

Samuel Marsden to CMS Secretary Josiah Pratt

Parramatta FebY 7th 1820

Rev^d & dear Sir

By the Surry I informed you of my Intention to visit New Zealand with the Rev^d J. Butler, and his Colleagues which I did. I herewith forward you my Journal for the Information of the Society - I have not had time since my return to examine it, or make any Corrections. You will make allowance for any Errors or want of method, as I wrote my observations where I happened to be at the moment, often surrounded with natives, in the midst of noise and Confusion, when I was with them in the different districts they let me have little Rest either night or day, as they would be continually talking upon various Subjects. I hope the Christian world will now be convinced from possitive Facts that the New Zealanders are prepared for the Gospel, and ready for any Instruction they can get - God has wonderfully helped the feeble means that have been used for their Good in spite of all that the Enemy could do. The only thing I regret is the Expense - but I hope the Head of the Church will move the Hearts of those who love him to contribute their Portion for his Cause and Interest. I pray to Lord jesus that in Proportion as the Christian world becomes acquainted with the miseries of these poor Heathens that they will wittingly lend their aid to relief them, [f] I hope the observations I now send will be the means in some degree of increasing the Societys Funds. I can only say that all has been done that I could possibly do to lessen the Expenses. All new Colonies are attended with heavy expenses at the first: and I now hope they will not in future be so much

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as they have been. I am now preparing to visit the Settlers again in His Majesty's Ship the Dromedary agreeable to your wishes. The Honourable Commissioner of Enquiry, wished me to go, as well as the Captain of the Dromedary. I have put the Commissioner in full Possession of all the Affairs of the mission - He has seen the New Zealanders who are with me, and is much pleased with them, 25 in number; some of them will accompany me in the Dromedary. I hope a good understanding will now be established between the Chiefs and the British Government. If the Spars are found to answer New Zealand will be of great national Importance and there can be little doubt of this - The Nation may derive all the advantages they may wish for from New Zealand, without the Expenses of forming a Colony, and what Government will do, will relieve the Society of part of the Expenses and at the same time forward your views - Duaterra had often informed me of a fine River which runs into the Sea on the west side of the island - I had not time to visit it when I was first at New Zealand, but went to see it at the last time. I have sent you a Chart of the [f] River, which I have named Gambier - Should there be no more difficulties in entering the Harbour than we were able to discover, this River will form a very fine Settlement for the Mission - The King's Ships will no doubt come here for timber, as the Banks of the River are in many Parts covered with the lofty Pine. But this I am not certain of yet - It is my Intention to visit it again with an officer of Experience in the dromedary, in order to settle this important Point - what Spars the Active has brought formerly are much approved of, and the Gentleman whom Government have sent out to examine the Timber gives it as

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his opinion that none can be better. Should Government succeed in their views, New Zealand will soon become a very great Country - The Society will be aware what difficulties have opposed their labours - and will learn the real State of this Colony from the Examination before the Committee of the House of Commons and from the Reports of the Commissioner of Enquiry. Should you see a document published in the Sydney Gazette relative to the human Heads brought from N. Zealand you will not I trust give Credit to such a Statement. It appeared about 6 weeks ago - It came from the old Quarter. I have the fullest Conviction, when the Honorable Commissioner returns, the Society will have the Satisfaction to know that their Labours have not been in vain, and [f] that they may now hope for every Countenance from the British nation in the great work they are engaged in. M^r Bigge is a man of great Judgment, and Honor and will clearly see into the Spirit of the time - From the moment I learned that the affairs of the Colony were to come under the Consideration of a Committee of the House of Commons my mind was relieved - I was comforted with the prospect that some Relief would be provided for the public Evils of which I had so long complained, and the private wrongs I had suffered,- I am very thankful to my Friends for their Support - The Lies and Falsehoods of every kind which were spread would never have obtain[ed] a Confutation, without a public Enquiry - The Truth will now rise from under the Rubbish under which it has long been buried - when the dromedary returns you will have then a full Account of what may be looked forward to - I have had no Communication with Gov^r Macquarie excepting by Letter since my Return - we have never

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spoke upon any Subject. he will struggle hard, but the day of Retribution will come. His Superiors may aid him, but he cannot justify his measures. It is impossible - I have stood my Ground hitherto, but with the greatest difficulty, and now I hope to stand - I shall not return at present to Europe as the Commissioner is come out my Buisness may be settled without that. I could not have remained here had there been no Check put upon the Enemy -

I remain

D^r Sir

Yours affectionately

Sam^l Marsden

Rev^d J. Pratt