

T. Kendall to J. Pratt, 23 January 1816

Bay of Islands New Zealand

Jan^y 23^d 1816

Rev^d and Dear Sir

As the Masters of Vessels which put in here for refreshment generally barter with the Natives for Muskets and Powder and on this account have a great advantage over us in respect of procuring such articles of food as we are in want of, I wish to have your opinion, whether it would be prudent for us occasionally to part with such articles, or whether we should at all events continue to dispose of such articles only as are useful to the mechanic or husbandman.

You mention the possibility of sending to our aid two Clergymen. Should you do this, I think one of them might be instructed to remain with [f] me, and the other might go over to M^r Hall, and try to raise a School where he resides. This is a barren spot, and I fear we can do but little towards our own support. There is no land near us suitable for growing Wheat &c while the Land near M^r Hall is level and fertile, and fit for every purpose of cultivation. I reluctantly consented on this very account to settle here at first, but I did not like resolutely to oppose M^r Marsden. As a Schoolmaster I also perfectly agreed with him that it would be best to make our first attempt to establish a School where there is a number of children, depending upon the Society for every needful assistance. I think, however, that a School [f] may be established at M^r Hall's place in a very little time.

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I must just hint to you, what I think, will be the best course for me to pursue with respect to M^r Hall and M^r King until I hear from you. As they are too independent to be advised by me, or even M^r Marsden in points that I judge to be of importance, I think it will be proper for me to leave them in future to take their own way rather than to contend in an unchristian manner. It is not once or twice, but continually recourse has been had to personalities. I feel my own temper, and grieve that I do not always bear things according to my better judgment, I therefore think it best to withdraw as well as I can. I trust I shall always speak well of M^r Hall and M^r King as I find opportunity. My Dear Sir, Things went on smoothly with me while I was in London. But since then [f] my faith has been put to the trial. The Weapons of my Spiritual Warfare have not been wielded at all times with the watchfulness and force they demand: but I bless God, he is still my friend and comforter. The cause in which we are engaged is Glorious however poor & feeble the instruments— While we are ashamed of our want of love & zeal for his Service, to his Name be the praise & Glory— And am Rev^d & Dear Sir

Your faithful Serv[an]^t

Tho Kendall