

Recd. Feb. 25/10 by 4/10
Rev. J. Mendenhall to the Rev. J. Mendenhall
March 31 1814
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Comt. Mar. 9/18
~~Chas. Mendenhall by the Post Office~~

Allow me now to write you a few lines of a private nature relative to myself. I have had thro' very severe trials during the last eighteen months - The letters at N. Zealand, from their improper conduct have given me much pain with the exception of Mr. Kendall, whose conduct I cannot too highly approve. When I was at N. Zealand Mr. Hall formed a determination to remove from the place where I had fixed them - This I would not consent to - I considered the safety of the letters, and their usefulness to the natives to be the two grand considerations. Both these objects were sure, where they were settled - They were settled in one of the largest Villages, and under the protection of one of the greatest Chiefs. Mr. Hall had set his mind upon a place called Whangapee, because the land was rich, and it possessed other local Advantages - He had influenced both Messrs. King and Kendall for a time - and it was with some difficulty, I could dissuade them from their purpose - I made them promise that they would remain where I had fixed them; and if they would not agree to this I would bring them and their families back again with me to Port Jackson; as I was sure

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They would be robbed, if not murdered, if they went to live
in a lonely Place where they could have no Protection.
At length, after considerable Difficulty they promised
to remain where they were - and I saw them comfortably
settled before I left them - Mr. Hall was to procure a
Cargo of Spars for the Active against her return, Mr.
King was to collect the Wax which the natives brought
for Sale - and Mr. Kendall was to devote himself
to the School - Mrs. Hall & King were also to instruct
the natives in Agriculture or any thing they could
for their general Improvement - under the Idea that
they would attend to these Arrangements I left them,
and returned to Port Jackson leaving them Lawyers
to cut Timber for their Houses, and also to prepare
some Plank for the Active against her Return -
when the Active returned to the Island, Mr. Hall
had left the Settlement, and had gone to whyton place
with a Spar, nor a Plank had been procured for
the Vessel to bring back which was a very great
Disappointment as well as a very heavy loss -
I made up my mind to hear of Mr. Hall and
his Family being murdered for their Property,
and was apprehensive this might occasion civil
war in the Island, as the natives were so partial
to the Europeans where they live, I knew they would

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immediately seek revenge for any injury offered
to any of the People I had left. Mr. Hall had employed
the Lawyers to build his House at Wylunshue, and
neglected the whole of what he ought to have done,
and incurred a heavy loss to me, and also great
Expense to the Society - when the Active returned and
brought me these distressing Accounts, as I was sure
something serious would happen, I knew not what
to do - Mr. Hall had too much Property to live in a lonely
Place, 10 miles from the Settlement without Danger - he
would have been murdered even in this Colony, in fact,
not but so exposed to Danger - I trembled for the Consequences.
At length Information arrived that Mr. Hall had been robbed
and Mr. Hall had been wounded - and that he had been
compelled to return to the Settlement - The Chiefs rose
in every Direction to revenge the Injury; and destroyed
the Houses of those who had come to rob Mr. Hall;
and some of them wanted their Countrymen to be
put to death - The head Chief recommended that they
should not die, but be punished some other way, and
the business ended - The workmen had lost their
Property, and claimed Remuneration, and at Mr.
Hendalls Request I have paid them - All the Build-
ings and other ~~materials~~ materials, which the workmen
and Mr. Hall had now built at Wylunshue,
were an expense that was now lost

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besides disappointing the vessel of my Charge of Clerk.
I had sent over a Carpenter and two pair of Surveyors
to assist in building the School - From one Circumstance
and another the Settlers disagreed amongst themselves
and this brought on misunderstandings between the
workmen - some preferring one, and some another -
so that there was no unity amongst them - The
sending the Surveyors and workmen had been a very
heavy Expence, and had not answered what I had
reason to expect - I had Disappointment after Disappointment
and Venation, after Venation that I knew not what to
do - I had only one Comfort, and that was, every thing
that the natives could do for the Settlers where they lived
they did with great Pleasure - and the Prospect of finally
succeeding in the object was very gratifying to my
mind, even if the present Settlers should relinquish
the work. I have already expressed my approbation
of Mr Kendall's Conduct, and a more proper man
in my opinion could not be found. he will have his
quills, and I feel for his situation; as his Colleagues
will not second him in the work, but hinder him
all they can, and therefore I fear his good name -
unless they should show a very different Spirit from
what they have hitherto given - Mrs Hall is a good
woman, and a good missionary -

