

position and cut-off my communications with Opotika when we were much - did send me to Kooki-ka returned, but again was a difficulty - for I could not - more my force until I was certain of the direction taken by the enemy. In fear of mist - double back upon Opotika which I had left almost perpendicular, following the trail with a few troops I found that Kooki-ka was covering the river. - The Rangitikei river, so with all speed I moved up my force now amounting to about - 60 European and 100 natives in pursuit with nothing but Native force in front. We reached Kooki-ka - Kawarua late in the evening of the fourth day after leaving Whakatare, more two courses were run to - more, with 6 - attempt - to Pa by Whakatare in by the above but - more certain forces

2/1/23

1.

Opotika April 10th
1864

My Dear Mr McLean

Some news of course heard on the part of the more success of my expedition in pursuit - of Kooki-ka after his raid on Whakatare. I believe that I have been blamed in several quarters for the failure of the operation and the people who are personally interested in my removal from the District have gone so far as to say that the affair will be brought before the House at its next sitting. I know that you take some interest in the welfare of

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of Jpohiki as well as the other places for men who are by around
the settlements and in the led to be around with guns, am
munition, return to and get my
four weeks. The katana in his
hand twenty hours after the receipt
of the news, but I was to be
to leave the European property
in to help the Queensland for the
led evacuated them for an hour
before they began our arrival, but we
led the satisfaction of checking
the present and the evening
from the annihilation, with
to keep the Pa with a few
of upwards of 300 men, I with
about 60 European and 70 native
could do nothing but to let my own
the improvements which had been
promised from Laranya should be
in the mean time to keep
the me in front and tried
at the same time to turn my

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I disagree, but the form seems a
European one I should in all pro-
bability have adopted the former
concern in spite of the circum-
stances that any unaccounted leader must
feel about risking a heavy loss of life,
the latter plan however was more
agreeable to the arena, but they
were very backward in reacting
to carry it out, the fact that they
a strong one is difficult to appear
as there is no cover whatever within
a radius of 600 yds so that there
I got my form into position, the
enemy found no trouble in getting
through one of the gaps during the
night, in the morning they were not
far off on the Abilene road, but
the reaction could not be induced
to follow them though I offered them
higher pay, but I could not secure
to their demand for double pay and
Commission for all the chiefs.

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under the circumstances I was com-
pelled to return to the Coast where
I found the supplies which I ought
to have got before leaving it.
and that the expedition ended.

With regard to Ratan's father's
deposition, I do not think that he
knew us quite voluntarily but he
got into a fix, in fact - came
down upon him and he was helped,
I was suspicious of him for two or
three days before and anti-trial
him to come down to the coast
I could not do more for if I
had called out men and money
with a force to corner him I should
in all probability have come to
nothing over it.

I have argued very strongly the
advicability of pressing up to the
at once or we shall hear of
and the settlement being reversed

he is very strongly communitarian
and must do something to do -
that is, his name alone inspires
almost universal fear not -

mixed with administration strong
the coast -
Gungar has been at - Mance -
here and with - to me offering

his services against R - Han Law;
Ratan's mother are very dark
that point, I believe that all
R - Mervina's claps are empty.

I remain my dear Sir
Yours very truly
A. Mearns
R. Mearns
R. Mearns

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