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Colonial Secretary's Office,
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HIS Excellency the Governor directs the publication of the following Despatch from Lieut.-General Cameron, C.B.

ALFRED DOMETT.

Head Quarters,
Queen's Redoubt, 3rd Aug., 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to inform your Excellency, that on the night of the 1st instant, I left the Queen's Redoubt with a force of about 700 men, including a party of seamen and marines of H.M.S. "Harrier," for the purpose of reconnoitring the villages of Paparaoa and Paparata, where I had reason to believe that a large body of rebels had collected. Captain Sullivan, commanding H.M.S. "Harrier," accompanied the force.

After a fatiguing night march, the last mile of which was through very high and thick scrub, we reached Paparaoa about daybreak, and found it entirely deserted, though it had evidently been recently occupied, and I have little doubt that the Natives had received some notice of our movements.

After searching this village, we proceeded along a bush track, which I was afterwards informed led to Haurake. having missed the track to Paparata. Some Natives, concealed so far within the bush on our right as to be perfectly invisible, opened fire on the leading files, and wounded a soldier of the 12th Regiment. We replied to their fire for some time, but as, from the character of the bush

and scrub near it, it was impossible to get within reach of them, and I did not consider it advisable to lose time in searching for a track. I withdrew the force leisurely, without any attempt on the part of the Natives to follow us.

When we had reached the open ground, a large body of Natives came down from the ranges, and joining the party in the bush, commenced a rapid and continuous fire of musketry, in the most absurd manner, as though they had been closely engaged with an enemy; although at that time we must have been fully a mile and a half from them.

The troops returned to the Queen's Redoubt about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, having been under arms since half-past seven the previous evening, and having marched nearly thirty miles.

I have every reason to be satisfied with the cheerful manner in which this arduous duty was performed by the troops, and with the conduct of all the officers and men composing the force, particularly of the detachment of the 12th Regiment, under Major Miller, for the bold and intelligent manner in which they covered the advance over difficult ground.

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

D. A. CAMERON,
Lt.-General.

His Excellency Sir George Grey,
K.C.B., &c., &c.

