

4 pages written 25 Feb 1854 by James Grey in New Plymouth

New Plymouth the 25 Feb 1854

Sir James Grey

Having the pleasure to address you, I beg to lay before you the various times which occasion by design, and which I shall state in as brief a manner as I possibly can -

Being an old servant of my country for upwards of thirty years in various departments, & at parting from my last situation in England emigrated to New South Wales in 1817. Shortly after my arrival I was struck with the bloody Blight - which left me totally blind while I remained in that colony - I was advised for the preservation of my health to pass over to New Zealand. Where thank God I am in some small degree recovered - so as to be able to conduct myself as a practical Peon without a Leader - Having said this much

I now introduce to your notice that I have been advised to petition His Excellency Governor Grey and to lay before him my services in the Government - adding the present difficulties under which I labour and that he might be pleased to do something for me so as to take heavy labour off the shoulders of an old man who is nearly worn out. Now the sum of my petition is that the Governor is as follows

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Entered the army in 1809 under Colonel Charles Hall.
 -field. Left on a furlough 1818 - on leaving received a General
 officers Commission by George the Fourth then Prince Regent
 for his services - served in this department under Major
 Thomas Dawson. Solicited by Major John Mills to join
 the Constabulary in which I served upwards of 18 years
 the last part under George Westwood - Inspector General
 The testimonials of those parties I had in reserve had
 been unfortunately accidently destroyed which deprives me of
 them and the fullness the same folder in - my house had gone
 and all my provisions and effects were consumed however
 by the assistance of a few friends which the enclosed list
 will inform you of - I was partially able to recover but
 more particularly I am indebted to Major Lloyd who is
 assisting me up to this period. There was two letters which
 I valued much the one from two of your countrymen the
 Rev James Coakley - his presbytery of Ireland and Alexander
 Sinclair but the same consumed.

Having got a second Memorial wrote and a
 report of the Governors arrival at Laramake being daily
 expected I held it over as that I might present it to
 him. Another report stated him to be in Auckland
 I was then recommended to send it by post - of
 course but he left. The next report he is gone home
 to England - another disappointment appears - and to
 be long and tedious it is the object I have in view

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and which I hope to achieve via through you being satisfied
that your influence with Governor Grey - or any of the Govern
which may be sent to this colony will outweigh the interest of any
other Gentlemen whom I have the Honour of Respecting

Now Sir the principal Reason of my bringing this under
your notice is - you will soon be going to Auckland - you are
constantly in communication with the Governor - Let
him be whom he may - you Sir if so kind can give me some
information as how matters of this sort are disposed of and how
as you are supposed to know or at least have some knowledge
of every British subject in the colony may I hope for your
assistance should my petition ever come under your notice

Having now done say a few lines because for this
I am trespassing on your much occupied time and attention

And must Respectfully beg Leave to
Subscribe myself
Sir
Your obedient Servant
James Grey
Taranaki

P.S. I am brother to Tom Grey who lives at Oroua
and who was under your command some short
time ago

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