

Samuel Marsden's queries to the settlers of the Bay of Islands

A Copy

Bay of Islands. Nov^r. 5. 1819

Queries

Answers

1. How far in your opinion has a regular communication between New Zealand & Port Jackson thro' the medium of the Active contrib-uted to your Security & comfort during your residence in the Island?

1. Our Security & Comfort have been greatly promoted by a regular communication between N.Z. & P. J. through the medium of the Active, during our residence in the Island. The constant attention that has been paid to us by our powerful – Friends at a distance has made a favo-rable impression on the minds of the Natives in our behalf; & our temporal wants have been also regularly supplied which could not have been done without regular intercourse with Port Jackson.

2. How far has the same commu-nication contributed to the gen-eral improvement of those – Natives who have had an oppor-tunity to visit P.J. and to see & taste of the comforts of Civil Life?

2. The Natives of New Zealand are Men of strong Intellects & in general possess a Spirit of enterprise & enquiry. Those who have visited P.J. have at all – times express'd themselves highly gra-tified with what they have seen & heard in the Colony, & with their various em-ployments there. When they return to this Island they will spend many hours & sometimes whole Nights in telling – their Countrymen what the Customs of Englishmen are, & what are their various occupations in Civil Life.

3. Have the respective Reports of those Natives who have ret-urned to their friends,

3. They have.

Samuel Marsden's queries to the settlers of the Bay of Islands

added to your influence & respectability
amongst the Inhabitants?

4. How far would it be prudent or even practicable from the spirit of enterprise & thirst [?] for Commerce which the New Zealanders possess from their national Character, to prevent them from visiting P.J.

4. The Natives consider the Missionaries on shore, The Owner of the Vessel. The Captain & Ship's Company, as members of the Body. They know also that the Vessel is navigated Chiefly of their Friends the Missionaries, & feel themselves more interested in the Missionary Vessel, than they would in any other.

in any Vessel which may be employed in the Mission to dispose of their Malts [?] +c?

It would not therefore be prudent or even practicable to prevent the New Zealanders from visiting P.J. in a Vessel employed in the Mission. That spirit of enterprise & thirst for commerce which — they possess would be checked by such a measure; & they would be dissatisfied with the Missionaries who lived — in the Land.

[f]

5. What number of Natives & under what Regulations so as to give the most general Satisfaction to the Chiefs, should be permitted to visit Port Jackson, if it should be deemed necessary for any to go?

5. Generally speaking two or three of the most intelligent Youths might be permitted to visit P.J. & remain there for some time for the purpose of being instructed in reading, writing, or the Arts. Also a Chief or two might be permitted to pay a short visit. Should a greater number of natives be very importunate to embark at any one time it would be right to

Samuel Marsden's queries to the settlers of the Bay of Islands

yield to their wishes as — much as possible, if no other means could be adopted to pacify them.

6. How far have the industry of the natives, the cultivation of the Land, & other comforts of Life increas'd since your residence amongst them?

6. Their Industry & the Cultivation of their Land have increased in proportion to the means which have been put from time to time into their hands, & have far exceeded our expectations. They have enlarg'd their fields as they have procured Implements of Husbandry, & the comforts of Life have increas'd accordingly.

7. Have the Deaths of the natives for the last 3 years been in this same proportion to the first Years you liv'd amongst them?

7. They have not. During the 1st. year in particular there was a great mortality amongst the natives — but we now seldom hear of the death of a native. The natives live better. Many of them were formerly very — much afflicted with Boils, but — since they have lived upon more — wholesome food, they are free from — them, & at present appear healthy & well.

[f]

8. How far are their outward Circumstances & general appearance improv'd since your arrival in this Island?

8. Their outward Circumstances, & general appearance one greatly — improv'd. 3

9. Do they manifest a less thirst for war, & a greater desire to promote — Agriculture & commerce than — formerly?

9. They are still very fond of war, but manifest a greater desire to promote agriculture. The means now afforded to them to purchase Hogs, Potatoes, Corn, Malts [?], Fish Lines etc.

Samuel Marsden's queries to the settlers of the Bay of Islands

with Axes, Hoes, & other European Articles
has awaken'd their native Industry
exceedingly.

10. Have they in any degree laid aside their
ferocious habits, such as shouting, dancing
naked, & Sham fighting to inflame their
passions, & to kindle their warlike ardour?

10. The surrounding Natives are not so much
addicted to these Habits as formerly. We
seldom hear their shoutings &c. – except at a
time when they are visited by Parties from a
distant part of the Country.

11. With respect at to their Religion, do you
consider them particularly – Attentive to
their own Ceremonies?

11. They are particularly attentive to their own
Ceremonies, Chiefly as we conceive from the
fear of Death.

12. How far do you conceive their
Superstitions may tend to obstruct the
introduction of the Gospel – amongst them?

12. There appears to be no particular im--
pediment to the introduction of the Gospel
any further than the powerful effect of
traditionary [?] Superstitions – Principles
implanted in their minds by their Ancestors, &
which we have no doubt will yield to the
superior Light – of the Gospel, as soon as the
Missionaries shall be enabled under the
Divine blessing & guidance to lay before them
the solemn & important Truths of Christianity.

13. Have they shown any disrespect for, &
aversion to, the Forms of the Christian
Religion & Sabbaths?

13. They have not; but on the contrary have on
many occasions paid great respect to – both.

14. Do you consider them as fully – prepared
for the reception of the Gospel, as my other
uncivilized – nation?

14. We consider them much more so than any
other uncivilized Nation which we have heard
of.

Samuel Marsden's queries to the settlers of the Bay of Islands

| | |
|--|---|
| 15. Have you had any apprehensions for your personal safety while living amongst them? | 15. We have not all been free from apprehensions of this, but we are now under none whatever. |
|--|---|

[f]

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 16. Can Public Schools be established for the rising generation? | 16. We believe they can. |
|--|--------------------------|

/Signed/ { Will.m Hall

To The Rev.d Saml. Marsden

{ Tho.s Kendall

&c. &c. &c. _ } }

{ John King.

Questions – from The

Rev.^d Sam.^l Marsden

To

The Missionaries

on his arrival at The –

Bay of Islands –

with their Answers –

in August 1819.

–