

The New Zealanders in London
Daily Southern Cross, Auckland, 30 January 1865

(From the "Morning Star" [London], November 26)

A meeting was held at Radley's Hotel last evening for the purpose of taking farewell of two New Zealanders who are about to return to their own country under the auspices of the Aborigines Protection Society. In the unavoidable absence of Mr R. N. Fowler, the treasurer of the society, the chair was occupied by the Rev. James Davis, the secretary of the Evangelical Alliance.

The Rev. gentleman opened the proceedings by expressing his sympathy with the Maoris, and his hope that their troubles had now ended. Mr F. W. Chesson explained the circumstances under which the society had interfered on behalf of the two natives. He stated that they had been brought to England by an Australian speculator, and left in London without the means of returning to their own country.

He read a letter from the Rev. Stephen Hawtrey, testifying to their admirable conduct while under his supervision and that of his brother, the Rev. Henry Hawtrey, at Windsor. He also read a letter from Miss Weale, of Birmingham, who had taken a most benevolent interest in the case; and one from Mr Henry Christy, who considered that the New Zealand authorities had failed in their duty in repeatedly allowing "poor natives to be deposited for inevitable shipwreck on these shores."

Mr T. B. Smithies moved the following resolution – "That this meeting desires to express its deep sympathy with the two natives of New Zealand, Abraham Pungatara and William Pou, who are about to return to their own country; and earnestly prays that, by the Divine blessing, they may have a safe and prosperous voyage. That this meeting would urge upon the Maoris the duty of impressing upon their countrymen that their friends in England are most anxious that they should studiously abstain from having recourse to arms; and it hopes that they will bear their personal witness to the fact that the strength of the Maori people is infinitely disproportionate to that of England, and that therefore they can only hope to obtain justice and preserve their race by cultivating the arts of peace and civilisation, and acquiring a practical knowledge of Christianity."

As a proof of the noble character of the New Zealanders the speaker alluded to a pathetic incident of the war, which formed the subject of an illustration in an admirable weekly journal – the *Australian News* – published at Melbourne. A native warrior was engaged in giving a cup of cold to a wounded officer when a shot unhappily killed the good Samaritan. Mr John Gorne, advocate, in seconding the resolution, expressed his conviction that the English people entertained the utmost good feeling towards the Maoris, and alluded from his own observation to the decaying condition of the Mic Mac Indians of Nova Scotia.

The resolution having been unanimously adopted, Mr Abraham Pungatara and Mr William Pou in turn addressed the audience in very grateful and interesting terms, their remarks being translated by the Rev. George Maunsell, the son of Archdeacon Maunsell, of the Waikato.

Mr Frederick Tuckett, a former New Zealand colonist, submitted the following resolution:-
"That this meeting requests the committee of the Aborigines Protection Society to make representations to the Colonial Office, with a view to the adoption, on the part of the New Zealand Government of such measures as may be necessary to protect the natives against designing speculators."

The speaker forcibly pointed out the injustice which the constitution of the colony inflicted on the natives by conferring governing powers upon the colonists, from which they were excluded; and, while, dwelling on the greivous disadvantages of the tribal system of tenure he contended that if the native lands were parcelled out into estates the property should be inalienably secured to the Maoris by a law of entail, which should be free from all attachment for debt. This, he believed, would be the only means of giving them adequate protection against land jobbers.

Dr Frederick Tomkins, of the Temple, seconded, and Dr Hodgkin (who presided after the departure of Mr Davis, and earnestly bespoke sympathy on behalf of the English wife of William Pou) supported the resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

A list of subscriptions was then read, including the following:- Mr F. Tuckett, £15; Mr Henry Christy, £5; Mr J. J. Weale, £5; Mr H. E. Dortney, £3 3s; Mr R. Charleton, £3 3s; Mr Thomas Fowell Buxton, £2; Mr R. Alsop, £2; Mr G. J. Neighbour, £1; and several others.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to the chairman and Mr Maunsell. It appears that Messrs A. F. Ridgway and Sons, of Leicester-square, and Messrs Shaw, Savill, and Co., have kindly interested themselves on behalf of the New Zealanders, the latter having generously provided them with a passage at a considerably reduced rate.