

VF Shipwrecks

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WRECK OF THE BRIGANTINE DELAWARE

A Maori from Wakapuaka, arrived in town yesterday afternoon, bringing intelligence to Messrs. N. Edwards and Co., agents of the vessel, that the brigantine Delaware, which had but just cleared from this port for Hawkes' Bay, with about 100 tons of general cargo, brought by her from England, had been driven ashore about one mile above the Maori pah at Wakapuaka, and had speedily become a total wreck, her masts going by the board, and the hull broken to pieces.

It appears that yesterday morning the natives observed a brigantine in the offing, and were induced to watch her closely, because the wind was blowing a fearful gale, while the sea ran extraordinarily high. At about eight o'clock, the brigantine, which had gradually neared the shore, was dashed with great force upon the rocks. The Maoris made all speed to the spot, and by rushing into the surf and swimming a considerable distance in a fearful sea, succeeded in getting a rope passed from the wreck to the shore, by means of which the captain and all hands on board, with but one exception, were safely landed, although, each one, as he came along the rope, incurred considerable danger by being immersed for some minutes in the breakers. The one person who, when the bearer of this account left, still clung to the wreck, is supposed to be a passenger of the name of Skeet, who, being unable to swim, and having, for some time, refused to avail himself of the assistance of the rope, was advised by the Maoris to remain until the sea should go down. It was feared that, unless the sea did speedily get calmer, this person would perish.

But a small portion of the cargo has yet been saved. On the captain and sailors being severally landed they were conducted to the Maori pah, and applied with dry clothing. Great praise is due for the very prompt assistance given by the natives who, as each person neared the shore, rushed into the breakers and, swimming some distance, dragged them to the land.

On being made aware of the wreck, Messrs N. Edwards and Co. sent a member of their firm to the spot, and, as soon as the sea goes down, they will send vessels to render whatever assistance may be required. The steamer Lyttleton, should she arrive speedily, will also be sent to the scene of the wreck.

In our issue on Tuesday next we will supply full particulars.

We briefly noticed in our issue of Saturday, that the brigantine Delaware, which had left our port on Thursday last, had been wrecked in Wakapuaka Bay, but we were then unable to give any particulars of the sad occurrence.

By the account which has since been furnished us, it appears that the Delaware left the outer roadstead on Thursday morning, with the wind at north, which compelled her to tack, and during the night the wind went round to N.W., and blew one of the heaviest gales we ever remember witnessing in Nelson. At daylight in the morning, Captain Baldwin found himself embayed off Wakapuaka, and, after vainly endeavouring to weather both the south and north headlands, and to save his ship by anchoring, was compelled to run her on shore, but, unfortunately, was unable to do this on the sandy beach below the pah, where the brig Guide so luckily went on shore about seventeen years ago, but was compelled to run stem on to the rocks on the northern side of the bay. By the aid of two native men, and a woman of the name Julia, well known in Nelson, who, on perceiving the vessel was in danger hastened from their pah, at a distance of about a mile, all hands on board were saved except the first mate named H. Squirrell, who had injured himself before the Maoris arrived in attempting to swim on shore with a line, and had been dashed violently against the rocks. After all but the unfortunate mate had landed, the vessel quickly broke in two, and became a total wreck, and the beach was rapidly covered with spars, timber, and portions of the cargo, of which there was nearly 100 tons on board, shipped in London for Hawke's Bay. Such portions of the cargo as were saved were put on board the Lyttleton, which was sent to the scene of disaster early on Saturday morning; and on Sunday, the steamer Sturt took nearly two hundred persons to visit the spot, and what remained of the ill-fated vessel. The Delaware was a brigantine of 240 tons, and was one of the prettiest crafts we have ever seen in our harbour. Wakapuaka is a small bay about fifteen miles from Nelson, on the eastern part of Blind Bay. The following account was furnished us by a person who was on board : -

