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Copy of a letter from the Rev. Samuel Marsden
to His Excellency the Governor, in reply to the above.

Parramatta 30th May 1815.

May 30th Please your Excellency,

In obedience to your Excellency's official
Communication directed to me on the 14th Nov. 1814, in which your
Excellency, instructs me to explore as much of the Sea Coast, and the
interior of New Zealand, as my limited time would permit, and
report to you such Observations, as I might be able to make relative
to that Island, I have the honor to transmit the following Statement
for your Excellency's information, I landed on the North Cape of
New Zealand, and on the Corallies, some small inhabited Islands
about 40 miles Southward of the Cape, and on the main opposite
to these Islands, I also visited the River Thames, and landed on
the West side of the Harbour, but the principal part of my time
was spent in the Bay of Islands, and the adjacent Country,
At the North Cape, I only travelled 2 or 3 miles into the interior, and
passed one day and a half, as we found no safe harbour for the
Vessel to lay, The inhabitants are numerous and a very fine race of
people, Their Potatoe plantations are all very neatly fenced in, and
was in as high Cultivation as the Gardens in and near London, as
they do not suffer a single weed to remain that would injure the
growing crop, Here they cultivate turnips, rams, Terra, common
and sweet potatoes, Their gardens are principally situated in the
Vallis or where the land, has a gentle rise, and the Soil rich,
what ground is not in Cultivation is generally covered with the
Flax plant or Fern, the root of which is much esteemed by the
Natives, and ate by them as Bread in England. The land I
passed over was generally good, and not so hilly as many other
parts of New Zealand, There is no heavy timber and comparatively

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