



# Colenso & McLean: Te Koreneho e te Makarini

**Letters between William Colenso and Donald McLean 1850–1876**

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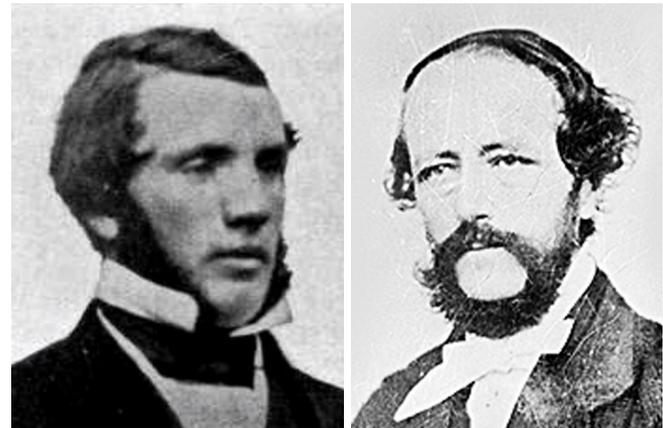
# Contents

Letters between William Colenso  
and Donald McLean, 1850 to 1876.

Following are transcriptions of letters between the two men from the Donald McLean papers held by the National Library of New Zealand; they contain inward letters received by McLean as well as drafts of some of his outward letters.

The originals can be seen at <http://mp.natlib.govt.nz/static/introduction-mclean?!=en>. The object numbers are given with each letter.

QR code for McLean papers



Missionary William Colenso was the first resident European in Hawke's Bay, arriving at Waitangi (near Clive) in 1844 with his wife Elizabeth and child Frances (Fanny); son Latty was born in 1845. Land Commissioner Donald McLean arrived via the Manawatu Gorge on 3 December 1850, under orders from Governor Grey to purchase Hawke's Bay land from local iwi. He succeeded in purchasing 630,000 acres in the Waipukurau, Ahuriri and Mohaka blocks.

In 1850 McLean married in Wellington; Colenso's affair with Ripeka Meretene culminated in the birth of the child Wiremu.

In 1852 Fanny and Latty were taken to Auckland, Colenso's connection with the church was dissolved and late in the year he had a fight with Wi Tipuna. McLean's wife died after childbirth.

1853 Colenso's house burned and Elizabeth left him. He was fined by McLean for assaulting Wi Tipuna. He thought about leaving NZ for Australia. He acted as a trader, te reo interpreter, began to buy land, and moved to Napier.

1856 McLean was head of Native Affairs Department. He supported the Waitara purchase which led to war in Taranaki.

In 1859 Colenso was elected Provincial Councillor and in 1861 was elected MHR (to the House of Representatives). 1861–1864 Provincial Inspector of Schools. McLean was meantime building up his large private estates at Maraekakaho in Hawke's Bay.

1863 McLean was elected Superintendent of Hawke's Bay and dropped Colenso from the position of Provincial Treasurer.

1864 Colenso began writing his Exhibition essays.

1866 McLean beat Colenso in the election for MHR for Napier electorate. Militia battled Hauhaus near Napier; Colenso was working on a Māori-English lexicon. McLean in charge of the campaign against Te Kooti.

1868 Colenso's two Exhibition essays published.

1869–70 Colenso working on a Māori-English dictionary. McLean resigned as Superintendent of Hawke's Bay and became Minister of Defence and Minister of Native Affairs till 1876.

1871 Colenso re-elected to Provincial Council; Colenso's masterpiece on forgiveness, *Fiat Justitia*, published by Hawke's Bay Herald.

1872 Colenso reappointed Inspector of Schools.

1872-8 Colenso still working on a Māori-English dictionary. *Willie's first English book* published.

1874 Hawke's Bay Philosophical Institute founded, Colenso secretary. McLean knighted.

1875 Colenso wrote to Cheeseman expressing a renewed interest in botany.

1876 in December Colenso wrote his last letter to McLean, who was by then terminally ill from the effects of influenza on rheumatic heart disease.

1877 McLean died; Colenso contested his seat and was soundly defeated.

Both men were fluent in te reo and though paternalistic in their approaches, had a deep understanding of Maori culture and customs (McLean was Makarini and Colenso was Koreneho). Both were seasoned bush travellers, tent dwellers, story tellers. Both were dedicated Christians: both admired hard work and despised idleness, drunkenness and excess.

They were among the very few Europeans in Hawke's Bay and they became lasting friends despite their rivalry and their differences. The effusive Victorian epistolary salutations and assurances should not disguise the regard they had for each other.

1850 October 21 Colenso to McLean (#1020915)

Church Mission Station,  
Waitangi,  
Octr. 21. 1850.

Sir

Having just returned from visiting my northernmost villages, and understanding from some Natives that Te Hapuku\* and the Chiefs are gone to the Waipukurau with the intention of meeting you there: and hearing also that you have already been some time in the Manawatu District, and thinking that you may probably require a few little necessaries—such as Tea, Sugar, Bread, &c.—I write this, to beg you *not* to allow yourself to want any thing of that kind, and to request you without delay to send freely to us, assuring you, that we will gladly do all that we can to make your present bush life comfortable.—

We do not know whether it is your intention to come on quite so far North as the Mission Station; but, should you come into our immediate neighbourhood, we must regret that, under existing circumstances we have it not in our power to offer you a residence during your stay in these parts. Let not this, however, we beg, deter you from making every application to us for whatever you may need, and which we may be able to supply—and to which—should you reach our vicinity, we shall be truly happy to add from the produce of our little dairy.

I am, Sir,

Yours very sincerely  
William Colenso

\*Colenso's journal 15 October 1850: ... I learn the near approach of Mr. McLean the Government Land-buyer, and, that Te Hapuku had called a great meeting of all the Chiefs at Te Waipukurau to meet Mr. McLean; but that Te Moananui and others had said they would not go, in consequence of their being at variance with Te Hapuku.

1850 December 30 Colenso to McLean (#1004371)

Mission Station  
Waitangi  
Decr. 30 1850

My dear Sir

We send you a few loose cherries, a little wine, milk & Butter, and a Cake, & would that they were both larger & better.—

We should have sent to you on Thursday or Friday last, but we have been, all hands, laid up with Influenza—several of my household (now 20 in no.!) are still unwell.—

We hope you are well—& beg you will *not fail to send to us* for whatever you may want which we can supply. And with compliments to Mr. Reed, I am

(for self & Mrs Colenso)

Yours very truly  
W. Colenso

P.S. I write in a very great hurry—but add, by way of postscript,—our hearty wish of a happy New Year to you both. W.C.

Undated Colenso to McLean (#1013059)

Mission Station  
Waitangi  
Thursday 2 p.m.

Donl. McLean Esq.  
&c &c

My dear Sir

Your kind note & accompaniments have just reached me.—I thank you much for all—but can scarcely reply to your note just now. I was yesterday aftn. siezed with a violent headache, which, spite of medicine, still continues, so that I scarcely know what I am doing.—

We send you some milk & apples—the 4 or 5 *red* ones are gathered, & may be nearly ripe, being summer fruit.

We regret, however, that you should have deprived yourself of the ale—as it is of great service to you, whether at Ahuriri (without good water), or travelling: if I thought you would not be offended at my doing so—I would return it to you by your Natives.

I hope to write you again in a day or two—when I will return your paper & Mr. Morgan's letter.\*—

And I also hope to send 3 or 4 packages to Ahuriri on Tuesday next for Wellington per Rose.

Excuse this my dear Sir  
& Believe me  
Yours sincerely  
W. Colenso

\* probably John Morgan, missionary at Otawao (Te Awamutu).

### Undated McLean to Colenso (#1012037)

N Thursday noon

My dear Sir,

I find that a canoe starts for the Wairoa on Monday so I shall take my passage by her and shall gladly take any more letters you may have to send.

The vessel is only now going out. I intended to send you notice last night of her being here but was afraid there would be no time for you to write more letters as they talked of being off early in the morning.

I am going to send to Taranaki by way of Manawatu so that you have got a chance of sending more letters.

Mr. Ankatell\* wished in writing to Mr Moore to know decidedly what you would be inclined to pay for the vessel if she comes back soon which from the small cargo this trip is doubtful.

I told him £10 or 12 he might rely on which he considers would be a good freight. Was I right in mentioning that sum? Do not send anything for the journey as I am really well provided. Like yourself I am quite fatigued writing only I have not your illness which I hope is better to contend with.

I have now to get up my correspondence for Auckland and Taranaki. Your small cases have been carefully placed in the cabin.

Ever sincerely  
Donald McLean

\*Ankatell, trader, arrived in Napier in April 1850.

### Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1013935)

Thursday mornng.

D. McLean Esq  
&c &c

My dear Sir

I am doomed to be ever in a hurry! Your kind note of yesterday arrived by water just as your *after* messenger did by land!! I, therefore, could not answer it.

I now send you a couple (or rather 3) notes, for Wairoa & Turanga, which I venture to burden you with. I hope you will have a pleasant journey. I suppose you will still find me at home (home?), on your return. The Baptism is to take place on Feby. 9.

We ask each other (*vainly*) what can we do for you for your journey? I am quite tired writing. You can tell Mr. Hamlin\* much of Ahuriri and Waitangi news.—

Believe me ever  
Very faithfully yours  
W. Colenso.

\* January 1851: McLean left for Wairoa, Turanga and Uawa midjanuary.

\* James Hamlin, missionary at Wairoa.

Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1023490)

Tuesday noon

D. McLean Esq  
&c &c

My dear Sir,

I am indeed much obliged to you for your kind forwarding my letters &c by your lad.—

But I have not any particular news—save that Gov. Grey & Lady were at Port Nicholson, and Archd. Williams\* had sailed from England. Archd. Hadfield\* too had a severe fall from his horse but was better.

I now send you a native almanac—I have but 100 for the whole Dist!

We send you a little Milk and would send you an Apple Pie, but, alas! we have no Lard nor Butter wherewith to make the Crust. This Mrs Colenso regrets. Would you like any *green* apples for cooking? i.e. the *thinings* of the Trees.—

The day you left a *taua* of ducks—11 in number—gobbled up *all* the remaining gooseberries!

You will further oblige me in letting me know the day on which the Rose sails. I have hopes of being in time for the ship for England; although Cole\* says I must *not* be behind Feby. 1<sup>st</sup>.—

Pray excuse this, and

Believe me

Ever yours truly

W. Colenso

P.S. *The* “Black Cow” has been driven out nearly 10 times from the natives’ kumara & potatoes for which she seems to have taken quite a fancy. I have *heard* shooting her proposed. W.C.

\*January 1851? \*William Williams, Turanga; \*Octavius Hadfield, Otaki;

\*Robert Cole, Wellington.

taua = war party

1851 January 13 McLean to Colenso (#1017611)

My dear Sir.

The Brig in the Bay is a Hobart town whaler 3 months out, one sperm whale. Left Auckland on the 4th. of last month, no news. Mr. Ankatell says that he does not suppose there will be any difficulty about sending the Rose to Uawa, although he cannot take upon himself to send her without the Master’s consent who he will consult when he arrives here.

I send you Mayor Mitchells 2 vols. and return with thanks the Tasmanian Journal.

I intend to take a sail over to Wakaari this forenoon if it does not blow too fresh.

With kind respects to Mrs. Colenso & the tamariki.

I remain

My dear Sir

Yours very sincerely

Donald McLean.

Monday

Jan'y 13. 1851.

There is a small kaipuke in sight, a boat has gone off to enquire what she is. Should she bring any letters for you I will send a boy with them tomorrow.

tamariki = children

kaipuke = ship

ARRIVALS.

November 25—Schooner *Rose*, 35 tons, Grey, from  
Ahuriri. Passenger—Mr. Anketell.

## Undated McLean to Colenso (#1021529)

Wednesday evening

My dear Sir,

The Rose sails to Muhaka for cargo this week, and will probably call here for letters on her way to Wellington Wednesday next. The Master Grey who seems a quiet decent man says that he will at once give up the cabin to Mrs Colenso entirely if Mr Moore the Charterer agrees to let her go to Uawa next trip. Mr Anketell says the charge for going there would not be much as it might be made a trading trip as well—and he will write to Mr Moore on the subject. I should like very much to go at the same time, but I expect it will be necessary for me to go sooner so as to get back here by the time the natives have their wheat cut. At present I am advising them to look after their crops and let land matters stand over till they have saved their wheat which is likely to be of value to them this year. Flour is up to 20/ a 100lbs at Wellington but that high price is not likely to continue long.

Villiers tells me that he will either remove the cow or sell her to the natives.

No Wellington papers have come to hand, several letters but no news of importance nothing about the French war. Mr Hadfield's fall was before I left, unless he has had a second one. Mr Taylor\* had one also, nothing serious. They are all quiet on the West Coast.

May I beg your acceptance of a few bottles of light ale out of a cask which has been sent to me from Wellington.

Mr Anketell tells me he has something to send in the morning consequently the bearer will be delayed till then. I send the bottles for a little milk, instead of giving Mrs Colenso the trouble of pie making when she has so much to attend to. I shall feel thankful when thinning the trees to get a few apples which William can make up into a pie.

I remain yours very sincerely  
Donald Maclean

I have only one Scotch paper which I send.

\* Richard Taylor, missionary at Whanganui.

## 1851 January 21 Colenso to McLean (#1005773)

Tuesday Morning  
21<sup>st</sup> [January] 1851.

My dear Sir

In a world of hurry I hasten to send off my packages, so as to ensure *their* going. I hope they will reach Ahuriri, & Wellington too, safely & *dry*.— I cannot now send a single Letter, but I hope to do so this morning or tomorrow morning.—I am happy to get rid of these, & hope to be in time with my Letters. By the bye did you intend your Messenger to reach Wellington in time for the “Ld. W. Bentinck”?\* He certainly will *not* do so, in starting hence “tomorrow or Thursday.”—that is if she is to sail by the 1<sup>st</sup>. of Feby.—

Pray excuse this

Ever sincerely yours

W. Colenso

Please tell Mr. Ankatell, that I will write to him tomorrow.

\* Lord William Bentinck, Ship, 444 tons. Captain: James Crow .

## Undated McLean to Colenso (#1016849)

My dear Mr. Colenso

In case I may not see you I will write these few lines from “Pa tangata” to inform you that I have had a long Korero with the natives, at which they have agreed to add considerably to the first purchase at the Waipukurau, also to thank you for the good advice you have been giving to “te Moana Nui” and others respecting their conduct at the “land Komities.”

The natives have pointed out to me the land you once proposed to purchase for the Mission station at ‘Wakatata and at Patangata, the first is a romantic spot if sufficiently extensive for the purposes we talked of, that is, of subdividing for a native village around you, in the carrying out of which I shall be really glad not only to recommend its adoption to the Gov. in Chief, but to give you all the personal aid in my power from a thorough conviction that it

would be productive of much good in furthering your missionary operations and in leaving durable evidence to posterity of the fruits of Missionary zeal in civilising the natives. I have frequently thought of the subject since you first mentioned it, and I shall continue during my rambles to note down such spots as will be best suited for you, and should we both succeed in fixing on a place, and obtaining the same, I hope your other project will not influence you to leave our adopted Island in which you have laboured so many years.

I would have called to see you on Monday but I thought you would be “raruraru” preparing for your journey, as I was myself in getting the survey parties under way.

I see by your “haerenga” that on the 25 you will be at “Manawarakau” for which place I leave tomorrow, so that by what the natives tell me as I am scribbling there is still a good chance of meeting you.

From what I can make out a portion of the Waipukurau land you spoke of is also offered, but from not knowing the native names and not wishing to be inquisitive on a subject on which they are so jealous I cannot speak for certain. This is written with a crowd round me asking questions &c. therefore you will excuse its being in pencil, and with every wish that you may have a pleasant trip and safe return to your family

I remain  
my dear Mr Colenso  
Yours very faithfully  
Donald McLean

Thursday night\*

I send this by Aperahauia who is pouri and wishes to be forgiven for some offence which I must beg you to do if it does not interfere with your discipline otherwise he will be pouri night and day till your return.

\*20 March 1851 (Colenso was in Manawarakau 25–26 March 1851—see below).

korero = talk

raruraru = in difficulty, perplexed, troubled.

haerenga = journey

pouri = sad, disheartened

1851 March 26 Colenso to McLean (#1014823)

Manawarakau  
Wednesday, noon,  
March 26/51

My dear Mr McLean

Your very friendly note of Thursday last duly reached me—and I came to this place fully expecting to find you *here*, or that you had preceded me—in both, however, I am disappointed.—

At present I can only thank you for your kind wishes, &c.—I fear, however, that the prospect of my *continuing* in this country is daily getting fainter—a short time will, however, decide. I firmly believe that things are rapidly altering for the worse in the district (as well as in others),—and I cannot remain to see the utter spoliation of my flock without having it in my power to do them the *least* service. Much however will depend on *yourself*, while you retain your present situation.—

Since we last met I have heard much—a tithe of which I cannot write.—But 2 things I may mention, as these *appear* to be beyond question,—first, that you have in some measure departed from the original expressed intention, of taking only those lands which were waste, & then from the *rightful* owners only; and, of standing by the *poor* Xn. man, to preserve him from being beaten and brow-beaten by the Heathen Chiefs—and, second, that you told Hupata (when defending his right to his own, & declaring that he would not part with his land, he having several children)—that he, as being only *one* had no right to stand against the wishes of the majority!—

These things I have plainly and faithfully written—they have already wonderfully operated against you (they may, I allow, be false),—and, although I have done what I could to allay the angry feeling—I can not but express to you that I have some ugly doubts which I could wish to be fully & for ever rid of.

Were I not friendly, & Xtianly attached to you I should not write as I now do. And I hope you will forgive my blunt and rude way of expressing myself. —

— — — — —

*This*, is one of those places I once thought of as a somewhat desirable place for a residence—it is isolated & in many respects suitable.—

Mrs Colenso will gladly do what she can for you. *Do call*.—

A Dieu my dear Mr McLean—my heart is full.—

Believe me

*Ever truly yours*

W Colenso.

### 1851 April Colenso to McLean (#1014696)

D. McLean Esq.,  
&c &c &c

My dear Sir

Mrs Colenso gladly avails herself of an opportunity to send you a little Butter—to which I add a few nuts—having nothing better of fruit kind to offer.—

There are however a few bottles of gooseberry & elder wine remaining which are wholly at *your* service.

I saw a *Brig* off on Saturday which (at first) I took for the Govt. Brig—but afterwards supposed to be a whaling one.

I suppose you heard of my “Maumauhaere-noa” to Moeangiangi: whence I returned on Friday 4 a.m.

I should like to know when you may be coming this way—that I may be at home when you call.

I should have told you, that the 2 vols. of “Mitchell’s Travels in Australia,” which you so kindly lent me, are still here.

Rev. W. Colenso  
Waitangi  
Monday mornng.

There is a young scamp of a Chief belonging to Ngatihineuru Tribe, but who chiefly resides at Tangoio, called Mohi Tarapuhi, of whom you should know something.—As, (in addition to his having taken a *second* wife,) he has very recently taken away from her husband the *mother* of his 2<sup>nd</sup>. wife! with whom he is boldly cohabiting: relying upon our forebearance & his nuinga.—

Believe me

Yours truly

W. Colenso.

maumau haere noa = just wasted journey; nuinga = majority

### Undated\* Elizabeth Colenso to McLean (#1021917)

Thursday Evening

My dear Sir

Having experienced what it is to have a sore throat and fearing yours may increase—I send a little treacle posset and some purging Pills also a little Nitre, hoping you may experience some relief from them if you choose to take them—a stocking taken warm from the leg and put round the throat on going to bed is said to be a good remedy. I am

sincerely yrs

E. Colenso.

\* *McLean’s diary 1 May 1851: Mrs. Colenso very kind in supplying medicine for sore throat and headache.*

### 1851 August 1 Colenso to McLean (#1011726)

Ch. Miss. Station,  
Waitangi,  
August 1, 1851.

My dear Sir,

In a prodigious hurry I scribble you a few sentences:—

—*To thank you for your excessively kind note, and all its accompaniments, which I found at Ngaawapurua, on the Saturday after you had left.*

—To express my great regret that you should have deprived yourself of what you certainly needed far beyond myself—and  
—To tell you, that I have little or nothing to say—being *still* on the tip-toe of expectation of getting some Letters, &c. per “Rose”, now due.

I reached the Station (by forced marches) by the end of May. I made haste to meet Mr. Grace,\* who arrived here the next day, and who remained a week, or more.—

My “*mate*” detained me 12 days at one place—and, through travelling long before I ought I made it worse, insomuch that I thought it would end badly, and cost me a journey (or, voyage) to your town.—It has only *just* healed—for which I am thankful.—

About 10 days ago, Karaitiana, and a Mr. Valentine Smith, suddenly appeared here. They came just in time: the weather, which, had been for 6 weeks remarkably fine, suddenly changing to wet which still continues.—

During the last 9 days we have been *twice* flooded—the first time severely so—garden, kitchen and back-rooms, deeply under water. Natives dogs, cats, &c. &c. in wakamahau and sitting room. Fortunately the river opened itself a new mouth, & we received a benefit—water leaving, mud remaining. And *since*, owing to the very heavy rain, we have been again, and are still, half submerged.—

The Natives are rather clamorous about our immediate removal.—

I feel myself in a strait.—

All pretty quiet around: Hapuku at Te Waipukurau, erecting a house for *you*.

Several deaths at Tangoio—among others the pakeha “Reino”—rather suddenly.

Mr. Val. Smith has taken a part of Karaitiana’s house in the neighbouring *pa*.

You, who know our situation, &c., can tell *all* who may be strolling Ahuriri-wards—that any supply in the way of *kai*, which the Station may afford, they shall ever be *fully* and *gladly* welcome to: but *Lodgings* and *Time* I have *not* for any one.

It is well not to be disappointed.—

Two days back I returned from Tangoio; and tomorrow I leave for a fortnight. When I rest another fortnight (i.e. cease travelling; rest is *not* here)—September is wholly occupied, accordg. to arrangement:—ditto, October.—

Yesterday we had 2 *severe* shocks of Earthq.—the first one, at ½ past 2 p.m., which made us all run out into the rain; I think this was the longest in duration that we have yet experienced. The second, happened at 20 m. past 9 p.m., and, both coming in one day, made us fear the worst.—

2 vessels *in* together from P.N.\*—“Phœbe” and “Twins”—several horses have arrived since you left.

I think I shall be quite ready to buy a *few* acres of land from the Govt.—immediately after you have settled with the Chiefs.—

Mrs. Colenso is not, I am sorry to say, very well; owing to a severe cold. The Children are much as usual. The Kai-tuhituhi of this rheumatic, and going-out to get more so.—

And so the wheel revolves.—

Believe me, My dear Mr. McLean,  
Very sincerely yours,  
William Colenso.

P.S. I have lately heard (from Whites) of the Small Pox having arrived in N.Z., & now committing fearful ravages at E. Cape. Pray get me some *vaccine virus*, that I may do all I can for the infants and others here who are not vaccinated. I have at different times vaccinated a large number, but there are still hundreds who have not been done. If you can, pray get it from two sources; & send immediate. It is a national good, & one which I am willing to perform *gratis*. W.C.

\* Thomas Grace, missionary. \* Port Nicholson.  
*mate* = sickness, illness, disease.  
*wakamahau* = porch, verandah  
*kai* = food  
*kaituhituhi* = scribe

## Year? June 16 Colenso to McLean (#1022872)

Napier, June 16

Dear Sir

I am very greatly obliged to you for your so very kindly thinking of me—as per your note of this morning. The natives who are largely indebted to me—are all on this side of the harbour, extending to W. Coast & Wairarapa (although P. Torohoro, & P. Kaiwhata also, each owe me small sums)—

I am yours truly  
Wm. Colenso.

## Undated Colenso to McLean (#1017333)

Tuesday Mornng.  
Porangahau

My dear Mr. McLean

It occurred to me last night, that, while a probability existed of the Chiefs being unwilling to consent to my going to Manawarakau, they would not be so greatly unfavorable to my going to *Waimarama*. Seeing too, that this had been agreed *publicly* by them *before the Archdn.* & myself, & had only been set aside on the score of £100. being demanded by Hapuku.—Now I think—on reconsidering the matter—that, in many respects, W.marama is preferable to M.rakau—I should be much more *central* to those at N. & W. of me.—And this spot you can boldly speak on without any fear of arousing unnecessary suspicions—as they *now know* I cannot legally purchase their land. If you could *see* that little glen (which Mrs Colenso has seen) & purchase it for me—10 acres of it, as a Missy. Station—and the remr.—no large qy.—I would *purchase* immediately of the Government. I feel almost sure this could be done directly—it has *natural* boundaries & “*no mistake.*”

Please confer with Mrs Colenso on the matter, & if you can settle it, *do so.*

Ever yrs truly  
W. Colenso.

P.S. Hapuku’s demanding £100 was merely a pretext to break *his word*, hoping to keep me by him: the glen can be of no use to any European settler.

## 1851 August 27 McLean to Colenso (#1002673)

My dear Mr Colenso

Many thanks for yours of the first giving an account of the disagreeable floods & other events at Heretaunga.

I had a conversation with Sir George Grey about a mission station and reserve for your purposes towards which he seems very favorably disposed.

Dr Sinclair\* often enquires for you and requested to be remembered to you when I should see you. Mr. Cole is shortly to be married to a widow lady lately arrived in the Colony. If all is well tomorrow I intend to get married myself to Miss Strang of this place, a young lady for whom I have for some time had an attachment. I hope that you will now consider my house your home when you visit Wellington.

I regret exceedingly to hear that Mrs Colenso is not very well. With kind respects to her and love to Fanny & Rati\*

I am  
my dear Mr Colenso  
Yours sincerely  
Donald McLean  
Wellington 27 Augt 51

I am not sure but I think I must leave for Ahuriri about the end of Sept.

\* Andrew Sinclair; \* Rati = Latty.

## 1851 September 8 Colenso to McLean (#1010050)

Mission Station,  
Waitangi,  
Sept. 8 1851.

