

Mar. 18/14

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flame of zeal for the salvation of the New Zealanders, is almost gone out! You are at ease in worldly security. O, remember your first love! O, be zealous & repent. O, return unto the Lord your God! I do not mean to say you are immoral in your conduct, or even positively wrong in any thing you have done—God alone is your Judge—but still I am afraid you are less zealous, less devoted, less modest, less teachable than you were. Nor, again, do I mean to say that there may not be mistakes in the Committee of the Missionary Society here, or in Mr Marsden in Port Jackson—but whatever there are, your duty, my dearest John, is meekness, forbearance, obedience, prayer. Further, it is quite possible there may be faults in your companion Mr Hall—I do not say there are, because I never saw him, and have heard very little of him—but if Mr Hall would advise you to what is against the sweetness and zeal of a sincere Christian, you must never follow him. My dearest son, pity my earnest affection for you, bear with my entreaties, seek again the Lord God from whom we are all so prone to depart. Let no one, not even the wife of your bosom, draw you away from God. Yea, my son, let me have joy of you in the Lord, refresh my bowels in the Lord. Let me hear of your welfare, and how you do. Let me hear of your simple & obedient affectionate and obedient and zealous spirit of mind. Be not ashamed of Christ, nor of me your spiritual father. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth. Be not discouraged & dejected, if you wish to return to the Lord. Despair is as bad as presumption. Melancholy and gloominess are the enemies of contrition on the one hand and diligence on the other. The path of the just is as the shining light. God will welcome the returning penitent. Jesus receives with joy the poor wandering Sheep. The Spirit of God is able to give more (mark that) more grace. To Him I commend you.

(Signed) D. Wilson