

That your Memorialists have been still more surprised at the information that your Excellency's decision has been influenced by a belief that your Memorialists are persons referred to in Captain Fitz Roy's despatch to Lord Stanley, dated, the 14th October 1844, and published by order of the House of Commons in June 1845 :—

That your Memorialists are only just now aware of the existence of that Despatch, and of the view which your Excellency has taken of the same :—

That each of your Memorialists takes this, the earliest opportunity of most unequivocally declaring that he did not at the time mentioned in the despatch referred to, or indeed at any other time, excite the natives on the subject of the Crown's right of pre-emption :—that he neither subscribed himself, nor was he aware that any other person ever subscribed any sum whatever "as a reward for whomsoever should do most towards stirring up and informing the natives how to act together on this subject;" and further each of your Memorialists declares that it was not his intention (nor is he aware of such intention having existed on the part of any other person) to agitate in the northern parts of the Country, during the Governor's absence in the Southern, "in order that on his Excellency's return, he might find the stream of popular feeling too strong to oppose effectually :"—

Your Memorialists trust that this unequivocal denial, will at least as regards themselves, satisfy Your Excellency of the groundlessness of the statements contained in the above mentioned Despatch : but should your Excellency entertain a shadow of a doubt as to the accuracy of your Memorialists declaration, they entreat the institution of such an investigation as may be sufficient to satisfy Your Excellency of their truth :—

And Your Memorialists pray that Your Excellency feeling the injustice of dealing with their property, on an assumption of the truth of that which is undeniably incorrect, will in conformity with the Secretary of States permission, grant to your Memorialists that title to their lands, which was promised to those who purchased under the authority of the Proclamation of the 10th of October, 1844.

And Your Memorialists will ever pray.

(Signed)

Daniel Lorrigan, William Goodfellow, Chas. Ring, P. Lundon, Thomas Henderson, T. Russell, Henry McCan, William Gamble, Charles Robinson, Benjamin Smith, William Harkin, Robert White, Joseph May, Henry Hayr, Adam Chisholm, Thomas Shepherd, Henry R. Cretnay, Isaac Merrick, Edward Foley, W. Cleghorn, George Buckingham, G. O. Ormsby, Frederick Whitaker, Frederick S. Peppercorne, C. Fulton, Theophilus Heale, James Williamson, William Williams, John Brigham, John L. Heyd'n, Thomas Somerville, Daniel Lynch, Thomas Henry, John Oakes, William Smithson, T. McDonald, James C. Hill, Francis Ring,

James Harris, W. Hart, Clement Partridge, J. A. Langford, George Willson, Thomas Jackson, P. Donovan.

Reply of His Excellency to the foregoing Memorial.

*Government House,
Auckland, September 30th, 1846.*

GENTLEMEN,—It is very gratifying to me to receive so distinct a declaration from a portion of the inhabitants of Auckland and its vicinity, that they have not, at any time, excited the Natives upon the subject of the Crown's Right of Pre-emption; but it is nevertheless my duty to take this opportunity of publicly reiterating the complaints of my predecessor, by stating that during the period I have administered the Government of this Colony, most improper attempts have been made to induce the Natives to dispose of lands (to which, I believe, their title was doubtful) without any reference to the Rights of the Crown, and the present and future interests of the inhabitants of this portion of Her Majesty's Possessions.

I am fully satisfied that the great majority of the inhabitants of this portion of New Zealand will in no way connect themselves with proceedings, which, looking to the fearful calamities they must eventually entail upon Her Majesty's subjects of both races, cannot but be viewed with horror by the whole civilized world. I request them to lend me every assistance in their power for the suppression of such attempts, and they may rely that I, upon my part, will omit no means within my reach of promoting their prosperity and happiness.

The terms of the Government Notice of which the Memorialists complain, were prepared with great care, and with the advice and consent of my Executive Council. They are in strict conformity with the Instructions of Her Majesty's Government; and I am aware that that Notice afforded the most unqualified satisfaction to the vast majority of the Queen's subjects within this territory. My duty will not, therefore, permit me to depart from, or in any way to vary its terms; and I can give you no further assurance upon this subject, than that I will spare no exertion to arrange your claims in such a manner as to render the greatest amount of substantial justice to the many and conflicting interests involved in them.

(Signed) G. GREY,

Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

To F. Whitaker, Esq., Chairman,
and the Gentlemen composing
the Deputation.

Auckland:—Printed by JOHN WILLIAMSON, for the
New Zealand Government.