

don

Capt. James Gordon, to Rev. S. Marsden.

Sydney New South Wales

15

den

Com. Nov. 14/14

8 Novem. 1813

Dear Sir!

I now sit down to comply as far as lays in my Power with your Request of Information respecting the New Zealanders, and those Circumstances which occurred at the Bay of Islands in New Zealand previous to the Massacre of the Crew of the Ship Boyd, and tho' not an Eye-Witness to the Outrage, you will perceive on reading this that I had my Information from the most undoubted Authority.

In the Winter of 1808 the New Zealand Chieftain Tippahoe arrived in this Port in the Brig Commerce from the Bay of Islands, and as he was paid particular Attention to, by Mr Campbell I had very frequent Opportunities to see him. In the Month of August or September following the Ship Elizabeth, Capt. Bodie arrived from the Fishery off the Coast of New Zealand; on the Day of his Arrival Mr Campbell & Family dined out, and no Person at Home but Mr Campbell Junr. and myself we asked Capt. Bodie and Capt. Cockerell to dine with us, and about 10 minutes before Dinner Tippahoe accidentally was passing thro' the Yard and I asked him also. While sitting at Table I observed that Capt. Bodie and Tippahoe were not very good Friends, and that the latter appeared

very uneasy in his Presence, on asking Bodie what occasioned it
 he related to us the following Circumstance — In the Month
 of February or March 1808 Capt^r Bodie went into the Bay of Islands
 for the Purpose of refitting his Ship and to obtain Refreshments for
 his Crew — one Day while laying at Anchor, Tippahue went on board
 to pay him a Visit and was very kindly received by Bodie, in the
 mean time a native came on board with whom Bodie made a
 Bargain to give him 20 Hails for 20 Baskets of Potatoes, the Man
 brought his Potatoes on board and Bodie having occasion to go below
 desired the Mate to receive the Potatoes and give him 20 Hail, which
 was done, — a Shower of Rain happening at the Instant the whole
 of the Natives then on board went on shore except Tippahue. — when
 the Shower was over, Bodie came on Deck and counted his Baskets
 and finding only 19 he fell into a violent Rage, seized Tippahue up to
 the Rigging and there kept him for 5 or 6 Hours till he was ransomed
 with a Basket of Potatoes, tho' Tippahue offered to go on shore in
 his own Canoe which was alongside and bring him the Potatoes, but
 Bodie would not suffer him, and the Reason of his being kept so
 long was in consequence of another Shower of Rain which kept
 the Natives on shore — This Capt^r Bodie related in Tippahue's Presence
 in such an exulting Manner that he put him in a Rage so
 violent (even gnashing his Teeth, and distorting every Muscle in
 most horrid Manner) that I was obliged to walk with him
 into

into the Garden to appear him; Bodie said that he was sorry after-
 ward, as he found the Basket of Potatoes in the Forecastle of the Ship,
 it having been stole by one of his own Sailors.

Capt Kingston of the Ship Spike also related in my Presence his having
 flogged Tippakee because he could not find an Ax which had been
 stole from some of the People on shore cutting Wood, when probably
 the Fellow had sold the Ax for a Matt.

I was also informed by Capt. Mattinson of the Ship
 Spring-Hove that he was Eye-Witness to the Cruelty and Injustice
 practised toward, the New Zealanders at the Bay of Islands by the
 different Masters and Crews of the Ships which were laying there in
 1810 when Col. Foveaux went from hence in the Brig Experiment; and
 from Information I have accidentally received, I have every Reason to
 believe they have been most barbarously treated, particularly at
 the Bay of Islands.

Since the Year 1810 I have been 4 Voyages to Sea as
 Master of a Vessel, and except one Voyage, I had always 2 or 3 New
 Zealanders with me as Sailors, and I must say that I never saw
 in them the least Disposition to be quarrelsome either with each
 other or with the English Sailors, but on the contrary very obedient,
 quiet and industrious Men, one of whom we had in McAmphell's
 Employ for near 4 Years - and for 14 Months of the Time he had been
 on

15
an Island with no Associates except English Men, by which he had
obtained sufficient of the English Language to hold a Conversation among
Sailors. — And I have heard from several Captns in Mr Campbell's Com-
-pany that the New Zealanders that they had with them were just
such Characters as I found those who were with me.

It is now little more than 3 Months since I arrived from
New Zealand when I had been to explore the Country for the Flax Plant
and as we were so fortunate as to meet with the Object of our
Pursuit at the first of our landing we had not much Intercourse
with the Natives, but those we met with at a Village near
Macquarie Harbour on the South Extremity of the middle Island
were extremely Friendly for as soon as we arrived at the Village they
commenced cooking Potatoes and Fish for us and when we left
them the Women loaded themselves with Potatoes and carried them
at least 6 or 7 Miles over a very rugged Country to the Boat.

Having asked my Opinion whether a friendly Intercourse
could not be established between Port Jackson and New Zealand
I have no Hesitation of giving it as my Opinion from the Know-
-ledge I have of them among civilized Beings and also in their
native State that a most beneficial Communication might
be established and that it would require no Art whatever to civi-
-lize them, for if they were treated with Humanity; and in
Dealing

Dealing with them observe the strictest Justice you would soon
 find a great Alteration in their Manners — Should I have
 omitted anything with which you think I am acquainted, let me
 know and I will make any Addition to this that I can

I am Sir - with the greatest Respect
 Your Obed. S^{rv}.
 James Gordon

The Rev. Sam^l. Marsden