My dear Mr McLean

Although I have more than both hands full—I cannot allow the “Rose” to return to your Town without a line of congratulation from me upon the late

auspicious event of your marriage—of which your note of the 27<sup>th</sup>, & Mr Cole’s letter of the 28<sup>th</sup> ulto., informed us two days ago.—

We wish you every blessing which the Bounteous Giver of all good may have in store for you—and that you may have grace supplied to enable you to bear & forebear.—

By next vessel, I suppose I shall have to write to my old friend Mr Cole in a similar strain. You mention the *intended* Mrs Cole as having “*lately* arrived in the Colony”—I hope (may I be allowed to say,) that he is not in too great a hurry.—

And then you mention Dr. Sinclair, as having “*often* enquired for me, & requested to be remembered, &c.”—By this, I infer, that you are a friend of his, & therefore, I may (also) be allowed to ask you to enquire of the Doctor, whether he received the letters which I did myself the honor of writing him—namely, in July/45, & again in January/48,—as well as a packet, containing copies of my little publications,—as I have *never* received any acknowledgement of the same.—

I thank you much for your very kind & early offer of a home when I may visit Wellington—but, (lest you may possibly become offended hereafter,) allow me to say, that I must continue to do as I have hitherto done—travel *snail* fashion—carry my house with me.

I must venture to suppose, that some of my few friends, to whom I had mooted the subject of my migrating to the interior of the Australian provinces, will think that I had a kind of foreknowledge of the *gold* of those regions! Be that as it may, I can not but believe, that had I *gone* thither, many would have said that *such* was my purpose. I have, however, fully set aside that mission, perhaps for ever.

In thinking over our *last* conversation, at Porangahau, relative to Waimarama & thence to the Cape as a desirable N. Reserve, I have, I think, concluded upon *not* moving in that direction—mainly upon the belief, that I should be *alone*, or nearly so.—For, even as you said, the Natives will assuredly be near to the Whites. *For them*, therefore, I have decided to endeavour to get upon the Tukituki R., (or, the nearer R. Ngaruroro,)—and, if possible, at or near Patangata—perhaps the piece of ground which I had nearly obtained in the autumn of last year (1850). This spot has been again spoken of to me by Te Hapuku &

others—and, as it adjoins your boundary, it could be very well added thereunto for this *specific purpose*. Karaitiana, & the other Chiefs of these nearer sub-tribes, *wish* me to locate myself upon a piece of ground about 2 miles or more from this, & nearly opposite to the village of Tanenuiorangi, upon the R. Ngaruroro—which is, I confess, desirable enough for a station, only, as they were going to have their own “Taone” there, they could not well allow more than 4 or 5 acres for a Mission Station.—

I intend, however, to get the matter *settled* upon your arrival hither—unless the Govt. should be pleased to put any obstacle in the way—i.e. should not see proper to consent thereto. For I intend *never* again to dwell upon land which is not *bona fide* my own purchase, so as not to be disturbed any more, having had so much trouble that way.—

I hope you will have full powers to do what may be required in the matter: seeing, too, that I wrote His Excellency the Lieut. Governor upon the subject last summer.—But I will tell you more when I see you.—

I send you a note & a parcel, which we have received for you since my last.—

All local news, I dare say you will get from Mr. Parks.—

My annual teachers’ School is now in hand—so that I am closely worked: this will be over in a fortnight—when I shall be able to breathe again.—And make my Northern visits as arranged.—

Should you see your friend Mr. Taylor, gently tell him, that he is a letter in my debt:—ditto, Archd. Hadfield, & Rev. S. Williams.

Our garden is beginning to shew signs of returning life—cheering token of the paternal love of God, and of His truth, & of the sureness of our Resurrection.

Mrs Colenso is pretty well—ditto Fanny—Latty *very* so—myself tolerable. I am sure that Mrs. Colenso would wish to unite with me in kind respects to your good lady & yourself—I am

My dear Mr. McLean

Yours sincerely,

W. Colenso.

taone = town

## 1851 October 29 Elizabeth Colenso to McLean (#1017601)

Elizth. Colenso  
Waitangi 29th. October/51

My dear Sir

Permit me to offer my sincere congratulations upon your marriage and best wishes for your mutual happiness—

Will you do me the favor to accept a *small* jar of fresh butter, 2 bottles of milk, a few lettuces such as they are and a small bundle or two of Asparagus—

If the latter with the lettuces are thrown into water an hour or two before wanted for use it will freshen them as both will most likely be withered ere they reach you— Are you in want of anything in the way of *Kai*? I shall be most happy to supply you as far as it may be in my power—Mr Colenso you will most probably have heard is away at Patea, he left this on the 10th having been delayed beyond his appointed time by bad weather and extremely high winds, the time for his return is uncertain—he may be here by Saturday next and if not I cannot say when we may expect him—

The “tamarikis” talk much of te Makarini and are full of enquiries as to when he will be here— The garden has an abundant supply of fruit in *prospect*— I wish the gooseberries were ripe enough to send you some.

Believe me  
sincerely yours  
Elizth. Colenso

## 1851 November 19 McLean to Colenso (#1026827)

Ahuriri 19 Novr. 1851

Dear Mr Colenso

I should have answered your kind note of Monday on receipt but I daresay your tamarikis will have told you that I was busy paying the natives when I

received it. I am extremely obliged to Mrs. Colenso for sending such a nice jar of butter, also for the nuts. I was sorry to hear of your haere noa to Moieniengi, in a few days I intend going to Mohaka, can I take anything for you? I was sorry that I did not give notice that a messenger was sent to Poverty Bay a few days ago in case you might have anything to send. I do not expect that I can call at the Awapuni till after returning from Mohaka— how strange that we have no kaipuke from No heke.

I will make enquiries as you suggest respecting “Mohi Tarapuhi.” I am annoyed that Mr. Villiers did not hand you the price of the tent as it has laid here for months. I now send £8. as I have no change. This place is getting quite quiet after the bustle and confusion of the last few days but on the whole I must say that I very much pleased with the conduct of your natives.

With kind respects to Mrs. Colenso  
Ever faithfully yours  
Donald Mclean

haere noa = journey in vain

## 1851 November 22 McLean to Colenso (#1000825)

Dear Mr. Colenso.

There has been no news to signify by the Rose nor have I received any Wellington papers to send you for perusal.

I am sending Mr. Pelichet round to take the European Census and I have requested him to leave a printed form with you to be filled up. Instead of sending to the Wairoa perhaps you would also kindly fill up one for Mr. Hamlin as I am anxious to get the returns sent back by this vessel.

very faithfully yours  
Donald McLean  
22 Novr. 51.

## Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1024763)

Waitangi  
Saturday 1 p.m.

Dear Mr. McLean

I have just received your note with printed form to be filled up.—

The “form” appears to me to be an uncommonly curious one (to say the least of it),—in your accompanying note you speak of the “*European* population”—the form has a column headed “Race”—& another headed “sex”!! *after* the European *name* of the person!!

As I do not know how many head of cattle there are, ditto goats—I am obliged to leave the filling it up until Monday—the live stock being absent & my lads at Ahuriri, getting the goods which came by “Rose.”—

Of course it is *utterly impossible* that I could fill up a sheet for Mr. Hamlin—I do not even know the no. of his family.

Had we known that you were still at Ahuriri, we should have sent you a basket of Lettuces.

Believe me  
very truly yours  
W. Colenso.

\* 22 November 1851 (see above).

## Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1024145)

Monday morning

D. McLean Esq.

Dear Mr McLean

I send you with as little delay as possible the “Form,” filled in to the best of my ability.— — —

I regret your not having received any Papers, especially as I myself am in the same predicament. I have received a lot of goods (from England & Wellington), but the *odd one* (a “*Parcel*”—as per Bill of Lading,) has not come to hand—and this, doubtless, contains both Letters & papers: should it yet be found, & there are Papers within I will send them to you immediately.—

We send you a basket of Lettuces (in their leaves to keep them fresh & cool) & would we had something better.—

I write in haste  
Yours sincerely  
W. Colenso

\* 24 November 1851 (see above).

## Undated\* McLean to Colenso (#1000897)

Monday afternoon

Dear Mr. Colenso

I have to thank you for the form which is filled up quite correctly. I have now the whole returns of Hawkes Bay excepting the Wairoa and te Mahia which must be taken at some other time.

By the Rose the Governor has sent me instructions to investigate the old Land claims at Poverty Bay and it is probable that I may go there from Mohaka, however if possible I shall ride over for an hour or so to see you before starting.

As a married man I find it not quite so agreeable to make such long excursions but duty must be attended to. By last letters from Wellington Mrs McLean was rather complaining and her mother being unwell so that I feel rather anxious respecting them.

Give my kindest regards to Mrs Colenso and believe me yours  
very sincerely  
Donald McLean

Thanks for the lettuces.

\* 24 November 1851 (see above).

1851 December 13 Colenso to McLean (#1019517)

Waitangi,  
Decr 13/51

My dear Mr. McLean

Enclosed is a paper which I will thank you to lay before the Governor at yr. earliest convenience—

It is written in a hurry.

I hope you will *not do any thing* towards causing the Priests to remain where they are, until my paper has been laid before the Governor.—

I enclose some Letters which reached me yesterday *against* the proposed transfer of some more land: I recommend them to your consideration.—

I also enclose your little *a/c*—as requested; I believe it to be correct. Mrs Colenso has some vague remembrance of some silver being paid to you on your former visit, and of some arrangement about it; (either in the cheque for £14. or otherwise) but does not know exactly.

Don't forget your Code of Laws—and a note from inland. If you could so arrange that some one of the Natives who may accompany you should return with your note to me, & *conduct me* upon your track—it would be so much the better.—

You know I have a long walk today before me—which will excuse this.

Believe me

Ever yours

W. Colenso

Waitangi  
13 December 1851.

*Certain reasons against the granting of the request of the French Roman Catholic Priests to be located here at Heretaunga in the immediate vicinity of the Church of England Mission Station.*

Respectfully submitted for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Chief.

That the Church of England Mission Station at Waitangi was commenced by myself in the year 1844.

(I had, also, the year before laboured among these tribes; and during the year previous—1842 Archdn. W. Williams and the Revd. W. C. Dunckley had also visited them; and the Bishop had also passed through and, at the pressing desire of the Chiefs had promised to send them a Minister).

That the only piece of ground which could then be obtained with their unanimous consent has subsequently proved to be utterly unfit for the purpose.

That notwithstanding upwards of £250 has been (necessarily) expended upon the same.

That in the winter of the Year 1846, the floors of our house although raised nearly 3 feet from the ground (and the house itself on the highest elevation) were 9 inches under water.

That every winter we have been more or less inundated. That from that period (1846) I have diligently sought a suitable place to remove to having been greatly urged thereto by the Committee of Missionaries as well as by the Archdeacon of the district.

That all places which from time to time I had chosen, I have not been allowed to occupy partly owing to the jealousy of the Chiefs, partly to the exorbitant sum (£100 and upwards) demanded for a site for a house and partly to my consideration for the proclamation of His Excellency and the (then) expected coming of Mr. McLean and also to my not knowing where the natives would concentrate themselves when they should have transferred a portion of their Lands to the Government.

That some time before Mr. McLean's first arrival here (in Decr./50) the Native chiefs had (partly at my suggestion) quite arranged among themselves the boundaries of the blocks of land which they intended to offer to him for the Government and had also selected a spot (about 2 miles from Waitangi) upon which to commence a township for themselves.

That an offer had been repeatedly made to me by the Chief proprietors for a piece of ground for a Mission Station close to their proposed township.

That in the end of November of last year (1850) while I was absent visiting the Natives on the coast a French Priest suddenly arrived here (he having been recently expelled from Te Wairoa) and proceeded immediately to purchase a piece of land situated very near to the proposed township from the Heathen Chief Puhara.

That Puhara is the only Chief on this side of the Ahuriri and his little party the only natives (with the addition of 2 old persons at Waimarama and 1 at Manawarakau) amounting scarcely to 30 in all including infants who profess to uphold the Roman Catholic mode of worship.

That there is no prospect of the French Priests increasing the number of their proselytes in these parts unless some of the natives in connection with the Church of England mission should go over to them which however has never yet happened in this District.

That according to the Returns laid before the last Committee of Missionaries of this district our Congregations averaged 2205 the number of Baptisms performed during my residence amounted to 1314 of whom 751 are communicants we have also 27 chapels some of which are fine Native buildings.

That according to a return of the Native Population of this district which I sent to the Native Secretary at Auckland in June 1849 the number was 2700 of which however more than an eighth have since died.

That Puhara is not a Principal Proprietor of this ground the titles thereto of the Chiefs running thus.

1st. Karaitiana

2nd Tariha

3rd Te Hira te Oha

4th Te Waka te Kawatini

5th Puhara

That the majority of the Chiefs proprietors are wholly against the selling of any portion of their land to the French Priests and refuse to cooperate with Puhara in the matter.

That the Chief Te Hapuku has no claim to the land in question neither in fact has he even asserted that he has.

That if the French priests should become located on the spot in question it would be a highly injudicious step for me (on the part of the Church Missionary Society) to accept of the offered site near the proposed Native township as in the event of my going to the Western side of the same the French Priests premises would immediately adjoin mine.

That while I am very willing to remove further inland if I could but prevail upon these natives or the majority of them to accompany me, there is not another place equally suitable for a Mission Station and Native township upon the whole of this low ground.

That in the event of my not removing to the offered site adjoining the proposed Native township it is highly probable that the said township will not flourish.

I might also mention the state in which we found these tribes as contrasted with their present altered condition—the ill-usage which both Mrs. Colenso and myself have repeatedly received from them during the long period in which they were slowly advancing to what they are now—the many censurable attempts of the French Priests to disturb the peace and confidence of our people and ourselves not only here but also at Te Wairoa and at Turanga (plain demonstrations of the antagonistic principle) their constantly urging the Natives to come and take up the price for the piece of ground in defiance of both, the Colonial laws and of Mr. McLean's intimation to them and the long looking on of the Native Chiefs to see whether the word of the Governor (as repeated by Mr. McLean & hitherto looked up to by themselves and inculcated by myself) shall stand or whether it must fall before the word of those French Priests.

This *last* remark was only *yesterday* uttered afresh to me in a powerful speech, by the principal proprietor Karaitiana. I might reasonably enough urge all these and many other such matters against their request being granted but I am conscious of having already I fear trespassed upon His Excellency's valuable time.

William Colenso  
Church of England Missionary

1852 February 5 McLean to Colenso (#1019377)

Wellington 5 Feby 1852

Dear Mr. Colenso

I take advantage of the Rose sailing in the morning to say that I can secure scrip for you by taking a quantity myself at the same time for about 8/ per acre, but I have not agreed to invest for you as yet for the following reasons. 1st. Earl Grey's late despatches have altered the Act passed by the Legislative Council entitled a Bill for settling the Claims of the New Zealand Company a copy of which however you have in your possession and to which you can refer more particularly as I forget even the exact title of it at the present moment. The squatting regulations will also be suspended for a time and superseded by the new instructions from home, and thirdly I am not yet sure that you can select land exchange for scrip at Ahuriri, although you can in any of the purchased districts up here, having these circumstances before me I declined investing your £150 until I am further advised and shall act according to your next instructions holding the bargain open which I consider good as scrip is as high as 10/0 as long as I can. I am only a few days back from the West Coast. I should have written to you by the Bishop but I had scarcely a chance of doing so as I was not aware he was bound for Ahuriri until I got to Otaki from which place I rode with him to Manawatu making no delays on the journey. Have you fixed anything about the site for a station. I see Bethune has some packages for you I trust they will reach safe. I send you one Spectator on church matters. I have another or two packed up for you but I cannot lay hands on them just now.

Give my own and Mrs. McLean's kind regards to Mrs. Colenso and the children.

And believe me yours sincerely  
Donald Mclean

1852 April 3 Colenso to McLean (#1010567)

Wairarapa, April 3/52.

Dear Mr. McLean,

Your kind note of Feb. 5 duly reached the Mission Station, but being myself absent at Patea, &c., (a second time! this season.) I did not get it until my return; when, there being no opportunity for Wellington, and I only at home for a few days, I brought it with me, intending to answer it during my journey hither, as I expected to meet Mr. Hadfield in the valley.—

As I have not any desire to become a Land holder, save for my own residence or use, and as I have not the most distant intention of ever moving farther South, and as (as you state) Scrip will not be received in exchange for Land about us at Ahuriri, I must consequently give up all thoughts about obtaining any—and am really sorry that I have given you so much trouble on my account—at the same time, thanking you heartily for having so kindly interested yourself on my behalf in this matter.—

Your pencilled note, written (I believe) from Te Waipukurau, I also received—and, some time in January I visited Hawea. I did not go very far in, as I did not like the aspect of the country thereabouts.—

I have also called on Mr. Park, who very kindly shewed me his Map, &c., but as I neither know how, or when, the suburban land of the Ahuriri *City!* will be offered, (nor size of allotments, nor price) and as the want of firewood in all that locality is a great drawback to a person selecting thereabouts, (unless he had some specific object in view), I am still at a loss how to act.

I think it is likely, I may go upon some of the Native ground (unbought) in order to be near them, and out of the way of others. It is high time that I should do something in the matter.—

I have also to thank you for the Newspapers—sent and promised—and shall always welcome a note from *you*, whenever you may have time and inclination to write.

Mrs. Colenso was well when I left—ditto, the children who often speak of you, & of your travelling together so far as Te Pokonao, & of your horse, &c.

—And I am very sure that Mrs. Colenso would wish me to remember her kindly to Mrs. McLean & to yourself did she know of my now writing—and

Believe me,  
Dear Mr. McLean,  
Yours sincerely,  
William Colenso.

[On 24 July 1852 Hori Niania wrote to McLean and the Governor, “... Mr. Colenso has committed adultery with a Native woman of our tribe—her name is Ripeka....” \(#1000056\)](#)

[On the same day, 24 July 1852, Wi Tipuna wrote to to McLean and the Governor assuring them that “what Hori & Te Hapuku have said in reference to this matter is true.” \(#1022972\)](#)

## 1852 September 23 McLean to Colenso (#1020896)

My dear Sir

Knowing your anxiety about your boy Latimer I write to say that I duly delivered your parcel and that I have seen him frequently since, he is at one of the best places in Auckland the Revd. Mr. Kingdom’s and bears a good character. Any message he may have for you I will take down on my return.

Yours very truly  
Donald Mclean  
Auckland

23 Sept. 1852.

[Elizabeth’s brother John Fairburn took Fanny and Latty to Auckland in January 1852: Latty boarded with Dr Kinder, principal of the Grammar School.](#)

[McLean’s wife died in childbirth in November 1852.](#)

## 1853 January 10\* McLean to Colenso (#1012327)

Te Ongaonga  
January 10th. 53

My dear Sir,

I shall be glad if you can come this far tomorrow forenoon that the case of assault complained of by Wi Tipuna may be adjusted. I do not think the case will delay you very long and I regret exceedingly having occasion to request your attendance at a time when you have lost your comfortable house; at which I have received so many kind attentions, but I feel assured that you will feel sensible that nothing but a sense of duty would induce me at a time like this present to solicit your attendance.

Yours very truly  
Donald McLean.

[\\* Object #1015124 “Native deed, Missionary station, Waitangi” bears the same date: it is Wiremu Tipuna’s official complaint of assault against Colenso.](#)

## 1853 January 10 McLean’s judgment (#1033082)

Wi Tipuna being sworn states, that I was coming down the river with wheat for Mr. Alexander. I came to Keir house or to the place a little above it. Mr. Colenso came there ordered me off the place and came up and kicked me with his foot once. A knife was produced in Court which Mr. Colenso had in his hand during the quarrel between us. The knife was shut. Mr. Colenso threw the knife to me and told me to use it against him.

Ahipene being sworn & examined states, I saw Mr. Colenso strike Wi Tipuna with his foot.

Judgement £3.

Several witnesses proved the assault. The Rev. Mr. Colenso said that he would not pay the £3. or even one sixpence.

Jany 10/53  
Wi Tipuna v.  
Rev. Colenso for  
Assault

## 1853 January 18 Colenso to McLean (#1005971)

Church Mission Station  
Waitangi, Hawke's Bay  
January 18, 1853.

Sir,

The very extraordinary and hitherto (I believe) unprecedented proceedings of last week, in which a *Missionary to the Heathen*, of nearly 20 years' standing, had to appear before a Magistrate of this Province, in open Court, to defend himself against a charge of Assault, preferred against him, and sworn to *by one of his own "children"* (converts)!—the unfortunate conclusion of that matter—and the consequences which will assuredly flow from that unfortunate conclusion—are matters of such great importance, that neither apology or preface on my part, will be necessary in my writing you concerning the same.

And this I should have done immediately on my return from Court, (being *legally* inclined thereto,—if I may so speak,—from referring to the “Fines for Assaults Ordinance A.11”, which I had not till my return, seen.) had not my disorder (Influenza), which I was suffering from when there, increased so rapidly, as utterly to preclude me from doing any thing till now; and even now I feel that I am not well enough to be able to the task.

Still, believing as I do, that it is now an imperative matter of duty upon me to write you upon this unpleasant subject,—a duty which I owe (not to mention myself) to all Missionaries and Missionary Societies,—to the New Zealand settlers,—and to the high cause of Order, Justice, and Truth;—and, that I should also do so before you leave these parts, that you may have it in your power to test the truth of my statements;—I, believing that God will be my helper, will at once essay to do it.

The remarks, Sir, which I intend to make, I shall for brevity's sake, class under two general heads:— 1<sup>st</sup>. *The Impropriety of such proceedings*; and, 2<sup>nd</sup>. *The illegality of them*.—I shall also, throughout, write, as if the whole of the charge made, and the evidence offered before you, was quite and wholly true.

And here I should state, that I had intended to confine myself only to the making known the former, being quite sufficient for my purpose; but since I believe that I have it in my power also to shew the latter, it is, consequently, my duty to do so.—

*Firstly*, then, *the impropriety of such proceedings*:—i.e. of a “child” (or convert from the heathen) being allowed to prefer and swear to trifling charges of assault against his own Missionary Pastor—I shew, first, from the universal office of a Missionary; and second, from my own peculiar situation here among this people and tribe.—

The general Office of a located Missionary, (as you well know, and as all the natives allow) includes that of Schoolmaster, Guardian and Parent; now to each of these persons is allowed (even in our own highly civilized country) a certain latitude over their pupils, wards and children; which is not, and can not be conceded to any other. And although some Schoolmasters, Guardians and Parents are much more severe than others, the Law never interferes, except in cases of great excess of punishment. Were any disrespectful, malicious, & vindictive case to be there brought by a pupil, ward, or child, (as the case might be) the refractoriness of the individual being shewn, the Magistrate would immediately side with the said Master, Guardian or Parent; and not only justify his acting, but severely blame the promoter or principal actor in the Case; which, indeed, from the very principles of his Office, he could not refrain from doing. Now such being undoubtedly the case *at home*, at the very abode of Order, how much more then is it needful than here in the Colonies—in *these* Colonies!—the authority of the Schoolmaster, Guardian and Parent, should be by the Magistrate rigidly upheld & respected? And if it be the more needful here in the Colonies to uphold such Authority among the offspring and descendants of Europeans, how much more needful is it to do so among the but recently converted, and half-civilized savage Aborigines of these Islands?—And here, in order that no link may be wanting in the chain, I will now shew, the *general* and well-known refractoriness of the “child” who

preferred the charge against me;—leaving the particular and special instance which brought on the assault complained of, till I come to the second part of my Letter—1<sup>st</sup>. (and since his Baptism) that, when he lived at Table Cape, he was engaged in the shameful plunder of the U.S. brig “*Falco*”, on board of which vessel was a quantity of his own Pastor’s property (Arch. W. Williams) which was also plundered by that party; but finding that I would not receive him here into the Communion of the Church, until he had restored the same, he subsequently gave up what he had remaining, to the Agent who had been appointed by the U.S. Consul there.—2<sup>nd</sup>. That, last year he gave up attending Divine Service and Schools, and wholly separated himself from his brother Micah, the N. Teacher of his village, and a good and useful man, (as you, yourself, know).—3<sup>rd</sup>. that he had taken a near female relation (a widow and the mother of 4 small children), and against the expressed wishes of all his Christian relations, sanctioned her cohabiting with a miserable white man, called “*Taare hauaitu*”, (i.e. Meagre Charley), whom you “know to be a thief and a bad man”; and in order that they may not be disturbed through the indignant feelings of the Native Teacher and the Christian inhabitants of his village, he has taken them both into *his own hut*!—4<sup>th</sup>. that on his bringing the young woman Arabella Te Ngira, whom he himself had brought up, to Pakowhai, there to be married by the Popish Priest, to the son of Puhara, to whom she had been betrothed from her infancy, he joined the Priest and the Heathen Chief, Te Hapuku, in counselling her to forsake the Christian religion, and profess the Papist!—5<sup>th</sup>. that he told the Heathen Chief, Te Hapuku, (who is exceedingly superstitious) that I had said, “that I had caused the death of the Chief Tiakitai through the potency of my prayers, and that I was now praying to Te Atua that he, Te Hapuku, also might be speedily cut off!” which (as Te Hapuku allowed before you and others in open court) was the main reason of his being so greatly determined against me.—6<sup>th</sup>. that on the close approach of the day in which (according to appointment), I was to visit his village, Patangata, he told his people, (on the Sunday evening after they had returned from Divine Service) that he had made up his mind how to act; and they must not think of moving him from his purpose; that, inasmuch as no one had heard of the name of Maketu until he had laid hands upon the white man, neither had anyone heard of the fame of Maroro until he had done the same; but that now their fame was great, and their names would live; even so, he had determined it should be with him, &c., &c. Maketu, you will recollect, most cruelly murdered poor Mrs. Robertson, her servant, and 3 infant children, in the Bay of

Islands, in the year 1841, for which he was executed at Auckland; and Maroro committed a similar foul deed, in the unprovoked murder of poor Branks and his infant family near Wellington, for which he was also executed.

———Now, from these few *facts* I leave you, Sir, to draw your own conclusion as to the mind or moral character of this “child” of mine.