The brigantine Delaware left Nelson harbour for Napier on the morning of Thursday, September 3, at eleven o'clock, having eleven persons on board one of whom was a passenger named Henry L. Skeet. The morning was fine, but, as the wind was not favourable, the Delaware had to beat out of the bay. With night came a fearful gale, and utter darkness. The captain tried, but in vain, to make out the Nelson light, so that he might be enabled to run to a safe anchorage. He continued tacking his vessel, and sounding, until break of day, when he perceived that he was off Wakapuaka Bay, the wind then blowing violently in shore. Captain Baldwin immediately tried to weather Pepin's Island, in order that he might run to a safe anchorage; failing in this endeavour, he next attempted to pass round Croixelles, but his efforts fruitless. In these attempts the jib was carried away. Finding that his vessel had been blown farther in shore, the captain ordered an anchor to be let go; this was in thirteen fathoms of water. When ninety fathoms of chain had run out, the patent windless gave way; the second anchor was then immediately dropped, and this held on for some time, but captain Baldwin, seeing that no hope existed of getting his vessel clear of the shore, and feeling assured that, in the tremendous sea which was rolling it was impossible for the anchor to hold, he determined on beaching the vessel in order to save her being carried broadside on. In doing this there was but the smallest possible choice as to the part of the beach on which he would run, though he strove hard and manfully to reach a small spot less rough than the surrounding rocks; in this he failed; he then determined on running her stem on, this being the only preferable chance that was left. The Delaware first struck the rocks at about twenty minutes to nine o'clock on Friday morning, being then some 120 yards from the shore, and the tide making. After the vessel had struck, the mate, who was a good swimmer, volunteered to attempt reaching the rocks with a rope around his body. The

attempt was fruitless and disastrous, for by it he undoubtedly received the serious injury which led to his being left on board the ill-fated vessel. Life-buoys were thrown to him, and failing to catch them he was hauled on board again, but was then apparently dead. Even in their then perilous condition those on board used every effort in attempting to restore animation, by rubbing, &c. He at length spoke, but again relapsed, and, being apparently lifeless, was taken forward and placed in the house on deck. At this moment Maorise were seen running towards the vessel, and, on their arrival opposite where the Delaware was fast on the rocks, they plunged at once into the sea, and succeeded in reaching a lead-line thrown to them by one of the crew, named Morgan. A rope, after being made fast to this line, was hauled ashore by the Maoris, and made fast round one of the rocks. This rope was made fast on board to the cat-head, it being feared that the masts would speedily go, the wind and sea being so fearfully high. Down this rope the several persons on board singly passed, by holding on with hands and legs, and working themselves down into the raging sea. When the ship rolled landward, down, down beneath the water sunk the struggling man, to be suddenly jerked up, and held high in the air as the vessel rolled to the sea. It was a fearful struggle, but in it they were nobly aided by three Maoris (two men and one woman, named Martin, Robert, and Julia), who rushed into the water, and wading towards the struggler helped him to the shore ; this passage from the wreck to the shore, it need not be said, was a most dangerous and hazardous one. The captain was the last man to leave the vessel, and even then before he left he went and looked at what all thought was the dead mate. Captain Baldwin examined him, and, thinking him dead, came down the rope, but was not one instant too soon, for ere the Maoris had reached him, the rope parted. About one hour after this, to the astonishment of every one on the beach, the mate was seen standing at the side of the vessel near the fore rigging. The Maoris, though urged by every possible persuasion, replied that it was impossible to attempt to rescue the man, the sea was still running so high, and the tide was coming in. Those who had been saved frequently went down to the water's edge, and gave him cheering words, telling him to hold on until the tide should turn, and that then he certainly would be rescued. He was warned to go to the main rigging and hold on there till succour should arrive, and, while passing along the vessel, in obedience to their advice, Mr. Skeet stood far in the water with a life-buoy ready to assist him, should he fail to reach the spot. He, however, succeeded, and putting his arms around the rigging, held on for a considerable time. At length fatigue, and, no doubt, the injuries received when in the water, caused him to loose his hold, he was washed overboard, and his body was not found till the following morning.

When ashore, the Maoris behaved most kindly. They lighted a large fire for the shipwrecked party to dry their clothes by, and, as soon as they could obtain it, also plentifully supplied the whole of the survivors with food. They also very kindly received the party at their pah, and gave up to them a whare and blankets.

The beach, for two miles, was fairly strewed with broken cases, torn blankets, candles, shawls, saddlery, and wearing apparel.

An inquiry, concerning the death of Henry Squirrell, late chief mate of the brig Delaware, was held on the beach, near the wreck, by Nathaniel Edwards, Esq., who acted as Coroner, and a jury, consisting of Messrs. G. Bennett (foreman), J. S. Cross, G. Horner, J. Penny, G. White, R. G. Gibbon, T. Whitwell, and A. Brown.

