

Recd. Jan. 26/19, by Dr Bromley

Rev. J. Menden to the Secy.

Parliamentary Petition No. 1818

Rev. Sir

Com. of Gov. Feb. 5/19

1089

I had the pleasure to receive your letter by the Friendship - and was very glad to find that some legal steps were likely to be adopted for the protection of the natives in the South Sea Islands. I have nothing more to communicate, as I wrote very fully to you by the Harriet - one caution I omitted to give you relative to the natives at New Zealand. On the return of the Harriet from the Bay of Islands, a statement was published in the Sydney Gazette, that the natives intended to take the Harriet - I believe this to be a direct falsehood. I have letters from all the letters, and not the least mention is made of such an intention. From all that I could hear from the men on board, the natives rendered them every assistance in their power - there was

nothing to prevent the natives from taking the Harriet in one moment, if they wished to do so. The Ship's Company were in a state of mutiny when the vessel lay in the Harbour - they had only 29 men on board including the officers and surgeons - nine of the Europeans were confined by the Captains orders, from their difference with him. There were not more than three men kept watch at night - and I was informed by those on board, that 20 of the natives kept on board every night. The natives had their war canoes with them, and one of the mates told me the natives were very numerous - This is stated in the Gazette. I am certain 2000 or 3000 war Landers - would at any time take a vessel like the Harriet in one moment. The master told me, that the men whom he had confined for mutiny wanted the natives to join them to take the vessel. No man, who knows the situation the Harriet was in when lying

for weeks in the Timber District near the Shore,
with 20 few men on board; and where there was
such a number of natives, who fear no danger
will believe the Account to be true, which is published
in the Gazette. That Account was published in my
Opinion with no other view, than to injure the
Cause of the mission. There has not a single
Act of Violence been done to any European
 Sailor or Vessel from the north Cape, to the
River Thames, since the Settlers arrived at
the Island. I merely write these few lines by
J. Brunely in order that you may not
give any Credit to Reports against the
Natives of New Zealand, crossing thro' such
a Channel, without some Act is committed.
I contend they could have no intention to take
the Harriet, because they did not take her;
when there was nothing to prevent them.
Any night the natives who slept on board
could have thrown the two or three men who
kept watch over board, and got Peperwin

89
of the vessel. If any thing should happen you
will receive information from me or the
settlers as soon as possible - I think it may
be possible that the mystery of the Harriet was
abrid, as he was on board as first mate the
Jefferson whaler, when the Captain behaved
so ill at the north Cape. and if I am not
wrongly informed, he was at New Sweden at
the time Sippahsee, and his people were
killed by the Europeans. when I hear again from
the settlers, they will inform me what part
while the Harriet was there. If any difference
had happened, some of them would have
mentioned it when the Harriet returned as they
all wrote to me by her. Should J. Brown
call upon you, he will inform you how we
are going on. I expect nothing but war here,
while the present Administration continues. War
war with the wicked, is better for the Christian
than close Connection. He will watch and pray more
and live nearer to his God - I am Dear Sir
Yours affectionately
Saml. Mayden