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Opatiki

March 6th 1876.

My dear Sir,

I returned a few days ago from visiting all the Native Settlements East of Opatiki to Cape Punamury - I found that Te Makana and Te Wikimahi Te Kaitahi of Uatapurau were visiting the Uaitaware and Whanauapuni though I did not meet them, as we crossed, they travelling by boat and I by land. They had come chiefly to see the old chief Te Popurua of Ote who was reported to be dying (he is since better) - The Whanauapara land dispute has I hear been talked over quietly and both sides leave the matter to rest until it is brought before the Land Court next month -

I found the natives on the Coast taking great interest in the schools - I was able to make arrangements while there for the reopening of the one at Te Kaha, the new master having arrived, and I completed

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and showed to Te Kooti who said that unless it was returned both Te Hukamau and Te Wikipiwli would die - Shortly after the former did die, when the ear drop was given by Te Hape to Te Kooti -

Te Wikipiwli hearing of this wrote to hefia Murekara asking him to get back the ear drop. This man wrote to Te Kooti who reply direct to Wiki that he need not be afraid on something to this effect - This was the letter brought from Te Kooti by Davis - a such is the story told me privately by Te Haki who says he heard it from Wikipiwli; whether true or not it shows the absurd superstition which still clings to even the more enlightened of the natives -

The Murekas I am sorry to say have not yet given up Skimions - though they still write to say they intend to do so - I have been apprehensive that another murder of the same sort would take place in the district - and after consulting the assessors I removed the Christianized wizards (Te Iuri)

The arrangements for building a new one at
Omairi for the Whānau Apamā -

You will remember perhaps telegraphing to
me on the subject of John Davis, a young half
Castle who had brought a letter from Te Kooti to
the Uyateporou - I replied by wire to you
at the time that the person in question was
traveling for Mr. Brissenden who had some
land transactions carried on through him.
I believe this was his real business, but
it appears that Davis has been living at
Te Kuiti lately and has imbibed seditious
"kūgiti" opinions which he talks about every-
where - to Europeans as well as natives -

The letter which he brought from Te Kooti was
to Te Wikiriwhi Te Hatahi of E. Cape, but
it does not appear to have had a political
object - The following is the story told by
Wikiriwhi to Te Hata about it -

At the time of Te Hekama's meeting at
Wharekahika in 1874, Te Hape a Uyateporou
living with the Kūgites came down to see
his relatives at Wharekahika, and was given
an ear ornament by Wikiriwhi - This he
carried back with him to the King country,

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from his settlement as being to Le Porroffo.

Remain

Yours very respectfully

Herbert W. Deane

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