

stages of the movement, at the time when every advantage was taken of the New Zealand difficulties. Men were running to and fro, sowing seeds of discord, making political capital for themselves, exaggerating the Maori troubles, and impugning the very loyalty of the colonists. A notable illustration characterised this epoch. The Secretary of State was solemnly informed, in language begotten of groundless fear, and dictated by restless ambition, that "if the troops were withdrawn, the blood of thousands of his fellow-countrymen might be at his door, and England might witness the destruction of a thriving colony." This information came from an authority of less than three months' residence in New Zealand! He was then prominent in hostility to Colonial Office policy and discipline. The same witness having imbibed lessons in panic from club-house gossip, seriously endeavoured to prove that, unless the requirements of the local politicians were granted, New Zealand would declare its independence of the British Crown, and offer allegiance to the United States! Lord Granville, however, wisely declared that "Her Majesty's Government felt bound to measure the real importance" of the subject, "not by the statements which they receive from private informants in this country, however worthy of credit, but by the deliberate acts of the Government and Legislature, who alone in this respect can effectually represent the colonists." Throughout the recent discussions there was the same necessity for ascertaining the genuine and recognised opinions of those holding local power. All knew that the colonists themselves were not speaking, nor their representatives,