

The New Zealand Chiefs – Communication from the Governor of New Zealand
Birmingham Daily Post 19 May 1864

To the Editor of the Daily Post

Sir, Having severely suffered from the insinuations and charges circulated by some influential individuals in Birmingham touching my project in visiting England with the New Zealand Chiefs, and having been unable hitherto from various reasons effectually to rebut those charges, by any direct communication from the authorities in that country. I am now in a position to set the matter before the public in a manner which will, I think, justify the most scrupulous that what I have stated on the subject has been "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth." The following letter has been forwarded to me by last mail from Sir George Grey, through the Home Government, and will be found to contain the following facts:-

1. That I am interpreter to the New Zealand Government.
2. That my object in visiting England was a legitimate one.
3. That the Governor was cognisant to our visit, and approved the same.
4. That I have corresponded with his Excellency on the subject since I came to England.
5. That the natives accompanying me are Chiefs.

6. That Sir George Grey is pleased with the kind reception given to us, and did not expect our hasty return.

7. That he believes our visit will be productive of beneficial results to New Zealand.
8. That he is desirous of aiding me in any way to enable me to carry out my project.

I am, your obedient servant, W. Jenkins.

[Copy] – to W. Jenkins, Esq., Government Interpreter

Government House, Auckland, New Zealand, March 8, 1864. My dear sir, - It is with great pleasure I received from Birmingham your account of your proceedings in England. I hope you will have the good fortune to continue to receive as much kindness as has hitherto been shown to yourself and to the Chiefs who accompany you. I will gladly aid in any manner in promoting the object of your visit to England, as I quite agree with you in thinking that it will not only benefit those Chiefs, who accompany you, but that their accounts of what they have seen will be of much advantage to their fellow countrymen. Will you, therefore, write to me, and let me know what more I can do for you. You will be very sorry to hear that the Ngatimaniapoto tribe have, in all the recent encounters, managed to keep out of the way, and have received little or no punishment; they continue as obstinate as ever, doing all the mischief they can, and exerting themselves to the utmost, by spreading false reports, to induce the distant tribes who know nothing of the true state of things to join them. I enclose you a letter to the Chief, who wrote to me from Birmingham. Will you give it to him? Faithfully yours, G. Grey.

Translation of letter from Sir George Grey to Hapimana. [Copy.] Government House, Auckland, March 8, 1864. O my son, Hapimana Ngapiko Mokoera. Salutation to you. Your affectionate letter has reached me. O son your letter is a good one. Write often to me that I may know what you are doing in England. I have heard from my sisters concerning your visit to their house, and am pleased thereat. Great is the rebellion of Ngatimaniapoto. They will not listen to me. The soldiers are at the Awamutu, at Rangiawhia, at Kihikihi. They (the rebels) fled to the mountains. I have earnestly besought them to listen to me, and to be at

peace, but they will not listen. However, bye-and-bye, perhaps, they will listen to me, and return to obedience and to peaceful pursuits. They they will fully understand all the corners of their evil hearts. I shall not cease urging them to return to good, and to industrious pursuits. From your loving father, G. Grey.