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WAR-OFFICE, January 12, 1864.

THE Secretary of State for War has received two Despatches, with Enclosures, from Lieutenant-General D. A. Cameron, C.B., Commanding Her Majesty's Forces in New Zealand, of which the following are copies:—

Head-Quarters, Queen's Redoubt,
October 28, 1863.

MY LORD,

HAVING, as I reported in my last Despatch, deferred any advance until I could secure the assistance of the iron steamer from Sydney and the gun-boats from Auckland, I have nothing of importance to communicate to your Lordship, as these vessels, though expected daily from the Manukaw for the past three weeks, did not arrive here until the 27th.

The marauding incursions of parties of natives in the bush have been less frequent. Several murders of individual settlers, however, have occurred, who, neglecting repeated warnings, continued to occupy detached houses at considerable distances from villages within our line of posts, thus affording the hostile natives opportunities of perpetrating atrocities which no defensive measures can effectually prevent.

On the 2d instant, at New Plymouth, a force under the direction of Colonel Warre, C.B., engaged a large body of natives who had assembled near the Poutoko Redoubt, with the intention of attacking it, and after more than an hour's sharp fighting, compelled them to retreat with considerable loss. Enclosed is the copy of my Despatch to Sir George Grey, with the report of the different officers in command, which will place your Lordship in possession of the details of an action characterised by the gallantry invariably displayed by the troops, and which resulted in liberating the neighbourhood of the town from the main body of the insurgents, who retired to their paha, about fifteen miles further south.

On the 23d, Lieutenant Lusk, commanding at Mauku, having observed a body of hostile natives near his post, proceeded with part of his detachment to ascertain their number, when he was incautiously drawn into an engagement before it was possible for the officer commanding at Drury to reinforce him. Attacked on all sides by overwhelming numbers, Lieutenant Lusk fought with great spirit, but was forced to retire, leaving on the ground 2 officers and 6 men killed. The intelligence of this encounter reached me late that

night, when I ordered a force of 200 men to march from Drury, with instructions to the officer in command of it to drive the natives out of the bush, and thinking it probable they would make for a point of the river used as a crossing place, called Pura Pura, I directed a part of Lieutenant-Colonel Nixon's moveable column, encamped near this, to proceed at once, by Tuakau and Cameron, to intercept them, but, from the difficulty of pushing rapidly through the bush by night, the natives had time to effect their retreat.

I am happy to state that the Government are making every effort to augment the militia raised in the neighbouring colonies. Two thousand six hundred have already arrived, and it is proposed that the number should be increased to five thousand, for the purpose of maintaining the land wrested from the natives and reserved for settlement.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

The Right Honourable
The Secretary of State for War,
War-Office, London.

Head-Quarters, Queen's Redoubt,
October 6, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to forward copies of a report from Colonel Warre, C.B., commanding at New Plymouth, and its enclosures, relative to a severe engagement which took place near Poutoko on the 2d instant, from which your Excellency will be glad to learn that the regular troops, as well as the militia and volunteers of the province, displayed their usual gallantry in repelling the attack of very superior numbers of the enemy. Colonel Warre evinced great judgment and ability throughout the action.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) D. A. CAMERON,
Lieutenant-General.

His Excellency
Sir George Grey, K.C.B.,
&c., &c.

New Plymouth, New Zealand,
October 3, 1863.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit the accompanying reports from the Officer commanding at Poutoko

