



NEW ZEALAND  
GOVERNMENT GAZETTE  
EXTRAORDINARY.

PROVINCE OF NEW ULSTER.

Published by Authority.

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By His Excellency's Command,  
ANDREW SINCLAIR, Colonial Secretary.

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Civil Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, Nov. 20, 1848.

**H**IS Excellency the Governor-in-Chief has been pleased to direct the publication of the following despatch, from Lieutenant-Governor EYRE, for general information.

By His Excellency's command,

C. A. DILLON,  
Civil Secretary.

No. 105.  
(Separate.)

Government House,  
Wellington, October 29, 1848.

SIR,

My despatches, No. 103, of the 19th Oct., and No. 104, of the 21st Oct., will have put your Excellency in possession of information, connected with the occurrence of the earthquake, up to the date of the latter of those communications. I now proceed to carry on the narration up to the present time.

From the 21st October, to the 24th, tremblings of the earth, and slight shocks occurred at intervals, but as these occasioned no damage, and their intensity appeared to be lessening, public confidence revived a good deal, and persons began to follow their ordinary occupations; but at about 2, p. m., on the 24th, another sudden and very violent shock took place, renewing the terror and the apprehension of the inhabitants, although it caused little additional damage, beyond some further breakages of glass, or other fragile articles, in the houses.

From the 24th, up to the present time,

tremblings of the earth, and slight shocks have frequently been experienced, but the character of the motion caused by the shocks, seems changed, not only is there less of a vertical motion, but it appears to be caused by a force acting at a greater distance than formerly, in fact, the shocks now experienced, seem to be little more than the continuation along the earth's surface, of a vibration produced by a heavy distant concussion, preceded by a loud rumbling noise, much more distinctly heard, and more in advance of the shocks than was the case, during the earlier and heavier shocks.

Such being the case, I am happy to say, public confidence is rapidly reviving, and much activity prevails in clearing away the fallen buildings, and putting up new ones of wood.

I have had a list made shewing the buildings principally damaged or destroyed, and now transmit to your Excellency a copy. The wooden buildings have, I believe without exception stood well, sustaining no further damage than the loss of the chimneys, and fortunately by far the majority of the buildings in the settlement were of wood, so that notwithstanding the many dwellings destroyed and the immense loss of property yet the population are all under comfortable and secure shelter, and such property as could be saved is in security and out of the weather.

In my Despatch No. 103 19th October, written on the day of the occurrence of the most violent and destructive shock experienced during the whole earthquake, I described the panic which existed among the inhabitants, and the strong disposition to quit the colony which

prevailed. I also intimated to your Excellency that I had given directions for the temporary detention of any vessels wishing to leave the Port during the continuance of the earthquake, and that this proceeding had had a beneficial result in allaying the prevailing panic. No occasion has however existed for enforcing a compulsory detention of any vessel, so many passengers and so much cargo offered for the ship first about to quit the Port that it was the interest of the agents to detain her for some days, during which the circumstances of our position became so far modified and so much more cheering that I considered it unnecessary to keep up the embargo, and instead only required the Captain or Agent of any vessel to lodge with the Collector of Customs, (for the purpose of being posted up publicly,) a list of all passengers about to leave the Province, 48 hours before a clearance could be given.

A regulation of this nature became absolutely necessary in the circumstances of the colony, to prevent persons taking advantage of the occurrence of the earthquake to abscond without paying or making provision for their debts.

The "Subraon" for Sydney was the first vessel ready, and on the afternoon of the 26th October, she sailed from the harbour, having on board sixty-one passengers, (men, women, and children.)

Unfortunately her sailing was delayed to rather a late hour in the afternoon, and the pilot in whose charge she was, attempted to take her against a strong south-easter, through Chaffer's Passage, during which about 8 p. m. she struck within 100 yards of the shore, upon missing stays. All lives were providentially saved, and the passengers landed about three fourths of a mile from the pilot's residence, where many were accommodated for the night, whilst the others obtained shelter under temporary tents formed by sails erected on the beach. On the 27th and 28th the weather being moderate a good deal of the cargo was got out and saved, but the vessel itself, a fine new barque of 500 tons, is, I fear, a complete wreck.

I have suspended the Pilot from his office until a proper investigation can be made into the circumstances under which the "Subraon" was lost.

