



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

(PROVINCE OF NEW MUNSTER.)

Published by Authority.

All Public Notifications which appear in this Gazette, with any Official Signature thereunto annexed, are to be considered as Official Communications made to those Persons to whom they may relate, and are to be obeyed accordingly.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DOMETT, Colonial Secretary.

VOL. III.]

WELLINGTON, MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 1850.

[No. 14.]

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 1st August, 1850.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Chief has been pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatches, for general information.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DOMETT,
Colonial Secretary.

(COPY.)

Government House,
Auckland,
16th July, 1850.

No. 48.

SIR,—I have the honor to transmit a copy of a Despatch marked "Separate," of the 22nd December last, which I have received from Lord Grey, containing the purport of his reply to a Memorial which was addressed to his Lordship by certain Gentlemen of Nelson in favour of the immediate introduction of Representative Institutions, and I have to request you will inform the Memorialists of the nature and purport of Lord Grey's reply, as contained in his Lordship's Despatch No. 89, of the 22nd of December last, a copy of which I have this day transmitted to you.

I have the honor.
&c. &c. &c.
(Signed) G. GREY.

His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor of New Munster.

(COPY.)

Separate.

Downing Street,
22nd December, 1849.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge your Despatch No. 45, of the 5th of April last, enclosing a Memorial addressed to me by certain Gentlemen as Members of a Committee appointed at a Public Meeting held in Nelson, in favour of the immediate introduction of Representative Government.

My Despatch of even date herewith explains at length the reasons for which I have felt it impossible to consent to such a change for the present: and you will accordingly acquaint these Gentlemen with the substance of it, as containing my answer to the prayer of their Memorial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GREY.

Governor

Sir George Grey,
&c. &c. &c.

(COPY.)

Downing Street,
22nd December, 1849.

No. 89.

SIR,

I have to acknowledge the series of Despatches enumerated by dates and numbers in the margin, all of them relating to the subject of the Establishment of Provincial Legislative Councils, and to that of the proposed introduction at a future time of Representative Government in one or both of the Provinces into which New Zealand is now divided, and in such others as may hereafter be comprised within its Limits.

(2) My answer to these Despatches has been hitherto postponed, because, being made aware by your Despatch of November 29th, 1848, that the Ordinance of November 18th, 1848, for the establishment of Provincial Legislative Councils was already in operation for the Province of New Munster, I considered it most advisable to wait for further accounts of the manner in which it had been received, and of the general state of the Colony, before submitting it to the Queen for confirmation.

I have now to inform you that Her Majesty has been pleased to confirm and allow this Ordinance. You will communicate Her Majesty's decision to the Inhabitants of the Colony under your Government by a Proclamation, to be published in the usual and most authentic manner.

(3) I likewise concur entirely in your views and proposals respecting the future introduction of Representative Institutions, by the creation of Legislative Bodies, such as you have described, exercising the same functions respectively as the General and Provincial Councils now constituted by you.

(4) But, at the same time, I do not think it at all advisable that Parliament should interfere, (in the manner proposed in the Resolution of the Council of New Munster and in your Despatch of February 2nd, 1849,) by passing at present any new Act, for the purpose of giving effect to these views. For I do not perceive that you propose that any change in the existing form of Government (beyond such changes as you are empowered to make with the advice of your Legislative Council, by the Act of 11th and 12th Victoria, Chapter 5) should actually come into operation before the expiration of the five years for which the Constitution of the Island is suspended.

This being the case, I consider it to be manifestly inexpedient that Parliament should now pass an Act in order to make provision for a time as yet so far distant, when it is quite possible that, in the interval, experience may point out some advisable changes in the details if not in the general features of such a measure. Nor can it be necessary to introduce such a bill into Parliament for the mere purpose of affording to the Colonists a guarantee that their enjoyment of Representative Institutions shall not be unnecessarily delayed; since, by the Acts now in force, the suspension of these Institutions can last only for the five years above mentioned, at the end of which time they will of themselves come into operation, and it is certain that nothing but a sense of obvious necessity would induce Parliament to continue their suspension.

(5) With respect to the postponement for the present of the introduction of those Institutions, I entirely concur in the reasons which you have assigned for it in your recent Despatches, particularly that of March 23rd, 1849, confirmed as its representations are by the fuller description of the state of Society and progress of the colony contained in your Despatch of July 9th, 1849, transmitting the Blue Book.

You have advanced reasons apparently conclusive against immediately discontinuing the whole of the pecuniary assistance afforded by this country towards the Civil expenditure of the Colony, or reducing at once the Military assistance now afforded it, to an amount more nearly proportioned to the force maintained in other Colonies of similar European Population.

