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46

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(Secretary to Rev. Samuel Marsden)

Com. Aug. 29/14

Church Missionary House
Salisbury Square, London,
August, 18.th 1814

My Dear Sir

I take the opportunity afforded by the Indefatigable, Captain Bowles, of forwarding a continuation of Missionary Registers up to this time. I hope you will receive, in due course, those sent on the 18.th of March, together with my letters which accompanied them. You will please to take such of these as you may wish, and to look through the Newspapers, and then supply Mr Kendall &c. with them. It will give you much pleasure, I am sure, to see the prosperity of ~~the~~ ^{our} Society.

In my last I stated that the Committee wished an Auxiliary Society to be formed among you, and authorized you to draw annually on me to the amount of £500, for the promotion of the Society's objects, particularly with respect to New Zealand. Send over thither some promising young men, if you can find them. Let them break up the ground, as Settlers, and act as Schoolmasters and catechists. Only let a promising beginning be made, and we will send you some Clergymen from home to pass their days among that interesting people. If you can form an

41
Auxiliary Society, which will give us a good
hope that our designs will be perpetuated, when
your own labours or those of your worthy colleagues
are over, we shall be encouraged to commit any
reasonable funds to your disposal. For the
members of the Church answer so readily to our
call, and manifest such willingness to take
their full share in the noble efforts of these days
to bless the Heathen with the Gospel, that, let us
but shew them a fair opening for exertion and
they will support all our efforts. If John King
should be sufficiently recovered, we shall still
hope to hear that both he and William Hall set
themselves conscientiously to their destined labour.
In Mr Kendall and his family you will find,
we trust, instruments of good toward New Zealand
mercifully prepared of God. But I begin myself
to feel very strongly, both from what has occurred
with respect to our Laymen with you and those
whom we sent to Africa, that our course must
be chiefly to send ordained Missionaries, and to
commission them, in connection with Auxiliary
Societies wherever such can be formed, to train up
and employ such Laymen as may be on the spot,
natives or others, to whom God may give a heart
to assist in our designs.

The young man who
carries this is named Smith. He has been a member
of the Scots Church under the Rev. Alexander Haugh,
and goes out with his family as a settler. His
steadiness and piety will render him a valuable

40

acquisition to the moral and religious interests of the Colony. If we could find half a Dozen such men among the members of our Church, we would venture to send them, notwithstanding what I have said.

We have received the Net, but not the Quil, of which last we can obtain no tidings. This reminds me, that the Committee will be very glad to receive any curiosities of nature or of art, that they may be placed in a Museum which we are gradually forming in the House of the Society. Whatever tends to illustrate the superstition and moral state of the Heathen will be particularly acceptable, as such things - images of Deities &c &c - speak in forcible language to the pity and the conscience of those to whom they are shewn. We shall, therefore, be much obliged if you will collect whatever of this nature can be procured at a reasonable expence, and send it home from time to time, with proper descriptions, addressed to me at this House.

I am sorry that a journey which I have taken to Ireland in behalf of the Society has delayed our 14th Report and the excellent Sermon of the Dean of Wells. They will not be ready for this opportunity.

I have nothing to say respecting the vessel much more decisive than what I reported in my last. Dr Haweis is very earnest in the business, and has even proposed to devote £5000 to the object if proper arrangements can be made. But the difficulty is to procure persons to become responsible

41
here for the conducting of the business. The active members
of both Societies have been so much engaged for a
few months in attending to their respective concerns,
that this has, in some measure, retarded unclusive
steps on the subject. But I still conceive, as I
suggested in my last, that, if you establish in
connection with us an efficient auxiliary Society,
we shall be able to maintain a vessel suited to the
purpose of keeping up constant intercourse between
New Zealand and New South Wales - and those
Islands will afford sufficient scope for all
our exertions for many years to come. From
Mr Latrobe we have procured an interesting
detail of the circumstances which led to the
establishment of their Society's ship on its present
footing. While it belonged to a body of Share
holders, which it did for many years, it was
unprosperous; but, when it became the property
of the Society, and was wholly occupied in its
direct business, it not only discharged its own
expences, but sometimes contributed to defray
those of the Mission. In truth, if we are to
do any thing extensive and effectual at New Zealand,
we must maintain a regular intercourse between
you and the inhabitants; and it appears to me
that the auxiliary Society which we propose to you
to establish, might be able so to conduct this affair
that the vessel would soon be no expence to our
Mission, but an advantage to it - always keeping
within the moderate bounds which the object of its

46

41

establishment would prescribe, and never launching
out into speculations, but limiting its operations to
the interchange of commodities between the two countries.

Should a vessel be ultimately established on
a larger plan, to trade to and from Europe, or to
make from N. S. H. the circuit of the Southern
Archipelago, this would not interfere with the
plan I now venture to suggest. In this suggestion
I offer to you my own reflections. The subject, in
this view of it, has not ^{been} before the Committee: but
it seems to me to grow very naturally out of the
desired enlargement of our efforts in your parts.

Should you establish an Auxiliary Society; and
should that Society approve this plan, and present
to us the prospect of its being accomplished at a
reasonable expence, or risk of expence; I have no
doubt but that our Committee will cordially
enter into the design. Nor have I any hesitation,
my Dear Sir, in saying, from the zeal and
spirit which I find wherever I travel in the
cause of the Society, that the members of the
Church will support us in expending as
many thousands per annum in prudent attempts
to civilize and evangelize the New Zealanders, in
proportion as God opens before us promising
means and opportunities, as we have now authorized
you to appropriate hundreds. Your heart is much
set on New Zealand; and so, I confess, is mine.

3

41
Your representations have turned my mind to this subject; and it appears to me, that, our Great Master having given a considerable degree of strength to the capacities of the Church in your quarter to support our designs toward New Zealand, we are specially called on to cultivate that promising field.

I have put up some new pamphlets &c. for your use, and that of the letters. Mr Kendall took out some books with him as the foundation of a Missionary Library. I now send the Annual Register for 1812, and 1813, to be added thereto; and would have had them bound if time would have allowed.

If you could procure at a reasonable price a complete set of the Sydney Gazettes, we should much wish to have them for the Society's library here; and also to have them regularly purchased for us, and sent home. Copies, too, of any other periodical work which may now or hereafter appear in the Colony, would be very desirable.

Your letter of August 11th 1813, is arrived. It greatly confirmed our hopes respecting New Zealand. The conduct of William Hall bespeaks both a want of zeal for the honour of his Master among the Heathen, and a want of faith in Him that He will provide for him while engaged in His work. Most certainly he is bound to refund

46

41

every farthing expended on him; if he decline the work for which he was prepared and sent out: but, what is of infinitely more consequence to him, he will be one day called on to account by our Common Master for his taking his hand from the plough. Let him go forth, trusting in God, and God will not forsake him, nor shall we His servants cease to care for and support him.

Our notice of this opportunity was too short for us to get ready the ades &c. which you desire; but we will forward them by the next vessel.

The quantity of New Zealand Flax which you sent was scarcely sufficient to make a full trial on; but I am sorry to say that the report of its value, so far as we could get that ascertained, was not very favourable. Send us a good quantity, and we will submit ^{it} to a full and fair experiment.

Mr Youl has called on us. He is in hopes of obtaining orders.

I beg, now and always, as does Mrs Pratt, to be kindly remembered to Mrs Marsden, and to all your brethren & friends to whom I have the pleasure of being known. Believe me, Dear Sir,

Ever Yours

(Signed) Josiah Pratt