

Governor's letterbook 19 Jan 1846 to 10 May 1847

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Undated: Governor, I will strive and dispute with you – the natives will leave off your work if you too strive to drive away the people. That is my word to you. This a great word. Those are all my words. From your friend, From Rangihaeata to the Governor at Port Nicholson.

1846 Mar 02 Te Rauparaha, Otaki to the Governor

Salutations to you. Our heads are rejoiced about your good words for establishing arrangements for the men of this Island – with you alone in the gracious consideration towards the natives, my thoughts is the same as yours, Sir, there is not a man perhaps who will tread under foot our words for peace, which have been spoken by the Queen. That you should be gracious to the Natives – it behoves every man to consider your good words that they are for good for himself. It is for me also to say my words to ourselves the Natives. Let it suffice that the ears of all the men hear the words of your good letter. I will not hold to the example of Heke and Kawiti. His name is established it is “Puhi Koha-rau” (the canoe with a hundred rents) on account of murder – it is like the rent of a canoe – while they are caulking one rent – it leaks at another seam.

Do not let your heart make enquiries about the Hutt – Have you not a sufficient number of men? but as for the Equivalent (for the land) it has been said before “go away quietly leave the place of the Europeans, if you stay there you are awaiting strife by your occupying the Hutt.” My heart is dark for those people – but it would be better for you not to visit other places until that land is settled – but the arrangement is with you. I am going to Porirua to quarrel with Mokau (Rangihaeata). Sir the ears of those people are not the ears of men. This is my word, and Mr Hadfield's, and the other Governor's but what is it to those people. Send them away that they may go – whatever places your heart may desire write in a letter. From your faithful friend, (signed) Te Rauparaha

1846 Mar 03 David Puaha, Takapuahia, Porirua to the Governor

Friend the Governor, Salutations to you, great is my regard for you. Friend here is my arrangement with you, if we see the arrival of the property about which you write it is right we shall catch it, but as for this perhaps we shall not see it. If we see it then we shall bruise them, Sir and because they are causing evil upon land in order that you may turn upon us, while they run away that they may leave the suffering upon a different tribe. Sir, be upon your guard with the people of Wanganui, do not suppose we are one people (with them). No – they are our enemies – therefore I consider, what is to be done? What is to be done? But we will watch the entrance of the road because there is no road over the mountains no other egress – that they may be extinct. Friend, the Governor, there are two tribes, The Wanganui and the Ngatimaniapoto, they are all our enemies the cause of their coming near this place is the faith, or rather on account of the Europeans. Before they would not have come down, they are a different people – we are a different people. We devoured them, they devoured us. That is all. From your dear friend from (signed) David Puaha.

1846 Mar 06 Te Rauparaha, Taupo to the Governor

Friend the Governor, Salutations to you great is our regard for you on account of your good words. Friend I am come back from Otaki and the Manawatu, I was brought back by a messenger (saying) that there was war – therefore I came here. I disapprove of this fighting, therefore I am come back to suppress the evils. Friend I will hold fast to your good arrangements. I sent a messenger to the Hutt on the fifth day that the people should come and forsake the Hutt. If they will not hearken that is all the communication (with them). We will not fight – all the people – with you you are the consideration and the right of all the people. We shall not fight we the people of Otaki, Waikanae, and Porirua, not by any means. Friend do not obstruct the road for driving the pigs of the natives and Europeans. That is all – it is for you to come here (or will you come here) I cannot go there I am troubled. From your sincere friend (signed) Te Rauparaha.

1846 Mar 08 Governor Grey to Te Rauparaha

I have received your two letters of the 2nd and 6th of March. I am much pleased at the sentiments which those letters contain. You say that you are troubled and cannot come to Port Nicholson and that it is for me to go to Taupo – very well – I will be at Porirua in a man of war on Monday or Tuesday morning – come on board to see me without any doubt or hesitation directly that I arrive.

1846 Apr 03 Te Rauparaha, Taupo to The Governor

Friend the Governor, Salutations to you. I have just heard – the bell tolled – I have heard the pakeha is killed – murdered clandestinely by a Wanganui native. I heard of it this morning and chased him to catch him and tie him up him the man who slew – the people are keeping guard lest he should run away. Friend – let the constables come to tie them up and carry them there – let not the Europeans be alarmed – let them come on without any hesitation. Here we are at Takapuahia waiting (for them). Sir my heart is dark – so are all the people. Friend I will not allow you alone to fight with that people (the Wanganui). No – we both shall – let the Europeans come along the road without hesitation. There are a great number of us here. Friend I am afraid lest he should run away in the night – but in the day I myself will hold him and give him up to be tied. Friend they do not belong to our people – Wanganui is one river – Kawia is another river. They are different people from ourselves. Friend hear me let your disposition be good towards me – for you – for you for me to fight – friend if you thought be right write a letter to me immediately. Keep the Wanganui there lest they come here and assemble and turn to fight against you. Sir the man was killed at the Hutt. Sir, watch Taringa Kuri let the soldiers watch him. That is all from (signed) Te Rauparaha.

