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*War Office, 26th July, 1861.*

**A** DESPATCH, of which the following is an Extract, has been received, with its Enclosures, from Major-General Pratt, K.C.B. :

*Head Quarters, Camp, Waitara,  
April 2, 1861.*

SIR,

REFERRING to my despatch of the 11th and 12th ultimo, I have the honour to enclose, for the information of His Royal Highness the General Commanding-in-Chief, documents as per annexed list, by which it will be seen that the truce with Wiremu Tamehana up to the 15th March led to no result, beyond the transmission of letters from Tamehana to the Governor, the Bishop of New Zealand and to Sir W. Martin, with a request that they should be forwarded by me, and that I acquainted him that if he did not agree to the terms I had offered to him, by the afternoon of the 14th March, I should recommence hostilities ; accordingly, the long expected Armstrong guns and mortars having in the interim reached me, on the morning of the 15th March, I had them placed in position and commenced the advance and attack more vigorously than ever. The sap was pushed forward and the guns and mortars made excellent play on the various positions.

During the night of the 16th March, the enemy attempted to take away the sap-roller but were stopped, with loss, by the explosion of a shell which had been purposely placed in it.

On the morning of the 18th, the Native Secretary Mr. McLean duly accredited by the Governor, and accompanied by several influential chiefs, arrived in my camp, and a letter to Tamehana was sent by Mr. McLean to the effect that if a white flag was hoisted, operations would be suspended and that at a conference the Governor's reply to his letter would be communicated to him. During the whole day, however, the works were carried on, and about 5 p.m. a very brisk fire was opened on the skirmishers on the right flank, promptly replied to by us, in which the enemy owns to have met with severe loss, while we had three men killed, and two officers and four men wounded.

At daylight on the 19th March, a white flag was hoisted and operations were suspended, the enemy were evidently thoroughly sickened of the war. Mr. McLean had an interview with the insurgent chiefs, and on his return he informed me that the Waikato, the men from Wanganui, and the Ngatiruanui, would return to their

respective homes, and William King to Mataitawa to await terms of peace ; and next morning there was not an insurgent in my front, all having gone. When about to send a few men to occupy the position, Mr. McLean told me, that in native opinion, they having retired from my front was submission, and that to occupy the position would now be considered somewhat unfair and would retard negotiations. I stipulated, however, that whilst we should keep our advanced positions, the pals and positions before me should be vacated and that no one should remain in or near them during the cessation of hostilities and pending the arrival of the Governor.

His Excellency arrived on the 27th March, and negotiations are now going on which I trust will terminate in an honourable and lasting peace.

On the 30th, when being sworn in as a Member of the Executive Council of the Colony, the English mail arrived, and Lieutenant-General Cameron, C.B., reached my camp with orders to assume the command of the forces in New Zealand, which was to be separated from the Australian colonies, while I was directed to return to my command in Melbourne.

I enclose a list of casualties since the 11th March, until the cessation of hostilities, amongst which will be found the name of Lieutenant Macnaghten, Royal Artillery, who fell at the head of the advanced demi-parallel whilst serving a Coehorn mortar. The gallantry and coolness of this young officer during the whole of this war had rendered him a general favourite, and his untimely fate has been deeply felt in the force from the general to the private.

I have now to bring to the notice of His Royal Highness the services of Commodore Seymour and the Naval Brigade. The cordial co-operation which I have experienced from this gallant officer has been uninterrupted during the whole period in which we have served together.

Lieutenant Battiscombe, of Her Majesty's ship Pelorus, has rendered valuable assistance, not only with the Naval Brigade, but also with the Royal Engineer Department, to which he was attached ; and Midshipmen Hotham and Wadlow had opportunity of showing their gallantry and good service whilst working the heavy guns.

The services of the Royal Marine Artillery and Royal Marines, under Lieutenant Morris, R.M.A., were, as always, most valuable.

Commander Norman, Her Majesty's colonial steam-sloop Victoria, has, with his ship, proved of incalculable value during this service ; and his