



NEW ZEALAND GOVERNMENT GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

WELLINGTON, SATURDAY, MAY 29, 1847.

THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR has been pleased to direct the publication of the following Extracts of Despatches from Captain Laye commanding the Troops at Wanganui; and His EXCELLENCY gladly avails himself of the opportunity thus afforded him, of publicly recording his entire approbation of the gallantry and perseverance displayed, under circumstances of great difficulty, by Captain Laye, 58th Regiment, and the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, composing the Force under Captain Laye's command.

By His EXCELLENCY's Command,
M. RICHMOND,
Superintendent.

Wellington, 29th May, 1847.

*Upper Stockade, Wanganui,
20th May, 1847.*

SIR,—I have the honor to report that yesterday morning (19th May), between 11 and 12 o'clock, large bodies of Natives were observed approaching the Town in different directions; some of the armed Settlers, about 20, kept a portion in check for a short time, but were obliged to retire on the Town.

The enemy had possession of all the hills, and several clay houses about the outskirts of the Town, which afforded them strong natural breastworks, and kept up a fire for 5 hours at the Upper Stockade, but principally on the Town Stockade, under command of Captain Hardy, 58th Regiment, and the Gun-boat under Lieutenant Holmes, R. N., H. M. S. *Calliope*, which he had moved

down the river to flank the Town Stockade; several shot and shell with musketry were fired from the Upper and Town Stockades and Gun-boat, without being able to dislodge them.

From the numerous detached parties of the enemy, they being about 300 strong, with large parties in reserve, I was utterly unable to send a sufficient number of men to drive them out, and hold my three Stockades; some were so daring as to come and fire within 30 yards of our guns and Stockade.

Under cover of darkness I determined to take the *two* clay houses, which I considered the enemy were still in possession of: I therefore ordered 120 men, with a proportion of non-commissioned officers from the three Stockades, and forty armed Settlers, to be divided into two divisions, one under command of Captain Hardy, with Ensign Barker, 58th Regt., to attack the clay house belonging to Captain Campbell, the other party, commanded by Lieutenant Balneavis, with Lieutenant Pedder, 58th Regt., to take possession of Mr. Churton's house, and a clay one adjoining, and the Sand-hills; the troops being covered by the fire from the Gun-boat. On the parties reaching the houses (which I ordered to be burnt) I regret to say it was found the enemy had decamped in the night with plunder. I should report the troops proceeded to their work half an hour before daylight. The friendly Natives reported this morning the enemy's loss to be, two chiefs killed (one supposed

to be Maketu, the chief lately pardoned), and ten wounded. I am happy to say we had no casualty on our side.

I have to thank Captain Hardy, 58th Regiment (who in his Report to me speaks in high terms of the assistance received by him from Ensign Middleton, 58th Regiment), for the support and advice he has at all times rendered me. In fact, the assistance I have received from Lieutenant Page, Acting Adjutant, Lieutenant Balnaevis, Acting Assistant Engineer, to D. A. C. General Power, for his exertions in securing supplies, and every officer of the Force, in the defence of the posts and stockades, has afforded me the greatest satisfaction; nor can I omit to mention the exemplary and good conduct of the non-commissioned officers and men of the Force under my command. To Lieutenant Holmes I am exceedingly obliged, the efficiency of the Gun-boat under his command (which was exposed to the fire of the enemy the whole of the day), his alertness with her at all times, and cordial co-operation, I am only too happy to bear testimony to.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. H. LAKE,

Captain 58th Regt.,

Commanding Force at Wanganui.

My sincere thanks are also due to Dr. Rees, for the praiseworthy and active manner he fortified his house, which has been full of the wounded yesterday and today; also to Dr. Wilson, who most kindly atten-

tioned his professional services to Captain Hardy's Detachment, Town Stockade.

J. H. L.

Lieutenant-Colonel M'Cleverty,
Commanding Troops,
&c., &c., &c..
Wellington.

Upper Stockade, Wanganui,

21st May, 1847.

Sir,—I have the honor to acquaint you that yesterday the enemy were observed sitting on the hills, apparently very discomfited at their loss, which proves to be correct. Maketu, a great chief, who was lately pardoned, and Tutua, a chief belonging to Taringakuri's tribe, killed; and a regular number wounded than mentioned in my despatch of yesterday's date; to-day the enemy have burned Dr. Wilson's house, and destroyed some more cattle.

In consequence of the Gun-boat being injured from the firing on 19th May, Lieutenant Holmes has sailed his vessel for the Hokianga Governor's Bay, which vessel I have detained (until the *Edward Stanley* arrives), so as to move down the river to the protection of vessels coming in, or troops arriving.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble servant,

J. H. LAKE,

Captain 58th Regt.,

Commanding Force at Wanganui,

and Resident Magistrate.

His Honor

The Superintendent,

Wellington.