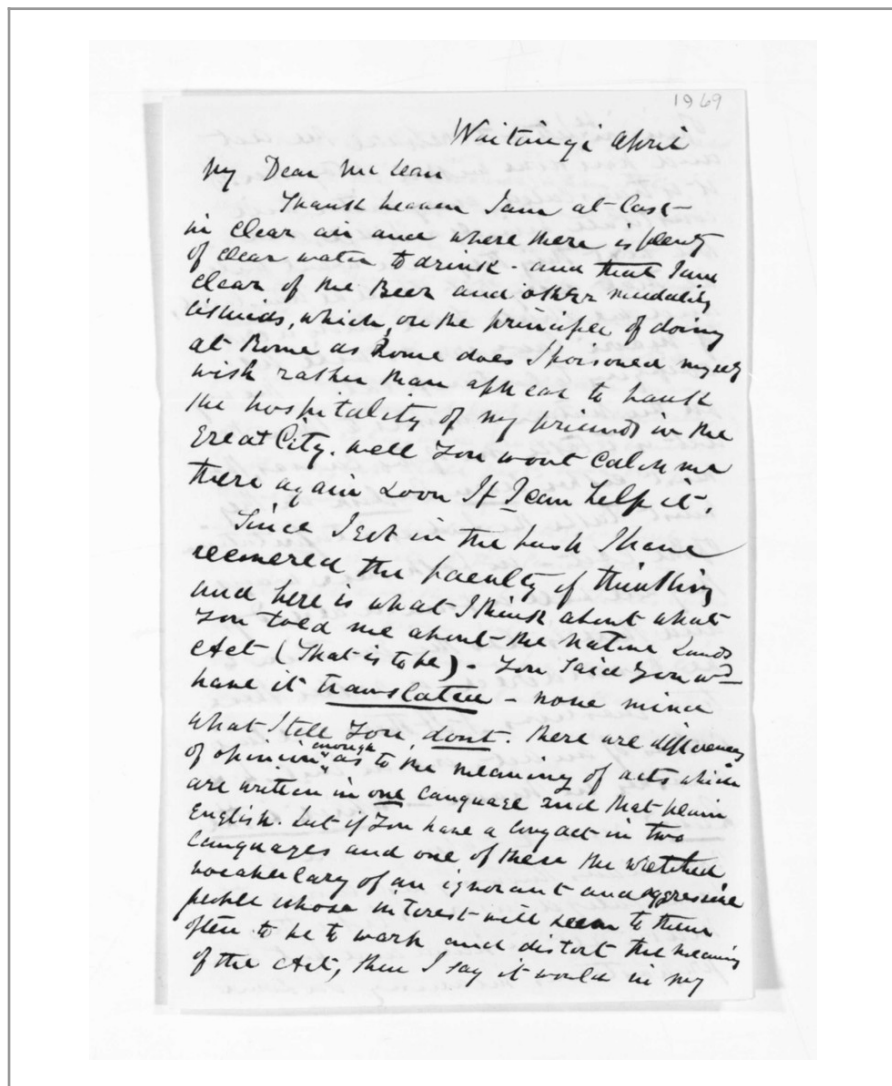


5 pages written by Frederick Edward Maning in Waitangi to Sir Donald McLean

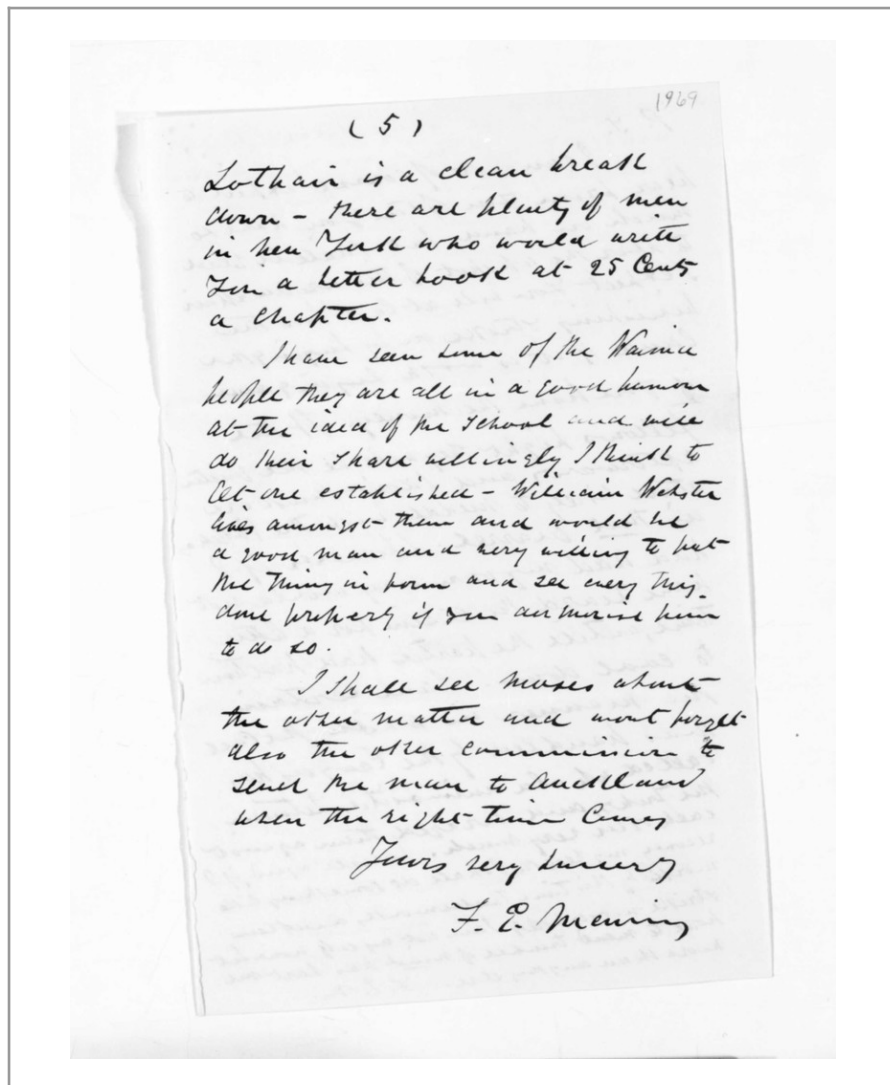




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Assessors of the Land Court do  
 manage to put on a sort of appearance  
 of authority which is in most cases  
 very successful, I think it best not  
 to translate the act. It may be  
 also remarked that the assessors  
 have little or nothing 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 teke Horero mo tene  
 tenei ano —

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P. J.

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.