R. C. Baldwin, being examined, said : I am master of the Delaware. That vessel went ashore, about one mile above the Maori pah, at Wakapuaka, at about nine o'clock on Friday morning. Deceased was first mate, and, when the vessel had struck the rocks, he volunteered to swim through the

surf in order to take a line ashore ; it was the ship's lead-line. While sliding down the rope from the ship, he struck against a rock, and began to sink. I hove two life-bouys to him, not knowing at that time that the lead-line was fast around his body. When, however, I had discovered that such was the case, I gave orders to the man who had hold of the line to haul him in, and this was done. When again placed on board he showed but the slightest symptoms of life. After unavailingly using all the means in our power to resuscitate him, we laid him in the house on deck, that being the handiest place. After the whole of the crew, and Mr. Skeet, the passenger, had landed, and the ship then lying with her keel out of water, I went to the fore-castle to see if the deceased was alive. I found him apparently dead. I then left him and came ashore by the rope. About one hour after, and to my great astonishment, I saw Squirrell crawl out and come over the side by the fore-rigging. The masts were then standing. Deceased lay over on the ship's side, and remained there for some time. From thence he went to the main-rigging and back again to the fore-rigging, where he clung for about two hours. I sang out to him to hold on, and wait until the tide should ebb, but, being exhausted, he let go his hold. I, this morning, heard that his body had been found by a sawyer on the beach. I went down and saw a dead body, and after cutting away his clothes which were then lying over his face, I saw that it was the body of my chief mate. I assisted to carry his body up out of reach of the tide, where it now lies.

Mr. Henry L. Skeet was also examined, but his sworn testimony as to his knowledge of the sad occurrence will be found fully detailed in the report of the Coroner's inquest.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally drowned".

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#### INQUEST ON THE BODY OF THE MATE

A coroner's inquest was held yesterday at the London Tavern, Haven-road, before Thomas Connell, Esq., Coroner, and a jury, of which Mr. J.L. Bailey was chosen foreman, touching the death of Henry Squirrell, late mate on board the wrecked brigantine Delaware.

The Coroner, addressing the jury, said it did not appear at present that death had been caused by any-thing save mere accident, and, unless some evidence was given which would suggest to them that the loss both of the vessel and the deceased's life had occurred through culpable neglect, the inquiry of the jury need be but brief.

The Coroner and the jury then viewed the body of deceased and, on their return, the following evidence was heard.

William Morgan, being sworn, said : I am an able seaman, and was one of the crew of the brigantine Delaware. I knew Henry Squirrell, who was the mate. That is his body the jury have just viewed. I should think he was between twenty-one and twenty-two years of age. The Delaware left Nelson on Thursday morning last, for Hawke's Bay. The wind freshened as night set in, while we were in Blind Bay, and it continued to get rougher till it blew a regular gale. On Friday morning, the vessel lay-to until four o'clock, when we wore ship and made sail, because we saw we were near the land. We found we could not work the ship to windward, and therefore the port or small anchor was let go. That held till it carried away the windlass. We then slipped that anchor, and let go the best bower anchor. The chain of that anchor also parted. We then set the foresail, so as to get her stern ashore, because it was seen by the captain that we must go ashore. The vessel struck a rock a good distance out from the beach, and remained fixed until she brock in two. The captain and all hands did the best they could

to save the ship. The Delaware struck the rock between half-past eight and twenty minutes to nine on Friday morning last. Shortly after she struck the rock, the sea washed away the boats, which were soon destroyed. The mate, being a good swimmer, had the lead line tied round his waist, and swam for the shore. He lowered himself from the martingale by a line made fast on deck, but, while doing so, he was struck against a rock, which must have injured, and he cried out, "oh, the rock! oh, the rock!" I was then on the bow clearing away the line for him. We hauled him in again, but, when on board, we thought he was dead. There appeared no life in him. We laid him in one of the bunks of the forecastle. Soon after, the Maoris hove in sight on the beach. I hove the lead-line to one of them, and he caught it, he having swam to a rock that was near ; it was thus we got a hawser to the land, and by its means the captain and crew got ashore. The passenger, Mr. Skeet, came ashore the fourth. About two hours after we were all ashore, the mate came up to the rails and sang out for help. We could not assist him, for we were ashore, and the line had been carried away. We sang out to him to last himself to the rigging until the tide lowered, and said we would then get him ashore. I do not think that he did lash himself, and about an hour after, and two hours before the vessel broke up, a sea broke on board, and washed him overboard. I did not again see him until the next morning, when his body was found on the beach. It was, during the whole time, blowing as hard as I ever saw it, and a very heavy sea was running. The vessel broke up about two hours after deceased was washed overboard. Neither boat, canoe, nor ship could live in such a gale and such a sea. We used 100 fathoms of new rope to reach from the ship to the rocks on the beach.

