

TREATY OF WAITANGI: A LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE MĀORI TEXT

Signed at Waitangi February 1840 and afterwards by about 500 chiefs

VICTORIA, the Queen of England, in her kind (gracious) thoughtfulness to the chiefs and hapu of New Zealand and her desire to preserve to them their chieftainship and their land, and that peace and quietness may be kept with them, because a great number of the people of her tribe have settled in this country and (more) will come, has thought it right to send a chief (an officer) as one who will make a statement to (negotiate with) Maori people of New Zealand. Let the Maori chiefs accept the governorship (KAWANATANGA) of the Queen over all

parts of this country and the Islands. Now, the Queen desires to arrange the governorship lest evils should come to the Maori people and the Europeans who are living here without law. Now, the Queen has been pleased to send me, William Hobson, a Captain in the Royal Navy to be Governor for all places of New Zealand which are now given up or which shall be given up to the Queen. And she says to the Chiefs of the Confederation of the Hapu of New Zealand and the other chiefs, these are the laws spoken of.

THIS IS THE FIRST

The Chiefs of the Confederation and all these Chiefs who have not joined in the Confederation give up to the Queen of England for ever all the Governorship (Kawanatanga) of their lands.

THIS IS THE SECOND

The Queen of England agrees and consents that the Chiefs, hapu and all the people of New Zealand have the full chieftainship (rangatiratanga) of their lands, their villages and all their possessions (taonga: everything that is held precious) but the Chiefs give to the Queen the purchasing of those pieces of land which the owner is willing to sell, subject to the arranging of payment which will be agreed to by them and the purchaser who will be appointed by the Queen for the purpose of buying for her.

THIS IS THE THIRD

This is the arrangement for the consent to the Governorship of the Queen. The Queen will protect all the Maori people of New Zealand and give them all the same rights as those of the people of England.

WILLIAM HOBSON. Consul and Lieutenant-Governor

Now, we the Chiefs of the confederation of the Hapu of New Zealand here assembled at Waitangi and we, the chiefs of New Zealand, see the meaning of these words and accept them and we agree to all of them. Here we put our name and our marks.

THE FOURTH ARTICLE

Two churchmen, the Catholic Bishop Pompallier and the Anglican Missionary William Colenso recorded a discussion on what we would call religious freedom and customary law. In answer to a direct question from Pompallier, Hobson agreed to the following statement. It was read to the meeting before any of the chiefs had signed the Treaty.

E mea ana te Kawana ko nga whakapono katoa o Ingarani, o nga Weteriana, o Roma, me te ritenga Maori ho'i e tiakina ngatahitia e ia.

Translation: The Governor says that the several faiths (beliefs) of England, of the Wesleyans, of Rome and also Maori custom shall alike be protected by him.

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