

Poneke, Akuhata 26, 1879.

E NGA IWI KATOA,

Kua tonono au ki to tatou roia ki a Takuta Pura kia taia mai te panui nei, ki te reo Maori ki te reo Pakeha, he mea kia kite katoa koutou i te tikanga o tenei mahi.

Na Wi Parata Te Kakakura,  
*Hekeretari o te Komiti.*

## HE PANUI TENEI.

Ki nga iwi Maori e whai tikanga ana ki nga whenua i murua e te Kawanatanga i runga i nga whawhai a te Maori ki te Pakeha.

Na matou na te Komiti i whakaturia nei hei rapu i nga ture i tangohia ai aua whenua e te Kawanatanga, hei kawehoki ki te whakawa, kia kimihiia mai te tika te he ranei o aua ture muru-whenua, kia tirohia hoki nga mahi a te Kawanatanga.

TENA KOUTOU KATOA!

Na, kia rongo mai koutou. Kua tae matou ki etahi roia i Poneke ki te ata hurihuri marire i te whakaaro, na, kua whakaatu mai aua roia i nga korero nei:—

Ara, no te marama o Tihema, 1863, i hanga ai te Paremata o Nui Tirene i tetahi Ture, he penei tona ritenga, mehemea ka kite te Kawana kua uru tetahi iwi Maori hapu ranei ki te whawhai i muri mai o te ra tahi o Hanuere, 1863, ka tika kia panuitia e ia nga takiwa o a ratou whenua papatupu, he mea kia tangohia etahi o aua whenua hei whakanohoanga Pakeha, a, ka kore rawa he mana Maori i runga i aua wahi e tangohia ana.

Otira, i whai tikanga ano taua ture mo nga whenua o nga tangata kihai i uru ki te whawhai, e taka mai ana ki roto ki aua rohe e tangohia ana, kia ata whakaritea paitia.

Na, kua kite matou i te mahi whakahaere a te Kawanatanga i runga i taua ture, me etahi atu ture ano hoki a te Paremata, kua panui haere ia i nga takiwa whenua ki tena wahi ki tena wahi o Aotearoa, a, e mea ana ia kua riro tika aua whenua i te rau o te patu, ara, i te urunga noatanga atu a nga iwi nona aua whenua ki nga whawhai i muri mai o te ra tahi o Hanuere, 1863.

Na, e mohio ana matou, tera te whakahengia mai e nga iwi Maori taua ture muru whenua me taua tango a te Kawanatanga, engari kahore ano kia kawea noatia ki te whakawa kia kimihiia te tika te he ranei o taua mahi, kia rapua mariretia mehemea i whai mana ranei aua ture muru whenua a te Paremata kaore ranei— mehemea kua tika te whakahaere a te Kawanatanga i runga i aua ture kaore ranei— mehemea e tika ana te pupuri noa a te Kawanatanga i aua whenua i te mea kahore i whakanohoia ki te pakeha kaore ranei.

Koia matou, te Komiti i whakaturia nei hei rapu i enei mea, ka whakaaro ai i runga i nga tohutohu a nga roia, ko te mea tika rawa me kawehoki ki te Kooti Hupirimi o Nui Tirene, kia ata kimihiia enei take e te Ture, kia kitea tona tika tona he:—

*Tuatahi.*—Mehemea e whai mana ana nga ture muru whenua a te Paremata o Nui Tirene, kaore ranei?

*Tuarua.*—A, mehemea e whai mana ana aua ture, i tika ranei te tango whenua a te Kawanatanga mo nga whawhai o muri mai o te 3 o nga ra o Tihema, 1863, kaore ranei?

*Tuatoru.*—A, mehemea e whai mana ana aua ture, i tika ranei te pupuri pokanoa a te Kawanatanga i nga wahi o roto o aua takiwa kihai i ata whakanohoia ki te pakeha i mua atu o te 3 o nga ra o Tihema, 1867, kaore ranei?

*Tuawha.*—Mehemea kua tika ranei te whakahaere a te Kawanatanga i runga i aua ture e mau pono ai i a ia nga whenua kua tangohia nei, kaore ranei?

*Tuarima.*—A, mehemea i whai mana aua ture, kua tika ranei te whakahaere mo nga tangata e whai take ana ki aua whenua, a, kihai i uru ki te whawhai, kaore ranei?

Na, ko nga tino putake korero ena i tohutohungia e nga roia hei kawenga ma matou ki te aroaro o te Kooti Hupirimi; otira, tera atu ano te maha o nga korero hei tirohanga ma te Kooti ana tae ki te whakawa, hei whakawa marire i te taha Maori.

A, kua rongo hoki matou ki nga roia, mehemea kahore e tika te whakataunga a te Kooti Hupirimi ki ta matou whakaaro iho, tera e ahei e matou te kawehoki atu ki te aroaro o te Kooti nui o te Kuini i Ingarangi, kia hurahia ano te whakawa, a ma reira e tino whakaoti mai.

Na, he mea kia pai te whakahaere o tenei whakawa, ko ta matou kupu tenei ko ta te Komiti, hei whakaae

ma koutou ki te Kawanatanga, kia kaua rawa koutou e hapa i patu, kia kaua koutou e whakatari pakanga mo aua whenua, engari me waiho ma te ture e mahi, kauaka te hoari. A, ma matou hoki ma te Komiti e whai kupu atu ki te Kawanatanga kia mutu rawa inaiane i tana wea me tana mahi i aua whenua, kia waiho ano ma te ture e rapu, kia kitea te tika te he ranei.

