

Mar. 25/14

31 The Natives of New Holland are miserably low, and there is no appearance
prospect of their recovery; yet they are our fellow creatures and are to
be pitied and prayed for. I hope some attempt will be made before
long to instruct their children. I write now (March 30) from Jarvis
Bay on the Eastern Coast of New Holland where our ship has been detained
some days by contrary winds. I have visited some of the Natives
on shore and they treat me with evident marks of their good will.
Some of our Sailors have, I am told, been sometimes since murdered
here. but I think they must have ill treated the Natives before they
retaliated with so much severity upon them. For a few Biskets
and a little Tobacco they have supplied us with a quantity of excellent
Fish, Oysters &c. They cautiously keep away from us their women
and children. After much entreaty two of their Young Men
have been persuaded to come on board, and as soon as they perceived
we were their friends, and we had gained their confidence they were
very cheerful and happy. They examined the different parts of the vessel
ran up as high as the Top Gallant Mast to acquaint their friends
on shore with their privilege, and departed highly gratified with
their visit. The Natives have no incense upon them. Their canoes
are made of the Bark of Trees, and of a sufficient magnitude to bear
them up on the water.

I have mentioned the circumstance of Mr. Marsden having purchased
the Native. This he has done (as he tells me) upon his own bottom and not