

Rev. Saml Marsden to the Secy

Rec'd July 14/21

Ranghoo Nov 22. 1820

Com. Aug. 13/21.

Rev. J. Dear Sir,

Ans. Aug. 20/21.

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Your last Letter sent by Mr
Cowell reached me at New Zealand a few days ago.
Mr Cowell and his lady are at Port Jackson - I have
now been some months in this Island, and have
travell'd thro many parts of it. I have been as far
as Mercury Bay on the East side, and from thence
I came down the River Thames nearly from its
source - afterwards visited the west side of the
Thames, and then crossed the Country to Niparo
situated on the west side of N. Zealand; and I
think must be nearly in the same latitude with
the River Thames; perhaps a little more to the
Southward - From Niparo I travell'd to the
Bay of Islands, which I reached on the Evening of
the 23^d Day from the time I left the Coromandel.
Thro every District I pass'd I met with the kindest
Attention from the natives - I had no European
with me, during the Journey - As it is my intention
to transmit to you my Observations on the Country
and natives I visited, during three months
absence from the Bay of Islands, as soon as
I return to Port Jackson I shall not trouble

Rev. J. Marsden.

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you with them at the present: but only beg to add that I see no difficulty in any part of their task and to prevent the success of the mission; but there is one great difficulty in another quarter, and that is in binding proper persons to carry the wishes of the Society into effect. Few men have had more practical knowledge of missionaries than I have had: and I can say with great truth, that I have met with few, who have inclined their hearts to the work, who have been at all willing to put up with any self denial - my heart has often mourned in secret for evils that I could not remedy. Some are stubborn, and ungovernable; others are idle, proud and conceited - others are full of deception that it requires a long time to find out their characters. Others have no relish for the work - no love to the poor heathens no desire to do them any good. If the heart is not deeply engaged in the work; if the fear of the God of Truth is not the ruling principle, no outward professions - no solemn vows - no sacred promises will induce a missionary to do his duty - Should Mr Kendall be in England when you receive this, request him from me, to state the whole of his transactions, and those of his colleagues in N. Zealand to you, keeping nothing back - It will come better from him than from me, or any other person - I am willing to give him the utmost credit for all the good he has done, and always have been; but I cannot pass over in silence his improper conduct. This would be highly criminal in me as an Agent in such a cause - I had little opportunity previous to his sailing to know the real state of things - but I learned enough, to express my disapprobation of his conduct in many instances which I did not fail to tell him.

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All the Difficulties in New Zealand that I have met with
have been in governing the Europeans. They will not do what
what is right. They will not live in unity and brotherly love.
The love of money - the Thirst for Pre-eminence, the want
of Industry, and zeal for the good of the Natives have greatly
vitiated against the success of the mission. I had used every
Persuasive, and every means in my power to put a stop
to the abominable Traffic in muskets and Powder. I had
obtained their solemn Vows, signed with their own signature
that they would put away this accursed thing - I relied upon
their Promises - before I left N. Zealand I found these Promises
broken. The Promises were renewed, but on my return in Feb. 9
I then found myself deceived again, and that no confidence
was to be placed in them. I merely hint at these things now,
as I may have occasion to notice them again at a future time.
I communicated to Mr. W. Hall the contents of your letter
that concerned him, and left him to make his own
Defense. He is an industrious valuable man, and sets a good
example to the natives, but too eager after the things of this
present life. I have had much conversation with him upon
this subject - I cannot doubt, but he is attached to the work
of the mission notwithstanding his faults. I think Mr
Randall found it necessary to go Home, to vindicate his conduct.
He must have been aware, that what was passing in N. Zealand
would reach my Ears - thro' some Channel or other, and that
he would be placed in a difficult situation, as I had ascertained.
then I would not spare him, nor fail to represent their
misconduct to the Society, should it come to my
knowledge. I hope things will go on better by and by -

Francis Hall is a truly pious man, and I have no fear that
the Society will ever have cause to be displeased with
him. Mr & Mrs Kemp go on well with whom Mr Hall
now resides - They have got into their new House - which
is a very good one - Mr Butler never wished to come to
New Zealand, and therefore it cannot be expected that she will
ever relish her situation: and will have more or less influence
upon the mind of Mr Butler to unsettle him. Mr Butler is
a warm man in his temper - He has acquired a severity in
his expression, probably from his former situation, which
is unpleasant to those who have not been accustomed to that mode
of address. I have endeavored, as a friend both verbally, and by
letter to point out these things to him - I know these acquired
habits will not be easily put off without much mortification.
never send out a married man, if it can be avoided, unless his
wife is as willing to engage in the work as her husband -
The wife should be consulted - when I return to Port Jackson
I will write more fully - suffice it to say, that there is every
encouragement to go on in the mission. I was on my passage
to N. Z. waters in a small Schooner this week - was 5 days at
sea, but compelled to bear up again for the Bay of Islands
where I have hovered last night, after suffering very severely
from sea sickness, and want of air - I shall not venture
again, but wait till the Dromedary returns to Port Jackson.
when the Kings Ships arrive (the Commodore & Dromedary)
you will be able then from the officers to form a more
correct Idea of N. Zealand - no difference has happened
yet between the Ships Companies and the natives, and
I hope none will. There would have been difficulties in
the way of the Ships getting their cargo if the
mission had not paved the way for them -

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2. I think these Ships will lay the foundation of a permanent intercourse between the British Govt. and these Islands. Both Commanders will recommend a small Settlement to be formed; as the Spears are found to be of the best Quality, equal in length and Dimensions to all naval Purposes for masts for a first Rate Ship of war, I would think they are not to be excelled in any part of the world. If a Settlement is formed, this will relieve the Society greatly in the Expenses. At the River Thames the Chiefs on both the west and east side requested that they might have some Protection afforded them from the British Govt. whenever I have been, the Chiefs and People are sensible of the Advantages of some regular Government, and most of them wish to lay aside their war Pursuits, and turn their attention to Agriculture - but alledge they are compelled to fight for self Protection, as they have no Govt. and nothing but their Spear to depend upon. many of the Chiefs are very sensible men, and well disposed, and would labour if they could only reap the Fruits of their Industry - but till there is some regular Government however small, the powerful Tribes will

murder, and oppress the weak. - when I return
to Port Jackson I intend to impress upon the
mind of the Honourable Commissioner the necessity
for Gov^t. to interfere, to prevent the whalers from
importing into the Bay of Islands such large
quantities of muskets and Gun Powder, which
proves very destructive to the Population; and
has a natural tendency to feed their native
warlike spirit, and keep up the flame of war -
All the missionaries are well, and time will cure
the evils I have hinted at. - Similar ones existed
in the Society Islands, the London missionary
Society have had many who have behaved ill. When
the Israelites came to the borders of the Promised Land
Moses commanded that twelve Princes, one from
every tribe, should be sent to examine the good land.
when they had performed this duty, they returned, and made
their Report to Moses. Ten of the twelve gave a false Account
of the Land of Canaan - There were only two who proved
themselves honest men - and these the Congregation were ready
to stone. If the Society get two good missionaries in every
twelve they must be satisfied. The two will succeed if no
more can be found - I have written these few lines in
haste as the Schooner will sail the first favourable morning
and this may come to hand some months before
any others with my respectful Compl^t to the
Committee

Rev^d J. Pratt -

I have the Honour to be

Dear & Rev^d Sir

Yours obed. hum^t Serv^t

Samuel Marsden