

Rev. Samuel Marsden, to the Secretary 30

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Parramatta March 15. 1814

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Rev. Sir

Com. Nov. 14/14

Ans. Dec. 16/14, by the Northampton.

I was honoured with your letter by Mr Kendall, who arrived here in the Earl Spencer; which communicated to me the opinion of the Society relative to a vessel for navigating these seas. I am fully convinced that little can be done in these Islands of the South Seas without a vessel; and that the owners of that vessel must, whether they are a public body, or private individuals, feel a lively interest for the welfare of the Heathen, and a sincere desire to promote the glory of God. The arrival of Mr Kendall, and the communication contained in your letter determined me to embrace the first opportunity, either to freight a vessel, or to purchase one so that I might have her under my own directions. my first object was to freight a vessel if I could get one upon moderate terms. I made several offers but could not succeed. I could have hired one of about 100 tons

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for £100 per month, upon condition that I victualled her, and paid the Ship's Company, the expense of which would be about £120 more per month. Could I have got this vessel for two months for Messrs Hall & Kendall to have visited New Zealand I should have taken her up; but the owner w<sup>o</sup> not let me have her for less than six months certain. This would have been too heavy a sum, and I declined the offer. A few days after a Brig from India, called the Active, was offered to me for sale. She is about 110 Tons - Very good Accommodation and a strong good vessel - I purchased this Brig for £1100 Sterling. fitted her out immediately & she sailed yesterday for New Zealand with Messrs Kendall & Hall. The expense of fitting her out was about £500 more. The first cost and outfit near £1900 Sterling. About £1200 of this sum I can command from my own private Property. I may be compelled to draw upon the Society for £400, trusting that the Society, or private

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Individuals will be kind enough to advance this  
Sum by way of a loan. I will make the vessel  
answerable for the Principal and Interest, if the  
returns, and any unforeseen Circumstances,  
should prevent the Establishment of the Mission.  
I consider myself responsible to the Society for all  
that I have done; and I should not have drawn  
upon them for any money on Account of the  
Vessel, if my own means would have  
accomplished this object. I trust the Society will not  
protest my Bills, as it is my full Intention  
to pay them, whether the Mission succeed or  
not. Should the Mission not answer I shall  
sell the Vessel as soon as possible, and remit  
the Sum I may draw for - and if it should  
prosper, of which I have little Doubt, I am  
persuaded the natural Productions of New  
Ject and will cover much of the Expences  
when brought to Port Jackson, and sold  
such as Hemp, Timber &c

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The Documents which I shall transmit by this Conveyance, will give the Society some Idea, of the Wrongs, and oppressions, Cruelties and murders that have been committed by the Masters and Crews of European Vessels; and convince the Society that nothing can so effectually remove the Dread and Horror which the natives must feel, at the Approach of a Ship near their Shores, as a friendly Vessel, when they <sup>are</sup> once convince of the Intentions of the Society. The Safety and Comfort of the Missionaries, and the Success of the Mission, according to human Estimate, will greatly depend upon this Vessel. The unknown Hardships and Insults which Quaterne suffered before he reached his native Land will never be forgot by him or his Subjects tho' I used all the means in my Power to procure him a safe and certain Passage to his Country. What Indignation must he have felt when he had assisted the Master of the *Fredrick*, for six months to fill his Ship with oil; had gone on Shore and procured every Refreshment for the Vessel previous to her sailing for England, and as a Reward for his faithful Services should be carried,

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notwithstanding his years and supplications away  
from his Country and Friends, after he had been  
absent so many years, and landed naked and  
friendless at Norfolk Island, and afterwards brought  
back again to me. Few Masters of vessels can be  
trusted, when once they lose sight of Land. Their  
Tyranny and Avarice is incredible. I pledged myself  
to Quaterra, that I would send a vessel to the Bay of  
Blanco, and that the Master and Crew should be  
instructed to treat them with more Justice and  
Humanity - New Zealand is one of the finest fields  
for missionary labors - The Inhabitants are numerous,  
their Climate and Soil is good, and they near to  
Port Jackson - Numbers of British Subjects have  
been cut off at New Zealand in consequence of  
their Cruelty to the natives - The Establishment  
of a mission there will tend to the security of  
the South Sea whalers, who put into the Island  
for refreshments. This is an object of some  
importance - It is my intention to keep up a  
regular communication with the missionaries

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26 by means of the Active Society. and at the same time  
bring the natives to, and from Port Jackson, with  
a view of promoting their general improvement in  
the Arts of Civilization and Agriculture; and in the  
Principles of the Christian Religion. whether I shall  
have the means of doing this independent of other  
aid I am not certain yet. till I see what value  
the natural Productions of the Island are; and  
how they may be procured. Could I have visited  
the Island myself, I then <sup>sh</sup> have been better able  
to have judged what could be done to lessen the  
Expences of the Vessel; which will not be less by  
Estimation than £1500 per annum. "The Gold  
and the Silver is the Lords." If this work is from him  
he will carry it over and make it prosper. I wish to  
commit the whole to him - I have no Correction with  
any Person whatever in the vessel - so that none  
can thro' any Difficulties in the way in that Respect.  
There is no object of Gain in view, excepting of poor  
Souls to Christ - At the same time I should think

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it no Crime if there should be found any valuable  
natural Productions, to have them brought to Port  
Jackson, and sold for the Benefit of the Vessel. The  
Acts, and Commence will correct the dangerous  
Habits of the natives more than any other means.  
and prepare them for the Gospel. But upon these  
things I cannot speak with Certainty at present.  
The Vessel is gone, and I hope the time is come for the  
Lord to prosper Lion. I shall be exceedingly rejoiced  
when I see her return, if the Lord has made their  
way to prosper, and they come back with a full  
intention of returning and settling amongst the  
natives. I could not make up my mind to let the  
women and Children go at present; lest the natives  
should retain any Anger for the Injury Europeans  
have done them at different times. Much blame w.  
attack to me, if they had gone, and any serious Calamity  
had happened to them. I have no Fear myself; and  
would go without Hesitation. If I get some of the  
Children belonging to the Chiefs to Port Jackson  
and keep them here at School; this will secure

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26 I hope the safety of any of our people who may live at New Zealand. I am convinced Dutton will either come himself or send some of his Subjects who are of consequence. Canhaetee the son of one of their great Priests, who lived with me, will receive them gladly. I have now stated to you what I have done for the information of the Society. I wish it to be clearly understood that I am answerable for the whole of the Expence of the Vessel as I had no positive Instructions from the Society either to freight a Vessel, or to purchase one. I am under no apprehensions but I shall eventually be able to retire the Bills I may at present be obliged to draw, should the Vessel make no return, and should any thing happen to prevent the Establishment of the mission. From the time <sup>that</sup> M<sup>r</sup>. Hall embarked his support and M<sup>r</sup>. Hall, as well as M<sup>r</sup>. Kendall and Family will be charged to the Society.

I have the honor to be

Rev<sup>d</sup>. Sir

your most obed<sup>t</sup>. servant

Sam<sup>l</sup>. Marsden

Rev<sup>d</sup>. G. Pratt