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*Foreign Office, September 16, 1864.*

IT is hereby notified that Earl Russell, K.G., Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, has received from Mr. Walsham, in charge of Her Majesty's Legation in Mexico, a Despatch, inclosing a copy of a Decree by which the blockade established in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Pacifick Coast of Mexico has been raised.

The following is a copy of the Decree above referred to :—

## LEVEE DU BLOCUS.

LE journal officiel publiait hier le décret suivant, en date du 29 Juillet :—

MAXIMILIEN, Empereur du Mexique,

Voulant donner au commerce une preuve de l'intérêt que nous prenons à sa liberté et à sa prospérité,

Avons décrété, et décrétons :

Art. 1. Est levé, le blocus de tous les ports de l'Empire, tant sur le Golfe du Mexique que sur le Pacifique.

Notre Secrétairerie des Finances, en communiquant le présent décret aux Douanes maritimes, leur transmettra les instructions nécessaires.

Fait au Palais de Mexico, le 29 Juillet, 1864.

MAXIMILIEN.

(Translation.)

THE Official Journal published yesterday the following decree, under date July 29 :—

MAXIMILIAN, Emperor of Mexico,

Desiring to afford to commerce a proof of the interest which we take in its freedom and prosperity,

We have decreed and do decree :

Art. 1. The blockade of all the ports of the Empire, both in the Gulf of Mexico and in the Pacifick, is raised.

Our Secretary of Finance, in communicating the present decree to the Maritime Customs authorities, will transmit to them the necessary instructions.

Given at the Palace of Mexico, July 29, 1864.

(Signed) MAXIMILIAN.

*War Office, September 16, 1864.*

THE Secretary of State for War has received a Despatch, with its enclosures, from Lieutenant-General Sir Duncan Cameron, K.C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in New Zealand, of which the following are copies :—

*Head Quarters,*

*Auckland, July 7, 1864.*

MY LORD,

I INFORMED your Lordship in my last Despatch that I had made arrangements for removing the troops not required for the defence of Tauranga to Auckland, and accordingly, on the 9th ultimo, Her Majesty's ship "Esk," and the steamer "Alexandra," proceeded to Tauranga for that purpose.

Before their arrival, however, intelligence had been received at Tauranga that the rebels were assembling in force in that neighbourhood with the avowed intention of attacking our position, whereupon Colonel Greer, 68th Regiment, whom I had left in command, suspended the embarkation of the troops, and, in my absence on the Waikato Frontier, reported the state of affairs to the Governor of New Zealand, who immediately reinforced him with 280 Waikato Militia. After the arrival of this reinforcement, the force at Colonel Greer's disposal amounted to 1500 men.

The district occupied by us at Tauranga is a peninsula about three and a-half miles long, connected with the main land by a very narrow neck, on which was situated the Gate Pah, abandoned by the rebels on the 30th April, and converted by my order into a strong redoubt. This work and another small redoubt, commanding the only ford by which the rebels could cross over from the main land to the peninsula, rendered our position so secure that, when Colonel Greer's report reached me, I felt sure the rebels would not venture to attack it. Considering it, however, not unlikely that they might attempt to construct a pah somewhere in the vicinity of our position, I instructed Colonel Greer to watch their movements closely; to patrol frequently, and if they made the attempt, to attack them before they had time to establish themselves.

In patrolling the country beyond the Gate Pah, on 21st June, Colonel Greer came suddenly upon a large body of natives who had just begun to entrench themselves. He at once attacked them and defeated them with great loss.

Two reports from Colonel Greer, containing the details of the action fought on that occasion, are