

*CMS Secretaries Josiah Pratt and Edward Bickersteth to Thomas Tooi*

Church Missionary House

London, April 5/20

Dear friend Tooi

We have received your Letter of July 12<sup>th</sup> and were glad to hear of your safe arrival at Port Jackson. God has been very good in thus preserving you, and bringing you back again to Parramatta after visiting a place so far off as England. You ought to be the more thankful for this, when you think how ill you were, and how nigh unto death, just before you left us. Yet God, in his mercy, spared your life, and restored your health. Should you not be thankful for this? Should you not love God and keep his Word?

Remember, too, what you said and what you felt when so sick at Brompton. Writing to M<sup>r</sup> Bickersteth, Jany 8/19, you say, "I very ill in bed: so many friends pray for me, Jesus looked on me, & made me better. I no afraid to die. Jesus die for my sins. I feel quite happy. I hope my heart be quite good, the time I get home to New Zealand. I tell my countrymen, 'Come, Countrymen, come into house and worship God: suppose you no worship God, you no happy. Jesus Christ He die on the Cross for New Zealand man's sins, and Englishman's sins. Suppose you believe him, He save you, and make you happy, as He has made Thomas Tooi happy by His Holy Spirit."

Did you think, and did you feel thus on the voyage? Do you think, and do you feel thus now? If there is any difference, what has made it? We [f] are afraid, Tooi, from what took place in the voyage, that the wicked men you lived with and talked with in the Ship, have drawn your heart from God. And if so,

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do you feel as happy now, as when you thought you were dying at brompton? Had you continued to pray to God, and to listen to the advice and instructions of your friends M<sup>r</sup> Butler and M<sup>r</sup> Hall, God's grace would have kept good feelings alive in your heart. You would have attended School every day, that you might be able to read the Bible: and had you read the Bible, with prayers for the teaching of the Holy Spirit, you would have found more pleasure in the company of M<sup>r</sup> Butler and M<sup>r</sup> Hall, and in doing what they wished, than in being in bad company, who led you away from God and made you treat these good friends unkindly.

We think, Dear Tooi, that your heart will be sorry when you read our Letter, and think on these things. Is this the case? We hope it is: and will tell you what you ought to do.

You should think that your heart is bad. That you have acted ungratefully toward your English friends; who have shewn you so much kindness, and taken such pains to teach you the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Redeemer, that your sins might be pardoned and your soul might be saved.

But you ought to be still more grieved, that you have so forgotten and neglected God; who had so much love for you that he gave His only begotten Son that you might not perish, but believe in Him and have everlasting life. Think, too, of the love of Jesus Christ: "That He loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood." Did He die to save your soul, and will you destroy yourself by departing from Him who is the only Saviour?

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Consider, too, that you are not now in the same situation with your ignorant Countrymen, who never [f] lived with M<sup>r</sup> Marsden; who never came to England; who never had kind friends to tell them of the love of God and the way of salvation. Remember, therefore, that when you die, you must give an account to God of all the instruction which you have received— of all the kindness that has been shewn you— and of all the pains that have been taken to do you good. And what excuse will you be able to make in that day, if you should be found to have neglected and forgotten these things, and to have died without being the better for them?

But indeed, Dear Tooi, we hope better things of you, though we thus speak. Pray to God that He would forgive your sins, and give you a new heart— that He would teach you, by His Holy Spirit, to know His will and to love Him— that he would keep you from sin and temptation, and from the bad example and bad influence of wicked men, who neither know, nor fear, nor love God. If you would keep out of the ways of sin, you must pray much, and read the Bible, and attend to the advice and instructions of M<sup>r</sup> Butler, M<sup>r</sup> Kendall, and M<sup>r</sup> Hall. They are your friends; and, if you listen to them, will, through God's blessing, make you happy now and for ever in the knowledge and love of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Praying that God may grant you His grace and blessing, by the Holy Spirit, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We are, Dear Tooi,

Ever your affectionate Friends

MS. 56/199

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(Signed) Josiah Pratt

Edw<sup>d</sup> Bickersteth

M<sup>rs</sup> Pratt and M<sup>rs</sup> Bickersteth and all your friends desire their love to you.