

S. Marsden to J. Pratt, 12 June 1816

Sydney N.S. Wales June 12th 1816

Rev^d & Dr Sir

I have given an open Letter for you to the Rev^d B. Vale, as I thought you probably w^d wish to ask him a few Questions about this distant Part of the World. I am not sorry M^r V. is leaving the Colony – he has caused much political Confusion or Ferment. The difference between the Governor and him has gone to a very considerable extent, which will be still extended further – I have had my Feelings much wounded occasionally by the Governor's Conduct; at the same time I have conceived it to be my duty patiently to bear with present evils; and to remonstrate with those in Authority in England, and not to come to an open Quarrel with the Governor; at least so far as that I could not live in the Colony – I condemn the Governor's Conduct in some Instances, towards M^r V such as bringing him to a Court-Martial – at the same time I think M^r V. has acted very improperly. [f] M^r V. is a very extraordinary man- he is not fit for N.S. Wales. I think him very dangerous to the Quiet of Society in a political Sense – I also think a man who feared God, and wished to promote the Gospel could never act in the way M^r V. has done, and I think will continue to do – I am persuaded from his turn of mind, and public declarations that he will continue to molest the Governor if he returns to England. I should recommend his Representations in some Cases to be received with Caution, as I am sure they will be strong – He is a man of Ability as a public Speaker, and will draw a Congregation to him – but out of the Church – his

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Conduct here has been very strange, and very unlike a Clergyman, according to my Judgment. Good may come out of evil— and I think in the present Instance it will— [f] Governor Macquarie's Conduct cannot be approved at Home— Mr V. will make it known— and another Governor may not possess so much Power, as this Governor does, or imagines he does—

You will hear the particulars either thro' the medium of the public Press, or in some other way— I have just wrote these few Lines to suggest the Propriety of making allowances for Strong Representations as they either affect the Government of this Colony, or the Character of Private Individuals— I shall rejoice much when we have the pleasure to receive an humble zealous minister that will feel a Pleasure in his public duty—

We have had the most gratifying news from Otaheite— The Gospel is making wonderful Progress there— These islands in the South Seas will now become the Inheritance of the Lord Jesus X^t. May the Head of the Church bless every means for the Conversion of the Heathens— I am

Rev. Sir yours affectionately

Sam^l Marsden

Rev^d J. Pratt