

S. Marsden to J. Poynder, 5 October 1814

Parramatta Oct^r 5th 1814

Dear Sir,

I have but just time to drop you a Line – you will hear from Mr. Pratt what we are doing in this part of the world – I have repeatedly mentioned the Natives of New Zealand to you – and I trust the time is at hand when the Star in the East will appear unto these poor Heathens, and direct them to the "holy Child Jesus" – I am now surrounded with these noble People – who only want what you so richly enjoy, viz the Means of Grace, the Manna from Heaven to fall about their hungry Tents – Consider Sir, only for a moment, what a State of Bondage, Sin, & Misery, all those of the human Race must be, who are literally "without Hope and without God in the world" – You will readily admit all those upon whom the Light of Christianity has never dawned must be in this State – I am doing all I can for New Zealand, and trust in the great Head of the Church for Support, and Blessing – I fear the Society will take alarm at the Expense – but this cannot be avoided at present – I do not feel warranted by the Society to do all I have, and am doing relative to the [f] Mission – If they approve of any Part of my Conduct I shall be thankful, and if they should fully enter into my views, I shall have greater Cause to rejoice. But should they view this Mission in a different Light, and not feel themselves authorised to give all that pecuniary Aid it may require, this will not discourage me from doing all I can, till I am convinced I can do no more. The Lord will provide the money that may be necessary either here or in England – I have not as yet solicited any Assistance here in the Colony, for Reasons, which I cannot now explain –

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When I have visited New Zealand myself, and viewed the different natural Productions I shall then be able to judge, whether I shall want any pecuniary Assistance, and how much— I think it more than probable, that I shall not require much after the first Establishment, but shall be able to import into Port Jackson such Articles from the Island as will go very far towards paying the Expense of the Mission— I am now preparing the Vessel for Sea and will soon sail, unless I should be delayed for want of Bread, as wheat is now very scarce, and dear— I shall refer you to Mr. Pratt for further [f] Particulars— We are going on pretty well here upon the whole— Many good Schools have been established since my Return— I always entertain a strong Impression, that this Colony is destined by infinite Wisdom to furnish Missionaries to the Islands in these Seas, or at least to support, and protect them in their work— I have no doubt but we shall see some poor Convict engaged in this work, whose Heart the Lord will open— I now behold the dawn of this Event— I am happy to say that I am well, and my Family excepting Mrs. M. and she is much recovered from a Paralytic Stroke, which she had— She is lame, and has lost the use of one Arm— The two Prisoners you recommended to me I wish to mention. Brown turned out bad. Hitchcock very well. His wife is now with him— I got him exempted from all public Labor, and he has behaved well, and I believe is doing well— Mrs. M. unites with me in kind Rememberances to you, and Mrs. Poynder and to Miss Brown, that then was —

I am

D^r. Sir,

MS. 54/58

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Yours affectionately

Sam^l Marsden

John Poynder Esq^r.