

S. Marsden to J. Pratt, 30 September 1814

[and is now in the Loom— Shall give them some of the Cloth to take with them— This has surprised them much— I shall send a little also to you for the Society to see or else some of the Thread.

I am &c &c &c

Sam^l Marsden]

Parramatta, Sep^r 30, 1814

Dear Sir,

It may be necessary for me to acquaint you with my Intentions relative to the final Arrangement and Settlement of the Missionaries at New Zealand, for the Information of the Society — I intend M^r Kendall to devote the whole of his time to the Acquirement of the native Language, and in educating the Children; and to depend upon the Society for the Supply of all his necessary wants — He is now making considerable Progress in the Language. I also intend M^r Hall should be employed in putting up the necessary Buildings for all the Missionaries, and the Public School, for which purpose I must engage one Carpenter and one Pair of Sawyers to assist him till this work is done. He will also occasionally be employed in collecting Timber to load the Active for her to bring to Port Jackson — and in Agriculture. M^r King will have to attend his Flax dressing and Shoe making &c. I wish them all clearly to understand their respective duties and to interfere with one another as little as possible as they will have no Head present to settle any little differences that might arise amongst them — [f] The Place where they settle upon I shall purchase from one of the Chiefs; and also a Piece of Land for the Purposes of feeding Stock or

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Cultivation. Mess^{rs} Hall & King have acquired much useful Knowledge in New South Wales which will now be of very essential Service to them. They will be able to apply themselves to cultivation, or any other work that their Situation may require them to perform. I consider the time well spent that they have been here: tho' I have had the most ardent wish for the establishment of the Mission. — On my Return from New Zealand I shall then be better able to speak upon these Points— It will also be a grand object with me to promote Agriculture amongst the Chiefs as much as possible. When their necessary wants are supplied, they will be more disposed to lay aside their warlike Habits, and to attend to the simple Arts of Civilization. Duaterra is fully confident if he can only obtain Iron, in three or four years, the whole Island will be supplied with Bread— He says, it is not long ago since the first Potatoes were brought to the Island, and now they are cultivated in every Part, and have proved the greatest Blessing to the Natives— One Pig was only put on shore by Mr Turnbull, Master of a Whaler, and [f] now they have a great number, — and take great Care of them. I supplied him at different times with wheat but it was either lost in the Vessels, or never landed and given to him. When he first got Home, I supplied him with Seed— He immediately explained the value of the wheat to the different Chiefs, and gave them all a part with whom he was acquainted— reserving some for himself. The Chiefs put the wheat into the Ground, and had many consultations about it, but when it was near ripe, they thought Duaterra had imposed upon them; and had told them some fine Stories, as a Traveller. They examined the Roots but not finding the Grain as

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they expected, growing like the Potatoo, they set Fire to all their Crops, and burnt the whole. Duaterra was very much distressed at this Circumstance, as he could not prevail upon them to give Credit to what he said— He reaped his own wheat, and thrashed it, and shewed it to the Chiefs, but still they would not believe that it would make Bread— At this time the Jefferson whaler arrived in the Bay of Islands commanded by Mr Barns, and to whom I had given a Letter to Duaterra recommending the Master to his kind attentions. Duaterra now borrowed a Pepper Mill from Mr Barns to shew his Country men by grinding the wheat, it [f] would make Bread. But the mill was so small he could not produce a sufficient Quantity, so as to remove their Prejudices. By the Active I sent a new Supply of wheat, and a wheat mill to Duaterra— when he got this Mill, he immediately ground some wheat— When they saw the Flour come from the Mill they shouted for Joy— He told me he afterwards made them a Cake in the Frying Pan, gave each a Piece, which fully proved the Truth of his former Assertion, that wheat would make Bread— This was the highest Gratification. Duaterra had about two Acres and an half of wheat growing when the Active sailed from the Bay of Islands. He had had for nearly two years the Prejudices of all his Countrymen to contend with relative to the Cultivation of wheat— The Peas were also dug up by the Chiefs, as they thought to find them at the Roots like the Potatoes. All their Requests are for Tools of Agriculture— I took them to a Stocking Weaver, to shew them how Stockings were made, they were much astonished with the Loom, Duaterra told me, Hoes they wanted, and not Stockings— They could do without Stockings at

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present, if they could only get Bread. I shall do all I can to encourage them in Agriculture— and have no doubt but in a little time they will have plenty of Provisions— I desired Mr Kendall to bring a little New Zealand Flax, which I have had spun, before the Chiefs [and is now in the Loom— Shall give them some of the Cloth to take with them— This has surprised them much— I shall send a little also to you for the Society to see or else some of the Thread.

I am &c &c &c

Sam^l Marsden]