But the same reasons apply with equal force against the immediate Grant of a Representative Government: since, whenever this is given, it must be considered as its indispensable accompaniment that the mother country should soon be relieved from all charge on account of the Civil Administration of the Colony, as was pointed out in my Despatch of the 1st February 1847; and should also be

relieved from a very large portion of the burthen of its military protection.

(6) With respect to the Civil List, I have to call your attention to the Legal Authority under which it is reserved, in order that the provisions made by Parliament respecting it, may be duly complied with.

The Act of 1846, (9th and 10th Victoria, ch. 103, sec. 12), empowers the Queen to appropriate by Letters Patent a Civil List not exceeding £6,000 per annum for each Province.

The Letters Patent issued under that Act accordingly reserve £6,000 per annum for each Province. The Instructions provide that the Civil List so Appropriated shall be applied "as the Lords of the Treasury shall direct."

(7) It is obvious that this provision will only become of real importance when a popular Legislature shall be created to which the power of controlling the whole public expenditure, except that portion reserved as a Civil List, will be entrusted. In the meantime while the whole Colonial Revenue is appropriated by yourself with the aid of a Legislature nominated by the Crown and acting under the directions of Her Majesty's Government, with respect to the salaries to be assigned to the various public servants in the Colony, it is practically immaterial which of these salaries are nominally charges upon the Civil List under the sanction of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury. But while this matter is of little or no practical consequence, it is not the less necessary to avoid even any technical departure from the rules laid down by Parliament. Now the Act 11th Vict. c. 5, which suspends many other provisions of the Act and Letters Patent of 1846 does not suspend those relating to the Civil List. It appears, therefore, that they are still in force; and that they are not alterable except in the manner provided by that Act, viz.—by the enactment of an Assembly framed under the Act of 1846. But as no such Assembly has been constituted, nor can be constituted, while the powers given by the Act remain suspended, it would seem that the present temporary Legislatures possess no power to alter them.

(8) On the other hand the Ordinance of the 18th November, 1848, appears to assume that the existing temporary Legislature has power to provide a Civil List (sections 23 and 24.) As however it has in point of fact only repeated the provisions already in force, and as these sections of the Ordinance may have been framed under a different view of the law from that which I have above suggested, I have not thought it necessary to delay the confirmation of the Ordinance on account of them. It is sufficient for me to have directed your attention to the circumstance. If the above view be correct, any alteration in the amount of the Civil Lists, during the suspension of the Constitution can only be effected by Parliament, or through an amendment of the Letters Patent by the Queen.

(9) But you will observe that in any view the "directions and appointment" of the Lords of the Treasury are necessary in order to legalize the appropriation of the Civil List. As no Estimates of this part of the Expenditure, distinct from the remainder of it, have hitherto reached me, I wish you to transmit them at your earliest convenience, with a view to procuring the sanction of their Lordships to the appropriation thus authorized by yourself, which under the circumstances will satisfy substantially the words of chapter xi of the Instructions.

(10.) On the general question of the Civil List, my opinion is that a Representative Legislature, when it comes into operation, ought to be as little fettered as possible by Parliamentary enactments in making such changes as may from time to time be required in the appropriation of the Revenue.

(11.) At the same time I consider it to be indispensable that permanent provision should be made for the maintenance of the various establishments which have been created for the benefit of the Natives. The fact that while the Natives are large contributors to the Revenue, they must for some time have comparatively little influence in a Representative Legislature, affords, as you have observed, a conclusive reason for requiring that the discontinuance of an expenditure in which they are vitally interested without the consent of the Crown, should be effectually guarded against. With this view I am of opinion that the existing Local Legislature should carefully consider what amount of permanent expenditure is required for the establishments in question, and for other objects connected with the interests of the Natives, and should then pass Ordinances by which the amount of this expenditure should be charged upon the Revenue of the colony in the same manner in which in this country various expenses on account of the Civil Government which it is considered inconvenient to submit to annual discussion, have been charged by Parliament on the consolidated fund.

(12.) Under the provisions of the Act of Parliament now in force, the existing Legislature of New Zealand, although maintained only for a period, has full power to pass any Ordinances that may appear necessary for the general interests of the community.

(13.) These Ordinances will continue in force when the authority of the body by which they have been passed shall cease to be available for further legislation, and though they will of course be subject to alteration by the new Legislature which will hereafter be created, no such alteration can take effect without the consent of the Governor as the Representative of the Crown, and would be liable—like all other measures of the Local Legislature—to be disallowed by Her Majesty. An enactment therefore creating a permanent charge on the Revenue for expenditure regarding the Natives would afford them all the security that could be desired.

