

*J. King to J. Pratt, 25 January 1816*

Bay of Islands N. Zealand Jan<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1816

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir,

I hope these lines will find you all in good health as they leave us, thanks be to God for this and every other favour, the natives are in a state of friendship with us, the children are making [sic] slow improvements as we have but little controle [sic] over them. A little time back when it was two rainy days one girl made us a pair of sheets, another made the body and sleeves of a boys shirt, but as soon as the rain was over they left off work, one of them saying Mother when it comes plenty more rain, I will do plenty more sewing for you, when it is fine weather, I will dance and play this is very good at N. Zealand, they are under but little restraint from their parents therefore we cannot expect to have them at present under our controle [sic] altogether, but we are still striving to instruct them and to leade [sic] them on by degrees as they will bear it, We are endeavouring [sic] to live in peace with all men, but we meet with great opposition from Mr Kendall. [f] He says he is the same here as the Governor is at Port Jackson he threatens to send us out of this settlement he will do this and the other he has on all occasions if I mistake not encouradged [sic] his Goverment [sic] man to abuse us and the other prisoners that are in this settlement to strike and ill use us so that we despared [sic] of our lives and was going to make our escape to Waitanghee to Mr Hall's place but the natives would not let us go, we had no body to pull the Boat the Natives sat down and wept with us to see the treatment we met with from our own people they told us

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that the white people should hurt us no more but if we persisted in going or did leave this place, they would send Mr Kendall back to port-Jackson for he should not stay here, He tries to set the natives against us by telling them I am nothing but a servant that he is a great Gentleman, he goes on board ships, that comes in, and gives us a bad name to the Captain in short he does all he can to abease [sic] us and to exalt him self— he well let us have nothing he can conveniently [sic] hinder us of, the natives takeing our parts so much to Mr Kendall he sent me a few lines saying he would hear any complaint we might [f] make to him but, I spoke to him about it, we was in all the fault it is in vain for us to complain to him because we are always rong [sic], after this he sent me several insulting Letters I answered the first, but declined sending any more, he sends me two which he calls consolatory ones, these I should have liked to closed [sic] in with, if his conduct had been consistant with the Letters, so I leave you to judge Sir, how we are going on, I do not aprove [sic] of his getting intoxicated, of his good words and fair speeches without regarding to do the same all intercourse is dropped [sic] between us, except any thing that we cannot do without, he is welcome to write and say all he pleases against me and mine, I have sent some Letters dated Oct<sup>r</sup> 1815. I expect this to arrive before them the ship Cato being about to sail from this place in a few days, bound for England leaden [sic] with oil. She is expected to be in London dock in four month.

MS. 55/53

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I expect that great good will be done here in the Lords time, and close in praying that the Lords will raise up and send faithful labourers into the Harvest and that your labours may not be in vain in the Lord.

So I rest

Rev<sup>d</sup> Sir

Your most humble

And most Obedient servant

John King

This day Mr Halls House was plundered

M<sup>rs</sup> was struck by one of the natives

She was taken up for dead but she

is getting better