In consequence of the wreck of the "Subraon," and from a hope generally experienced that the earthquake is now nearly over, I believe that many who had intended to quit the Colony will remain. I would hope even that the injury which the Colony is likely to sustain by the impression which the occurrence of so severe an earthquake must naturally make in England, will not be so great or so permanent as was at first anticipated.

Awful as the visitation was during its continuance, and calamitous as have been the results, there are yet many circumstances of consolation and encouragement in connection with it. First, such convulsions appear to be most rare. No similar ones have taken place since the settlement was established; nor can I ascertain that the Natives or others ever re-

member any of such violence and long continued duration. Secondly, the worst shocks have not been the first, and thus a timely warning has been given to quit brick or other dangerous buildings, and little loss of life has ensued. Thirdly, not a single wooden building has been destroyed, or, as far as I am aware, even injured; and thus, amidst all the alarm and apprehension which so sudden and fearful an occurrence naturally excites, places of shelter and security have existed for the whole population; and no other real injury has been sustained by a large number of the inhabitants, than has been occasioned by the breakage of fragile articles in their houses. Fourthly, there is no doubt whatever that not a single brick building in the town had been really well and properly built, so that it is impossible to say how far brick buildings, if really well and substantially put up, would have withstood the violence of the shocks experienced; even as it was, some one or two buildings of bricks have been left, comparatively speaking, uninjured. I will, however, endeavour to collect further information, and cause proper reports to be made in reference to the whole subject, and trust I shall be able, in a future despatch, to afford your Excellency further and interesting details.

It remains for me to add, that as far as I am able to judge from the information I have received from Taranaki, Wanganui, Nelson, Akaroa, Otakou, and the East Cape, that the earthquake has been much less felt at all those places than at Wellington; and at none has any damage of consequence been sustained. It must not, however, be forgotten that, from the absence of brick buildings, no common standard of comparison exists as to the strength or power of the shocks of each place, and that, therefore, it is difficult to judge of the intensity with which they may have occurred at each respectively.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Excellency's most obedient

humble servant,

E. EYRE.

#### RETURN OF THE PRINCIPAL HOUSES INJURED.

##### WELLINGTON TERRACE.

Mr. King, Solicitor—Clay house, partly faced with brick, posts in the walls, the clay walls strengthened with slips of wood nailed across the posts about nine inches apart, the brick facing all down, and great part of the clay work fallen out, or much shattered.

Mr. Cridland—clay walls built with upright posts same as preceding with slips of wood nailed to the posts, the claying all thoroughly loosened.

Capt. Sharpe—clay with strong posts about two feet apart, 12 inch walls, very substantially built, slips of wood nailed to the posts, the clay completely shattered throughout.

Mr. Bethune—a brick house, severely cracked in several places.

Mr. O'Reilly—clay house, very substantial, the north half very much injured, the south half slightly, Mr. T. FitzGerald superintended the building of this house, the walls very thick.

Mr. Strang—clay house, faced recently with brick, completely shattered, now being cleared away for rebuilding.

TE ARO FLAT.

Mr. Vincent, printer—clay walls, very substantial, being replaced with timber.

Mr. Plimmer—very strong clay walls with posts partly faced with brick, the walls severely injured, must be replaced,

Mr. Lowe—clay walls, 15 inches, built in a most substantial manner, the gables down, and the remainder much separated.

Mr. Henry—12 inch clay walls, severely shattered.

Mr. Hawkins—same as last, partly down.

Mr. Foster— ditto ditto

Mr. Penny—brick house, 2 stories, very much rent, and two of the sides much bilged out.

Mr. Gooder—brick house, greater part down.

Mr. Stutfield—brick house, much shattered.

Mr. Master—substantial clay house, mostly down.

Mr. Mudgway—clay, with posts in the walls slips of wood nailed between the posts, ruined.

Mr. Bennett—same as last.

Mr. Jas. May—substantial clay house, rent throughout.

Mr. Ashdown—clay house, with posts, slightly injured.

Mr. Mills—clay house, with posts, ruined.

Mr. Ford, clay house, ruined, an inferior house.

Mr. Gerard—clay house, much injured and partly down.

LUTTON ROW.

Old Military Hospital, completely ruined.

Mr. Quin's houses, all clay, ruined.

Mr. Viller's houses, some clay and some brick, will have to be rebuilt.

DIXON STREET.

Charles Howe—frame house, brick knogged, the bricks partially displaced, and one gable partly down.

