

CMS Secretaries Josiah Pratt and Edward Bickersteth to James Kemp

Church Missionary House,

London, April 5/20.

Dear Mr Kemp,

We have received your Letter of July 12th, and your Journal from Dec^r 13/18 to June 26/19.

We trust that the same gracious Providence which conducted you in safety through your long voyage to Port Jackson, has, long ere this, brought you to the point of your destination, and that you are already diligently employed in labouring for the good of the New Zealanders.

You will bear in mind, that, in following the trade of a Blacksmith at your Station, the design of the Society is, that you should thereby promote the civilization & social welfare of the natives. You will therefore, on no account, manufacture any warlike weapons for them; but confine yourself, exclusively, to the making of Agricultural Implements, Fishing Tackle, and such articles as are employed in the peaceful arts. Your safety and your comfort equally require a strict adherence to this course of proceeding.

You will, at the same time, cautiously avoid irritating or provoking the Natives, and, indeed, most carefully abstain from every thing that would needlessly offend or molest them. It should be your aim, in all your intercourse with them, to combine firmness and fearfulness [sic] with kindness, patience, forbearance, and conciliation.

These, however, are not the fruits of nature. You must, therefore, be much in secret communion with God. It is "effectual fervent prayer," in the

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name of Christ, constantly maintained, that you must seek that wisdom, and those holy dispositions called for in your present circumstances. And ever remember, that such prayer “availeth much” through the merits of the Redeemer. “Ask, and it shall be given you – seek, & ye shall find – knock, & it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth, & he that seeketh findeth, & to him that knocketh it shall be opened.” [f]

We are concerned to find that M^{rs} Kemp suffered so much from sickness during the voyage. We hope, however, that a residence on Shore has, through the blessing of God, established her health, & that she is now diligently employed in attending on such duties as will best promote the objects of the Mission.

In your future Journals it will be only requisite to notice the more material occurrences that take place.

With our Christian regards to M^{rs} Kemp, and our prayers that the blessing of God may rest on your own souls & the labours in which you are engaged,

We are

Your affectionate friends,

(Signed) Josiah Pratt

Edw^d Bickersteth