

87 Rev. Samuel Marsden to Secretary

June 13/15⁷³

Com. Jan. 22/16

Del. Dec. 27/15, by the Sydney Packet ✓

Parramatta 13 June 1815

Ans. Sep. 5/16, by the p. W. Bentley

Dear Sir,

I have sent you a Box containing various articles, principally wearing apparel. Such as are manufactured and used by the natives of New Zealand No. 1 named *Neck'ho* is worn by the Chiefs & the Ladies as a mantle, No. 2. do, No. 3. is worn by the Common people universally, and in the nights and rainy weather the Chiefs also wear them. Some of them are exceedingly large, and nearly cover them from head to foot. and in the evening when they encamp they have the appearance of a number of Bee-hives if it should rain they draw them over their heads and when it is fine weather they put their heads out like a Land Tortoise out of its shell, No. 5 *Ka'ka'hou*. is worn by the Chiefs and their wives as a Great Coat in England, the thick Canvas mat is worn in the Field of Battle & of them will resist any spear, and in action are worn by the Chiefs, as a Coat of Mail. before they put them on they wet them, in order that they

73 June 13/15

may render the force of the spear more effectually,
I recommend you to put the thick end into water,
and you will see an instantaneous effect produced,
the Canoe will be rendered stiffer and more like a
board, which appears to be the peculiar quality of
the New Zealand Flax, I have sent a small quantity
of the Flax dressed, but whether it will be an article
valuable for Commerce, I am not competent to judge.
perhaps some of the members of the Society or their
friends may ascertain this point. upon the specimen
of the Flax, I have sent together with the wearing
apparel, I should be glad to receive information upon
the subject, as the flax in New Zealand, is an annual
plant and grows without cultivation, more or less in
every part I have visited, and would afford constant
employment to the women, and children, should it be
found of any value to Civil Society, there is also in
the case a Stone To'kei or Adze, such as are used by
the Chiefs in making their canoes, for the want of
edge tools. No 9 named Ha'ha' is nearly an ornament

June 13/15 73

worn by the Chiefs, round their necks and is considered valuable by them, No 11 named Mee' tiki. Mee is worn as a belt by the Chiefs. No 14. Mar. ya' is a sleeping mat. No 15 Shun' na' is an upper Garment worn by the wives of the Chiefs, there is also a small wood funnel in the Box, which is used by the natives in putting their Oil into Calabashes. I shall also send a few Spear in charge of Mr Wilkinson Master of the Sydney Packet. and shall had to your collection of curiosities every opportunity that occurs

I have the honor to be

Yours

Your most Obedient Servant

Saml. Marsden



Rev. J. Pratt
P.S. Names of
Articles in the Box
No 1. Seck' ko
No 2. do
No 3. Ya. ha
No 4. Ma' ya
No 5. Ha' ka. how
No 6. Pa. ya
No 7. Pa. o. how
No 8. Ha' ka. how
No 9. Ha. ha
No 10. Pa. too. too
No 11. Mee. tiki. kee
No 12. do
No 13. Pa. o. how
No 14. Mar. ya
No 15. Shun' na
Also in the Box -
a few Fish. hooks
The Box sent by
Sydney Packet, in
Charge of the Master.

73 June 13/15

To The Rev Sarah Pato
Church Missionary house
Salisbury Square
London

By Sydney
Parker