Mr. Waters—Mercers' shop, clay fallen in, now rebuilding with wood.

Mr. Stoddart—brick, severely shattered and part down.

Mr. Blyth—substantial clay house, faced with brick, highly furnished, a total ruin.

Mr. Catchpool—steam flour mill, brick, thoroughly shattered.

WILLIS STREET.

Mr. Crowther, tailor—brick, front down, and back down, side walls much injured.

Mr. Wilkinson—clay house, severely shattered and gables down.

Several smaller houses equally injured.

MANNERS STREET.

Wesleyan Chapel—ruined and level.

Rhode's bonded store, brick, levelled.

Hickson's bonded and private stores, substantial brick building, shattered to pieces.

Allen's Commercial Room, the brick work shattered very much, part fallen down.

Allen's Public House, frame work and brick knogged, very little damaged if any.

Bethune & Hunter's store, a wooden building, severely injured from the shifting of the goods violently.

Fitzherbert's bonded store, and private stores in a ruinous state.

Ordnance Store—brick house of two stories, both gables fallen outwards, the side walls very little injured.

Loxley's brick store, both gables seriously injured, the side walls very little, this house is very near and runs parallel with the Ordnance Store.

Bank Safe—brick, seriously in the arch.

HERBERT STREET.

Langdon's store, brick in a ruinous state.

Hansard's house, in ruins, a two story brick house, well finished.

Squib—strong clay house, shattered, house contiguous, brick knogged, the most of the bricks fallen out.

BEACH.

Smith & Wallace, large brick store, the new front falling away.

Plimmer's brick house, late Government Offices, slightly cracked.

Christian's store, brick, slightly injured.

Mr. Swinbourn—brick house, seriously injured.

Mr. Hort's brick knogged store, uninjured; a two story house, substantial clay walls, in rear of Mr. Hort's store slightly injured.

Mr. Armstrong, saddler—brick house, not dangerously injured.

Mr. Inglis' brick store, slightly injured.

Mr. Johnston's back store, much shattered.

Mr. Young's Hotel, seriously shattered.

Mr. Grace's brick house, shattered throughout.

Mr. Tonks' back house, front shattered.

Mr. Alsdorf's public house, taken down.

Mr. Stafford, tailor—brick, very little injured.

Mr. Brandon's office, severely injured.

Mr. Cook, tailor— ditto ditto

THORNDON FLAT.

Hornbrook's store, shook to pieces, and the brick house adjoining.

Dr. FitzGerald's clay house seriously injured.

Major Richmond's, brick knogged house very much loosened, ill built at first.

New Zealand Company's Offices, ruined.

Clifford's brick house, slightly injured.

Cooper's brick two story house at Kai Wara seriously injured.

Independent Chapel, seriously damaged.

Swallow—clay house, levelled.

Methodist Chapel—levelled.

Colonial Hospital—ruined.

Gaol, Mount Cook—ruined.

Mr. Cole's house, very seriously injured.

Mr. Hort's dwelling house and Mr. Hickson's ditto, on Te Aro flat, are uninjured except the chimneys. Mr. Hort's store on the beach is brick knogged and uninjured.

Mr. Taine's brick store is uninjured.

Mr. Ross' dwelling house, brick, uninjured.

The above not to be accounted for from any principles in the nature of the buildings

W. MILLS,

Sergeant of Police.

MEM.—The foregoing are the principal buildings which have suffered injury; many others are slightly injured, and perhaps some may have more than is apparent, but the greater part of those now enumerated, will have to be rebuilt. Clay buildings have suffered equally with brick ones, but it does not appear that there is so much danger to be apprehended from their falling, the clay will stick together, when in the same circumstances the bricks would crumble or tumble down; that can be accounted for, from the unyielding quality of a brick wall, when compared with the adhesive nature of clay material.

Clay houses built with posts are the least dangerous of the two, as the posts will support the fabric under any circumstances, but the house is always requiring repairs, as the clay is continually separating from the wood, even those which have ~~wood across from~~ post to post, are very little more secure than the others, as the clay is not so adhesive, but it gives way under the influence of the weather, or of the smart shocks of earthquakes, such as are frequently experienced in this country, and plaster will always appear cracked opposite the posts.

