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New York, March 24<sup>th</sup> 1808  
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Rev. Sir,

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with great Diffidence I respectfully submit the following Observations relative to New Zealand to the Consideration of the Society for Missions to Africa and the East, as that Island may lie without the Limits of the Society's Designs towards the Heathens - From the different Reports we have had of the natives of New Zealand; and the late Communication with one of their Chiefs, who visited Port Jackson, and who appeared a very extraordinary man, posess of the greatest natural Abilities, and expressed the most ardent Desire to improve his Subjects, according to human Estimate this Island seems to afford some Prospect for missionary labors. New Zealand & its natural Productions are little known to the civilized world - no Commerce has been carried on there further -

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further than a few ships taking cargoes of masts and  
spars from the Island to India and China. The Chief who  
visited Port Jackson has shown every attention to the  
South Sea whalers, who have touched at his settlement  
for refreshments; and to any other vessels that have had  
an occasion for his assistance from New South Wales.  
Every benevolent mind acquainted with the ignorant  
state of these Islanders, must feel a wish that some  
small attempt may be made towards their civilization  
and general improvement in the simple arts, and  
Christian knowledge— Should a mission to New  
Zealand come within the limits of the Society's original  
plans, it proposes apparently the best means for making  
an attempt towards the civilization, and conversion of the  
New Zealanders, of any other society instituted for the benevolent  
purposes of propagating the Gospel amongst the Heathens.  
There are two promising circumstances that afford strong  
ground to hope that some good might be effected on  
that Island— First, its relative situation to the settlements

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at Port Jackson and Norfolk Island, being distant only about eighty leagues from the latter, and four hundred from the former. Hence its local situation would open an easy communication with either, or both of these settlements, which is of the utmost importance to the comfort and safety of the missionaries amongst uncivilized Heathens, as well as to the success of the mission — — —

The second circumstance is, the only officiating Ministers in these settlements are of the established Church; who would if they were men of Piety cheerfully second the wishes of the Society in Europe. The ministers of the Establishment must from the official rank which they hold in these settlements have very considerable Influence, as the Executive Authority will require their Aid in carrying on the Public Service, amongst the peculiar class of subjects of which these settlements are composed. If the Clergy are men truly devoted to God; and are willing to exert their Power and Influence in promoting the Cause of Christianity, they will have an extensive field of usefulness; not only in New South Wales, but in

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the neighbouring Islands in the South Seas. A Governor  
of New South Wales however profane he may be, and  
however great an Enemy to real Godliness, he will  
avoid for his own sake, all open war with the Ministers  
of the Establishment, unless their own unguarded conduct  
should give him a Decided Advantage over them. They  
will at all times have a Claim upon the Governor for  
his Protection and Support in the Due Performance of  
every moral and religious Duty, connected with their sacred  
Functions; and enjoined upon them by his Majesty's Com-  
mission. If the Ministers act consistent with the Dignity  
of their public Characters, tho' the Doctrines they preach  
may disgust and offend the carnal mind in every  
Rank of Society, yet their Persons will be revered, and  
their Opinions will have great weight with those in  
Authority on every civil, political, and moral Subject.  
On this Account it may justly be inferred that the regular  
Clergy in New South Wales, from the certain Influence  
unavoidably attached to their public Situation under the

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present Circumstances of that Settlement, may very much  
promote a Mission to New Zealand connected with the  
established Church, without creating any Suspicion, or  
giving any Offence to those in Authority in the Colony;  
or to any other Persons in England. was a mission  
from that Island by any other Society; the ministers  
of the Establishment, might most ardently desire to maintain  
and support such a desirable an undertaking, whoever  
might be the first Promoters of it; yet their wishes might  
be defeated and their exertions cramped by the Authority  
of the Governor, if he was disposed to oppose the mission.  
The object I wish to impress upon the mind of the  
Society is this; that it would not be proper for any Mission-  
aries to be placed on an Island amongst uncivilized  
Heathen; without establishing a regular Communication  
with them - Let the missionaries be ever so much  
devoted to the cause of the mission, yet they will  
want Supplies, Protection, and Encouragement -  
The ministers in the Establishment resident in N. Wales.

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from their personal Influence with those in Authority; as well as from their extensive Influence which they must at all times possess thro the Settlement, will most probably have the means in their Power to afford the Missionaries employed at New Zealand such Aid as their Circumstances from time to time may require -

I am of an Opinion that a mission sent out to New Zealand under the Patronage of the established Church would rather be considered as a part of the civil government of N.S. Wales, than as a separate Body; and have no doubt but a Governor, whatever he might be, would feel it his Duty to afford the missionaries every Protection and Support, and more particularly so, as the British Government seem well disposed towards the Natives of that Island.

Till the Society come to some Determination, to turn their Attention to the above object, it would be unnecessary to take into Consideration what would apparently be the best mode to give Effect to the mission, what Difficulties are likely to oppose the work; and what would be the

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best means for removing these Difficulties — — —

At the time of my arrival in England I suggested a few  
Thoughts to the missionary Society in London, relative to their  
mission established at Otaheite. In that memorial some of  
my sentiments are stated — but it would <sup>be</sup> irrelevant to  
introduce them into this Letter, before the subject is brought  
under the immediate consideration of the Society — Having  
an ardent wish, that the New Zealanders may enjoy the  
Sweets of Civilization, and the more inestimable  
Blessings of Divine Revelation; I shall feel a  
peculiar Pleasure in seconding any Attempt the  
Society might be inclined to make for their general  
Improvement, and Advantage — Any further  
Information that may be required upon this subject,  
that may come within my Knowledge, I will  
very readily communicate —

Rev. Josiah Pratt —

I have the honor to be

Rev. Sir

Secretary to the Society for missions  
to Africa & the East —

your most obedient  
humble servant  
Samuel Marsden

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Porter

Mr. Wm. James 21 Daniel Street