

MS. 55/19

J. Pratt to T. Kendall, 16 August 1815

C.M. House, London

August 16/15

My Dear Sir

Since my last to you, of Dec 6/14, by the Northampton (a duplicate of which was sent by the Dawson, Jan 28/15, we have rec[eive]^d yours of March 25/14 Sep 6/14, and Oct 3/14, with the curiosities, and the specimens of Shunghee's writing.

I have distributed all the curiosities as directed. We were much pleased with them. Shunghees head, sent us by M^r Marsden, attracts great attention. Pray continue to send all that you can procure, for our Museum and give us a description of their use.

I refer you to my last for whatever respects your mode of support. Doubtless the representatives of the Society in New South Wales will consult, to the utmost, your comfort and your peace. We are well aware that human infirmity will discover itself in good men; and we wish, therefore, that every reasonable provision should be made for your living independent one of another, unless in cases where you may of yourselves wish to live in common.

Be so kind as to write all your New Zealand words quite plain. The language being altogether unknown to us, we cannot easily make out some of the words.

A man, named George Bruce, of whom you have doubtless heard, has been frequently with us. We have clothed him and supported him for some weeks and

J. Pratt to T. Kendall, 16 August 1815

have placed him under the instruction with the intention [f] of obtaining from Government a passage for him to New South Wales in order that he might proceed to New Zealand; but, on application to Government on his behalf we find that they have been cautioned by Gov^r Macquarie from granting any facilities to his return: of course, the Society has withdrawn its protection from him.

The details which you will see in the Missionary Register prevent the necessity of my entering into them with you. I hope that you and our other friends will consider, that, if we do not enter into the particulars of our proceedings and our prospects, it is not that I do not take a sincere interest in your happiness, but that I can refer you to full and authentic documents.

Your letters have awakened much hope and expectation in us that it will please God to open a way for his Gospel by your means among the New Zealanders. Go on in faith and patience; studying to live in Christian harmony and peace and the God of peace will be with you. You may not see much fruit of your labours for some time, or you may even lie down in your graves before any great effect of our exertions become visible; yet your labours shall not be lost, nor shall you fail of their gracious reward.

The Rev. M^r Youl, who takes charge of this Letter, has obtained orders in England, and returns as Chaplain at Port Dalrymple. We send a considerable quantity of Tools &c for the use of the Settlement.

J. Pratt to T. Kendall, 16 August 1815

We shall hope to hear that you have made proficiency in the New Zealand tongue; and that [f] the way will be thus prepared by you for the Translation of the Scriptures, when you are joined by a Clergyman who understands the originals. In the mean while we hope that you will prepare portions of Scripture, as well as you may be able; and that the little New Zealanders will, under your kind and paternal care, first learn the rudiments of their own tongue out of the Book of God.

The Bibles &c for M^r Cowper, and the Stationery for yourself, we will supply by the next opportunity.

We have sent the Register as before, to M^r Marsden, and have requested him to forward copies to you with Magazines, Newspapers &c. As I concluded that a Society has been formed, or will be formed, in New South Wales, auxiliary to ours, it will be best to consign all goods, books &c, to the officers of the Society, to be forwarded to you. I have addressed Letters, by M^r Youl, to all the Chaplains in New South Wales, requesting their co-operation. Their hands will be strengthened, I hope, ere long, by an able and excellent clergyman of the name of Holmes, who is a man of some fortune, and is bent on joining M^r Marsden & aiding his exertions.

M^{rs} Pratt unites with me in kind regards to yourself, and M^{rs} Kendall. Your brother, as you will see by a Letter sent by M^r Youl wishes to [f] join you.

MS. 55/19

J. Pratt to T. Kendall, 16 August 1815

With earnest prayers for your happiness and that of your family, and for the success of your labours.

I remain, My Dear Sir,

Your affectionate Friend

(Signed) Josiah Pratt