

W. Hall to J. Pratt, 12 January 1816

Bay of Islands Jan^y 12th 1816

Rev^d & Dear Sir

An opportunity now offers which I must embrace although I have wrote lately and sent by way of Port Jackson— I have to acknowledge with thankfulness the receipt of your letter addressed to M^r King and myself with the property therein mentioned. But your Committee must be misinformed respecting the Society in N.S.W.— I have not the least expectation that the Mission will derive any benefit from it— I am convinced that if the Clergymen of the Colony with one or two more exceptions were withdrawn, the remainder would rather be an opposition than otherwise— Circumstances [sic] has so fallen out [f] that I live at a new settlement by myself called the Wythangee it being the most elligible [sic] and beneficial for a Settlement. M^r Kendall agreed to go there and indeed was the first proposer of it, untill the Sawyers got robbed of their property and then he would not go— I had had so much labour in removing the Materials Timber &c that I could not think of giving it up again— After I had removed thither with my wife and family there were a certain party of Natives that were very friendly with me but at the same time there are others that threaten our lives— I have induced the Natives to do a great deal of work with my assistance— I have only been here four months and I have got two small patches of wheat the one I have reaped and the other is nearly ready— I have also got an excellent [f] Garden full of Vegetables and about two Acres of ground cleared for wheat, if I had a little trade to pay the Natives with I

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could grow as much wheat as I could use next year – But I am very badly supplied with trade – I have heard that some Axes came out for the Natives but I never had one of them – I have not got an Axe fit to chop a piece of wood for the fire – I wish to teach the Natives to saw Timber, I have made several attempts and they offer very well, but I have not got the means for encourageing [sic] them yet – I should be glad if your Committee would be so good as to send out a few Axes for myself and the Natives to work with and some chissels [sic] and plane-irons Butching knives, large fish-hooks &c for payment for their labour – I live seven or eight miles from Tippoonah and that all [f] Water, and having no European but myself I cannot leave the place with propriety to fetch Trade from the Smith so that I have been very much distressed for want of Same – I mention'd in a former letter respecting a little coarse cloathing for my domesticated Natives that I keep constantly employed and victualled. If your Committee should think proper to send these things or any of them be so kind as to pack my part by itself and direct it for me at Wythange [sic] so that there can no dispute arise in the division of them – My Tools are much exposed by working amongst the Natives they frequently annoy me by pilfering them, but there is no redress, but by replacing them – they have stole several of my Tools lately but I dare not [f] be angry with them neighter [sic] would it be prudent. I am often troubled in mind when I am obliged to appear cheerful. – I am often at my wits end but blessed be God I am not at the end of his Grace. I have sometimes been like to blame myself for going to

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live alone, and then I am supported again when I recollect that it was not by my wish, or my doing particularly, but that it has providentially happened so – all my support is from Gods holy word and Spirit, and may his Grace prove sufficient for us – He alone is able to obstruct the violence of his, and his peoples enemies, and restrain the remainder of their wrath – I find much consolation and support in reading and singing Davids psalms I find many passages very applicable to my present [f] Situation and especially the Fifty sixth – We have always matter for thankfull praise we have no occation [sic] to hang our harps upon the willow trees or yet have them out of tune (although in a strange land) for the mercies of God are new every morning – I should like very much to have a fellow labourer in the work that we might strengthen one anothers hands and praise him together – Please to give our kind respects to M^{rs} Pratt M^r & M^{rs} Smith and all friends

and I remain Dear Sir

Your most obedient Servant

In Christ

W^m Hall