

(Copy) Rev. S. Marsden to Governor Macquarie Sep. 9/14

May I please Your Excellency

Com. Nov. 14/14

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Attempts having been made to assuage  
by the Mathamora. <sup>Noticed in mine of Dec. 16/14.</sup>

my public character by two Anonymous papers published  
 in the Sydney Gazette one on the 19<sup>th</sup> March, and the  
 other on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the present Month, I feel compelled  
 in justice to my public situation to appeal to Your  
 Excellency for redress; I should not have presumed  
 to trouble Your Excellency with the present application  
 had not the Editor of the Sydney Gazette refused to  
 give up the Author of the above anonymous Papers;  
 I humbly conceive it is not intended that the Sydney  
 Gazette which is published by Authority, should be a  
 Vehicle thro' which the Envious and Malicious should  
 assassinate the Reputation of any of His Majesty's Subjects  
 and more especially those who have arduous and pain-  
 ful public duties to perform in this Settlement;  
 Independant of the official situations I hold in this  
 Colony, I am Agent to the Society for the propagation  
 of the Gospel in foreign parts which is composed of  
 Men of the First Rank and Respectability in the  
 British Empire, His Grace the Archbishop of Can-  
 terbury being president; I am also the Accredited

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Agent here for the Church Missionary Society which  
is also composed of Noblemen, Clergy, and others, all  
Members exclusively of the Established Church; it is  
hoped that thro' the Bounty and patronage of this  
Society the Inhabitants of New Zealand will receive  
the Blessings of Civilization; I have been almost  
twenty Years the Acting Director; of the London Missionary  
Society for their Missionaries in the South Sea Islands.  
This is one of the first Societies at present established in  
the Empire; I am also appointed by the British and Foreign  
Bible Society to distribute their Donations of Bibles and  
Testaments to the Inhabitants of these Settlements; —  
Your Excellency must be well aware that the Sydney  
Gazette will fall into the hands of these public Bodies,  
Any charge against me appearing in this paper will  
carry with it a certain degree of public sanction as  
the Sydney Gazette is published under the sanction  
of Government; — many of the Members of these Societies  
are my private friends and patrons, If it is admitted in  
the smallest degree that I am capable of committing  
such a Breach of public Faith and Confidence (as the  
Author of the Anonymous papers alluded to, artfully  
endeavouring to impress on the public mind) I  
must be ruined in the good Opinion of these Societies  
and all public Confidence in me will cease; —

I must also be considered by all good Men no longer  
 worthy to hold his Majesty's Commission, much less  
 to fill the sacred Office of a Clergyman; under these  
 weighty considerations I am compelled to appeal to  
 Your Excellency with the fullest confidence in your  
 Excellency's Justice and Impartiality, being well  
 assured that you will not allow the public Repre-  
 -sentation of any Officer under Your Excellency's Admi-  
 -nistration to be publicly defamed without giving  
 him every Relief and protection in your power,  
 I most sincerely regret the occasion of this Application  
 but Your Excellency will feel the imperious necessity  
 I am under to vindicate my public Character, and  
 that after applying in vain to the Editor of the Sydney  
 Gazette I had no alternative but to lay my complaints  
 before Your Excellency to obtain your Protection and to  
 solicit your Excellency to direct the Editor of the  
 Sydney Gazette to give up the Author of the Anony-  
 -mous papers in question, I cannot but remark  
 as singular that after I have held his Majesty's  
 Commission more than twenty Years in this  
 Colony during which Period it is well known I  
 have toiled early and late to promote the good

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of the Service, and have suffered many Hardships  
and Privations) that I should be the only Person  
whose Reputation should be injured thro' the  
medium of the Sydney Gazette since the Estab-  
-lishment of the Settlement; I have had the  
satisfaction to know that my public Conduct, was  
with the Approbation of my Superior both here  
and at Home, and I trust I shall never do a  
single act that shall in the smallest degree  
stain my moral Character in the Opinion of an  
Impartial Public; I consider my Public Situation  
of infinite importance; The Eternal Happiness  
of thousands is committed to my Care, and I  
feel myself under the most solemn, and  
sacred obligations to God and my Fellow creatures  
to do all the good I can, and to prevent all the  
Evil so long as I have the Honor to fill this  
Sacred Office; Under this impression I collected  
when in England a few Books by personal  
Application to my Friends, as also I wrote to  
England for School Books as stated in my  
public Letter published in the Sydney Gazette  
on the 26<sup>th</sup> March, I had no object in what I

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did but to promote the best Interests of the In-  
 habitants and their Children of these Settlements  
 I stand in a sacred Relation to them, and am bound  
 by the strongest Ties to do all I can to forward  
 their temporal and eternal welfare; I have no  
 doubt, when your Excellency considers how want-  
 only, and unjustly I have been attacked, but  
 you will allow me to say that I have been  
 extremely ill treated by the Editor of the Sydney  
 Gazette, without any cause or fault of mine;  
 I consider his Conduct not only highly disrespect-  
 ful to me as the Principal Chaplain of this Colony,  
 but criminal. A Man is prepared to meet an  
 Open Enemy, but he does not expect to be wounded  
 in the very Bosom of his friends; The Editor of  
 the Sydney Gazette is a servant of the Crown,  
 and receives his Salary from Government; he  
 cannot surely be justified in defaming the  
 Reputation of any Member of that Government  
 (under which he acts as a servant) thro' the medium  
 of the Public Government Gazette; If this prin-  
 ciple is once admitted it may be easily forgot-  
 what will soon be the fate of this Colony;

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I shall not long remain a solitary object of Public defama-  
-tion, for eternal truth hath said a Kingdom divid-  
-ed against itself cannot stand, whosoever holds up  
the Clergy and Magistrates to public contempt, stabs  
at the very vitals of that Government which supports  
and protects him, The Throne and the Altar gene-  
-rally fall together, the smallest public Act that  
tends to lessen the Respect due to the Sacred Situation  
of the Clergy and that of the Magistrates tends in a  
tenfold degree to increase the Idleness and Insub-  
-ordination of the lower Clafs, and to clog the Wheels  
of Government, It is well known that many a  
valuable Crop of Grain has been totally consumed  
in this Colony, by a single spark dropt from  
a Pipe; I trust that by transmitting a Copy of  
this official Communication to His Grace the  
Archbishop of Canterbury and to the public  
Secretaries of the above Societies, I may prevent  
those unfavourable impressions from being made  
upon these public Bodies, and upon the minds  
of my private friends and Patrons, which the  
Author of the Anonymous papers evidently

had in contemplation when he sent them  
to the Press;

Parramatta }  
11th April 1814. }

And have the honor to be  
Your Excellency's  
Most obedient &  
humble servant

Samuel Marsden

To His Excellency  
General Lachlan Macquarie  
Governor of New South Wales  
& its dependencies. &c. &c. &c.