

*CMS Secretaries Josiah Pratt and Edward Bickersteth to Teeterree*

Church Missionary House,

London, April 5/20

Dear friend Teeterree

Your Letter of the 12<sup>th</sup> of July reached us at the beginning of this month; and it made us glad to learn that you had reached New South Wales in health & safety. Thus has God graciously preserved you through two long voyages & many dangers.

We have often thought of you, since you left us; praying that God would make you a partaker of His grace & Holy Spirit: but the accounts which we have received of what took place on the voyage, have given us pain, and disappointed our expectations. We fear that the wicked men who sailed with you have done you harm. Do you think that their conduct & conversation did your heart good? Do you find the same desire to pray, & the same pleasure in listening to those friends who talk with you about God and Jesus Christ and the Salvation of your soul, as you did in England?

In writing to M<sup>r</sup> Bickersteth, just before you left us, Dec<sup>r</sup> 14/18, you say, Englishman's God & Englishman's Bible all true. I should like read the Bible about Jesus Christ. I pray Jesus every night teach me read the Book. I hope Jesus will go along with me. When I get home my own country, I pray for Englishman and English man pray for me.

Are these still your thoughts & feelings, Teeterree? If not, why are they changed? Englishman's God & Englishman's Bible are the same. The disposition of our friends to shew you kindness & to do you good, are the

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same— & the certainty of your perishing in your sins, if you neglect the salvation of the Gospel, the same.

You must shortly die, & stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ: and what will you say? You cannot tell God that you never knew any thing concerning Him— that you never heard of the way of salvation. Have compassion then, Dear Teeterree, on your own soul; & fly from the company of wicked men, who draw away your heart from God.

Has it not made your heart sorry, that you treated your good friends Mr Butler & Mr Hall with unkindness, & opposed their [f] wishes & neglected their instructions?

But how much more ungratefully have you treated that gracious God, who gave His Son to die for your sins? Who gave the Scriptures to make you wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ Jesus? — who gave you kind English friends to explain to you those Scriptures, and to teach you to read them; to pray to God for you; & to bear with you when you would not be persuaded nor intreated?

But we hope, Dear Teeterree, that what we have to mourn over in you, was the effect of bad company and bad advice; and that when we hear of you again, we shall learn that you had been sorry for your past conduct, and were seeking God with your whole heart.

Regard Mr Butler, Mr Kendall, and Mr Hall as your best friends: they love your soul, and will labour to do you good. Pray to God for His teaching, and grace, and blessing; that you may know and love and serve the

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Lord Jesus Christ: so your own soul will be saved, and you may become the means of saving the souls of many of your countrymen. Strive to bring them to hear the Missionaries speak about Jesus Christ and the way of salvation. Persuade them to leave off war, and to live in peace – to sow wheat and to rear cattle – to make ropes, shoes, & axes & spades, & all those things that will make New Zealandmen [sic] like Englishmen. So you will become a blessing to your Country.

You ask us to pray for you & your country poor people. By the grace of God, we will; & hope, through that grace, that your heart will be brought to love and obey our Lord Jesus Christ, & that your future life may be according to His Gospel, & bring glory to His Name.

Earnestly praying that these and all blessings may be graciously vouchsafed unto you through the merits of our Saviour,

We are, Dear Teeterree

Ever your affectionate Friends

(Signed) Josiah Pratt

Edw<sup>d</sup> Bickersteth

All your friends, M<sup>rs</sup> Pratt, and M<sup>rs</sup> Bickersteth and others, desire to be kindly remembered to you.