(14.) The provisions of Sec. 12 of the Ordinance appear to effect all that is necessary in the way of reserving subjects of general importance to the jurisdiction of the Central Legislative Council. There are however many other heads on which it should seem very expedient that uniformity of legislation should be maintained in the Islands. Such are for instance, Criminal Laws inflicting either the punishment of death, or secondary punishment of serious magnitude—Laws regulating the course of inheritance of real or personal property, or the mode of disposing of property by will, and the extent of power exercisable by a Testator—Laws prescribing rules for the naturalization of aliens—and, perhaps, Laws regulating the form and effect of deeds and other evidence of contracts.

(15.) And it is to be observed that in points of this kind, convenience requires that the Law of the different Provinces should not only be framed with a view to substantial similarity, but that it should be absolutely identical in language; both because a mere difference in wording will often result in important though unintentional differences of substance; and also in order that decisions in Courts of Law given in one Province may apply, beyond possibility of doubt, to the Law as it stands in others.

(16.) These considerations, however, I leave to your judgment, without wishing to prescribe to you any particular manner of carrying them into execution. It may be that the power possessed by the Lieutenant-Governors of refusing their assent to any law infringing this desirable uniformity which might be passed by the Legislatures of the Provinces would be sufficient to preserve them from ma-

terial dissidence on these subjects, without the necessity of strictly reserving them for central legislation.

(17.) I concur, further, in the suggestion of your despatch No. 76, of 22nd June, 1849, that as legislation respecting the Native races is not one of the subjects exclusively reserved for the general Legislature by the Ordinance of Nov. 18th, the Lieutenant-Governors of the Provinces and yourself, should for the present, reserve for Her Majesty's assent or disallowance any Ordinance which may be passed amending or repealing any Law affecting the interests of the Native race to which the Royal Assent has once been given by the Governor. You will therefore take care that a suspending clause be inserted in all such Ordinances without which you will understand that it is Her Majesty's pleasure that they should not be assented to on Her behalf by the Governor or Lieutenant Governors of New Zealand. This instruction will of course apply to any Ordinance which may be passed relating to expenditure in which the Native race are interested.

(18.) With respect to the boundaries between the Provinces, I understand you to be of opinion (from your despatch of 6th Feb., 1849,) that there is no substantial objection (representative institutions being for the present postponed) to that proposed in my despatch of 28th Feb., 1848, between New Ulster and New Munster. You are therefore authorized to proclaim it at once.

(19.) The separation from New Munster of the two other projected Provinces, of which Otago and New Canterbury are to be the nuclei respectively, must, for the present, be postponed until the settlement of the latter is somewhat more advanced and the general convenience can be consulted with more certainty as to its limits.

(20.) It will also be necessary, before these New Provinces are proclaimed, that they should be able to defray the expenses of the establishments which will thus be required, without assistance either from the Parliamentary Grant or from the revenue of the older Provinces. It is impossible while there is ample room in the old settlements for all the emigrants who can desire to go to New Zealand, that Her Majesty's Government should consent to the indefinite multiplication of new settlements at a distance from those originally formed, except on the condition that those who think proper to form such new settlements will be ready to bear the whole of the charges which are thus rendered necessary for additional Government establishments.

I have, &c.,

(Signed)
True Copy.

GREY.

C. L. NUGENT,
Private Secretary.

PROCLAMATION.

By His Excellency Sir George Grey, a Knight Commander of the Most Honorable Order of the Bath, Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Islands of New Zealand, and Governor of the Provinces of New Ulster and New Munster, and Vice Admiral of the same, &c., &c.

WHEREAS, the undermentioned Ordinance enacted by the Governor-in-Chief of New Zealand, with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, was passed in the Twelfth Year of the Reign of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, viz:—
“An Ordinance to provide for the Establishment of Provincial Legislative Councils in the colony of New Zealand,” Session 9, No. 1, which Ordinance having been by the Right Honorable Earl Grey, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

laid before the Queen, Her Majesty has been pleased to confirm and allow the same: Now THEREFORE, I, the Governor-in-Chief of New Zealand do hereby proclaim and make known to all whom it may concern that Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to confirm and allow the before mentioned Ordinance.

Given under my Hand and Issued under the Public Seal of the Islands of New Zealand at Government House at Auckland in the Province of New Ulster in the Islands aforesaid, this twelfth day of July, in the Year of Our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty.

