

Letter of Advice
to Rev. J. G. Butler

On Board G. M. S. ~~Trenvader~~
Wangharoa Wh. 19th 1820

my Dear Sir

As I am now on the eve of my
 return to Port Jackson I avail myself of the
 present moments to address a few lines to you
 before my departure with the sincerest wish to commend
 you in the great work of the fund to which you have
 been solemnly called and set apart - you will remember
 at the time I arrived in New Zealand in Feb. 1818 I found
 you greatly discouraged because of the way you had exper-
 ienced six months of severe trial in a new field of Active
 duty which period I have no doubt you suffered more
 real Anxiety and pain of mind than you had ever
 experienced during as many years of any former period
 of your life - your trials were new - your graces were
 exercised with new temptations, and perhaps in some
 instances you saw yourself in a different light from
 what you had been wont to do - your patience was
 put to the test, and after completely exhausted -
 you seemed to feel much of that unbelieving spirit
 of Jacob, that the ten rulers of the Children
 of Israel, who had been appointed by Moses to exam-
 ine the land of Canaan, manifested, when they
 returned and made their report - "we are not able
 to go ^{up} against the people, for they are stronger
 than we" when you mentioned to me the state
 of your own mind, and the situation of the
 settlement I felt much grieved for the evils
 that existed; yet from my long Experience of
 mankind I was not astonished at them -
 No Despair Authority is inherent in human
 nature, I have often seen this disposition
 manifest itself more in profane men, than

any other man who have come under my notice.
The scriptures are the best comment upon the conduct of mankind
whether they are religious or irreligious. wherever God appoints
a man, and places a practice under his Authority, there
will always be a Korah, or a Dathan, or an Abiram
to say to him; 'you take too much upon you, seeing
all the congregation is holy, everyone of them; wherefore
lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the Lord?'
Even men of sound Piety are liable to fall into this sin;
and it is a dreadful one for disturbing the Church of
Christ - our blessed Lord hath told us that offences will
come - but adds, we to him by whom the offence cometh.
Did not both Miriam, and Aaron, (even sister & brother
to Moses) and Partakers of like precious Faith with him,
break out into open Sedition against him, and laboured to
bring Power, and Authority into Contempt before the
Congregation of Israel - They carried their opposition
against Moses so far, as to kindle the Anger of the
Lord against them, and to make them public Examples
of his high Displeasure, as a warning to others, by
instantaneously afflicting Miriam with the Leprosy,
and compelled both Aaron and her with guilt and shame
to entreat Moses to pray for them, that the divine
Judgments might be averted from them. Sin is Sin, &
Rebellion, Rebellion whether found amongst Angels
or Saints, and God will always punish it - Many despise
our legal Authority, we should not seek to avenge ourselves,
'for vengeance is mine saith the Lord, and I will repay.'
You and I have never seen what Aaron & Miriam saw
of the works of the Lord, and were convinced that their
brother was a favourite of Heaven, yet their Pride
got the better of their Piety, and they fell -
Let us not think it strange if we meet with the same

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Spirit amongst our brethren - Tho' Moses was very
meek above all men which were upon the face of
the Earth; and had closer communication with God
than any other Saint, for we are told he talked with
God face to face as a man with his friend: yet all his
meekness was not proof against the repeated assaults
he met with from the Israelites - he lost his
temper with them; for they provoked his Spirit
so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips; and on
that account the sacred Historian tells us, it went ill
with Moses for their sakes - Sometimes he remonstrated
with the seditious Israelites under the influence of human
passions - at other times with the deepest humility
he cried to God for Aid, saying 'what shall I do
with this people for they are almost ready to stone
me'. view Moses situation - you will see his Brother Aaron
while he is praying, make the golden calves, and all
the Israelites dancing round them, shouting and
singing these are thy Gods O Israel - Another
secretly the wedge of gold, by which the wrath of
the Lord is brought upon the congregation - and
the Princes and Leaders of the Tribes committing
fornication with the Daughters of the Heathens, which
compelled Moses to execute the painful task of hang-
ing up one thousand of them in the morning before
the door of the Tabernacle - what must have
been his feelings when he signed the death warrant
of one thousand men - many of them probably
leaving widows and Orphans to be provided for?
In all trying moments, go to your Bible for
instructions - This will greatly tend to relieve
your mind, and to heal any wound that your
Colleagues may inflict by improper conduct -

They will after do wrong - you must expect this, - If they
should provoke your Spirit, and cause you to speak
inadvisedly with your lips, it will do ill with you
for their sakes - nothing can justify before God any
in proper temper in us. whatever difficulties you may
meet with, especially from the Europeans never entertain
an Idea of giving up your situation. Satan will drive you
away if he can. To give up, would be to follow the exam-
ple of Jonah. and if you had not to cry unto God out of
the belly of the whale, you would feel all the painful
Reflections of having set your Hand to the Plough, and
Drawn back again; which would bring a Curse upon
you and not a Blessing - If you patiently persevere you
will succeed - you will see the barren wilderness literally
become a fruitful Field - The place of Danger is the
post of Honor - If you run from your Post because the
Enemy makes an attack upon it, another will
step in and take your Crown. Bear with the weakness,
imperfections, and every fault of your Colleagues - Be not
easily provoked. Remember the Eyes of the Christian world
are upon you. and much of the success of the mission
under God, depends upon your wisdom, Patience and
Perseverance - you must make some allowance for your
own Habits with respect to your Brethren - you have been
accustomed to obey, and to be obeyed - Perhaps some of
your Colleagues have neither been accustomed to obey, nor to
be obeyed but have got these lessons to learn - you are
now at the Head of the Settlement, and have no Superior -
It is may be the Duty of those under you to obey your
orders in a certain sense as readily as the men you
had under you in London were wont to do, yet
if you expect this, you expect too much - you might
as well expect a man to make a watch, because
he had seen one