

Rec^d. June 14/19, by the "Catherine"

Mr Tho^s Kendall to the Sec^y.

Rev^d Josiah Pratt

Bay of Islands, Dec. 16. 1818

Ans^d. July 20/19, by the "Catherine"

Com^d. (in force) June 22/19

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Rev^d and Dear Sir,

I have formerly acquainted you that during the first two or three years residence of your Missionary Settles at this place, we have never been visited with a number of natives exceeding, in my opinion, two or three hundred at a time. I have now to inform you that in the course of the last twelve months we have been visited by much larger parties. In the month of March last fifty War and other Canoes containing about one thousand persons were at this settlement. When numbers of natives are about us they are often very troublesome, it being a difficult matter for the chiefs who are most friendly to our interests to keep their people under restraint. I conceive our trials will be much heavier for some years to come, than they hitherto have been, the cause

of which apparently arises out of this circumstance,
"that the Native Spirit has been roused by the
"long intercourse of the natives with Europeans,
"but none of them having been converted to
"Christianity, the native heart with its blind
"attachment to the most barbarous customs remains
"unchanged, and inclines its possessor to pursue
"them with additional vigour. In the first year
after our arrival many New Zealanders died.
They had not food sufficient to keep them
alive, and in this weak condition we could
discern but little of the native mind. Since
then the natives in general at the Bay of
Islands, and parts of the country adjacent,
eager to procure implements of war, and
implements of husbandry, have exerted
themselves so much in cultivating land for
Potatoes, Indian Corn &c. that they have

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not only obtained such articles as they wanted,
but have lived much better themselves, and there
has been but little mortality. Their native
disposition has of course been greatly revived,
and being heathens still, they follow the customs
and traditions of their forefathers with avidity.
War is all their glory. They travel to
the south, and kill great numbers. Almost
the whole of the native men belonging to this
bay are now gone to Battle. Although the
natives in general shew no disposition to injure
us, yet being so unsettled and unsteady, our
situation, ^{amongst them} is more trying and uncomfortable.

With respect to our own conduct we have
hitherto been strictly neutral. We have made
it our constant practice to be kind to strangers,
and whilst we continue to be still I am
under no fears whatever respecting our persons

safety. But we require at this time not only the assistance of our Heavenly Master, but support and encouragement from our Christian employers. The constant sailing to and fro of the active, and steady supplies for the Settlement are essential to our comfort, and to our progress in duty. It is the ultimate object of the Society that must be our chief aim. Without a regular intercourse between this Country and Port Jackson and steady supplies for the Settlement, I should contemplate nearly the same disastrous events taking place, as formerly with the Missionaries at Tahiti. Again, until the Word of God is graciously revealed to this people a firm footing amongst them will not be obtained. They may be conciliated by temporal kindnesses, but there is nothing that can secure them permanently to our interests but the blessings of the Gospel.

Should the Committee consider the School, as I
 2 think they will, it would be right to encourage
 all the Missionary Settlers without exception
 to employ their leisure hours in the School.
 The School House is large enough for two,
 three or four teachers at a time. I wish
 for my colleagues to interest themselves
 both in procuring supplies for it, in teaching
 it, and in seeing how the trade allowed
 for the School is expended. I wish from
 my heart to be enabled to prove to them
 all that my views are disinterested and
 not mercenary when I so earnestly
 importune for the liberal boon of the
 Society in behalf of the Children of
 New Zealand - I have the honor to remain
 Brod & Dear Sir

Yours faithfully
 Geo. Kendall