

1874. New Zealand. Petition of Haimona Te Aoterangi, and 167 others. *Presented to the House of Representatives on 18th August, 1874.*

Whanganui, 15th June, 1874.

A PETITION from all of us, whose names are signed at the foot hereof, to all the Members of the Parliament to grant this request of ours, for some law to be passed by the Assembly and the Government affecting this evil thing, grog, which is destroying us, so that a stop may be put to drinking among the Maoris, for that is at the root of the evils under which we suffer.

These are the evils: It impoverishes us; our children are not born healthy because the parents drink to excess, and the child suffers; it muddles men's brains, and they in ignorance sign important documents, and get into trouble thereby; grog also turns the intelligent men of the Maori race into fools.

Again, grog is the cause of various diseases which afflict us. We are also liable to accidents such as tumbling off horses and falling into the water; these things occur through drunkenness. It also leads on men to take improper liberties with other people's wives. It also is the cause of men fighting with one another. In fact, there are innumerable evils brought upon the Maori race by grog. We therefore ask for a very stringent law to be passed to keep away this very evil thing from the Maoris altogether. Let only medical men have authority to allow the people to take liquor medicinally if they think it will lead to the recovery of the patient or patients whom they may be treating. That would be right. Sufficient. We trust that all the Members of the House will grant our prayer.

We hand this to Mr. Fox. Friend, we give this petition to you with a request that you will urge that the prayer of it may be granted, and an Act passed to stop the Maoris drinking.

If you have any regard for us, the Maori people, send away this evil leviathan which you brought to this island to destroy us, our lands and our children. Sufficient, friend. Be strong; God lives to look at the good work, and at the people who are good and show kindness to the poor and foolish ones of the earth.

Sir, do this for us. Long may you be spared on account of your energy in raising your voice against this great snake, liquor, during the years that have passed.

Sufficient. From your friends who are living in sadness on account of this evil.

HAIMONA TE AOTERANGI, And 167 others (males and females).

HE PITIHANA inoi tenei na matou katoa e mau ake nei o matou ingoa i te mutunga ake o tenei Pitihana, ki nga tangata katoa o te Paremete kia whakamanaia mai tenei tono a matou, kia rapua mai tetahi ture e Te Runanga o te Paremete, e te Kawanatanga hoki mo tenei hanga kino mo te waipiro, e patu nei i a matou, kia mutu ai nga tangata Maori te kai waipiro, notemea ko te putake tenei o a matou mate e mate nei matou te iwi Maori.

Ko nga mate tenei, ko te whakarawakore i a matou, ko te kore kaore e whanau pai ana o matou uri i te nui o te kai waipiro o te taone o te wahine, ka waiho hei mate mo te tamaiti. Ko te whakapohehe tetahi i nga whakaaro o te tangata, a ka tuhi pohehe ki nga pukapuka whai ritenga, ka waiho tena hei mate. Me te whakakuare o te waipiro i nga tangata whakaaro nui o tenei iwi o te Maori.

Tetahi, ko te putake tenei o etahi o nga mate uruta e pa nei ki te tangata Maori, na te waipiro i taki mai. Me etahi e pa ana ki a matou, he taka i runga i te hoiho, he mate ki te wai; na te haurangi ano enei mate i taki mai. Me te tahuri hoki ki nga wahine a nga tangata, mahi ai i tetahi tinihanga; ko taua kai ano ki te taki mai i tena mate. Me etahi o nga take whawhai a te tangata raua ko tetahi tangata, na te waipiro ano i taki mai. Me te tini noa atu o era mate e pa ana ki a matou ki te iwi Maori, na taua kai ano i taki mai. Koia matou i tono ai kia rapua mai tetahi ture kaha rawa ki te arai i tenei kai kino rawa atu, kia kore i te tangata Maori; engari kia waiho ma te takuta anake e ki kia kai te tangata i te waipiro, hei take rongoa e ora ai taua tangata, aua tangata ranei, e pai ana tena. Heoi ano, kia mana mai tenei tono i nga mema katoa o te Whare.

Na matou katoa i mau ki a Te Pokiha. E hoa, ka tukua atu e matou tenei Pitihana ki a koe mau e tono kia tu tenei Pitihana hei ture, kia mutu te tangata Maori te kai waipiro.

Ki te mea he aroha tou ki a matou ki te iwi Maori, me whakakore atu tenei rewiatana kino te waipiro, i maua mai nei e koutou ki tenei motu hei patu i a matou, me o matou whenua, me o matou uri hoki. Heoi, e hoa kia maia; e ora ana te Atua hei titiro i nga mahi pai, hei titiro i nga tangata pai, aroha, ki nga rawakore me nga kuare o te ao.

Heoi ra e Ta, mahia atu tenei. Kia ora tonu koe mo to kaha ki te hapai i te kupu whakahe mo taua nakahi nui, mo te waipiro, i nga tau ka taha ake nei.

Heoi ano ra, na o hoa aroha i roto i te pouritanga mo tenei mate.

HAIMONA TE AOOTERANGI, And 167 others.