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Mr. Massden's Replies to the Letters of the Bay of Islands, Nov. 5. 1819.

Com. (in Corr.) July 4/20

Answers.

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1. How far in your opinion has a regular communication between New Zealand & Port Jackson thro' the medium of the Active, contributed 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 favorable 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 communication contributed to the general improvement of those Natives who have had an opportunity 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 expressed themselves highly gratified with what they have seen & heard in the Colony, & with their various employments 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 returned to their friends, added to your influence & respectability amongst the Inhabitants?

3. They have

4. How far would it be prudent or even practicable from the spirit of enterprise & turn for Commerce which the New Zealanders possess from their national Character, to prevent them from visiting P. J. in any Vessel which may be employed

1. The Natives consider the Missionaries on Shore, The Owner of the Vessel, The Captain & Ship's Company, as members of one 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 the Mission to dispense of
their Mates &c?

5. What number of Natives &
under what Regulations so as
to give the most general Satis-
faction to the Chiefs, should
be permitted to visit Port Jack-
son, if it should be deemed neces-
sary for any to go?

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?

7. Have the Deaths of the Natives
for the last 3 years been in the
same proportion to the 2 first
Years you liv'd amongst them?

It would not therefore be prudent or even
practicable to prevent the New Zealanders
from visiting P. J. in vessels employ'd
in the Mission. That spirit of enter-
prize & thirst for Commerce which
they possess would be check'd by such a
measure; & they would be dissatisfied
with the Missionaries who lived
in the Land.

5. Generally speaking two or three of the
most intelligent Youths might be per-
mitted to visit P. J. & remain there for
some time for the purpose of being in-
structed 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 yield to their wishes as
much as possible, if no other means
could be adopted to pacify them.

6. Their Industry & the Cultivation of
their Land have increas'd in proportion
to the means which have been put
down time to time into their hands, &
have far exceed'd our expectations.
They have enlarg'd their fields as they
have procur'd Implements of Hus-
bandry & the comforts of Life have
increas'd accordingly.

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 liv'd upon more
wholesome food, they are free from
them, & at present appear healthy & well.

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

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

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 Ardor?

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

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

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

14. Do you consider them as fully prepared for the reception of the Gospel, as any other uncivilized Nation?

15. Have you had any apprehension for your personal safety while living amongst them?

8. Their outward Circumstances, & general appearance are greatly improved. 3

9. They are still very fond of war, but manifest a greater desire to promote agriculture. The means now afforded to them to purchase Axes, Hoes, Corn, Matts, Fish Lines &c. with Axes, Hoes, & other European Articles has awakened their native Industry exceeding

10. The remaining natives are not so much addicted to their 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. They are particularly attentive to their own Ceremonies, chiefly as we conceive from the fear of death.

12. There appears to be no particular impediment to the introduction of the Gospel any further than the powerful effect of traditional 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. They have not; but on the contrary have on many occasions paid great respect to both.

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

15. We have not all been free from apprehensions of this, but we are now untroubled whatever.

14. Can Public Schools be esta-
-blish'd for the rising genera-
-tion?

15. W^h believe they can.

To the Rev. Saml. Marsden
Esq. Sec. Sec.

1 Sign'd 1

Will^m Hall,
Thos. Honda,
John King.

Rev. Saml. Marsden to
The Miss^{es} of the
with their answers.

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~~in August 1819.~~
~~with their answers~~
~~Bay of Islands~~
~~on the receipt of the~~
~~The responses~~
To
Rev. Saml. Marsden
~~Obtained from the~~