

J. King to J. Pratt, 9 July 1815

July 9, 1815 Sunday Morning one of the Prisoners was put in Irons to be sent on board the Active the natives were suprised [sic], Pomarre Shed tears when he seen him and asked what he had done then he went up to the P[risoner], & asked him whether he had been stealing, Racoo & his wife and Duaterra's Orphan with a number of natives attended divine Service, many of them observe the Sabbath will do no work at our place, at Whitanghe, and at Tarras & Tupees places.

13. E whora our Girl began learning to knit, as she was so wild we could not keep her in, so we promised her some beads if she would learn, to this she agreed, we have much to bear with them we have need of patience.

15. Mr Kendall & I went to see Tarra and Tupee & taken them some seed wheat their men & women are at work in the Field, preparing the ground for cumra [sic], they are prepareing twice as much Land this year as they did last, we went to see Pomarre place, he being gone to Port Jackson they all received us with gladness & treated [us] with kindness

23, I went to see a dead man, the people around him was crying & cutting themselves in an horrid manner, there appeared to be half a pint of blood on the ground, which ran from their faces breasts & harms [sic], I told them the dead could not hear nor see it was no good to him it was good to cry but not to cut themselves, as I could not speake in their own tongue I could say but little on the horrid practice or about the effectual remedy of it, the three Girls that live in our settlement came to see the corpse they seemed anxious to go back, as soon as I was

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going they came with me, I asked them if it was good to cut themselves they told me it [was] good to cry but not to cut themselves, knowing this to be my opinion, here is but very few that will say it is no good to cut in N Z, while I was there a young man (who had been among white people for six or seven years could speake english well) go and kneel down at the feet of the corpse with six or seven more and cut themselves in the above manner, and make a dolefull noise when they leave off more goes at their pleasure &c there was a young lad living at Mr Kendalls told me he would cry & cut himself by and by it was very good in NZ.

24. Tama a young lad about fourteen years old came to live with us to day to learn to read & to spin Twine &c upon condition he will not steal & will folow [sic] my derection [sic], he is a promising youth very active & quick in learning, but so wild and unsettled, the natives when at port – Jackson are reday [sic] to learn, they are not so here upon their own ground, they are as capable of learning a trade or any thing else as we are if they had a taste for it, but confinement they cannot bear, therefore much patience is required to let them come & go almost as they please, it must not be expected that they will keep to learning or working as our selves one day with us, or part of it the next or part of it playing and dancing about, peraps [sic] if I go out & ask them to come in to read or work they will begin dancing & shouting & laughing saying by and by

25 bought a small Garden for an axe & sowed wheat in it

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27 While while [sic] I was working in the garden a man came to me to sell me some Land to sow wheat I told him I would work to day and talk to morrow [f]

July 28 1815 I went to his Hut, he showed me the ground, With a little english [sic] & a little N.Z. language I made him understand, that the Land being so [near?] The Huts and so many Dogs and pigs about it would be destroyed long before it came to perfection.

29 Tarahee, that man that helped to kill and eat a boats crew belonging to the Brig N-Zealander, came to see us to Day, Tarahee is like a bear as to his person and behaviour [sic] he is very tall and stout his long black heir [sic] his tatood [sic] Face & his ruff & obscene behaviour renders his company no ways desireable, on this Day another small party came they as well as the other was very insulting, and seemed to mean us no good, in the evening they got into our fowl house which is close to our Door laid hold of a Turkey [sic], M^{rs} King hearing went to the Door saying ti hi ta man hu she dare not go out, but takeing [sic] corridge [sic] she went out they let go the Turkey, in the meantime I was coming home I had been takeing a sick man tea &c. I had been from home about half houer [sic] I had a spear in my hand I run up to them telling them to go away this not moveing them I called out for the gun tho there was nothing in it hearing this they ran away there was ten or twelve in number, not long after they broke into the Smith's shop taken all the[y] could find the smith hearing went to drive them all out

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30 Sunday they was very bold in pulling the hinges off my gate. I went to them bid[d]ing them not to steal in such a manner they had duering [sic] the night pulled & broke down my rope walk, this party went off in divine service time, Tarahee went in the fafter [sic] noon, he & his son had nearly stolen my sons Hat & M±r± Hall sent our two little Boys was walking on the beach Tarahee & his sons made a grab at the two Hats the little boys not likeing to loose their Hats held them fast crying out, we went out and saved their Hats Tarahee and his son jumped into the little Canoe and padled [sic] off and we was glad at their departure

