

Am. Jan. 22/16

Parramatta

Recd. Dec. 27/15, by the Sydney Packet

20. June 1815.

Reverend and Dear Sir!

(Recd. Sep. 5/16, by the Sir Wm Bensley)

The following is the account of  
Mr Marsden's First Voyage  
to New Zealand.

I am happy to inform you of my safe return from New Zealand to Port Jackson after fully accomplishing the object of my Voyage to that Island, having been absent 4. Months, and have the Honor to transmit to you the following account for the information of the Society, which I am persuaded will be very gratifying to all who love Zion, and are interested in the spreading of the Redeemers Kingdom and the salvation of the Heathen Nations. I communicated to you on a former occasion my full intention of accompanying the settlers to New Zealand, in order to aid them in their first establishment, and to give them as much influence as possible amongst the Natives; I had for many Years studied the characters of the New Zealanders, having generally some living with me, and was under no apprehension of danger from them as far as my own personal safety and those who were about to go with me were concerned; many in New South Wales were of opinion, that we should never return from the horrid massacres that have repeatedly <sup>been</sup> committed in that Island, by the Natives; but these persons, had not sufficiently considered the provocations given to the Natives by Europeans, as it is well known, that the Europeans have thought it no crime to murder and plunder these Islanders upon the most trivial occasions, and too often from mere wanton cruelty. From my first knowledge of these people, I have always considered them the finest and noblest race of Heathens known to the civilized world, and have ever been persuaded, that they only wanted the introduction of the arts of civilization, and the knowledge of the Christian religion, to make them a great Nation, and am more confirmed in this opinion since I have visited them than I was before, as I found them much more civilized in general than I had

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