The wooden buildings even of the poorest description have suffered no injury; the reason is obvious, for when one part yields from

the shock, the part opposite must follow, and they will return in the same manner, all being tied together. For a dwelling house, good sound wood framing, either weather boarded, with lath and plaster inside, or brick-knogged with lath and plaster, would appear to be the most suitable, there being no chance of danger from them under circumstances similar to the present. For stores, strong framework, similar to that of the Church lately erected on Te Aro, would be very suitable, not to be higher than two stories, the heavy weights to be placed only on the lower floor, with lath and plaster inside, the heat would not be greater than that of a brick house, the spaces between the weather-boarding and lathing being vacant. These remarks are only applicable, supposing the country should be subjected to frequent returns of the same accidents as have recently visited it. Te Aro seems to have suffered most; the same description of buildings which on Thorndon Flat and on the Terrace, have suffered little or no injury, are in ruins on Te Aro. The Colonial Hospital on Thorndon Flat is the exception; that building does not appear to have had a chance of resisting any force, nearly approaching to that which was recently brought to bear against it, but that is a matter of opinion which it may not be proper for me to venture. Every chimney in the settlement is down or seriously injured, so much so as to require being rebuilt, except one, viz. Capt. Robinson's house, at the back of Mr. Bethune's, Wellington terrace.

WM. MILLS,

Sergeant of Police.

ABSTRACT SHEWING THE STATE OF THE BUILDINGS IN THE TOWN OF WELLINGTON, AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES,  
OCTOBER 30TH, 1848.

Present state of the Buildings.	Description of Building.				REMARKS.
	Brick.	Clay.	Brick nogg'd.	Wood.	
Uninjured .....	4	..	2	..	<p>There are no peculiarities in their construction to account for four brick houses being in an uninjured state, unless it be that they are of a square form, and all sides being equal in weight, the pressure on all the parts would of course be equal. Some of the brick buildings described as in ruins are crushed to pieces; the others, though still standing, are not to be approached without danger. The houses described both as slightly and much damaged, whether clay or brick, are not considered, in most instances, as repairable; some of them are in course of being renewed with timber as weather-boarded houses. The clay houses returned were of substantial structure, and considered by the owners as permanent buildings. Most of the other clay buildings in the town were of an older date, of slighter construction, and being more yielding, escaped with little or no damage; those have not been returned. Brick-nogged houses stand very well if properly bonded, but there are only four of that description which are not weather-boarded.</p> <p>All the wooden houses have escaped without any damage whatever, not even the glass injured. The whole of the chimneys are down or seriously cracked.</p>
Slightly damaged .....	4	2	1	..	
Much damaged .....	19	11	1	..	
In ruins .....	19	39	..	..	
Total.....	46	43	4	..	

WM. MILLS,

Serjeant in Charge of Armed Police,

Wellington.

## ADDRESS

OF HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-IN-CHIEF ON OPENING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

## GENTLEMEN OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL,

The recent calamitous accounts which have reached us from the Southern Province have induced me to summon you suddenly, and at an earlier period than I had previously contemplated.

I had hoped to have assembled in Auckland, the Lieutenant-Governor of New Munster, and other gentlemen from that Province, to have associated with them various other officers, and the Members of the Legislative Council of this Province, and then to have availed myself of the wisdom and experience of the Council so constituted, for the purpose of making several changes in, and additions to the general laws of the colony, which circumstances have rendered requisite.

The recent calamities at Wellington, have, however, rendered it hopeless for me to expect that the Lieutenant Governor of New Munster, and the other gentlemen from that Province, upon whose aid I had relied, can, for a considerable period of time, abandon those calls which recent events have imposed upon their time and their energies.

I also feel that at the present moment, the restoration of public confidence, and the whole future prosperity of Wellington, depend upon prompt and energetic measures being taken, to remedy the disasters which have occurred, and I am anxious that, in so far as depends upon the general government, the local authorities, and settlers, at that place, should have placed in their own hands, the means of adopting those remedies which their local experience may point out to them as those best suited to the urgency of the case. I, at the same time, indulge the hope that, whilst they bow with entire resignation to the blow which Divine Providence has inflicted upon them, they will, with that energy they have so often exhibited, strive to repair their present disaster, and show that they are both able and willing to aid themselves, and that they have a becoming confidence in their own constancy and resources.

