

Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt

Parramatta July 14th 1819

Rev^d & Dear Sir,

As the Rev^d M^r Butler & his Colleagues will write to you, it will not be necessary for me to trouble you with any long Statements. I am much struck with the singular Providence of God, that the same Ship that brought them out should at the same time bring my Leave of Absence: a favour which I so very earnestly solicited about 14 months ago. The Reasons that then urged me to leave the Colony do not so strongly exist as they did at the time I made Application to return to Europe. As two asst. Chaplains have been sent out: and Permission for me to return Home, I considered this a favourable Opportunity to request the Gov^r to allow me to accompany M^r Butler to New Zealand, in order to arrange the future Plans for the permanent welfare of that Settlement. I accordingly wrote to the Governor stating that it was not in my Power to avail myself of the Indulgence granted me to return Home, as the Surry would sail immediately for Europe by that Ship; and therefore begged his Excellency would allow me to proceed to New Zealand for a short time, which favour the Governor granted me on Condition that I would [f] provide Accommodations for the Clergymen who did my duty in my Absence free from all Expense to the Crown. This Condition I readily complied with. Had I not received Leave of Absence I should not have presumed to have asked Permission to visit New Zealand. Having obtained the Gov^{rs} Permission, and knowing the Active was too small to carry the Passangers and their Stores, and being Absent on her

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Voyage I determined to take up the first Vessel I could in the Harbour, in order that the Rev^d M^r Butler &c might as soon as possible arrive at their Place of destination and begin their work. I therefore hired an American Brig 200 Tons, who was in the Cove, and the time appointed for our sailing is fixed for the 25th Instant. The Settlers for New Zealand would get no advantage in this Colony: an heavy expense would have been incurred daily while they remained here, where every thing is at such a Price, and the sooner they begin their work, the longer time they would have to do it in. It is my Intention to take over a few mechanics to enable them to put up the necessary Buildings, Church, Houses &c &c and to form a regular Government amongst them before I return if my Life is spared. I hope also to have a little more time to examine into the Country, and to see what are its Capabilities. How wonderfully has God over [f] ruled the wills and Affections of sinful men with Respect to this mission. If there was one object in Life that I wished to attain more than any other, it was this, that I might visit New Zealand. If I had not been compelled to apply for Leave of Absence, for Reasons I need not explain I never should have done so. But how has this turned out to the accomplishment of my wishes? I hope now to introduce M^r Butler to all the leading Chiefs - to conciliate their Esteem, and to fix the Settlement on a firm Foundation. I cannot doubt the suitableness of the Instruments you have sent out. Their wisdom on the Voyage, and Prudence since their arrival convince me that they are fully bent upon their work, and if they can only begin at the right End, we may hope for a successful Issue of their Labors. I shall assist them to the utmost of my Power. The Evils that have

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existed at the Settlement, have comparatively been small, where every man did what was right in his own Eyes. The Case will not be changed and I trust we shall be able to lay down such Rules, and keep those who are employed in the work to their proper duty so as to prevent the existence of any great differences amongst them - When the Active arrives at Sydney, I shall [f] leave orders for her to be fitted out, and to be sent for me. After my Return from N. Zealand, it will depend upon existing Circumstances whether I proceed to Europe or not. If I should see it necessary I shall come to London, if very urgent Reasons do not urge me, I shall remain. A Change of Government would be the strongest Inducement to remain; a Continuance of the present System would urge, if not compell my departure. I am happy that two Clergymen have been appointed. The Rev^d M^r Hill I have no doubt, will be a Blessing to the Colony - M^r Cross wants Solidity at least: if not something more. I should have been glad could I have entertained as favourable an opinion of him, as I do of M^r Hill: and I wish most sincerely I may be able to do this at any future Period-

After my return from N. Zealand, and any Change of Public Measures is adopted I then hope we may be able to give you some little assistance and form a regular auxiliary Society. At present things must remain as they are -

I have the Honor to be

Dear Sir

Yours with much Esteem

Samuel Marsden

Rev^d J. Pratt