

Mr John King to Secretary

Bay of Islands New Zealand July 6/15 84

Rev. and Dear Sir,

Com. Oct 12/16.

July 6. 1815

(Recd. Sep. 10/16)

It is with pleasure I have this opportunity to send a few lines hoping they will find you in good health as they leaves me my wife and two little boys, when Mr. Marsden was here we made objections against settling at this place but in vain, when he was gone and Quaterra Dead, they thought proper to buy a piece of ground which was level, fit for gardens and fields for corn close by or near an excellent Harbour where most of the ships come, therefore much more advantageous than this for temporel concerns, The Sawyer his wife and child and one man went to the new settlement to live Mr. Hall was going as soon as he had put his house up, as the boards was sawn but on Saturday night the 2^d of June the natives surrounded the Sawyers house (one of the men being at our place) and plundered him of all he had and threatened to kill them, this hath put a stop to it at present, our natives and all our principal friends, was very sorry and vexed when they see the things a going, when this robbery was known they was very well pleased hoping it will keep us here they laugh at us and say, me tell you no good go Witunghee, take all your things, no believe me, a you see now me no tell lie, All most every Chief wants us to live at their place one or all of us, but in my opinion it is very improper for a single family to live with them at present, if we are under them we can do them no good they want to us how to treat our children and many things we must do which we ought not to do, if under them, besides steal all we have and laugh at us, Feb 25 Mr. Marsden left this place March 3 Quaterra died. next Day his wife hung her self, we have been in an unsettled state ever since about the new Settlement, therefore little as has been done by each of us at present towards settling our selves what has been done is lost but we are saved

84 I have employed myself in getting a little of the Language made together
preparing Flax to spin some and Lins and preparing a rope walke, as soon
as the active is gone, it is expected to sail in a few days it is my full intention
to take one or two boys to learn to spin and to make shoes to read and do
any thing else that may be useful, Mrs King will have one or two Girls
to instruct in reading writing, sewing making any sort of clothing to knit
and spin, these things she is well qualified to teach them ^{and} wash and cook
and clean the House, these things she will do with pleasure, provided
the means are put into our power, Shoes children will need food
and clothing and some little things besides to encourage them, such
a Knife, Scissors, Comb, Nails, Chisels, small Hatchet, Plain Irons,
Files, Fish hooks, &c one of these articles would satisfy one of them
for one week, sometimes ^{for} two weeks, what I mean Sir, is this, they
^{want} now and then a small present to lead them on, the money as well as the
old are so much accustomed to stealing that it is hard to find two or three
that will not, if we find one or two or more that will not steal we prize
them, and it is necessary to give them small things to keep them from
stealing big ones, good such as Pork Fish Potatoes are reasonable at this
place at present they would be easily kept. they would want a little Tea & sugar
if they behave well one could hardly deny them, if we had it by us
their clothing might be got at Port-Jackson but they would be much
cheaper in England, If we are supplied with these things we shall
be enabled to do our utmost good to the Natives, but if we are to apply
to other people for every individual thing as we want it, our doing
good to the natives will depend more upon other people than upon
our own industry and care, as other people part with things very
reluctantly, when once got into their possession, I have wrote to Mr
Marsden to the ^{same} effect, at this time, June 22. Duaterra's Mother in law
came to our Hut with her Grand Daughter desiring us to let her live with us

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to learn to do every thing like white people, this being the first that
hath been offered to us, we gladly took her in, her name is Cwora she
is about ten years old, her Father died, her Mother became Quaterra's Head
wife who hung herself at the Death of him, M^r. Kendall gave her a peice
of Point to make two gowns the second she sewed most of it herself it
being coarse, July 2^d. I asked her to say the alphabet she refused I put the
up as they want humouring, I soon perceived what was the reason, I took
the Bible down and told her that this was Gods Book, that was not
which she read in it being a Spelling Book, when Cwora heard this
she came with pleasure to say her lesson, she knew four letters at this time
learned two more, she behaves well at present, if she stays one month with
us I have promised her a small Hatchet, to teach them all we are capable
of, to do them good in spiritual and temporal things, is what we came here to
do, we have no other object in view, we desire no other, therefore it
be a pleasure to us, to forward the Object of our Honourable So
I have let M^r. Marsden have one of my Flux tools, my other is broken
If you would be so kind as to send me three Hacks, one coarse one
one very strong coarse one, one very fine one, by the first
conveyance I shall be much oblige to you, I have sent two small parades in M^r.
Kendalls Box, one directed to my Father the other to M^r. D. Wilson if you will be
pleased to send them to him I shall be very thankful to you, and not esteem it
a small favour, if you should engage with a Linnen Weaver to come out he
might bring plenty of Reeds for a Loom, other things I believe can be got here
Foot Wheels are one Pound each at port Jackson, and hat bad ones, if a few five
or six was to be sent to me they might be pulled to peices, packed up in a Box, one
or two would be useful, a Weaver will be very usefull (when we get settled and the
Children begins to learn) to weave cloth to clothe the children, for shirts sheets
canvas for various uses &c &c so I rest
M^r. King and my respects to M^r. Pratt - Rev. Sir, your most unworthy
and your Dear Children, Fare well allize that love and fear God..... John King
and most obedient servant

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July 6/15

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1816

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London

