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Rev. Samuel Marsden to Secretary

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Oct. 25/15 93

Parvumatta Oct. 25. 1815

Dear Sir,

Recd. Sep. 5/16, by the Northampton

(And Sep. 5/16, by the Sir W. Bently)

I transmit you a copy of the Proceedings of a Bench of magistrates, which I mentioned in a former letter. When I brought Lysio Jones, Master of the King George before the Bench, I was fully convinced that he was guilty of all the things laid to his charge, by the New Zealanders; and more than I stated; at the same time I had no hope of obtaining any redress for the injured natives, as all the witnesses I could call upon were implicated in the same crimes with the master, excepting the natives of Otaheite, and New Zealand George; and their testimony would be rejected. — The Bench rejected at first to all my witnesses excepting one, alleging that they had quarrelled with the Captain; and

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on that Account could not legally give their Testimony,  
I had to apply to the Supreme Judge for his opinion;  
and afterwards to the Governor to order the Bench to  
examine into the Charges before they would hear even  
what the Sailors would say who had been guilty of  
many of the Crimes themselves which the Master  
stood charged with. M<sup>r</sup>. Nicholas was present part  
of the time, when the Examination was taken, and  
can state how shamefully the magistrates behaved  
upon the occasion: and what a Decided Opposition  
they shewed to my Complaint. The Master and  
Crew violated the Chastity of the wives of the Chiefs,  
and drove them in time from their peaceful Huts;  
robbed them of their little Property at the Point of  
the Pistol; and made the Chief at the north  
Cape a Prisoner, till he was redeemed at their  
own Price - and stripped, and punished moki  
ki for no Crime. No little good or redress  
can at present be obtained, for any Injuries the  
Natives of the South Sea Islands may suffer

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from the wanton Cruelty or unbounded Avarice of  
the Europeans, who visit these Islands, yet bringing their  
Conduct before a public Court of Justice, however ~~impartial~~  
partial that Court may be, this will operate as a  
Check in a certain Degree. and hence I conceive  
my Labor was not lost, tho' they have charged  
five Pounds for their Proceedings or at least a Copy  
of them. whether any Redress is obtained or no, I shall  
feel it my Duty to endeavour to punish all those  
who are guilty of offences against the natives of these  
Islands: as this will prove to the natives that  
they have some Friends amongst the Europeans.  
any time and patience may be productive of some  
Remedy. Great evils, and particularly where the Gratification  
of men's Lusts and Avarice are interested, are not cured  
without great Difficulties. As these natives came to Port  
Jackson to seek redress, and the Bench did not think  
proper to attend to their Complaint I thought it just  
to make them some Compensation, and was happy  
to learn from Mr. Pindall's Letters that when

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The Chiefs returned to their Settlement, they expressed their  
Satisfaction at the Treatment they had received for  
W. S. Wales. I have thought good to send these Proceedings  
tho' they can be of no further Service than to show that  
some Regulations should be adopted by Government  
to bring to Punishment men who are guilty of the  
greatest Crimes against Persons who have no means  
of Redress but the Law of Retaliation in the  
Execution of which the innocent are equally liable  
to be sacrificed with the guilty -

I am

Yr Serv

Your obedt. Humble Servant

Samuel Marsden

Rev. J. Pratt -