G. GREY,
Governor-in-Chief.

By His Excellency's Command,
C. A. DILLON,
Civil Secretary.

God Save the Queen!

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 1st August, 1850.*

HIS EXCELLENCY the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to direct, under instructions from the Governor-in-Chief, the publication of the following Despatches and Additional Royal Instructions, for general information.

By His Excellency's Command,
ALFRED DOMETT,
Colonial Secretary.

*Government House,
Auckland, 9th July, 1850.*

SIR,—I have the honor to enclose for your information the copy of a Despatch from Earl Grey No. 3 of the 13th of January last, enclosing additional Instructions under the Royal Signet and Sign Manual, appointing certain persons to be Members of the Legislative Council of New Munster, I have to request that you will cause the confirmation of these appointments by Her Majesty to be notified in the *Government Gazette* of New Munster.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most obedient humble servant,
G. GREY.

His Excellency
The Lieutenant-Governor,
of New Munster.

(COPY.)
*Downing-street,
15th January, 1850.*

SIR,—Adverting to that part of my Despatch No. 89, of the 22nd ultimo, in which I signified to you that the Queen had been pleased to confirm and allow an Ordinance made and passed in the month of November, 1848, by yourself with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council of New Zealand, intituled "*An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Legislative Councils in the colony of New Zealand*," I have now to acquaint you that I have had the honor to lay before Her Majesty, your Despatches of the numbers and dates noted in the margin reporting the provisional appointment

by yourself and the Lieutenant-Governor of New Munster of the following gentlemen to be Members of the Legislative Council of that Province: viz:—

WILLIAM MCLEOD BANNATYNE,
FRANCIS DILLON BELL,
WILLIAM HICKSON,
GEORGE HUNTER,
ALFRED LUDLAM,
GEORGE MOORE,
DAVID MONRO,
JOHN DAMFORTH GREENWOOD,
HENRY SEYMOUR, and
WILLIAM OLDFIELD CAUTLEY, Esquires.

I transmit herewith additional Instructions which Her Majesty has been pleased to issue under the Royal Sign Manual and Signet ratifying and confirming the appointments so made by yourself and the Lieutenant-Governor.

I have, &c.,

GREY.

Governor
Sir George Grey, K. C. B.
&c., &c., &c.

VICTORIA R.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS to Our Governor-in-Chief of New Zealand, or to the Officer exercising the said office of Governor-in-Chief for the time being, to Our Governor and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Province of New Munster, or to the Officer exercising the said office of Governor and Commander-in-Chief for the time being, or to our Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of New Munster, or to the Officer exercising the said Office of Lieutenant-Governor for the time being; Given at Our Court at Windsor this fourteenth day of January, 1850, in the thirteenth year of Our Reign.

WHEREAS, by an Ordinance made and passed in the Twelfth Year of Our Reign, by the Governor-in-Chief of New Zealand with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council thereof, entitled "*An Ordinance to provide for the establishment of Legislative Councils in the colony of New Zealand*," it is, amongst other things enacted that for each of the Provinces into which the Islands of New Zealand now are, or may hereafter be divided, there shall be a Legislative Council to consist of not less than nine Members; that the Members of the Executive Council of the Province for the time being shall be Members ex officio of the said Provincial Council, and that it shall be lawful for the Governor or the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of the Province from time to time to summon and appoint such other persons as he may think proper, to be personally, or by virtue of his or their office, a Member or Members of the said Legislative Council, and that all such appointments to be made by such Letters Patent as aforesaid without Our previous Warrant, shall be provisional only, and subject to our confirmation or disallowance, but shall be valid to all intents and purposes, and irrevocable until Our pleasure shall have been signified thereupon.

AND WHEREAS, you, Our Governor as aforesaid, did, in pursuance and in the exercise of the power so vested in you, appoint provisionally and until Our pleasure should be known, Our trusty and well beloved.

WILLIAM McLEOD BANNATYNE,
FRANCIS DILLON BELL,
WILLIAM HICKSON,
GEORGE HUNTER,
ALFRED LUDLAM,
GEORGE MOORE,
DAVID MONRO, Doctor of Medicine,
JOHN DAMFORTH GREENWOOD, and
HENRY SEYMOUR, Esquires,

to be Members of the Legislative Council of the Province of New Munster.

AND WHEREAS you, Our Lieutenant Governor of Our Province of New Munster did appoint provisionally, and until Our pleasure should be known, William Oldfield Cantley, Esquire, to be a Member of the Legislative Council of the said Province of New Munster.

