

*Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt*

Sydney Jan<sup>y</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> 1820

Rev<sup>d</sup> & Dear Sir

I just drop you a Line to say that I returned from N. Zealand after 4 months absence - I left all the Settlers well and the Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Butler. As a Vessel will sail direct for England it is expected on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb<sup>y</sup> next, I shall send by that Conveyance all the different Letters - and my various Reports. Nothing can be more encouraging than the prospect at N. Zealand - I visited many districts - all the natives were very anxious for Instruction. M<sup>r</sup> Butler did not expect to find them so ready for all Improvements He was very much pleased with his Situation as far as respected the Inhabitants - My visit to N. Zealand will I trust be attended with [f] all the Benefits to the Mission I could wish. With respect to my remaining in N. S. Wales I cannot say much as yet, as I am not aware how the public differences in this Colony will be finally settled - If I can remain where I am, with any prospect of Support from the executive Authority, or even living in any degree of Peace, I shall not return because I think my Residence here will be of some importance to the Cause of the Mission, and the general welfare of these Settlements - I have felt the heavy hand of Oppression, but have been greatly relieved in mind since the Affairs of the Colony are brought under the Consideration of Parliament. If I should fall in the Contest, the greatest public Good will be produced; and this will be a great Consolation to me - I am not under any apprehensions for the Issue, as I am conscious it has been my Study [f] and Labour to promote the Good of His Majesty's Service, and the eternal welfare of the Inhabitants of these Settlements - I feel most

*Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt*

grateful to my friends who have vindicated my Character, and am truly thankful to Almighty God who has the Hearts of all men in his Hands, that he has in his superintending Providence, raised me up Friends to advocate my cause - in which the future welfare of this Colony is involved - By the Ship direct for Europe I shall give you very full Information upon all matters relative to the Mission - I have seen the Commissioner of Inquiry several times since my return - He will lay open the State of this Colony very fully to the British Government - I have a very high opinion of the Commissioner's Character, but the generality of the Inhabitants agree with M<sup>r</sup> Wilberforce, that two would have [f] been better than one. However Facts must and will be stated, and I am much gratified that even one Commissioner is come out - Government will be compelled to know what they were very unwilling to acknowledge before - I have not seen the Governor since my return - we have no Communication at present, and I shall be happy if I should have no more to do with him; but I expect we shall meet again in a little time upon some public Ground. I have merely sent you these few Lines in Case the Vessel from England should be detained - I beg to return you my warmest Acknowledgments for your kind attention to my Interest, and hope you will in the end be satisfied that you have greatly promoted the good of those Settlements and the Mission to the Heathen in these Islands

I am yours affectionately

Sam<sup>l</sup> Marsden

Rev<sup>d</sup> J. Pratt

In haste