

18 October 1861

Sir,

Referring to your letter of the 23rd inst. in relation to the action of Captain Davidson who was formerly Surgeon to this army at Wellington, and of Captain Davidson the Deputy Surgeon at Napier, in respect of the equipment of your troops at Rangitiki, I am directed to acquaint you that the Committee have been in communication with Captain Davidson in respect to the matter and that his report together with all the circumstances of the case occupied the attention of the General Committee at their meeting this week.

The action of Captain Davidson upon which you are interested appears to have





was taken in connection with  
his duties as surgeon to the  
New Zealand Antares and  
and some to have been assigned  
to declining to accept the  
responsibility of advising his  
employers to have risks on the  
vessel in view of the additional  
burden which she ran of  
of her defective equipment in  
what is said to be extraordinary  
circumstances, a dangerous  
anchorage.

The Committee fully  
recognize that you appear to  
have made every effort to  
secure the most suitable vessel  
which would be expected for  
the vessel in the colony, and  
they extremely regret the delay  
and expense which the very  
unfortunate circumstances  
occasioned you.

In the same time, the  
Committee feel that the case  
gave considerable room for the  
exercise of discretion and  
after very careful consideration



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They cannot find any reason  
to think that Captain Davidson  
was actuated in the course  
which he pursued by any  
other motive than his anxiety  
to give the best advice in his  
power to the Insurance Company  
who employed him.

With respect to  
Captain Keneally, I feel to add  
that this gentleman has for  
some time past ceased to be  
a lawyer to this Society.  
I am

Gentlemen  
Yours obedient servant  
A. J. [unclear]  
Secretary

James H. [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]  
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]



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