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you will easily perceive how all these things must
distress my mind - and particularly in a pecuniary
Point of view, as the Expenses have been so much
increased by all these unpleasant Circumstances -
The last time the Active went, the voyage proved very
unfortunate - The Master who is an aged man, and a good
Sailor, Mr. King married his Daughter, behaved very
well - After carrying Supplies to New Zealand, the Active
^{went} on to Tahiti with the missionaries belonging
to the Society M. S. The Captain took his wife with
him in the vessel directly contrary to my written
Instructions - She is a very infamous Drunken woman
and completely master of her Husband - It please her
as I was informed, he stood in to the north Cape
of N. Zealand so close to land, for his wife to trade
with the natives, that ~~she~~ ^{she} got the Active a ground
twice - Her false-Keel was knocked off, and before
they got to the Society Islands, she became very
leaky, and was afterwards obliged to be hove down
upon one of the Islands - The master he gave himself
up to Drunkenness along with his Drunken wife
so that the vessel lay for three months at one of
the Society Islands before she was fit to go to sea.

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The *Admiral* returned again to Port Jackson with very little
Cargo, thro' the neglect and Frivolities of the *Master*
and his wife. I had fitted her out at a very heavy Expence
and she was to have returned with a Cargo of Bark -
but brought about 12 Tons - From the Injury she has
sustained I am compelled to new Sheath her Bottom
which will be a very heavy Expence in this Colony -
where Labor is so high - All these things have been
almost more than I could bear - I have none to assist
me, either with Advice or money - The Cloud is at
present so thick, that I cannot see my way thro' -
and what the End will be I cannot tell. my soul
is pained within me, and my Sleep is often departed
from me - none know what I suffer, and what I
fear - In the midst of all, my Enemies are many, and
powerful, and they hate me with a tyrannous
Hatred - I know no Cause that I have given offence
by, excepting my Endeavours to promote the welfare
of the poor *Heathen* - This is the only Crime that they can
lay to my Charge - I feel fully confident that the
Society will give all the support they can; but
it will be out of my Power ever to lay my real
Case before them - I am strongly inclined to
return to England - if the same Difficulties continue
and the same Opposition is made it will not be

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probable for me to remain - If it was not for my
large Vanity, I would take up my Residence in
N. Zealand immediately - I would not hold my
public Situation in the Colony - with Respect to
N. Zealand I have no Doubt, but the mission will
succeed - All is well with the natives - some of the
Persons sent out as missionaries will always turn
out bad Characters when they arrive at their
Destination, and this must at all times be expected -
many missionaries sent out to settle by the
S. M. S. have turned out men of very bad Characters -
have been guilty of Drunkenness, Whoredom &c
in the Colony. that I have had my Connections with
them: a number of them are now in these Settlements
some bad, and some good - The bad when they want
to go to Tahiti I have always prevented them, when
I have found them out. The missionaries at the
Society Islands, are men, that can now be
Depended upon - The bad ones have been sorted
out from time to time - This will be the Case
with the greatest Care amongst those that are
sent to N. Zealand - Some will turn out
bad men, and will injure the Cause -

This I expect; but their misconduct will not prevent the
 Divine Purposes from being accomplished - I shall feel
 much more happy when the time comes of my Colleagues
 will feel themselves at liberty to espouse this important
 work. I do not hope for this favor under the present
 Administration. However, whatever may be the issue
 of this opinion, and whatever may be the opinion of
 the Society and my Friends I can solemnly declare
 that I have done all that my means or power or mind
 could do - unforeseen and distressing circumstances
 could not be avoided - and the heavy Expenses, from
 the misconduct of others cannot be justly charged upon
 me. A vessel must be maintained for some time yet;
 for the benefit of the natives, and the Comfort of the
 Settlers - and I hope the Society will see the necessity
 of this; and that the Head of the Church will
 open the Hearts of those who have the means to
 assist in this glorious Cause. Had I not persevered, in urging
 the missionaries of the F. M. S. from time to time to return
 to their work in the Society Islands, when they came despar-
 ing; and had given up the Cause altogether, and told me
 it was no use; the poor Heathens in these Islands would
 not now have cast their Gods, their Idols into the Fire -
 many of them now believe the Gospel, and nearly all profess
 it - nothing like this has happened since the Apostles
 Days - These are some of my thoughts to you, in my trouble
 Dear Sir yours truly
 John A. King