By a juror : I was first to leave the wreck. The deceased was then speechless. I thought he was dead. I do not think he could have got ashore by the line. He had no strength, and was speechless. I think the injury he received on the rocks would have prevented his holding on, and, had there been any attempt to sling him to the line, he must have been drowned. When we lifted him out of the water he was helpless. The line was round his feet, and by that we lifted him. He was helpless and senseless, and was all of a heap. The captain was the last man to leave the ship. The captain, I think, did all he could to save the ship. I think he did all he could to save the ship and crew. I saw the captain go into the forecastle before he left the wreck, and I think he went there to see the deceased before he left the whip. He told me that he had done so. If it had not been for the Maoris, not one of us would have been saved. All hands were on deck all night. The vessel was hove-to in the middle of the night, and after we had made several tacks across the bay. We thought we saw land at four o'clock in the morning ; we saw a thick cloud before us, and wore ship in consequence. We could not go about because we were under a close-reefed topsail. It was raining heavily. We were driven so close to the land, while lying-to, that we could not get away. The captain cried like a child when he came ashore, because of the loss of the ship and the mate. The mate had been in the hospital here for about a fortnight, but I think he was well again. He had worked hard all the day before, and on the day of the wreck. The mate volunteered to take the rope ashore. The mate was a man generally liked by captain and crew, and everybody else who came in contact with him. We all believed that the mate was dead when we left the ship. I think it took the crew an hour to all come ashore. The ship was rolling heavily.

George Williams, being sworn, said: I am a surgeon, residing and practising in Nelson. I have externally examined the body described by the last witness. There are slight abrasions on the back of the hands and knees. The skin of the face is much discoloured, and decomposition is commencing. There are some small wounds made by shells on the forehead. I removed portions of shell from the wounds. There is no fracture of any bone of the extremities, or of the spinal column. Both hands were clenched, and contained a quantity of straw,

seaweed, and sand. He had heavy sea-boots on, reaching to his knees. His trowsers were off, and his drawers were drawn downwards over his feet. He had on two Crimean shirts, and a blue one, which were inside out, and were entangled, and hung by the wristbands of the sleeves only to his hands. His body was naked except the hanging drawers and his boots. I think he had evidently endeavoured to strip himself. I fancy, from the description I have heard here, that, when drawn up on board he was suffering from exhaustion. I think there is no doubt, from what I observed of the body, and from what I have mentioned about his hands containing straw and other matter, that he died from drowning. I think there was no serious wound on the body that would have caused death. In fact the abrasion of the forehead, was, I think, caused after death.

By a juror : I do not consider that, although a thin man, deceased was unable to swim ashore as he had offered. He is well developed though thin.

Henry Lufkin Skeet, being sworn, said : I am a surveyor, and my family reside in Napier. I was a passenger for that place, on board the Delaware, which left Nelson on Thursday last. I knew the deceased as mate of the vessel. I was below all night of Thursday. I kept below because, being no sailer, I thought I was better out of the way. Between four and five on Friday morning, the captain called me and said I had better look out for myself and get what things I wanted to save together. He had been talking with me through the night. I went on deck and the captain told me to cut away the life buoys and hold them on the companion stairs, in readiness for use, if wanted. The captain tried to weather Pepin's Island and, failing in that, he tried the Croixelles but in that also he failed. He thought, by weathering either of these, he would be out of the fearful wind what was blowing. He kept sounding as he went, had had been doing so all the night. Just before six, he put out an anchor. That held for awhile and the captain examined the coast to see where he could beach her, it being obvious that the vessel must go ashore. The captain ordered the cable to be cut, but whether it was cut or snapped I know not, though I think it parted. The men tried to cut it, but had only a common chopper. Sail was then made, and the captain tried to run the vessel ashore on the beach, but, finding himself unable to do so, instead of going broadside on, he put her stem on to the nearest point. She struck about twenty minutes to nine, at about 150 to 200 yards from the shore. I was on the companion stairs with the life buoys, and the captain sent the steward for a life buoy for the mate, who was overboard. I sent one, and the captain sent for another. I then went on deck, and was nearly knocked overboard by the boom. I saw deceased on the deck, and heard him speak. I thought he was dying, he was greatly exhausted. I saw sailors rubbing him in trying to bring him round. I afterwards saw him carried forward. The Maoris then arrived, and Morgan stood forward and threw a line to them, which they caught, and established communication with the shore. We all landed by this line save the deceased. The captain did not leave till last, and immediately he landed the rope broke. About an hour after that I saw the mate crawl into the fore-rigging, the ship then lying on her side. I went to the Maoris and asked if they could not save him? They said they could do nothing till the tide went down. The tide was then rising, and a fearful surf was rolling in, which washed right over the vessel. I made signs for the mate to lash himself to the rigging. Soon after the mainmast gave way, and being then afraid of the foremast going, lest it might carry him overboard, I made signs for him to go aft. While he passed aft, I stood in the water, having a life buoy, and holding on by a rope, the other end of which was hold by a steward, so as to assist him if he should fall. Deceased got to the main rigging, and, after some trouble, got his arms over the rigging, he standing on the outside of the vessel. I called out to him "Cheer up, and hold on for one other hour, and you will be saved". I watched

