

Henry Williams to Bishop Selwyn

July 12. 1847 <sup>46</sup>

Paihia  
July 12. 1847

H.W.'s  
Explanation  
of  
Treaty.

My Card.

Your letter of the 30<sup>th</sup> June I have just received, and hasten to reply by the return of the "Albert".

Earl Grey's despatch to his Excellency the Gov: error I have seen, and am truly grieved to find that the Queen of Great Britain can be thus dishonoured. I have always maintained to the aborigines that her Majesty's word was sacred and inviolable. This Treaty between Her Majesty the Queen and the chiefs of this country was made in the presence of the whole world, and now, by the flourish of the pen of her Majesty's Minister, seems to be revoked and scattered to the winds. In like manner as Tahiti, so is New Zealand to fall a sacrifice to the avaricious designs of a company, whose views are said to be confirmed by royal mandate, after a public and unexpected indignity towards her Majesty the Queen.

vide Cartolin Vol II  
p. 151 footnote.

Treaty  
seems to be revoked  
by  
Ministers  
flourish of the pen.

I cannot be surprised at the very light estimate in which the Missionaries are held who took so prominent a part in the explanation of this Treaty between her Majesty and the chiefs of New Zealand. That we should fall a sacrifice, may be desired, but there are further points for consideration: the extermination of the native race, with proportional numbers of British subjects, who must fall with the aborigines in their struggle for freedom. As I was satisfied that I was discharging my duty as a loyal subject of her Majesty, and as a faithful Pastor of the aborigines, I executed the duty requested of me by her Majesty's representative, Captain Hobson, and am now prepared for consequences. As I did explain the nature of the Treaty in 1840, I must continue to explain, in self defence; for I must not be accessory to such deception, but continue to stand upon the Treaty alone.

H.W.  
not surprised  
at  
attitude  
towards missionaries.

carried  
out.  
Captain Hobson's  
request.  
must continue  
to explain  
Treaty  
as  
in 1840.

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By what we have seen, we may infer what will be the extent of indignation of most faithful of native allies, when they find they have been thus deluded, and made the dupes of so much duplicity, after such repeated assurances made to them, in her Majesty's name, of her Majesty's determination to preserve faithfully the Treaty entered into with those at Waitangi in 1840, strengthened by that shew of friendship towards some of the chiefs, which now they must read with a clearer understanding.

The  
result  
or  
faithful allies  
will be  
great indignation.

I feel thankful that your Lordship has noticed this most painful and humiliating subject. Of our support your Lordship may be fully assured.

The  
Maqua Charta  
of  
New Zealand  
aborigines.

My view of the Treaty of Waitangi is, as it ever was, that it was the Maqua Charta of the aborigines of New Zealand.

Your Lordship has requested information in writing of what I explained to the natives, and how they understood it. I confined myself solely to the tenor of the Treaty.

H.W.'s  
Explanation  
of  
the Treaty  
of  
Waitangi.

That the Queen had kind wishes towards the chiefs and people of New Zealand, and was desirous to protect them in their rights as chiefs, and rights of property,

And that the Queen was desirous that a lasting peace and good understanding should be preserved with them.

That the Queen had thought it desirable to send a Chief as a regulator of affairs with the natives of New Zealand.

That the native chiefs should admit the Government of the Queen throughout the country, from the circumstances that numbers of her subjects are residing in the country, and are coming hither from Europe and New South Wales.

That the Queen is desirous to establish a settled government, to prevent evil occurring to the natives and Europeans who are now residing

in New Zealand without law.

3.

That the Queen therefore proposes to the chiefs these following articles:

Firstly, - The chiefs shall surrender to the Queen for ever the Government of the country, for the preservation of order and peace.

The  
Three chief  
articles

Secondly, - The Queen of England confirms and guarantees to the chiefs and tribes, and to each individual native, their full rights as chiefs, their rights of possession of their lands, and all their other property of every kind and degree.

of  
The Treaty

The chiefs wishing to sell any portion of their lands, shall give to the Queen the right of pre-emption of their lands.

Thirdly, - That the Queen, in consideration of the above, will protect the natives of New Zealand, and will impart to them all the rights and privileges of British subjects.

Capt. Hobson's  
instructions

The instruction of Captain Hobson was, "not to allow any one to sign the treaty till he fully understood it;" to which instruction I did most strictly attend. I explained the treaty clause by clause at the signing of the same, and again to all the natives in this part of the Island previously to the destruction of Kororarika, on March 11, 1845; I maintained the faith of the treaty and the integrity of the British Government, and that the word of her Majesty was sacred, and could not be violated.

re  
signing  
of  
Treaty

The  
natives understood  
the  
nature  
of the Treaty.

That the natives to whom I explained the treaty understood the nature of the same, there can be no doubt; for by this explanation alone I was enabled to give considerable check to the proceedings of the natives in arms, and to suppress the irritation excited by unprincipled Europeans as to the intention of her Majesty's Government, who had spread the report that the country was seized in her Majesty's name. By this explanation many tribes remained neutral, and others acted with the troops as allies of the

In 1844  
H.W.s

Explanation  
checked

the natives in  
arms

many tribes remained  
neutral.

others acted as  
allies.

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British Military force.

I do further state that, until the very minute explanation given by me at a large meeting of the Ngapuhi chiefs at Paroa, in January, 1845, WAKA and other friendly chiefs were perfectly confounded as to the intention of the Government. My explanation relieved their mind, and preserved order.

I feel at a perfect loss how to act, having repeatedly promised to the chiefs that, should there be danger of their fears being realised, I would state the same to them. I have boldly and fearlessly pleaded the honour and integrity of her Majesty's Government; when that has evaporated, what is to be done? To allow the natives to continue in ignorance, appears to me "he tino mea kohuru."

H! Williams.

A H.W.  
holds large  
meeting of  
NGAPUHI chiefs  
in  
January 1845.  
vide Volume 8 p 104  
redistribution of 400 copies.

H.W.  
at a  
perfect loss how  
to  
act.

HE TINO MEA KOHURU  
"a very murderous thing"

In Volume 100 in Records page 51.

- Carleton's Life Vol. II page 155.

In reply to Selwyn's letter to Henry Williams June 30/47

See Carleton Vol II p 153

also Vol. 100 in Records p. 48.

For Earl Grey's "Instructions" see Carleton Vol II  
page 151 footnote.

Earl Grey's  
"Instructions"

Note by Carleton in The Life Vol II p 157:-

"The active part taken in this matter by the Mission did not tend to diminish the dislike towards them which Lord Grey shared with the N.Z. Company. His opportunity came at last; and, as will presently be seen, he was not slow to seize it." This refers to the land controversy which followed shortly after.

vide J.S. Marais  
"Colonisation of N.Z."  
pp. 39-40. 201-202  
Bulley & Hawes probably  
more responsible for the  
than Earl Grey.