31 Three people died a number are very ill I have visited many & gave them food

little

getting

wine and one [sic]

August 4, Ewha a young boy came to live with us upon the same condition as they other

We have expended Bread, Rice, tea, Suger [sic] &c upon the sick and helpless & are doing so Daily as here is many in a sick and starving state, we have some satisfaction in seeing several that I had fed & waited upon when sick at our Home in a fair way of health while many have died around us we have witness[ed] a melancholy scene in many deaths, which they ascribe to our God and Prayers &c, Many young people healthy and strong a few months ago when the

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cumras & potatoes in season, would not thank us for a meal, we see them now with their bones sticking out craving our potatoes peelings [sic] – [f]

3 When Duaterra was ill I was going to take him food, they sent me back saying he he [sic] was taboode, at this time several people sent for me to go and see them sending me word at the same time that they was not taboode, I gave the Priest a small chisel to make the coffins he was much pleased he asked me for some tea I told him it was a pity to drink it through his Hand as he would waste most of it I put the pot to his mouth he drank without fear Ewhova was ill this evening she said it was because the Priest drank out of our pot tho he seemeth much against the opinion, I sent the pot with some tea in it, to a sick child the parents would not let the child drink it for fear it would kill the child as the priest had drank out of the pot. When Ewha came I was going to cut his heir [sic], Tama told me it was not good to cut his hair [sic] in the house, I told him he was not come to teach me he was too much of the Tatoode for me he had better go to rangheehoo, he was very nice about his dinner I told him he had better go to Rangheehoo and eat fern root as there is many that would be glad of his dinner he eat it without any more to do.

8. Went across the Harbour to Tarra's place to sow a little wheat.

10. Ewha has been swearing very much as here is a deal a swearing in the settlement here being five Prisoners that have made their escape from P. Jackson [sic] besides two more the natives learn very soon and swear in an awful manner both old & young, I endeavoured [sic] to tell Ewha the evil of it and if he did not

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leave it off he should not stay in my House, I told Ewhora & Tama to talk to him in hopes of his leaving it off, Tama & Ewha went to fetch some fire wood Ewha began to swear Tuma beat him Ewha being the youngest of the Family the mother would not let him stay, I told her Tama should go & Qewha stay, but she did not like her darling son to do any work so he pulled off his clothing & went away. When Tama came home I asked him what he beat his brother for his answer was this Ewha gave it that the swear I gave it that the fight, Ewha wants to come again, these two Boys are racoos sons, Ewho ra his granddaughter [sic].

10. In the evening Tama told us that he made a fire to cook potatoes and a N.Z. man to eat, he helped to eat him, he also helped to eat a boy, mentioning his name. He said it was a long time ago, he likewise told me that old Tippahee brought some of the white men from the ship Boyde to Tippoona and eat them.

13, Sunday, a number of natives attended, Racoos kneeled down and stood up when we did it was pleasing to see him, when we was at dinner we was alarmed with the news of a woman hanging herself I went up to rangheehoo to [see] if the woman was dead or not a native bouy [sic] went with me, she was lyeing in a hut the boy asked if I might go in they said yes, I laid down my spear & Hat, creeped in upon my Hands & knees the door being just big enough so to do, I called to the women she hearing my voice got up [f] I told her to come & go with me I would give her some food, she came staggering [sic] down with me, my wife save [sic] some meat and kept her till teatime & gave her tea – when she went. Mrs King told

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her to come to morrow to work & she would give her food thinking this would keep her from attempting [sic] the same again, it appears [sic] to me to be the best time to show our good will towards them when in distress, when they are in health good words and works have but little weight [sic] with them.

18, At nine at night Mr Kendall & I went off along with Shunghe [sic] & his friends to Kidhekidhe to see wheat, I got into a canoe with a number of natives, they upset it before Mr K got into it, so I was very wet, had to change my clothing before I could proceede [sic] on my journey [sic], We then got into our own Boat & set off by the light of the moon, when we got half way we went ashore staid about two hours untill the turn of the Tide, we arrived at Kidhe Kidhe about six in the morning, we got a little refreshment, went to see the ground we was much pleased to see so much prepared [sic] for wheat Mr K[endall] sowed [sic] it we left at one in the afternoon got home at five in the evening on the 19th.

21 Mr K[endall] & I went a short distance with some natives to sow wheat after we had sowed it and returning home the wind rose and it began to rain that we had hard work to reach home by night, the rain and wind had almost blown & washed the bush Hut down the water was ankle [sic] deep in our bed room, so my wife and two little children was almost as bad of [sic] as my self.

