

S. Marsden to J. Pratt, 30 June 1815

Sydney 30th June 1815 N.S.W.

My dear Sir,

I shall now notice two of your public Letters which have reached me since my Return from New Zealand, the former dated May 23rd 1811. This Letter was kept back from me, either thro' design or mistake, which I know not, for more than two years after it's arrival in the Colony. In this Letter I am directed to pay Mr Hall the Sum of £28 Ster[lin]g for Sundry Expences for himself and Mr King when at Portsmouth which I have done. The £100 I received from the Society when I was in England, has also been expended. I paid Mess^{rs} King & Hall one years Salary on their arrival at Port Jackson amounting to £60. There were some Expences also at Rio Janeiro. I have also paid them at different times upwards of £20 for their attention to the New Zealanders when at Parramatta— the remaining Sum was expended in wearing Apparel for the Natives, Tools &c belonging to New Zealand. I have generally had some New Zealanders living with me ever since my Return whom I have maintained and clothed, at my private Expence, excepting the small Sum remaining from £100 I received formerly. Had I received your Letter of the 29th May 1811 sooner I should have been much encouraged by it's Contents and should have made an attempt upon New Zealand before the Period I did. For want of this Letter I was much in the dark not knowing what pecuniary Support I might expect from your Society— At this time I was not able of myself to raise the Funds necessary to begin the work. [f] Nothing has prevented me for some years, but the want of means. Your Letter containing the Grant of £500 per annum is very satisfactory,

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nothing could be more gratifying to my feelings. It appeared singular, that the Society should pass such a Vote before they knew that a vessel had been purchased—

I wrote to you by the James Hay informing you that a Society had been formed for the Protection of the Natives of the South Sea Islands. At that time I entertained sanguine Hopes that much good would be done by this Society but I am sorry to say my opinion is much changed. The Experiment has been made and failed. I could obtain no Redress for the Chiefs who came with me to Port Jackson to recover payment for the Potatoes, and Pigs that had been taken from them, and therefore paid them what I thought would fully satisfy them on Account of the Society. They had been robbed of six hundred and ten Baskets of Potatoes and five Hogs. I shall endeavour to get a small Society formed if possible here who will unite their Endeavours to promote the Good of the Heathen in Connection with your Society. I have no doubt but you will have the satisfaction of hearing that much Good is done by the Settlers in New Zealand.—

I had just closed my Letters when the Northampton arrived. The Supplies you have sent will be most acceptable and sh^d save a very heavy Expence— Axes and Hoes were 8^s & 10^s each at Port Jackson and Iron Pots I paid one Pound for each which I was obliged to purchase from the Kings Stores for the Settlers. When I sailed for New Zealand I could only obtain one single Spade, one Pickaxe, a very few Hoes, and Axes from the Kings Stores, which increased my difficulties very much in the first formation of the Settlement, as well as the

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Expences— but this could not be avoided unless Persons in [f] high Situations would have afforded their Aid. I was much obliged to the Governor for giving me Permission to Visit New Zealand and this Consideration reconciled my mind to some other unpleasant Circumstances. I hope to see Zion prosper even here; and the glorious Gospel of a crucified Jesus rendering Thousands happy — I shall write to you again very shortly, and answer your last Letter rather more fully — I am exceeding pressed for time at this moment.

I have the honor to be

D^r Sir

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

Samuel Marsden

Rev^d J. Pratt