NOW, THEREFORE, in pursuance of the said recited Ordinance, and in exercise of the powers thereby vested in Us, We do, by these Our additional Instructions under Our Sign Manual and Signet, ratify and confirm the said appointments, and do declare Our Pleasure to be that the said

WILLIAM McLEOD BANNATYNE,
FRANCIS DILLON BELL,
WILLIAM HICKSON,
GEORGE HUNTER,
ALFRED LUDLAM,
GEORGE MOORE,
DAVID MONRO,
JOHN DAMFORTH GREENWOOD,
HENRY SEYMOUR, and
WILLIAM OLDFIELD CAUTLEY,

shall be Members of said Legislation Council of the Province of New Munster.

V. R.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 25th July, 1850.*

HIS EXCELLENCY the Lieutenant-Governor directs the publication of the following Memorandum addressed to his Honor the Superintendent of Nelson, of an expedition into the interior of the Southern Island of New Zealand.

By His Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DOMETT,
Colonial Secretary.

(COPY.)

MEMORANDUM of an Expedition into the Interior of the Southern Island of New Zealand, undertaken by Mr. Dashwood, and Capt. Mitchell, for the purpose of finding an inland route from the Wairau to the Port Cooper Plains. April 22, 1850.

Wellington, June 11, 1850.

SIR, I am aware of the very great interest felt by the Government, and the public in general, on the subject of an inland route from the Nelson district to the Port Cooper Plains, I have the honor to lay before you, with as little delay as possible the result of an expedition into the interior of the South

Island, undertaken by Mr. Dashwood and myself, from which we have just returned.

A few hurried notes I despatched to the Wairau informed you that Mr. Dashwood and myself had already made a short excursion up the Waiopi; on which occasion from the top of a hill whence the Waiopi derives its principal source we discovered a valley running in a S.S.W. direction. This valley it was now our object to explore.

Before proceeding I had perhaps better recapitulate the chief observations I made on that occasion, and give the bearings of the principal landmarks taken from a mountain to which I have heard a very sanguinary appellation given, but which I propose to call Mount Shepherd, and a high range of hills on Mr. Cantley's back run.

From Mount Shepherd the Kalkoras bore North East extreme, E.N.E.; S.W. extreme W.S.W.—They appeared about twenty miles distant. I could distinctly trace an extensive valley running along their base; concerning which I could not then gain any information. I have since made every enquiry from those well acquainted with the coast but without success. Its existence appears unknown—There did not seem to be any opening through the Kalkoras.

On the 11th April we ascended the Cantley range. The morning was densely foggy, but about 11 o'clock it partially cleared. A gorge running S.E. (it formed one of the boundaries of Mr. Cantley's run) had a promising appearance of leading to an open country. It was, however, interceded with much bush. Ben Opi bore N. a little E., Mount Shepherd E.N.E., his brother S.E. by S. The range of hills forming the East boundary of the Wairau, and West of the Waiopi, ran in a half a circle from North by the West to South. The mouth of Wairau N.N.E. I could only see the S.W. extreme of the Kalkoras—it bore W.S.W.

I now commence our second expedition, premising that we took with us a mare and a mule carrying about 2 cwt. each, and were accompanied by Harris, an old whaler.

After easy travelling along the banks of the Waiopi for thirty miles in a general S.S.W. direction, (the first fifteen of which appeared a good sheep country) we reached Starvation Hill from which we had previously seen the valley on the 27th April. On the 29th we ascended it. A good hill horse is required to carry a load up this hill. It was as much as our animals could do. On reaching the top we unloaded, and proceeding along the range to the West to a higher peak, we found the three highest summits of the Kalkoras bore S.W. To the West, the tops of a dense mass of hills were also visible. From Starvation Hill due South, stands a peculiar pyramidal hill, we named it Mount Impey. It is a capital landmark. On my former visit it was remarkable for having snow upon it some distance from the top, while the top itself was quite bare, from which it would appear to be volcanic, and at times in an active state. But now it was covered entirely with snow. Descending into the valley, the travelling became rough, rocks, spear grass, and the plant called Wild Irishman everywhere abounding. The valley appears never to have been fired, there is no fern or bush in it, but the Wild Irishman supplied us with good firewood. Here we experienced a most extraordinary severe frost, never in England have I felt it so intensely cold. The banks and the Rocks in the river were masses of immense icicles; and our clothes were frozen hard and stiff two minutes after we had taken them off.