—Further, if it be so, (as I have shewn) that the Magistrate’s duty is both concurrent with, and coadjutant to that of the Master Guardian or Parent (as the case may be), all of whom are supposed to reap some advantage from their respective situations; how very much more then is such assuredly the case, when *all* those important duties are merged in *one* solitary and unaided individual, who not only reaps no advantage whatever from his situation, (which not one in 10,000 ever wishes to fill), but, actually, casts away those advantages which he, in common with his fellow-countrymen, might have enjoyed—forsakes his home, his country, and his friends, embraces poverty and hardship, endures contumely, and is often, alas! ill-used by some of his own “children”! Should not the Magistrate more particularly side with such a man as this? And lest you, Sir, might be induced to think that I am over-colouring my picture, I may tell you that my Salary, throughout several years of heavy service, was only £30. and that I have often been beaten and ill-treated, and my blood shed by a portion of my large family of unnatural “children”.—*My work*, for them, I leave for others to shew.—

I purposely set aside viewing the case in another strong light, that, *of its being made*, (in addition to the foregoing), *against his Minister*; against the person appointed to watch over his soul as well as his body—lest I should (by some) be accused of unduly magnifying the Office of the Ministry.—

Again:— *in reference to my own peculiar situation here among this people and Tribe*. And here, I think, I have only to remind you, Sir, of a few well-known truths; for, fortunately for this part of my letter, you have been long enough in this country, and in these Southern parts, to bear me out in much of what I shall here say—namely, that this tribe (the Ngatikahununu), was, till very lately, considered the most ferocious and untractable of all the New Zealand tribes; which their intercourse with whaling ships and with the few unfortunate strangers who had hitherto ventured to exist among them, had rather increased than diminished; and, that their Chiefs were hated by all

white men. In fact, I know of but one Chief of importance throughout New Zealand whose name was, perhaps, equally with those of the Chiefs of this large tribe, an object of abhorrence to the generality of whites—namely, that of Te Rauparaha. At that time it was also believed, that the Missionary, whoever he might be, who should be sent here to look after this Tribe, would necessarily have a deal of trouble to endure; trouble, not only as far as concerned himself and family, but also, almost necessarily arising through the resorting hither of Europeans for the purposes of trade and commerce, who would soon follow his steps.—And such, as is well known, has been the case. And how was it met? Why by the present vilified individual throwing himself into the gap, and (often at the risk of his own life) standing up for Order and Justice, (whether between Native and Native, or whiteman and whiteman,)—sometimes, as a Master Guardian and Father, and sometimes (from the sheer necessity of the case) as a *Native Chief*, or even as a Magistrate, though *without legal authority*. Yet, with the *sanction and approval of all authorities*. Hence it is that there has been as little crime here in these parts, and as good order as in more highly civilized and highly-privileged communities. Time would fail me, were I to attempt to notify particularly to you, all those many and striking cases in which, during a close residence of upwards of eight years, I have been successfully concerned; and for some of which I have had the repeated thanks of the local Government, and of not a few of the settlers.

Hence you will, Sir, perceive, that I have been called into no small nor easy Office, as Conservator of the Peace among this people, and among many other equally lawless residents. Nor is what I have been able to accomplish a small matter; nor could I have accomplished such merely by fair words, or by the authority only (however proper) of British Law alone. You may try it now, the ground has been prepared for you; but in those days to which I have alluded, such would have been (as I once told a whaler), equally as vain an attempt as to lance a whale with a pen-knife; or to bind Samson with green withs.—You have, I believe, Sir, already more than once, spoken approvingly of the order which you found in this large District; this, I believe, you will still readily allow. If, then, this once ferocious and untractable Tribe, and their lawless visitors and residents, have been brought into anything like Order, through the exertions of one poor unassisted individual—allow, that *the manner* through which such order has been attained (through now, perhaps, both severe & inadvisable), to have been just that which was suitable and needful for those

times, and commensurate to the end. If you allow this, (and I cannot myself see how you can reasonably refuse to do so), the necessary inference therefrom is, that it was highly improper for one of my “children” to prefer a charge against me for endeavouring to preserve that Order after the manner I had always hitherto followed, and which had ever proved eminently successful; seeing, too, that no other way or manner of maintaining Order was then at hand. This, I further think, will yet be made more plain, when you shall have read what follows.—

I come now, Sir, to the second part of my Letter, in which I proposed to consider what I have termed “*the illegality of such proceedings*”, or in other words, their *not* being in strict conformity with the letter of the Colonial Ordinance.

In the “*Fines for Assaults Ordinance*”, it is enacted:— “When any person shall be convicted before any police Magistrate, or any two Justices of the Peace, of an assault, and it shall appear, upon the evidence of a credible witness (other than the party assaulted), that such assault was wanton and unprovoked, and attended with bodily injury to the person assaulted, and where in any such case a fine shall have been imposed upon the offender, it shall be lawful for such Police Magistrate or Justices as aforesaid, when it shall appear to him or them proper that compensation be made for the injury inflicted, to award to the party injured, such portion of the fine so levied, as to them shall seem meet. Provided always that the sum so to be awarded shall not in any case exceed one half of the fine levied.”—That you, Sir, acted upon this Ordinance there can be no doubt, because you stated that “half of the fine” (the very maximum) would be paid to the plaintiff.”

Now it appears to me, that there are, at least, three things to be found, before that any decision can be legally made:—

1<sup>st</sup>. The assault must be proved to have been “*wanton and unprovoked*.”

2<sup>nd</sup>. “And attended with *bodily injury*.”

3<sup>rd</sup>. And proved “upon the evidence of a credible witness (other than the party assaulted).”—

I will now proceed to show that *none* of these three absolutely necessary things were found on the day of hearing:—and this I purpose doing (as before) as if the whole charge of assault were true.—

1. The assault, the complainant stated, took place about the last day of August, (or 1st. of September) last. The cause, the gross provocation which led to the assault, I stated plainly to the Court, and I am not aware that the complainant attempted to contradict a single particular thereof. I stated that, in November 1851, the complainant purchased some cattle; and, not knowing how to manage them, had enticed my two household Natives, who well knew how to do so, to leave me, and to live with him. That those two natives I had brought with me from the Bay of Islands in the year 1844, and that one of them had been living with me from the year 1835, I having, in fact, brought him up from his childhood.—That this Native had often promised never to leave me (he being also a slave redeemed from death by the Mission), and that I had consequently taught him, and got him taught, many useful arts—such as Printing, Bookbinding, Carpentry, Glazing, Painting, Tent-making, Cooking, &c.,—which made him of very great use to me, both at home and when travelling; and through which, and his own letters to my parents and family, they had, for several years, shewn him great kindness.—That in consequence of their abruptly leaving me and my family, we were often badly off for domestic help.—That, on my arrival at Te Aute, in February, 1852 (on my return from visiting Patea,) I found a note from Mrs. Colenso (with whom I had left instructions to forward some food to meet me there, as I knew I should be in want after my long mountain journey), in which she informed me of her having done so, but only at a very great exertion and inconvenience, from her having no domestic help, which she had felt the more from both herself and the children having been seriously unwell.—That, I then informed the complainant's three Brothers (with other of his relations) of this; and that they then expressed their sorrow at their eldest brother's conduct, and promised to remonstrate with him upon his keeping my two servants, (which, as you well know, is, in the Native estimation, a much more serious offence than it is with us, one that has often led to war and loss of human life here in these parts.)—That, they did so almost directly, but that he refused to listen to them.—That, in the month of March, I, being at Te Waipukurau, (and about departing upon my usual long Autumnal journey of 9–12 weeks throughout the district), wrote a note to the Complainant, desiring him not to continue to hold my domestics.—

That, he also took no notice of this note.—That, I subsequently wrote him a long, and, as I believe, a proper Christian Letter, from Manawatu, upon the impropriety of his conduct, again desiring him to return my domestics.—That, to this Letter, also, he paid no attention.—That, in his thus treating me, he had caused a large majority of the Christian Natives to be greatly grieved at his conduct.—That, several of them had, from time to time, remonstrated with him thereupon; and that he, consequently, had left their company, and endeavoured to form a schism among them.—That, I had never been so treated by a Native before.—That, in June last, shortly after my return from my long journey, (at which time my two domestics returned, but not at, or through the request or wish of the Complainant—far from it,) I had heard from several Christian Natives, upon whose word I could rely, that the Complainant was in the habit of going from place to place, saying, in public, (both to white men and Natives) many things against me, for which he had often been reproved by some of the N. Teachers and others, but to no purpose.—That, I found he was in the habit of continually writing to my own two returned domestics, not to heed me, but to look to him, with many other such words.—That, in July he called at my place during my absence, and spent a Sunday there; and that, on my return, I found my two domestics considerably changed for the worse.—That, I knew of his having enticed them again to leave me, and of their having partly promised to do so.—That, I consequently, sent him and his little party word, through his own brother, the N. Teacher of this village, not to come on my premises again, without my permission.—That, in July, when at the Te Tamumu village, I was informed by several native Teachers, that the Complainant had stated that I was afraid to meet him; that he, the complainant, had often gone to the different villages where I was, but that I was afraid to see him.—That, this false statement irritated me, especially as I saw some of the Christian natives ready to believe it, which they were in a measure led to do, through my patient forbearance towards him.—That, I found, that he, the Complainant, had engaged the Heathen Chief, Te Hapuku (a near relation) to espouse his cause, and to aid him in again getting away my two domestics.—That, on (or about) the first day of September, I being just going to finish pruning the trees in my garden, in which I was assisted by one of those two domestics, and having taken my pruning-knife in hand, went to the front garden gate to call him.—That, there I met Ahipene Tururu, (whom I had not before that day seen), who informed me that the person whom I had been calling from the gate, was, with his companion, down at the side of the river

engaged with the complainant, who, with his party, had recently landed thither.—That, on hearing this, I went there.—That, I accosted them, the strangers, 5 or 6 in number, with “Whence are you?”—That, they turned their backs towards me, and returned no answer.—That, I asked again, “Are you from Patangata?”—That, they did not speak.—That, I again enquired, “Did not Micah, your teacher, tell you that I had prohibited your coming hither?”—That, they answered not.—That, I then accosted the complainant, (who was sitting on the ground behind a thick bush of rushes, with his head between his knees, and his large blue flushing jacket over his ears,) saying, “Art thou Wi Tipuna?”—That, he returned no answer.—That, I again put the same question, and that he still remained silent.—That, I then upbraided him with his ungrateful conduct (for both myself and Mrs. Colenso had done much for him in medicine and diet, and actual attendance,) reminding him particularly with his oft repeated statements of my being afraid to see him, and of my having sent him word not to come upon my premises, and that in his now coming in this open way, it was, in their (the Native) estimation, identically the same as a challenge to a fight.—That, I did not wish to fight with him; and that therefore, I sent him away—ordering him, at the same time, to go.—That, this order to go, I repeated six several times.—At the conclusion of which, the assault (the “one kick”)—sworn to by him, was said to have been committed.

Now, Sir, I ask, in the name of common sense, whether such an assault committed under such circumstances can be by anyone construed to have been both “wanton and unprovoked.”?

2. The Ordinance further enacts that such assault must not only be both wanton and unprovoked, but “attended with bodily injury to the person assaulted.”—And here, under this head, a very few words will, I think, suffice to shew, that no bodily injury whatever was inflicted, or *could have been caused by such an assault*. For, from the complainant’s own statement, *the whole assault amounted to one kick*. Now the probable maximum of “bodily injury” one kick, given by myself (a man of very inferior physical power, with my foot clothed with such soft shoes as I am well-known always to wear at home,) could inflict upon the person of a hardy tattooed New Zealander, clothed in a heavy blue flushing jacket, and other under garments, I confess I am not skilled enough in dynamics to determine, I willingly leave it for those who are.

—But he, the Complainant, also swore that the one kick was given him “*on his head*”!! and that, too, in a base, cowardly way, namely “on the hinder part” of the same. My reply to *this*, I will defer to the conclusion of my letter, and will only here ask, whether you, Sir, really believed that portion of his statement although made upon oath?—

3. The Ordinance further requires that all such assault—“wanton and unprovoked” and “causing bodily harm”—must also “*appear upon the evidence of a credible witness other than the party assaulted.*” And here I shall unavoidably have to trespass a little longer upon your time and attention. And first, with reference to the words of the Ordinance—“*credible witness*”; this can only refer to either the probability of the evidence given, or to the character of the witness himself:—it being an ancient axiom that “things are made credible either by the known condition and quality of the utterer, or by the manifest likelihood of truth in themselves.” Now, the “manifest likelihood” of any unassisted sane and sober white man, living solitarily and far away from help and friends, first arousing all the evil passions of a fierce New Zealand Chief, and that, too, before several of his own people, and then kicking him on the head, appears so very improbable that we cannot willingly yield assent thereto. How very much more averse, then, must our minds be from assenting to “the manifest likelihood” of such a thing being done by a Missionary to the heathen, of nearly 20 years standing!! So that the *credibility* sought for must be found in the character, or “*known condition and quality of the utterer*” which is, I apprehend, what the Ordinance means in these words—“*credible witness.*”

Now the one witness who (as it appeared to me) rather unwillingly came forwards, upon his being repeatedly called, (although present, and standing next to the complainant from the opening of the Court,) was Ahipene Tururu, concerning whom I have something, Sir, to state, which, if I am not mistaken, is not altogether unknown to you. And the few facts which I have to record concerning him, I will make, as before in reference to the complainant:—1<sup>st</sup>. as to his general character fitness for a witness against his Missionary; and 2<sup>nd</sup>. as to his statements in Court before you.—A few years ago this young man, with his Mother and Sisters, became candidates for Baptism; after some considerable time spent in preparatory Instruction, the day fixed for their Baptism was Sunday, February 9th, 1851. Great part of the preceding week was occu-

pied in Instructing them, during which period, the son, Tururu, went with some others to Ahuriri, to sell some Flax, which they had prepared, wherewith to purchase English articles of dress to wear on the approaching occasion. When near to Ahuriri, he, Tururu, stopped the canoe, and deliberately poured salt water through the middle of every bundle of his Flax, in order to increase its weight, against the remonstrance of some who were with him. He sold the wetted Flax to Mr. Villiers, who paid him for it, not detecting the imposition. On their return to Te Awapuni, his companions, struck with his conduct at such a solemn time, informed me of it; and I, when I found it to be true, immediately sent him word that I should *not* Baptise him. He returned such an answer as I had (in part) expected—that, “*if he fell, all should fall with him*”! which evil plan, however, he failed in effecting.—For some time after I would not see him; at last I consented again to receive him as a Candidate, provided he would take a letter to Mr. Villiers from me, acknowledging his fraud, paying him (Mr. Villiers) whatever proper compensation he might require, and bringing back a certificate from him to me, to assure me of his having done so. To these conditions, Tururu, seeing there was no alternative, consented. I have now Mr. Villiers’ note—thanking me, and informing me of his having been satisfied. Tururu was again admitted a Candidate, and subsequently Baptised. About this time, his wife (who had lived a most miserable life with him) died; and soon after he wished me to marry him to a young woman of Petani. For a long time I refused, knowing how he had ill-treated his late wife, and in so doing got into no little difficulty. At length I gave way, and about a year ago I married him to his present wife. About 6 weeks back he committed adultery and incest with a child named Ramari, a sister of his former wife, for which he has justly been put down by the N. Teachers. He is (I believe) the only Baptised male Native of our Church dwelling at Pakowhai—the village where his Heathen relations and the French Popish Priest reside; and during the last 8–9 months I have rarely ever seen him at Church or School. As a universal liar, I regret to say, he is well-known among the Natives generally.—

In his Deposition and manner in Court, I noticed several things, some of which would not have failed to attract your attention.—On your administering the Oath, (and observing, that he was the same person to whom you had both administered and explained the solemn nature of an oath at your Court held at Te Waipukurau a week before, where, too he was an evidence against some European) you desired him to commence and proceed;—this, I think, you

repeated 3 or 4 times. At last he said—It is even as the complainant has stated. You again desired him to relate the assault with its circumstances; he did so; much as the complainant had done, (whom he had heard) but with this *material* difference—that I had kicked him on the *right cheek*, pointing with his hand to the spot between his eye and his ear! Puhara, the heathen Chief, who also dwells at Pakowhai, who was present, immediately exclaimed, (in order to correct him, his near relation) “*No, no; it was on the back of the head.*”——If I recollect aright, I asked him two or three questions:—Whether there was not a bush of rushes between me and the Complainant? Whether (in his opinion) the Complainant could see me kick him? And, whether he, the witness, had seen me do so? To all of which he answered affirmatively. (I should have asked him a great many questions, as I had previously stated my intention of doing), through which I felt persuaded that I should either elicit the truth, or completely shake the value of his testimony as a witness; but when I found that I could only do so in an indirect way, through yourself, I declined to ask any more.) About this time, another native, named Pahoro, (a heathen) and one of that same party who was with the complainant on the day in question), said, out loudly, that he, the witness—“*Ahipene could not see from where he was the kick I gave to the complainant.*” This blunt exclamation (made, I have no doubt, in anger, at the witness’ saying that I had “kicked the Complainant on the *right cheek*” and so departing from their deeply devised and well concocted story), is not far from the truth. For both Ahipene and Cranmer, not being of the party, were a good distance to the *left* of the Complainant and his party; and that they should have been then separate, is, as you must know, quite in accordance with New Zealand etiquette. Ahipene also stated, on oath, (following the Complainant), that I had lifted my foot and leg *very high from the ground* in kicking him. Now Cranmer, the eldest son of Te Hapuku, (who had often been called upon to come forward and give his testimony, but was not a very long while forthcoming) stated, before you, (though *not* on oath) that the complainant could *not see me kick him*; and that I *did not lift my foot high from the ground*, describing, at the same time, how I had moved it, so as to scarcely allow the toe of the shoe to be seen by a sitter; (and yet between the Complainant and myself was a thick bush of rushes!!)—and that, when he and Ahipene heard me (subsequently) and during our altercation, mention *their* names as my witnesses—(i.e. to tell the Christian natives the truth of the affair) they immediately walked away.—

In my early days I often attended Courts of Justice; I have seen credible and ignorant, extenuating and prevaricating witnesses, and I know how such have been (and are, at home) dealt with. If this “*one sworn witness*”, Ahipene Tururu, is entitled to the name of a “*credible*” one, in such a case, too, then I have yet to learn what a credible witness is.—I trust, however, that I have stated sufficient to shew, to any impartial person, that “*the known condition and quality of the utterer*,” both before and at the time of hearing, proves, that he, Ahipene Tururu, was *not* a “*credible witness*” in this case; which was what I took upon myself to do.—

I have still a circumstance or two to notice connected with the foregoing:—when the Complainant, after our altercation, went on to Ahuriri, he told several persons there both whites and Natives, a very different story from what he declared before you upon oath; *then* he made many *great* additions, which almost went to shew, that he had been maliciously waylaid by me, and set upon with intent to murder, &c.! This he also related on his return inland; and much of this was indignantly contradicted by some of those very persons who were present. Again, on his return from Ahuriri, he went to Te Hapuku’s house to see him, and told him his version of the affair; Cranmer (no friend of mine) was present, and *denied the truth of the worst of the Complainant’s statements to his face!* Now, Cranmer himself told me that only a few days afterwards. Again, he, the Complainant, *publicly* told me (when at his Village a few weeks afterwards) what he had previously and constantly told to all present—that it was only through the medicines outwardly applied and inwardly taken, which the whites at Ahuriri had promptly and kindly supplied and applied, that he had recovered from the horrible ill-usage which I had given him!—Not a word, however, of this kind appeared in his deposition before you. Again, when I had more than once in open Court, requested, that my two runaway domestics (who had gone to Ahuriri with the Complainant and his party), should come forward as witnesses, the Complainant arose from his seat, and very significantly said—“*Kua korero maua ko Hamuera, a, e mea ana tera, ka ware ia ki taua korero.*” (In English—Myself and Samuel have conversed together, and he says that he has forgotten all about the matter.) I understood this *well*. Samuel, the native whom I had brought up from childhood, who had lived with me nearly 18 years, and who knew *well* the *nature of an oath*—Samuel, who lives with the Complainant, and on whom the Complainant had principally relied—now, that the hour of hearing was

come, shrank from taking a false oath before my face; and, unwilling to injure his new and quondam friend, by telling the truth, had managed to forget all about it!!—So, also, when (after Cranmer’s name had been repeatedly called upon as a witness, and before that Ahipene had been sworn) I said, that there were several others who were also present; and someone remarked that Ahipene (who had all along been standing in Court by the Complainant’s side, waiting, no doubt) was one of them. The Complainant again significantly remarked, “*Ae, kua korero maua ko Ahipene.*” (Literally, in English—“Yes, we have conversed together.”) I knew very well what was contained in this (to you) simple and straight-forward sentence.—

It is a well-known fact, that the Complainant and the whole party who were present on the day of our altercation have for some time past dwelt together, and their constant talk has been, their going before you on your arrival, what they would say, and what they hoped to get; while I, on the contrary, *have never once conversed with any one* of all who were present, concerning the matter of that day. I assure you, Sir, that I look upon the confusedness of the witness, and the striking variation of his statement as to “the kick”, and the inability of the others to come forward, as a remarkable manifestation of the Providence of God in my behalf.—

Now, Sir, if such be the merits of the case, if all that I have written herein is wholly true, without any over-colouring or extenuation, and you have it in your power to make all enquiry into those portions which may be new to you, is it any wonder that I should *refuse* to pay the fine of Three Pounds, which you were pleased to inflict; But, when I again state, *in addition to the foregoing*, (what I stated before you at Ahuriri) *that the Complainant and his witness have both wilfully and maliciously perjured themselves, in swearing that I kicked him upon the head*, I feel assured, that every Englishman believing my word, how much soever he may be disposed to honour and obey Law of his Country, will feel with me—that I acted rightly in refusing to pay the fine.

You will, however, Sir, bear in mind, that I told you, that while I conscientiously refused to pay the fine, (the more so, seeing that he, the Complainant, was to have half of it) I would not in any way obstruct the Law—the alternative, whatever it might be—being put in force. If to apprehend me, and then send me a prisoner to Wellington, I would submit, and call upon my Native friends to remain quiet, (for otherwise, *you had not the power to do it*;) or, if

to distraint the few things left from the late calamitous fire, (which destroyed our dwelling-house and out-houses and nearly all their contents only three days before) no one should hinder their being taken.—

I believe, and there are others who believe with me, that had this complaint been made at an earlier period, or had not certain humiliating and recent events concerning myself, taken place (including the fire), the statements of both the Complainant and his witness would not have been made in the words and manners in which they were—*if made at all*. In fact, I am assured by several Christian natives, (whom I know that you respect and would believe,) that the Complainant would not have appeared before you, had it not been for the constant urging of Te Hapuku, and one or two Europeans!—

No misfortune, however, which has yet befallen me, has moved me so much as this—the *false and malicious swearing of these two persons*; and *above all your receiving their testimony before my own*. Perhaps, as a Magistrate, you may consider, that you could not help doing so, seeing theirs was sworn. Be it so; still, Sir, I feel, I keenly feel, that I—who have been for so many years in the very van of the battle, fighting for the Cause of Order—am now trampled down and degraded through that very Order which I have long striven to uphold. I believe, (and I feel thankful in such a belief) that there is not a *Pakeha* dwelling in the whole of this large district (although perhaps, more of them may be ranked as enemies than as friends,) who would not rather take my word than that of ten *sworn* Natives. If, Sir,—allow me to say,—if you really believe, that Natives will not, or can not, prevaricate because they have been sworn, I beseech you to throw aside all such belief; or, if you retain it, you will eventually find the truth of what I say—that the majority of the Natives *cannot* speak the truth whether sworn or not, more especially in any matter affecting themselves and their tribe, and much more so when there is any prospect of *money*-getting; and therefore the *only* way of eliciting *truth* from them, is by examining him *apart*, and by a *copious cross-questioning*.—

I have already written vastly more than I originally intended, and yet I have more which I could say but I must stop. One word, however, I will yet add—namely, the sooner you abolish (or get abolished) the practice of handing over to these natives *the fine*, or half of it, whatever it may be, (unless in such *extreme* cases as the Ordinance, A 11, already quoted specifies,) *the better for them and for the settlers*. For to them, time is nothing; and to worry in a thou-

sand ways, any poor white man whom they have ill-will against, or from whom they hope to extort money (always keeping clear themselves of any overt act such as would lay them open to the Law,) no one knows better than they how to perform, being accustomed to delight in the art of tormenting from their infancy. All writers upon this people, who have dared to think for themselves, (I may almost add, and all thinking residents, too,) have observed, that, in addition to their being a nation of liars, the darling idol of the Native heart is *revenge*. The Gospel, Sir, has indeed lessened the outward shew of that revenge; and in some few instances, broken its power; but, be assured, that the fiery spirit is still there, latent, it may be, but ready at any time to be roused and break forth with fearful energy. This is their ancient distinctive *Maori* vice; engrafted upon which is their present besetting sin—their love of Money; for which, even though they may not need it, they will, condescend to say or do any thing, however false or mean. Now let them only be assured, as they already more than surmise, that both their darling vices—revenge, and lust of gold—can be gratified in an apparently fair and open way, if they will be but cunning and careful, and you will soon find them hard at work themselves, giving the Settlers plenty of uneasiness and abundance of work.—

May I be allowed to request you to shew this letter to your two brother Magistrates residing here—Messrs. Alexander and Patterson.—And, hoping, that the warmth of my injured feelings, together with my not being well, and yet hurriedly desirous that you should get these few remarks of mine as early as possible, in consequence of your soon leaving this neighbourhood, may not have unintentionally betrayed me into any expression approaching to disrespect—which I distinctly and wholly disavow.

I am Sir,  
Yours very faithfully  
William Colenso.

## Undated McLean to Colenso (#1022225)

You refuse to obey the decision of the Court on the grounds that that decision is improper and illegal. The evidence proves that Complainant was struck on the head by you while he was in a sitting posture—that previous to the assault

you had a violent altercation with Complainant and used towards him the epithets “bad man, thief, murderer.” It does not appear that he used any disrespectful or provoking expressions to you either before or after the assault. The forbearance with which he bore your attack was praiseworthy in the extreme and goes far to prove that your aspersion on his character is a mere calumny got up to serve your own purpose.—

The latitude which Teachers and Guardians and England are allowed in chastising children could not be safely extended to Teachers of tattooed New Zealanders.—

The authority of the Teacher would be gladly upheld by the Magistrate where that authority was properly directed. When the U.S. Brig “Falco” was wrecked at Table Cape Complainant was only one amongst a 100 who assisted in the plunder. This occurred 8 or 9 years ago and by the native law wrecks and other property cast on shore from the sea were the property of the natives who owned the soil on wh. the wreck might be cast. If the vessel had belonged to the natives the same result would, in all probability, have followed.— “Last year complainant gave up attending Divine Service”. It was then that complainant became aware of your criminal cohabitation with his relative Rebecca. All your charges from no 2 to 6 occurred subsequent to that knowledge. You had been in the habit of insulting Complainant through the other natives. Complainant is thought well of by, I believe, all the European residents who know him.

