

should with energy address itself to the task of laying such foundations for the collection of an adequate revenue as may enable it with confidence to look for aid from the British Parliament.

In point of abstract justice I can see no objection to requiring the Native population to contribute their fair proportion to the revenue. They are now very generally acquiring much valuable property; they are secured by the Government in the possession of their lands; they are beginning to feel the advantages of security of life and property, which they have never hitherto known: and it is difficult to see why they should not be required to pay, as they are well able to do, for advantages which if not afforded to them, they must necessarily retrograde into their former state of barbarism.

With regard to the second class of laws to which I propose to direct your attention, namely, those which relate to the extension of a prompt and vigorous administration of Justice over as large a portion as practicable of this territory, it must be conceded that there probably, (looking to the native population as well as to the dispersed nature, character, and pursuits of a portion of the European population,) never existed a country or circumstances which required that the administration of Justice should be more prompt and vigorous than in New Zealand; yet, owing to the peculiar character of some of the local enactments which affect Her Majesty's subjects of both races, I doubt if there is in any portion of the British possessions, in which the administration of justice is so feeble, indeed, I might say so impracticable. You will, therefore, I trust, consider, that you have no more important and pressing duty to perform than to reconsider the various Ordinances to which I allude, to determine what portion of those powers which are generally regarded as of right belonging to a Justice of the Peace should be restored to the Magistrates of this territory: what steps should be taken for remedying the defects which have been found to exist in the "Native Exemption Ordinance," and whether any, or what, modifications can be advantageously introduced into the various Rules which regulate the practice of our local Courts.

Some remedy must certainly be promptly applied to the evils which exist. I have directed that several measures, which I trust will have this effect, should be prepared for your consideration. I shall be glad if you can give these measures a more perfect form than that in which they will be laid before you; or if you can devise others better calculated to meet the important ends contemplated.

I have directed that a Despatch from the Secretary of State should be laid before you, which relates to three local Ordinances, in which I am about to propose various amendments for your adoption.

The most important measures relating to the Natives which it is my intention to submit to you, have for their object the introduction into this country of such modifications of the British Law as appear adapted to the present state of the Native population; and at the same time calculated to accustom them by degrees to take an active part in the administration of the laws of their country—a great step in advance which, if it can be made, appears to me more likely than any other I am acquainted with, to attain them, by the ties of interest and a sense of benefits received, to those Institutions which we have introduced amongst them.

Already some progress has been recently made in the attainment of this object, as the Natives when employed in the Police Force, and paid, fed, and clothed in all respects in the same manner as Europeans, have not only proved active and valuable constables, but have so completely emancipated themselves from their former

prejudices as not to hesitate to assist in the apprehension of offenders of their own race, whatever might be their rank or influence.

I shall also recommend to your consideration measures which will secure to the Natives the expenditure for their advantage of a fair share of the proportionate amount which they contribute to the revenue; either for the support of hospitals, the education of orphan children, or for purposes of a similar character. And above all, I trust, that you may be able to devise some means which will prevent European fathers from abandoning, and leaving in a state of destitution and misery, families of children whom they may have had by mothers of the native race.

The latest accounts which have reached me from the northern and southern portions of this Island, in which disturbances have at various times prevailed, are of the most satisfactory character; but I must confess that I, in my own mind, attach now but comparatively little importance to these disturbances. What can be effected in this country by the gallantry of the officers and men, composing Her Majesty's forces has now been fully evinced upon many occasions; it has also been ascertained that the settlers are willing and able (far beyond what I had expected) to protect their homes and families and to drive off an invading foe: and above all we have in every instance found that the great mass of the native population, have not only invariably declared themselves upon the side of the Government, but have also by their services in the field given practical proof of the sincerity of their declarations and of their warm attachment to the British race. Undoubtedly they have always shewn an anxiety that the local Government should evince by the strength of the Force at its disposal, that it had the means of securing the permanent tranquility of the country and of assuring the ultimate safety of those tribes who might come forward upon the side of good order; but it was not to be expected that tribes just emerging from a state of barbarism, subjected to various prejudices and dreading the animosity of their own excited countrymen would hesitate to commit themselves against those chiefs whose names have been for years a terror to the country, unless they saw that the Government was determined to support them, and that it had at its disposal a force which would enable it to give effect to those determinations.

In conclusion I must congratulate yourselves and the inhabitants of the Colony generally upon the comparative prosperity which prevails throughout these Islands, a prosperity which has not only ameliorated the condition of Her Majesty's subjects of European descent, but which has also produced a marked influence upon the native population, who are now not only in many instances pursuing improved modes of agriculture, but are also growing large quantities of grain for their own consumption and for sale to the Europeans. I can only trust that during the interval which must elapse ere the Legislature of the Colony is entrusted to other hands, we may succeed in promoting this dawning prosperity, and in laying the foundation of laws and institutions which may not only suffice for the present emergency, but may tend to the permanent and enduring welfare of this country.

(Signed)

G. GREY.

Court Chamber,

Auckland, Oct. 5th, 1846.

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