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Sydney 26th August 1843.

My dear Colridge

Since my return home about a fortnight ago after two months absence, I have been, and am still, so engaged in disposing of accumulated business, that it was not my intention to have written to you by the ship which sails for London tomorrow, but to have postponed doing so till next week. A cause however has just arisen sufficient to impel me to alter my determination: that is - the desire of communicating to you as correct an account as I have been able to obtain of the sad news which has reached us from New Zealand. For some opinion or other it had become necessary to summon a native chief to appear before the Police Court, which form of law he savage-like set at naught. In order to vindicate the dignity of the law (as I have been given to understand) it was deemed necessary

murder to arrest him by force. with which intent
Captain Wakefield and 22 other persons went to the
spot. The occurrence took place near: Willington or
Nelson, I cannot positively learn which. but my
object in writing was to assure you that it was, at
all events no where near to the Discho's station;
lest you and his other friends should experience
alarm if you should hear vaguely any reports
of the horrid particulars which have been commu-
nicated to me. The 23 persons above referred to
having proceeded towards the native station with
the intention of seizing the accused party, were
met by a most fierce and obstinate resistance
on the part of the natives, by whom they were driven
into a position where resistance was useless;
and dreadful to relate, having laid down their
arms, were every one of them put to death. The only
names

names I have heard specified were those of (Capt
Wakefield and the Police Magistrate named
Johnson. He was, I think, a medical man, and
resided some time in Sydney. The only particulars
which I can positively vouch for, is that this fatal
affray did not occur either at Auckland or the
Bay of Islands. and this will be sufficient to

relieve your mind from
any apprehension on behalf
of our dear brother and his

family. Knowing however how fierce and revengeful
these barbarians are, and how prone to revenge
upon the English generally any wrong which they
may think they have suffered from individuals,
I shall write by the earliest opportunity to him to
beg an entreat he will send Mrs. Selwyn & Will
to us (even if he cannot come himself) should he
have the least reason to dread any commotion
around him. Her friends may therefore rely on her
being