You ought to complete your work of usefulness by shewing your children! how to respect the law. A Court of Magistrates has nothing to do with your general usefulness, in deciding against you in a case of assault. Would it not much more become you, as a Christian Teacher and peacemaker to ingenuously acknowledge your error and cheerfully pay the fine than to set these natives the example of setting the law at defiance. Never heard of your inflicting personal chastisement as a punishment for crime before except once, when the native took the law into his own hands and felled you to the ground. Such might and probably would have been the case in this instance if Complainant had not been aware that he could obtain redress by applying to British law.

By the English law the use of harsh language accompanied by simply laying hands upon a person is considered an assault.—

In this instance

The assault was wanton and unprovoked

And was attended with slight bodily injury (a kick on the head with one’s foot could hardly be otherwise)

And was proved by a credible witness according to the legal meaning of the term.—

All this conduct on the part of the Complainant arose out of the knowledge of your criminal connexion with the female domestic alluded to. I don’t think Complainant ever meant or said that he would do you bodily injury and the expression “afraid to meet me” only referred to the charges he could bring against you.— Complainant and party were on the banks of the river on property not claimed or occupied by you and a New Zealander does not like to be summarily ejected from his own soil “the fat of his forefathers”. Hence his reluctance to move off at your bidding. Complainant is a sickly nature. You are reported to be an adept at pugilism. It does seem strange that a missionary of 20 years standing should first arouse the evil passions of a native and then strike him—but that you did so is beyond a doubt.—

If you “honor and obey the laws of your country” and if you profess to be a moral Teacher and an example to your “tattooed children” why don’t you shew them the respect that is due to a Court of Justice by at once paying obedience to its edicts. Your “*children*” will say “Te Koroneho would not obey the sentence of the court and why should we”. However unjust you may believe the sentence to be you ought, as an example to others, be willing to give it effect. Your allowing a distress to be levied on your property will not give you any more right of appeal than you would have otherwise. You say you conscientiously refuse to pay the fine. Go a little deeper into the recesses of your heart and you will find wounded pride has more to do with it than conscientious feeling. A few weeks back if a similar case, in all its circumstances had been brought against some other European in this District you would have pronounced the sentence fair and equitable. Your native friends? will not require to be called upon to remain quiet while the law is being put in force. They will do so of their own accord. “*For otherwise you have not the power to do so*” is an extraordinary expression to come from a person of 20 years experience of the New Zealander. Do you seriously believe that these natives will incur the displeasure of the Makarini and the British Government by attempting to save, from the just sentence of the law, a man who is waddling in the mire and suffering the merited penalty of a great moral crime. Have you not written 23

pages of foolscap to prove their want of gratitude?

This is annotated “Mr. Alexander’s remarks on Wi Tipuna versus Colenso” and may be a response to Colenso’s request that McLean “shew this letter to your two brother Magistrates residing here—Messrs. Alexander and Patter-son”.

## 1853 April 12 Colenso to McLean (#1012399)

Waitangi,  
April 12, 1853.

My dear Sir,

As I find that the Phœbe is not gone from Ahuriri, I have just time to fulfil a desire—which has rapidly grown up during these last few days—of writing to you; sprung, I believe, from a pleasing remembrance of your kind expressions of interest in my welfare when we last met and parted. Now doubly valuable in the present extreme scarcity of both friends and Counsellors.

I think that I then told you, that I had written fully to the C.M.S. concerning myself—and that I had made up my mind to winter here in my little study—or, rather to remain until I should hear from them: so far, then, has been determined. I have however subsequently seen the Bishop here, and am obliged to think, that I should yet do something more than merely to wait until I hear from England:—that is, if I have the opportunity of doing so. I have often of late revolved in my mind your advice—“to take a run”; and, if I am in time and can obtain one suitable, I think I should be quite ready to do so. Allow me then, my dear sir, to request you to let me know at an early convenient opportunity:—1st. whether there are any spare runs still to let out of these your 2 purchased Blocks (excluding Mohaka)?—2nd. whether you have a speedy prospect of purchasing more land in this neighbourhood?—3rd. whether you are of opinion that I might obtain the gift of a small grant of land from the Governor? (I could only afford—at present—to *pay* for a very small quantity; yet, I think, I could shew certain good reasons why a *little* might be *given*; especially if I had yourself or Sinclair or Cole or any good friend to back me).—5th. whether Scrip would be received in payment for Land hereabouts?

I should greatly prefer being on or near the Sea Coast. An *inferior* run or neighbourhood would suit me very well; as I have but a *few* head of cattle, and I do not wish to seek *great* things;—merely a quiet home with bread to eat. I wish also, to be quite out of the way of both Natives and Settlers—unless I may yet be privileged with finding a few of the latter with a similar disposition to yourself. I have had some thoughts of one of those little places—called, Ouepoto, and Pohatupapa—both S. of Morena’s village (Tuingara), and, I believe, unoccupied.—Also, of seeking some sheltered nook somewhere upon your S. boundary line (Parimahu), & not far from the sea. And I am thinking of visiting that neighbourhood in about a month or so; although I should prefer *first* hearing from you.—It might, however, suit me better (at first, at least) to put out my Cattle, at so much pr. cent of profit than to keep a person to look after them; but I need advice on this and, indeed, on all my matters. I have again spoken of *Scrip*, to which I have been led through hearing that Mr. Tollemache is said to have come hither to purchase land with Scrip. Hapuku (I understand from Cranmer, for we have not yet met,) and Puhara and Hineipaketia still wish me to go inland to Te Rotoakiwa; but I do not, upon any account, wish to be so near Wi Tipuna and his party;—nor the Bishop’s “College Land”—the ground on the Government boundary close to Te Aute having been by him and the Governor selected for this purpose. From the Chief at Tangoio I have also received a handsome offer of a piece of ground if I will move that way. But, whilst I *feel* their kindness—particularly just now when *all* are against me—I am determined *not* to accept it. I have already trusted natives too much: served *them* too faithfully (don’t doubt it)—without even once caring for myself; and it is now (if not too late) high time for me to believe that charity should begin at home.—I could *tell* you much if you were here, which I cannot write. I dare to think, that I have been and am greatly ill-used; still it is not for me, who have so foolishly laid myself open, to complain. I did *not* see the Governor when they were here, although greatly wished to do so; he travelling with (and, I believe, living in the tent of) the Bishop. This was a very untoward circumstance for me; and one which I greatly regretted.—

You, my dear Sir, well know how very changeable the Natives are. You will not then be surprized in hearing that, when *the great men* were here, the Natives (having repeatedly heard that the Bishop and the Governor were coming to “*pana*” me,) were *all* against me!—all loud for “*panaing*”. But when I say

all—I must not forget to tell you, that Te Hapuku and Puhara and Hineipaketiā were not only against such an atrocity, but made good orations (I am told) to the Bp. and the Govr. when at Wakatu in my favour.—And these 2 men are Heathen, and, in certain sense, my enemies!!—Neither of them accompanied the Bishop and Governor to Ahuriri—at which, I confess, I felt surprized. I also heard, that Mr. Alexander very kindly and considerately expressed his just indignation at some of my Native “friends” proceedings—among whom your travelling companion Takamoana, (whom I had but very lately been again instrumental in recovering from a severe illness) was most conspicuous—as before, for evil. But *many secret* springs have been worked:—and, as you know, a very small spark is sufficient for a whole magazine of powder.—

But I must close or I shall weary you. Mrs. Colenso has not yet left! but we now daily expect the vessel (the Dolphin) by which she *is* to go; and she will also take *the* child\* with her. I shall, consequently, soon be *very lonely*; and that, too, in a place where every object necessarily recalls a 1000 unpleasing ideas. Need I say, that a letter, or paper, or anything from a friend will sure to be both acceptable and of service. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall with 2 children (one being Alexander’s) left us this morning on their way to Guthrie’s, where they intend to reside. We have lately suffered severely from a flood, occasioned by a fortnight’s heavy rain, which caused us to take refuge in the study—all the premises & garden being *greatly* under water. The natives too have lost much of their crops. You will have heard, I suppose, of one of Hapuku’s wives (Tarewa) having strangled herself very shortly after you left.

I should like, if possible, to have the matter of a future dwelling and run so far settled, as that on your next coming this way we could go thither together and take possession. Though my present house is *small*, yet it will be more than large enough for *us two*, if you can on your next visit make it convenient both to call and *stay*—which I hope you will do.

Ever my dear Sir, Very truly yours,  
Willm. Colenso.

P.S. Allow me to add, as I know you are intimate with some of the Mission, that I do not wish them, *just now*, to know of my intentions.

pana = drive away, expel  
\* Wiremu.

## 1853 December 12 Colenso to McLean (#1018317)

Eparima  
Decr. 21, 1853

D. McLean, Esq.,

My dear Sir,

You will almost be surprized to receive a note from me from *this* place, and in *pencil* too! But, the fact is—I came here yesterday with only *one* Native by way of the Coast, (by which route I intend returning to Waitangi on Monday next,) looking out for a piece of ground as a residence. —

I have at length concluded to purchase 3 or 4 spots—if all such are still open. Some, I should suppose, must be so—as the Land is not yet purchased by you.

The places I have selected are as follows:

100 acres at Ouepoto, commencing from S. Headland:  
60 acres at Pohatupapa (where, however, there are *not* 25 a. of level ground):  
240 (say) at Porangahau; from above the *pa* (N. Bank) to Pipitawai (the old village). The River, the S. & SW boundaries, the hills on W. & N. sides; & on reaching the E. termination of S. spur of hills, thence, in a straight line, across the swamp to Pipitawai. (see enclosed sketch)  
~~60~~ acres of forest Land at Eparima  
~~460~~ acres

The last is conditional—i.e. at present. But I have no doubt whatever that *I* shall succeed in getting the Natives to sell you some forest land, upon the promise of my coming into their neighbourhood.

Ouepoto I like best of all *for a residence*; but there is no wood, & disagreeable neighbours.

Pohatupapa, I secure chiefly for the little wood, which is also so easy of access from Ouepoto.

Porangahau—I take nearly *all* the flat (marshy though it be in winter and spring, as I have often *proved*). The River is said to be the boundary, but I shall endeavor to get the natives to sell you the two dotted peninsulas, which

will soon be islets, and which (if I get them) I shall make to be such; as, in so doing, it will wonderfully ease their village, & all the neighbouring banks, in time of waipukes.

You will therefore see that I have selected 460 acres! = £230. —which money I shall be ready to pay in Cash, either at Wellington, or here: but (I suppose) that the two last mentioned spots (300 acres) would not have to be paid for until you have purchased. —

Now if you can aid me in any way towards acquiring immediate legal right to those spots you will confer an obligation. I need some one to act *promptly* for me in the matter. You may

*[page(s) missing]*

waipuke = flood

### 1855 March 13 McLean to Colenso (#1013641)

Ahuriri, March 13<sup>th</sup>. 1855.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10<sup>th</sup> instant, and thank you for the information which it contains, in reference to the proprietorship of land in this District, and the changes that have taken place owing to the death of te Hapuku's son Cranmer.

From your long residence in the Ahuriri District, and general knowledge of the rights and claims of the various tribes inhabiting it, and of the several feuds and differences that have periodically occurred amongst them in reference to their land claims, I shall at all times feel much obliged by your favoring me with any suggestion that may occur to you in reference to such claims, and I should be glad if you could furnish me with any proposition of your own, as to the best means of adjusting such a difference in reference to their land as now exists between te Moananui and te Hapuku.

In the meantime, and before adopting any steps in reference to the land dispute, I shall fully consider the various points brought forward in your letter; and do my utmost to prevent, as far as in my power, the jealousy, excitement and ill-feeling that at present exists between the abovenamed Chiefs.

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your most obedient, humble servant,  
Donald Mclean  
Land Commissioner

### 1855 April 12 Colenso to McLean (#1013821)

Waitangi,  
April 12, 1855

Donald McLean Esqr,  
Commissioner of Lands  
&c &c &c

My dear Sir

When at Napier yesterday, I heard, that you were then about sailing for Wellington. This information, and the rains, and also believing you to be very busy from your having only returned from Mohaka the evening before, quite prevented my calling. —

I have since heard, that you may not go by the vessel now about to sail: and, therefore, write, to ask, whether you could find time to spare me a quarter of an hour at any day which may be convenient. In your fixing the same, and letting me know, I will ride to Napier, or, should you be coming this way you might perhaps call. —

I am,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours truly,  
William Colenso

## 1858 January 2 Colenso to McLean (#1023960)

Waitangi, Jany. 2 1858  
4 pm

D. McLean Esqr.  
&c &c

My dear Sir

I am just returned from Te Hapuku, and I lose no time in giving you (in a few words) the result of my Mission.—

He says—that he cannot comply with the demand to leave on Monday next:—that he has no faith in their (Te Moana & Tareha) promises; and even if kept by them, would not be binding on others; as, according to the Nat. Custom, the promise of any Chief, *when respected*, only binds his own immediate followers; and that in the case of the firewood, &c. at Wakawiti, after the first skirmish, which was to be allowed to be taken away, on Te Watuiapiti vacating that place, before it could be all removed it was thrown into the river, &c; & that, 2 days ago, on a canoe drifting, when Peehi, Puhara's native was sent after it, & Moana said it should be given up, while he & the Chief were *tangi-ing* over Puhara's death, Tareha & party took away the canoe up into the pa—so that their words are devoid of *mana* &c:—that, *the only* way he can remove, is, by degrees *first*, his Ploughs &c &c *second*, women & children *lastly*, himself—& this has been re-echoed (to day) by *all*: that he never will forsake his people, women, &c: that the other side has boasted their soon getting women slaves, &c:—that you have no force, nor means of controlling them: and that they know well, that, though in following him up & killing him, you could not afford to be very *riri*, as *they know you want their Lands*, &c &c: and as to returning to take away any thing, or *after* leaving to think of having the Crops, are *unheard* of things in Native Warfare; that his enemies would grab all, & in all likelihood kill not a few of those, who (following out the notice given) might be left.—

He thinks he is safe against their attacks where he is, for some time at least: & speaks of moving at his own time—*Ngahuru*.

Cows, &c., were driven inland yesterday, & Horses this day. —

I cannot help thinking there is a deal of truth in what he says: and, that the other party should either listen to reason—or, must do their worst.

I write this in great hurry to go to Grindell: pray excuse it. And believe me  
Yours very sincerely  
W. Colenso.

tangi = weep; mana = status; riri = anger; ngahuru = autumn.

## 1858 January 27 Colenso to McLean (#1001813)

Waitangi,  
Wednesday night, Jany. 27/58.

My dear Sir,

I have been thinking a little today on what you mentioned to me—viz.—The adoption of some plan by which the Nat. Chiefs would be satisfied & allow the Settlers' Stock to graze on their lands;—and, as it may be several days ere I may see you, and as I wish you to know early my thoughts on the subject (if of any service), lest you should, in talking with the Chiefs, hold out to them any prospect of gain, &c.,—I now write to give you a few of them for your consideration.—

Of course, I know very well that *they wish* some arrangement to be made by which they may gain by the grass, &c. on their *waste* lands;—I, however, would (for the benefit of *all*) strenuously oppose it.—For,

1. Such would keep back (perhaps altogether) the Sale to Govt. of these Plains:—

2. Enhance their price considerably when sold.—

3. Open a wide door to *their taking-in* Cattle (from Settlers) to graze.—

4. Retard *their* Civilization.

5. Perhaps cause difficulties *elsewhere*—as precedents of such a nature (*gain!*) fly among the Natives:—such as  
—Their making *reserves* of grassy (Baiting) places.—

—Their making *reserves* of grassy belts around proposed site of townships.—  
—Their making demands for grass eaten by Travellers' Horses, Stock in driving, &c. &c.

6. All "Runs" adjoining Natives' Ground and all Natives *Waste Land* adjoining Runs should be on the "*give-&-take*" system: as all Natives now have stock, which is largely increasing: such has been, all along, done by Mr. Alexander.—

7. No impounding should be allowed for trespass on *open waste* unimproved ground—for, from the fact of half of them being idle, they would give settlers terrible annoyance.

8. They themselves in travelling (often in *large parties*) over Govt. grounds, or even Private property—would never pay for their Horses, &c. grazing.—

9. Impounding (of course) proper, in case of trespass on enclosed Lands, & Cultivations—but here *proper* fences should be imperatively required:—For such would

- Cause them to *fence well*:—
- Cause them to *cease wandering* from spot to spot.
- Cause them to *sell their surplus* land—
- Cause them to *abandon* some of their *rapacious* desires:—

10. Besides, a *small* sum (not even ten times the amount per head, or per acre, now paid to the Govt.) would not satisfy them:—and, if a large sum were paid, it would in all probability, be seized by *the Principal Chief*;—which would (I fear) go to encourage his idleness & rapacity—cause him to *encourage* such stock coming about his Land; which would serve to annoy the tribe (they not gaining any of the profits) and they would, perhaps, privately injure the stock, &c.

11. Further—there would be no manner of justice in so acting; such being the common custom with Govt. Lands—which moreover have been paid for—while theirs cost them nothing.—

12. I verily believe that the sooner they are dealt with, as if they were really and truly *British* subjects, the better for them, and for their children, and for us.—One Law, one Rule, one manner of acting for *all*: at least for *all in this District*—seeing how *few* they are, how *well provided* they are (or may be),

and how *far* they are advanced—some, even *beyond* some of our own countrymen.—

Pray excuse, my dear Sir, the freedom of these few remarks—written, too, roughly.—

And believe me  
to be

Ever very truly Yours  
William Colenso.

1858 April 15 Colenso to McLean (#1016078)

Waitangi  
15th. April 1858

Dear Mr. McLean,

A rainy day with wind from the S. keeping me indoors, enables me to put in practice what, during the last week, I have several times thought of—viz, writing you; just to let you know (in the absence of your *aid* Mr. Cooper) how it is with us—Natives. The more so as only last Thursday I returned from Poukawa.—

Well then, to begin at the beginning. I left you and Hapuku at Awanui; returning—*facing* the rain—I got back drenched, having had two somersets by the way; & so much bruised from the last (here too on Waitangi flats!) as to be glad enough to keep my bed for 2 days—thinking how ever *you* managed to get on in the rain—to say nothing of the *heke!* Early in the following week I got a visit from old Waka, from whom I got a good deal of news—among other things—that they were dreadfully incensed at the other party's daring to sell Puhara's House, &, that they had determined Mr. C. should never dwell there. (This I have heard repeated 2ce since, but, as he will have to pay them money, they *may* not be really serious.) That Renata will not remove to Omaha, but will stick hard & fast to Te Pakiaka; &, by and bye, when the Mill shall be finished, will put up a permanent pa for himself, at Wakaparata.—

Just at this time came 2 *ope's*; *one*, a kind of taua from Taupo to fight agt. Hapuku on account of Matiu—bringing plenty of arms & ammunition, which, I believe, has been handed over to Tareha—this party, was angry enough at H.

having removed inland:— and *one*, a deputatn. from Werowero to get these *disaffected* ones to attend his levee or Coronation!—Twice I combatted their arguments—here at Waitangi—assuring them, that this new mode of proceeding they had pitched upon was the very rail road to their ruin: they, modestly & good-tempered enough, acknowledged, that all I had said they had already heard from nearly every respectable pakeha—but that inasmuch as Kawana had called (or, rather, treated) Potatau as a taurekareka, & had said, he should not know him as a King; & all who should, would be considered enemies, (which was all the same as a challenge), he, Potatau, would shew the Native *mana* & would fight!! saying,—“Kaua koe e mahara e, Kaore o matou hoa; he hoa ano kei to matou tuara, Ko te iwi o Paranehe” (France)—we have had letters thence, telling us to sell no more land; and the “Pikopo’s” here are our friends, &c., &c.—That this was at the bottom of their thoughts, hence the making of Powder & retaining Gold fields, (in order to work them), was now their main object. I sent word to Ngatikahungungu—not to go to the hui; but they said (to the deputatn.) that had peace been really and firmly made here, they would go, but as it was, Te Moananui alone should go, who left a fortnight ago.—I sent strong & plain verbal messages to Potatau; which, they said, they would “tell him, as I was a friend to the Maori”—speaking very distrustfully, & *much worse*, of nearly all high authorities,—which I was very sorry to hear.—

Last week another ope,—abt. 20, came, headed by Te Paerata, to get his people to the hui, he met Noa at Petani on his way N., no more however have gone. Tareha is busy, making his Pa Wakaairo smaller, more compact, and more easily defended. There is a sad split between them & Rangihiroa on account of the money he got from you: they did say, the road from Tarawera to Mohaka should *not* be made by him, & I was charged to inform Mr. A. of it; & from the road to the land being such an easy transition, they now claim afresh all Lands right on to Tarawera at least! but I should tell you that their design is, to advocate *the right of Ngatimatapu*, (Petane), to the Land of the Roadmaking, & the other Rangatiratanga.

We have had no news nor returns yet from Porangahau, where they are still dividing their profits:—fame says that Purvis, who is still there among them, has received £500 at least: his brother, Hy., told me, last week, that P. was going to England almost directly.—Hapuku I found busy, having got up *all the take’s*, &c., in a day or so would proceed to put up the smaller fencing

(*Wana’s*), which, with *aka*, were all ready. Some of the posts are very large—drawn from the Mill by 10 bullocks. I was surprised to find *no one* of the inland Natives helping him, save Pao. Nikahere, and Pao. Kopakau: the *site* is intermediate between Tauatepopo and the small Kahika bush which stands in the raupo swamp—in fact, it is *on* the line of road as laid out by Roy; & Gill and Hap. had been having words about it; Hap. telling Gill, that if he (G.) could *not* make a road over the lower ground, he himself would do that part. I found them all in pretty good spirits—with a certainty of soon wanting food; which want, of *potatoes* especially, was common everywhere inland. One very great evil I had painful proof of—the selling of spirits by the Draymen (wholesale! and legally enough, perhaps, in 2 gall.) not only to the Natives, but to the Road Parties: this will turn *the line of road*, which should be a benefit, into a curse.—Hap. shewed me a block of Land, between Tauatepopo & the little Lake, which he intended to sell immediately to Mr. Cooper, on his return. One incident occurred while I was there, Ho. Pura, (a Pakowhai native) had his collar-bone broken by the felling of a tree.—

Strangely enough—especially when considered in connexion with what Karait. had said, & subsequently, Ropiha’s Son and Tribe—they wished me to reside among them as their Minister—a straw thrown up shews wh. way the wind blows.—

Perhaps you will hear from Mr. Curling that I have contracted w. Sebley & Thomas to build me a Ho. at Napier; for which Kauri, &c., has been ordered. I have also offered nearly all my Lands (Town and Suburban.) for sale, ditto the *Trees* of this place—as the “Herald” will shew. And a surveyor is now laying-out the whole of that Basin (Nos. 39–44, suburban) Town of Napier, where I have projected a Street, or Place, in the Centre of the hollow, & a Terrace on the hill. I will send you a plan when ready.

None of the natives about me know anything certain of my movements. They have held, however, two “Komitis”; & I have had visits from Te Hira, & from the old Lady Winipere, (Karaitiana’s Mother), & firewood sent by Renata!! Waka, who comes & goes, has pressed me—if I will leave—to take from their Land further up the flat, or on the other side, or by the Church, or anywhere—to all which I am deaf, & dumb, too!!

A great no. of Taupo & other Natives have returned; and Ngatihori are now busy working timber for their Mill. I had forgotten to say, that one of this

Tribe took away the Mailman's Horse from him, the week after you left; alleging it as retaliation; Moa. however made him give it back.

And now my dear Sir, adieu. Believe me ever,  
Very sincerely yours  
Wm. Colenso.

P.S. Mackenzie is in gaol.

heke = migration; ope = troops; taurekareka = prisoner of war; hui = meeting;  
Pikopo = Roman Catholic; take = plan; wana = paling; aka = vine

## 1858 April 22 Colenso to McLean (#1017204)

Waitangi  
April 22, 1858

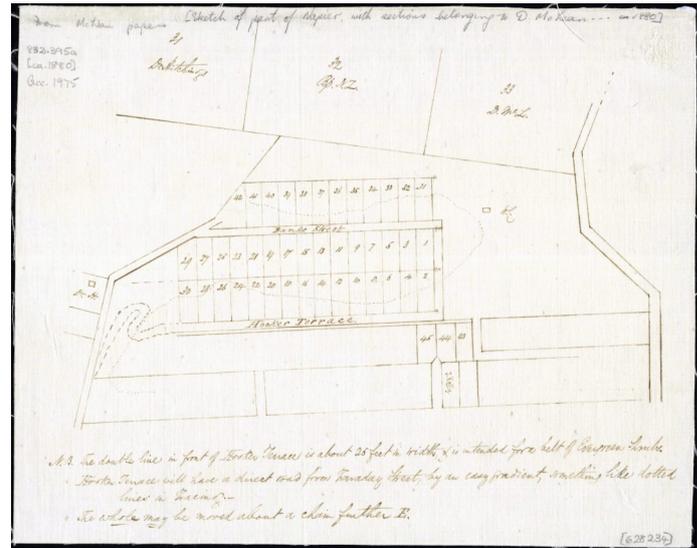
My dear McLean,

A few days ago I gave you the Nat. news; promising you a *tracing* of the Land I am getting laid out at Napier, which I now enclose: the tracing is rather rough, but correct; the Land will *not* be opened for sale for 2 or 3 weeks (depending on the Surveyor), so that if you care to have any of the best sections (all ¼ ac.), you will be in time. I consider the situation the best in the Island, while it is *retired* & in the *heart* of Town. And as I (& Dr. H. and others) wish it to be respectable, I have planned it so as to have no thoroughfare, & given for a belt of Trees, &c.—"Banks"—after Sir Jos. B. who came with Cook, & published (& indeed, brought out Draughtsmen with him at his own expense!) & "Hooker", after our N.Z. Flora Botanist.