We now kept the river which is joined by a large stream from the east. The valley had as yet been very narrow, but for two miles it now became broader. I give its course by compass bear-

ings at the end of my letter. The country then again changed, the river increased by small mountain streams from east and west, and hemmed in by precipitous hills, became deep and rapid and difficult, and in many places dangerous to cross. Impossible as it was, however, to walk along its high rugged sides, or make any way through the solid phalanx of spear grass and Wild Irishman, which in these parts grow to a size and strength undream't of by those whose shins have not come in contact with this most formidable enemy, we were obliged to wade for miles along the edge of a shelf of rocks from which the mule slipped twice, spoiling all our biscuit. Had it been summer, the narrow bottoms might have been burnt, but at best, this gorge will always deserve its name of the "Devil's Grip."

After five miles of this amphibious travelling the valley again opened, and Mr. Dashwood and myself having clambered a hill, discovered, much to our delight, a beautiful valley running north and south. A river which had its source in some small hills at our feet, wound through it. The width of the valley I should suppose to be about four or five miles. On each side ran low undulating hills, backed to the east by a high mountain range, the very picture of a perfect sheep grazing country. At the distance we were, to judge of the quality of the grass was impossible: though the height of the valley above the level of the sea perhaps rendered this part too cold for good grass, and unfit for sheep. We had the honor to attach your name, Sir, to this valley. And it is my firm belief, that ere long the great south road, will traverse Richmond Valley. Looking down it from the hill on which we stood, no impediment whatever could be discerned. Mr. Dashwood believed it to be the Kaiparatahau. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the geography of the north-east coast to hazard an opinion, but I feel convinced it is the same valley I before mentioned as having distinctly traced from Mount Shepherd running at the base of the Kaikoras. It is separated from Acheron valley, (as I propose to call the valley along which we journeyed, after H.M.S. *Acheron*), by easy low hills, over which you might now drive a cart, and thus Starvation Hill, the Devil's Grip, and our enemies, the prickles, would be avoided. If the river does run into the sea at N.E. it may be the Awatere, or the Blind river immediately to the south of the Awatere. But this is mere supposition. It ought to be immediately explored. Mount Impey bore S.S.E., a little S., the Kaikoras N.N.E.

May 3rd.—Again were we obliged to take to the river, the banks being so densely covered with our well armed vegetable opponents, as to be impassable for man or beast. We attempted to fire, but alas! in vain; it was too wet. The valley had now gradually increased to the width of two miles with improving grass which might do for cattle. A large river (the Newcome) ran into Acheron vale from west. The east bank had been fired.

May 4th.—Harris and myself had to return six miles after the horses which had strayed during the night. Mr. Dashwood in the meantime ascended a low range of hills to the west, and discovered a valley which I named after him. He described it as grassy—half a mile wide, and its course S. by W. and N. by E. It ran into Acheron valley E.S.E.

The river along which we travelled had become a considerable stream, and it behoved us to be careful where we crossed. Cogitating on its bank on the possibility of fording at the point where we then stood, the horse and mule suddenly dashed in, and proved the impracticability by swimming across, and leaving us in the lurch. Some distance further down, we managed with much difficulty to ford it, and regain our steeds. The hills for about seven miles to the west are low and undulating. A high

snowy range then rises and runs parallel with Acheron Vale, from which the rivers and streams appear to derive their source.

This part of the country would be well worth exploring. Two horses could carry provisions for three months; ample time during long days in fine weather to examine the valleys, and to survey the country east and west from the hills which are all easy of ascent.

The soil and grass here were much improved, and good cattle stations might be formed, but I fear the immense quantity of spear grass, and other prickles would prove an obstacle for sheep.

May 8th.—The horses recrossed the river during the night, and Mr. Dashwood and Harris returned for them. I climbed a hill, but owing to the fog and clouds could make but little out. A river from N.N.E. ran into Acheron Vale at W. A high snowy range ran N.W. by N. to S.E. by S. The fog precluded my seeing more.

On the highest peak of the hill I had ascended was a bed of small broken stones, to all appearance of granite, of a very considerable depth. I tried to get at the soil with a stick without success. They gave me the idea of stones put on a recently finished Macadamized road:—they were broken to the size of those used in England for private park roads, and were smoothed as if with a shovel. The whole top for some distance down was covered with them.

Some shrubs,—Aniseed, Wild Geranium, and Parsley;—Ducks, both black and blue; Wika's, Cranes, Paradise Geese, Quails, Grasshoppers, and Flies, seemed to denote improving country, and to hint that we were nearing the coast;—at least so we interpreted it. On an expedition of this kind there ought always to be a dog and gun amongst the party. As it was, our dog caught us more Wika's than we could eat; but ducks, Paradise geese, and quail, would have been dainties we could have daily dined off had we had a gun.