Heoi, he panui atu tenei na matou kia mohio katoa koutou, i runga i te whakaaro kotahi a nga iwi kia mahia paitia te ritenga mo enei whenua, ka timata tonu inaiane i ta matou kawae i enei putake korero katoa ki te aroaro o te Kooti Hupirimi kia whakawakia.

Na matou, na te Komiti,

NA HORI KEREI TAIAROA, M.L.C., *Tumuaki*. NA WI PARATA TE KAKAKURA, *Hekeretari*. NA WI TAKO NGATATA, M.L.C.

NA MOKENA KOHERE, M.L.C.

NA HENARE TOMOANA, M.H.R.

NA HORI KARAKA TAWITI, M.H.R.

NA IHAIA TAINUI, M.H.R.

NA MAIHI PARAONE KAWITI.

NA KEEPA TE RANGIHIWINUI, *Meiha*. NA PEETI TE AWEAWE.

## (TRANSLATION OF MANIFESTO.)

To the Maori tribes interested in the lands confiscated by the Government in consequence of the wars between the Maori and the European peoples.

WE, THE COMMITTEE appointed to inquire into and to take proceedings for testing the validity of the laws under which the said lands have been confiscated, and are now claimed by the Government, and to enquire into and test the validity of the acts done by the Government under the provisions of those laws, SEND GREETING: KNOW YE, that we have consulted lawyers at Port Nicholson touching these matters, and we are informed as follows:—

THAT, in the month of December, 1863, the General Assembly of New Zealand passed a law authorizing the Governor, whenever he was satisfied that any Maori tribe or hapu had been engaged in war against the Government since the First day of January, 1863, to declare and fix the boundaries of Districts within which the lands of such tribe or hapu were situated, and then to set apart any of such lands as sites for settlement; and, by the said law, every site so set apart, was to become the property of the Government, freed from the title of the Native owners of the same.

BUT it was by that law provided, that compensation should be made for the taking of such lands to any of the Native owners, who had not been engaged or concerned in the war for which the same had been confiscated.

Now we find that the Government, purporting to act under the provisions of that law, and of other laws passed by the General Assembly in connection therewith, have created Districts in various parts of the North Island of New Zealand, and claim to hold the lands of the Maori people within those Districts, on the alleged ground that the said lands have been lawfully confiscated by reason that the owners thereof had been engaged in wars against the Government since the First day of January, 1863.

WE know that the right of the Government to confiscate those lands, and to retain the same, has long been disputed by the Maori owners thereof, but that no proceedings have ever been taken in any Court of Law to test the validity of the Acts of the General Assembly under which they have been taken, or of the proceedings of the Government under those Acts, or the right of the Government to retain any portions of the lands, so taken, which have not been set apart as sites for settlement.

WE, therefore, having been appointed to enquire into these things, have been advised that the proper course for the Maori people who object to them is, to commence proceedings in the Supreme Court of New Zealand, in order that the following questions may be heard and determined by law:—

- WHETHER the Acts of the General Assembly, authorizing the confiscation of the Maori lands, are valid Acts or not?
- WHETHER those Acts, if valid, authorized the Government to confiscate any of the Maori lands by reason of wars which happened after the Third day of December, 1863?
- WHETHER those Acts, if valid, authorize the Government to retain any of the lands within the proclaimed

districts, which had not been specifically set apart as sites for settlement before the Third day of December, 1867?

- WHETHER the proceedings of the Government, under those Acts, have been regular and proper, so as to bind the Native owners of the lands taken?
- WHETHER, if those Acts be valid, proper compensation has been made to those who had not been engaged or concerned in the wars?

THESE are the principal questions which we have been advised by our lawyers to bring before the Supreme Court, but there are many others in connection therewith, which will also have to be decided, and all such questions will be duly raised in the interests of the Maori people.

WE have also been advised, that if we are not satisfied with the decision of the Supreme Court upon any of these questions, we shall be entitled to appeal to the great Court of the Queen in England, by which the case will then be fully heard and decided.

Now, in order that these things may be properly done, we, the Committee, call upon you to assure the Government that you will not commit any deed of violence, or attempt to assert your claims to those lands by force, and that you will leave your rights to be settled by the law and not by the sword. And we will urge upon the Government, on the other hand, not to proceed with the surveys or to deal with the disputed lands until the law has decided the questions we raise in respect of the same.

AND we further make known to you, that acting in the belief that it is your wish that these things should be peaceably done, we intend at once to take steps for bringing all questions touching your claims to the confiscated lands before the Supreme Court.

From the Committee,

HORI KEREI TAIAROA, M.L.C., *President*. WI PARATA TE KAKAKURA, *Secretary*. WI TAKO NGATATA, M.L.C. MOKENA KOHERE, M.L.C. HENARE TOMOANA, M.H.R. HORI KARAKA TAWITI, M.H.R. IHAIA TAINUI, M.H.R. MAIHI PARAONE KAWITI. KEEPA TE RANGIHIWINUI, *Major, N.Z. Militia*. PEETI TE AWEAWE.