—A little stir was among the Natives last week; Hapuku heard ("from soldiers" travelling) that he was about to be attacked, & immediately all collected within their new pa: while K. and Renata, hearing that Hap. was coming to attack them, collected all their forces *again* at Pakiaka, and were preparing to march to Pakipaki there to lie in ambush, when Wi (Harawira Tateré's son) came down from Poukawa (*accidentally*), & stopped them by telling how things really were: when they vented their *Piri* in a great deal of firing.—

Two days ago I addressed the B. of Magistrates (granting Publican's Licenses) —on the subject of selling to Natives, and, on that of the Evils arising from the 2-gall. *whole sale* (!! ) Ordinance: H. Russell & Col. Wyatt were on the Bench.

Believe me,  
Yours truly, W. Colenso.



This map, from the McLean papers, is clearly Colenso's "tracing" sent to McLean. It shows Colenso's house "W.C.", McLean's "D. McL", the Bishop's "Bp.NZ", Dr Hitchens' and the proposed subdivision of land owned by Colenso.

1859 August 27 Colenso to McLean (1020334)

Waitangi, August  
27, 1859.

To Donald McLean, Esq,  
Chief N.Z. Ld. Purchase Commissr.  
&c, &c, &c,  
Napier.

My dear Sir

I have been thinking a good deal of late on the subject of the Native King! and of the “*Runanga*” which seems to be in pretty active operation in various parts. And from having been present in your Office when Matena Ruta (Potatau’s messenger (or Minister Plenipotentiary) from Waikato and principal man of the “*Runanga*” here,) delivered his message to you, I am desirous of trespassing on your time and thoughts with a few remarks.—

1. We have evidently two elements now at work—both opposing the British Government; the Native King and the “*Runanga*”: the former, an idea of foreign growth; the latter purely aboriginal.—
2. Yet, in deeming the idea of a Native King of all the New Zealanders as of foreign growth—we should remember, that originally each Principal N.Z. Chief or head of a Tribe had in every sense Kingly power over his own Tribe: and indeed which has been preserved in the Sandwich Islands (whence some of the ancestors of the New Zealanders came,) to the present day. There is therefore no valid reason why in considering the genius of the people (acting under a belief of imminent danger from without) the N.Z. Tribes should not unite under one common leader. Indeed, before the general reception of Christianity, it was no uncommon thing for several Tribes to join and act as one, under one Leader for the purpose of war, offensive or defensive.
3. A state somewhat parallel obtained among the ancient Britons when invaded by Cæsar and other foreign foes—also the ancient Greeks: when thus banded as *one* their opposition was not only very formidable but almost invincible.
4. So, especially in a country of such a peculiar mountainous nature as this, and with British Settlers scattered so very widely apart, would such an opposi-

tion be formidable, and if once provoked, not easily subdued. The more so from the very *materiel* which is every where made use of, (or abused,) viz. the Christian Religion and Native Christian Teachers, to carry out the designs of the Native King and the “*Runanga*”.—

5. The Native King (in my opinion) has really but small power, especially at a distance from his own Tribe:—this element has most to do with the Principal Native Chiefs.—
6. Every Principal Native Chief might be sedulously told that he is (as far as is, or can be, possible or requisite,) as a King to his own Tribe; his native jealousy and pride should be touched: *divide et impera*.
7. The “*Runanga*,” however, has a very great power—mainly owing to its being a purely Native idea—a resuscitated germ which has lain latent in the Native mind—and has extensive and growing influence over *all*—men women & children—of course, for good or for evil.—
8. It has been commonly used throughout Polynesia—much like the *tapu*: hence, from the introduction of Christianity the New Zealanders were always inclined to assemble in *bodies*, whether for friendly visiting parties, prayers, schools, marriages, Baptisms, burials, or selling Lands; often patiently enduring no small amount of inconvenience and expense. All matters done “*Runanga*”-fashion (“*i te araro o te tokomaha*”) have ever been considered binding.—
9. Now this “*Runanga*” power and authority should be noted, and its sinews cut.
10. If the beast is too strong or too ferocious or too wily or too impenetrable to be attacked openly, it should be done by stealth. The fierce Elephant is hamstrung: the wild bull noosed with the lasso.—
11. If we can’t do what we would, we must do what we can.
12. The different Christian Ministers in the Country should oppose it. If not as treasonable, certainly as chimerical & impracticable, and also inexpedient and highly against the welfare of the Native race.—

13. A *competent* person (or persons) should, I think, attend those “*Runangas*” on the part of the Government; but *not*, however, as a Gazetted Government Officer. Such a person would effect much in a quiet way. The Natives dearly love “talk”, and are always generally pleased at Whites being present at their Meetings.

14. Through such person the Government would also know their *real* Native friends; and timely learn the hatching of any secret designs.—

15. If English Law (or a portion of it) could be dispensed “*Runanga*”-fashion, (i.e. by an itinerant Magistrate, or *R.M.*, acting in concert with the Chief of each Tribe, and openly and at his Native Village hearing cases & giving judgment,) such would tend to remove much existing discontent.—

16. *If possible* His Excellency should see much more of the Principal Native Chiefs; both at Auckland and *among their respective Tribes*. Like Privy Counsellors at home and other highly privileged persons they think they ought to have a Common Right of Entrance, &c.—This is the universal feeling of all Tribal peoples; whether the Polynesian, or African, or N. American Indian be considered, or the more highly civilized inhabitants of the Chinese & Russian Empires—they all wish to see, and talk with their “Great Father.” (It was the unintentional lack of this which made the serious revolt against David, & raised the cry—“We have no part in David:—to your tents O Israel!”—) Hence, too, it was that many of the *old* Missionaries had such an amount of influence, even in hard & trying times; and for want of this many of the *newer* ones fail, notwithstanding their entering on prepared ground.—Soft words welling from the depths of the human soul and the warm hand of man effects as much now as in the days of Jesus Christ. The wild man invariably falls before little acts of kindness oft repeated with firmness, as well as the wild horse before Rarey.—the *suaviter in modo* should ever be united with the *fortiter in re*.—

17. If such could not be granted—not a little might be done through a small yet valuable *yearly* present to each principal Chief—say, a saddle—or a suit of Clothing—a plaid—a gun, or a bag of shot. Such should also be given accompanied with a letter *in answer to an application from the Chief*—which might easily be effected through the agency of a well-disposed Minister, or of a

Competent Person (par. 13), or of that of a Native Land Purchase District Commissioner.—

18. All Native Christian Teachers should be restrained from assisting publicly at any “*Runanga*”: at all events (*if ever allowed*) they should be strictly confined to their own village or Tribe. *This is of principal importance*. Only keep back the Native Christian Teachers from interfering or helping the “*Runanga*” movement and the whole scheme will soon fall. There are many ways of doing it:—1<sup>st</sup>. By the Minister representing it as not being seemly:—2<sup>nd</sup>. By merely telling him, that *while he so acts at the “runanga” he must not conduct Divine Service*, as his passions will be too much excited:—or, 3<sup>rd</sup>. By finding him congenial employ in another direction while the “*Runanga*” is sitting:—or, 4<sup>th</sup>. By sending him (“out of harm’s way,”) N. or S. avising at such periods.

19. It is a grossly mistaken notion, that the presence of the Native Teachers at modern “*Runangas*” serves to keep order & promotes good: keep *outward* order of a certain kind they may, but no real good is promoted by their presence at such assemblies. Unless in cases where they are *well-known to be opposed to the Native King & “Runanga” movement*, but such Native Teachers would *not* attend.

20. The Natives should generally and speedily be shewn, that *there is no necessary connexion whatever between the Christian Religion and the “Runangas”*:—disabuse the Native mind on this point and a great end is gained. Here, however, great caution must be used—unless the Ministers generally oppose the “*Runanga*”; for, it must be confessed, that it is here where the main difficulty lies. The union between Religion & Justice is *natural*: the Natives think themselves unjustly treated, with more injustice looming in the distance:—*ergo* the connexion in their minds between Religion & the Runanga.

21. I cannot conceive of much (if any) difficulty in getting the Episcopal Ministers thus to act in union; for, certainly the Bishops must see some of the many evils which would necessarily follow the encouraging or fostering (however indirect) such a mad scheme. I venture to suggest, that the Government should lose no time in making application in the proper quarter.—

22. Evil minded or thoughtless Whites, using treasonable or highly exciting or false language to the Natives (as to the designs of the British Government), should be hunted up & made examples of. No rank or office or age should be allowed to screen an individual so acting.

23. In carrying out all, or any of the foregoing ideas, I think it should ever be studiously borne in mind, *to take no notice whatever of the Native King or of the "Runanga"*; not only, not to acknowledge them or their acts or doings, but generally to act as if such were not in being or not of the least importance. *Never enquire after them in any direct way*: and, when they are spoken of, *never betray the least desire to hear or know*. Such conduct is sure to be reported & sure to *tell*. Hence, while ever steadily opposing both Native King and "*Runanga*" *indirectly* in the "Maori Messenger," I would *never do so directly*. The Native race are very shrewd, and are ever ready to take immense jumps in the opposite direction. They hate to have their own important doings taken little notice of; a continuation of such conduct is sure to make them give them up. But let their suspicions be really once aroused, and one might just as well ask a rat to enter a trap!—

Here, my dear Sir, I must conclude. I have many other duties, and I have already written more than I intended, but the subject is a most important one to us all, and I have not anything like exhausted all of it. Believe, I pray, in my zeal and faithfulness, although, it may be, I am incorrect in some of my conclusions.

I am,  
My dear Sir  
With every respect  
Yours very truly,  
William Colenso.

1859 August 30 McLean to Colenso (#1004856)

Port Napier 30 Aug. 59

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you very much for the trouble you have taken in giving such good practical hints on the Runanga and King question.

Your views accord with my own on the subject.

I shall give the letter a further and more careful perusal, and shall avail myself of a conversation with you before you go up to Hapuku's kainga.

I remain  
My dear Sir  
Yours very truly  
Donald McLean.

kainga = village

1860 December 21 Colenso to McLean (#1013021)

Napier  
Decr. 21/60

Dear Mr. McLean,

I posted to your address last week a few copies (Maori) of Renata's speech & of Mr. FitzGerald's answer.

I now *enclose* one—that it may not only reach you, but come under your notice. As I think Mr. FitzGerald's answer to be a really good one & well suited to the times—I would suggest that it be printed in your "Maori Messenger." Of course I would not recommend the printing in that serial of Renata's speech.—

I feel sure you will believe that I have been for a long time anxiously noticing all *your* movements at the N.—and all your sayings to, or concerning, the Natives. And am sorry, very sorry, that you have such a host of Enemies arrayed against you—especially among those who ought to know and do better.

You, I know, will be quite ready to believe—that I lose no opportunity of aiding and assisting your views & plans as to the Natives—the War—& Maori King. I would that *all here* were but unanimous—I mean of those who both speak Maori & have some influence among them.

Could you not get me a ½ doz. copies of Karere Maori instead of a single one? For years I had 2—but of late only *one*—& this one, together with *one* which

comes for Supt.—we give away—and I am often besieged for more. I have also been told by the Natives that they do not get them as they used to. If I could not get ½ doz. copies regularly, yet that no. or more, sent me whenever there is a defeat of the Natives, or any *good* article to them, will sure to be of service.

Hoping you are quite well, & with every good wish and respects.

I am,  
Yours truly,  
Wm. Colenso.

### 1861 February 1 McLean to Colenso (#1027452)

Auckland February 1<sup>st</sup>, 1860.

My dear Mr Colenso

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 21<sup>st</sup>. Decr. with its accompanying enclosures. I have read Mr Fitzgerald's answer to the natives with great interest. I shall bring in portions of it to the Maori Messenger whenever some other matter now in hand is disposed of.

I know well how Renata must have been prompted when he made such a speech; it is much to be regretted that clerical influence is turned to such a very bad account.

I feel much indebted for the assistance you are affording in the Maori question and shall order, indeed I have already done so, additional numbers of the Messenger for you.

The last sweep at Taranaki in which the natives sustained an ascertained loss of 50 killed and the English only 5 and 12 wounded will be a lesson to the poor deluded fanatics are rushing to their own destructions. The General & the troops under him are behaving admirably; now that they understand Maori tactics it is to be hoped they will soon bring the war to termination. The English press is with us and quite against ecclesiastical interference.

The Saturday review takes Hadfield's part.

I am sending a book that Dr Knight handed to me for you. I should be at Napier by this time but the critical state of affairs so near the scene of King making disaffection prevents my leaving. I start with the Governor to the Bay of Islands, Ahipara and Hokianga on Monday next. I shall be always glad to hear from you.

Yours very truly  
Donald McLean

### 1861 December 12 Colenso to McLean (#1012750)

(Private)  
Napier  
Decr. 12/61

D. McLean, Esq.,  
&c &c &c

My dear Sir

For the last week or more I have been going to write to you—but I am *so busy* every day that I have not found time—until I have been much too fagged.—

What I wished to say to you is—that, in the event of Sir G. Grey coming hither to see these Natives, (which, I suppose, he will be sure to do,) *do you come with him or be here while he is here*—for, I have heard enough to convince me, that some of those Natives will make great attempts to get back some portions of Lands *bona fide* sold by them to you & paid for by you,—to alter boundaries—to represent their not being half-paid, & so on.—And I much fear they are organizing among themselves deep laid schemes of this kind, & mainly against yourself. You know them well enough to know, that they will scarcely dare to do any thing of the kind to your face—but, your being absent, is quite another thing.—“Now or never”—is their belief—& I almost fear they are *privately* encouraged by some *whites*.—

I hope you are well.—I have heard nothing (be Letter) from your city since I left. I have suffered a great deal—throughout 10 weeks—from severe Rheu-

matism. The *present* warm weather is however doing me much good—more than all the medicine I have taken—though I am not yet free from pain.

Our Natives are very quiet—notwithstanding Bousfield’s outrageous conduct—it is (I think) charitable to conclude him to be a little “cranky.” The Natives are leasing (after their fashion) on all sides. Will they not fall out about *division* of utu reti? Hapuku & Urupene are now almost at war—no doubt they would if they could.

I should greatly like to know *the fate of that letter of mine to W. Tamihana*—given into the hands of Wi Maehe of Rotorua.—Did it ever reach Wi Tamihana? or was it delivered to some white *not very far from you*? When I gave it to W.M. *the Bp’s. Native was with him.* Try to know whether W.T. recd. it.

Believe me ever  
My dear Sir  
Yours sincerely  
W. Colenso

utu reti = rent

## Undated Colenso to McLean (#1010181)

Monday morning

Dear Sir

I regret not being able to attend the S. Comee. this mg. The mail did *not* arrive on Saty. (daylight)—and *this* day is the first of the year with all the new Maori Contractors; I shall therefore be engaged at P.O. Tomorrow I hope to be with you.

Yrs truly  
W. Colenso

P.S. I suppose you know 3 make a quorum?

## 1862 Undated Colenso to McLean (#1008566)

Wednesday Mg

D. McLean Esq

&c &c &c

My dear Mr. Mclean

For the last few days I have been hoping to see you—to fall in with you, in my usual going to & fro. If you are wholly disengaged this evening I will call on you—say 6 o’clock—when I leave office.

I shall bring the two last numbers of the *Herald* in my pocket.

Yours truly  
Wm. Colenso

P.S. since writing the above I have heard of your leaving Town this day—are you *now* disengaged?

## 1862 June 27 Colenso to McLean (#1016324)

Friday night  
June 27, 1862

My dear Mr. McLean,

As the Wh. Swan has not arrived, and as I leave *tomorrow* per Storm Bird for Wellington, and therefore may *not* see you—I just write a few lines to inform you that I have received your note of 5th (*only yesterday*)—and am sorry Dr. Knight has been disappointed. The little packet which has been missed, contained—a long letter from myself—and a French work on Lichens—Stictæ, by De Lise, with Atlas of Plates—which I had promised to lend Dr. Knight, & which he had wished greatly to see—and I had long waited for a good opportunity.—Do not however think of it—such things will occur, & do occur with us all.—

Mr. Watt told me to day, he fully expected you by Steamer (Wh. Sw.) You will be a little surprised when you hear of our Civil Commissioner.—The town has been full of no other talk all the....

[page(s) missing]

I little thought poor old Waitangi would ever have been the means of so much talk among the Settlers.—

—As I find you do not take in the H.B. *Times* I have addressed one to you to go with this.—It is rather a curious coincidence to see the two Papers—pulling together in a public matter.

—One thing I am very very sure of—that Sir George will find it a step in the *wrong direction* to allow of any deed—*openly & fairly* made, with the *full sanction* of the *powers*—to be called in question. As sure as ever the Waitangi Deed is so dealt with, so surely will the Natives apply to have other Deeds similarly dealt with. I am about to petition Sir George for Compensation, and I intend to accompany my petition (which will be drawn *very temperately*) with a Letter, of few words, to be signed by the *old* Settlers and J.P.'s—say a dozen or so: and I *may* ask you to sign it.—I shall send up to Wood, from Wellington.

Before you quite leave us, I should like to have a note from you, stating, how you found the Natives of *this District* on your first coming here—& whether you (then) had reason to believe, that my exertions among them had been of an useful & beneficial nature.

I had arranged to go by Storm Bird, because she was advertised to sail on Tuesday 1st July and now she leaves 3 days earlier!!—I wished to see you.—

The little sums of which I gave you a Memo. perhaps you will kindly place to my Credit at Bank of N.Z.

Hoping to hear from you,  
Believe me,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours sincerely,  
Wm. Colenso

1862 November 11 Colenso to McLean (#1015759)

Napier, November  
11<sup>th</sup>. 1862.

D. McLean, Esq.,  
&c &c &c  
Napier

Dear Sir

I do not know whether you are aware of the Government of New Zealand having requested me to surrender Waitangi to them, promising me compensation for the Improvements, &c. thereon. I have agreed to do so, (and, in fact, have left never more to return,) and the Arbitrators appointed by the Government and myself, (Messrs. Chambers & Alexander,) have sent in their award.

I, yesterday, received a letter from the Under Secretary, enclosing a copy of a Letter from Bishop Williams to the Hon. the Col. Secretary, respecting myself and Waitangi.—

This Letter has been sent to me by Mr. Gisborne,—“in order that I may make such remarks thereon, for the information of the Government, as I may consider necessary.”

I am truly sorry to find, that Bishop Williams' Letter is (to say the least of it) altogether of a highly depreciatory character.

As, however, the concluding paragraph of Bishop Williams' Letter is wholly concerning information which he states to have been given by *you*: and as I know nothing whatever of any such circumstance as he relates,—I am necessitated to ask you if you know any thing of it? I enclose a copy of that portion of Bishop Williams' Letter.

Also:—as Bp. Williams (in his said Letter) further says—“the original raupo house was in some way (!!) burnt down, and Mr. Colenso then lived in a *small raupo* building:”—which words, without explanation, being of a nature to mislead the Government,)—I will also thank you to state your opinion of “the *small raupo* building,” abovementioned,—which stood, and still stands, in the garden at Waitangi. I do this, not merely because of your often having been in it, (before the time of the fire above alluded to,) but because (if I mistake not,) you were so much pleased with it, that you employed the Natives of Ahuriri to

erect a *similar* one for the Government in this town; and which was afterwards occupied by the Crown Lands Commissioner (Mr. Domett), and since, to the present time, by the Resident Magistrate (Capn. Carling).

I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours very truly  
Wm Colenso.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1033087)

My dr. Sir

If you can look in here (office) I will shew you the Bp's. Epistle.—Any time when you may be passing—

WC

### 1862 December 23 McLean to Colenso (#1002189)

Napier Decr. 23<sup>rd</sup>. 1862.

Dear Sir

In reply to your letter of the 11<sup>th</sup> ult. enclosing extracts of Bishop Williams' communication to the Govt. respecting Waitangi.

I have to state that I know nothing whatever of the circumstances referred to in the latter paragraph of his Lordship's comm. as I do not remember that I had any conversation with you at the time about Waitangi.

Respecting the raupo cottage in which you were living after your house was burnt I can only say that it was a well constructed substantial native building, well floored, and the interior was neatly lined with kakaho and altogether the best cottage of the description then in the district.

I remain  
My dear Sir  
Your very truly  
Donald McLean.

raupo = bulrushes; kakaho = grasslike rushes.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1026569)

Tuesday aftn.

My dear Sir

I half looked for you yesterday—but failed in finding you.—I enclose you a memo of account for fencing (which *I think* I gave you when last here)—the whip you had in leaving—& the Maori Test. I sent to Mr Barclay as you desired.—Can't you come up and spend the evening with me?—Or tomorrow eve?—Or any evening this week—

Yours sincerely  
W. Colenso.

### 1863 June 24 Colenso to McLean (#1022038)

June 24, 1863

Dear Sir

I received your note of the 22nd in which you inform me, that you were under the impression that the fencing account &c. had been settled.—I have myself no recollection whatever of any such thing—in fact just the contrary (from reasons I will presently give)—still, “to leave no stone unturned,” I have gone over all my mems. and account Books, and have also been to the Bank and closely examined my Pass-Book, (believing that, if received from you in a cheque, the whole *amount*, £10.0.3, whether paid in separately, or in addition to my usual monthly payments, would show itself.)—but find no clue whatever of any such Payment.

Perhaps I may be allowed to remind you, that about 15 months ago, (a little before, or a little after Sir George's visit,) I sent you a note enclosing the account, and saw you very soon after, when you said, you were then going off to Auckland (in a hurry) and would pay it on your return. The “reasons” (alluded to above) which I have to the contrary, are, 1. in Feby./62 I remitted £13.15.0 to the B. & F. Bible Society, (monies received by me from date of former remittance for Bibles and Testaments sold,) and I well recollect making out the Acct. sales *twice*, owing to the Maori Test. charged to you not

having *then* been paid for.—

And, 2.—when I left for Wellington (about this time last yr.) I left with Capt. Carter a note addressed to you, (to be given to you should you *return* during my absence,) in which I asked you to pay in the amount to my Credit at the Bank.—

It would, however, be both proper and satisfactory if you also examine your own Bank Book—to ascertain whether you had ever drawn a cheque in my name—this I hope you will do.—

I thank you for reminding me of the little *extra* bill (which had been quite forgotten by me—through my writing my last note to you with only my town memo. book before me, & without referring to the old Waitangi account. The whole sum, is, £10.0.3.

I also thank you much for kindly reminding me of some *extra* work being still unpaid:— (this also was forgotten:)—but as I have been paid by Mr. Janisch what was due me as salary—it is not worthwhile to make out any fresh account,—let that pass.—

I trust you will be able to read this horrid scrawl. My hand just now is very bad from Rheumatism (?)

Yours truly  
Wm. Colenso.

### 1865 February 1 Colenso to McLean (#1001613)

Govt. Offices  
Monday mg.

Dear Mr. McLean

I just write you this line to tell you, that I am right glad to hear of your being better—and, that the *sole* reason why I have not called to see you—is, my belief, that (for your health & speedy convalescence) you have already *too many* visitors:—

If I can be of any service to you, in any way—or if I have any thing handy (just over the fence)—don't fail in making it known. I would I had known of your returning so early, as I *had* some fine peaches—which I gave away.—

Don't think of answering this.—

Believe me  
Dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W.Colenso

His Honor the Superintendent.

### 1865 September 1 Colenso to McLean (#1005775)

Private  
&  
Confidential.

Wellington  
September 1/65.

His Honor D. Maclean, Esq.

My dear Sir,

I find the “Rangatira” is to leave this port for Napier on Monday next, and I hasten to give you some information which I have lately (by “Queen”) received from Napier.

I have had 2 letters of warning, written by a *friendly* pair of Natives living between Havelock and Waipawa, (whose names and village I must not divulge,)—from which I quote verbatim:—(the first is written to the boy, Willie,)—

... “ka nui te pouri o toku ngakau ki a korua ko tou papa, nui noa atu te aroha, na, he korero tenei, naku ki a korua, he whakaaro roa, kia tupato ki nga mahi o te ao, ara a te hauhau, ka tata tonu nga mahi a te arero kai taewa o te maori te kino ki te ao koia ahau ka tuhi atu ai kia rongo korua, kia noho tupato kei wareware te ngakau ki te mahara.” (the second, to me, is much the same, he

adds.)—“E hoa, e Neho, ko tena korero i tuhia atu na, he mea tuhi tahae na mana, kia rongo korua, E hoa, ko ta mana nei mahara, me i kona (Napier) ano koe, kua tae atu mana ki kona, &c.—kei korerotia e korua taua kino ti te tangata, &c. &c.—”

These letters were written on the 24th August, and fortunately forwarded on by Bourke to me.—

Curiously enough, a Native Chief (at present here from the North,) shewed me the other day—on finding I had known his relatives and friends at the Bay of Islands—a long and *good* letter he had written to the Govt. here, warning them not to be careless, and not to trust too much to their *best* Maori friends. I have not told any one here of my letters from Napier, save Ormond,—and I only hope, I may not only be in time, but that you (we) may not have any disturbance from that quarter.—

I hope you are quite well. Ormond will give you all pol. news.

Believe me,  
Yours faithfully,  
Wm. Colenso.

### 1865 September 7 McLean to Colenso (#1000434)

Napier 7 Sept 65.

My dear Sir

I am exceedingly obliged for the information conveyed in your private letter of the 1<sup>st</sup>. inst.

Native affairs on the East coast are assuming a very serious aspect and it is necessary to be prepared at all points for any thing that may occur.

The month of August was all along spoken of by the Hauhaus the 18 & 28 of that month as the time for a general attack. I see your correspondent writes on the 24<sup>th</sup>. So that no doubt he was under the impression at the time that the August prophecies might be fulfilled.

Yesterday some of Karaitiana's people threatened to pull down a hui or Hauhau flag of Paora Noimoi's, you know what that would lead to. I have warned Karaitiana not to precipitate hostilities and I think matters will be quiet here for a time.

I remain  
my dear Sir  
yours faithfully  
Donald McLean.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1024976)

Monday mornng.

His Honor  
the Superintendent  
of H. Bay

My dear Sir

Many thanks for your kind note and invitation of this morning,—I was quite glad to see your well known hand writing again, and that you could write as usual after the long shaking you have had.—

I should very much like to attend any Meeting of Natives in Town called by you—also to be at your Dinner today, (as I think some of the *old* pakehas should be there;) but I am far from well; I have for some time past been obliged to be extra careful—never showing out after dark, nor in rain—and I would not be out today only business called me forth. I did not move out yesterday; and I feel anything but well now—partly owing to damp feet.