30 Arrived the brig trial from the river Thames [sic] Captain Hovel and another small vessel which sailed with him belonging to the same owner, Mr Hovel informed us that on the 20th inst. the natives not far from the Thames made an

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attempt [sic] to take the vessels War began five white men was killed it is reported that fifty or sixty of the natives were killed, this news was alarming to us especially to the Femeals [sic]

Sept 4 Tuma hearing this news would stay no longer with me he told me it was very good to kill & eat the white people, but no good to kill N.Z. men Ewhora our little girl tells us that by and by all our Children will be rosted [sic] and eat, she is almost afraid to sleep in our house at these times. Tuma is a Boy that would soon learn any thing was he so inclined, he likes to come and go as he please, after cutting his hair cleaning him feeding & learning him, for him to go back into filth and dirt with half a belly full is as surprising as it is distressing to me.

5. Mr and Mrs Hall moved over to Whitanghee

To the Rev^d J Pratt[f]

Sept 7 Mr Kendall sent two Prisoners on board the trial by the natives the P[risoners], did not like yo be sent with the natives, Mr K[endall] insisted upon it the Smith struck work he said his life was in danger he would go on board too; the settlement was in confusion but the P[risoners], being afraid of our natives was glad to submit, the Smith got to work and the storm a little abated [sic].

10 While we was at Church four boys got into our rush hut stolen a peice [sic] of raw pork all our bread a knife some clothing belonging to our children.

14 Between eleaven [sic] & twelve at night I heard the fowls make a noise I got up and went out could see nobody presently I heard the fowl make a noise I ran to

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wards it my gun having only powder [in] it I fired at them they droped [sic] the fowl and ran away I went & fetch it back and heard no more about it

17 Three Boys and one girl was dressed in our clothing by us, and goes to church beheaves [sic] as well as can be expected, the clean & put their clothes says their lessons repeats the Lords prayer &c I often hear them repeating it as they walk about, ~~the priest hearing~~ [sic] them read wished to learn, he comes almost every day to learn the Letters he is much pleased he says it very good to learn, tho, I never expect him to learn as he is too old

20, The Sawyers came back from Whitanghee left M^r Hall by himself on account of the disagreements between them, they would stay no longer

22. I went to Whitunghee [sic] to fetch some logs to saw for my hame [sic]

23 left with eight good logs, but the wind seting [sic] against us we was drifted to Tarras Bay, was whether [sic] bound untill Monday morning I was very sick with the ruffness of the water

25. at between twelve and [sic] in the morning the rain & wind ceased we left Tarras harbour got safe home between nine and ten, found M^{rs} King unwell, she was reading one of Burders sermons on sunday night, a native came & struck the door with a large stick so sudenly [sic] that the fright injured her much

25. Tippoohe the man that helped to destroy the boyde came to day with a small party brought Iorn [sic] and Dolers &c.

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28, Tipoohe left erly [sic] in the morning, this day arrived the brig Active with a suply [sic] of provisions received letters from england the natives that came back in her seemed well pleased & satisfied especially with Mr Marsden & his Family.

7 Oct^r here was a eleven dressed in english clothing they could understand a little especially when we pray for King George they are well pleased, I often please them in telling them what a number of men he has &c, the name of our King George & the name of Mr Marsden will do a deal some times, I have no doubt but the name of the latter is thought as much on here as the former in England. [f] They refrain from work in general and are in a state of reformation, it [sic] all my writing you see but little of religion, they have no knowledge olf God or of his ways heres [sic] much work to be done but five to do it, if faithfull [sic] labours [sic] comes out I have nodoubt [sic], but good will be done according to their diligent & zeal [sic], men of true pietty [sic] honort [sic] and sober minded active & upright in conversation, patience must have her perfect work not to expect any worldly gain, if worldly gain, or worldly care is their motive it will eat up all their time and thoughts, labourers are the characters we are to pray may be sent into the harvest, If Labourers, or Trates [sic] men, or Schoolmasters, or Ministers was to come out they would not make work scarce but nothing without can be done without the espeial [sic] blessing of God thro Christ jesus in the great work of saveing Sinners tho god's to us is eternal life, yet we are to strive to enter in at the strait gate as it is God's will to have his Gospel preached to every creature, I doubt

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not but he that striveth faithfully and lawfully will meet with his blessing, and if
any good is done her [sic] or elsewhere we will say not unto us not unto us [sic] O
Lord but unto Thy Name be glory for ever Amen