

*S. Marsden to J. Pratt, 30 September 1814*

Parramatta Sepr 30<sup>th</sup> 1814—

Dear Sir,

In a former Letter I informed you that Duaterra was very anxious to make a Sunday when he returned to New Zealand— he now tells me he made one for five moons or months— and then his Countrymen told him they did not believe that Europeans had a Sunday. From the general Conduct of the Masters of Vessels who had put into the Bay of Islands, they had not observed any difference between the Sabbath day, and others. Only two Masters of Vessels, Duaterra told me, had been particular in this respect. When the Active was there, the natives went with their Potatoes &c, for Sale on the Sabbath— they were then informed, it was the Lord's Sabbath, or a day sacred to Rest; and that they could not receive any Articles from them on that day— On Board the Active they hoisted the English Colours on the Sabbath. Terra, a Chief on the opposite Side of the Bay; when he saw the Colours, he immediately ordered Colours to be hoisted on Shore— where he lived. Duaterra tell[s] me, the natives enquired what was the Reason [f] the People on Board the Active would not trade with them on that day— he told them the same, which he had often done, before, that it was a Day of Rest, and that God would be angry with them for working and selling things on the Sabbath— They were much afraid, and told him that they now believed that there was a Sabbath— I had given Instructions to the Master of the Active to be very particular in keeping the Sabbath. The first Interview Duaterra Had [sic] with his Excellency the Governor, he requested that his Excellency would give him, either Colours to

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hoist, or a Bell to ring, or a Drum to beat, to call the People together – he is still anxious to have a Sabbath day – and I trust he will see one established there, to his present and eternal Happiness – The Chiefs are all happy with us at Parramatta, and their minds enlarging very fast. Beholding the various works that are going on in the Smiths & Carpenters Shops; the spinning and weaving, Brickmaking and Building Houses, together with all the operations of Agriculture and Gardening, has a wonderful Effect [f] upon their minds; and will excite all their natural Powers

to improve their own Country. The Idea of my visiting them is very gratifying to their minds. At present I spend all the time I can spare with them, in conversing with them upon all the different Subjects that appear necessary for them to be acquainted with – Particularly on the Subjects of Religion, civil Government, and Agriculture – With respect to Religion, I talk to them of the Institution of the Sabbath Day by God himself – and they see it observed by us with particular attention. They see the Prisoners mustered on Sunday morning, their names called over, and then marched to Church. They also see the Soldiers and Officers march to Church likewise, and most of the People in the Town of Parramatta – As I have many Complaints to settle as a Magistrate – they frequently attend – when I explain to them afterwards, the different Crimes, and Punishments that such have committed, and what sentence is past upon them – Some men confined for one moon, and some for more in Prison, according to their Crimes – With Respect to Agriculture, they visit different [f] Farms, observe the Plough at work, some men with the Hoe, some thrashing

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&c. &c. They tell me when they return, they shall sit up whole nights, telling their People what they have seen and that their men will stop their Ears with their Fingers— we have heard enough, they will say, of your incredible Accounts, and we will hear no more— they are impossible to be true. I am fully convinced that the Chiefs, and particularly Duaterra, and Shunghee, who commands 17 districts, will apply all their Strength to Agriculture— if they can only obtain Hoes— and Axes— I shall send a List of these by Captain Bunker. Mr Kendall and Mr Hall write to you also— and state their views and Intentions— I think no Society were ever engaged in a greater work than the Church Missionary Society is in this. The Ground is wholly occupied by the Prince of Darkness, and great and powerful difficulties will no doubt one way or another spring up to oppose this great work— But the Lord is King amongst the Heathen, and will I have no doubt establish his Throne there—

I am d<sup>r</sup> Sir yours very sincerely

Sam<sup>l</sup> Marsden