him for a quarter of an hour, and then left him to go and speak with the captain, who was lying exhausted beside a fire. I had just gone away, when Julia, a Maori woman, said, "The pakeha has let go." I looked around, and deceased was gone. I went back to the beach near the wreck, to watch in case deceased should come up, but did not see his body till next morning, when it was found upwards of a mile from the wreck. All his clothes were then over his head, and his sea boots were on. I cut all the clothes away from his head to see who it was, and found it was the mate. From the time the ship was in danger until she was lost, everything was done that could be to save the ship. The captain showed the greatest coolness throughout. After the vessel struck, everything was done to save the lives of those on board. I believe every soul on board would have been lost, had it not been for three Maoris, named Martin, Robert and Julia, who used extraordinary exertions to get us safely ashore. They rushed into the surf, and rendered wonderful assistance.

William Morgan, recalled, said : Deceased, when he went over the ship's side with the line, first struck the rock, and then fell into the water. He floated as far as the main chains, when two life-buoys were thrown to him, but, as he did not take them, we hauled him forward again, and then took him on board. He was in the water for five or ten minutes at least.

By the jury : When I gave instructions to the men, the captain was exhausted. He was, in fact, nearly drowned while coming ashore. The second mate was also nearly drowned. I left the captain at the wreck yesterday, and he said he should stay there till it was sold. I believe he is there still. We shouted to the captain that the hawser was parting, and still he waited to save the mate. He said, when he landed, that he lifted the mate's eyelids, and fancied that he was dead. From the state in which I saw deceased, after he had been in the water, I think it would have been impossible to get him ashore.

This being the whole of the evidence, the jury returned the following verdict : -

"That the deceased Henry Squirrell, met his death by being accidentally drowned from off the wreck of the brigantine Delaware, and that such death was caused principally by injury or exhaustion sustained while courageously endeavouring to swim ashore with a line, in order to save the rest of the crew ; such injury or exhaustion incapacitating him from getting on shore by the line, when connected with the land. And the jury desire to express their opinion that the Maoris, Julia, Martin, and Robert, who assisted in rescuing the shipwrecked crew and passenger, are deserving of the hearty gratitude of the public ; and that some substantial testimony of such praiseworthy conduct should be presented to them by the Government."

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THE DELAWARE

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'NELSON EXAMINER'

SIR - In your hurried statement of the wreck of the Delaware, it was reported that the passenger was left on board the ship. In justice to Captain Baldwin, I must say, that, had I refused to leave the vessel, I do not believe he would have left me, or any other passenger, on board, even if he risked his own life by remaining. All through the storm he showed the utmost coolness and presence of mind, and was the last man who left the wreck. Before he got on the rope, I myself saw him leave the ship's side for the purpose of looking at the mate, whom we had all left for dead.

I am, &c.,

HENRY L. SKEET,

Passenger in Delaware.

Nelson September 7, 1863.

PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONIALS TO THE MAORIS OF WAKAPUAKA.

Saturday last was the day appointed for presenting to the 5 natives resident at Wakapuakā pah, who rendered such valuable assistance to the shipwrecked crew of the brigantine Delaware, the money granted by the General Government (from a fund set apart for native purpose), and the watches and chains purchased with the amount raised by public subscription in Nelson.

The Provincial Hall was completely filled by spectators of both sexes. His Honour the Superintendent presided, supported by Te Manu, chief of the tribe, and four of the five natives who were to receive presentations, the fifth was, unfortunately, prevented from attending in consequence of severe illness; to the left of the Superintendent were His Honour Mr. Justice Johnston, J. Poynter, Esq., R.M., Captain Walmsley, and the members of the committee who undertook the collection of subscriptions for the purpose of rewarding the natives for their noble assistance to men in such extreme danger, as were the crew of the shipwrecked vessel.