I am therefore obliged (believe me unwillingly) to beg you to accept my apology for not attending the dinner.—*which I am glad to see got up & given to the Chiefs.*

If you should not be *over pressed* for time or with company—I will try to see you in a few days:—Believe me, yours very truly

W. Colenso

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1018963)

Monday mornng.

His Honor  
D. McLean, Esq  
&c &c &c

My dear Sir

I called & waited a while on Friday, but Wm. Morris was so outrageous that I left.—I again looked in on Saturday, but you were busy (as usual). I think I have now called about 8 times—6, before you went S.—

I wish to see you as early as convenient on *one* matter—and now this week will be holiday. If you could fix any hour I would suit your leisure—whether at office or at your private residence.

I have said, I wish to see you early on *one* matter—I have also others to talk about, but these can stand over.

I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
Wm Colenso.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1018984)

Tuesday  
30th

His Honor  
the Superintendent  
&c &c

Dear Sir

I regret to have to inform you, that Pat. Flanagan yesterday, I being absent, brought a load of coal to my house across your field. I feel particularly an-

noyed at it, as I had not only (yesterday morning) agreed to pay him extra for coming up by Dr. Hitchings—but had sent my own man to repair the ruts where worn by the water from the late rains.—

I trust such shall not happen again.—

I am Dear Sir  
Yours truly  
Wm Colenso.

### 1866 October 9 Colenso to McLean (#1013623)

Tuesday mg. Oct. 9th. 1866

His Honor, D. McLean Esq.  
&c. &c. &c.

My dear Sir,

Thinking over the present state of affairs (Hauhaus and settlers) it has occurred to me—to offer you my personal services to go and see these unhappy people—this morning, if you approve of it. To try to bring them to a better state of mind—or, at all events, to know their wants, and (if possible) their intentions—before proceeding to the last resource.

I suppose you know well the old Native Custom (which these half-wild peoples no doubt still hold) or in such matters to treat with “Chiefs”—or those whom they consider to be such. I will call on you at your office at x a.m.

I am,  
My dr Sir,  
Yours truly,  
W. Colenso.

## 1867 March 19 Colenso to McLean (#1009275)

Tuesday  
March 19/87

My Dear Sir

I called at your office this morning, hoping to see you—I wished just to tell you (in confidence) what I heard from Tareha on Saturday last.—

I fell in with him at the Spit—on my way to Petane to vote for Parsons.—I asked him when the *hui* was to take place at the Wairoa, & if he & other Here-taunga Chiefs were going? He said, He supposed they should go *with* you—but that they would rather be *specialy* invited by the Wairoa folks—adding, “Kei te mohio ano koe ki a matau tikanga.”—

Of course I don't know when you may be going thither, but it does seem to me (if time would now permit) that it might be advisable to bring this so-called *special* invitation about.—

There *appears* to be some amount of dissatisfaction about Tareha; & I don't think he would have spoken so very freely had he not just had a glass somewhere.

Pray excuse this: it may be wholly unimportant.

I am

my dear Sir

Yours truly

Wm Colenso.

## 1867 March 20 McLean to Colenso (#1015464)

Napier 20 March 1867.

My dear Sir

I am much obliged for yours of last evening respecting Tariha.

For upwards of a year and a half Tariha has felt some jealousy respecting the Wairoa. I think it can in some measure be traced to his being slighted by some of the Wairoa chiefs since he has been living with a woman named Harriet from there. Tariha also considers that he should be more fully recognised as

representing the late Henare te Apatare who lived on the left bank near Mr Hamlin's. I am vexed to find that with many good qualities Tariha has lately been very much given to drink.

In reference to an invitation from the Wairoa people I expect that has less to do with Tariha's feelings than what I have referred to, but I shall endeavour to allay any displeasure by explaining why an invitation was not sent to him.

I remain

my dear Sir

yours very truly

Donald McLean

P.S. I shall not be able to attend the meeting till after the 24 when I expect one of the Ministers to accompany me to the Wairoa. DMcL

## 1867 November 8 McLean to Colenso (#1014955)

My dear Sir,

I have some Piripiri growing in my coast run at Akitio and I am endeavouring to find out what kind of grass or clover will be the best to conquer it. From your knowledge of botany I daresay you would be able to tell me.

In consequence of the burr I was compelled to shear very early this year which causes a loss in the weight of wool.

I am told Nairn's run is very bad with it.

I remain

yours very truly

Donald Maclean

8 Novr. 1867.

## 1867 November 8 Colenso to McLean (#1014955)

My dear Sir

I have your note of this morning, enquiring if I knew any remedy for the Piripiri.—I am sorry to say that I do not: I only wish I did. I have long been of

opinion that this plant was likely to give you (Flock-owners) much more trouble & loss than the thistle,—about which so much has been said.—

One thing is certain—the Piripiri is prodigiously spreading and is a *Maori* & likes (or lives in) all soils & situations. I was astonished—in 1863, in going to Wairoa—to see so much of it at *Petane* valley, TANGOIO, & *Mohaka*.—all, I think, owing to the sheep carrying the seeds onto bare, or burnt off, land.—

I had a plant or two in this paddock,—where the hay is now cutting,—and I worked hard to destroy it, for several years: I think I have prevailed,—but, if so, it was only after a hard & long fight.—I know it springs from portions of old roots—something like sorrel, & dock; and if rooted up & thrown down carelessly, and wet weather comes on, it will take root again.—

I think you will have to come to paring it off, with a sharp spade, or good hoe, every season *before it seeds*, and burning it; an active man could destroy a good deal in a day where the ground is open, as I have known *one* plant to spread out as large as a dining table, & it is soon turned over. I should think—if turned up in early or midsummer, & then the spots sown with white clover in early autumn, (especially if there is any lime in the soil, as there is here on Scinde Island,) that it could be eradicated.—

I hope your *present* loss of wool, through shearing early, will not occur again—as I suppose your *full* quantity would be on their backs by the early season of next year.—

I am sorry my dear Sir that I can not say anything better respecting the extirpation of this enemy.

And am

Yours very truly  
Wm Colenso

Novr. 8/67

### Undated (Nov 1865?) Colenso to McLean (#1011933)

Tuesday morning

My dear Sir

I have to thank you for the Otago papers. I regret I have *not* a printed copy of my Essay on the Maories (I have often wished for one) I have written again &

again about it, & the *last* I heard from Dr Hector—was, it is to be printed at Govt. Press—that was when you were at the Assembly.—

I send you your Essays you so very kindly lent me, and have to apologise for keeping them so long—they would have been returned shortly after I had them only you were away—and I had carefully put them aside.

The *burr* you speak of—I dislike much, & root it out—also the *lucerne* (which is too common here, although of great value in S. Australia as a *green crop*.)

I hope you will enjoy your ride and am

My dear Sir

Yours truly

W. Colenso

P.S. I have sometimes thought that my Essay on the Maories is not *orthodox* enough—?

There were *no Otago Papers* in the large lot you sent me.—

*piripiri* = *burr*, *biddy-bid*.

### 1867 December 2 Colenso to McLean (#1016880)

Monday mg.

Decembr 2nd. 1867

His Honor D. McLean Esq

My dear Sir,

As you very kindly said you would shew Mr. Stafford the propriety of re-granting me the privilege of franking and receiving *on Service*, I have thought it best to send you a copy of my Official about it to Mr. Richmond.—

I have lately had a letter from the N. asking for *stamps*, in order to forward me papers,—and I have also lately had a letter from Hokianga, which, being insufficiently stamped, I had to pay not only the amount wanting—but also the *fine*, so that I really am in a *fix*—for if I send stamps (6d. of course) they may or may not be properly used,—and if *too much*, then there is a loss—if *too little*, then I am fined additional!—& all out of my pocket.

Besides, I take 5 copies of the “*Waka Maori*,” to send to those very men who are helping me,—which I have *now* put stamps on!—in addition to subscription.

I should think a *word* from you to Mr. Stafford would be sufficient (I have been thinking often of writing to him myself, and would have done so had I not written to Mr. Richmond)—as Mr. Stafford originally Gazetted it, very early in '66, before that Mr. Richmond or Mr. Hall took office.—

I return your Papers with many thanks for your kindness. Now that you are about to lose the Judge, and other Visitors, if you would fix some day for an hour's talk on public matters I will thank you

And am,  
My dear Sir,  
Yours truly,  
W. Colenso.

### 1868? Colenso to McLean (#1015252)

Wednesdy. mg. (8 o'clock rather cold).

My Dear Sir,

With *many thanks* I return your N. Papers: I feel very much obliged to you for your so kindly remembering me with them.—

Could you conveniently fix some day this week for my seeing you in your office on our Business? (Friday would suit *me* well—but I will make any day suit.) I purpose going inland again! next week.—

And if you would read the Correspondence with Mr. Domett, concerning T. Sn. 400\*—also have some talk with Cr. Lds. Commissr., Mr. Weber and Mr. Wilson about the bit of land here on the brow (cut off from the end of the road, in '66)—it would help on matters, which should be settled.

In haste I am yrs. truly,  
Wm. Colenso

\*town section 400.

### 1868 February 1 Colenso to McLean (#1008457)

Friday Mg.

My dear Sir

I am much obliged to you for Dr. Hector's Geologl. Report, it has interested me much,—I am sure I scarcely know how to thank you for your very kind remembrance of me.

I think you are “about right” (as the Americans say) in speaking of this being *our driest* season in H. Bay. More than once of late I have thought, whether the burning off all the rank indigenous herbage—and so much of small bush & forest—which once covered our ground and tended to keep the earth damp (and in many places *wet* all the summer through) has any thing to do with it—moisture below attracts moisture from above, & it is well known that trees & plants do so.—

Two things I heard of yesterday—that Sir G. Brown had arrived in Wellington—and that Dr. Selwyn had accepted Lichfield See.

I hope to send you a few Peaches with this—if the winds have spared any.

Could you fix some day next week when I could see you in your Office.—I have been long waiting, but without wishing to intrude, or to step in before another whose business may be more important; any day shall suit me.

I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

P.S. I don't think there can be much *real* analogy between our floods & droughts—and those of Australia; the difference of latitude, of size of countries, of interior (as far as is known) &c &c—would bar all such; still (as you observe) there is the *apparent* one. W.C.

Did you note in “Independent” of 4<sup>th</sup>. (which I saw at Spit.) how different they had the wind at Wellington on Sunday & Monday last? & while the Bar. there indicated a gale such fell not at Wgn.— W.C.

### 1868 April 24 McLean to Colenso (#1000550)

My dear Sir

I am sorry to find that Mr. Weber is not in town and to avoid giving you the trouble of coming down I must ask you to fix another day.

Mr. Weber will be in this evening but it may be too late and he has some of the correspondence with Domett.

In reference to the blind road leading to your place Capt. Carter thinks that you are prepared to offer £10. for it. I am quite willing to accept that sum and close the transaction as far as one of the two roads is concerned.

I remain  
yours truly  
Donald McLean

April 24. 1868.

### 1868 late April: Colenso to McLean (#1027419)

Wednesday Eveng.

His Honour  
D. McLean Esq.

My dear Sir

I send you enclosed a note I this day received from Hokianga: if you have nothing later, or more authentic, from that quarter, it may interest you. The *former* part of the note is nothing.—

If you have Auckland *Herald a.s.t.* of 22<sup>nd</sup>. or 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will thank you for a sight of them, when you may have done with them. Latimer is *gone* to England in “Maori”—left on *morning* of 22<sup>nd</sup>.,—while “Ahuriri” (hence) with my letters to him, reached Auckland in the *afternoon* of that day: so he did *not* get them.

The weather, &c. prevented my going inland yesterday—but I purpose going next Tuesday. Hoping you are quite well. I am

My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1007659)

Saturday morning

His Honour  
D. McLean Esq.

My dear Sir

I return your Papers, so very kindly lent me, with many thanks. I have read Fox’s long speech (which so reminds me of him, and of some of his sarcastic speeches in “the House”!)—and think he is right in some parts of it, as to Natives’ Rights, &c.—

Have you seen T. Williams’ speech? If not I can lend you the “Evening Post,” which contains it. I think the whole trial should be printed in a pamphlet—I have not seen the evidence.

I am glad to find you liked the “Starling.” Did you ever read “Dean Ramsay’s Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character”? If you have *not*—you will (I think) like it much. I have it & should be happy to send it to you.—

I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
Wm Colenso.

Read Sewell’s letter on the Consolidated Loans, &c,—it is in the “Canterbury Times” of April 25\*—now returned. W.C.

\**The Press* 23 April 1868.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1002092)

Tuesday Mg.

His Honour  
D. McLean Esq.

My Dear Sir

I see (by Herald) you have called the meeting by IV tomorrow.—As I have *promised* our neighbour (Marshall) to be at his examinations &c. tomorrow, & which (I think) begins at 3—I shall not be able to attend.

Pray *so draw your address* as to obtain a large number of signatures. (In haste)

Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

### 1868 June 1 Colenso to McLean (#1017987)

June, 1868  
Tuesday mg.

My Dear Sir,

I scarcely know how to thank you for all your kind remembrances of me with Newspapers—knowing too (as I do) how valuable your time is, and how much occupied of late—bearing in mind that *you take the field today!*—

I now return them with many thanks.—

I did greatly wish to see Dr. F's. address; I knew you had *not* got it—ditto Athenæum: ditto Routledge and Kennedy:—somehow, *all* seem to have been neglected!

So, last evening, I went to Catchpool—from whom I got a file of "Independents"—and was just got deep into the Dr's speech—when your kind missive arrived.—

I see he still harps upon his everlasting string of H. Bay interest £2500 per ann.—a nice picking (as things are!) for him: Dr. Fn. can speak feelingly as to "the act of spoliation" (*in re* Marlborough)—he seems to *forget* that *such* cuts *both* ways; and that we feel it in this—"interest"! When I was in the Ho. (I think in '62) I had thought of bringing it before the Assembly (in some shape), of how much of *our* Duties were then—& for years—swallowed up by Wellington—and I should assuredly have done it but for Dr. Knight to whom I mentioned it and who recommended me to wait, as the Govt, knew of it, & intended doing something,—& that he would not lose sight of it &c. &c.

I am *right glad* Fitz. has done so much in England:—glad too, for Stafford's sake (who has been sadly hounded of late,—the *old* story,)—I have little doubt

but that what Stafford told the Nelson folks will prove true—in spite of all the N.Z. Press says.

If you have not read Rolleston's speech (on being elected Suptdt.) do so;—ditto Stevens' Letter on Finance; and "*Dunedin's*" Jesuitical letter:—I hope this man will *never* come to Otago.

I see, you are to commence today, *without* your old aid-de-camp (Ormond)! You may say "There is precious little now to fight about," or,—well, I won't trouble you with any more *stray* thoughts.

I much wished that Wilson had finished that Deed—(W's office is just a little Chancery.) I have been to him 2 or 3 times, but don't intend to go again until *Council is over*: leave it till then.

But do let *the other matter* (the 2 sections on inner harbour) be *settled* in your Ex. before you again break up: it has been left too long already.

Wishing you well through this mo. of June—and hoping your meeting will be productive of great good to our Prov. I am, my Dear Sir,  
truly yours,  
W. Colenso.

### 1868 July? Colenso to McLean (#1013258)

Tuesday noon

My Dear Sir

I return your Saturday Reviews with many thanks.—

Have you seen Major Richardson's speech to the Electors of Clutha (Otago)? If not, it is *well worth your reading*: you will find it in Wellington Independent of July 2.

I am, Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

I have *not* the paper (July 2) or I would gladly send it. W.C.

## 1868 July 31 Colenso to McLean (#1016128)

Private & Confidential

Hon. D. McLean  
&c &c &c

My Dear Sir

I just write you a message sent to me from Porokoro and the M. Chiefs—  
assembled at Pakowhai.—(After lamenting your absence & Mr Cooper’s and  
saying they had only 2 men left whom they could trust,!! Mr Locke & my-  
self—they say)—brought by Te Awapuni,

“Haere, mea utu ki a Neho, kia puta te kupu ki nga pakeha,—e, *kaua e hikaka,*  
*kia tangata-maatuatia te Whakaaro.*”—They have fetched Porokoro from his  
place and will keep him at Pakowhai, as *they don’t like the aspect of things;*  
they fear any incursion from inland, now that the returned natives are made  
desperate. They also wish their own people back from Poverty—*do not like*  
*those Europeans* in command, &c &c.—

I have thought it to be my duty to write you these few words. I would you  
were here; perhaps had you been here things might have been managed better  
at Poverty. *I regret exceedingly* that the returned natives have been hunted. I  
think they might have been quietly managed.—But I fear it is too late now.  
Without very great care I foresee serious times—more for outlying settlers.

Volunteers—*such as one would wish*—are not to be had in sight of Auckld.  
gold diggings:—and unless the *Natives have full confidence in their leaders,*  
*they have no heart.*

*There is much dissatisfaction among them I know,*—the Europeans getting  
their land bit by bit for grog, &c. &c. *forced* upon them—*their seeking* to  
reduce the rents as agreed on by Lease—their mortgages—Bills of Sale, &c.  
&c., (as Hapuku’s and others)—Bp. Wms. building here & *leaving* his flock—  
the article which appeared in “Waka Maori” about lowering their rents—  
every thing tends to make them gloomy & sour. &c &c &c.—

Could *you* run up by Str. to P. Bay? *You* might do good.—

Napier  
Friday 31<sup>st</sup>. July

I have *hazarded* all I have scribbled—but I have done so, as if I were confi-  
dentially talking with you.—

Excuse the scrawl—done here (with people going in & out) to catch the mail.

If I can be of any service you may depend upon me, although I fear that time  
is past.

I hear there is *news*, by steamer just in from Poverty—but I don’t know it yet.

Believe me

My dear Sir

Yours truly

Wm Colenso.

P.S. You are at liberty to tell *Mr. Stafford* any portion of this. W.C.

## 1868 August 6 McLean to Colenso (#1022118)

6 August 1868

My dear Sir

I duly received your letter of the 31 ult. in reference to the state of the natives  
at Hawkes Bay and I feel very much obliged to you for writing it as this is  
really a most anxious time. What with a declining revenue, meetings held at  
Canterbury to discontinue aid to North Island and difficulty of getting aid  
from the Assembly, troops leaving, we seem to be in a very critical position.

I should be glad if you would give a word of encouragement to our own na-  
tives. After all they have not much to complain of, debts of course they incur  
and some from present depression are compelled to give up the lands leased  
from them at such high rates but still the position of our natives is compara-  
tively good. The attempts made to get them involved in debt is the worst fea-  
ture especially when the money is spent as a great proportion of it is in the  
purchase of ardent spirits.

Tariha and Mete made a very good appearance in the House the night before  
last.

I remain

was very truly

Donald McLean

## 1868 September 14 Colenso to McLean (#1008040)

Napier, Monday night,  
September 14/68.

My Dear Sir

A short time ago I heard from a friend at Wellington that my Essay on the Maories would not now be printed, “solely for lack of funds.”—

This afternoon I wrote a note to Dr. Hector, asking him what would be the *expense* of printing it at *Govt. Press*—and, if he could get any help from Col. Govt.,—Otago Provl. Govt.,—Institute,—Governor, or Members of G. Assembly, towards it:—and, also, if he & his brother Commissioners (Dunedin Exhibition) would have any objection to return me the Mss. in order to *my* getting it printed *here*, at my expense—of course, being aided by subscribers: and I shall hope soon to get his reply.

Now it has occurred to me, that a few months ago you wrote me a note, asking for the loan of the same essay—and that possibly you might both *wish to aid the getting it published*—by speaking a few words to some of your Countrymen from *Otago* (for whom it was written), and also to any one else around you,—and be *well able* to do so: hence I have told you all this. I have *not* let Dr. H. know, that I am writing to you, or to any one else about it. I may add, that I gave Sir G. Grey my imperfect *Proof sheets* (on to 88 page) of the said essay—which, he said, he was very glad to get, and had long been looking out for.—You will recollect a *Maori* Robinson Crusoe, published some 20 years ago at Wellington:—have *you* got it here? if *not*, I will thank you to *borrow* it (for me) from some one of your Wellington friends: I much wish to see it, and I have tried almost every where *I could*: but you know *I have few* friends in the “Empire City.”—From the fact of the said book having been printed at Wellington, there must be several copies among the “gude folk” there.

From the day’s Auckland Paper, I see the Rarawa Native has been sentenced to Death—but he will *not* be hung *I know*, from what the Judge & Jury said: now if you have any influence with the *new* Governor—in Maori matters—do, my dear Sir, use it in this case. If he is sent to *penal servitude* depend upon it

there will be a N. Maori row—I hope the Governor will get *good* counsel, & that he will *act* on it.

I was very glad to find you *fêted* Sir George at Wellington, and that *you* took a prominent part therein. It was quite by chance I fell in with him—at the Wharf—and I was glad I happened to be there—as (like w. Kg. Richard of old) “few cried God bless him.”—You so *fêting* our old Govr. is the best bit of news I have heard for some time.—

I was not out all last week! Weather wet; *very* so for us, and it *still continues*. I went yesterday—& again today,—to see Carter, who has been very ill at the Club; confined a whole week and I knew nothing of it!—He is now better—but very weak. He told me, he was not able to write, Mrs. Carter is with him.

I hear, *you* have a *long* speech in the last “Hansard,”—that I hope to read tomorrow evening. Political news hence I must leave for others. Your place is looking very green: a new House is building on Sealey’s Hill nearly in a line with Dinwiddie’s from your verandah.

Hoping you are quite well &c &c I am  
My dear Sir  
Yours truly W. Colenso.

## 1868 September 28 McLean to Colenso (#1006844)

Wellington 28 Sept. 68

My dear Sir

I am in receipt of yours of the 14<sup>th</sup>. in reference to the printing of the Essay on the Maories.

I will do what I can in the matter, it ought to be printed at the Govt. Press. Everything of interest respecting the race should be preserved and circulated among those who take an interest in such subjects.

I will get a Crusoe to take down with me as I am not sure whether I have one at home.

You see I have been having a fight the Govt. on Defence and native matters, both are lamentably conducted, facts have come under my notice respecting the conduct of these officers of which I was quite unconscious until lately and which I refrain from making use of in the present state of the country.

The treatment of Hawkes Bay opened my eyes to the danger of allowing such men to go on unchecked. I think the Rarawa native will only get a short sentence.

Excuse this hasty epistle.  
Yours very truly  
Donald McLean

If I can do anything for you Wellington let me know.

\* Tawake, a man of Te Rarawa iwi, was being tried for murder.

### 1868 October 16 McLean to Colenso (#1020251)

My dear Sir,

Your correspondence relating to the Maori dictionary was laid upon the table. I was giving notice to have it produced when Richmond told me it had been already done.

Ormond at your request asked me to do this.

I had some trouble in getting a “Ropitini Kuruho”,\* and at last I had to borrow the Library copy, when I discovered that Mr. Lyon had one which he will lend if necessary. I went to all kinds of places in search of one.

I send you a Pilgrim’s Progress.

With reference to your essay on the Maori I had a hurried perusal of it and consider it a valuable contribution. I made the following remarks upon it in a letter to Hector.

“I am much obliged for the perusal of Mr. Colenso’s essay on the Maori. I consider it is well worthy of publication, and hope you will get it printed.”

I first asked Richmond about it, and he referred me to Dr. Hector.

very truly yours  
Donald McLean.

16 Octr. 1868

Please return Hector’s note.

\*Ropitini Kuruho = Robinson Crusoe; \*James Hector had written to McLean about Colenso’s essay on 13 October (#1020017).

### 1868 October 16 Colenso to McLean (#1013180)

Friday Aftn.

His Honor  
D. McLean, Esq.  
&c &c &c

My Dear Sir

Many thanks for your kind note of this morning—you are no sooner back, than you are kindly thinking of your neighbour! I had heard of your having arrived, indeed I thought I made you out with my glass yesterday—I fear you must have had a rough passage, but it was well you were *not* out *last* night.

I thank you much for *Crusoe*, and will return it to you in a few days—so that you may return it to the library: I have long had the *P. Progress* (a *poor* translation)—I therefore return you the copy you sent.

I am indebted to you, my dear Sir, for all you have kindly done, or attempted, in way of Dictionary—“Essay”—&c &c. I am much gratified in finding that you had seen the *one* copy, and that you approved of it: I return Hector’s note (enclosed).

It was one thing, however, to have printed it as an Essay, (Hastily written—in “6 weeks,” all the time allowed me!)—and at *that time* too,—and now to print it among the more carefully written “Institute” Papers:—but better perhaps thus, than not at all: Sir G. Grey greatly wished for a copy.—

I know nothing of what you may have been doing at Wellington during the last fortnight—(indeed I know little of what is doing *here*, as I have not been in the town for more than a week)—as my papers thence have been very irregular, so, also, from Auckland.

I hope to do myself the pleasure of calling on you at your office in a few days—perhaps on Monday or Tuesday;—I hope you are quite well, and that you will continue so, as I am sure you will have “lots of calls”—at the same time you will *need* rest—after all your battlings, late sittings, and mental worry,—and if you do not secure it, you will find you are burning *both ends* of the candle.

I am truly glad you are returned to us.

I am

My dear Sir

Yours truly

Wm. Colenso.

P.S. I got a letter from Latimer last evening—he arrived in London Augt. 12—105 days passage,—of which, 48 (!) from Auckland to C. Horn.—

### 1868 November 6 McLean to Colenso (#1002274)

My dear Sir

The Heuheu brought me a stone from Taupo which he supposes indicates gold. Would you kindly give your opinion of it as you understand such matters.

Yours very truly

Donald McLean

6 Novr. 1868.

### 1869 (April?) Colenso to McLean (#1006020)

Friday eveng.

My Dear Sir,

Herewith I return your two Independents you kindly sent me with thanks. I think you may gather somewhat (*political*) from Fox's speech.—Should you note anything in your Otago papers *concerning Bp. Jenner*, I would thank you to allow me a sight when you may have quite done with them:—I expect there will be some warm work down there with his crosses & candlesticks!

I send you a few of our peaches, and beg you to accept the same—I would they were better.

What a blowing dirty day this has been! I pity the folks on the Flats. I have not been in Town for the week.

