

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 30th May, 1845.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to appoint

WILLIAM E. CORMACK, Esquire,

to the Commission of the Peace for the Colony of New Zealand.

By Command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

*Colonial Secretary's Office,
Auckland, 30th May, 1845.*

HIS Excellency the Governor has been pleased to direct the publication of the following Despatches for general information.

By Command,

ANDREW SINCLAIR,
Colonial Secretary.

Auckland, 27th May, 1845.

SIR,—I have the honor of submitting to Your Excellency a summary of my Military operations at the Bay of Islands, as detailed in my Despatches, dated 1st, 7th, 9th, and 12th instant.

The vessels *Slains Castle* and *Velocity*, taken up to convey the Force under my immediate command to the Bay of Islands, sailed from Auckland on the 27th April, and anchored off Kororareka on the afternoon of the 28th April, where I was glad to find Her Majesty's Ship *North Star* at anchor.—I immediately consulted with Sir Everard Home, relative to re-establishing Her Majesty's authority at Kororareka—the Grenadier Company of the 58th Regiment (as a guard of honor) was landed about 5 o'clock p. m.—the Proclamation was then read, and the Union Jack hoisted under a salute of 21 guns from the *North Star*—the yards were then manned, and three cheers from the party on shore were answered by the seamen and troops on board the Transports.

In obedience to Your Excellency's instructions, I prepared to attack the rebel Chiefs and to destroy their property; and as Pomare was one of the proscribed Chiefs, and his pah the most exposed to an attack, the *North Star* and Transports got under weigh on the morning of the 29th April, and proceeded to Otuhu, but light winds delayed the vessels until midnight, at which time they anchored off Pomare's pah.

At daylight, I was much surprised to see a white flag flying in Pomare's pah, but as the Proclamation only authorized loyal Natives to shew it, I could not recognize it as an emblem of peace from a supposed rebel—the troops commenced disembarking, and when landed, I sent two Interpreters with a message into the pah, to desire Pomare to come to me directly; his answer was, "The Colonel must go to me." He sent the same answer to a second message. One of the Interpreters now offered to remain as a hostage in the pah—this I would not hear of. I then sent my final message to Pomare, that if

he did not come to me in five minutes, I would attack his pah; this threat induced Pomare to come. I had it explained to him that his conduct had been very bad—that he must go on board the *North Star*, and that he must accompany me to Auckland to account for it, to His Excellency the Governor.

I preferred proceeding in the manner stated in preference to hostilities, because I did not consider that it would add to the reputation of the British army, or secure the safety of New Zealand, if a force consisting of three hundred bayonets attacked an open pah, and defended by a Chief, with about fifty slaves, whose wife and children were with him, and who is connected with almost every powerful Chief in this Island. I have no hesitation in asserting that, if Pomare or any member of his family had been killed that morning, most of the neutral tribes about Hokianga would have taken up arms against the Government; and I am not convinced, even now, that Pomare's death would not have shaken Walker Nene's fidelity to our cause, and many tribes to the southward would also have been in arms against us. As far as I could judge, Pomare did not evince much reluctance to go with me on board the *North Star*—and during his stay on board of her, he and his wife and children were treated with much kindness by Sir Everard Home.

It was my intention to advance from Otuhu in the direction of Kawiti's pah, but my information about the country through which my march lay, was so contradictory, and I must have acted without the assistance of any loyal natives, that I decided upon postponing that movement; and accordingly the troops re-embarked, and all the vessels returned to an anchorage off Kororareka.

I had another motive for so deciding—Paratine Rekeao urged me to lose no time in attacking Heke, and by my request he sent a message to Tamati Waka Nene to visit me on board the *North Star*, for I could not undertake a march of about thirty miles from the Coast, until the return of H. M. S. *Hazard*, from Auckland. On the morning of the 1st instant, Tamati Waka arrived, and it was on that day finally arranged that the force should disembark at Onewero, on the morning of the 3rd instant, and make two marches to his pah. About noon on the 3rd instant, the force, consisting of the small-armed seamen and marines of the *North Star* and *Hazard*, and the troops, in all about four hundred men, was ready to march; but an unforeseen obstacle retarded my progress, which was casually produced, Walker Nene being unable to produce the number of natives he had promised me, and whom I required to carry the spare ammunition,—the volunteers from Auckland being employed in carrying the hospital establishment and other articles; and as I had no alternative, the destruction of the settlement of Kororareka having placed the means of transport beyond my reach, by being under the vigilance of the rebels, I was obliged to issue spare ammunition to the extent of thirty rounds to