

Oct. 26/15

Rev. S. Mayhem to Secretary

Private

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Parramatta Oct. 26. 1815

Dear Sir

(Recd. Sep. 5/16, by the Northampton)

(Ans. Sep. 5/16, by the Sir W. Bingley)

In former letters I informed you a Society was instituted in the Colony for the Protection of the natives of the South Sea Islands generally: and I was in hopes that it would have been attended with some benefit; the time it was instituted; but I had soon cause to alter my opinion. About twelve months ago when the Cumberland returned to Port Jackson a vessel belonging to this Settlement, which had been trading amongst the Islands; I was informed that the most dreadful murders had been committed on one of the Islands by some of the People belonging to the Cumberland. As Quaterra was here and several more New Zealanders when the Cumberland came in; and as the Cumberland had touched on her outward bound voyage at the Bay of Islands, where she had received two men from Quaterra, and one of them was now killed by an European, he was anxious to know the cause. I therefore called a general meeting of the Society. Some of the members attended, and some did not. At the meeting many objections were started against examining

into any of the transactions of the Cumberland, while she  
 was amongst the Islands - I used every Argument I could  
 to prevail upon the Committee, to hear what I had got  
 to say, and to examine the witnesses, I had to bring to  
 prove the Facts, agreeable to the Resolutions entered into at  
 the first Formation of the Society: but to little Purpose -  
 one could not, because he was part owner, another was interested  
 some other way, bear any Evidence, or examine in any  
 way into the Business. Several Europeans as well as natives  
 had been killed - but no notice whatever was taken of the  
 death of the Europeans ever - I have no doubt, had the  
 Committee allowed me to have investigated this subject,  
 but an horrid scene of Rapine, and murder, and Violence  
 would have been laid open to the public Eye. I then clearly  
 saw from the Spirit of Opposition manifested at this meeting  
 that no relief was to be expected from the Learning  
 men of this Colony for the injured Savages in these  
 Seas. No a sum of money was subscribed at the Form-  
 ation of the Society for the Relief and Protection of the  
 natives of the South Sea Islands; yet not one Shilling  
 has ever been expended for their use and Benefit: tho'  
 some of these poor Creatures have been brought

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by pickets, and Handbills or boards. The different whalers  
and other vessels to the very mouth of the harbor, and  
landed at Port Jackson in want of all things. I do not expect  
now that any thing will be done by that Society for the  
benefit of the Natives of these Islands; and for certain Reasons.  
was a Society here to act, it would be a Check upon that  
plundering, murdering system, which has so long  
disgraced the European name amongst the Inhabitants  
of these Islands; but this would wound the Interest & Honor  
of Individuals of some weight and Influence. — I mention these  
Things to show that at present we can form no public auxiliary  
Society we are not strong enough. Besides there are other  
Reasons which operate against it at present, but may be  
removed in a little time. I herewith send you a Copy of ~~all~~  
all the Proceedings I could get taken at the general meeting  
last October. The Quarters attended the meeting, and wished  
to know the Cause of the Death of the man whom he  
had committed to the Care of the Master; and several  
of the Crew belonging to the Cumberland had been  
killed, and one mangled, yet the matter would not  
bear examination. The whole was pushed up in silence  
and venience so to this very Day. All that Quarters

could learn was that his name had been spotted by one  
of the Ships Company, but for what Reason he was  
not told - You may deem this Letter unnecessary, you  
should I have sent it, but I wished to show the Difficultly  
that might, and would arise in the way of the mission  
if any public missionary Society were attempted to be  
formed as yet - The People here would think their  
Craft was in Danger - I am of opinion that when  
a vessel belonging to the Colony returns from the Islands  
with only part of her Crew, the others said to be killed  
it is the Duty of the Government to enquire into the Cause  
of those men who are missing, losing their lives. Such an  
enquiry, if it had no regard to the natives would tend  
to bring to light many Acts of Avarice & Cruelty.  
I have now written to you at considerable length, and  
in much haste, and in the midst of a variety of other  
Calls, so that I must crave your Indulgence for all  
Errors, of every kind -

I am

Dear Sir

yours with much esteem

Saml. Marsden

Rev. J. Pratt  
 & Co