1846 Apr 03 Moses Ngaponga, Te Aro to the Governor

Sir, the Governor – Hear my word to you – this is my speech to you about the piece of land near the Gazette office. Because the other Governor's before said it should be sacred for us for the natives, but do not say that it was reserved solely as a site for a chapel, no, but also for a dwelling place for us. This is the only place that was made right by the other Governors – that this place should be for us to dwell upon because it is close to this pa. Major Richmond knows this place, he heard the arrangement respecting it. There is also another subject, the European is upon the land for us for the natives, therefore we said that this European should go and cultivate in the presence of his master – Mr Martin – because he is a workman of Mr Martin. The reason he occupies it is on account of the house, we say that he should go and leave the house for us. We spoke to Mr Shortland and to Mr Kemp that these Europeans should go – they told us to go to Major Richmond that the arrangement was with him. We went to Major Richmond he told us that the arrangement was with the Governor who would soon arrive. Therefore we say that the arrangement is with you. That the Europeans should go. There is only one man, he has no crops there, he is dwelling only upon the land. When he goes will you tell Mr Martin not to break the windows of the house and the doors of the house and the lock it is a valueless house a mud house thatched with “toetoe” the sides are mud – that is all my writing to you from Moses Ngaponga.

1846 Apr 04 Governor Grey, Wellington to Te Rauparaha

My friend Te Rauparaha, Now am I truly glad, now do I see hopes for you and your Country. When the man and boy were slain many people said Te Rauparaha has known of this. I said I trust not, for then will the honor of a great chief have been lost, then will New Zealand have fallen – but my heart was dark and sad – now am I glad. These are my words to you – let there be no more suspicion on your mind. You have shown before all the world that your thoughts are good – that you hate murder. The Europeans will henceforth respect you. It is therefore well that we should meet, and that I should know face to face a man whose actions I approve, and whom I shall always be anxious to benefit – you have done a great service to New Zealand, I have sent this party over to you, but I will also come round in the Steamer.

Undated: Friend the Governor. Let us go great is my love for Port Nicholson to my children. Friend the Governor – let us go – the words of Mokau (Rangihaeata) are not yet good. Friend Governor let us return the words of this place are good, we have seen Thomas Waka. Let us return on Tuesday, we are sick thro' love towards Port Nicholson. Friend the Governor we are sick thro' our love for our place Port Nicholson let us return. But I think you have left your first affection for us and our children – but we still regard you. But Mr George Clarke would not allow us to go and (say) “how do you do” to you. That is all. A Song. We are poor in this country in Waitemata from (signed) Taringa Kuri.

Undated: Friend the Governor, Salutations to you, great is my regard for you, Friend the Governor return us. I am suffering from love to my people now. I have seen all the Tribes, the months which you arranged are passed when I should return to Port Nicholson. Long is the word which you arranged with the men – one week in Auckland, one week in Kororareka. Friend the Governor return me – the people will reach for me – where indeed? I have heard that there is one vessel, I have heard from the Europeans that one “Man-of-war” will sail to Port Nicholson. It is “Racehorse” If it is not true will you arrange a little vessel. That is all. From your attached friend “Signed” Taringa Kuri.

1846 Jul 02 Teira Wetu, Kaiwarawara

Friend the Governor, Do not mind what Taringakuri said about going to Mokau. What he said amounted to nothing. I will endeavour to influence him to remain and he will listen to what I have to say. Governor what I say I seriously mean – Since I have great respect for your advice from the commencement (of your coming) I will endeavour to conciliate Taringakuri. The right plan of proceeding is with you. Taringa Kuri's words were nothing.

Reply of the native Chiefs of the Hutt to Rauparaha's invitation – written on Saturday
Friend Rauparaha, We have to consider the mind thro' which we have marched at the Hutt, the hardships and inconveniences we have endured on account of the war which has been brought on by “Rangihaeata”. We Ngatata your elder brother and myself have nothing to say in these matters. It remains with you to say – you and your child Rangihaeata received the money for Heretaunga or the Hutt, and have likewise killed the Europeans. Then who is so hard of heart as to look silently and see their nearest neighbour (white people) slain, as we are become one body of people. If you were in our situation would you be able to restrain (your feelings). What matters if you have sympathy (will your child). We have regard for the safety of the white people. Their blood has been spilt, it is the blood of dogs that we should sit unconcerned.

Friend Richmond, Rauparaha and his Child Mokau are deceiving the Ngatiawas. The “Kuititanga” at Waikanae was an attack by Rauparaha at night – he is noted amongst us as being a bad man. Scarcely any time elapsed before “Morokehengahi” was attacked the sun had scarcely time to set before the massacre at Wairau, and now look at “Heretaunga”. Three letters were sent by Mokau, Mamaku and Rauparaha inviting the Tribes of the interior to come and crush Waikanae, the natives and white people as far as Taranaki. Rauparaha we shall not come to see you, enough that you have reached Wellington, from whence you may return. Pakuahi, Ngatata, Chiefs of Ngatiawa.

