

MS. 56/19

CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt to John King

Church Missy House Londfon

June 7/[18]17

(Copy)

Dear Sir

I have before me 3 letters

from you

To Mr Wilson dated July 4/15

To myself dated Oct 28/15 and Jany 25/16

With a Journal from July 9/15 to Sep^r 28/15

We are not satisfied with the spirit which your letters manifest. They are ~~filled from the beginning to the end~~ too much filled with complaints of your brethren, your situation, & all around you. It looks as if you had not counted the cost before you went, & speaks ~~badly~~ but ill for the state of your own mind. We can hardly conceive that any circum[stan]^{ces} could justly call for such statements as your Letters contain.

We cannot possibly take notice, in our letters to your brethren, of your personal observations against them. If they have fallen into any open & habitual sin, bringing reproach on the Gospel, it is your duty to state it fully & particularly; but in a proper spirit, "considering thyself lest thou also be tempted"; & then we can act upon such statements. [f]

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If their failings are merely those infirmities of temper, which are incident 9[sic] to our common nature even when partakers of the grace of God, we would say "bear ye one another's burdens, & so fulfill [sic] the law of Christ"

We speak plainly, because division & separation among brethren professing to labour for the good of the Heathen, next to open sin, is the greatest evil that can affect a Mission, & gives Satan our common enemy his greatest advantage over us.

We are aware, while we say these things, that you have been labouring amidst many difficulties, & privations, & need those advantages which we enjoy in a Christian land; but we feel obliged, by the faithfulness of Christian friendship & the situation in which we are placed, to give you our views of your communications.

Do not, however, fail to write to us fully from time to time, & communicate to us all that passes. Our friends are greatly interested in all that is passing around you; & you cannot be too minute in your details of the superstitions, habits, & customs, of the natives. We are glad to see [f] that you have mentioned various things of this kind in your Journal, some of which we shall probably insert in the Register.

With every good wish, & with prayers to the great Head of the Church to keep you united, faithful, disinterested, laborious, & self-denying in his cause I am

Your faithful friend

Josiah Pratt

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P.S. We have not an opportunity of sending the things which you request now; & indeed, we would recommend you to obtain every thing you can from New South Wales, as it is very inconvenient to us to send out goods &c to our settlements.