

*Colonial Secretary's Office,  
Auckland, 29th September, 1846.*

**H**IS Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor has been pleased to give directions for the publication of the following Address and Reply for general information.

By His Excellency's command,  
ANDREW SINCLAIR  
Colonial Secretary.

To His Excellency Captain GEORGE GREY, Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's Province of South Australia, and Lieutenant-Governor of the Territory of New Zealand and its dependencies.

The Memorial of the Undersigned Settlers, and Occupiers of Land in the district of the Tamaki and its vicinity.

Sheweth,

That your Memorialists resorted to this Territory upon the assurance of Her Majesty's Government, that on their arrival they would have an opportunity of purchasing land from the Crown, and the Crown only, by fair competition at auction, of which £ per Cent of the purchase money was to be applied as an Emigration fund, and £25 per Cent in making roads and in other public works; and your Memorialists were further informed that no purchase except from the Crown would be sanctioned or allowed.

That upon the faith of such assurance, your Memorialists hesitated not to pay for land in this district, prices varying from twenty-five to thirty shillings per acre, being considerably more than the upset price fixed by Her Majesty's Home Government, knowing as they did that though land had been and might be obtained cheaper from the Natives, that it was the duty as well as the interest of your Memorialists to obey the Laws and Ordinances of the Territory and thereby claim and deserve the protection of the Government.

That your Memorialists proceeded to cultivate their lands at considerable expence, undeterred by the numerous purchases from the natives which they saw daily made, relying on the hitherto unbroken faith of the British Government towards her subjects whether at home or in the Colonies, and never for one moment supposing that in their own case that faith would be first violated.

That your Memorialists were aroused from this state of confidence by an announcement from his Excellency the late Governor, that the Right of Pre-emption on the part of the Crown would be waived on moderate purchases from the natives, on payment of a fee of ten shillings per acre; an announcement which your Memorialists viewed with mingled feelings of alarm and distrust; of alarm, as they saw the consequent inevitable depreciation of value of their property, of distrust, because the boundary line of national honor and good faith being once broken, they feared other equally important pledges might also be violated, and that even this measure was merely the precursor of other changes respecting na-

tive purchases, a fear but too soon realized, the fee to the Crown on the Waiver of the Right of Pre-emption being speedily reduced to one penny per acre.

That your Memorialists have by the reductions in Crown Fees received considerable injury in two shapes.

Firstly—By depreciation in value of their lands.

Secondly—Inasmuch as [the sale of large blocks of native land to speculators, who mostly have neither the intention or means to cultivate them, prevents a concentration of inhabitants, causes delay in the making of roads so necessary in every new Colony, and will entirely annihilate the Emigration and Road funds by which your Memorialists and the Territory at large would greatly benefit, without referring to the stop put on free emigration which this course will cause in the mother Country; for it is not to be supposed that parties will come to this land with the certainty of being driven into the interior of the Country.

Your Memorialists therefore trust that your Excellency will see the impropriety of sanctioning under any circumstances the issue of Crown Grants in respect of purchases made from the natives and thereby prevent the injury which impends on those who have dealt in good faith with Her Majesty's Government, and who have expended their Capital upon Crown purchases.

PATRICK ANDERSON, Chairman,  
WILLIAM CHURCH  
DAVID WHITE  
WILLIAM J. TAYLOR  
CHARLES KNOX  
ROBERT HAYWARD  
PETER FERGUSON  
JAMES GOLLAN  
ALEXANDER THOMPSON  
THOMAS CAWKWELL.

*Reply of His Excellency to the foregoing  
Memorial.*

GENTLEMEN,—In reply to the Memorial you have presented to me, praying for the various reasons therein set forth, that I would not under any circumstances sanction the issue of Crown Grants in respect of purchases made from the Natives, under the terms of a Proclamation of my predecessor, dated 10th of October, 1844,—I have to acquaint you, that much as I regret the injury which may by this measure be inflicted upon the interests of yourselves, and, indeed, upon those of the vast majority of Her Majesty's subjects, of both races, who inhabit this Colony,—it is not at present in my power to do more than assure you, that in arranging the complicated claims which have arisen under the terms of the Proclamation above alluded to, I will to the best of my ability and judgment, do such justice to all the interests concerned, as upon mature enquiry may be found practicable.

(Signed) GEORGE GREY,  
Lieutenant-Governor.