1846 Jul 08 Te Rauparaha to the Governor

Friend Governor, Salutations to you. I have great regard for you, for your thoughts and intentions or plans. I am now only waiting to see you. I have not forgotten you wish that I should remain as a friend to the white people here and I am now waiting to see you. Make haste that I may hear what you have to say. Friend make haste and come to our place and to our white people and to our two places viz Wellington and Porirua.

1846 Sep 03 William Tako, Port Nicholson to the Governor
Friend Governor, Salutations to you – hear ye your command was issued to us to get up (to suppress the Rebels) and thus we began our journey or Pursuit by ascending the hill “Pororaha” during which route we arrested Matene and his brother, and delivered over to you. It was on this occasion that Mr Servantes proposed that we should give over our guns &c to Puaha. I said no we will not deliver out guns to Puaha. We then proceeded, Puaha moving in front, and presently discovered an encampment of Rangihaeata who was warned by them (Puahas people) of our approach and allowed to retreat. We then enquired amongst ourselves is this a right proceeding or a wrong one? At the same time we perfectly understood the circumstance of the case (that it was done intentionally). Hear this also. When we arrived at the base of the hill on which Rangihaeata’s pa stood, I proposed to... that we should take the right side, Puaha the left. Placing the soldiers in the middle, whereupon the soldiers opened their fire and Puahas natives also firing blank Cartridge leaving the balls on the ground, we could not but draw our conclusions in reference to these proceedings. When they retreated and abandoned the Pa, we discovered bones of Beef laying in the Pa. All the entry’s huts were strewn with bones, they the enquiry suggested itself. “When could Rangihaeata have obtained his Beef? Nevertheless we understood these things. On Monday I (in consequence of these proceedings) proposed to our Chiefs Pakuahi, Moturoa and Wairarapa, that we should move in the advance, of which they approved. We then moved on in front Puaha following behind. After we had proceeded about 4 miles a musket was discharged, on enquiry we found it to have been fired by Te Ringa (one of the Ngatitoo) a second was fired, and we became angry. We took another road, leaving Puaha. On Tuesday Puaha joined us again. We arrived at Pouawa, and saw Rangihaeata, where we had a skirmish losing three on our side, on Rangihaeata’s side were killed; Te Pau, Re Roe, Horopapera, ten in number, five bodies have been found. The Waikanae natives saw us on the hill but did not come to our assistance. I there proposed to our party that we should leave and go to Waikanae, and leave the rest to William King and his party. Friend Governor observe our proceedings since you left us. You will not be at a loss for the writer of this, it is from your sincere friend William Tako. It is written that you may have an opportunity of judging of the propriety – or otherwise (of our proceedings.) It remains now with you to give your opinion. Your sincere friend (signed) William Tako of Kumutoto.

1846 Nov 26 Governor Grey, Government House, Auckland to William Tako, Kumutoto
I have received your letter relative to services of yourself and your friends in the war and calling my attention to certain acts of Treachery upon the part of the Ngatitoo tribe. Your services were performed before me and were approved of at the time. They shall not be forgotten. Let the Chiefs of Port Nicholson hold firmly to the cause of right and justice. Tell them all that I shall soon once more be with my old friends. It will give me great pleasure to see them again and promote their interests as far as lies in my power. [signed] G. Grey.

1846 Dec 21

My good friend Major Richmond, Health to you. Te Matia and the rest of the Chiefs have gone to Manawatu to see the invalids of that place. But news of an unpleasant nature has reached us. The Sheep which were driven from Wellington have been sent back, the reason assigned for driving them back was for fear lest they should be killed by Rangihaeata's people. On the other hand twice have sheep been driven previously to Manawatu without molestation and this is the first time that sheep have been driven back, but he was angry with Mr Skipwith because he expressed a wish to drive his sheep to Manawatu upon which Rangihaeata exclaimed "Where then remains a place for me? Having left behind Heretaunga, Porirua, Mana & Kapiti, and now these white people are not satisfied, but are encroaching still further." We have not yet heard what his instructions are but (the bearer) Hohepa Te Rapatu will explain to yourself and Mr Hadfield. We will hear what Rangihaeata intends doing. If what we hear should prove to be true then we shall have regard to the same by our interference. (signed) Zachariah.

1847 Feb 15

Friend Major Richmond. Salutations to you. "Pitama" has informed Rangihaeata that he was allowed to come away peaceably by the Ngatiawas – had he been taken at Port Nicholson, the natives of the "Ngatiawa" would have risen against the white people. Therefore I suggest to you that Te Puni, Tako, Wairarapa, Moturoa, Te Pakuahi, and Hopeka should address a letter to Rangihaeata requesting him to give up "Pitama" that (he Rangihaeata) may see that they have no desire to keep him. The reason that Rangihaeata keeps "Pitama" is an impression that the Ngatiawas approve of his rebellion. May we suggest as the best means of removing that impression would be for Te Puni and the other Chiefs to address a letter to Rangihaeata. Major Richmond will you not allow the (accompanying) letter to be delivered to Te Rauparaha that he may see what our sentiments are. That his mind may be... It rests with you to send the letter on board the Ship and to allow him to send us one in reply. (signed) Thompson
