

MS. 55/24

*W. Hall to J. Pratt, 24 October 1815*

Bay of Islands N Zealand Oct<sup>r</sup> 24 1815

Rev<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir

Having received your kind and interesting letter with the property within mentioned and your favour of the extra expences for which I return my sincerest thanks cleared off with very little trouble – We can have plenty of fine Timber brought here by the Natives – On account of our Timber being all wrought up at Tipponah we then experienced the great difficulty in procuring any more on account of the distance, and the shyness existing between different parties of Natives – After some serious reflection and deliberation, Mr Kendall and I agreed to remove the Settlement to a place called Wythangee being about five or six miles from Tipponah and that much nearer the Timber ground, being the most elligible [sic] place for a Settlement in all the Bay of Islands – Where Mr Kendall and I purchased fifty Acres of Land upon the Society's account in consideration for which we gave five Axes – the land here is level and the Soil good is is [sic] overgrown with fern and small Brush which is – they fall it themselves and float it down the River with their Canoes – large logs of pine fit for Masts or yards of Vessels or any other purpose. [f] I went up there in July last, and took the Sawyers with me and some Timber and we built a small wooden House and set the Sawyers to work in cutting Timber which the Friendly Natives supplied us with. I also employed them in clearing and levelling the Ground for which I gave them Fishhooks and pieces of Iron hoop in payment – We first

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formed a Timber yard and a foundation for a Dwelling house – and I lived there with the Sawyers and left my Family at Tippona untill I built a Wooden House forty feet long and fifteen feet wide, in a substantial and workmanlike manner – the first piece of work I finished was a tall Flagstaff for the distinction of the Sabbath day which the Natives are exceedingly fond of – Mrs H made a Union Flag which we hoist every Sunday – previous to this I had told the Natives that I was going to hoist a Flag upon a certain Day on which no work was to be done but was to be kept in Honor of the “Atua nue” which is the Great Jehovah – This was a cause of much conversation amongst them and looking for Sunday with anxiety – Sunday morning being calm the Flag hung down by the pole and could not be distinguished at any great distance – A respectable Chief that lives about three miles from our [f] Settlement sent his Canoe with a party in it on purpose to see whether the Flag was up or not – just before the Canoe arrived the breeze sprung up and spread the Flag and they returned very much pleased indeed – and since that they can see our Flag from that Settlement called Corroradick and I believe they keep the Sabbath day as regular as us – I have now removed my Family to the Wythangee, and Mr Kendall has purposed to have his House built at Tipponah and remain there, and although it will be very inconvenient for me, I mean to give him all the assistance I can in building his House and school – It was never my intention to seperate [sic] especially with so few people – But although Mr Kendall has changed his mind I have no doubt but

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he has done it for the best and I hope our endeavours will be blest with the same success— I employ several Natives constantly in clearing ground making fences &c I am also teaching some of them to Saw Timber— I have not been at much expence with them for cloathing yet, although some European cloathing is necessary for cleanliness— and if your Committee should think proper to appropriate a small portion of coarse Cloathing to those domesticated Natives immediately under my instruction as Sawyers and other Workers [f] consisting of about Six in number— I should dispose of it with propriety and I think it would have a good effect as they are frequently asking for Cloathing— I Victual them chiefly of pork and potatoes the produce of the place— I have got a Garden of nearly half an Acre of ground fenced in and cultivated— I have planted a part of it with Fruit Trees, and the remainder with Indian corn, Peas, Beans Pumpkins, and other kitchen vegetables and I hope with the Blessing of God upon our labours that our little Settlement will be able to support itself in a short time— We have a wide field for labour here and if you could strengthen our hands by adding to our numbers it would be highly desirable, as the forwarding of the great work is the constant endeavour as well as the fervent prayer of—

Sir your most affectionate

Servant and Labourer

In Christ

W<sup>m</sup> Hall