

Opotiki Sept 11th 1845

Sir

I have the honor to report that I landed with 70 men of the N.C. on the south east side of the Opotiki river about 10 a.m. this morning shortly after the first three boatloads were landed about 90 or 100 Rebels came down the sandhills and attacked us we were then joined by about 20 men of the Patea Rangers under Capt Newland and Lieut Chapman after a smart skirmish of 20 minutes we drove them from ridge to ridge until the Priest or leader was shot they then fled in a body we following in pursuit on their retreat they were joined by about 50 fresh men and with them made a stand in an old Pa but to no purpose for after two or three vollies they again turned discharging their pieces over their shoulders throwing away most of their Blankets and ammunitions they crossed the left Branch of the river into the Bush where I deemed it prudent not to follow them we were now five miles from where we had landed and after due consideration I determined to return and attack the village or Missionary station taking possession to the enemies canoes I ordered some of the men to descend the stream while others marched overland this was carried out but the Hauhaus perceiving our advance were panic stricken and deserted the place before we could catch them with the exception of one man who was snored in a house

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before he could escape the ground on which the enemy fought might have been held by them against three times our number. The Rebel loss during the day was 12 killed besides many wounded I am happy to say we sustained no loss nor did we have any wounded the force I had the honor to command behaved splendidly and could not have done more

(Sgd.) THOS. McDONNELL

Major N.C.

To Major Brassey

Comdg. at Cpotiki.

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