F. H. Spencer.
Dec 16 - 1884.
26 St Stephens sq
Bayswater. W.
16/12/84.

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Dear Sir.

The letter & paper you have so kindly forwarded to me are from Wiremu Katene a former M H R, of wch I now giving a precis

To Mr Spencer & Mr Gorst &c

The ~~news~~ account of Mr Gorst's & Lord Derby's speach has reached here.

This is to let you know that the Maori race are even engaged in writing a petition to the Parliament

Parliament of England
it was begun in 1883. & contains
11'400 signatures. among which
are Sawhiao's & party — & this
is to let you & Mr Gorst & your
fellow gentleman know that
I am here at Wellington
engaged in preparing this
petition in the presence of
the Governor & the Government
& it has been before the
presence of Parliament — I
have been here in Wellington
for three months engaged
in urging the Governor to
give me an answer in
writing of it with a copy

has been given him, & his word is. "That he has no power to say whether the petition should or should not go to England, but that he thinks it would be useless for it to be sent, as it would only be returned again. & that it is for this Government to carry on such troubles." another word of his is. "That if somebody should so be to bring the petition to England that he would write an explanatory letter." & that is all he has said. I have been trying to get him to write his answer but in vain

This conversation above given was on Oct 2. 1884 & was accompanied by a Maori Deputation going to Government House. They also been on Sept 19. 1884 to the Ministry to ask them to give me a written answer — the Ministers for Maori affairs said that they would write me a reply but they have not done so. Though two months have elapsed, I have written twice but I have not received any reply — I have also written again to the Governor & this was the burden of it — "It is now known that the Maori race are orphans — therefore

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therefore they seek their first parent, viz England" & though you & your ministry do not give us any reply" yet we will continue to persevere & will continue to look forward.

Hirini Saiwhanga & party were the first to go to England but they obtained nothing — with the full knowledge of this Tawhiao & party went & got nothing though they laboured hard — & now ~~we at~~ this petition will be urged & brought forward & this is a copy of the petition that will be

be sent down & Mr Forst
& will be a support to
Tawhiao & party — but
you & Mr Forst know best
whether the Government
& Parliament of England
will fulfil Tawhiao & party's
~~petition~~ claims which
were laid before Lord Derby
& you & Mr Forst will
write home at the Bay of Islands
Auckland Province —
Some of the items are
wanting altering & correcting
Some are the same & some
are different to Tawhiao's

but the Treaty of Waitangi
is the foundation of all
this petition

That is all. Dwell
there with Mr Gorst
& the nobles of England
you ~~of~~ who form a Mountain
of refuge for the Maori race
of New Zealand — but man's
work is nothing — it is the
Perfecter of all ~~that~~ who completes
everything

May you all be blessed
by the Almighty one

From &c
Wiremu Katene.

a. M. R. from 1571 to 1879

To Mr Spencer

Minister of the church

of Mr Lost M. R.

The printed petition
is too long to translate
just now - for I have not
a minute to spare as
I am leaving here on
Thursday morning but
I will try & send a
translation from Naples
In haste

Yours very faithfully

Richd Spencer.