His Honour the SUPERINTENDENT, in opening the proceedings, said he would advert briefly to the circumstances, which had caused them to assemble. It would be in the recollection of most of those present that, in the month of September last, a fine brigantine, the Delaware, left the port of Nelson for the purpose of proceeding to Napier, and that, during the night and early morning of the day succeeding her departure, she encountered a heavy gale, was driven thereby on the rocks above the native pah at Wakapuaka, and speedily became a total wreck. There was good reason to suppose that, had it not been for the Maoris whose heroic and thoughtful acts they were now met thus publicly to acknowledge by the presentation of testimonials, the lives of all those on board the doomed vessel would have been sacrificed. One of the crew did lose his life, but the rest were rescued chiefly, under Providence, by the exertions of the natives. The one unfortunate man whose life had been sacrificed had acted nobly, for, when he found that the vessel was on the rocks, and must become a wreck, he offered to swim ashore with a line, so as to open a communication with the land that lay so close to them: he undertook a task, the performance of which by him proved impossible. This man had been for some time an inmate of the Nelson Hospital, and when he rejoined the vessel, just prior to her sailing, he could scarcely have been considered as convalescent. That noble attempt of his to save the lives of others cost him his own life, for, when he had been some little time in the water, and was evidently powerless, he was drawn back to the vessel by the rope he had around him, and was then speechless, having, it is presumed, been dashed against a rock. In the meantime certain natives had reached the beach, and swimming out to some rocks, made signs to those on board to throw them a line; this was done, and the natives having made its end secure, a means of communication with the shore was established. By that rope, all, save the unfortunate man to whom he had alluded, were saved. That poor fellow, who was not left on board by the captain until he had been examined and considered as dead, was, after some hours had elapsed, seen moving about the deck. Those on shore immediately signalled to him, and called out begging him to hold on until the tide should recede. In but a short time, however, he was swept from the deck by the heavy sea, and his dead body was recovered next morning. A coroner's inquest was held on the body, and the jury added to their verdict, the following:-

"And the jury desire to express their opinion that the Maoris, Julia, Martin and Robert, who assisted in rescuing the shipwrecked captain, crew, and passengers, are deserving of the hearty gratitude of the public, and that some substantial testimony of such praiseworthy conduct should be presented to those Maoris by the Government."

A copy of the evidence taken at that inquest, was, as is usual, forwarded to the Attorney General, who, no doubt, brought the circumstances under the attention of the General Government. The consequence was, that the Colonial Secretary addressed to him (the Superintendent) the following letter:-



"Colonial Secretary's Office, Auckland  
October 7, 1863.

"SIR - I have the honour to enclose a copy of a rider on the verdict of a coroner's jury, at Nelson, on the death of Henry Squirrel, who was accidentally drowned at the wreck of the brigantine Delaware, in which rider the jury express their opinion that the Maoris, Julia, Martin and Robert, who assisted in rescuing the shipwrecked persons, are deserving of reward.

His Excellency the Governor is of opinion, that 50 should be given out of the Native Fund to each of the natives mentioned in the rider above quoted, and 10 to each of the three other natives engaged in rescuing the crew and passengers from the wreck.

I should feel obliged if your Honour would cause these sums to be paid to the respective persons entitled to receive them. A certified copy of this letter will be sufficient authority to the Subscription-Treasurer, at Nelson, to provide your Honour with the necessary funds.

I have, &c.,  
ALFRED DOMETT.

His Honour, the Superintendent,  
Nelson"

On the receipt of that letter, it would have been his (the Superintendent's) duty at once to have provided to the Maoris named, the sums of money apportioned to them but, having been informed that the inhabitants of Nelson, who desired to show their appreciation of the good feeling and noble bravery of the natives, were raising a public subscription for the presentation to them of more lasting memorials, he had communicated with the natives, and having ascertained that a postponement of the presentation of the award of the General Government until the public subscriptions had been collected, would not be distasteful to them, he had delayed giving the money until that day. He might say, that he had cheerfully fallen in with the views of the committee, who, he considered, had acted very judiciously in appropriating the result of the public subscriptions as they had done. After he should have handed to the recipients the several sums of money awarded by the General Government, a member of the committee appointed by the subscribers would present to them the public testimonials. The Superintendent then addressed Julia and the other natives, to the effect that his Excellency the Governor, being informed of their heroic conduct in having rescued the captain and crew of the wrecked brigantine Delaware, had instructed him to present Julia, Martin and Robert, the sum of 50 each and to Elijah and Kereopa the sum of 10 each. He (the Superintendent) had much pleasure in handing those several sums to them, and he trusted they would be received, not in the light of a money payment for the service they had performed, but as an evidence of the gratitude of the Government for their good and Christian act of saving life, even at the risk of their own. He would, moreover, tell them, that the people of Nelson, desiring to show their appreciation of the important assistance rendered, had raised a public subscription for the purpose of presenting a more permanent recognition of it. He trusted that the concurrent proof of the good feeling of the General Government and the people of Nelson towards their Maori fellow subjects, would even more strongly cement the good feeling which, for so many years, had existed between the people of Nelson and the natives of Wakapuaka. [cheers].

