

Rev. Jan. 8/17

Com. Jan. 13/17

Parrott March 16th 1816

Rev. J. J. Smith

(Ans. June 7/17 by W. Tyler)

In answer to your letter relative to forming a Society here to cooperate with you I am sorry to say that this cannot be done at the present time, but hope when the times change this desirable object may be accomplished. we see no reason to alter our opinion which I and my colleagues expressed to you in a letter forwarded by the Northampton. This Colony is at present in a very unsettled state. Those in Authority are not cordial, which creates much political Confusion, and totally prevents any thing of a religious nature from being promoted. The present Government will not continue long in its present state - I will not lose any opportunity to promote the wishes of the Society in this respect. Should a new Governor be sent out, which I think probable for several reasons, I trust the Society will not fail to interest him in the Cause, if possible, at least so far as not to create great difficulties in the way.

4
A Governor has it in his Power to assist the work very
much in this Colony, and to lessen the Expenses if
he was inclined to do so. He can also make it very
difficult to carry on the work, and yet not shewly appear
to do so - I feel most the heavy Expenses of the Vessel
when in Harbour, Duties upon the Timber, Port Duties
&c. I have remonstrated with the Governor upon this subject, and
prevailed upon him to take off Part of the Duty upon the Timber.
I hope another Governor will take it all off. As no vessel but
the Active is employed in this Service, the Duty is no object to the
Crown; but a very material one to the little Concern. In stead of
a Duty upon the Timber, Government should give a Premium
for importing it, for the general Benefit of the Colony. I find the
Active will not make the Return expected in Timber brought
in Logs, as she is not large enough for this Purpose. I have
therefore sent over some Surgeons to cut the Pine into Plank.
But I am obliged to give them high wages as an Inducement
to go over. I have also directed Mr. Hall to teach some of
the Natives to Saw - In time I think the Vessel will make
some Return - as there would be a demand for the Plank
at Port Jackson. If a Saw mill could be sent out it would
be very valuable, and a man to work it, who understood it.
There are fine Falls of water in the Bay of Islands for mills,
without making Dams - The River whylanghee falls from

4

a Level took about 15 feet into a Cove of Salt water -
Here a Saw mill might be put up at a small Expense.
The Active might then bring sawed Timber which would
answer much better - Should nothing prevent me, I intend to do
this as soon as my means will accomplish it, because I know
it could not fail being attended with much advantage to
the Cause, as it would lessen the Expenses - and tend to improve
the natives -

you will see in the Account of the Expedition that I have changed
nothing for the Passage of the natives from N. Teaham, and
back again, but merely for their Provisions - I am also obliged
to lay in a little more Provisions than the Crew want in
order that the master may have it in his Power to give
a little Bread &c, to the Chiefs while the Vessel lays
in their Harbours, or remains upon the Coast -

As much of the Timber remains upon Hand yet, on Account
of it being brought in Spars and Logs, and not in Plank
I am unable to make out any Return the Active has
made at present. The Charges now transmitted you will
perceive ^{have} ~~had~~ no Connection with the Expenses of the
Vessel, but merely for the Settlement at the Bay of Islands
and the natives who have visited us. I stated in a former
Letter that I thought the Active might attend both

4
the settlers at St. Zealand, and the missionaries on the
Society Islands, and that I thought her returns would pay
her Expenses within £500 per annum. This sum I
proposed to be paid by the two Societies if it met their
Approval, provided this sum was necessary - which I am
inclined to think it will for a time, till some regular
Trade is established. I shall not draw upon either Society
on Account of the vessel, if I can find means to go on
till the Active returns from Tahiti & St. Zealand,
and I see what Cargo she brings. Her last outfit was
very heavy, as I did not expect her return for eight
months - I am in hopes the vessel will get a Cargo of
Fork before she returns, amongst some of the Islands
and for this Purpose I purchased more than 60 Tons of
Casks, twenty Tons of Salt and whatever was necessary
for the Voyage. The outfit of the Active I believe will exceed
£1000 - The Society is not answerable for any Part of this sum,
as I still retain her in my own Hands, till I hear from you, and
the London Missionary Society relative to the Proposition
I formerly made. If it should be approved of, I will do the best I can
to promote the great Objects - if any thing more acceptable to
the Societies can be suggested, the Active is at their service any
time, and in any way either as the Property of the Society or otherwise
New J. Pratt
I am Dear Madam &c
Samuel Marsden