The first certain signs of Maories we discovered on the 9th—a quantity of firewood collected and the remains of a whari gave certain evidence of an old Maori encampment. The Valley at this part was not more than three or four hundred yards wide, in places much less. The hills on both sides were covered with snow. The river turns at right angles to the east another large one (the Poynter), running into it from the west. On regaining an eminence I discovered a valley three quarters a mile wide. The hills on either side were covered with grass, and in the distance—for the first time since leaving the Waiopi—was bush of black birch and manuka. The valley ran due east and west. We had now evident signs of the banks of the river having recently been burnt, probably by natives passing along the coast. The soil still continued improving, and travelling easy; and here I have to record an irreparable loss. When midway across the river I found it deeper, and the stream more rapid than I had anticipated; so, to prevent my note book getting damaged, I held up my blue shirt, and dropped my compass from the pocket,—the only one with the party. I have taken correct bearings of the valley for forty miles, the remainder is guess work. A stream from the north, another from S.W., joined the river.

Acheron Valley now became impassable, so Mr. Dashwood and myself set out on a surveying expedition. Having arrived at the top of the highest hill we were rewarded for our labour by a bird's eye view of a most magnificent country. To the south we commanded at least one hundred miles in a direct line. The sea between the coast on the plains and Bank's Peninsula had the appearance of a River, and a succession of extensive plains to the S.W., might easily be mistaken for one vast prairie. To the N.E. and E. Mr. Dashwood (who was on a

different knoll) saw the sea and the low hills about Cape Campbell.

Now I felt the loss of my compass. Well known land marks in every direction, and unable to take bearings.

May 11th.—We had up to this period been following the river running through Acheron Valley which from subsequent enquiry I have every reason to believe was the Waipapa or Big River of the whalers. But now leaving it running to the N.E., we returned a short distance and took the stream I before mentioned as joining from the S.W. The valley through which it ran we named the Valley of Hope. Keeping along it we mounted a hill from which the stream derives its source. On the south side of this hill another river takes its rise, and and runs in a south-westerly direction. We descended a spur (clothed with black birch bush thro' which there is not any difficulty in leading a horse) on the west side, and came to the bed of the River which is one of the sources of the Wai-hou. Keeping this for eleven miles we entered an extensive plain, (Hamilton plain). The grass (very good) was interspersed with fern; and a great deal of manuka grew in patches. A large swamp, in which we nearly left the mare, occupied the centre; various mountain streams ran through it into the Waihou. It would prove valuable for cattle stations. Returning towards what we supposed to be the continuation of the same river described above as the source of the Waihou, we came to our surprise upon an entirely different river running in a direction exactly opposite to that of the former, which it joins where we met it. At this spot, both turned suddenly to the eastward, at directly right angles to their previous courses, and flowed down to the sea as one broad river the Waihou. Some idea may be formed of its size from the fact of our crossing the southerly stream in seven distinct channels. On nearing the shore the last channel became suddenly deep. Taken by surprise I was carried off my legs, and immersed; but scrambling, came up again, and perceived a trusty stick held out to me. Seizing it, I was dragged on shore by the same hand and the same stick that had once before done me the same good service—those of my friend Dashwood.

Other plains I have no doubt exist to the south-west; but for three days we could scarcely see the outline of the hills through the fog, although not three miles distant.

We now wended our way along a sweet pretty valley. The river which was in one broad stream surrounded numerous islands covered with wood. On the hills, the flax, fern, and ti tree was the general herbage; but the spear grass and Wild Irishman still made their appearance in a diminutive form. In some large bottoms of fifty acres close to the bed of the river which I suppose from their appearance to have been at some period inundated; and in the gullies, between the hills, the soil was particularly rich, producing flax of an extraordinary height and size.

Issuing from this valley we burst upon the finest grazing plain I have ever seen in this or any other country. I know it is the fate of travellers to be accused of exaggeration; but I care not, as long as I call attention to the splendid inland plains. I will therefore attempt a description from the hasty observations I was enabled to take.

The plain surrounded by low undulating grassy hills backed by higher ranges,—is bowl shaped, and contains not less than 200,000 acres (I believe much more.) Two rivers, the Waihou and Hurunui, run through it parallel to each other, at eight miles distance. The grass is of the best description, and the soil in many places fit for cultivation. It has a perfect natural drainage, is well sheltered from all winds, has no swamps—but also I much fear, no wood.

I may as well at once say, that through this plain over some easy low hills to the south, is the direct route to Port Cooper. But we—ignorant of the country, with rapidly diminishing provisions, without compass, and in thick weather, deemed it more prudent to make Motunau by the coast, where we knew there was a station.