I propose, therefore, that with the least practicable delay, the powers which by Act of Parliament are vested in the Governor-in-Chief, conjointly with this Council, should be exercised for the purpose of calling into existence Provincial Legislative Councils, in the Colony of New Zealand, to which Councils I propose to entrust all those powers which were vested in the local Legislatures, by the 9th and 10th Victoria, cap. 103. being An Act to make further provision for the Government of the New Zealand Islands.

The large powers which will thus be vested in the local Legislatures, will enable the Provincial Legislative Council of New Munster, not only to devise and frame all those measures which are necessary to meet the urgent demands of the present crisis, but will enable them further to provide for various matters of local concernment, which are of such pressing importance that any longer delay in their adjustment would inflict a serious injury upon the Southern Province, and greatly increase the disasters, against which they have at this moment to contend.

A Bill for the purpose of providing for the establishment of Provincial Legislative Councils, has therefore, by my directions, been prepared, and will be laid before you.

When this Bill is read, I will explain in detail the reasons which have induced me to regard the proposed measure as the one which is best suited to the immediate circumstances of the colony. It may be sufficient for me now to say that after having bestowed many months most careful attention upon the subject—after an extensive personal acquaintance with, I believe, every settlement in New Zealand, and after having enjoyed the benefit of frequent conversations with some of the leading men in all parts of the colony, and of every shade of opinion; under also an entire knowledge of the magnitude and difficulty of the task which has been imposed upon me, and from which I would willingly have shrunk, I have been unable to devise any other measure which, in the exciting state of New Zealand,

appeared to me to present so many advantages, and to be so free from defects.

Remembering therefore the great interests which were dependent on the course I pursued, and that, in some sort, the present happiness and concord and the future amalgamation of two races were involved in my doing that which was right, I felt it to be my duty, after having bestowed the greatest attention upon the subject, and having carefully weighed the opinions of other men, to form my own deliberate judgment as to the line of proceeding which my duty required me to pursue, and then to adopt that, and, as far as in my power lay, to follow it out, although it might be opposed to the views and wishes of those whose opinions I respect, and whose interests I have, to the utmost of my power and to the best of my judgment, hitherto—as in this instance—endeavoured to promote. I am sure that the many persons in this country, with whom I have communicated on this subject, will at least admit that I have spared no pains to acquire information concerning it, and that I have attentively heard and carefully weighed the numerous and conflicting opinions which have been expressed to me regarding it.

I am fully aware, however, that this measure can only be regarded as a temporary one, and I trust that it may be found that I shall always be ready cheerfully and anxiously to consider any proposed amendments in the form of the Local Legislatures which the circumstances of New Zealand may appear to call for—and which may prove to be more in consonance with the wishes of its inhabitants than those which I have proposed for adoption.

I shall only have to request your attention to two other measures:

1stly. To a Bill, the object of which is to place the Post Offices in New Zealand under the control of the local Government—

2ndly. To a Bill for the purpose of enabling Barristers of the Supreme Court to practice as Solicitors, and Solicitors as Barristers for a further period of five years.

The first of these measures is one which admits of no delay, as you will find from the despatches which I have laid upon the table that it is doubtful whether any law at present exists which authorises the levying of Postage in New Zealand.

The second measure also admits of no delay; for, should not some legislative enactment be passed upon this subject before January next, the legal profession might be subjected to the most serious inconvenience.

I do not propose on this occasion to bring any other measures under the attention of the General Legislature of New Zealand—firstly, because, as I have before stated, circumstances have prevented me from at present imparting to this Council the general character which I had desired, and which I yet hope to be able to give it;—and secondly, because I am anxious as speedily as possible to reach Wellington to assist, in as far as I am able, in devising and carrying out those measures which may appear most likely to restore public confidence, and to secure the future prosperity of that settlement.

Had I met this Council a few days since, it would have been my pleasing duty to have congratulated you upon the great measure of tranquillity and prosperity with which, for some time past, it had pleased Divine Providence to bless every portion of New Zealand; the recent calamitous events at Wellington have now, however, shed a deep gloom over one portion of this Colony, whilst the other portions of New Zealand are still left in the enjoyment of, I believe, a more than usual degree of wealth and prosperity. I have no doubt that those who are so blessed will extend every aid in their power to those of their fellow colonists upon whom such a disaster has fallen; and I trust that the assistance which, by your aid, I hope it may be in the power of the Government to afford to the inhabitants of Wellington may enable them speedily to repair their present losses, and still fully to develop the great resources of their adopted country.

G. GREY.

Council Chamber,  
November 16, 1848.