Hoping, you are well,

I am

my dear Sir,

Yours truly,

Wm. Colenso.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1006178)

My Dear Sir

I feel greatly indebted to you for your so very kindly remembering me,—both while at Wellington, and now here in sending me your Southern Papers.—

I felt sorry you did *not see* Sir George Grey: I fear you will not now do so, unless you take a 2<sup>nd</sup>. voyage.—

I return with thanks your “Otago Witness” kindly lent.

I regret that I have no fruit in my place *called* a garden: I *had* a decent show—but, alas! the sun & early strong winds have done for them. I am

Yours very truly

Saturday.

W. Colenso.

## Undated Colenso to McLean (#1007050)

P. Council Library  
1 pm. 29<sup>th</sup>

Hon. D. McLean  
&c &c &c

My dear Sir

On second thoughts I have run in here to write you this,—*first* to apologise for *so* intruding on you this morning; I did not know you were there, but having called *twice* at your office *here*, & not finding you, and hearing, I might possibly learn somewhat of your hour of being here from your Secy. there—I went over. I should have called yesterday—but on coming here I saw such a shoal of natives' horses outside, that I thought you were engaged, & would not.—

I fear I shall not be able to come down again this aftn. I feel so very Rheumatic, this damp day: so, pray do not expect me at 3 p.m.

I should like to see you again, if possible, before you leave—provided you should be disengaged; and I will endeavour to call early at your office some *fine* day. I wish to speak to you both on Public & Private matters—but neither of very great importance.—

I am  
Very truly yours  
W. Colenso

## Undated Colenso to McLean (#1007395)

Saturday morning

My Dear Sir

I regret I was not at home when your note of Tuesday last arrived.—I went, *early* that morning to Waipukurau by the “Coach,” & returned last evening: the weather, as you say, is truly delightful: I enjoyed the ride down yesterday very much.

I now send you Ramsay's Book—over which (although you have already read it) I expect you will have a few additional merry moments.—I can fancy *a certain party* wishing him & his Book at the bottom of the Red Sea;—and viewing him with a kind of “righteous horror.”

Many thanks for the Papers: I sat up last night to read *Kemphorne's letter*—although I do not greatly like the man.—

Hoping you are well. Believe me  
My dear sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

P.S. I brought a “kit” of dried Inanga (Maori dried, but done *cleanly* & for me) —*would you like a few handfuls?* I always liked this fish, fresh or dried.—If you like them, *pray do let me know.*—

My hand is very shaky today—partly, I suppose, owing to the shaking & jolting of yesterday.— W.C.

## Undated Colenso to McLean (#1016298)

Mondy Eveg.

My dear Mr McLean

I entirely forgot that I am engaged to dine with Col. Wyatt & his Men on Thursday evening—having refused all his many invitations since I arrived; until I should be at liberty will you kindly allow of this excuse? and, if you have not otherwise arranged, allow me to see you on Wednesday or Friday: and do you choose, and please let me know.

Ever my dr Sir  
truly yours  
Wm Colenso.

## Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1015765)

D. McLean, Esq., M.H.R.  
for Napier

My Dear Sir

By Herald of this mg. I find your Council labours are over, I therefore drop you a line as M.H.R. for Napier.

I suppose you will be leaving us on Monday.—

Perhaps you may recollect, that last year (in reply to Macfarlane) you said, in the Ho., that you did *not know* any thing of the work on which I was engaged: as, no doubt, the matter will come up again this year, and as I cannot wish *you* to give a similar answer—would you kindly call here (at any hour today, or, *tomorrow*) and *see*, & so be able to speak more definitely if required.

In so saying I do *not* ask you to support it: that I leave to you.—

As time is now so short, I hurry this; and if you cannot come I pray you to excuse my putting the request. Mr. Ormond has been here (officially), and I expect him to call again.

I am

My dear Sir

Yours truly

Wm Colenso

\*McLean resigned as Superintendent of Hawke's Bay in 1869.

## 1870 July 28 Colenso to McLean (#1013447)

Dear Mr. McLean

For the last 48 hours I have been considering whether I should write to His Excellency or to you,—and if to you, whether officially or non-officially,—and have concluded on the latter.

Saty. mg.

Knowing how very much you must have to do just now, I will be as brief as possible.

It is on the subject of the Maori Prisoners at Otago. In the “Otago Witness,” of July 16, (which you may have seen) I find these words:— “Another of the Maori prisoners, Horopapera Hopu by name, died in the hospital on Sunday night. He was a sufferer from chronic asthma, which was the cause of his death. He was 25 years old. This is the *eighth* Maori prisoner who has succumbed to asthma.”—In other Dunedin & Southern papers, (which you also may have seen,) I have also noticed it said, that the Maori Prisoners will all be *released* by Death before the end of their Sentence (3 years).—

And it is just because that I, too, both believe & fear this, that I now take upon myself to write to you.—

Were you not so very well acquainted with the real natural wants & ailments of the Maoris, I should consider it a duty to shew them to you; but, as it is, I am sure I need only to call your attention to what you must have frequently noticed in former years, when, like myself, often travelling and sojourning among them: *viz.* (1) that they could not stand exposure to cold or wet (like Europeans), even in this Northern Island, where the climate is so very much warmer, especially in the winter season, than the rigorous one of Otago Province: (2) that they never could long exist deprived of fire, even in summer, to which they are invariably accustomed from their infancy: (3) that “chronic asthma” is not a very common complaint among them (when living apart from Europeans), and even to those long afflicted with it, it rarely proves fatal— witness your old friend the aged Porokoru Mapu (who has been a sufferer from it ever since I knew him, in 1843,) old Rihara at Te Waipukurau, & Hoani Waikato: (4) that whenever the Maoris have been attacked with any disorder (real or fancied) and a few die, the remnant, giving way to their foolish belief, that they are doomed & will soon die too, fall off like sheep—and this would have a double effect upon them where they are, as they would be sure to be told that such was in the Papers.

In briefly writing on the rapid decrease of the Maoris, (in my Essay on the Maori Race, published by the Govt. in the 1<sup>st</sup>. vol. of “the Transactions of the N.Z. Institute,”) I have therein stated, the exposure to wet, cold or damp, the

Napier  
July 28, 1870

loss of warmth, & the being subject to gloomy fear, as being among the chief causes.

Such being the case, (which I think *you* will readily allow,) may I not ask, If something cannot be speedily devised and done by the Government to save the lives of the remnant of the prisoners—even if it should amount to the early removal of them to warmer & more congenial quarters?

Prisoners at home, (of a much worse stamp & class than these unhappy men,) when it is shown to the authorities that their health is endangered by confinement, are often humanely removed to other places, and not unfrequently liberated.

I notice too, that Kepa has asked for their liberation (which, if I mistake not, he also did in very plain terms on his first interview with the Hon. Mr. Fox at Whanganui last Summer.)—that Wi Tako and others have sent in to the House of Representatives a certain petition as to the one sidedness of our laws, being wholly in our favour & against the Maoris,—and that similar language has been used by Tareha and Mete Kingi both in & out of the House; while here (as doubtless you know) Karaitiana & other Chiefs are loud in expressing similar opinions.

I recollect telling Mr. Ormond, that I considered your liberation of those Maori prisoners at Auckland last Summer, as a very excellent measure, both humane & *diplomatic*.—Although not a few (who know not the Maori) ventured to disapprove of your doing so.

I could say more, but I think I need not to you, and my hand is again very unsteady today. But this I will venture to add, in conclusion,—that I think you may very well and very easily arrange with Kepa & others as to the safe custody of those unhappy fellows.

Believing that you, who know me well, will not consider this note as intrusive, and apologizing for troubling you,

I am  
dear Mr. McLean,  
Yours truly  
Wm Colenso.

## 1870 August 8 McLean to Colenso (#1022827)

Dear Mr Colenso

I received yours of the 28th. ult. respecting the prisoners at Otago; and I have to thank you for your kind suggestions.

When the Session is over, the whole subject of Native prisoners will be duly considered by the Executive. The subject has been one of anxious consideration to the Government.

I need not assure you that my reply to Mr. Gillies, in reference to the Lexicon, was not by any means spoken in a tone that could have given you the slightest annoyance, had you been present.

Mr. Ormond is going down, and will give you all the news.

I remain,  
Yours very truly, (Signed)  
Donald McLean.  
August 8th. 1870.

## 1870 December 29 Colenso to McLean (#1007052)

Napier  
Decr. 29 1870

Hon. D. McLean  
&c &c &c  
Wellington

My dear Sir

Yesterday I received a painful letter from Capt. Carling—he has no aid from home, and he wishes now to leave by “Maggie” for Sydney, “if his friends can raise the passage-money and a few pounds in his pocket on landing”. I therefore venture to trouble you with this, for your mite. Although little can be said

in the poor fellow's favor, I trust that you (for "auld lang syne") will consider it an act of real charity—to help him in his distress. It is not much that is wanted, yet it falls *on us* (as I experimentally know,) at any but a good time.—

I hope you are well; and that you will forgive my thus intruding on you.—

And heartily wishing you a happy new year I am  
My Dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

P.S. I fear you will not be in time to answer by post—but if you should be willing to help, & would telegraph—"Yes & *sum*," that would do.—

Would you kindly mention it to Mr George Cooper? W.C.

### 1871 May 13 McLean to Colenso (#1009693)

My dear Sir,

I was very sorry to hear that you were afflicted with rheumatism. I can quite sympathise with you, as it has been an old enemy of mine, from which I have suffered very severely. I shall be glad to see you at any time.

Yours truly, (Signed)  
Donald McLean  
May 13. 1871.

### 1871 May 22 McLean to Colenso (#1008151)

My dear Sir,

If you are disengaged, I will be glad to see you upstairs above Mr. Ormond's room.

Yours very truly, (Signed)  
Donald McLean  
May 22nd. 1871.

### 1871 May 25 Colenso to McLean (#1011871)

May 25 1871

Hon. D. McLean,  
&c &c &c  
My Dear Sir

I have been thinking over our Conversation of Monday last about the Lexicon, and as I do not see that I can do anything more than I have already often mentioned—to *continue to go on with it, to the best of my ability*,—as I have always done (save when hindered by infirmity,) I write you these few lines to inform you of it. *My wish is to finish it, and that as quickly as possible*, this (D.V.) I shall strive hard to do. Having however only one room in this house with a grate (my parlour), I could not well have a copying clerk here at work during the Winter, as this House is a very cold one (not being Papered), but I hope to be able to engage one when the warm weather comes round again.

As you are busy, and your time for leaving us drawing near, and as I only crawl down to Town (in pain) for the Council, I won't trouble you again with calling, unless you may wish to see me. I therefore write you this.

When convenient please send me the chq. £5. *re J. Curling*.

I am

My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

### 1871 July 13 McLean to Colenso (#1014237)

My dear Sir

I find that I am obliged to leave for Wellington sooner than I expected so you must excuse my being unable to call up to see you.

Will you send the officials respecting the two boys and the subjects we talked of.

Yours very truly  
Donald McLean  
July 13. 1871.

I leave by the Ashley tomorrow.

1871 September 14 Colenso to McLean (#1007259)

Napier, September 14, 1871

Hon. D. McLean

My dear Sir,

I hear the “Luna” is to call this evening *en route* for Wellington: so I will write you a few lines, and, as I have rather more than usual to notice, I must e’en take a larger sheet.

1<sup>st</sup>. Shortly after you left I received a huge packet from Hone Mohi Tawhai (Hokianga) containing a fair Ms. of 14 foolscap pages! written by himself—for insertion in the “Waka Maori”: it was all about the N. Lands Court, *upholding* it (as against what had appeared in the W.M. against the Court,) but at same time shewing, in 8 or 10 instances, where it wanted mending: I thought it (on the whole) a very good Letter, and intended forwarding it to you. Meeting however w. Grindell in town the next day, & telling him of it, & shewing it to him (having it in my pocket), he begged me to let him have it *instantly* for *immediate* publication in the W.M.,—which he wanted, then & there, to get out &c &c. I gave it to him: & you may judge my vexation, in finding that *soon after* he left Napier for Waipawa, (settling about “40 m. Bush,”) & thence went off to Rangitikei & I know not where! I told Mr. Ormond of this—and I hope he had related it to you.—I should so like for you to see that Letter.

2<sup>nd</sup>. Before that Mr. Ormond left, some natives applied to me, bringing papers of their ?grievances, to draft a Petition for them to the G.A.—I referred them to you. No. Then to Karaitiana, *their member*. To him they went, & in a week or so, returned to me, with their matters more in order, saying that K. had caused this to be written & that he had wished me to look over it. He went to Waipawa (also about the “Bush” sale) & did not return till the last moment, & then to start for Wellington. I have subsequently sent him his papers, telling him to begin at the *right* end, for if he has not sought officially *here* to get his grievance rectified, it would be of no use to attempt it there: I also told Mr. Ormond of this before he left. I believe it to be relative to the boundaries of some Reserves, & of the Land sold, near Maraekakaho.

3<sup>rd</sup>. By last Mail from the N. I have Letters from some Ngapuhi Chiefs—one says (I copy it)

“Engari pea a kona e whai korero ana, tena pea koe te rongorongo na i nga korero o nga Runanga pakeha o Poneke, o Ingarani pea hoki, he korero teka pea taua mea i rongo nei ahau, e kiia ana, Kahore a Wiremu Katene i tomo ki te Paremata, tae rawa atu kua riro a Te Makareni ki tawaahi ki Ingarani ki te tawahi, he Runanga mo nga Maori o Niu Tiren, kia hautopea atu ki te mata o te hoari, te taane te tamaiti te waahine:—he korero tito pea u a taaua.”—

Perhaps it would be well for you to know of the Northern M. Member if he has written N., and if *not*, then get him to write a good Letter directly.—But you will know best.

I think it is a great pity (or mistake), that the “Waka Maori,” which is now in *request* at Waikato & elsewhere among the Maoris, is not *now working doubly* (I might say,) to let them know something of what is going on among you: I feel sure such might be conducive of much good.

Several little ugly things have transpired since Mr. Ormond left, relative to the natives, & some of them you and I have talked about: and as I am pretty confident that such will bring their *cross of trouble*, if not timely attended to, I just mention them—you can easily imagine how the natives talk of them.—

1<sup>st</sup>. Karaitiana was summoned *after he had left* for Rates (Papakura Block), & judgment by default for £38 & costs. It was allowed that he had paid the *first* similar demand. (Has he, or his lands, recd. any benefit?)

2<sup>nd</sup>. Runs are advertised, as having poison laid, & dogs seen will be shot, & persons trespassing will be prosecuted, &c.—I send you enclosed a sample: but how are the *natives*, mostly perhaps concerned, to know of it?

3<sup>rd</sup>. I also send you an extract from our local Papers of an impounding Case inland. And

4<sup>th</sup>. Of another very hard case—the making (according to *English law*!) of Hiraka (Hori Niania’s son) pay for goods had by his runaway wife (Arihi) and *her paramour*. This is a doubly hard case—as all the circumstances are so notorious. I have but little doubt that Firth supplied her with all the goods, after her leaving him: she & the ex-policeman live close to Firth. Such things cause our Laws, &c., to be—hated, as unjust. Surely they could be modified. You will see, my dear sir, that they do all press *one way*.

Although I consider it a part of one's duty to tell you all this, I would not do it *now* were it not for 2 things—1. You may be able to ameliorate some, *this session*: 2. You have *no occasion* to reply to this.

I have read Vogel's finl. statement (as sent us per telegram), and, as far as I understand it, I agree w. it, and think, in some things, he has managed very *adroitly*.

I wish I were at W. to hear the Debates. I hope you will pass a really good Education Act—one, wholly secular, I should prefer—& such will be by & bye, here & elsewhere as the world gets wiser.

Hoping you are well, I am  
My dear Sir, Yours sincerely  
Wm Colenso.

### 1871 September 29 McLean to Colenso (#1001101)

My dear Sir,

I have read with much interest your letter of the 14th. inst., and feel much obliged to you for sending it.

The Ngapuhi representative will keep the Northern tribes fully advised. He is a very sensible intelligent man. I should have liked very much to have seen Henri Mohi's letter; as his knowledge of the working of the Native Land Court is considerable.

I shall be glad to hear from you when you can spare time to write; and I hope that the rheumatic attack with which you were afflicted when I was at Hawkes Bay has disappeared. If you would like a trip to the Hot Springs at Rotorua, I should be very glad to give you a passage to Maketu, and a horse and guide on to the Lakes.

Hoping you will excuse this short epistle,

I remain,  
Yours very truly, (Signed)  
Donald McLean.  
29 Sept. 1871

### 1871 October 7 Colenso to McLean (#1010857)

Napier,  
Octr. 7th, 1871

Hon. D. McLean

My dear Sir,

I have to thank you for your kind note per "Luna,"—finding, from Mr. Ormond, that Mrs. Grindell was going to Wellington to her husband, I wrote a note to Major Green, asking him to see her, and get (if possible) Hone Mohi's letter, which, no doubt, was left by G. at home, or to telegraph to G. about it, so as to get it for you.—And I shall hope to hear it will timely reach your hands.

Mr. Ormond has kindly given me a copy of Mr. Turton's Report: I am not at all pleased w. his remark (p.12)—"The claims of the Creditors of Te Hapuku amount to £739. —this sum would be reduced fully one half, were items for the sale of spirits not legally recoverable, *and items the recovery of which is barred by the Statute of limitations struck out of the accounts.*" This, *latter*, can *only* apply to *mine*! And what he owes me is only for goods (and money lent to him, and paid for him)—not charging a single farthing for interest as others have done.—

Of course Mr. T. is a *new* hand here, and knows nothing of the particular case.—I am sure that no *old* hand could have so written: I am sorry for it, and can only hope that neither Te H. nor any other will (or can) so *lower* themselves as to follow it out: but the *hint* has been given them, and that by a high Official.

As Mr. Locke is with you, who is one of the 2 Trustees and the principal one too, I have troubled you with this remark in your present busy time—that you may be able to speak to him on the matter—the acting *equitably*.

I won't trouble you just now with any thing more. Hoping that you are well, & wishing you were well through the Session.—I am,

Yours truly,  
Wm. Colenso

1871 October 28 Colenso to McLean (#1024002)

Napier,  
Saturday Oct. 28 1871

Hon. D. McLean

My dear Sir,

I said, in my telegraphic reply to your telegram of Thursday respecting the Maori Dicty., that I would “write fully by Ahuriri Steamer”—then on her way to Napier. As she returns this evening I would now do so,—but, after all, I scarcely know how.—

I also received your kind telegram in reply, but I am not sure that they are “Official,”—and as I have a great dislike to re-commence any more official writing (having already written so much of that kind to so little purpose), I will take advantage of the doubt and so write *non-officially*.

1. Your first enquiry was—“Will you be able after the Session is over to send here part of your Maori Dictionary, as it might be printed from time to time?”—I don’t think this plan a preferable one; and that, in a great measure, owing to the new Ed. of Williams’ Dicty., *just out*, and which (though faulty and deficient) is quite sufficient for the Public for general purposes. New words, and fresh additional meanings of words well-known, are every now and then coming to light, and which may equally belong to the former as to the latter part of the Work.—

Had the offer I officially made to the N. Minister (Col. Russell) in ’66 been accepted—to publish the Dy. in 4 parts—2 of them would have been published ere this, and the Government and the Public been satisfied; and I, too, be now receiving pay for my labour. For, while I am going on with the Work, and intend (D.V.) to continue to do so, I cannot conceal, from all parties, that I am hardly used by the Government (not particularly *yours*), who have twice broken faith with me in working for them, and so driven me to do what little I may towards getting my own daily bread. Could I have supposed that the Government would have so acted I would never have undertaken the Work—and I have, consequently, wished a 100 times that I had not. *Thus* circumstanced, and with daily more or less of Rheumatism, (a fresh return yesterday at poor young Kenny’s funeral, though day very fine.)—I hesitate to promise

as to when the first part of the work would be so ready as to be followed in steady succession by the remaining ones.

2. As to Mr. John White, a paid Govt. Officer, asking for a “Consideration” for his 150 (!) collected Maori words—which may or may not be of value—it seems, *to me*, preposterous. And yet, perhaps, not so, bearing in mind what too many of the Colony think with regard to their doing anything, however small, for the Government! In my telegram in reply, I referred you to the Notice on this subject in the Gazette, of April ’66, p. 159, and which I hope at your early leisure you will read. Yet even that was *not* inserted (by Col. Russell) as I had wished: there were 2 or 3 official letters about it—I wanting the tenor of it to be inserted as from the Govt. and *not from me*, but Col. Russell chose this way of doing it, and his short addition to it spoiled all, as the consequence has been that not one has ever helped (nor replied to *my* letters) save Locke and Grindell. I think that those old words which J. White says he has collected should be obtained; but, if he *must* be paid for them, let us know first what we are to pay for,—as *I may* have them already; and if he declines to let me see them *with their meanings*, let him send the *words only*—keeping the Keys—until reported on to you.—

I quite agree with you, that we should have “good examples in pure old Maori”: this I have always aimed at; and it is *this* which has made my work so much the more heavy,—giving me 3 or 4 times the amount of writing.—

Do try, my dear Sir, to get hold of that Ms. of W. Baker’s, which you mention: it *should*, it *must* be found: I had also heard of it. Baker was the best of all the M. Interpreters I have ever known. I would he were alive now! It was he who gained all the *old* Maori for Rev. R. Taylor, and which Taylor has, in attempting to use or cook, utterly spoiled (as *Taylor never knew Maori*).

Could you not also send me properly sealed up, the *Ms.* referred to in Sir G. Grey’s vol. of Maori Poetry, page 18 *Index*, *note*, (at end of vol.). I telegraphed the other day to Locke about it. Please send me this, if you can, and if possible by Mr. Ormond.

Believe me I shall continue to dig away at my long and heavy job as I best may—none the better however for being left to do it without help or pay!

You can make what use you please of this letter, and, if you wish it, I will recast it officially.—

Hoping you are well, and wishing you well through your Sessional labours. I am,

My dear Sir,

Yours very truly,

Wm. Colenso.

## 1871 November 9 Colenso to McLean (#1004127)

Napier  
Thursday, Novr. 9.

My dear Sir

Last evening I received a letter from a native of Te Aute, and I think you should know of its contents,—as you may not now have any one there to acquaint you with what is going on, and you still have Karaitiana with you,—to whom a word in season may be of service.—

The writer of the letter says:—

“I tenei wiki he hui ki konei, nga kainga kotahi te Kau, he Hapa, he Iriiri, he Komiti mo nga pukapuka mai o te Paremete a Henare Matua mo Tamaki, he unu mai iraro o te ringa o te Kawanatanga o Nepia, (ki te mea ia e maunu,) *Ko Karaitiana ka noho ia ki raro ina korerotia a Tamaki*””.

And, in another letter *to a native* (which I have,) also dated the 7<sup>th</sup>. are these words:—

“I tae mai a R ---ki honei i tenei ratapu, i haere mai ki te Hapa, ki te Hui hoki mo nga pukapuka mai a Henare Matua, i tukua mai i Poneke. Tena pea te Kawanatanga O Nepia e hinga i a Henare Matua, ina hoki kai te unu a Henare i Tamaki Ki waho i te hoko a te Kawanatanga”.

Rumours are also among the Natives as to what Karaitiana (or Manaena & others) intend doing with regard to certain sales, Leases, &c, &c, of these outer plains.—

Note that sentence & its meaning, “*Ko K. kakoho &c.*”

I write to be in time for the “Keera,” hourly expected: I would also call your attention to the enclosed cutting from the Extra of the “Herald”—to hand last night. Permit me, *again*, to call your serious attention to it—for surely such can be no better than *murder*. In a conversation I had with you here in May last, you assured me, that all such killing should be at an end—that Ropata was then on his *last* journey, &c &c. There have been several since of this kind by those mercenary bloodhounds, and I *feel sure* that the time will come when we shall suffer for it. What would have been said if such an action was done by the Russians to the French? Is not this horrid act *akin* to the tragedy in the Santa Cruz islets—which we all deplore?—Great fault was found by us with the *ambush* near Taranaki in ’62—when our officers were killed, but that is as nothing when compared with these. It seems to me that *of late* much has been done (in this kind of way) to strengthen the King party; for *I know*, that *nearly all natives* really view this pursuit of Te Kooti and this killing of the Maoris with him as a set to against the race, & every event of this kind strengthens them, & the Kg. party, wonderfully.—

Would to God that 6 months ago you had made a *golden bridge* for Te Kooti to escape to Tawhia!—that would have been the right thing.

I cannot write any more now:—I did not intend to write to you at all, or I would have done so before, I mean about my *own matters*: I saw in the “Herald,” a report of what you said in the Ho.—“that I had received *no pay* from March ’70, & that the Work would *entail no further expense to the Country* though *much remained* to be done.”—All right:—I have yet to learn of *one* in the Govt. ranks, from the General to the lowest Sub. who will thus work.

Believe me, yours very truly,  
W. Colenso

P.S. Could you let Mr. Ormond see this? W.C.

## 1871 December 11 Colenso to McLean (#1004349)

Napier  
Decr. 11 1871

Hon. D. McLean

My dear Sir

As I am not going to say a word about *myself*, I may perhaps intrude.—

I wish to say a little concerning young Carter,\* (who left here in the “Keera” for Wgn. on Saturday, to join the Constabulary force,)—could you not possibly find some *more suitable situation* for the youth? I am quite sure he has very good parts, and with a little more teaching, would become quite an acquisition to any Govt. Department. He is also very anxious to learn more, & I think would get on rapidly.

So impressed was I with this, that I sent word to his Father, that I would give £50. (the utu of a section I have on the White Road) towards his 1<sup>st</sup>. year at Dunedin, if Carter could find the remainder. I don’t know anything of the charges there: but I think *you* have influence with the Dunedin folk. And if the £50 I offered (for the section) is required by you for that purpose, you shall have it.

You may see what I have written in the “Herald”—respecting our Maori Prisoner, & *why* he (*like others*) should be pardoned. You know what I have told you in past times, respecting the Maoris,—always aiming at the common weal.—I would that *you knew* what *I now know*. Believe me, that, as in the case of those to whom a proper & prized lenity has been already shewn, so *here*: I hope, most sincerely, that should you see what I have written in the Herald you will consider it.—I am very sure you will *after* I am gone; if you don’t before. I have heard & read very strange things indeed of late. I cannot write you more.