Keeping the Waihou for five miles further we entered a gully, but soon finding it impassable, took to the hills from which we obtained a view of the sea. Descending into another extensive plain with more swamp, but equally good grazing capabilities as the last, we crossed some more hills and reached the coast. These hills by the sea side are covered with fern, flax, ti-tree, toitoi, and manuka.

May 23rd.—Finding the cliffs perpendicular and no possibility of gaining the beach, we returned a part of our last day's walk and taking a southerly direction came to a hill from which we kindled a fire on the plain below. Lighting another in answer to it, we remained sometime on the look-out for sign of man; but none appearing, we made the coast near a salt lagoon to the north of the Hurunui. About 8 o'clock in the evening we heard a cooing and shortly had the pleasure of welcoming Mr. Caverhill of Motunau, who had been on the look-out for us for some time, and had followed our track for three days. Piloted by him across the Hurunui (a rapid deep and dangerous river) we arrived at his house, where we obtained all we required, food, rest, clothes, and money.

From thence leaving Harris, we started for Port Cooper. Losing ourselves on the plains by keeping too close to the sea, a violent snow storm overtook us, and getting entangled in the swamps over which no horse could venture, we wandered for two days, on the third almost starved from want of food and cold (we had not had a fire since we started, not having any tinder or matches with us) we shouldered our blankets and leaving our horses made through the swamp to Kaiapoi.

In due time we reached the Town of Lytleton, which, with the plains, are too well known to render a description from me necessary, neither is it the purport of this letter to give one. Suffice it therefore, to say, that all I had heard in their favour did not come up, in my opinion, to the reality. I was surprised and delighted at the extent of the land, and richness of the soil, the amount of useful work done, and the lasting, solid, yet neat manner in which it has been executed. It does very great credit to all concerned.

And now, sir, in conclusion, I have only to add that Mr. Dashwood and myself both regret our inability to furnish more satisfactory information of the country adjacent to that through which we travelled, but the loss of our compass in an utterly unexplored, and unknown country, the shortness of the days, the continual thick weather, which prevented our seeing a mile before us for days, and the storms of snow, sleet, hail, and rain, rendered that which may henceforth easily be accomplished in ten days, a difficult and laborious journey of six weeks.

I have purposely omitted all adventures merely personal; my aim being, not to write a letter, but an attempt to give a clear, succinct account, useful to future travellers, which with the kind and able assistance of Mr. Hamilton of the *Acheron*, who knows the greater part of the country over which I travelled after I lost my compass, I hope in a short time to make more comprehensible by a correct map.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) W. MURRAY MITCHELL.

Capt. 84th Regt.

His Honor
the Superintendent, Nelson.

The following is the course of Acheron valley:—

S. by E.	5	miles,
W.	3	"
W.S.W.	3	"
S.W. by S.	7	"
S.	5	"
E.S.E.	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
S.	1	"
S.S.E.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	"
S.S.W.	2	"
S. by W.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	"
S. by E.	$\frac{1}{2}$	"
S.W. by S.	2	"
S.S.W.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	"
S.	$1\frac{1}{2}$	"
S. by E.	1	"
E. a little North	3	"

Here we left the river running N.E. and I lost my compass.

Colonial Secretary's Office,
Wellington, 5th August, 1850.

TENDERS will be received at this Office, on or before the 15th inst. from persons willing to build for, or let to the Government, a building suitable for a Colonial Hospital in the Town of Wellington.

Further particulars may be obtained upon application at the Survey Office.

Tenders to be in Duplicate, Sealed and endorsed, "*Tenders to Build or let, (as the case may be,) a Building for Colonial Hospital.*"

By his Excellency's Command,

ALFRED DOMETT,

Colonial Secretary.

TOTAL Amount of Notes in circulation at the Office of the Colonial Bank of Issue, at Wellington, on the 27th day of July, 1850.

Amount of Notes in circulation on the 27th day of July 1850, being the close of the preceding four weeks:—

£5 and upwards	£ 430
under £5	1719

Total £ 2139

Total amount of Coin held by the above office on the same day:—

Gold	£ 702
Silver	1437

Total £ 2139

I, HENRY W. PETRE, the Colonial Treasurer, do hereby certify that the above is a true account as required by the Ordinance No. 16 Session 8.

Dated this 29th day of July 1850. }
Colonial Treasury, Wellington. }

HENRY W PETRE,
Colonial Treasurer.

Printed at the "Independent" Office.