

Rev. and Dear Sir, Com. Sep. 11/15 39 23 April 1814 ✓ 34

Previous to my departure from Port Jackson I enclosed a letter for you in a parcel directed to the care of Mr Pratt which I hope will come duly to hand; but lest it should miscarry I think it right to repeat some remarks of a temporal nature contained therein. To undergo some little assistance to Mr. Marsden in the purchase of the Active &c. I have given him a set of Bills drawn upon you for one hundred pounds, and another set drawn upon Mr Pratt for One hundred and twenty Pounds being the amount of my salary up to Dec. 31st next. For the above two hundred and twenty pounds I have left Mr. Marsden's promissory note with Mrs. Kendall. I have also requested you to pay twenty pounds into the hands of Capt. Cook for the Naval and Military Bible Society and to have the goodneys to enquire by letter whether my sister Mrs. Bull, a poor woman of the parish of Murrumbidgee near South in the County of Lincoln is dead or living, and should the latter be the case, to forward to her a post office order for five Pounds on my account. The remaining balance can be sent out in a little Print, some sewing threads, silks, cotton, tapes for the use of my family and perhaps I can beg the favor of Mrs Wood to kind some friend to do this as such articles are so very useful. A hank of thread is scarce in New South Wales.

I saw Mr. D. Hughes some time ago at Sydney; he was well in health, and expressed his thankfulness for Mrs Wood's kind remembrance of him.

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In my letter to Mr Pratt accompanying this I have requested as a present from the Society a pocket compass to enable me to find my way thro' the woods, and a silver watch that will keep the time well. I am not particularly anxious about the watch on my own account as I have one, but one that keeps the time better would be very useful, and I leave it to Mr Pratt to judge from my statement as to the propriety of sending me one. I am also in want of a few medicinal comforts. Before I left London I had long been accustomed to a sedentary life, but by entering upon a different course, by being frequently deprived of my accustomed rest in the night in stormy weather, and by a change of climate and provisions I fear I have been rather injured in my constitution. My appetite is tolerably good, but the organs of digestion in my stomach are very weak, and I feel very often oppressed there. After eating such salt provisions as are provided for the use of the ship I often vomit & purge excessively. I live chiefly upon flour & water when I am at sea. I shall avail myself of your kindness in mentioning the above circumstances to Mr Pratt not doubting but by your desire he will send a few articles for the use of myself & family. I could wish to have included some essence of Peppermint, and should require directions in order that I might know in what proportion to take the medicines.

I and my colleague Mr Hall have been treated with great kindness and hospitality by Governor Dary, the Rev. Mr. Propoy

and the people at Van Diemen's Land. We have made an excursion
 into the interior when we have seen the land in a state of
 cultivation. Fine wheat of different kinds is produced here, and
 potatoes superior to those near Port Jackson. Great tracts of land
 in various parts are lying waste for want of settlers to occupy
 them, and these covered with grass and in a great measure
 encumbered with woods & shrubs. Bread and Beef and Mutton,
 and Pot are very plentiful indeed, and the meat is nearly equal to
 that in England for fatness and quality. The wool is generally very
 coarse and of a heavy nature, and will not in all probability be materially
 improved until there is a demand for it. There is no manufactory
 of any consequence for woollen cloth either here, or at Port Jackson. Almost
 the whole of the wool is thrown away and lays upon the ground
 as an useless thing, altho' at Port Jackson the wool is in general
 very fine.

The Population of this Settlement amounts to Two Thousand
 and seventy seven Persons - but I am sorry to say in a religious
 point of view a dark cloud overshadows the whole. The Church
 built of wood has been long since blown down by a tempestuous
 wind, and nothing like a church of pious believers is to be found. Drinking,
 Swelling, and Feasting are the order of the Day. We heard it is true on
 the day after our arrival of one poor man who had formerly been an
 eminent preacher in the Westbury congregation in my own native county

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(Lancelotti) and had after that exercised his talents as such in Norfolk
Island. He resided, as we were told, at a distance of some miles from
us on the other side of the river and we endeavored to find him out.
It was at the bottom of a high mountain and far removed from any
other habitation that we discovered his miserable dwelling place.
It was deep in mean attire: his shoes were made of sheepskin
undressed, and his other raiment of a suitable description. His chief
employ was the keeping a little flock of sheep, and his library consisted
of a Testament which bore the mark of the British and Foreign Bible
Society. After his surprise had subsided which had been excited by
our accosting him upon the subject of Religion, he told us, that some
severe trials of a personal and family nature which he had experienced
in England had been the cause of inducing him to leave his native
land; that while he was at Norfolk Island he had preached to the
people, and had been treated with much kindness by Governor Phipps
and the other settlers; but after his removal to this place (which happened
at the time Norfolk Island was given up by order of Government)
he had suffered much from persecution. The late Governor Collins &
the present Mr. Hingwood had treated him with much severity, and
at the last he had been reduced to the painful necessity of giving
preaching entirely up. Since that period he said he had often been
in a low state of mind, and upon taking a survey of his own
conduct felt grieved that he had not done as he ought to have
done. He had mixed too much with the world, had yielded too much