I am,  
Yours very truly  
W. Colenso.

\* Alfred Carter accompanied Colenso’s son Wiremu to England; *utu* =rent.

## 1872 November 23 Colenso to McLean (#1026339)

Napier  
Saturday night (23<sup>rd</sup>.)

Hon. D. McLean  
&c &c

My Dear Sir

It has occurred to me to drop you a line—with reference to what you said this morning, that you should like to have a conversation with me, &c.,—that, I leave town by Coach on Monday morning to visit the *nearer* Country Schools, & intend returning to Napier on the Friday night, or early on Saturday morning (29<sup>th</sup>. or 30<sup>th</sup>. inst.)—and could call on you on the Saturday (30<sup>th</sup>.) if that would suit you. And, if so, please let me have a line from you to that effect. I am

My dear Sir  
truly yours  
Wm Colenso.

P.S. I should also tell you, that on the Monday following (December 2<sup>nd</sup>.) I have again to leave town by early Coach to visit the farther Country Schools, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Hampden, &c.,—& shall not return until late on the following Saturday.

## 1873 July 21 Colenso to McLean (#1021339)

Napier  
July 21 1873

Hon. D. McLean

My Dear Sir

Although you are “to ngakakii” in business, just now,—still, I think, I may venture to write you a line when *it requires no answer*.

Whether it was a misunderstanding on my part I don’t know—but I fully expected you would call while here—believing, that *you yourself had fixed to do so*. Therefore I staid at home, closely, after Council,—day & night, thinking

you would call. Perhaps you were too busy: but had I not depended on your calling, I could & would have called on you: as I wished to have some talk with you about Native Matters.

Last week Locke shewed copies of Parts I & II of that English-Maori work of mine, which I hear is in request. Could you pass the word for me to have a copy of each part (or, 3 copies of each part)? And, by-and-bye, when you are less busy,—tell me, *whether you would wish the work to be continued.*

Col. Russell, who received the Mss. from me when Native Minister,—was a means of stopping it:—and has always, I believe, opposed it,—unknowingly, perhaps.

Well: I hope *you will get well through* this session. Don't be *quite* surprised should you see me some day in the gallery!!

I went last Thursday to see Alexander: he is very low, but still sensible, though he wanders at times. I don't think he can recover, or will last long. His Brother has since arrived, and is now with him; at which I am glad.—I believe he will soon be a *grandfather*.—

Believe me  
My dear Sir  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

## 1873 August 25 Colenso to McLean (#1008608)

Napier  
August 25 1873

My dear Mr. McLean,

I cannot allow another Steamer to return to Wellington without acknowledging your note of the 15<sup>th</sup>. inst. At the same time I am as far off as ever from being able to “make some proposal about the Lexicon.” Ever since the receipt of your note the subject has been uppermost in my mind: (indeed, I may truly say it has been so from July 23, when I received the Offl. Telegram concerning it, so that between it and Rheumatism I have had a jolly life of it! Not being able

to offer, or even think of, anything that would be satisfactory and at the same time *practicable*, has caused me to delay writing you.

I have felt not a little vexed about what has been said in the House about it & me—with no one there (apparently) to shew (or willing, or able to show,) how the whole matter really stood. *I* am repeatedly blamed, and made the scape-goat for the Govt. *laches* (not, however, *your* Govt.) Had the Govt. kept faith with me, the Work would have been very far advanced, and in a very different state to what it now is. I have since seen in the *Hansard* what was said, and I find you were all wrong:—you, in saying I had received £1180. (here is an error of nearly £200, as the Treasury has always lumped together the payments for the Lexicon and those for the Elementary Books &c., lately published: this latter being a separate affair, arranged for in '63, when Dr. Shortland was N.M.)—and also, in your *not* saying that I had *never* in any shape or form received that aid from the Government which was expressly stipulated for; and further, in your not clearly stating,—that, from the time when the Govt. broke their faith and ceased to pay me, they had no longer any other than a *quasi* moral claim, which they *could not press*: that's the position. At the same time I notice that *you* spoke kindly of me, for which I thank you. On the *second* occasion, Mr. Reader Wood was wrong altogether,—“*it ought to be stopped at once*,”—I cannot comprehend. Did he not see that the Govt. had already “stopped” payment?—or, did he think I was still being paid? or, that I could, or would, continue slaving at it year after year, since March '70, for the paltry “£100. at completion”?

Last year I had serious thoughts of getting a Select Comtee. appointed to enquire into it,—so that the House may know *all* about it, and justice should be done me in the matter:—and a Comtee. may yet be appointed. Were printing cheaper I would have had the whole history of it, printed as a pamphlet—for the information of Members and the Public.

You ask me to make some proposal: well, what I would do, if I had the means, (if, say, I had sheep, and was a monetary gainer through the late rise in wool, —whereas *I* am a great *loser* through this very prosperity!)—I would just hand back to the Govt. every farthing I have ever received (including for expenses & outlay,) and burn all my Mss.;—or possibly sell, or give, them to France or Germany: states which value & patronize literature and scholarship.—Do not think, my dear Sir, this is a *new* thought;—not so: I told Mr. Ormond so, in 1870, when the Govt. cut me adrift. I feel, & I have long felt, that I was a great

fool to have ever entered into any such an agreement with them—devoting my whole life & energies for something over £200. per ann.,—and then to be repeatedly taken to task, and snubbed & spurned, year after year, by persons who know nothing at all of the matter, or the Work! The fable of the dying Lion and the Ass is as nothing to it.—

I will, however, write you again in a day or two, when Mr. Ormond returns, by which time I may (?) be able to think of something.

You may make any use you please of this.

I am,

Yours very truly  
Wm. Colenso.

### Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1008419)

Sunday Evng.  
31<sup>st</sup>

My dear Mr McLean,

I wrote to you on the 25<sup>th</sup>. per “Whanganui” Str., which letter I suppose you have received,—I think I wrote to you *feelingly*.

I have now, with some difficulty, concluded the enclosed on the same subject. I hope you may not be displeased at my taking your question in the *official* way, and so writing to you now *officially*. Please let Mr. Ormond see the letter, and, if *agreeable* to you, could you not well lay it on the table of the House,—or get it printed as a Paper for the Members? If you should agree to my Proposal—I shall have to write to you again shortly.

I am my dear Mr McLean  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

\*August 1873: see above.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1015589)

Monday 15

My dear Mr. McLean

Many thanks for your kind intimation. That party however is *clear*—I would that I could say as much to those S. of Ahuriri.

When shall I see you again? I have looked in twice—but you were out. One of those times however I was deceived (*unintentionally*) by Capt. Carter—as you were within.

Tomorrow early, I leave for Clive to inspect the School there. I will call on you at ½ past IV. this evening.

Ever yrs truly  
W. Colenso.

### 1875? February 16 Colenso to McLean (#1020730)

Napier  
Tuesday Feb'y 16

My Dear Sir

When *we* are to *meet* again (at the rate we have been going on since your return from Wellington) I really don't know!—Now this is just what I have often thought of late—and what I should still be thinking (seeing I have called at your office—five or six times—never yet once met you in Town—and have lately heard of your being unwell & confined to your house a little more than usual,) but for the events of last evening which *force* me to pay *you* a formal visit on Friday next,—and I should be most unwilling that such should be our first interview, or correspondence, after so long a silence, hence I scribble you this as a kind of *karere*.

I may tell you that I arranged for the Deputation to wait on you on *Friday*—as I saw it was too late for the “Herald” of this morning to give you any report of the meeting—and the “Times” would not be out before Thursday—and I thought it right you should have a fair public Report of the meeting *before* that we saw you.—

No doubt you heard (some 2 months or more ago) that a Public Meeting was then sought to be convened to consider this question: a paper signed by (I believe) 98 respectable Rate payers of this Town was brought to me by a Deputation chosen from among themselves asking me to convene such a meeting: I refused however to do so, mainly on the ground that I held no Po. situation nor any Public one,—that I was more retired than half of my fellow townsmen, &c, &c: they gave in very *reluctantly*, and I promised them that if they got up a Public meeting that I would attend & take part in it. Your re-appointing a Collector of this obnoxious rate, & his going his rounds, has brought this meeting to pass:—I had the *first Resolution* sent to me on Saturday with a request that I would move it, to which (after reading it) I consented: and because I did so last evening I am made one of this Deputation.—

That is just the plain state of the case. What *I* said, I suppose you will see in the “Times”—to which I must refer you. I think (notwithstanding the weather) it was the *largest* Pub. meeting I have ever seen in Napier.—as a small (though not erroneous) test of real public feeling, I may mention, that (*after 2/3rds. or more of the people had left*) it occurred to the getters-up of the meeting to call for a 1/- or 6d. collection to defray expenses:—£2.14.0 (the amount required) was gathered in no time, and monies afterwards tendered were refused and returned as not required. Indeed, I saw more than one working man tender a half Crown—there was quite a rush to subscribe & no shirking; just so it was to sign their names to a pledge to stand together to defray legal expenses (if needed).

I am, my dear Sir

Yours truly            W. Colenso.

### 1875 May 7 McLean to Colenso (#1026035)

Dear Mr. Colenso,

If 11 a.m. to day will suit you, I shall be very glad to see you at the new Court House; or to pay you a visit at your own place after the natives in town leave for the Wairoa.

Yours very truly,  
Donald McLean.  
7 May 75.

### 1875 June 2 Colenso to McLean (#1022689)

Dear Sir Donald McLean

Your kind note of enquiry *re* Lexicon is to hand, and I regret to have to reply in the negative.—

However I will try hard to get a sufficient portion ready & send after you.— I have not been well lately, now 4 days laid up Influenza, but am getting better. I heard continually from Dr. H. of *your* getting round, and was much gratified in hearing it.—I should have called last week but I knew you were (as usual) besieged—& your time far too valuable. Wishing you a pleasant voyage.

I am

Yours very truly  
W. Colenso.

2 June 1875

P.S. This—unfortunately—is my *most busy* time of the year as Insp. of Schools—not merely through midwinter vacation at hand, but having my Annual Report to draw up—and a whole lot of Tabular Statistical Information for P. Council. W.C.

### 1875 (June 19?) Colenso to McLean (#1001405)

Napier  
Saty. 19<sup>th</sup>

My Dear Sir Donald,

After a great deal of “revolving in mind & coming to no satisfactory conclusion”—I have written the enclosed, which (as I take it) serves to place the matter of the Lexn. fairly before you in a few plain words.—I have only *one* purpose in the matter, to aid all that I can while I may.

I do not know where you are *now*: but I post this. And when I hear of your arrival in town will wait upon you & *see your face once more!* —

I am,  
My Dear Sir Donald  
Yours Very truly,            W. Colenso.

1875 July 21 Colenso to McLean (#1000734)

Napier  
July 21/75  
(midnight.)

My dear Sir Donald McLean,

In sending you the Mss. you wished for—of *both* parts of the Dicty.,—and my long letter or *resumé*,—I can only hope you may find time to give them (the *latter* particularly) some little attention. I know that you are and must be busy. You will see that I have (*painfully*) worked up from the very beginning of the Dicty. such portion (with I. O. Ka, and the other *particles*) being by far the hardest part of the Work—*i.e.* to do it well & fairly: which *I feel I have not yet accomplished.*

The pages that will follow will contain a verb or two taken from under some consonant in the latter part of the Dy.—

You may remember, that some time back you requested me to give “good Maori *examples*,”—you will find plenty given! Of course, by-and-bye, (should the Dy. ever be printed,) some of the examples may be omitted.

You have also, officially, asked me for “some *proposal*” concerning the Work. Well, you will find 4 given in my letter, to which I have already called your close attention.

I fancy *you* will endorse my remarks, &c. under the word *Atua*.

Please let Mr. Ormond see all my Mss. I hope you will get my official letter (*resumé*!) printed with the pages.—

I fear I cannot now write to your Printer about them.

Hoping you are *quite* well & strong,—& wishing you health & strength, &c, &c during the whole session,

I am,  
my dear Sir Donald,  
Yours faithfully  
W. Colenso.

1875 July 25 Colenso to McLean (#1020788)

Napier,  
Sunday, July  
25: midnight.

My dear Sir Donald McLean,

Just as XII have I finished writing! for 3 successive days and *long* nights (each until mg.) have I been *hard* at work not even over the door-step, & without dinner! I *am tired*.

I received your telegram and replied briefly, and I hope you have received what I sent per “Luna” all right. I now send you a little more:—(1.) of the Maori-Eng; just a couple of the heavy root verbs, (that those who know nothing of our N.Z. tongue, may *see* what amounts of work there is!)—and, (2) a few pages of the Eng.-Maori part, just enough to make (I suppose) *2 pages* of the Specimen Sheet, which I hope you will get *printed*: (should a little more be required) to make up 2 pages, you can take it from what I have already sent you—the *Eng-Maori* parts.)

You informed me, that some Member had already tabled a Motion *re* the Dy.! He seems (if I may say so) to be in a hurry. I hope you will *not* reply, until you have what I sent you all ready (with this also) *printed* to lay on Table: or, that you will request him, to hold on a bit: but there you know best.

Now I have just copied all in the rough from my Mss. I may add, that, if ever completed and printed,—(1.) It will not, of course, be so diffuse as you now have it: (2.) It must be first settled, whether *aa* in some words—as *taaua*, *maaua*, *maaku*, &c.—or *ā*: (3.) It must also be settled, whether the N.Z. alphabet shall run as *I have it*, (*all* vowels, A,E,I,O,U, *first*, and then the consonants,—as the *other* Polynesian dialects have it, and as ours *formerly* had it,)—or whether it shall run—A, E, H, I, K &c.

My dear Sir Donald—You will be too busy to write, but I shall be thinking of you, often.

I hope your health will be *good*, first rate; and I heartily wish you well through all the heavy duties of the Session,

Believe me to be,

Yours very truly,  
W. Colenso

1875 September 30 Colenso to McLean (#1000726)

Tuesday Evg.  
Sept. 30/75.

Dear Sir Donald McLean

I am just back from the Country Inspcg. Schools, & my hand is still shaky from motion of train, &c. &c.

Enclosed I send you a copy of last Saty's. "*Wananga*,"—I have marked a few passages for your notice. J.W. (to *please* his Employers, I suppose,) always translates with a twist *against* the Govt.—sometimes the plural for the singular, and sometimes the downright positive statement for a mere allusion.

You will also see what he says of the "Waka Maori"! a short time ago he copied a severe & lying article from the *Evg. Star* against Mr. Ormond, & then, too, making the black (as in that paper) *more black*.—

I also noticed in the "Auckland Wkly. News" that G.T.C. (Chapman, I suppose) was very severe upon *you*! Outrageously so! Perhaps you saw it.—(I think it was in the paper of 18<sup>th</sup>.—or, possibly, 11<sup>th</sup>.)—

I hope you are *still* well in health—*strong* against all your pol. foes.

Tanner was telling me yesterday that the Court of Appeal had as good as said, that, the mere passing of a Block through the Native Lands Court did not confer such a legal title as a party could take a stand on:—If so; Could not H.L.R. be yet approached *re* the old village of Waipukurau? (You may remember I spoke to you about this, some years ago:—as *you* reserved it (the village) *to & for the poor folks all living in it, in the Name of Her Majesty*; otherwise they would not have signed the Deed of the old (1<sup>st</sup>.) Hapuku Block.

If the matter of the Mao. Lex. comes up at all, *I shall not* be surprised if Sir G.G. speaks *against it*; (or against myself) not withstanding all his former old and long fine talk to me! Should he do so, you may quietly point out to him what I have said of him (in that matter) in my *resumé*. I hope, my dear Sir Donald, *you will get me that resumé printed*.—

Believe me ever, Yours very truly, W. Colenso.

P.S. *Latimer*, whom you *once knew*, has gained his Degree of B.A. at the University of Camb., & is now going-in for *M.A.*, & studying at the Temple, London.—

1876 January 1 Colenso to McLean (#1018583)

Napier

Jany. 1. 1876.

My Dear Sir Donald

To you shall be my first note of this New Year.

—To congratulate you upon your re-election, and *proper* position at the poll (which I was glad to see), and to wish you heartily a Happy New Year, and many returns of the same.

I suppose you are to-day at your run enjoying your holiday with your family. I should like to see you *privately*, whenever it may be convenient for you after you return to Napier. I shall be at home all the coming week, (save on Tuesday when I go to Clive to vote for Mr. Ormond,) and will be at your command, if you will kindly let me know of your early space hour.

I am  
My dear Sir Donald  
very truly yours  
W. Colenso.

Undated (February 1876?) Colenso to McLean (#1012156)

Napier  
Friday 4th

My dear Sir Donald

I was in town yesterday & heard of your having arrived,—but, supposing you would have *plenty* of visitors, I did not call:—and today I suppose you are at the Ram Show:—I will hope to see you early next week.

I received several new Books by last Mail, some of which I have thought you might like to see—that is, if you have any spare time.—

I send you one of them, which I only commenced last evening, in reading pages 40–49 I again thought of you, and I think you will find something good in it—you will see it has reached the 9<sup>th</sup>. Edition!—

I have not yet seen Mr. Ormond since you and I last met.

Hoping you are quite well. I am

Yours very truly

W. Colenso

### Undated\* Colenso to McLean (#1018719)

Monday night

My dear Sir Donald

I am very much obliged to you for your very kind invitation to dine with you tomorrow—which I would with great pleasure accept:—but I am *in a fix!*—

My two servants, man & wife, are members of Rev. Mr. Redstone’s Congregation and of *that Church* (U.M.) and I had given them leave to go to the great and *last* Tea Meeting tomorrow evening; I (of course) staying at home: as it is *needful* now-a-days for some one to be in the house of nights. Well, the man is quite (?) willing to stay at home, but the wife (a *good servant* though timid creature, who has only been a short time in N.Z.) won’t go out *alone* to town of an evening:—of course, both would remain at home for me to go out if I were to ask, or press it,—but I don’t exactly like this, under *all* the circumstances (their being greatly attached to Mr. R., who is also a Countryman of theirs,) and they have *not* had a holiday to the Races.

So, my Dear Sir Donald, I am *reluctantly* obliged to decline this kind invitation of yours—and, in doing so, would ask you to *renew* it—for some other day when you may be free from engagement, and to afford me that pleasure.

I purpose calling on you at your office on Wednesday morning.

I am

Yours very truly

W. Colenso.

\*This couple began work in May 75; Redstone left Napier mid76.

### 1876 February 18 Colenso to McLean (#1009996)

Napier  
Febry. 18/76

My Dear Sir Donald

I have just received a copy of “Fortnightly Review” for November, which contains an excellent article by Prof. Tyndall, (in reply to his several critics on his famous Belfast speech)—I should like for you to see it: if you will send for it on your arrival I will gladly pass it on. There is also another able paper in it, —on, “*Our wars w. China, are they just?*”—well worth *your* reading, if you have time.—

I am Dear Sir Donald Yrs truly  
W. Colenso

### 1876\* Colenso to McLean (#1011000)

Napier  
Monday 7th

My dear Sir Donald

Your note of this day found me down in Milton Road “mending my ways!”—or I should have sent what I now send by your man.

I send herewith 3 more Books received by last Mail, which I know (if you have time) will interest you: 2 of them are very lately published.

I shall endeavour to see Mr. Ormond tomorrow, but I fear he will be much too busy to allow me *an hour!* or, half of that period. I will gladly see you early.—

Could you send a telegram to your Govt. Printer—to know what may have been printed of those Mss. of mine you caused to be passed on to him for that purpose:—and if *in time*, to send to you copies of the same per Rangatira?

How are you off for *fruit?* I would hazard the sending you some *ripe peaches* (such as the rains have left!) but I suppose you may have *better*—still should you care for any, I will *gladly send* you plenty:—*and if so please let me know.*

Hoping you are well. I am  
Dear Sir Donald  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

\* March? (when peaches ripen).

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1021942)

Napier,  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup>.

Dear Sir Donald McLean

I was very glad to hear, in town today, from Mr. Ormond, that you had returned, and that you were in much better health than when you went to your Station.—

I waited awhile, in hopes of seeing you, as I had heard of your coming to the C. Chamber to see the Natives,—but when I saw their number, & recollected the *short* days now,—I beat a retreat.

I am afraid you may not be *here* much longer, and so I write this,—just to let you know, that I shall be happy to call on you at any hour that may be *most convenient to you*—whether by day or by night.

And am  
Yours very sincerely  
Wm. Colenso.

### Undated Colenso to McLean (#1025789)

Friday aftn.

Dear Sir

In your note of Wednesday last, You ask for the name of a man who was in my employ & who had saved some of your sheep:—

This man's name is Joshua Lear—he is still in my employ (himself and wife living with me as servants.)—I suppose, by your enquiry, you may be thinking of rewarding him—but I question whether he did more than his bare duty (under the circumstances).

I am,  
Dear Sir  
Yours truly  
Wm. Colenso.

### 1876 October 11 Colenso to McLean (#1022963)

Napier  
Monday 11th

Dear Sir Donald McLean.

I suppose you either get, or see, regularly, the Maori Paper (“Wananga”) published here: in the number to hand this morning—is a *loose* advertisement, or Circular, respecting it—a copy of which I enclose, (as you may not have one sent you,) you will see what they say of “*Waka Maori*.”

This number contains the Mao. Members' speeches in the House, *re* Hauraki Petition, and Sheehan's speech *re* Heretaunga Lands &c.—(I have not yet *read* them.)

I see old Pao. Pareko is dead: no doubt you will remember him.

I close in haste for Mail. I hope *you* are well; I am so-so, suffering *still* from the effects of a *fearful* bad cold & cough.—

I hear, that both yourself & Mr. Ormond gave Sheehan “a Roland for his Oliver” *with Interest*;—I shall be glad to see the “Hansard,” & read it, when it arrives. I was pleased to find the House negativing the matter quietly on their voices.—May you have strength (physical), dexterity, & patience to hold-out to the end!

Believe me  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

1876 November 2 Colenso to McLean (#1007495)

Napier  
November 2/76

My Dear Sir Donald McLean

I very much wish to write you a few lines, and I feel that I must *not* allow the “Rangatira” to return this afternoon to Wellington without my doing so. For I have been in town to-day, and I have heard from Locke, how ill you still are, (—who, I think, had seen Mr. Ormond, I have *not* seen him yet.) I do not however exactly know how you now are or how this may find you, & though I wish greatly to write, I do not wish to do that which might (in your present weak state) excite you, or retard your recovery.—

I have wished to tell you, how *thoroughly* I have sympathized with you of late: perhaps (in some peculiar respects) more so than any one else among all your numerous friends and acquaintances. Were you well & in robust health (as of old) you would have had quite enough to bear up against and to battle with in your place in the House. Though (probably) had you been there and well, some of your opponents would not have ventured to go to the lengths they did introducing &c. In reading in the *Hansard* the many repeated statements and remarks of your political foes, (including Karaitiana,) I could not help wishing that I, at least, had been there,—to reply, and to acquaint the *new* Parliament, (and the, comparatively, strangers to N.Z.,) of a little of *the past*.

You may recollect how I once stood with those Natives, (not merely in Hawke’s Bay, but Wairarapa, Pov. Bay & the East Coast,)—when you *first* travelled this way; and you may also have heard and known how I had laid myself out for them—sacrificing every thing, including my small salary,—and, in later years, nothing cut me more than that base ingratitude of theirs! which, of course, I had more or less always painfully witnessed,—and which caused me feelingly to quote in my Essay on the Maoris (N.Z. Instit. Transactions, Vol.I.), those deep-meaning words of Shakespeare:—

“Freeze, freeze, thou bitter sky,  
Thou dost not bite so nigh  
As benefits forgot;  
Though thou the waters warp,  
The sting is not so sharp,  
As friends remembered not.”

Where would Karaitiana (& others) have now been but for you and for me? I, who taught him (and them) in his Savagery—*first* his Alphabet, and then (*slowly*) to read, write, and cypher, and, finally, Baptized him, his Parents, & his whole tribe!—and you, from whom & through whom, they have already received thousands, and have, with proper care, untold thousands more certain in prospect and in store! I fear, you cannot help feeling this deep base ingratitude of theirs,—which towards *you* (as, indeed, it was towards myself,) has been, and is fomented by *pakehas*.—

I was pleased, however, at one thing:—that your political *pakeha* enemies were obliged to allow the *great* benefit of the Maori Schools; though, here, too, the Maoris had neither eyes nor heart to perceive and allow of it.—On the other hand, I was grieved to find the vote for the “*Waka Maori*” not carried: that, I am sure, is a step wholly in the wrong direction; and I much fear the Govt. will yet find it to be so.—

I hear you are thinking of resigning your Office of Native Minister.—I scarcely need tell you that I deeply regret this; and, if your health would allow of your retaining the office, I would beg—implore—you *not* to do so. I *never* liked the Maoris being in the Parliament, fearing the *ultimate* result,—but now that they are there, they can only be fairly met by yourself (and a *few* like you)—who *knew* them well in the *past*, & who knew how to deal with them.

But I must close, for fear of wearying you.—Were you nearer I would go to see you,—and will, even now (overland by coach) *if you desire it*.

You can, if you please, direct your secretary to write me a few lines,—just to let me know how you are, & whether I may venture on another note to you. I have been unwell some 5–6 weeks, my old foe, Rheumatism; but now, with the warm weather, I am rapidly getting round again.—would that you were also!

And now, my dear Sir Donald, in conclusion I would say, and that with a *feeling* sorrowing heart,—try and keep up your spirits, and put your trust *quietly & increasingly* in our *good & loving* Father, ever *the same & ever near*.

And, with every good wish,  
Believe me, Yours sincerely  
Wm Colenso.

1876 December 4  
Colenso to McLean  
(#1000198)

Napier  
Decr. 4/76

My Dear Sir Donald McLean

I only returned to Napier by late train on Saturday from 40 m. Bush, &c.—but I had heard inland of your arrival here & of your being so *very much better*,—which I was glad to hear.

I must be *very* busy every school day with the schools between this & vacation, but I shall have *Saturdays* at command, & will do myself the honour & pleasure of calling on you next Saturday—should the weather prove favourable, and you disengaged.

Hoping you may rapidly rally— and once more be yourself again—

I am  
My Dear Donald  
Yours truly  
W. Colenso.

McLean died a month later,  
on 7 January 1877.

