

Thomas Kendall to Samuel Marsden

Bay of Islands April 21. 1819.

Revd and Dear Sir,

I received your Letter bearing date Sepr 18. 1818 and will gladly procure from Captns. Watson, Smith or Swain the articles you want, when they return to the Bay, which I expect will be in a very few weeks as the whole of them were nearly full of Sperm Oil when we last heard from them. Should Captn. Thompson return to this place in time, he can assist me in purchasing the necessary articles, or otherwise give me a list of them.

We are now anxiously expecting the Active, but there has been a settled strong easterly wind here during the past eight weeks, so that we think she has been delayed a considerable time on her passage for the above reason. We are now in want of Sugar, Soap and many other articles. I have had no articles of Barter left for the natives for the past three months. Nor have I any potatoes in store for my family or the School for the ensuing Winter and Spring. I am now considerably in debt with the natives. Several children who are attached to the School will not leave it and I can not turn them out whilst I have any thing left to give them. As soon as I receive a supply of paper & [f] quills I mean to proceed with the Native Children as well as I can. I mean to alter the sounds of the letters according to my plan laid down in the Preparatory Catechism. The Tahitians, I seem pronounce the sounds of the letters and vowels after a similar method very readily.

Mr. Gordon intends shortly to leave us. He says he can not stop with comfort. I believe him to be a sincerely pious Christian. but the natives take advantage of his fears and unnecessarily alarm him. He has not sufficient firmness and spirit in his

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transactions with them. I believe we shall (except it is our own fault) continue to sleep in peace here: but we have all our particular trials, and what one man would scarce think a trial, would in some instances overwhelm another. I only received 17 Bushels of wheat from Mr Gordon last harvest. My family stands in need of a Bushel per week.

Mr. Hall and myself can act no longer in concert together. We are like unto the Iron Pot and the earthen Pot carried on by the same current; We must not come near each other in haste lest one of us be dashed to pieces. Mr. Hall has had in my opinion a [f] fair opportunity of pleasing the Society and if becoming most nobly popular; and if ^he chooses to build a chapel and disinterestedly to promote the designs of the Society he maybe come so still. But if he only intends so far to perform his duty as is consistent with his own private interests, If he only means to make himself independent of the Society, by buying up all that he can in the Settlement and selling it to shipping for the attainment of this object He must be opposed. It is not long since that (a) I attempted to follow him; but I soon found the impropriety of it. We might pursue temporal objects until the main objects of the Society were entirely laid aside. Besides every Missionary that comes here shares in equal duties and dangers and has an undoubted right to an equal share of the necessaries of Life. I have nothing to say against Mr Hall's Moral Character. He has also been very ready to sharpen my plane view, and has done me several other favours for which I am thankful, but we have always differed in our opinions and seem to be a stumbling block in each others' way; I will not if I can help it, come near him to quarrel with

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him [f] I therefore shale [?] keep to my own work and from him. Perhaps things may be better with us by and by.

There are now 10 children in the Settlement unbaptised; we long to see you , or some other clergyman.

I want an anvil very much for my native Blacksmith. Shego has asked very unfair (being advised no doubt by his friends to do so): if you send an order for him to deliver the Anvil he has got to me. I do not really expect it without some trouble. A Wanee Pork behaves very well he does anything I wish him to do. Shego was with Mr Hall for some weeks after his return to New Zealand: He broke in to Mr Hall's Shop in the night and took away some trifling articles. I think he would have behaved much better if he had been at a distance from his friends. Many of them have been tedious to us. Do send an anvil and some Hammers as per note sent by Captain Thompson if you have not already done it. All the settlers are in good health and am Revd and Dear Sir

Your faithful Ser^t

Thos. Kendall

Revd. S. Marsden

(a) Mrs Hall said I could well afford to lay out 30£ per annum as they could in order to keep upon an even balance with them. I tried for quietness until I was ashamed.