JAMES MACKAY, Esq., Assistant Native Secretary interpreted the foregoing remarks of the Superintendent to the Maoris. When he had concluded, he informed the Superintendent that one of the natives, Elijah, was unable, through illness to attend, but that Te Manu, chief of the tribe, would take charge for him of whatever was presented.

Mr. H.J. GOODMAN, on behalf of the Committee, then read the following address to Julia, and at its conclusion, presented her with a handsome gold watch and chain:-

"TO JULIA. - on behalf of the settlers of Nelson, we present you with a small token of esteem, for your intrepid conduct at the wreck of the Delaware.

"The satisfaction of having done a good action, is a higher reward than any mere pecuniary recompense; and, while you live, it must always give you much happiness to reflect that you have been the means of saving human life. It must also give you pleasure to know that your heroism is acknowledged by others, not only here, but in far-off places; and it is our pride that Nelson possesses a woman capable of showing such bravery.

"Some thirty years ago, a young woman was living with her parents in a desolate lighthouse, near the coast of England, and, one stormy night a large steam vessel struck on some rocks at a distance from the lighthouse and was dashed to pieces. Many persons perished when the ship parted, but nine of the crew and passengers clung to a portion of the vessel that remained on the rock. In the morning, they were observed from the lighthouse, but it was difficult and dangerous to get to the spot with a boat even in fine weather, and, therefore, more so when the waves were furious. Yet this brave woman, though never accustomed to work a boat, persuaded her father to attempt the errand of mercy, and with him she pulled the boat through the raging abyss, and rescued the unfortunate sufferers from destruction.

"That deed made Grace Darling a heroine; her fame spread throughout Europe; and her memory is still fondly cherished wherever the English language is spoken.

"And like her, Julia, your name and your deed will find a place in local history. Your brave act is one of which a Queen might be proud; and we present you with a watch, whereon your children, and their successors, may read with pleasure an inscription which testifies the esteem in which you are held by the settlers of Nelson.

"Signed, on behalf of the people of the Province of Nelson

H.J. GOODMAN,  
R. BURN,  
J.L. BAILEY,  
H.D. JACKSON,  
J. WEBB,  
T. WATTS,  
I.M. HILL

On the case of the watch was the following inscription:-

"Na nga tangata o Whakatū (kia Huria) he tohu whakamoemiti mo tona maiatanga ki te whakaora i nga tangata o te Terawea, 4 Hepetema, 1863"

On the other side of the case was the annexed translation in English:-

"Presented to Julia, by the settlers of Nelson, in recognition of her heroism at the rescue of the crew of the Delaware, 4th September, 1863"

Mr. GOODMAN then presented the following address together with silver watches and chains, with a similar inscription to Matenga (husband of Julia), Eraia, Ropata, and Kereopa:-

"TO MATENGA (Martin), ROPATA (Robert), ERAIA (Elijah), and KEREOPA (Grey), these watches and chains are presented, by the settlers of the Nelson Province, and they wish you to prize them as tokens of their regard for the eminent courage and humanity you displayed in succouring and saving their unfortunate countrymen, who were wrecked in the Delaware, near your pah, on the 4th September, 1863.

"These mementoes will always convey to you this meaning, that Englishmen know no distinctions in rewarding merit. As there is more conscientious glory in saving human life, so they feel more unfeigned respect for you than for the most practised warriors.

"Mankind - no matter what colour or race - are knit together by the feelings of our common nature, and displaying, as you did the highest attributes of humanity on the occasion which this commemorates, you have made yourselves worthy of this recognition of all noble-minded men. Under fearful circumstances you were calm and risked your own lives to save others, and this, too, amid a raging storm and on a rocky coast, not where there were admiring spectators to cheer you, but where the cries for help, though loud, were scarcely heard in the pitiless storm, but yet, thank God, were not heard in vain, owing to your instrumentality.

"Signed on behalf of the people of the Province of Nelson," &c., &c., &c.

When the ceremony of presentation had concluded,

HEMI MATENGA (James Martin) said: On behalf of myself and the other, I will say that we are much pleased at this mark of the esteem and regard of the people of Nelson. We had no idea, at the time we saved the Europeans' lives, of receiving any reward. We heard their cry for help, and we assisted them [loud cheers].