to its pernicious maxims; and he too had been led out of the path of duty. No man who knows the deceitfulness of the human heart need wonder at this. This is not a case very uncommon even when local circumstances render the situation apparently safe, and more favorable and desirable, and then wickedness prevails like an overflowing river which bears away by its rapid streams the weak and tender plants growing upon its borders. The man must have his house built upon a sure foundation who would wish to preserve it in safety. Mr. Prinn (that is the name of the Person alluded to) appears to have acted indiscreetly in his first attempt here on the side of Religion, and his enemies are taking advantage of this. ^{In my opinion} however, ^{save} the marks of a pious man, and his mind appears to be still impressed with the value of the soul. For this reason we could not but feel for him in his situation and do our utmost to strengthen his hands. We wish success to all our friends of whatever name they may be called, who are engaged in the cause of a glorious Redeemer. Mr. Prinn visited us on board the Antar. We furnished him with some Testaments and Religious Tracts, and after uniting in prayer he departed apparently much comforted & encouraged.

The People of Hobart Town met upon the Lord Day at the Government House for the purpose of uniting in Public Worship, and here for the first time I have had the opportunity to witness the excellent singing

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of the Church of England robbed of its chief ornaments, the first and second
30 Lessons for the Day and also the communion service. No rehearsal
of God's Holy Law in the Reading Desk, nor in the pulpit the sweet
sounding strains of the Gospel. I do not, I assure you, my Dear Sir feel any
pleasure in recording the errors of clergymen, but as a member of the
Church of England I judge I have a right, at least in a private letter,
to lament the conduct of those who ought to be her faithful
supporters, but who give occasion for dispensation, and lower her in
the estimation of those who reluctantly withdraw from her communion.
The people I have no doubt would hear, if the ministers would
speak, and here a fair opportunity might offer for a Pastor of established
piety to erect a noble standard to the honor of his Divine Master.
Amongst such an hospitable people, schools might be established
and supported without difficulty, and the minds of many brought
over by the Divine Blessing upon the ordinary means of grace,
without which nothing can be done, but with which every thing
that is good may be done, to the obedience of God's dear Children.

The Natives of Van Diemens Land have been very ill treated indeed
and banished entirely from those parts which are colonized by Englishmen.
Great numbers of them have been shot like Beasts of Prey by our people
and the Bush Rangers who make their escape from the settlements, have
(for fear of being discovered by means of any communication which the
natives might have with the settlers) killed them without mercy. Hence
the natives retaliate when they can, and commit depredations as
they find opportunity. There are no natives at the settlements except

some children which have been stolen away from their parents. At Sydney
Paramatta & the natives can and do reside without fear or molestation
but here they cannot profit by their intercourse with Englishmen.

According to our instructions from Mr. Menden we read the Prayers
of the Church upon the Lords Day, and the Seamen conduct themselves
very well. Our small congregation consists of individuals from
different Nations, each of them knowing something of the English
Language. They are freemen (excepting one) and for your information
I will enclose their names with the places of their Nativity.

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|----------------------------|---|---------------|----|-------------|
| Peter Dillon of Ireland | - | Bob Baker | .. | Or why he |
| David Septke of Germany | | Dick Baker | - | Utahite |
| Jac. Wilson of England | | Fred. Warming | - | Sweden |
| Jac. Hunter of New Holland | | Henry May | - | England |
| Jac. Mansel of America | | Bobbaro | - | Utahite |
| Mr. Wilson of Norway | | Mr. Jones | - | England |
| The Hamilton of Ireland | - | Tohi | .. | New Zealand |

I entreat the favor of a line from you as opportunity may offer
and beg your kind remembrance when you approach the throne of
grace. and I also request you will present my sincerest
affectionate regards to Mr. Wood & the whole family, to the Revd
Mr. Woodman, Mr. Marsh, Mr. Stewart Mr. Wright & the Society
at St. Johns Bedford row. Also to Mr. Rowe, Mr. Deane Jones & any other
friend of the congregation who may enquire after me & mine

and am, Dear Sir
Obediently & faithfully Yours
Thos Menden