Mr WEBB said, he would inform those present that the amount collected by public subscription was 62.45. The committee, at first, had understood that there were but four Maoris immediately concerned in rescuing the shipwrecked persons, but, from a conversation he had with Te Manu, he had learned that there were five. They were disposed of in their brave acts as follows: Julia, Martin, and Robert, went into the water, Elijah held fast the rope, and an older man made a large fire, at which they placed the nearly drowned men to recover there. The committee, finding they had a surplus, used a little more exertion in getting further subscriptions, and presented the fifth man also with a watch. He (Mr. Webb) did not know which most to admire, the goodness of their hearts, or the cheariness of their heads, in devising such a plan on the instant. He then thanked those who had subscribed to the fund, and said he was glad this opportunity of acknowledging the services of the Maori had been allowed to pass by as previous ones had. If such acts as they were now recognizing had been suffered to pass unnoticed, he should have been ashamed to consider himself a Nelson man [cheers].

The Honourable Justice JOHNSTON then addressed those assembled to the following effect: He said the members of the committee appointed by the inhabitants of Nelson had done him the great honour, though he was but a visitor, of asking him to say a few words on this interesting occasion. He was glad he had arrived in Nelson at a time to witness so extremely satisfactory a demonstration of public feeling, most creditable to the inhabitants of Nelson, and to the Government of the colony. He had often had opportunities of watching the Maoris, and had always seen such indications of their good sense and good feeling, that he was strengthened in his belief of the day not being far distant, when the whole native race would understand the true feeling which actuated Europeans in their conduct towards them, and when both Maoris and Europeans would meet as men and brothers. When the present disturbances of the good feeling which ought to exist between the British Government, the Colonial Government, and the natives of those islands, should have terminated, he felt sure that through the length and breadth of the islands it would be discovered that words expressed upon occasions such as the present, were no mere clap-trap. He declared his firm conviction and belief, that the feeling of the Europeans throughout the

colony towards the natives had been entirely misrepresented, when it was spoken of as one of hostility, animosity, jealousy or encroachment [loud cheers]. If the true feeling of the colonists were but better known, much that they now had to deplore and regret might have been got rid of [cheers]. As a citizen of the colony he would express his strong conviction and belief, that the general feeling of the Europeans towards the Maori was all that the most sanguine philanthropist could desire [cheers]. There were, of course, turbulent persons who wish to make disturbances and bodies got the credit for the acts of these exceptional instances [cheers]. Although, in the present instance, the Maoris whose conduct was highly approved of were presented with money as well as with more lasting testimonials such was not intended as payment for, but rather in recognition of, their brave and Christian deeds. That day's ceremony would create a lasting impression, and speak practically that, even during the prevalence of the serious misunderstanding with natives in the North Island, the voice of Christianity had been heard by them, and they had done all that true English feeling had suggested, by raising a fund to testify their approval of the brave acts of those of another race. One of the principal acts of his mission had been to raise in the minds of all a higher standard of human life. He believed that the law of love would weigh most with the native race, and would be more effectual in teaching them how highly we held their bravery and constancy in protecting what we held as so sacred - human life [cheers]. He had been permitted to propose a vote of thanks to his Honour the Superintendent, for the manner in which he had conducted this demonstration of colonial and local popular feeling [cheers].

His Honour the SUPERINTENDENT, in returning thanks, said he was sure that such a warm mark of their approbation was more than he deserved. He had been amply rewarded in finding such a general expression of good feeling towards the natives as had that day been displayed. He would go to the utmost length in assisting those who were now endeavouring to put down rebellion in the other island, while he would also as strictly defend those who respected their laws, and acted as the natives whom they had met to honour, had done [cheers].

His Honour the Judge, the Superintendent, and others, having most heartily shook hands with the Maoris, the days proceedings terminated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'NELSON EXAMINER'

SIR - I beg to contradict a report that my passenger was drowned : it was my Chief Mate who was unfortunately lost. Mr. Skeet if I remember rightly, was the fourth man who went ashore on the rope, and afterwards assisted, to the best of his ability, in landing the rest.

I am, &c.,  
ROBERT C. BALDWIN,  
Master of the Brigantine Delaware.

Wakapuaka, September 6.

The Nelson Examiner October 13, 1863

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TESTIMONIAL TO THE NATIVES AT WAKAPUAKA

The subscription which has been made in Nelson, for a testimonial to Julia, and the three native men who rendered such valuable assistance to the crew of the brigantine Delaware, wrecked in Wakapuaka Bay, about six weeks ago, amounts to nearly sixty pounds, and four watches are immediately to be purchased for presentation to them, on which suitable inscriptions will be engraved. The General Government has also ordered that a handsome money present shall be made to each out of the Native Fund Trust.